



SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Praying, Working, Growing, Dancing, In Christ

THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

December 2012

Ponderings

Happenings for December

*God of the watching ones,
the waiting ones,
the slow and suffering ones,
the angels in heaven,
the child in the womb,*

*Give us your benediction,
your good word for our souls,
that we might rest and rise
in the kindness of your company.
Amen.*

*Cloth for the Cradle,
Iona Community Wild Goose Worship Group*

As you all know, I am not a patient man. Waiting in line for anything makes me almost apoplectic, especially at store check-out counters. That's why I do a lot of my shopping online. That's also why I will go out of my way to avoid heavy stop-and-go traffic, even if that means driving more miles. Of course the source my impatience has to do with focusing on those who make me wait—the gentleman counting out all his spare change for the clerk, driver ahead of me who just *has* to go five miles per hour under the speed limit on a crowded two-lane highway, the long suspenseful pause as Nick Cannon

- Dec. 2, 9 & 16 Photos for Directory after services
- Dec. 5 ECW Cookie Wrap & lunch, 10am
- Dec. 5 Looking Back, Looking Forward, 12 & 19 worship, meal, program, 5:30pm
- Dec. 8 Men's Group, 8am, kitchen
- Dec. 9 Advent Tea, 11:45am
- Dec. 9 OMG, St. Peter, 4pm
- Dec. 16 Bead for Life sale, 8:45-1pm
- Dec. 16 Acolyte Rehearsal, noon
- Dec. 19 Holy Eucharist 2:30pm Laurel Edge
- Dec. 23 Vestry mtg., noon
- Dec. 27 Altar Guild mtg., 9am

More inside...

Special Worship for Advent & Christmas

- Advent Festival— 2 December, 6pm, followed by dessert served by the Vestry
- Advent Day of Hours—Dec. 15, Each Hour 9am-3pm
- Christmas Eve— 5pm Worship & Holy Eucharist
11pm Christmas Worship & Holy Eucharist
- Christmas Day— 9am Worship, Holy Eucharist

prepares to reveal the winner of “America’s Got Talent.” If I am the one who is slow or purposeful and you are riding my bumper, well, I’ll just slow down a bit more and make you wait all the more!

Paradoxically, this impatience is why I love Advent so much. These four weeks before Christmas, when we are called to spend time reflecting on the coming of Christ, are like a breath of fresh air. I want to stop and breathe deeply from the Spirit of hope and joy that the season offers. And as the days shorten and darkness comes earlier and earlier I sense the excitement of the Coming One—Immanuel, God with us—who delights to dwell in our midst. Far from being impatient for God, I relish in the preparation such waiting entails.

Amid all the preparations that occupy our lives in the next weeks, may you, too, pause a bit. Be not impatient, but joyous. Watch. Wait. Jesus is coming.

Thanks be to God!



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Check out my blog at
<http://www.thesmilingheretic.com>



St John's Men's group will be meeting Saturday, December 8th at 8:00am at the church for the second half of training on Safe Food by USDA. At 9:30 there will be the CADA kids shopping party.



CELEBRATIONS... Birthdays, anniversaries

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 12/1 - Pam Oster
- 12/2 - Betty Winkworth
- 12/3 - Dexten Canavin
- 12/6 - Elizabeth Paul
- 12/7 - Gary Hudson
- 12/10 - Steve Druschel
- 12/19 - Victoria Campbell
- 12/21 - Michelle Mundell
- 12/23 - Joan Hertel
- 12/24 - Nancy Zwickey
- 12/28 - Landon Smith

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 12/6 - Mike and Sue Kolbinger
- 12/14 - Chris and Tina Hudson
- 12/30 - Dale and Nickie Van Stelten



Pecans

The PECANS are here, and they are very FRESH!!

Purchase now for your holiday baking.

Our large

and delicious pecans make wonderful gifts, too.

1 lb bag ~ \$10

Bobbi Hovren after 8:00 service

Ann McGuire after 10:30 service



Coming Soon

Watch for the new 2013 Altar Flower Calendar in the stairway. Sign up to furnish flowers for Sundays throughout the year. Thank you for participating in this important ministry.

Good News!

We are most fortunate to have the multi-talented Lauren Mikeal Weber as our new Chronicle editor beginning with our next edition. As usual, all information for the Chronicle should be e-mailed to her by the 20th of each month, LaurenMikeal@gmail.com. The Chronicle will be available by the first of the month in your mailbox or on our website www.stjohnsmankato.com.

To those of you who have been our faithful Chronicle contributors for many years, a sincere “thanks.” You have regularly made life easier for us. Betty and John Winkworth

Giving to Food for Friends

Each year a congregation donates hats, gloves, scarves, earmuffs, socks and toiletries for the guests who eat at Food for Friends. This is St. John’s year to provide these needed items for about 80 people. The collection box and mitten tree for your donations will remain in the narthex (entry way) through Sunday, December 16th. Many thanks, for supporting this important local project.

Annual Meeting 2013



Believe it or not, we’re getting ready for our 2013 Annual Parish Meeting! Held on the final Sunday in January—which, this next year, is on the 27th — the purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect Vestry and Wardens for the coming year, review and approve an operating budget for the year and take a look at the year gone by.

All Parish organizations are encouraged to present a written report (preferably in MS Office format). Please send these electronically to the Church Office at stjohns@hickorytech.net. If your organization handles funds of any kind, a financial report is also required. If you’ve any questions, please contact Senior Warden Jaci Lageson at 625.9331. The deadline for receiving submissions is 15 January!

ECW

COOKIE WRAP

WED., DEC. 5, 10 AM

We will meet at St. John's.

Please bring cookies, fruit, dried fruit, or nuts.

Lunch will be served.

RSVP

moljam@hickorytech.net

Ann 387-4396 or
Mary 344-1816



SIBLEY PARK
Kiwanis Holiday Lights

Presented by MANKATO AREA FOUNDATION and CHS

Join the St. John's Light Crew in support of this first annual community event.

- Sunday, December 16
- 4:45 – 9pm, Sibley Park
- 15 volunteers needed
- Volunteer assignments: Meet and greet vehicles; crossing guard; pedestrian greeters; thank you greeters at park exit; roamers.
- Sufficient breaks in a warming trailer; complimentary food provided by the Neighbors Restaurant

- Vests and flashlights will be provided but dress warmly.

Volunteers should be at least 16 years old but younger volunteers are welcome to help if accompanied by an adult.

Interested? Contact Jaci Lageson, lagesonann@aol.com, or 507-469-0595. She can also help you find another open date if you are unable to help on the 16th.

Financial Report – November 2012

Offerings and deposits to the General Fund in October totaled \$ 21,403.88. There was one transfer of \$3,000.00 to the General Fund from the Capital Investment Fund during October, bringing total transfers for the year to \$19,900.00. We received offerings of \$420.00 to the Property Escrow Account. The balances in each of the three accounts as of the end of October 2012 were:

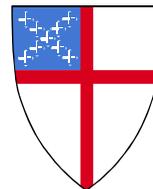
Premier Operating Checking	\$ 10,820.37
Capital Investment Fund	\$ 29,471.40
Property Escrow Investment Fund	\$ 17,273.04

Current Assets
\$ 57,564.81

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerry Schneck, Treasurer

Minutes of St. John's Vestry Meeting of October 28, 2012



Meeting in regular session on Sunday the 28th, the Vestry began the search for new members. The terms are up for both the Senior and Junior Wardens and two additional Vestry slots will also need to be filled at the annual meeting. The search didn't end there. A new editor is also being sought for the Chronicle as the Winkworths retire at year's end. And, they are still seeking a nursery worker.

In other business, the Vestry authorized expenditure of some designated memorial funds for some new altar pottery for Lenten use. They also discussed burnout, attendance, and some different signage but did not take any specific actions.



Shout Outs!

- All who helped with Thanksgiving Dinner at First Presbyterian Church.
- The 27 Johannites who attended our Safe Church Training on 17 November.
- To Donna Casella and Sexton Jordin Johnson for trying out various green cleaning products for use at St. John's. We use no toxic chemicals for janitorial purposes now.
- Caleb Eugene May. Born to Sarah, Jeff and Carter May on October 24, 6 pounds 5 ounces. Welcome to the St. John's family!
- To all who have donated cloth napkins to St. John's kitchen to further reduce what we throw away. And thanks to those laundering them weekly, Candace Black, Donna Casella and Jerry Stump.
- To Communications Studies Professor Kristin Cvancarra for receiving one of six Global Citizen Awards for her major contribution to globalization efforts at Mankato State University Mankato.

To share your good news. E-mail Betty Winkworth at jbwink@charter.net, or call 387-7170.

Tips to Help You Survive Advent

by Ed Spivey Jr. *Excerpted from Sojourners*

Advent—the four weeks leading up to Christmas—is an important time of waiting and preparation for Christians around the globe. Here are a few tips to help you make it through the season:

- Make the advent wreath a centerpiece of the family's weekly meditation on the season. (And remember, don't light the purple candle. That's for Santa to light on Christmas Eve.)
- Since Advent is a time of waiting, try to schedule service appointments for the weeks before Christmas. Taking off a half-day of work for the cable guy or the plumber is much less annoying when there's a religious connection. (And if you work for a Christian organization, it doesn't come off vacation time.)
- Since Advent is often a time of welcoming relatives to the home, make an effort to include them in the family Christmas traditions they missed out on last year, such as loading the dishwasher, making their own beds, and picking up after themselves.
- An Advent Calendar is a great way to remember Christmas each day of the season, especially if there is chocolate behind every door. Which is why Advent at our house usually lasts about three days. (Suggestion: buy an Advent Calendar for every day of Advent, that way you don't run out of chocolate as quickly.)
- Years ago I gave my mother a late birthday present which she refused to accept until I said, "okay, then let's just call it a pre-Christmas gift." The fact that Hallmark never got a hold of this idea is one of the enduring blessings of the Advent season. Join with me in celebrating this.
Ed Spivey Jr. is art director and humor columnist for Sojourners magazine.



Sunday School News

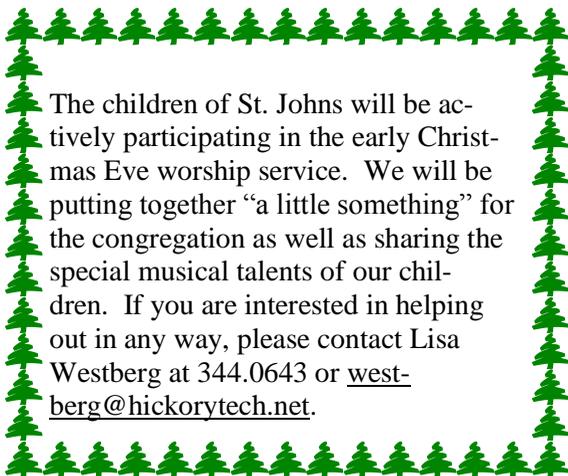
December Teacher's Schedule:

PreK – Lisa Westberg
K-2 – Kristen Cvancara
3-5 – Amanda Mackie

OMG

(Our Mighty Group)

OMG – Our meeting times have been changed! We will now meet on the second and fourth Sunday of the month starting in January. Our next meeting is on December 9th at Holy Communion Episcopal Church. We will meet at 4pm with bible study and activities with supper at 5pm and finishing about 5:30pm. All youth 6th through 12th grade are encouraged to come and have some fun!!



The children of St. Johns will be actively participating in the early Christmas Eve worship service. We will be putting together “a little something” for the congregation as well as sharing the special musical talents of our children. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact Lisa Westberg at 344.0643 or westberg@hickorytech.net.

PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

St. John's is working on a new parish photo directory, hopefully in hand before the end of January 2013. The multi-talented John Weber will take photos in the parish hall after both services (see schedule below), and we'll verify/update parishioner data at the same time. If you're unable to be at church on your scheduled Sunday, we'll fit you in on an alternate Sunday. Shut-ins and assisted living residents: the photographer will come to you! Questions? Please phone Candace Black (625-6104) or email (cblack@chartermi.net)

December 2

Individuals/households with last names from A through H (Anderson through Hudson)

December 9

Individuals/households with last names from I through O (Johnson through Oster)

December 16

Individuals/household with last names from P through Z (Partridge through Zwickey)

ADVENT: COMING TO THE ULTIMATE THIN PLACE

Prepare to welcome Emmanuel, God is with us! Wednesday evenings during Advent (Dec. 5, 12, 19) will focus on St. John's transition from our sabbath time experiences to our future. All are welcome. Childcare will be provided!

5:30—contemplative worship

6:00—catered meal

6:45-7:30—program

12/5: the travels of Paul+

12/12: renewal and sabbath

12/19: envisioning our future and 150th anniversary



Please let Margo Druschel (mdruschel@gmail.com, or 507-720-0768, know if you're planning to attend; it will help her order dinner!



Waiting for Advent...

Consider this inspirational calendar as a resource for your **Advent Faith Formation**. The calendar will go live on December 2nd on the Church Offices "IAmEpiscopal" Pinterest board, and will provide a word, a beautiful image and a meditation specifically chosen for each day in Advent.

Though it won't 'go live' until Advent, you can see the calendar now at:

<http://pinterest.com/iamepiscopal/advert-calendar/>

Eleventh Annual Advent Festival, 2 December

Sunday, 2 December: This will mark the 11th year that our sanctuary will echo with the sights and sounds of An Advent Festival. Intended as a preparation for the Christmas celebration, this order of worship intersperses scripture readings foretelling the birth of the Savior with musical selections intended to invoke a sense of awe and wonder of God's gracious gift of Love and Hope.

Join us at 6pm on December 2 for this beautiful and evocative service and stick around afterwards for dessert served by our Vestry!

*

St. John's

Advent Tea

Sunday, Dec. 9

after the 10:30 service

Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre, holiday treat, or "finger-food" to share.

Advent Day of Hours, 15 December

On Saturday, 15 December, St. John's will host an informal **Advent Day of Hours**. Quit the hectic rush that so signifies the holiday season and come spend a bit of time drinking from the well of hopeful expectation that Advent brings. Each hour on the hour, from 9am to 3pm there will be a short time [15 minutes] of prayer, meditation, and reflection. You don't have to stay the whole day, just bop in—at 9, 10, 11, noon, 1, 2, or 3—when it is most convenient for you, maybe as you head out to the mall or to visit friends. Readings and prayers [and skits!] will be taken from the Celtic tradition of the Wild Goose Community of the Isle of Iona in Scotland as well as others. There will be a little something for everyone [yes, you read correctly, there will be a short skit or two to read if we've enough people present] so feel free to bring your children!

Green Products at Good Prices

If anyone is interested in ordering green cleaning products as part of a bulk order, contact Donna Casella. She will discuss the kinds of products and the costs (drcasella@gmail.com).

Safe Church Training, Nov. 17th

Wondering what that was all about? Ask one of these 27 people who attended this important training for keeping our children safe:

Amanda Mackie
Bobbie Sebersen
Betty Winkworth
Lauren & John Weber
Jan Mickelson
Roberta Hovren
Ray & Audrey Splinter
Jaci Lageson
Nickie VanStelten
Al Berner
Meg & Jerry Stump
Marcia Olauson
Ann & Jim McGuire
Pat & Jordin Johnson
Karl Mundell
Lisa & Andrew Westberg
Gerald Schneck
Sara Brave Heart
Margo Druschel
Candace Black
Joan Hertel



Lauren Weber is working on a musical composition and needs your help! This work will attempt to present stories about love from people through music. She needs people willing to participate in the survey. If you are willing to fill out a short questionnaire and share your story, please e-mail Lauren.Weber@mnsu.edu. Thank you!



St. John's Fair Trade Bazaar on November 18th was a great way to shop early for the holidays. But do not despair if you missed it. Ten Thousand Villages now has a kiosk of Fair Trade gifts in River Hills Mall located a few stores from Barnes and Noble. It is staffed by volunteers and will be open through December

AND...Back by popular demand: we have another opportunity to buy Fair Trade products for gift giving with a Bead-for-Life table in our Parish Hall on December 16th. All items are made from beads that recycle magazine pages into jewelry items while the sales help support hard-working women and children in Uganda.



Coffee Hour Hosts for 10:30 Service

3
10
17
24

The schedule will be included on the "Lay Ministry Schedule" usually on the last page of the Chronicle each month, as well as posted in the fellowship hall. If you are not included on the schedule and would like to be, please let me know. If changes need to be made please make every effort to find your own substitutes and please let me know.

Thank-you all so much for your wonderful service in hosting coffee hour in the past and in the future. We love our fellowship time!
Submitted by Audrey Splinter (720-1155)
rsplin@hickorytech.com

2013 COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

(10:30 SERVICE)

If you are unable to serve your scheduled Sunday, please find your own substitutes. Notify Audrey Splinter (720-1155) or (rsplin@hickorytech.net) of any changes. **THANK-YOU !!!**

Jan: 6 Zimmerman

13 Druschel

20 Hogan

27 **Potluck/ Annual Meeting***

Feb: 3 Hudson

10 Johnson

17 Foy/May

24 Corley

Mar: 3 Clements/Schultz

10 Hertel/Larson

17 Lybeck

24 Mackie

31 VanStelten/Dudash **EASTER**

Apr: 7 Brave Heart

14 Cvancara

21 Babcock/Mickelson/Boyum

28 Casella/McNear

May: 5 E. Olson/Dobratz

12 Means

19 Yurek/End of Ed. for summer/Pentacost

26 McGuire/T.Olson

June: 2 Paul/Fischer

9am 9 Robbins/Black

16 Rozeboom

23 Berner

30 Deeren

July 7 Reeve/Splinter

9am 14 Schneck/Seberson

21 Kolbinger

28 Lagerson/Oster

Aug: 4 Manderfeld/Peterson

9am 11 Partridge

18 Wegman

25 Zwickey/Steil

Sept: 1 Stump

10:30am 8 **Weber/return to Ed.Programs**

15 Westberg

22 Wiehr

29 Winkworth

Oct: 6 Zimmerman

13 Brave Heart

20 Canavin

27 Clark

Nov: 3 Corley

10 Clements/Larson

17 Hertel/Schultz

24 Cvancara

Dec: 1 Druschel

9 **Advent Tea***

15 Foy

22 Hogan

29 Hudson

**Date subject to change.*



Altar Guild in December

8:00 Missy Manderfeld, Judy Anderson

10:30 Elaine Larson, Pat Johnson

Monthly meeting Thursday, 12/27/12 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.

Christmas Flowers

St. John's will be decorated with red poinsettia plants for Christmas. Donations may be given to St. John's (memo line: Christmas Flowers) in memory of loved ones. Please complete the form below, attach your check, and give to Ann McGuire no later than Dec. 16. It may also be turned in during offertory or mailed to St. John's c/o treasurer.

If you wish to *bring* a plant to church, please indicate that on the form.

Thank you,

Ann McGuire, Flower Chair

Christmas Flowers Donation Form

In memory of: _____

Donated by: _____

Amount : _____ Check # _____

I plan to bring my plant (s) to church _____



Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE	
Dec 2	Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Acolyte/Server Torchbearer (1,2) Coffee Hour Hosts Berner	Don Duncanson Leslie Peterson, Cathie Neitge Steve Deeren	Candace Black, Mary Yurek Audrey Splinter, Ray Splinter Nickie VanStelten, Ann Clark Ryan Wiehr, Lucas Cvancara, Liz Paul Lybeck
	Greeter Readers	Leslie Peterson Phil Clark, Andrew Westberg, Ann Clark, Candace Black, Bobbie Seberson, Ginny McNear	(6:00 PM ADVENT FESTIVAL)
Dec 9	Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Acolyte/Server Torchbearer (1,2) Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson Leslie Peterson, Bobbie Seberson Steve Deeren Manderfeld	Jan Mickelson, Joe Hogan Joan Hertel, Meg Stump Nickie VanStelten, Ann Clark Eric Westberg Ambry Brave Heart, Cyrus Brave Heart Advent Tea
Dec 16	Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Acolyte/Server Torchbearer (1,2) Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson Leslie Peterson, Jaci Lageson Steve Deeren Oster	Candace Black, Pat Johnson John Paul, Ginny McNear Nickie VanStelten, Karl Mundell Ryan Wiehr Liz Paul, Lucas Cvancara Schneck
Dec 23	Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Acolyte/Server Torchbearer (1,2) Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson Leslie Peterson, Cathie Neitge Steve Deeren	Candace Black, Jordin Johnson Andrew Westberg, Margo Druschel Pam Bartholomew, Gerry Schneck Eric Westberg Jonah Westberg, Nora Lybeck McNear/Hertel
Dec 24	Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Acolyte/Server Torchbearer (1,2)	5:00 PM SERVICE Pam Bartholomew, Gerry Schneck Ryan Wiehr Ambry Brave Heart, Cyrus Brave Heart	11:00 PM SERVICE Pat Johnson, Jordin Johnson Margo Druschel, Steve Druschel Nickie VanStelten, Karl Mundell
Dec 30	Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Acolyte/Server Torchbearer (1,2) Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson Jaci Lageson, Cathie Neitge Steve Deeren Hovren	Pat Johnson, Jordin Johnson Steve Druschel, Candace Black Nickie VanStelten, Karl Mundell Eric Westberg Jonah Westberg, Nora Lybeck Canavin



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Mankato, MN 56002



St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

Corner of Broad and Warren Streets, Mankato, Minnesota

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Wednesday, 10 AM—4 PM

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Web Site: www.stjohnsmankato.com



Articles for *The Chronicle* may be submitted to Lauren Weber by the 20th of the month.
E-mail her at LaurenMikeal@gmail.com or send articles to the church office.