



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

August 2011

Paul's Ponderings

Monthly Happenings

Paul's Ponderings for August, 2011 [Newly revised and reprinted from the *Pondering* archives]

“Study is hard work. It is so much easier to find something else to do in its place than to stay at the grind of it. We have excuses aplenty for avoiding the dull, hard, daily attempt to learn. There is always something so much more important to do than reading. There is always some excuse for not stretching our souls with new ideas and insights now or yet or ever.

(Sr. Joan Chittister Quoted in Essential Monastic Wisdom, by Hugh Feiss)

Well it is the time of year yet again which children loathe and parents love: Back To School! Ah yes, the wonderful sound of children everywhere squealing with excitement at the prospect of staying inside all day and sitting at uncomfortable desks whilst listening to iterations of the three “Rs”. What’s not to love about that? And what about you parents? You’ve been swamped all summer with the little ones under foot, trying to encourage them to go outside and have fun in the sun and stop watching so much TV and not to eat so many sweets and quit griping about being bored...I’ll bet you’re just grinning from ear

Aug 7	Outreach Mtg., 11 am
Aug 13	Salad Luncheon Fund Raiser— PEO, 11:30—1:30 pm
Aug 19	Father Paul Returns
Aug 21	Farewell Coffee Hour for the Brittons
Aug 25	Altar Guild Mtg.
Aug 27	Green Team Meeting, 9 am
Aug 28	Mass in the Grass, 10 am, Sibley Park
Sept 7	<i>ECW Luncheon</i>
Sept 9	<i>ECW Region IV Fall Luncheon, Fairmont</i>
Sept 10	<i>Mankato Pride Parade, 11:30 am</i>
Sept 18	<i>St John's Returns to Two Services</i> <i>More inside ...</i>

to ear that soon the house will once again be quiet and you can finally get some peace.

We adults are lucky. We’ve paid our dues in school. Been there, done that. Don’t ever have to again. Ever! No, NEVER I tell ya!

Really? Do you quit learning just because you are no longer in school? Of course you don’t. Don’t you take the time to learn new things to help you do your job better? Don’t you work hard to become a better parent, spouse, golfer, card player, gardener, etc., etc.? Those things involve learning. Of course that kind of learning is something we

want to do; it interests us, makes us a better person. We can do it on our own time, even at our own pace. Heck some employers even give us time off and pay us to learn how to do our jobs better. Can't beat that with a stick.

Then how about church learnin'—bible study, religion, spirituality? Why is it that as soon as we get confirmed most of us don't ever take part in learning more about the faith, apart from the sermons on Sunday? Do we think Sunday School and church studies are just for children and youth? May I suggest that they most certainly are not?!

Do you want to be a better parent, spouse, golfer, card player, gardener, etc., etc.? How about your job? Want to be better at it? Then give Adult Christian Education a try this fall as our Faith Formation programs gear up! Learning more about Christian faith and life not only helps you be a better Christian, it helps you be a better you. So. Why not join us on Sunday mornings in our Adult Forum, or on Tuesdays for our Bible Study, or at any of the other offerings of Adult Education which are presented throughout the year? Now, what's not to love about that?

Thanks be to God!



The Rev'd Paul G. Rider, Rector
St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
Mankato, MN
507.388.1969
507.388.5150
Check out my blog at
<http://www.thesmilingheretic.com>



BIRTHDAYS

- August 3 - Andy Anderson
3 - Joe Hogan
6 - Candace Black
12 - Helen Hudson
12 - The Rev'd Paul Rider
14 - Audrey Splinter
16 - Melissa Hagggar-Olson
22 - Steve Penkhus
27 - Phyllis Brine
27 - Rick Robbins
29 - Ray Splinter

ANNIVERSARIES

- August 4 - Joe and Marje Britton
6 - Andrew and Lisa Westberg
15 - Will and Barb Partridge
16 - Cliff and Ellie Canavin
19 - Lowell and Bobbi Hovren
24 - Al and Mary Berner





Shout Outs!

It was a beautiful day and we estimate 150 people from Zonta's Blooming Pretty Tour visited St. John's Labyrinth on June 26. With the repeated rains we had our doubts that the paver pathway would be ready in time for the tour but Oscar and Mike Kolbinger made it happen.

Another big THANKS goes out to these great volunteers who greeted visitors that day and shared our cucumber water with them: Rochelle Wegman, Ginny McNear, Lauren Mikeal Parsons and Jan Mickelson.

Once again, we are indebted to St. John's Men's Group for their Fish Fry on June 29. Their great food and service continues to draw a big crowd from the community.

If you were on the Twin's Game Bus Trip July 23, you know what a smooth operation Jerry Wegman runs. Even if the day was hot, the price was great, he watered and fed us and even arranged a win for the Twins against Detroit. Nicely done, Jerry.

Another Wegman at work. Our thanks to Rochelle for thinking of the Mankato Police Officers who are staying with Adam Gray every day. She collected money and bought a basket of munchies to leave for them in Adam's room at ISJ—great idea and follow through.



If you
body in the
to thank or
send us

know of some-
church we need
acknowledge,
your "Shout

Out." Just e-mail the Chronicle via jbwink@charter.net and we'll shout it out.

Treasurer's Report June 30, 2011

Total offerings and other income for the month were \$12,093 and total expenses were \$14,039 leaving us with a deficit for the month of \$1,946. We also received offerings to the savings accounts totaling \$ 575 during June. Our account balances for the two savings accounts are as follows:

\$16,678 for the Capital Investment Account
\$17,623 for the Property Escrow Account.

We will be receiving our second quarter report from the Pooled Investment Fund in July.

Respectfully submitted,
Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

Mass in the Grass

Please plan to attend Mass in the Grass, Sunday, August 28th. We'll be located in our usual spot in the shelter near the river at Sibley Park but will be starting the service at **10:00 a.m.** instead of 9:30. A special addition this year will be a Jazz Mass for the occasion.

The Men's Group will provide the meat and beverage. They do ask that you bring a dish to share AND in an effort to save the earth from another 3 bags of trash, please bring your own plates, cups and eating utensils.



St. Peter's Pueblo, Colorado: We Strive to be a welcoming God-centered community whose people, empowered by the Holy Spirit, compassionately bring help, healing, and hope to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

The church of St. Peter the Apostle, Pueblo, has called me to be their rector, beginning Sept. 1! My husband Paul and I are excited about this new chapter in our lives. We are hoping to move me in early to mid August and Paul in December, after the end of this, his very last semester at MSU. Paul is looking forward to a little leisure and house-husbanding in retirement, and also to bike riding, camping and trout fishing in the Rockies as well as being the Rector's spouse!

I'm honored to receive this call and look forward to a fruitful ministry with the people of St. Peter's. They are hoping to expand their outreach and mission to include more social causes in the region and to serve a wider variety of people, including more young families and more people of Hispanic descent (half of Pueblo's population.)

The presence of the Episcopal Church goes back to almost the founding of the city of Pueblo. The first Episcopal church in town was founded in 1864, when Pueblo was primarily a fort at the confluence of the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek. Subsequently a second Episcopal Church, Ascension, was founded in the 1890's, and eventually St. Peter's closed, only to be resurrected in 1958 as the city grew and prospered in the post-WWII economy.

The present St. Peter the Apostle is located in the southern part of Pueblo (3939 W. Pueblo Blvd.), an area with a variety of housing styles and businesses. It is near the SW edge of town, with awesome high desert terrain between the city and the mountains. To the SE, the Arkansas valley is a rich agricultural zone, producing many of Colorado's fruits and vegetables.

Colorado is my native state, and that of both my parents, so this move is a way of going home for me to a climate that boasts 300 days of sunshine a year. Yes, there is winter, but, as I learned when I moved to Minnesota, it is mild by comparison with our northern adventures. The multicultural flavor of Pueblo is very appealing to me, and the food I have sampled so far is awesome.

Paul and I have lived in Mankato for most of the last 30 years. It has been a wonderful community for us, and a great place to raise our two kids who now call Mankato their home town. Much of our history is shared with St. John's, where Mitch and Micaela (now 26 and 24) were baptized and formed in their Christian faith by a loving community. There is even a picture of Micaela being baptized by Fr. Russ Murphy in one of the histories of St. John's. We will miss so many things about Minnesota and so many of you, her loving people, but will carry our faith journey forward with the years the kids and I spent at St. John's as a firm foundation.

Blessings to all,
Winnie Mitchell



In Our Prayers

As many of you know, Bill and Adam Gray were involved in an automobile accident the morning of Wednesday July 20 outside of North Mankato in which two motorcyclists were killed by a the pickup that also struck Bill's car. Bill and Adam issued this statement in the Mankato *Free Press* on Monday July 25:

“Our injuries will require treatment and care in the months ahead, but we are encouraged by the medical prognoses given at this time. We would like to express our concern for everyone involved in this tragic accident. Our family would like to send our prayers and heartfelt wishes out to all those involved in this accident and hope all can recover from the grief and injury as quickly as possible.”

“A financial account has been established for the Gray family at Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union in Mankato.”

We can follow Bill's and Adam's progress and send greetings at the following Caring Bridge site: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/billandadamgray>.

Saturday, August 13th, 11:30-1:30

Salad Luncheon Fund-Raiser--P.E.O.
Chapter U

At St. John's Episcopal Church
\$10 in advance from Pam Oster, 387-6396,
or at the door

Proceeds benefit
Women's Scholarships

Great News!

The Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative (MAFTTI) is close to meeting the criteria for Mankato to become a Fair Trade Town—quite probably the first one in Minnesota.

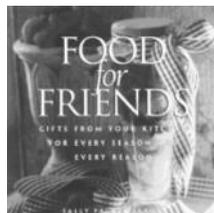
This effort began with a church network about three years ago and St. John's was first to declare itself a Fair Trade Church. It has grown to include businesses, civic organizations, educational institutions and many individual residents.



Look for this Label!

In the final push we will be working with our churches once again in gathering signatures of those who would like to see us become a Fair Trade Town. These petitions will be added to signatures that have already been collected and will be presented to our Mankato City Council the end of September.

This is an exciting time and one that would not be happening without the great support of many parishioners. Thank you!-- and we'll keep you posted as plans develop. If anyone would like to help with petitions contact Betty Winkworth, 387-7170, or Margo Druschel, 978-771-1787.



Thanks to all of you who helped with Food for Friends at Salvation Army on Saturday, July 30th!

St. John's Outreach Committee

Mission: To support Christ's mission in the local, national, and international communities.

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

St. John's Outreach Committee met Sundays, June 5 and July 10. Both meetings were opened with prayer. **In June** we donated \$75 dollars to Map International, \$75 to Project Hope, and \$100 to Episcopal Relief and Development.

In July, we donated \$50 to Oxfam who will double our gift. Oxfam efforts are uniquely effective because they ensure that poor communities guide their work and directly participate in changing their own lives. UNICEF also received \$50 to supply 100 packets of Plumy'Nut®, a specially formulated high-protein, high-energy paste that revives children with remarkable results, and can reverse the most severe effects of malnutrition. Finally, MRCI received a donation of \$150. MRCI sent Outreach a letter stating their need for support to maintain their transportation services. Keeping MRCI buses fully fueled is a challenge with the cost of gasoline increasing 81% over last year while serving 100,000 rides annually in just Mankato.

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.



Undie Sunday Follow-up:

For Outreach, I delivered the items collected to four different local non-profit organizations. I set off with the back of my Dodge Caravan loaded with undies, t-shirts, socks, and women's undergarments, divided by gender and size. At each place, I explained about Undie Sunday and where I would be delivering our collected items. I drove to:

CADA House. The back of the minivan was opened to reveal the choices and the woman employed by CADA chose according to the current needs of CADA, taking a generous amount of "supplies" from each of the sorted selections. She was quite profuse in her thanks and told me that if I had any left undelivered after my future stops to feel free to drop off

(Continued on page 7)

any “left-overs.”

Theresa House/Welcome Inn. I met with Pam Bartholomew who came out to my vehicle to select the items most needed by their organization. Although storage space is quite limited, Pam gratefully received a grocery boxful loaded with a wide variety of items needed by both genders.

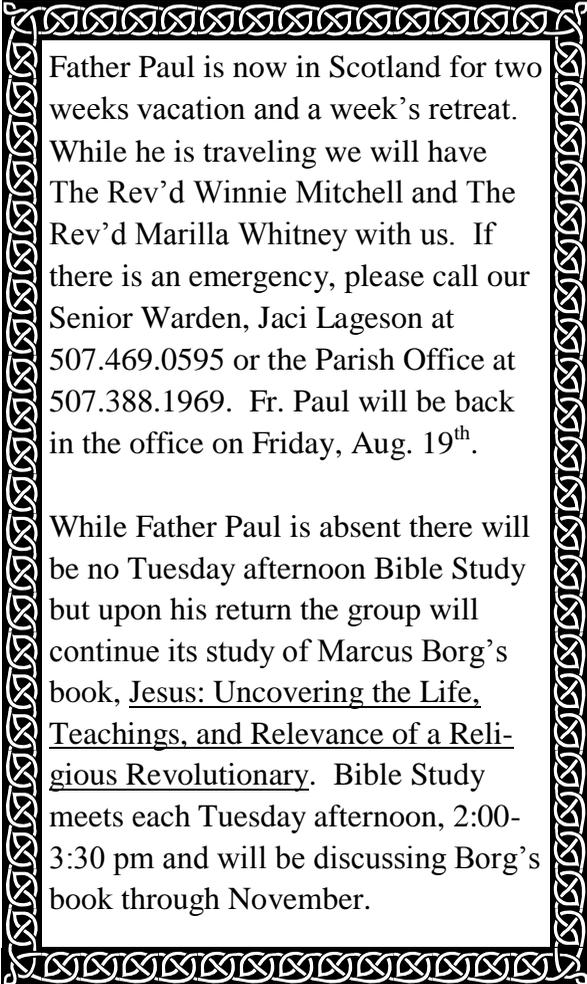
House of Hope. The House of Hope, Inc. is a treatment facility that provides a safe environment for individuals who desire to rebuild their lives from addictions. The donations were met with enthusiasm. As the items were selected, a staff member related to me the dire straits of some of their “guests.” Often, they arrive with just the shirt on their back--no toiletries and no extra clothing. An offer was made--If our church would ever like to have somebody from the House of Hope come and speak, they would be delighted to oblige. I was told that the substances abused are continually changing and it is a good thing for people, especially parents, to be aware of.

The Reach. The REACH Drop-in Center is a safe and non-judgmental place for young people to come and receive assistance getting back on their feet. It is for young people up to age 21 who are couch hopping, homeless, have run away or who may be a step away from being homeless or without a place to stay. The remainder of the Undie Sunday collection was claimed immediately. I was told that just the day before I arrived the staff was wondering if maybe they were going to go shopping for the exact items I was delivering and that this delivery was an answer to prayer. Just last week I ran into that staff member again at a picnic and was told that there have been ten new drop-ins

in the last month and that our donations were already put to use.

The Outreach Committee is pleased with the reception of St. John’s Undie Sunday donations and thanks those who donated to this real need in our community shelters.

Joan Hertel, Outreach Committee Chairperson



Father Paul is now in Scotland for two weeks vacation and a week’s retreat. While he is traveling we will have The Rev’d Winnie Mitchell and The Rev’d Marilla Whitney with us. If there is an emergency, please call our Senior Warden, Jaci Lageson at 507.469.0595 or the Parish Office at 507.388.1969. Fr. Paul will be back in the office on Friday, Aug. 19th.

While Father Paul is absent there will be no Tuesday afternoon Bible Study but upon his return the group will continue its study of Marcus Borg’s book, Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary. Bible Study meets each Tuesday afternoon, 2:00-3:30 pm and will be discussing Borg’s book through November.



Mankato PrideFest is scheduled for Saturday, September 10. St. John's will have a booth at PrideFest as well as a contingent walking/riding in the parade.

Mankato Pride Parade begins at 11:30 am. We will meet at the Blue Earth County Library parking lot at about 11:10. The parade route goes down Riverfront Drive and ends at the festival grounds at Riverfront Park, Mankato. We have a truck with a flatbed that will be available for signs, decoration and rides.

PrideFest will be held at Riverfront Park and runs from noon to 5 pm.

There will be a Pridefest Team meeting on Sunday, August 14 following the service. Everyone who would like to be part of the Pridefest preparations is welcome and encouraged to attend. Preparations for Pridefest will be scheduled as needed during the following two weekends.

At the team meeting we will be checking out designs for peace flags to use for decorations and favors, we will discuss ideas about team t-shirts and any other thoughts or ideas about PrideFest.

There will be a sign up sheet available for sitting at the Pridefest booth about two weeks before the 10th. You can come out and stay for as little or much time as you like. The list is mostly there to remind everyone to come out and join the party!

Many of the people who will attend the Mankato PrideFest believe or have been given to understand that churches find them unacceptable. The St. John's booth at PrideFest is one way that we can demonstrate Christ's message of love and acceptance.

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♥ **Don't Forget ECHO!** ♥
♥
♥ **The state shutdown and the added** ♥
♥ **burden of feeding children who are** ♥
♥ **home for the summer has made this a** ♥
♥ **difficult time at the Food Shelf.** ♥
♥
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The Chronicle On-Line

Did you know that the Chronicle can now be accessed on-line in an easy to read format through St. John's website? Simply go to www.stjohnsmankato.com and click on "Newsletter."

If you would like to save paper and postage by not receiving a mailed version of the Chronicle let us know in the office by e-mailing stjohns@hickorytech.net. A brief e-mail will notify you each month on the day that the Chronicle is posted to the website.

Faithformation Information

Sept. 18th is the Sunday that St. John's will return to two services, 8:00 and 10:30 am, with a 9:30 adult class in between. Classes for our younger members will also resume the 18th.

EpisocoPALS (PreK- Grade 5)

We will meet at the main Sunday School room during the 10:30am worship service. We will be breaking up into age appropriate groups once everyone is ready to go. I have placed a sign-up sheet outside the main Sunday School room to get each child's name, grade/age, and phone number so that I can order the appropriate materials for the next year.

Anyone who is interested in teaching or if you know someone who is (even if only a few times during the year!), please contact Lisa at 344.0643 or email at westberg@hickorytech.net.



Nursery (ages 0-2 yrs)

We are in need of a nursery attendant (preferably 2) each week at the nursery. It is preferred that it is someone who can commit to coming most weeks of the school year so that children can have some consistency. Any questions?

Please contact Lisa at 344.0643 or email at westberg@hickorytech.net

Let's have some fun this year!!



Coffee Fellowship

Joe and Marje Britton

Mark your calendars for a special Farewell Coffee Hour on August 21st honoring Joe and Marje Britton. The Brittons have consistently created wonderful breakfasts with the Cummings (Reeve Cumming is Joe's sister) for the 8:00 o'clock crowd. So the Wegmans, the Kolbingers and the Andersons thought it was only fitting to send them off with a fanfare after their last service at St. John's.

Their move August 24, will take Joe and Marje from their Janesville farm of 62 years to an independent living apartment in Northfield closer to their daughters. We wish them well and will imagine them on their new patio at 910 Cannon Valley Drive West, Apt. 1229, Northfield, MN 55057-3441. Thanks for many years of good fellowship—and good food.



A Green Team Update

Mid-June members of the Green Team met with our mentor from the Green Congregations Program, Fr. Tom Harries. As we toured the building and reviewed our evaluation report he was very pleased with the progress we have already made in the area of environmental stewardship. With the points we have accrued in their system, St. John's will be receiving a plaque at the next Diocesan convention (October in Minneapolis) that indicates we have achieved 2 of the 3 levels in the Green Congregations Program.

The Team will be meeting in late August to discuss our plans for the year and what areas we can improve upon or expand into. As always, your ideas and input are most welcome. Please contact Betty Winkworth, 387-7170, or any member of the Green Team.

A Green Tip from AARP:

Let's Twist Again. After filling up, twist the gas cap until it clicks. With older vehicles, check for tightness. One in six cars has an improperly fitting or missing gas cap, which can reduce a car's mileage by as much as 10 percent.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

ECW will not have
an August meeting.

Looking Ahead...

ECW will meet

Wednesday, September 7.
Location: TBA

Mark your calendars now for

Friday, Sept. 9

ECW will carpool to
St. Martin's, Fairmont
for the

REGION IV
Fall Luncheon Meeting

Lay Ministry Schedule

	9:30 AM SERVICE
<p><u>August 7</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	Judy Anderson, Mary Yurek, Peter Poulos John Paul, Candace Black Nickie VanStelten, Joan Hertel Partridge
<p><u>August 14</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	Don Duncanson, Peter Poulos, Leslie Peterson Audrey Splinter, Meg Stump Stephen Deeren, Pam Bartholomew Zwickey/Steil
<p><u>August 21</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	Peter Poulos, Elsie Olson, Ginny McNear Bobbie Seberson, Andrew Westberg Gerry Schneck, Ann Clark Wegman/Kolbinger/Anderson
	10:00 AM SERVICE MASS IN THE GRASS AT SIBLEY PARK
<p><u>August 28</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	Pat Johnson, Peter Poulos, Jordin Johnson Leslie Peterson, Ginny McNear Nickie VanStelten, Karl Mundell Mass in the Grass

Attention Greeters: Please plan on arriving at church no later than 30 minutes prior to worship. Thanks!

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!



AUGUST ALTAR GUILD

Breakfast meeting: Thursday, August 25

Judy Anderson, Mary Babcock, Ann McGuire

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

Corner of Broad and Warren Streets, Mankato, Minnesota

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 10 AM—1 PM

Wednesday, 10 AM—4 PM

Office Phone: 507.388.1969

Rector Study: 507.388.5150

Rector Cell Phone: 612.695.4431

The Reverend Paul Rider, Rector: paulplus@hickorytech.net

Office e-mail: stjohns@hickorytech.net

Web Site: www.stjohnsmankato.com



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,