



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

May 2011

Paul's Ponderings

This Month's Happenings

Pre-e-e-pare ye the way of the Lord!

Is there a soundtrack to your faith journey? You know: the songs, hymns, and other sacred music that have some special place in your spiritual quest? No doubt, even if you've not thought of them as a soundtrack to your faith journey, you have a favorite hymn or two that gets stuck in your head from time to time. "Amazing Grace," "Rock of Ages," and "I sing a song of the saints of God" are favorites for many people. I know you can name one or two yourself.

I actually have a whole musical soundtrack that provides a profound accompaniment to my spiritual journey. St. John's is performing it early this month: *Godspell*. Now this may sound a bit crazy, after all I'm pretty much a traditional Episcopalian who grew up with a love for *The Hymnal 1940* and for the sacred music of Haydn and Mozart [and I have a special place in my heart for Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*] but there is something about the music in *Godspell* that speaks so deeply to me. I suppose one of the reasons is because the music is so joyful [most of it, anyway] and I cannot help but to sing along. I was a teenager when the musical came out in

May 1	Outreach Mtg., noon
May 4	ECW Mtg., 9:45 am
May 5-7	<i>Godspell</i> , 6:30 pm
May 6	Church Women United Mtg., 9:30 am
May 8	"Dance" Team Mtg., 1:30 pm
May 8	JRLC Interfaith Vigil, 7 pm
May 14	Men's Group, 8 am
May 14	Kid's mini-camp & Adult Hike, 9 am
May 15	World Fair Trade Sunday
May 17	St. Julian's Mtg., 7 pm
May 18	Commemorative Evening Prayer, 5:30
May 22	UTO In-Gathering
May 22	Sunday School Celebration/Brunch after 10:30 service
May 26	Altar Guild, 9 am

More Inside...

the early 70s and I was a bit of a church geek. I remember one youth convention in Dallas back then and a lot of the songs we sang were from the musical: "Day by day," "Prepare ye the way of the Lord," "Long live God." Being with a bunch of teens who were "into" God was very powerful. And seeing a bunch of priests not wearing the standard-issue black suit was a novelty for me. It almost made being a church geek kind of cool!

This was such a formative time in my spiritual development and the story and music of *Godspell*



articulated for me what it meant to be Christian. It helped me to understand that being a follower of Jesus was something one did in one's daily life. Faith wasn't relegated to Sundays or when family was around. It was something to be lived in the ordinariness of the daily grind—which for a teenager meant at school and around friends.

Godspell didn't establish my faith. That came from my participation in the faith community and through word and sacrament. But it did help me to understand what the joy of the Lord was all about. Growing up in the Bible Belt of Texas and Arkansas, religion meant subscribing to a set of rules and regulations closely monitored by the church one attended. Memorizing bible passages and the Ten Commandments was normal fare. Understanding what they meant? Well, that was something else entirely. I didn't see much joy in this at all. *Godspell* is about not only hearing the Word but taking it into your life, letting it transform you into a joyful disciple. Throughout the musical this can be seen in the playfulness of the cast and the ways in which they interact with one another. Talk about dancing in Christ!

I think too much of Christian faith is burdened by a sense of dread. People are taught to fear God, fear punishment, fear the world even. Heaven becomes a place "out there somewhere" as a goal to strive for or some Grand Prize awarded to only the hardiest of believers. But if Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven is right here, shouldn't we live as if it were so? For me, *Godspell* seeks to teach us just that.

Thanks be to God!

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

- 5/06 - Jan Mickelson
- 5/07 - Charles (Charlie) Olson
- 5/08 - Kelli Christianson
- 5/09 - Paul Hadley
- 5/12 - Joan Pengra
- 5/15 - Lisa Westberg
- 5/16 - Daniel Hudson
- 5/17 - Gene Broughton
- 5/17 - Helen Trost
- 5/20 - Elsie Olson
- 5/20 - John Winkworth
- 5/23 - Paul Mackie
- 5/29 - Oscar Kolbinger

MAY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 5/20 - Steve and Martha Penkhus
- 5/21 - Gerry Schneck and Pam Bartholomew
- 5/31 - John and Betty Winkworth

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 * St. Julian's Guild will be holding its May *
 * meeting in St. John's Library at 7 pm on *
 * May 17. Mary Berner will be hosting *
 *



St. John's Outreach Committee

Matthew 25:35"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." 40"...Truly I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me."

St. John's Outreach Committee met Sunday, April 3rd. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Red Cross. With the flood season here and the storm and tornado season approaching, it was decided to give our local chapter \$130 toward their assistance in disasters.

NetsForLife®. As an Episcopal mission, NetsForLife® builds on Minnesota's previous Millennium Development Goal efforts and joins the national church's commitment to combat malaria. This Lenten project encourages all faith communities in Minnesota to meet the goal of donating one net for each Episcopalian in their community. The Outreach Committee donated \$140, enough money to purchase 11.6 nets.

Habitat for Humanity's "Get on the Beam" Campaign begins on April 25th and ends on May 23rd. This project helps to provide affordable housing in partnership with needy families in the Mankato area. Three homes are under construction at Habitat Park in the Sibley area, with more planned later this season. An eight foot 2 x 4 will be on display. Individuals will be encouraged to make a donation and sign the 2 x 4. Remember, donors' names become an actual part of the framework for a Habitat house and

each donation helps to provide needed building materials.

The Outreach committee meets the first Sunday of each month. Participation in this committee is open to all members of St. John's. Join us in caring for the needs of others.



Did you know...

...that the first Prayer Book service held in Mankato was on 18 May, 1855? Bishop Jackson Kemper was the officiant and was assisted by The Rev'd Mr. Timothy Wilcoxon. Our current congregation is the legacy of that first service of worship 156 years ago. What a gift!

In commemoration of that first service of worship, we will hold a special service of Evening Prayer on Wednesday, 18 May at 530pm. We've got a couple of years before we celebrate our sesquicentennial. Let's kick it off to an early start!





World Fair Trade Day 2011

On and around May 14th, people in 80 countries worldwide will hold activities to mark World Fair Trade Day (WFTD) in order to highlight the importance and benefits of Fair Trade. Across North America., advocates are inspiring over 100,000 people to take Fair Trade Coffee Breaks from May 1-15. In 2009 over 65,000 people took such breaks. The more people participate in World Fair Trade Day, the more difference we can make.

You can celebrate World Fair Trade day May 14 in Mankato with a Fair Trade cup of coffee at your favorite coffee house and on May 15 join us at St. John's for a Fair Trade Sunday honoring the hard-working among us and around the world who are struggling for a decent living.

We will be serving our usual Fair Trade coffee and tea and will be counted in the nationwide effort to set a new record for the World's Largest Coffee Break of 100,000. We'll also have available for sale Fair Trade products such as, regular and decaf coffee, teas, chocolate bars, cocoa and dried cranberries. To educate yourself further on Fair Trade go to www.maffti.org.

Church Women United will next meet on May 6 at 9:30 am. at Centenary United Methodist Church, 501 S. Second Street in Mankato. The Program will be "Living in Friendship, Passing on the Key." Any questions can be directed to Elaine Larson, 388-4002.



Many thanks to all who made the rummage sale so successful!!

Lilly Endowment Grant Process

Thanks to all who were able to attend the potluck and brain-storming session on April 17th. Many ideas were generated from a diverse group of people. The committee will develop those ideas into the goals that will guide the church during the summer of 2012, while Father Paul is on sabbatical. The grant requesting funding for the church and Father Paul will be submitted on May 12th. Please keep Father Paul and the grant committee in your prayers as we compile the grant application.



Treasurer's Narrative March 2011

Total income for the month was \$12,420. \$8,786 in offerings, \$888 from the Men's Group Pancake Supper, \$500 from ECW, \$2,238 from the Pooled Investment Fund distribution. Our total expenses were \$15,297 leaving us with a deficit for the month of \$2,877 and a deficit of \$1,268 for the year so far, which is quite a bit lower than the deficit of \$4,809 that was expected on the budget. We now have balances of \$38,481 in the Property Escrow Account and \$20,727 in the Capital Investment Account. Next month we will see the first quarterly report for 2011 from the Pooled Investment Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

Connecting with Nature on May 14th



A. Morning Mini Camp

May 14, 2011 at Rasmussen Park (9:00-11:00 am) For all kids ages 5-11. Come join us rain or shine for fun activities in nature. Snacks will be provided. Please contact Jolly with any questions: jollycorley@hotmail.com or 386-1602.

B. Easy Minneopa Hike

Adults and any interested dogs will meet at 9:00 am at the Rasmussen Woods Nature Center Parking lot and carpool to Minneopa. We'll hike an easy route to Seppman Mill and return by car to Rasmussen by 11:00. Comfortable walking shoes are suggested. ??? Contact Betty Winkworth at jbwink@charter.net, or 387-7170.



UNITED THANK OFFERING

How many times each week do you give thanks to God for His many blessings? ...a child's smile, your family, the healing of a sick friend, a new baby, a thoughtful neighbor ***How long is your list?***

UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides a way for men, women, and children of the Episcopal Church to give daily thanks to God. This discipline begins in our homes by dropping coins into a UTO Blue Box. Every cent collected is given away in grants. Last year, 69 grants were awarded, and more than 2 million dollars were collected for domestic and international projects.

**United Thank Offering
In-gathering ~ Sunday, May 22.**



Let's Celebrate the Children of St. John's!!

Nursery (0-2yrs) - Brandi has been out of the nursery for the past few weeks as she has been playing in tennis tournaments. I want to thank all those volunteers who stepped up to watch our littlest ones during the 10:30 service. Your help is much appreciated!!

EpiscoPALS - We have begun to divide our children into three groups for Sunday School:

Pre-K to Kindergarten (3-5 yr olds)

Grade 1-2 (6-7 yr olds)

Grade 3-5 (8-10 yr olds)

The children have been learning many of the basic bible stories this year through the "All Things New" program which runs on a 2 year cycle. The kids have done wonderful art projects, talked about helping one another, discovered how to call on God to help us in our daily life, learned simple verses from the bible, and shared with one another our joys and sorrows throughout the year. I want to thank our teachers for helping this year!

We also have a youth room (right next to the vestry meeting room) for the older kids (6th grade and older). There are some games to play, frisbees (for outside fun!), comfy chair and a futon to lounge or read a book, and a TV/VCR to watch a movie. We are looking to possibly add a Wii with E-rated games if possible. The youth room is set-up for older youth,

but younger kids may hangout as well. A parent or supervisor should be there as this room has not been "baby/kid-proofed."

St. John's will be celebrating all these kid-friendly activities on May 22nd after the 10:30 service. I invite all of you to attend coffee hour after this service to meet all of our kids and hear about our wonderful adventures.



Don't Miss It!

May 5, 6, 7 6:30 pm

At St. John's

Thanks to Lolly Foy and her talented troupe of Episcopalian Thespians!

FREE ADMISSION

Optional donations gratefully accepted:

ECHO & Partners for Affordable Housing

Marcia Olauson, New Vestry Member

Marcia's childhood years in Sioux City, Eau Claire and Fridley bring her warm memories of her great aunt Mabel and a grandmother who always said "go do it."

In that spirit she first attended Marquette University and then Mankato State University to follow her passion for theater and teaching. It was at MSU that she met Ron, her husband of 40 years, earned her B.A. in Theater, Speech and English and eventually completed her Masters.



Her first teaching position in Lake Crystal lasted 28 years allowing her to teach English and Speech and also expand the high school theater curriculum into many specialized areas not normally available in high school. Combined with her next 11 years at East High School she has directed more plays than she can count and enjoyed many great teaching moments.

Marcia is still enjoying the returns on her efforts courtesy of Facebook. Retired now for three years she hears from former students about their writing careers, their accounts of "you taught me how to..." and even an exhilarating "happy birthday" from 53 of them in one form or another.

Her other passions include her work on the boards for ECHO and Freedom School, her lifelong joy in travel and her daughters—Mara, who graduated as an R.N. last May and is enjoying her work in the Cardiac Pulmonary unit at ISJ and Whitney, who

works for Hyatt and the Salt Lake City Fine Arts Center.

Our sincere thanks to this busy woman who now brings her enthusiasm to St. John's Vestry work.



Interfaith Vigil for Justice and the Common Good

St. John's has been asked by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition to host a regional Interfaith Vigil to recommit Minnesota to fairness and the common good on 8 May at 7 pm. Guided by God's vision of the common good as reflected in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions, the JRLC mobilizes religious communities to influence public policy in Minnesota. Responding to the proposed service reductions that will impact our most vulnerable neighbors, the faith communities of Minnesota will pray for our elected officials and encourage them to find a more generous and balanced public stewardship of the state budget. Paul+ has been a member of JRLC for several years and regularly participates in JRLC's "Day on the Hill" to advocate for issues that important to the faith community.

To learn more about the JRLC go to their website at <http://www.jrlc.org/>

Vestry Minutes from April 17, 2011

The Vestry meeting in regular session after clean up from the potluck and Lilly Grant brainstorming session on April 17th approved the financial committee's report that \$18,835 of memorial funds in the pooled investment fund were designated for music and could be used to fund the \$500 approved for the production of "Godspell."

The meeting which spanned only 15 minutes also made some corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting and heard a financial report detailing that pledge income was running behind schedule, snow removal was over budget, and some transfers from the capital fund would be necessary to meet cash flow requirements. Nevertheless, the deficit year to date is only about a quarter of the \$4,809 forecast in the budget.

Volunteers Still Needed

Trash in the Parking Lot— Our big green dumpster is locked to prevent use by the whole neighborhood, but small items can be slipped in without unlocking it. Picking up a few items of trash as we come and go will help spiff up the place.

Mowing is Coming— Most of the mowing responsibilities fell to the Warden and his main man, Dale Van Stelten last year. We need volunteers to spread the mowing duties more equitably this year.

Adopt-a-Highway Project — The eight people needed have volunteered to commit to clean up a 2 mile section of highway and the agreement will be signed and forwarded to MNDOT. Spring and Fall sweeps would take a Saturday morning each. Even more people can make the work go faster. *See Jr. Warden, Jerry Stump, 344-1894 if you could pick up trash. The Spring sweep will probably be in May.*

When you are working with your local PTO on next year's fundraising plans—



Did you know that Equal Exchange has an Organic & Fair Trade Fundraising Program for Schools?

Equal Exchange's School Fundraising Program offers award-winning coffees, teas, co-coas, and chocolates, as well as beautiful jewelry, gifts, and gift wrap from small-scale farmers and artisans around the globe—at a 40% profit to the school or group!

Special Offer!

Choose an Equal Exchange Fall Catalog Fundraiser for your School by June 1st and receive a **FREE** case of organic chocolate with your Fall order! Groups must be in touch by June 1st to qualify.

You can help your kids and your school be proud of fundraising for a good cause. Visit:

www.equalexchange.coop/fundraiser
fundraising@equalexchange.coop
or call 774.776.7371





Plant Sale!



May 21 (9-5 pm) & May 22 (11-4 pm)

BENCHS will be selling donated perennials and garden seedlings at the shelter plant sale.

Have extra tomato seedlings? Ready to thin out the iris, hostas, or lilies? Drop them off at the shelter! All donations must be labeled (plant type, color, etc.) Donations of plants will be taken on May 19-20 (12-6 pm).

Come support the homeless animals of BENCHS and beautify your yard at the same time!

All proceeds go to the BENCHS to help care for homeless cats and dogs.

Riverside Regional Pet Shelter (operated by BENCHS)

1250 North River Dr., Mankato - 625-6373 - rps@hickorytech.net



Be sure and watch for our Twin's sign-up sheet starting May 1. Trip is July 23, 2011, by bus leaving noon from St. John's parking lot. Game 3:00 pm. Price \$45.00 for bus, ticket, hot dog, drink and snack on bus. Also get ready for our Fish Fry Wednesday June 29th. Thanks, Jerry W.





Be Wise About Water



* Use a broom instead of a hose to clear your driveway.

* Your lawn only needs .5 to 1.5 inches of water per week <<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200605/mrgreen.asp>>, so use an empty tuna can to measure when you've reached the limit.

* Air drying uses 15 to 50 percent less energy in practically the same amount of time, so use your dishwasher's air-dry setting instead of the heat-dry option. If it doesn't have an air-dry setting, just open the door once the final rinse is complete.



Protect Plants Without Pesticides



Connect with local gardeners to determine the most common problems in your region, then look for organic fixes. Many pest control solutions can be concocted from household items:

* Garlic and cayenne pepper can be used to deter pesky aphids.

* Used coffee grounds make a great fertilizer for plants that thrive in acidic soil, like rhododendrons or azaleas. Sprinkle coffee grounds and eggshells around the base of plants to repel ants (who can worsen an aphid problem), snails, and slugs.

* Before you apply organic treatments, be sure to research their effect on beneficial insects like ladybugs.

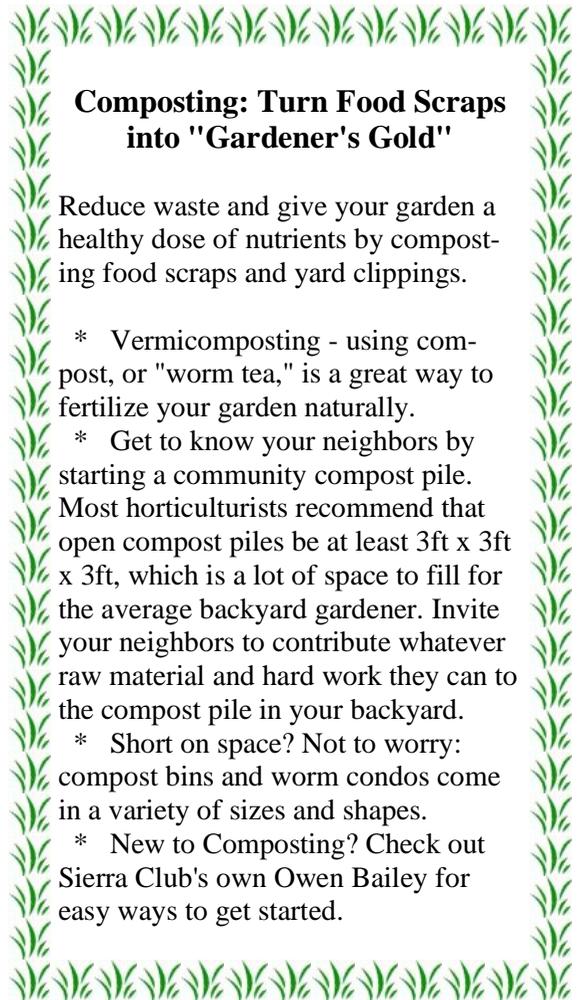


SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

'Tis the Season...

Green Tips courtesy of Kristen Cvancarra and www.sierraclub.org/tips/home-garden.aspx#remodel



Composting: Turn Food Scraps into "Gardener's Gold"

Reduce waste and give your garden a healthy dose of nutrients by composting food scraps and yard clippings.

* Vermicomposting - using compost, or "worm tea," is a great way to fertilize your garden naturally.

* Get to know your neighbors by starting a community compost pile. Most horticulturists recommend that open compost piles be at least 3ft x 3ft x 3ft, which is a lot of space to fill for the average backyard gardener. Invite your neighbors to contribute whatever raw material and hard work they can to the compost pile in your backyard.

* Short on space? Not to worry: compost bins and worm condos come in a variety of sizes and shapes.

* New to Composting? Check out Sierra Club's own Owen Bailey for easy ways to get started.

Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<u>May 1</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren Berners	Mary Yurek, L Peterson, Peter Poulos John Paul, Ginny McNear Nickie VanStelten, Joan Hertel Hertel/ Larson
<u>May 8</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Pam Oster, Jaci Lageson Stephen Deeren	Peter Poulos, J Johnson, Pat Johnson Meg Stump, Ray Splinter Karl Mundell, Pam Bartholomew Lybeck
<u>May 15</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Leslie Peterson Stephen Deeren Anderson/ Hadley	Peter Poulos, Joe Hogan, Elsie Olson Bill Gray, Audrey Splinter Gerry Schneck, Ann Clark McNear/ Mickleson
<u>May 22</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Cathie Neitge, Pam Oster Stephen Deeren Hovren	Peter Poulos, Jan Mickelson, Mary Yurek Candace Black, Ginny McNear Karl Mundell, Nickie VanStelten End of School Brunch, M. Yurek/ Steve
<u>May 29</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Jaci Lageson, Bobbie Seberson Stephen Deeren Duncanson	Pat Johnson, L Peterson, Peter Poulos Joan Hertel, Andrew Westberg Gerry Schneck, Ann Clark Clark

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! Thanks!



Altar Guild in May

8:00 a.m. Jan Mickelson

10:30 a.m. Pat Johnson, Nickie VanStelten

Monthly meeting Thursday, 5/26/11 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.



SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Praying, Working, Growing, Dancing, in Christ
PO Box 1119
Mankato, MN 56002

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

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Articles for *The Chronicle* may be submitted to Betty Winkworth by the 20th of the month. E-mail her at jbwink@charter.net or send articles to 907 Baker Avenue,