



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

January 2012

Paul's Ponderings

This Month's Happenings

[Reprinted by not-so-popular demand!]

Have you ever had something so wonderful happen to you that you just couldn't wait to tell someone about it? Of course you have! Your engagement, the birth of a child, recovery from an illness, promotion at work: all these are instances of GOOD NEWS you just can't wait to share. Any time something good happens in our lives we are compelled to share this with others.

Do you know that this makes you an evANGEList?

That's right. Sharing good news about yourself, or about someone you know makes you an evANGEList. You see, the Greek word for "good news" is **εὐαγγέλιον**, or "gospel." [For those of us who aren't brushed up on Koine Greek, the English transliteration of this is "euangelion." This is also akin to the word we use for a messenger of God - "ANGEL"!] One who proclaims such good news is an **εὐαγγελιστής**, "evANGEList." Or, an ANGEL, if you prefer. So, every time you share some bit of good news with someone, you are being an evANGEList. And I bet you thought you didn't have it in you!

- Jan. 4 ECW Mtg., 11 am
- Jan. 8 Sunday School starts at 9:30 am
- Jan. 8 Outreach Mtg., noon
- Jan. 10 Annual Report deadline
- Jan. 14 Men's Group, 8 am
- Jan. 17 St. Julian's Mtg., 7 pm
- Jan. 22 Vestry mtg. noon
- Jan. 26 Altar Guild 9 am
- Jan. 29 Annual Meeting & Potluck,
Single Service at 10:30

More Inside...

If, then, we are so willing to share good news with others, why are we so reticent to share the best news of all, the Good News of Christ in the world? I think that part of the answer lies in our perception of what an evANGEList is.

Turn on the TV at anytime of the day or night and chances are, on some channel, there'll be some preacher screaming to you that you need to be saved or else the devil will haul you away to the nether regions of hell. Or there's someone asking you to call in with your pledge of \$\$\$\$ in order for the gospel to reach the poor of some part of the world you've never heard of. These images are not the only way to do evANGELism.

In fact, they're not even a good way to do evANGELism.

The best context in which to do evANGELism is the kind of one-on-one sharing that occurs when two or three people come together and share their hopes and dreams, frustrations and failures, in an atmosphere of acceptance and love. Engaging with people in their daily life, that's what it's all about. St. Paul knew this better than anyone. As the evANGEList par excellence he was adept at engaging people where they lived. He stayed in one place for a period of time, got to know the leaders of the community and shared with them how the good news of Christ had changed him from a persecutor of the Christians to its foremost proclaimer. I don't think he yelled at folks to get them to believe—though he could get somewhat animated in his discourse! And he may have asked for donations—to be sent to the Church in Jerusalem. But, he was an evangelist, one who actively shared the Gospel of Christ to those who would hear.

There are other reasons why many of us cringe at the mention of the words “evANGELism” or “evANGEList.” It seems to me that we use most of them as an excuse not to do evANGELism ourselves. We need to let go of such images as TV preachers, door-knocking-bible-thumpers, street evangelists, and the like, if we are to really engage in the work of Christ by sharing the good news of salvation.

In a number of languages the expression ‘the gospel’ or ‘the good news’ must be rendered by a phrase, for example, ‘news that makes one happy’ or ‘information that causes one joy’ or ‘words that bring smiles’ or ‘a message that causes the heart to be sweet.’ How many people this Christmastide will you talk to about what you got from Santa Claus? How many people will you talk to about Christ? Of the two, which makes you the most happy, or brings more smiles, or causes sweetness in your heart? Of the two, which is the real good

news?

Be an ANGEL this new year. Share the GOOD NEWS of Christ in your life!

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>



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 - Mary Berner
- 06 - Linda Duckett
- 08 - The Rev'd Philip Clark
- 14 - Pam Bartholomew
- 22 - Bernie Lindberg
- 23 - Rochelle Wegman
- 24 - Sara Brave Heart
- 26 - Nickie VanStelten
- 27 - Roberta Hovren
- 28 - Jim McGuire
- 31 - Jolly Corley



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, December 4, and opened with prayer.

The Mitten Tree gathered enough gloves, scarves, and hats to fill a Cub Foods cardboard box. Serving our community is something that we care about at St. John's Episcopal. When the Outreach Committee reaches out to give on behalf of St. John's we make a difference in many lives. The donations tell the community that we care. To each person who provided something for the mitten tree—ThankYou!

After reviewing the requests for donations we settled on contributing to three different non-profit organizations.

ECHO Food Shelf. Increased demand for food from ECHO means an increased challenge for ECHO to continue to meet the need. Money purchases more food than a direct food donation so it was decided to donate \$100.

HeatShare. The Salvation Army's HeatShare program helps families in need by providing year-round emergency assistance for their heating and utility bills. Funds are used for natural gas, oil, propane, wood, electricity and furnace repairs. This program is a last resort for those

who have no other resources available to see them through the winter. St. John's wants to help its community so the Outreach Committee donated \$100.

Running Strong for American Indian Youth. A letter from Running Strong requesting a donation stated that \$15 would purchase a coat, \$36 would purchase a 25-lb. food box that will feed a family of four for one week, and \$7.54 will purchase a blanket. We donated \$50.

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.



 * Look for the 2012 calendar *
 * In the stairway and please sign *
 * your name beside a date to *
 * furnish altar flowers for St. John's *
 * Sunday services. Cost: \$30 per *
 * Sunday. The flowers are given to *
 * parish members during difficult *
 * times and times of celebration. *
 * Thank you for participating in this *
 * important ministry! *



Notice of 2012 Annual Meeting

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The right and honorable 2012 Annual Meeting of the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist will be held on **SUNDAY, 29 JANUARY**, during 10.30am worship. In order to come together as a full congregation, we will only have one service of worship on this day.

We have been holding our Annual Meetings the past several years during the Offertory because this is when we present to

God those parts of our lives—treasure mainly, but also our time and talents—as a “reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice” (to quote the Eucharistic Prayer). Isn’t that what we’re doing at our Annual Meetings:

Presenting to God the work of our labors in the vineyard, planning for more harvest, giving thanks to God for all we are? Of course!

So, here’s the plan:

1. Send in your Annual Reports to <stjohns@hickorytech.net> by 10 January (all ministry groups in the parish will need to do this). If your group is responsible for any budgetary items, please include a budget report with your narrative.
2. Pick up an Annual Report [they’ll be ready by 22 January).
3. Come to the 1030am worship on 29 January.
4. Bring a dish to share at the potluck following worship.
5. Give thanks to God for another year of faithful ministry!



Vestry Finalizes Proposed Budget

The Vestry marked up the final budget proposal for the upcoming annual meeting and continued to struggle to put together a slate of officers for the coming year at their December 18th meeting.

Members heard the good news that income from the 52 pledges in hand was up more than \$5000 from last year, but that 11 pledges are outstanding and some pledging families have been lost due to death and relocation. Though the financial report showed a healthy improvement in income from the previous month and the prospect of returning some of the capital fund transfers required earlier, operating deficits continue. Though the capital fund has been substantially buoyed by estate income recently deposited there, only about \$4300 remains of capital funds on hand at the beginning of the year. The proposed budget for the coming year estimates expenses at about \$24,000 more than income from the coming year. About \$30,000 in operating funds this year have come from the capital fund (\$21,700) and draws on the Pooled Investment Fund (\$8900).

The on-going shortfall of revenue undergirded most of the discussions at the meeting. The vestry desperately wants to answer the question where the funds are going to come from to fill that gap in 2012.



TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2011

Total income for the month was \$24,735 and the total expenses were \$12,946. We are hoping to transfer some funds from the General account back into the Capital account in December. We have received \$37,143 from Kiyu Suymatsu's life insurance policy. This money has been deposited into the Capital account pending the Vestry's decision on how to use it. The current balances in our various accounts are as follows: General Fund \$12,914; Capital Account \$41,869; and Property Escrow Account \$19,031.

Respectfully submitted,

Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

Sabbatical Planning Group

We met again in December and continued to pursue the plans and activities that were supported in our grant from the Lilly Foundation. Watch for a meeting in February with details for a Retreat to the Episcopal House of Prayer in June, family hikes at Rasmussen and the Kasota Prairie, book studies hosted at homes, and a bus-trip to the Pipestone Monument. The committee is also working to fill our pulpit and cover pastoral duties during Paul's Sabbatical. Please contact any member of the committee if you would like to be a part of the planning! Fr. Paul, Jaci, Candace, Margo, Jan, Jerry S., Nickie



Shout Outs!

Shout outs to Altar Guild, Liturgy Team, Choir, and all Liturgical Lay Ministers and others who helped make Advent and Christmas so beautifully meaningful this year.

And to our children whose ministry at the 5pm Christmas worship was so great: Ambry Brave Heart, Cyrus Brave Heart, Renn Corley, Ronan Corley, Elizabeth "Liz" Paul, Quinn Mackie. And Amanda Mackie who helped prepare them all!

Bobbie Seberson and Jan Mickelson are completing their terms on the Vestry by locating two nominees for their positions—Leslie Peterson and Sarah Brave Heart. Our heartfelt thanks to each of them for their willingness to serve in this important ministry.

If you get a new job or retire or cross a milestone at school or work, let us know. We'd like to share the good news!

E-mail Betty Winkworth at jbwink@charter.net, or call 387-7170.

And the winner is...

A big THANKS to the large number of you who took the time and effort in December to vote on our two choices for St. John's Millennium Development Goal monies. While each option supports education and community building in an area of extreme poverty, the program receiving the most votes is Rain for the Sahel and Sahara in Niger.



RAIN is an exceptional program supporting nomadic schools where children need food to eat and teachers to teach them. It accomplishes this in the Sahara desert's extreme climate and harsh conditions, helping the nomads find access to food, water, and livelihoods that support their schools. It's a model that works to develop community after community where other nonprofits are not present and in a way that incorporates the nomads' traditional lives and customs.

Those of us on the MDG/Fair Trade team look forward to watching this program in 2012 and sharing with you more about the country, the RAIN program and how our donation is being used. We've been told that our "\$1100 will go a long way in Niger," and encourage each of you to consider donating, as well. You can learn more (and donate) at www.rain4sahara.org.



On Sat Dec. 3rd the kids from CADA shopped for their mother's with the help of two elves (Sue Kolbinger & Missy Manderfeld) and the St John's Men's Group. After shopping they were treated to hot cocoa and cookies, and Santa showed up with a Christmas sock with candy and toys in them. (Santa was the big hit.) The men helped load all the goodies and a big turkey for all to have on Christmas day. After that was done Santa and the Men's Group drove to Laurels Edge to call and pass out gifts for St. John members living there. It was a great time had by all!!!!

Good News

Based on a story from KEYC-TV

Starting January 1 Blue Earth County residents will be able to recycle even more.

Formerly only plastics one and two in a bottle form could be recycled, but now "you can recycle numbers one through seven—meaning tubs and other small containers can be out at the curb. The plastic number is located on the bottom of a container surrounded by arrows.

Recycling Coordinator Jean Lundquist says, 'A lot of these items were already making it into the recycling stream, and they did have to be picked out manually, and now they will be picked out mechanically and used instead of thrown away.'

Blue Earth County recycling is handled by the city of Mankato. Homes that have LJP pick up their trash and recycling can still only recycle number one and two plastics."

SUNDAY SCHOOL
NEW TIME STARTING
JANUARY 8th – 9:30 AM

- As I mentioned last month, it was decided to change our Sunday School class time to 9:30 to 10:30.
- Church bulletins for the children to use during the service are in the narthex.
- There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** on New Year's Day.
- We are still looking for clocks for the K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade classrooms.
- Now that the children will be able to attend the full church service, we welcome all children in 3rd grade and above to sign-up to be an acolyte. Please contact Chris Corley if interested (386-1602).
- I want to thank all the children and parents who participated in our Children's worship on Christmas Eve. A really big thanks to Amanda Mackie and Sara Brave Heart for organizing the service!!

Lisa Westberg



January teacher's schedule:

Preschool: Meg Stump;

K-2nd grade: Jolly Corley;

3rd-5th grade: Amanda Mackie



A HUGE thank-you to the congregation for your amazing support of the Bead for Life Sale on December 18. \$419 worth of beautiful beads were sold and 100% of the profits go to Ugandan women and their families. Thanks for "walking the talk" of Fair Trade.

Margo Druschel



More Good News!

We now have a safe, permanent site for disposing of old and unwanted household medication that might otherwise contaminate our water or landfill sites. This new drop box is available at the Blue Earth County Justice Center, 401 Carver Road, in the Sheriff's Office lobby. It is available during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

Need more information? Visit www.co.blue-earth.mn.us or call the Blue Earth County Environmental Services 24-hour Waste & Recycling hotline at (507) 304-4242.

Your Green Team



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Pueblo Colorado! Paul and I are getting settled at our new house at 3821 Elk Lane and enjoying Colorado sunshine. I'm glad to be back in my native state, where I can see mountains every morning.

The parish that has called me to be their rector is great! It's a little smaller than St. John's but bigger than my previous parish in Fairmont. They have been in a bit of a slump due to a long time between rectors, but things are picking up. Sunday attendance has been climbing. The parish was a plant in the new housing developments of the 1960's on the south side of Pueblo from the other Episcopal Church in Pueblo (Ascension) and Holy Trinity, in the old downtown. But the very first Episcopal Church in Pueblo was named St. Peter's. It was founded in the early days of the town but had closed by 1900, why I am not sure, so there is a nice historic connection there with the name.

And speaking of history, I especially like living and working on the south side of Pueblo because land south of the Arkansas River was once part of Mexico!

Paul has just retired from MSU after 31 years and just arrived here to live right before Christmas. It was hard for us to move me and leave him behind to sell the house, etc. but we hope now to really dive in to life in our new environment. Paul will seek various ways to connect with the community, but doesn't know what yet. We hear that adjusting to retirement is its own adventure!

We are so pleased that you are willing to loan us Fr. Paul for a couple of days to come and preach at my installation as Rector, which is on St. Peter's feast day, The Confession of St. Peter, on Jan 18. We are really looking forward to his visit and will be glad for messages or visits from one and all if you find yourselves in Southern Colorado!

With fondest regards and blessings,

Winnie Mitchell

The Rev. Dr. Winifred L. Mitchell
Rector St. Peter the Apostle Episcopal Church
3939 W. Pueblo Blvd.
Pueblo CO 81005

Thank You

to all who donated
flowers and money
for our Christmas
poinsettia plants.



Beautiful!!



Red-Tag Giveaway

Many of you will know that over the past several years our Property Team has been putting older, unused furnishings in the room across from the Vestry/Conference Room. We are giving you all one last chance to claim any of the items here and at the back of the Parish Hall. If you see something you would like to have, please contact our Junior Warden, Jerry Stump, and let him know. After the first of February, we will clean out these items permanently [save for the pews and some of the prayer benches]. None of these furnishings have been in use for at least a decade—and many for much, much longer than that. We plan to find good homes for those items that may be useful, but will dispose of those which are broken or in major disrepair.

For more information, contact Jerry, 344-1894, or jerstump@charter.net.

Please remember to lock all doors to the church building if you are the last one to leave. This especially pertains to the double doors facing Warren Street and the back door off the alleyway. We've had a few instances of doors not being closed and locked properly, so please double check to be sure all doors are secured. Thanks!

St. Julian's Guild

The January meeting of St. Julian's Guild will be held at St. John's Tuesday, January 17, at 7 pm. with Ann McGuire hosting the meeting.

Please join us!





Prayer Book Basics

By popular demand, the Adult Forum at 930am in January will be a primer on The Book of Common Prayer [I'd call it *The Prayer Book for Dummies*, but didn't want to offend anyone!]. This is a basic "What is the Prayer Book all about" sort of class. Among other things this class will help you will discover:

1. A short history of the BCP.
2. The exciting world of the *rubric*.
3. How to follow along without losing your mind.
4. How to use the BCP in your spiritual life.



ECW

Episcopal Church Women

Wed., Jan. 4 @ 10:00 AM

a potluck in our parish hall

"Let's Get Organized!"



Altar Guild in January

8:00 a.m. Jan Mickelson

10:30 a.m. Elaine Larsen and Pat Johnson

Monthly meeting Thursday, 1/26/12 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.

Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<u>January 1</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Candace Black Stephen Deeren	Mary Yurek, L Peterson, Peter Poulos Ray Splinter, Audrey Splinter Pam Bartholomew, Joan Hertel Stump
<u>January 8</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Cathie Neitge, Steve Druschel Stephen Deeren	Peter Poulos, Jan Mickelson Meg Stump, Andrew Westberg Nickie VanStelten, Gerry Schneck Splinter
<u>January 15</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Leslie Peterson, Margo Druschel Stephen Deeren	Peter Poulos, Pat Johnson, G McNear John Paul, Candace Black Karl Mundell, Pam Bartholomew Weber
<u>January 22</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren	Peter Poulos, Mary Yurek, C Black Ginny McNear, Meg Stump Ann Clark, Gerry Schneck Westberg
<u>January 29</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	<i>Annual Meeting– One Service at 10:30</i>	Mary Yurek, Jordin Johnson, P Poulos Audrey Splinter, Ray Splinter Nickie VanStelten, Joan Hertel Potluck/ Annual Meeting

Please do note that we are meeting in the Parish Library five minutes prior to each service of worship for a gathering prayer.

We are running short of lectors at 8am, so I am using a few of you 1030ers who indicated that you'd be willing to serve at 8am.

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!



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,