



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

# THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

March 2012

## *Paul's Ponderings*

### This Month's Happenings

*Note: It has occurred to me from all my conversations with folk at St. John's about the upcoming sabbatical, that I have never shared with all of you the pastor's narrative provided to the Lilly Foundation as we sought grant from their Clergy Renewal Program. Lent is in many ways a time of pilgrimage through the desert of our mortality to the empty tomb of Easter Resurrection. So too this sabbath time away from you is for me an opportunity to engage in pilgrimage of a different sort. And so I share with you now my narrative of the grant proposal which responds to the statement: "Provide a [statement] written by the pastor that describes the intended benefits, both for the pastor and for the congregation, of the program as planned."*

I talk about "thin places" in my sermons, teaching, and in normal conversations with people. These are places where the Holy seems to touch the every day, where the division between the eternal and the temporal seems transparent. Most people can understand this in the context of worship, where we are gathered around the altar in community and proclaim word and sacrament. And some have had personal experiences of such

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Mar 3   | Kids Against Hunger, KAH Bldg., 2-4 pm   |
| Mar 4   | Acolyte Training, following 1030 service |
| Mar 4   | Outreach Mtg., noon                      |
| Mar 7   | ECW Mtg., Wow Zone at noon               |
| Mar 10  | Men's Group, Webster's Rest., 745 am     |
| Mar 10  | Spelling Bee & Chili Supper, 530 pm      |
| Mar 11  | Ready for Success Collection             |
| – Apr 8 |  |
| Mar 18  | Sabbatical Showcase, 930 am              |
| Mar 20  | St. Julian's Mtg., Laurel's Edge, 7 pm   |
| Mar 25  | Vestry Meeting, noon                     |
| Mar 29  | Altar Guild, 9 am                        |

*More Inside...*

places in their own lives.

My personal journey will be one of reconnecting with the thin places of my life—the landscapes of my spiritual journey thus far—and of discovering the thin places of our spiritual heritage in Celtic Christianity. My travels will not only be to sacred sites of centuries gone by, but they will take me to places where the faithful continue to make pilgrimage: Walsingham, Lindisfarne, and Iona among them. I want to see how others take these experiences of the Holy Past into the Holy Present. What is the spiritual benefit for people? Is there a practical benefit: how do they apply such experiences to their everyday lives? And what might be the benefit for others?

As I struggle with these questions, I would also ask them of the people of St. John's. As they engage in a form of spiritual pilgrimage to the thin places of their lives, what from those experiences challenges them? How do we intentionally use such moments in our seeking to renew our lives and the lives of those whom we serve? Is there any connection between the landscapes of our spiritual journeys to the God we seek to proclaim? To the justice we seek to proclaim? To the love we seek to share? What are some of the practical ways in which we can serve others better through having had this time of pilgrimage?

It will be our goal after the sabbatical to intentionally engage in conversation and action around these questions and others. Refreshment and renewal, as this time will provide, are necessary to a life of faith. But that renewal must lead us into the world as we seek to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God."

Thanks be to God!



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**CELEBRATIONS...**  
**birthdays,**  
**anniversaries**

Birthdays:

- Mar 02 - Helen Dudash
- 08 - Ellie Canavin
- 10 - Quinn Mackie
- 11 - Cyrus Brave Heart
- 12 - Pat Johnson
- 14 - Ricky Curtis
- 16 - Ann Clark
- 18 - Chris Corley
- 21 - Gay Schultz
- 31 - Cathie Neitge

Anniversaries:

- Mar 21 - Larry and Betsy Fowler

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

**ECW will meet**

**Wednesday**

**March 7**

**noon**

**"The WOW Zone"**

**RSVP**

**[moljam@hickorytech.net](mailto:moljam@hickorytech.net)**





## 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, February 5 and opened with prayer and discussed **Mission Project 2012**. Statistics show that poverty rates in Minnesota are increasing and along with them homelessness, food insecurity, and unemployment. The Gospels clearly call Christians to action in times like this.

Through **Mission Project 2012**, Episcopalians across Minnesota will take action by joining forces with Episcopal Community Services to help those in need and struggling. Find out more how you can help at [www.episcopalmission.org](http://www.episcopalmission.org).



**In the month of March, St. John's Outreach is** introducing two projects that fit in with the Mission Project 2012 plan from the Episcopal Church of Minnesota. These projects will involve the participation of everyone. We know that all of us in our parish will want to give to our community through our church.

**Kids Against Hunger (KAH).** Saturday, March 3 from 2– 4 pm, St. John's Episcopal Church has a reservation at the KAH building, 100 Sibley Parkway, to package food. All food packaged will be donated to the ECHO Food Shelf. Come and bring a friend! This project is the way we will combine the Night Without Hunger and the annual March drive to help our local food shelf.

This food is a rich source of easily digestible protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins needed by a malnourished child's body and mind. It offers all nine of the essential amino acids required for complete nutrition, it accommodates the broad diversity of ethnic tastes and religious differences, and is made from four readily available dry ingredients that are easy to package and keep for long periods. It requires only boiling with water to prepare. Despite the simplicity of the food's content, it is a nutritionally complex and well balanced meal.

**Ready for Success.** During Lent, from March 11 -April 8 we will be collecting new or gently used items (watches for men & women, women's jewelry, women's handbags, men's wallets, and men's ties) and new or unopened personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, body wash & lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste).

This **Mission Project 2012** program to help alleviate poverty in Minnesota works with Episcopal Community Services to provide items for people who: (a) have either been referred by an ECS partner agency, congregation or other social service entity, (b) are working or seeking employment, or (c) are low-income.

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.



## TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 2012

Our total offerings to the General Fund for January were \$16,296 and I transferred \$1000 from the Capital Investment Fund to cover the total expenses of \$17,719. We had two rather large quarterly payments for insurance and Fr. Paul's pension that came due in January. We also had offering to the Property Escrow account totaling \$470 and a net increase in our Pooled Investment Account in the 4th quarter of 2011 totaling \$11,392. The balances in our investment accounts as of January 31st are as follows: Capital Investment account, \$48,915; Property Escrow account, \$20,001; Pooled Investment account, \$240,344.

Respectfully submitted,

Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

### Something New

St. Julian's Guild is planning a reunion meeting for March. We'll be meeting in the library at Laurel's Edge, Stadium Road and James Avenue, on March 20, 7 pm.

Please join us to celebrate and connect again with former members.

### Sabbatical Showcase, March 18th at 9:30

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall between services on March 18th for an opportunity to preview the many exciting activities that will take place at St John's while Fr Paul is on his Sabbatical. We will join him in exploring the "thin places" in our lives, where the earthly and the spiritual connect. We will explore our labyrinth, the Kasota Prairie and travel to Pipestone. Groups will gather in homes to read and study. A retreat to the Episcopal House of Prayer will take place. Come on March 18th to learn more and sign-up.

Fr. Paul, Jaci, Candace, Margo, Jan M., Jerry S., Nickie



### April Visit of the Bishop

The Bishop will visit with us on April 15th. We will have ONE service that day, at 10:30, as we bid Paul+ farewell and travel mercies on his Sabbatical journey and as Bishop Brian commissions all the people of St. John's for their sabbath time while Paul+ is away. A Cajun Themed pot-luck will follow the service.

## **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

ECW will host a rummage sale

**May 3 - 5**

Please "recycle" your gently used clothing, CD's, DVD's, books, toys, shoes, luggage, purses, games, small furniture, and kitchen & household items!! Wrap securely and put in storage room at the bottom of the stairs. (please - no exercise equipment)

Questions?

[moljam@hickorytech.net](mailto:moljam@hickorytech.net)

Ann 387-4396



### **Don't Miss It!**

In these difficult times the need has never been greater at ECHO. So as a food and fundraiser for ECHO, we'll be coming together on March 10 for a new event. There will be a 5:30 pm, chili supper in the Parish Hall and then a very team-oriented, non-threatening Spelling Bee. We're forming youth and adult teams with audience participation for everyone else.

Meanwhile, sign up for a team (3 adults per team, youth level will be done differently) by March 4 in the Parish Hall and start pulling together your items for ECHO. If you're wondering what's needed, a check made out to ECHO always goes far. For other ideas we've included a list of possible items you can stick in your pocket or purse.



### **Wanted**

We're in search of a new or gently used office chair for use at the secretary's desk in our church office.

If you can help out, please contact the office, 388-1969, or leave an e-mail at [stjohns@hickorytech.net](mailto:stjohns@hickorytech.net).

### **SUGGESTED DONATIONS FOR ST. JOHN'S MARCH 10 SPELLING BEE AND CHILI SUPPER FOR ECHO**

Any and all items are appreciated but the following are favorites of ECHO clients:

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Miracle Whip
- Salad dressings
- Cake, brownie, muffin mixes
- Coffee
- Cocoa mix packages
- Spaghetti sauce
- Peanut butter
- Jams/jellies
- Flour
- Sugar
- Canned beans
- Personal items like soap, shampoo, Razors, toilet paper
- Diapers of any size

## What is Lent?

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

Throughout Lent, the worship of the church takes on a simpler tone, appropriate to this season. The altar is bare. Stoneware is used for the Holy Vessels of communion. Banners are removed from the church. The word Alleluia is not used in the words of the liturgy or hymns. These practices help the worshipping community to mark this season of renewal as a special time in the church year.

### Spiritual Offerings at St. John's during Lent:

#### *Sunday*

Join us each Sunday afternoon at 1pm at Pub 500 as we ponder the impact of the readings and sermon from earlier that morning. So, take notes in church and come prepared to dine & discuss [and maybe even drink!].

#### *Tuesday & Thursday*

530pm—Evening Prayer

#### *Wednesday Evenings*

Our time on Wednesday evenings begins with a period of Contemplative Prayer at 530pm in our Sanctuary, followed by a Soup Supper at 6pm. Our program this year will focus on The Bible in the Life of the Church using a Creation Bible Study which comes from the Anglican Communion Theological Education Ministry.

#### *Thursday Brown Bag Retreats*

Every Thursday noon during Lent you are invited to join us in our 9th annual Brown Bag Retreat

series. Bring your lunch—and a friend!— with you and sit in silence while listening to readings from a variety of spiritual works. This one hour over lunch will surely provide some spiritual food for your journey this Lent. This year we will read The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch.

#### *Saturday Late-Afternoons*

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

### Lent Soupmakers

2/29 Margo & Steve Druschel

3/07 Richard Robbins

3/14 Margo & Steve Druschel

3/21 Audrey and Ray Splinter

3/28 Sara Brave Heart

4/04 Jerry Stump



Lent Schedule		
Every Sunday	8 am	Holy Eucharist
	1030am	
Every Tuesday	1 pm	Ponderings @ Pub 500
	530pm	
Every Wednesday	530pm	Contemplative Prayer, Soup Supper, Program
Every Thursday	Noon	Brown Bag Retreat
	530pm	Evening Prayer
Every Saturday	430pm	Contemplative Prayer
April 1 Palm Sunday	8 am	Palm Sunday::
	1030am	Holy Eucharist
April 5 Maundy Thursday	7pm	Holy Eucharist/ Night Watch
April 6 Good Friday	Noon	Liturgy
	7 pm	Stations of the Cross
April 7 Holy Saturday	9 am	Liturgy of the Word
April 8 Easter Day	6 am	Easter Vigil/ Holy Eucharist
	1030am	Festival Eucharist



## Shout Outs!

**Jonah Westberg** has completed the God and Me program in February. This curriculum is through the Scouting program (Boys and Girls). Thank you to Father Paul for meeting with Jonah in four different sessions to learn about God and Jesus in our life .

Guitarist **Jim McGuire** was inducted into the Mid-America Music Hall of Fame on February 24. He taught classical guitar at the U of M and St. Olaf College for many years and now in semi-retirement continues to teach at MN State University, Mankato and Gustavus Adolphus College. He composes music for the classical guitar and enjoys playing jazz. On April 15, when Bishop Prior visits St. John's, our worship will include Jim's jazz mass.

A big THANKS! to our **Men's Group** for another fine Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. They made \$600 and many happy customers.

*Share the good news! E-mail Betty Winkworth at [jbwink@charter.net](mailto:jbwink@charter.net), or call 387-7170.*

### FUTURE FOOD FOR FRIENDS

St. John's will be serving Food for Friends May 26, July 7th, and September 8th.



### **New Vestry Member**

New Vestry member, Sara Brave Heart, approaches life with an enthusiasm and love of learning that goes to her very roots. Born in River Falls, Wisconsin, Sara spent 10 years of her life in a log cabin in northern Wisconsin. Her college professor grandfather bought enough land for his children to build cabins and share a communal (Sara's term is "hippie") existence together.

There were a number of moves, 60 over her lifetime with 13 different schools and 3 different colleges, but her mother eventually moved to St. Paul where Sara graduated from Como Park High School. Her college years were mostly at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, where she was a liberal arts major with a Native American Studies specialty in her senior year.

Sara and husband, David, met through friends at a St. Paul Pow Wow in 1998. They discovered that they had an unusual historical connection through what is known as the Dakota Conflict. David is a descendant of Dakota involved in the conflict and Sara is descended from Norwegian settlers who were captured in the conflict. They both embrace

the Lakota traditions and spirituality and after a death in the family returned for a time to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation where David was raised. While there Sara taught school but she has also been a computer trainer and a teacher with non-profits.

Seeing straw bale building construction as an answer for reservation families, the family moved on to Colorado in 2003 for David to learn construction techniques. For a number of years David built and conducted workshops on these types of homes leading the family to Rapid City, South Dakota. He's since turned to helping Indian tribes that receive federal grants, utilize and report their funds through a Massachusetts non-profit.

His position allows the family to live anywhere and they chose to return to Minnesota a year ago. Mankato specifically attracted them for its inclusive home-schooling community. Their three children, Gerald (14), Cyrus (11) and Ambry (7) are home schooled by Sara and the family feels that it enables them to learn and grow together as a close-knit unit.

Her pleasures include travel or even reading or day-dreaming about travel, but she also enjoys sewing, gardening and history. When she speaks of dreams it is first to raise good people and perhaps to continue to work with ideas in a college setting.

Our sincere thanks to Sara for joining in the important work of our Vestry.





### Sunday School

#### March teacher's schedule:

Preschool: Lisa Westberg

K-2nd grade: Sara Brave Heart

3rd-5th grade: Amanda Mackie



### House Sitter Available

The Rev. Marilla Whitney, who will be our primary supply priest during Paul+'s sabbatical, is exploring the idea of living in the big city of Mankato with her family (daughter and granddaughter) during the summer. If you know of anyone who needs a house sitter, please contact Marilla at [marillaw@juno.com](mailto:marillaw@juno.com).



### March *FORTH* on March *FOURTH*!!

We will be having acolyte training right after the 10:30 worship service on March 4th. (Yes, you may get a cookie downstairs first!) All children (preferably 3rd grade and higher or those with previous acolyte experience) are welcome to participate. Please come and be part of our service at St. John's.

- Annual Men's Group fish fry on Friday, June 29, 2012.
- Twin baseball game on Saturday, August 11, 2012. It will be a 6:10 p.m. game against Detroit. We have 42 tickets available. Watch for a sign-up sheet at church. More information will be provided later on the cost and what time the bus will leave.
- Men's group next monthly meeting will be Saturday March 10 at 7:45 a.m. at Webster's Restaurant in the Best Western Hotel in North Mankato. All men's group meetings are held the second Saturday of the month. All men of the church are welcome.
- The Men's Group will organize a benefit for Bill Gray. More information will follow later.



### Stay Tuned

St. John's Green Team is finalizing plans for an event in April to help celebrate Earth Day. Look for further details in the next Chronicle.



If you have any questions or comments, please call Jerry Wegman at 380-4908 or Mike Kolbinger at 380-3252.

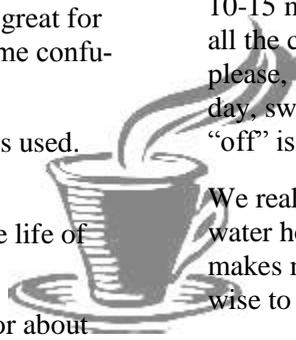
## K.I.S.S. (as in, Keep It Super Simple)

Our coffee maker in the kitchen has been great for the quick brew but we've encountered some confusion about its operation.

First off, it needs to be turned off after it is used. There are a couple of good reasons:

- Turning it off after use will extend the life of the coffee maker and
- Save power (about a nickel an hour) or about \$416 a year if we use it for 8 hours a week.

SO...to make it easier to use, Jerry Stump has installed a new toggle switch at the wall plug. All you have to do is read the toggle with the red tape on it. If "off" is showing the unit will be cold and need to be switched on for use. Just move the tog-



gle with the red tape to "on" and it will take 10-15 minutes to heat the water enough for all the coffee or tea you want to make. Then please, when you are done brewing for the day, switch the same red toggle again so that "off" is showing.

We realize that it would be easier to leave the water hot all of the time, but we know that it makes more sense environmentally and cost-wise to turn it off.

Thanks for your help with this and if you need assistance, please follow the signs or ask help from someone nearby—preferably, not Fr. Paul. He's got a few other things going on.

Thanks again, Your Green Team

### St. John's Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday ~ April 8

I / We wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Easter flowers at St. John's.

In Memory ~ In Thanksgiving ~ To Honor (circle one)

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to bring a plant by April 5.

Donations are requested by  
MARCH 25

**Please attach this form to your check.**

**Write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line**  
and give to Nickie VanStelten or Ann McGuire.

Thank you!



# Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<p><b><u>March 4</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren Seberson/Hovren</p>	<p>Mary Yurek, L Peterson, Peter Poulos Meg Stump, John Paul Nickie VanStelten, Gerry Schneck Brave Heart</p>
<p><b><u>March 11</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Margo Druschel, Steve Druschel Stephen Deeren</p>	<p>Peter Poulos, Jan Mickelson, J Johnson Audrey Splinter, Ray Splinter Karl Mundell, Pam Bartholomew Canavin</p>
<p><b><u>March 18</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Leslie Peterson, Bobbie Seberson Stephen Deeren Ducanson</p>	<p>Peter Poulos, Pat Johnson, Joe Hogan Candace Black, Ginny McNear Joan Hertel, Ann Clark Corley</p>
<p><b><u>March 25</u></b></p> <p>Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	<p>Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Cathie Neitge, Steve Druschel Stephen Deeren Anderson</p>	<p>Peter Poulos, Ginny McNear, C Black John Paul, Andrew Westberg Karl Mundell, Nickie VanStelten Dobratz/Olson</p>

As always, if you are unavailable on your scheduled date, please make your own substitutions and inform the Church Office at [stjohns@hickorytech.net](mailto: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!

Be looking for a Holy Week/Easter Signup sheet sometime the week of 4 March!



## Altar Guild in March

8:00 a.m. Missy Manderfeld

10:30 a.m. Ann McGuire and Audrey Splinter

Monthly meeting Thursday, 3/29/12 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.




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## 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,