



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

February 2013

Paul's Ponderings

This Month's Happenings

"And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee..." [BCP 336]

It is hard for us to think of ourselves in this way, isn't it? A sacrifice to God? Us? Christ is the One who freely sacrificed for us. Right? How can we, then, be a sacrifice to God?

This eucharistic passage from our prayer book, mirrors what St. Paul writes to the Church of Rome, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." [Rom. 12.1] In this Paul is telling us, as well as his 1st century audience, that we are to present the whole of our being, the totality of who we are in our humanness—not just what we are in the flesh—as a living sacrifice to God. And though Paul addresses his audience as individual brothers and sisters in Christ [the first "you" is singular], he calls them together ["your bodies," is plural] as a community to present themselves as this sacrifice to God. Called as individuals into community as a living gift to God: this is pretty radical thinking for 1st century people who are used to sacrificing animals in order to appease their gods. It is no less radical for many today who are loathe to engage in any kind of sacrifice.

- Wednesdays in Lent Worship
Meal/Program @ 530pm
 - Thursdays in Lent , Brown Bag Retreat @ Noon
 - Feb 6 12:00 pm ECW @ WOW Zone
 - Feb 8 12:00 pm St. Julian's Guild
 - Feb 9 7:45 am Men's Group
10:00 am Liturgy Team
5:00 pm ECHO Chili Feed
 - Feb 10 4:00 pm Our Mighty Group
 - Feb 12 10:00 am Mission and Outreach
5:00 pm Pancake Supper
 - Feb 13 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
5:30 pm Finance Committee
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
 - Feb 16 9:00 am Green Team
4:30 pm Contemplative Prayer
 - Feb 17 12:00 pm Acolyte Rehearsal
 - Feb 21 12:00 pm Brown Bag Retreat
 - Feb 23 4:30 pm Contemplative Prayer
 - Feb 24 4:00 pm Our Mighty Group
 - Feb 28 9:00 am Altar Guild
- View calendar @ www.stjohnsmankato.org

And yet this is what our God asks of us. Our lives are to be a sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving, service, honor, and glory to God who has done so very much for us. Who are we to give anything but the whole of ourselves for a savior whose self-giving was for us?

As we enter into the season of Lent mid-month, we are mindful of the many gifts we have been given by God. And we are especially mindful of that supreme gift of Christ, who offered the Divine Life that we might have life. What might our response be? What gifts do we have to offer back to our God? How might we better serve God in this life? What kind of living sacrifice do we make?

As Christ gave himself for us, so we give ourselves to Christ. And we give ourselves to one another. Individually and as a community we have so many gifts to share. We have so many ways in which we can present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God."

Come, let us do so, together.



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Check out my blog at

<http://www.thesmilingheretic.com>

Altar Flower Calendar

The 2013 flower calendar is now in the stairway. Please sign your name beside dates to furnish flowers for St. John's Sunday worship services. Cost is \$30 per Sunday. Complete a form found in the office with your name and dedication. (a memorial, to honor...) Flowers are given to members during difficult times or days of celebration. Thank you for participating in this very important ministry!

Welcome to the Vestry

Leslie Peterson, Senior Warden
Margo Druschel, Cliff Canavin and Cathy Neitge

St. John's Men's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Bring your family and come to St. John's Episcopal Church for a Fat Tuesday pancake supper.

What: Pancake supper

Where: St. John's Episcopal Church, Broad and Warren Streets

When: Tuesday, February 12th, 5-7PM

How Much: \$5 for adults, \$3.00 for children

Nursery

I'm very excited to say that we have hired someone to take care of the children in the nursery!! Emily Jansen is a senior theatre major at MSU and will be here each Sunday from 9:30-noon. We also have Bridgette Karl who is a junior theatre major and will be our substitute this year and our nursery caretaker next year. Please introduce yourself and your children to Emily and Bridgette. They are excited to be part of St. John's!



In order to comply with Safe Church policy, we still need a second individual, age 13yrs or older, to be in the nursery with Emily (or Bridgette). Volunteers are needed to provide the second nursery care attendant needed each Sunday morning during the 10:30 worship service. This is a great way to get to know our new nursery staff person and to know some of our youngest members and their parents. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the Vestry room. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board between the youth and vestry rooms.

Sunday School

Sunday School is from 9:30-10:20 each Sunday for children 3 years through the 5th grade. If interested in attending, please see our website at stjohnsmankato.sparksundayschool.org.

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of preparation leading up to Easter. It is the forty days plus the six Sundays before Easter. For centuries, it has been observed as a special time of self examination and penitence. Lent is a time for concentration on fundamental values and priorities, and is not a time for self punishment.

Throughout Lent, the worship of the church takes on a simpler tone, appropriate to this season. The altar is bare. Pottery is used for the Holy Vessels of communion [and this year we are using new pottery that has been commissioned by our Liturgical Arts Team]. Banners are removed from the church. The word Alleluia is not used in the words of the liturgy or hymns. These practices help the worshipping community to mark this season of renewal as a special time in the church year.



Spiritual Offerings at St. John's during Lent:

Sunday

Join us each Sunday afternoon at 1pm at The Wine Cafe as we ponder the impact of the readings and sermon from earlier that morning. So, take notes in church and come prepared to dine & discuss [and maybe even drink!].

Tuesday & Thursday

530pm—Evening Prayer

Wednesday Evenings

Our time on Wednesday evenings begins with a period of Celtic Prayer at 530pm in our Sanctuary, followed by a Soup Supper at 6pm. Our program this year will focus on *Uncovering Sin: A gateway to healing and calling* by Rosy Fairhurst. Copies of the Book will be available in the Parish Office the week of 7 February.

Look for changes to The Chronicle as we move forward creating a digital version in order to get news to you in a timely fashion! A printed copy will still be available.

Thursday Brown Bag Retreats

Every Thursday noon during Lent you are invited to join us in our 10th annual Brown Bag Retreat series. Bring your lunch—and a friend!—with you and sit in silence while listening to readings from a variety of spiritual works. This one hour over lunch will surely provide some spiritual food for your journey this Lent. This year our book will be *Thin Places: An Evangelical Journey into Celtic Christianity*, by Tracy Balzer.

Saturday Late-Afternoons

On Saturday afternoons, you are invited to join in a time of contemplative prayer in the Oratory. Beginning at 430pm, participants are invited to retreat from the rumble and tumble of the week past and sit in silence and prayer. At 500pm we join for corporate contemplative prayer. This is a good way to prepare for Eucharist on Sundays.

Saturday, 16 March, 9am-3pm

Lent Quiet Day [More information will be forthcoming, just be sure to mark your calendars now!]

Our Mighty Group (OMG):

Youth 6th grade through high school are welcome to come to come to come to OMG on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We meet with kids from Holy Communion Episcopal Church and Union Presbyterian (both of St. Peter). February is St. John's turn to host! We will meet at 4pm for bible study and activities with supper at 5pm.

February Sunday School Teacher's Schedule:

Preschool - Sara Brave Heart
Kindergarten-2nd gr - Meg Stump
Grade 3-5 - Amanda Mackie



January 24, 2013

**NEWS ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST
MISSION AREA OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
MINNESOTA**

(formerly Region 4)



Dear Members of the Southwest Mission Area:

At the Episcopal Church in Minnesota Convention in late September, Mission Areas and a new structure to replace Regions were approved. As members of the Southwest Mission Area Team (MAT) elected at convention, we have been learning how we will serve the faith communities of our mission area in five significant ways:

To assist in the governance of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) between conventions as members of Council.

To serve as a channel for communication between our mission area and Council, and vice-versa.

To be your resource for Mission (MP 2013, Mission Area Gathering, etc.), Ministry (School for Formation, candidates in ordination process, discernment of gifts, ministry of the baptized, etc.), and Management (budget, audit, personnel, property, etc.) by participating on one of three Council committees.

To convene Mission Area Gatherings (formerly Region meetings) as desired (worship, socialize, review quarterly Meetings of Elected Bodies, for a mission area focused project, etc.) and as required (to review budget prior to Convention, prepare for Convention, etc.).

To help develop the annual Mission Area Gathering (MAG) by soliciting ideas, developing teams, seeking venues, promoting - working with everyone who's interested throughout our mission area to create special

days focused on mission and the People of God.

The Council met for orientation in September. Together we spent time getting to know each other across ECMN and more tightly among our separate MATs. We also had an interesting session taking a look at our personality and interactive styles through the Myers-Briggs assessment, and experienced a thumbnail sketch of how we stand among our colleagues on Council.

Following a discussion of the focus of each Council committee, we determined among our MAT who would serve you on which committee.

We attended a second Council meeting on January 12. At this meeting we were able to make some preliminary plans for our work with the faith communities in the Southwest Mission Area.

We're sending you this introductory e-mail to introduce ourselves and to tell you and which committee we serve. While we all serve Council and participate in discussions and resolutions, each of us works on a single committee. The purpose is for one of us to be your resource for one of the three areas (and occasionally two of us serve on a committee together).

. Got a question about the new health care plan? Call your Management Committee member.

. Wondering when we'll begin planning for our next Mission Area Gathering? Call your Mission Committee member.

. Have a particular course you'd like to see online with the School for Formation? Call your Ministry Committee member.

When you have a question, idea, concern or need information, **we're your first call.** We may have the answer, but more likely than not we'll serve as a networker, finding you the resources you need to engage God's mission.

Delegates to our Mission Area are: Ray Splinter, Joan Hertel, and Karl Mundell.

Financial Report – January 2013

Nickie VanStelten and I are currently working on balancing the books for 2012 and preparing the final pledge statements for the year. We will be presenting the final results for the various church accounts and budget for 2012 during the upcoming Annual Meeting of the congregation that will be held on Sunday, January 27th in the church hall. Copies of the annual report will be available for each individual or family member that will include balances for all accounts, final tally of the 2012 income and expenditures, and the proposed 2013 budget that has been prepared by the Finance Committee and reviewed/approved by the Vestry for congregation review and approval during the meeting. Pledge statements for 2012 are anticipated to be ready for distribution in early February. Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Schneck, Treasurer



ECW News

COMMUNITY DAYS ~ March 1 & 2

ECW members will sell Herberger coupon booklets during February. The cost per booklet is \$5, and ECW receives the entire donation. Please be a part of this great fundraiser for the ministry of St. John's ECW!

Saving Some Green

If you are interested in purchasing quality "green" products for cleaning your home, look for Donna Casella's display in the Parish Hall. In the next couple of weeks she will be setting up a display of items that we can order in bulk for substantial savings. Your Green Team

St. Julian's Guild Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at Panera on **Friday** (yes, **Friday**), February 8 at noon. We are still experimenting a bit with what day and time works best, so please, bear with us. As always, we welcome any and all to join us for a pleasant time together with a little bit of business involved.

Outreach Committee

Your new Outreach Committee of St. John's has a mission to help those in need, beginning within our community. We want to actively help our neighbors in whatever ways they may need. That may mean visiting someone who needs a friend or providing mittens or coats for children in a Mankato school. It may mean playing cards with someone in a nursing home who longs for a fourth for bridge. Since our group is in its formative stage, we are open for ideas. We need input from you about people that require our help. If you know of someone, please give his or her name to members of the group: Jan Mickelson, Mary Burner, Rochelle Wegman, Pam Oster, and Cathie Neitge.



Another way to help would be to participate with the group in an activity. For example, this Valentine's Day the committee wants to reach people with a Valentine remembrance. We need you to volunteer to bake cookies for this. Again, please contact one of the group members. Thank you so very much. - Marcia Olauson

February Birthdays

- 2/01 - Carter May
- 2/03 - Vi Hudson
- 2/05 - Olivia Duncanson
- 2/18 - Mark Manderfeld
- 2/20 - Jordin Johnson
- 2/26 - Jim Pengra



An Afternoon of Drama in Music

Lauren Weber, and other MSU faculty present a faculty recital. Sunday, February 17 @ 3 pm in the E.J. Halling Recital Hall.

Update from RAIN for the Sahel & Sahara

"Drought. Floods. Locusts. Sometimes it seems as though hope has no place in West Africa.

Dear Friends,

The United Nations proclaims West Africa and the Sahel 'a perfect storm.' Prices soar as rural families watch their food stocks disappear and sell their last camel to survive. The rains finally arrive after a searing drought, only to wipe out crops with flooding."

Still, the people "feel relieved that someone, somewhere, can see the people behind the news stories—full of hope, working hard, and keeping their families as safe as they can. Nomadic children, setting off with their parents for pasture they may never find, laugh and play, facing life with stoic bravery. Women with nearly nothing gladly donate half their earnings to their local school because they believe in a future for their children. Mentors walk miles under the desert sun to counsel girls because they want them to succeed."

These are the people that we are helping to become self-sufficient with our Millennium Development Goal seed money donations to RAIN. And where other programs fade, RAIN remains a steadfast partner in short and long term interventions for the nomads of Niger.

In particular, the mentoring program in Iferouane, Niger, that we help support has forty at-risk primary school girls counseled by eight female mentors. In this last year two more mentors had their ten girls graduate from primary school and are still acting as mentors into secondary school. In addition to their studies and health education, the girls learn practical income-producing skills like knitting, crochet, cooking, leather work, embroidery and sawing. In turn the mentors earn a small stipend that enables them to improve their living conditions and their own income-producing efforts and return a portion to the school. But a beautiful part of the program is

the strong bonds that are built among students, their families and mentors.

We hope you will stop downstairs at our new display board in the Parish Hall and see the faces and read the stories of some of these growing success stories in Niger. - Millennium Development Goal Committee

Kitchen Wranglers Update

In the midst of our flu season, we thought you'd like to know that we are taking special precautions to make sure that our cups, napkins and plates are handled with the utmost of care.



Our mugs continue to be cleaned by the seasoned crew of Rochelle Wegman, Jan Mickelson and Betty Winkworth. As always, we wear vinyl gloves while we sanitize each mug, glass or plastic cup, rinse it and let it air dry. We've also replaced our dish drainer and drain board with new microbial resistant ones and bleach the white dish cloths we use. We are also sanitizing counter tops regularly. Donna Casella is another volunteer who is willing to wash any ceramic plates or bowls that are used during coffee hours using the same hygienic procedures.

As for our cloth napkins, they are washed, bleached and heat dried each week by Jerry Stump, Candace Black or Donna Casella. If you choose to use one, be sure you place it in the box near the dishwasher afterwards to be cleaned. We want to wash any napkin that has been touched whether it shows signs or food or not.

Be assured, if we show signs of illness we will not be handling any of these items.

Meanwhile, keep washing your hands and stay well.

Pecans

Great for baking, snacks, & gifts
Buy them while they're fresh &
delicious from ECW members,
Bobbi Hovren & Ann McGuire
\$10 / 1 # bag



February 2013 Schedule

Key: C=S=Cruetlar/ Server, T1=Torchbearer 1, T2=Torchbearer 2

Date	Lectors	LEMS	ACOLYTES AT 1030 AM	Greeters	Flowers	P.O.P.	Nursery	Sun. School
February 03 Epiphany 4	8a: Margo Druschel, Steve Druschel 10a: Andrew Westberg, Candace Black	Stephen Deeren Nickie VanStieten, Ann Clark	C/S: Ryan Wiehr T1: Jonah Westberg T2: Liz Paul	Don Duncanson Joe Hogan, Pat Johnson	McNear	4	?	P: Sara B K:2: Meg S 3-5: Amanda
February 10 Last Epiphany	8a: Margo Druschel, Steve Druschel 1030a: Joan Hertel, Ginny McNear	Stephen Deeren Gerry Schneck, Ann Clark	C/S: Eric Westberg T1: Ambyr Brave Heart T2: Cyrus Brave Heart	Don Duncanson Jan Mickelson, Leslie Peterson	??	5	?	P: Sara B K:2: Meg S 3-5: Amanda
February 13 ASH WEDNESDAY	NOON: Leslie Peterson, Ginny McNear 7p: Bobbie Seberson, Candace Black	Ann Clark Nickie VanStieten, Joan Hertel		Don Duncanson Jan Mickelson	-		?	
February 17 Lent 1	8a: Cathie Nelige, Leslie Peterson 1030a: Audrey Splinter, Ray Splinter	Stephen Deeren Joan Hertel, Ann Clark	C/S: Ryan Wiehr T1: Lucas Cvancara T2: Nora Lybeck	Don Duncanson Jordan Johnson, Pat Johnson	-		?	P: Sara B K:2: Meg S 3-5: Amanda
February 24 Lent 2	8a: Bobbie Seberson, Leslie Peterson 1030a: Candace Black, Meg Stump	Stephen Deeren Pam Bartholomew, Gerry Schneck	C/S: Eric Westberg T1: Jonah Westberg T2: Liz Paul	Don Duncanson Jordan Johnson, Leslie Peterson	-		?	P: Sara B K:2: Meg S 3-5: Amanda

As always, if you are unavailable on your scheduled date, please make your own substitutions and inform the Church Office at stjohns@hickorytech.net no later than the Wednesday prior. That way we can be sure to include the right list of servers in our Weekly Evangelist and we can send the service reminder to the right person!

8 AM - Coffee Hosts - 10:30 am		
Seberson	FEB 03	Foy
Duncanson	FEB 10	Johnson
	FEB 17	Hudson/May
Wegman	FEB 24	Cotley

Altar Guild 8am 10:30am		
JAN	J Mitchellson	Ann McGuire J Johnson
FEB	B Hovren	Mary Babcock E Olson
MAR	Mlanderfeld	Nickie VanStieten E Larson
APR	J Anderson	A Splinter P Johnson

FEB.	1 st Lesson	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
03	Jer. 14-10	Ps 71:1-6	1 Cor 13:1-13	Lk 4:21-30
10	Ex 34:29-35	Ps 99	2 Cor 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-43
17	Deut 26:1-11	Ps 91:1-2, 9-16	Ro 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
24	Gen 15:1-12, 17-18	Ps 27	Phil 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35



SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Praying, Working, Growing, Dancing, in Christ
PO Box 1119
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