



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

December 2010

Paul's Ponderings

This Month's Happenings

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

The prophet Isaiah used these words to describe the coming of the messianic king whose name would be "wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of peace." (Is. 9.2-6) This ideal king represented the best qualities of Israel's heroes, of whom King David was the most popular. As I reflect on this passage of scripture, I would like to share with you some thoughts.

The season of Advent is one in which the anticipation of the coming birth of our Lord - the light of the world - is symbolically reflected in the gradual increase of light emitting from the Advent wreath week after week. At first, one candle is lit, piercing the darkness and serving as a beacon to guide the way for God's people. As we grope through the successive weeks of the season, scurrying here and there to make final preparations for Christmas, buying and wrapping presents, addressing cards, baking pies and making candy, and trimming the tree, the increase of light issuing from our wreath serves as a reminder: Christ Jesus - the beacon of hope in a troubled world - is soon to come. As my la-

- Dec. 1 ECW, Olive Garden, 11 am
- Dec. 5 Outreach Mtg., noon
- Dec. 11 Men's Group, 8 am, Parish Hall
- Dec. 12 Advent Festival & Dinner, 4 pm
- Dec. 14 St. Julian's Holiday Party. 6 pm, Mankato Golf Club
- Dec. 15 ECW Cookie Wrap, 10 am
- Dec. 19 Vestry mtg. noon, Advent Tea, noon
- Dec. 23 Altar Guild 9 am
- Dec. 24 Christmas Worship & Children's Program, 5 pm, Lessons & Carols, 10:30 pm, Christmas Worship, 11 pm
- Dec. 25 Christmas Worship, 9 am
- Dec. 26 Vote for MDG Donation

More Inside...

pel pin says, "Jesus is the reason for the season."

This Advent my prayer for each of you is that the light of Christ will shine fully in your hearts and souls at all times. As we go about the business of our daily lives, may Christ's light illumine our path and keep us from stumbling on the rocks which the world would place in our way. As we come together to praise God in prayer and song, and as we join in doing the

(Continued from page 1)

work of our Savior, the light of Christ in each of us will combine with that which is in our brothers and sisters and provide such a blaze of radiance that the whole world cannot help but be caught up in it's glory.

May the peace of God in Christ be with you this joyous season!

Thanks be to God!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/2 Amanda Mackie
- 12/2 Betty Winkworth
- 12/3 Dexten Canavin
- 12/6 Elizabeth Paul
- 12/7 Gary Hudson
- 12/19 Victoria Campbell
- 12/21 Michelle Mundell
- 12/23 Joan Hertel
- 12/24 Nancy Zwickey
- 12/28 Landon Smith

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/14 Chris and Tina Hudson
- 12/26 Mike and Sue Kolbinger
- 12/30 Dale and Nickie Van Stelten



ECW
Episcopal Church Women

Wednesday, December 1

11 am

OLIVE GARDEN

meeting~luncheon

RSVP

387-4396 Ann

moljam@hickorytech.net



Christmas Flowers

St. John's will be decorated with red poinsettia plants for Christmas. Donations may be given to St. John's (*memo line: Christmas Flowers*) in memory of loved ones. Please complete the form below, attach your check, and give to Ann McGuire or Bill Gray no later than Dec. 19. It may also be turned in during offertory or mailed to St. John's book keeper.

If you wish to bring a plant to church, please have it there no later than 10 AM, Thurs., Dec. 23. and indicate that on the form below.

Thank you!
Ann McGuire
Flower Chair

Christmas Flowers Donation Form

In memory of: _____

Donated by: _____

Amount : _____ Check # _____

I plan to bring a plant (s) to St. John's _____



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, November 7. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Episcopal Relief & Development. Thanks to a group of extraordinarily generous donors, Episcopal Relief & Development is matching all gifts received by November 30, up to \$500,000. The matching amounts will be designated for the Global Needs fund, which supports Episcopal Relief & Development's partnerships to fight extreme poverty, hunger, and disease worldwide. The committee decided to donate \$150, which when matched, turns the contribution into \$300.

Native American Emergency Relief. Desperate, living in nearly third world conditions Native American's inside the United States are often overlooked. Native Americans are

plagued with poverty, hunger and despair. Children are often left poorly clothed and unfed. Native American Emergency Relief outreach makes weekly food distributions to the Indians living on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. In the winter months, firewood is added to the distribution. We received a mailing that any gift of \$10 would buy \$100 of food. Seeing our donation multiplied ten times seemed to be a good investment. We decided to donate \$50, which multiplied by ten, means we donated enough money to buy \$500 of food.

Habitat for Humanity. The Habitat Park at the Rogers and Mound build site was trying to get homes closed up before the snow flies. The committee donated \$50 to Habitat for Humanity toward supplies.

The Mitten Tree. During the season of Advent, the Mitten Tree will again be taking donations. It looks like another cold winter which will leave many in need of the hats, gloves, and socks we collect. Imagine a winter without gloves or no hat on a cold, windy, winter day--Brrr! Let's see what we can gather together.

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.



St. John's
Advent Tea
Sun., Dec. 19
after 10:30 service
in the Parish Hall

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



Celtic Evening Prayer

The pre-holiday season can be busy—crowded with entertaining, shopping, decorating, cooking. These are all part of the fun, but Advent is a holy season of interior preparation, a time to repent with humility, and calmly focus on God's promise of a Messiah. Evening Prayer during Advent will have a Celtic flavor, using the Daily Office of the Northumbria Community in Lindisfarne. Give yourself the gift of time this Advent, a mere half-hour rich with short lessons from Scripture, thought-provoking meditations to ponder, periods of contemplation. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

ST. JULIANS

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6
P.M

Mankato Golf Club Dining Porch

Pay at the club, by card or cash

Optional: bring your spouse or
friend

Attire: church chic

RSVP to Jan Rozeboom

janroze@hickorytech.net
387-4334

ECW
COOKIE WRAP
WED., DEC. 15
10 AM - Noon
We will meet at St. John's.
Please bring 2 doz. cookies.
Lunch will be served.

Ninth Annual Advent Festival

Sunday, 12 December: This will mark the 9th year that our sanctuary will echo with the sights and sounds of An Advent Festival. Intended as a preparation for the Christmas celebration, this order of worship intersperses scripture readings foretelling the birth of the Savior with musical selections intended to invoke a sense of awe and wonder of God's gracious gift of Love and Hope. Much of the music for this service has been specially written by our two "resident" composers, Jim McGuire and Roger Sheffer. Join us at 4pm on December 12 for this beautiful and evocative service and stick around afterwards for a dinner served by St. John's Vestry!

Online Advent Resources

Here are some good websites dedicated to the season of Advent that you and your family might enjoy:

<http://fullhomelydivinity.org/articles/Advent%20Calendar/advent%20calendar.htm> (Focuses on the season of Advent rather than on Christmas)

<http://www.gracecathedral.org/advent/> (From Grace Cathedral in San Francisco)

<http://www.paperlesschristmas.org> (more about Christmas than Advent, but great fun for the kids!)

http://www.north-pole.co.uk/advent_calendar/index.htm# (More of a secular nature, but good)

Visit <http://anglicansonline.org/special/advent.html> for more ideas on how to celebrate this season of waiting and expectation with your

family.

Also. Be sure to pick up an Advent Calendar and Advent Meditation booklet from the entry-way Greeter stand. One per household, please!



TEASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2010

Our offerings for the month of October totaled \$13,818 and we transferred \$4000 from the Capital Account to help cover the expenses of \$16,607. The deficit stands at \$10,685 for the year so far. We had budgeted for a deficit of \$24,128 by this date at the last Annual Meeting, so we are doing better than we projected. The balance in the Capital Checking Account has changed from \$33,587 at the beginning of 2010 to \$18,725 at the end of October. We have transferred \$13,000 for help with the expenses and have paid a small bill for building work and have transferred some Memorial Funds into the Pooled Investment Account. The balance in the Property Escrow Account is \$14,108. The Pooled Investment Account showed a net increase in value of \$17,869 in the 3rd quarter of this year. This leaves our current balance in this account at \$240,640.

Respectfully submitted,

Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

2011 COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

(10:30 SERVICE)

If you are unable to serve your scheduled Sunday, please find your own substitutes. Notify Audrey Splinter (243-3505) or (rsplin@hickorytech.net) of any changes. **THANK-YOU !!!**



Jan: 02 Keller
09 Mackie
16 McGuire
23 Paul/Fischer
30 **Potluck/ Annual Meeting***

Feb: 06 Babcock/Schultz
13 Reeve
20 Black/Robbins
27 Foy

Mar: 06 Gray/E. Olson
13 Schneck
20 Splinter
27 Stump

Apr: 03 Westberg
10 Winkworth
17 Parsons
24 **EASTER** VanStelten/Dudash

May: 01 Hertel/Larson
08 Lybeck
15 McNear/Mickleson
22 **Brunch/End of school*** Yurek/Steve
29 Clark

June: 05 Rozeboom/Fowler
9am 12 Christianson/Colby
19 Berner
26 Dereen

July: 03 Duncanson
9am 10 Lagerson/Oster
17 Manderfeld/Neitge
24 **Potluck/Mass in the Grass***
31 Peterson/Seberson

Aug: 07 Wegman
9am 14 Zwicky/Steil
21 Partridge
28 Kolbingers/Mike,Oscar

Sept: 04 Canavin
11 **Potluck/Rally Sunday***
18 Corley
25 Hogan

Oct: 02 Hudsons/Gary,Chris
09 Johnson
16 Kearney/Smith
23 Keller
30 Mackie

Nov: 06 McGuire
13 Paul/Fischer
20 Babcock/Schultz
27 Black/Robbins

Dec: 04 Gray/Olson
11 **Advent Tea***
18 Schneck
25 Splinter

**Date subject to change.*



Special Worship for Advent & Christmas

Advent Festival—

12 December, 4pm, followed by dinner served by the Vestry

Christmas Eve—

5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist and Children's Program

1030pm Lessons & Carols

11pm Festival Worship with Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day—

9am Worship with Holy Eucharist

Annual Meeting 2011

Believe it or not, we're getting ready for our 2011 Annual Parish Meeting! Held on the final Sunday in January—which, this next year, is on the 30th—the purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect Vestry and Wardens for the coming year, review and approve an operating budget for the year and take a look at the year gone by. All Parish organizations are encouraged to present a written report (preferably in MS Office format). Please send these electronically to the Church Office at stjohns@hickorytech.net. If your organization handles funds of any kind, a financial report is also required. If you've any questions, please contact Senior Warden Jaci Lageson at 625.9331. The deadline for receiving submissions is 6 January!

Faithformation Fun Facts:

Nursery - Brandi Dohmen is our nursery volunteer for those children ages 0-2yrs. She has been a fantastic addition to our church. The children have been reading stories, coloring pictures and playing in the nursery. We all thank Brandi for all her patience and help with our littlest angels. Our nursery is open during the 10:30 service throughout the school year.

Christmas Play - St. John's children are going to present "Sleepover at the Stable" at the Children's Service on Christmas Eve. Any child Pre-K and up may take part. Lolly will be our director and practice will begin Sunday mornings at 9:30am starting November 28th. Please come and be part of our barnyard of friends!

Communion Class - Father Paul will be presenting a class for our 2nd graders and their parents to prepare them for their first communion. The class will be at 9:30-10am December 5 - December 19th. The nursery will be open at 9:30 to accommodate any siblings. (Those participating will also be able to be a part of the Christmas play. They will go to rehearsal right after class.)

Wednesday Night Thing and Rite 13 - These programs are currently on hold and may resume at a later time. Watch the chronicle for updates.





Pecan pie adapted from the Fanny Farmer cookbook, courtesy of Leslie Peterson:

9 inch pie shell

3 eggs

1 cup dark brown corn syrup (Karo)

1/2 cup dark brown sugar

4 tablespoons melted butter

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 cup chopped pecans

1 cup pecan halves

Preheat oven to 425. Beat together eggs, corn syrup, sugar, butter, vanilla and blend well. Put chopped pecans in pie shell and top with pecan halves. Slowly pour the liquid mixture over the nuts in the pie shell (you want the halves to rise to the pie's surface). Bake pie for 15 minutes then reduce heat to 350 for another 15-20 minutes. Pie is baked when edges are set and center quivers slightly. Cool before serving. Serve with whipped cream. Hint: add a little bourbon and powdered sugar to whipped cream (start with 1/2 teaspoon and adjust to taste).

ECW ~ PECANS

ECW is selling

Pecans

\$8 ~ 16 oz. bag

just in time for

your holiday

baking

Where to Contribute

Three year's ago St. John's Vestry began allocating .7% of the church's budget to help fight extreme poverty in the world as suggested by the national Episcopal Church. Over the years we have made donations to Nets for Life, Rwanda Reads, Episcopal Relief and Development's Microcredit Loans to Women, an Elephant Water Pump in Africa and Haiti Outreach Inc.

During the Sundays of December St. John's MDG Committee will be offering its suggestions for this year's donation. On December 26, you will once again be asked to cast your votes as to where we can best contribute our yearly donation toward reaching the Millennium Development Goals. As always we welcome any suggestions and/or personal donations that you would like to add to this important effort.

Your MDG Team

Minutes from St. John's Vestry Meeting 11/21/2010

Vestry to Feed Sheep Chili and Corn Bread

St. John's Vestry decided on a chili feed to follow the Lessons and Carols program at 4 PM on December 12th.

Vestry also reviewed the first draft of the budget for the coming year and got an update from the stewardship committee. It looks like the projected deficit may wipe out the final capital fund balance by year's end, but the growing property escrow fund may ease some budget pressures.

Discussion continued on how to engage people outside the church and how to recruit new members to serve on the vestry.



New Fair Trade Products for Sale

Be sure to check out our small Fair Trade store in the Parish Hall when you're thinking "Christmas." We have added 2 different big bars of chocolate, orange dark chocolate and milk chocolate with a hint of hazelnut (each for \$3). You will also find bags of dried cranberries for \$4, our Fair Trade coffees for \$7 a pound and assorted teas for \$3 a box. Whether a basket of Fair Trade items or a stocking stuffer, you'll be glad to give a delicious gift that also helps others.



The Recycling Bin is Back!

As you are putting up your Christmas lights or replacing old ones with LED lights, keep in mind that MRCI is recycling them again this year. Simply bring your unwanted strings of lights or cords to the Parish Hall and place them in the big green bin. It will remain with us through Sunday, January 9th.

Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<p><u>December 5</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Jaci Lageson, Cathie Neitge Steve Deeren	Mary Yurek, L Peterson, Peter Poulos Audrey Splinter, Ray Splinter Joan Hertel, Gerry Schneck C. Colby/L. Peterson
<p><u>December 12</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Leslie Peterson Steve Deeren	Peter Poulos, Elsie Olson, Jan Mickelson Candace Black, Andrew Westberg Pam Bartholomew, Nickie VanStelten Johnson
<p><u>December 19</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Pam Oster, Bobbie Seberson Steve Deeren	Peter Poulos, C Black, Ginny McNear Bill Gray, Meg Stump Gerry Schneck, Ann Clark Advent Tea
<p><u>December 26</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts</p>	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Cathie Neitge, Jaci Lageson Steve Deeren	Peter Poulos, Mary Yurek, Hogans John Paul, Ginny McNear Karl Mundell, Nickie VanStelten Kearney/Smith

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

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

Altar Guild in December

8:00 a.m. Jan Mickelson

10:30 a.m. Elaine Larson, Mary Babcock

Monthly meeting Thursday, 12/23/10 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

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,