



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



The Crier July 2008

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Celebrate the
 4th of July

with your
 St. Nicholas family
 (see page 3)



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
 7227 Penn Avenue South
 Richfield, MN 55423
 612-869-7551
 www.saint-nicks.org

August issue deadline
Tuesday, July 15th
 Put in Crier box in office or
 email to kathy@isd.net
 Please put "Crier" in subject.



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
7227 Penn Avenue South
612-869-7551

Sunday Service

8:00 am Eucharist
9:15 am Adult Education
9:45 am Child/Youth Education
10:30 am Eucharist



Ministers **All Parish Members**
Priest **The Rev. Thomas Eklo**
Deacon **The Rev. Judy Conn**
Senior Warden **Todd Oliverius**
Junior Warden **Martha Chambers**
Director of Music **Charlotte Grantier**
Crier Editor **Kathy Cummings**



Vestry Members

Pam Banks **Alfred Jaryan**
Ed Kariuki **Dick Kohout**
Tom McConnell **Bill Mills**
Andrea Oliverius **Debi Tsuchiya**

Treasurer **Rich Makela**
Vestry Clerk **Jill Aicher**

Reflections from Tom

Summer is a time of unique beauty for those of us in this part of the world who live through seemingly long and hard winters. The advent of green and the multitude of textures, fragrances, sounds and colors that become a part of our landscape are a welcome reprieve from the landscape of black and white that we become so accustomed to for five months of the year. Everything seems to come alive. Even the branches of trees which move in the summer breeze seem more alive when we see that movement in the leaves of the trees.

Summer is a time when we go for morning or evening walks in the cool of the day. Summer is a time that we get out the bicycle and feel the breeze of movement against our face and skin. Summer is a time for eating outside, enjoying the incomparable taste of the fruits and vegetables of the season. For me, there is nothing quite like a summer supper with only two things on the menu – corn on the cob and home grown tomatoes.

It is little wonder then that we like to vacation or get away for a period of time and enjoy this splendid time of year. Part of what we may do is travel to that distant place that has been on our “to see” or dream list for some time. Perhaps what we may do is to go to that familiar place that has been a part of family tradition over the years. There is something important, however, in getting away, getting off the street we travel every other day of our lives.

There are many words we use to describe this time away. There are two that come to my mind as I write this. One of them is “refreshment”. The other is “recreation”. We tend in our modern idiom to not parse these words. But parsing them gives us a new way of looking at these very familiar words that deepens their significance beyond our typical understanding. To “refresh anew” or to “create anew” are the actual meanings of these words, and the understanding of that reality places a different slant on our reason for time away from it all. Time away is a time to refresh and recreate our focus, our understanding, our lives. It is a time to take stock of those things that give purpose to our lives and broaden the scope of our understanding of our world and our place in that world.

God delights in our work and in our labors. God delights in the contributions we make for the common good of our families and the communities in which we live and work. All of it is sacred. We tend to want to compartmentalize our lives into tidy categories – there is work and there is leisure. There is the sacred and there is the secular. But, the truth is, all of it is sacred. If we are living fully as human beings, we are living from a spiritual center that informs the totality of our lives, whatever might be our task or pleasure. But I also think God takes special delight in that time when we can “refresh” and “re-create”, a time when we can detach from our everyday lives and come back to that everyday life with a fresh set of eyes.

Enjoy the beauty of this season. Give yourselves the time to be refreshed and recreated. And then come back and share what you have learned about yourself and your world with the rest of us.

Blessings,
Tom



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Recycle Thank You

A grateful thank you to those who participated in the recycle sale. Those who worked this sale know how badly help is needed to get all the various tasks accomplished. A special thanks to co-chair Daisy Druhl who was there from beginning to end.

Our final figure was \$2,042.48.

Christopher Haack Returns

It doesn't seem all that long ago that we said goodbye to Christopher and wished him Godspeed on his journey toward ordination as a Deacon in the church. Because Christopher will not be ordained this July but at a later date, he will return to St. Nicholas and continue his field work in our midst. He will be back with us beginning Sunday, July 6, and plans to be at the church Thursday afternoons to work with issues around mission and ministry within the congregation and within the community. Welcome back, Christopher. We are thankful for and blessed by your presence in our midst.



Those who need our prayers....

Tom Frick
Mavis Sperrick
Sue Bennitt
Marilyn Thomasson

Jill Aicher
Betty Cope
John Buckley
Todd Oliverius' sister, Daphine Gilmore
and the Men and Women of our Armed Forces

Laurice Anderson
Jean Ogden
George Olsen

Pat Peterson
Judy Conn
Yvonne Lokken

Hey look it's a Parade

Nothing says Independence Day like barbecues, parades, and good old Saint Nick and we got them all.

We will be participating in the Richfield July 4th parade again this year and are in need of volunteers to walk along the parade route to hand out candy to the kids. We will also have room for others to ride along with Saint Nick and wave to the people.

The events start at 11:00 with a barbecue of burgers and brats at the Oliverius house - 7001 14th Ave. Richfield (southeast corner of 14th and 70th). The parade will start at 1:00 and follow a different parade route this year due to the construction on 66th street. The parade will end just 2 blocks from the Oliverius house – so it is a perfect opportunity to stop back and enjoy desert. Come join the fun, and have a happy and safe 4th of July.



Painters Needed!

A meeting was held on Wednesday, June 18 to discuss colors for the Fireplace Room. Painters are needed! The ceiling will be painted Friday and Saturday, July 11 and 12, beginning at 9:00. The walls will be painted the next weekends once the colors are finalized. Refreshments will be provided. We will also need people to sew the banners. Please sign up on the sheet next to the office if you can help.

Blue Moon





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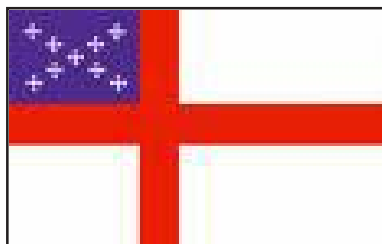
Spring Plant Sale Report

I am very excited to report that our Spring Plant Sale made the largest profit ever. In addition to all of the flowers that are planted around our building the sale added \$1160.60 to our General Fund. That amount is \$200.00 more than last year! Thanks to everyone who ordered and those who got extra orders from family and friends – you made a difference. Helpers this year ended up wet as there was a light rain falling off and on during assembly of orders. Helpers included Sue Bennitt, Mark and Shelly Plummer (Sue’s son and daughter in law) Karen Bessler, Daisy Druhl, Maxine Parsons, Dick Kohout, Helen Mudgett.

Jan Kohout

A New Episcopal Church Flag

Many of you have no doubt noticed that we have a new Episcopal flag flying beneath the U.S. flag on our flagpole. I shared the meaning behind the detail of the flag with Vestry, and I have been asked to repeat that information in the Crier for all to know. Interestingly enough, the flag (and Episcopal emblem)



were not adopted until the General Convention of the church in 1940, but the symbolism goes back much further than that. The red cross of St. George, patron saint of England, symbolizes our ties with the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. The St. Andrew’s cross in outline on the azure or blue field of the flag recognizes our debt to the Church of Scotland for consecrating our first bishop, Samuel Seabury of Connecticut, at Aberdeen in 1784. The English, still reeling from the loss of the colonies, refused to consecrate an American Bishop, and so it was the Church of Scotland who stepped up and agreed to do so. The nine small crosses that comprise the St. Andrew’s cross represent the nine original dioceses comprising the 1789 convention in Philadelphia when the constitution of the Episcopal Church was adopted and the first American Book of Common Prayer approved. Fun facts – take a good look at the Episcopal flag next time you come to church.

A Big Thank You

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful cards and for the many prayers offered on my behalf. I am convinced that prayer is a powerful force. Thanks again for all your good thoughts.

Judy Conn



VEAP Corner

This summer until July 15th we will be collecting food especially for children’s lunches. When school is out families who have relied on

school lunch all year face added stress when children are at home and hungry. Please bring kid friendly food: peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, fruit and fill our shopping cart for VEAP.

Beginning on July 15th we will start our collection of Back to School items. The list of items to shop for is short and easy to remember. St. Nicholas will be **trying** to collect: 35 backpacks, 175 #2 pencil sets, 200 loose leaf paper packages, 50 rulers, 30 \$15.00 gift cards from Target, Walmart, Office Depot etc. These estimated quantities are approximations based on a predicted need in the community. The suggested quantities should be used

as a way to measure year to year donations by our congregation, but not as a way to measure success. All donations are appreciated and must be new and in original packaging. Place Back to School donations in the shopping cart for VEAP.



Jan Kohout, VEAP Representative



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Summer Solstice Celebration



Daughters of the King “Spring” Retreat

Remember the big blizzard that hit northern & central of Minnesota the last weekend in April? St. Nick's Springs of Shalom Chapter will never forget their “spring” retreat. Every break was spent shoveling 14” of snow from a one-block-long driveway. But it was still a wonderful and blessed weekend.





ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



Vestry Minutes, May 20, 2008

Members present: Tom Eklo, Martha Chambers, Todd Oliverius, Andrea Oliverius, Debi Tsuchiya, Bill Mills, Alfred Jaryan, Tom McConnell, and Dick Kohout

Members absent: Ed Karuki, Pam Banks

Opening Prayer & Meditation.: Tom opened the meeting with prayer and Dick lead us in meditation.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Dick to approve the April minutes as written. The motion carried.

Finance Report: Dick Kohout reported on our finances. We are \$1,091 behind budget for our income from contributions, and our total income is \$2,463 behind budget. Dick noted that the income from our flower sale is not included in the fund-raising income figures. Total expenses to date are \$52,812 which is \$1,506 less than budget. A motion to accept the finance report as presented was made by Debbie and seconded by Tom. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Spring Cleanup

Todd thanked everyone who participated in the Saturday, May 3, cleanup day. He indicated that quite a number of parishioners joined in this activity, and their participation was greatly appreciated!!!

Sign Update

Tom reported that he was in attendance at the Richfield City Hall open meeting concerning the zoning ordinance on April 24, as were representatives from Woodlake Lutheran, Richfield High School and the Hub Shopping Center.

The zoning committee was looking for input on changes of the Richfield city ordinance concerning electronic signs. The three issues discussed were (1) the requirement of 9" high lettering, (2) changing the screen every 30 minutes, and (3) the electronic portion of the sign cannot be more than 1/3 of the sign square footage.

From the discussion/suggestions during this meeting, Tom indicated that it is possible that there will be no height requirement; they may allow changing the screen every 10 minutes; the square footage will probably remain the same. The timeline for any changes to take place in the existing ordinance is roughly 3 or 4 months.

July 4th Parade

Since St. Nicholas plans to again participate in the Richfield July 4th Parade there was some discussion again of the "give-aways." Giving out pieces of candy along with perhaps a business card size handout with information on St. Nicholas was suggested—these would be handed to parade watchers by our St. Nicholas parade "walkers." Todd will coordinate this activity.

United Thank Offering Boxes

Bill indicated that he has spoken to Gretchen Eichhorn concerning this activity, and was told that the Mission Committee will handle this.



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New Business:

Sprinkler System

Tom McConnell presented a letter and proposal and services agreement from Tyco Fire & Security and Simplex Grinnell which was sent after a sprinkler system inspection of St. Nicholas. Four deficiencies were presented. They are listed below:

1. Replace or recalibrate all gauges over 5 years old per current NFPA.
2. There should be a head wrench in spare head box per current NFPA
3. Recommend replacing dry side wall head in South stair by emergency exit that is too long and deflector is turned.
4. Recommend piping inspectors Text Valve outside to allow for proper annual flow test of sprinkler system.

The estimated cost for repairing these deficiencies was quoted as \$1100.

After some discussion, it was decided that the Vestry should seek more information concerning these deficiencies before taking any action. Andrea volunteered to speak with the Lakeville Fire Chief and provide his feedback to the Vestry.

Tom's Comments:

Preaching Conference

Tom commented on the Preaching Conference he is attending this week. 2100 people from all over the country and Canada are in attendance at the meetings being held at Central Lutheran and Westminster Presbyterian Churches. The speakers have been wonderful and he is enjoying every minute of it.

New Episcopal Flag

A new Episcopal Flag has been generously donated to St. Nicholas by the Kohout family.

9:00 a.m. Sunday Services

Beginning Sunday, May 25, we will begin our summer worship schedule by having only one service at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Next Vestry Meeting

The next Vestry meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 7 p.m.** Remember, parishioners are always welcome at all Vestry meetings. Debi volunteered to lead the meditation as well as bring treats for the June meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Aicher, Vestry Clerk

St. Nicholas Financials

	May		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$11,173	\$11,562	\$52,711	\$55,563
Expense	\$10,858	\$10,914	\$63,671	\$65,233
Net	\$315	\$648	\$10,960	\$9,670

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 29 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3 7:00 PM Daughters of tr King - Springs of Shalom 7:00 PM Walking the Labyrinth	Jul 4 11:00 AM BBQ & Parade Independence Day	Jul 5
Jul 6 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jul 7	Jul 8 7:00 PM Finance Committee	Jul 9	Jul 10 7:00 PM Walking the Labyrinth	Jul 11 9:00 AM Painting the Fireplace Room	Jul 12 9:00 AM Painting the Fireplace Room
Jul 13 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jul 14	Jul 15 VEAP ends collection for children's lunches & begins collection for school supplies	Jul 16	Jul 17 7:00 PM Daughters of tr King - Springs of Shalom 7:00 PM Walking the Labyrinth	Jul 18 9:00 AM Painting the Fireplace Room	Jul 19 9:00 AM Painting the Fireplace Room
Jul 20 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jul 21	Jul 22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Crier Deadline</div>	Jul 23	Jul 24 7:00 PM Walking the Labyrinth	Jul 25 9:00 AM Painting the Fireplace Room	Jul 26 9:00 AM Painting the Fireplace Room 12:00 PM Free Lunch
Jul 27 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jul 28	Jul 29	Jul 30	Jul 31 7:00 PM Walking the Labyrinth	Aug 1	Aug 2
Aug 3 9:00 AM Eucharist	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7 7:00 PM Daughters of tr King - Springs of Shalom 7:00 PM Walking the Labyrinth	Aug 8	Aug 9

Birthdays

2 Yvonne Lokken	Miriam Harries
3 Janice Fraser	15 Enid Kariuki
4 Sarah Fraser	18 Sue Newman
8 Martha Chambers	31 Jacob Fraser
14 Bette Braasch	

Anniversary

9 Sachiko & Tom Slough