



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



The Crier

November 2008

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

December issue deadline
Saturday, November 15th
 Put in Crier box in office or
 email to kathy@jsd.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

November is a busy month. It is busy for a lot of different reasons. It seems as though we are still trying to get everything done in our yards and in our homes in preparation for winter. November is that month when it all seems to finally get done (or not done) and we can finally rest knowing that there is very little else we can do until the spring of the year. We are approaching the holiday season, and life seems to “pick up” a bit. Even though the holiday of Thanksgiving and Christmas that follows on its heels seem far away in some respects, we are already making plans concerning destinations, family, menus and gifts. The cold of our longer, darker nights give way to a chill in the day as well, even though the sun may shine. Caps and scarves and gloves begin to appear on the scene – a sign of our wardrobe for the next three to four months.

November is a busy month at St. Nicholas as well. On Saturday, November 8th, we will once again hold an Ethnic Dinner. It is an opportunity to make and bring a dish to share with others that reflects the flavors and textures of your ethnic background. As one who loves to try new and unusual foods as well as old favorites, it sounds like an event not to be missed.

November is the month for our holiday boutique. With the gathering space virtually transformed into a magical space, it requires the work and dedication of many people in terms of being able to get ready and then manage the numbers of people over a five day period who make their way here to see and buy gifts and baked goods that are unusual and unique.

November is the month we celebrate our national day of Thanksgiving. We will once again gather with our ecumenical church communities to give thanks for the many blessings that are ours. This year, we will gather at St. Richards Catholic Church on Wednesday evening, November 26th, at 7PM. It is a time to slow down from our busy schedules for an hour and give thanks to God for the abundance that is ours.

November is the month of our in-gathering (or Stewardship). It is the month in the year that we ask you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider what your financial commitment to St. Nicholas will be for the coming year. As a country,

we are in the midst of financial recession that has everyone concerned about the direction of the economy and their own financial security moving forward. It is a legitimate concern. But it is also one of those unique times to be able to stop and give serious thought to one’s priorities. As most of you know, St. Nicholas was presented a deficit budget of almost \$11,000 for 2008 and there is every indication that the actual deficit will be close to that figure. And as you also know, that is not a sustainable scenario. So we come back to priorities. What is the priority of the ministry and mission of the St. Nicholas community in your life and the decisions you make concerning funding those priorities. I often hear people say that the St. Nicholas community is a family, and in many respects that is a true statement. The task ahead of us is one of making sure that we nurture and sustain that family in terms of our commitment to stewardship of what has been so graciously and abundantly given to us in the largest sense of that term.

I hold you in my prayers and give thanks for the great blessing you are.

Tom



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Ethnic Dinner

Just a reminder that we are having the Ethnic Dinner on Nov 8th at 5pm. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board at church. I will have cards for you to label your dishes that night at church.

For those that have not attended an Ethnic dinner in the past...Everyone makes up a favorite dish or dessert, and brings to church to share with the rest of us. There is no limit on the number of dishes or desserts we have to have. So bring what you would like, I am pretty confident that all will be eaten. We have many different countries represented at the church and the food variety in the past has been fabulous.



I will have coffee/water/lemonade at the church for beverages.

Hope to see you all there.
Pam Banks

Pictures from Tea for You & Blue Moon, too



Those who need our prayers....

Tom Frick
Mavis Sperrick
Martha Chambers

Jill Aicher
Betty Cope
Sue Bennitt

and the Men and Women of our Armed Forces

Laurice Anderson
Jean Ogden
Marilyn Thomasson

Pat Peterson
George Olsen
Marriam

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage

in Anoka, presents:



Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Featuring our own Diannah Robertson as Mrs. Goldstein

A block of 15 tickets have been reserved for us on Saturday afternoon, December 13, at 2PM

Group rate ticket cost: \$16

We must purchase the 15 tickets by November 9 in order to keep the group rate. Otherwise the cost will be \$18 for adults, and \$16 for students (ages 6 to 22) and seniors (age 60 and older). It is the theater's policy not to admit children under 6.

Car pooling available. Please see Sharon Mills or call (612) 708-1322 for tickets.



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



November 19 – 23, 2008

**Wed, 7p-10p
Thu & Fri, 10a-8p
Sat, 10a-5p Sun, 9a-1p**

The pumpkins have been carved, the ghosts, goblins and their friends have received their treat (or tricks). As we prepare for Thanksgiving, the coming of the Christmas season cannot be put aside. Our 14th Annual Holiday House Boutique will once again provide us with the opportunity to complete some of our Christmas gift shopping while supporting St. Nicholas and its missions.

This year, we have added a new dimension to the items available. We will feature items on consignment from a Greater Gift, a division of the SERRY. Their mission is to promote the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manner. We will have gifts and décor items from many different parts of the world.

The Vintage (antiques and collectibles) Room will, again, be a part of the boutique. If you have anything that you might like to add to this consignment sale, please bring it to church on Sunday, November 16 or Monday morning, November 17. Make sure that it is marked with your name and the price. Judy Conn can provide information on where to do your research, if you're unsure of the value.

AND, please, remember our bake sale. It has always been one of the most popular parts of the boutique, thanks to all of you fabulous bakers.

A sign up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. As always, the boutique could not happen without your help. Set up will occur on Sunday-Wednesday with the sale beginning Wednesday evening and ending after church on Sunday the 23rd. We thank you, in advance, for all of your support. Kathy Cummings and Barb McConnell.



Ready for 2 to 3 minutes of fame?

The Extravaganza (and potluck) is just five weeks away. Event planning and signups are already well underway! If you want to participate in the show on Sunday, December 7 at 4:00, let Joan Spivey know as soon as possible, but no later than November 23. A tentative program will be available on November 30. Try to keep your act to two or three minutes in length so everyone can participate, yet still keep the show to an hour in length. Let your creativity begin!



2008 Poinsettia Fundraiser



The pumpkins are frost covered so it must be time for our annual poinsettia fundraiser! The seven holiday color varieties are red, white, pink, jingle bells, marble, Picasso and maroon in the large six bloom plant for \$12.50 each. The small size is available in red, white and pink for \$6.75 each.

New this year is the larger 20 bloom plant for \$20 each and the designer blue "painted" poinsettia for \$14.95 each.

Sign up now through Sunday, Nov. 23rd. Pick-up will be Sunday, Dec. 7th during services; just in time to perk up your holiday décor.

Your check made payable to St. Nicholas is due at order time. All information regarding the sale is posted on the bulletin board near the office.

For questions contact Barb Makela, 952-884-3149 or barb@makelaperformance.com.

**Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Eve Service**

November 26th
7:00PM

St. Richard's Catholic
Church
76th and Penn



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



Gospel Based Discipleship



What is Gospel Based Discipleship? Gospel Based Discipleship is a personal encounter with the Gospel. It is not a formal Bible study, per se. The Gospel reading used each week is the gospel reading from the common lectionary for the coming Sunday. There are only three questions in response to the readings and there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are – What word or phrase stands out for you? What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you? And, what is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do? It is this simple confluence of our lives and the words of the Gospel that make this time together a rewarding experience. There is a small liturgy that surrounds the focus on the Gospel that includes a reading from the Psalms and a time of prayer.

When are these Gospel Based Discipleship groups meeting? There are two sessions. One meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30. The other meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. They will meet each week in the gathering space. Because each week is a new reading, you are welcome to participate as your schedule permits.

What kind of preparation do I need to do? There is no preparation. Just bring yourself and be willing to open yourself to what the Gospel might be saying to you.

Pledge Sunday

Sunday, November 16th, is Pledge Sunday. Pledge Sunday is the day that we encourage you to bring your pledge card for the year 2009 and place it in the offering plate as a part of your offering to God and a gift of your resources for the ongoing ministry of St. Nicholas. You should be receiving your pledge card in the mail sometime before the 13th of November. But Pledge Sunday is also a day that we need to celebrate our life in Christ as a community that rejoices in the gifts that we bring to each other and for the furthering of God's love in the world. As a part of that celebration, a rather awe-inspiring brunch will be served between the services on the 16th. Bring your pledge card and bring an appetite. It should be a great day.

St. Nicholas Financials				
	September		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$7,278	\$10,221	\$88,074	\$91,017
Expense	\$10,609	\$9,863	\$109,576	\$110,933
Net	\$3,331	\$358	\$21,502	\$19,916

Vestry Minutes September 16, 2008

Members Present: Todd Oliverius, Tom McConnell, Andrea Oliverius, Dick Kohout, Bill Mills, Debie Tsuchiya and Tom Eklo

Members Absent: Alfred Jaryan, Ed Karuki, Martha Chambers and Pam Banks

Opening Prayer and Meditation: Rev. Eklo opened the meeting with prayer, and followed that with the meditation, which was a reading from CREDO by William Sloane Coffin.

Dick Kohout offered to provide the meditation for October.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for August should have shown that Chris Haack was a guest at the meeting. Dick Kohout moved that the minutes be approved with the suggested addition and Debie Tsuchiya seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Finance Report: Dick Kohout presented the Financial Report, and said that the money in the Rutherford fund should be placed in a temporary interest earning fund until such time as the funds are used. There has been no decision as to how these funds will be allocated. Debie Tsuchiya moved that the Financial Report be accepted, and Tom McConnell seconded. The motion was approved.

Bishops Visit Recap: Many items were discussed when the Bishop met with the Vestry. One result of this meeting was that the Bishop pledged that the Diocese will assist with the process of gifts discernment with the congregation. The Diocese has staff trained in this process and will be happy to help St Nicholas if asked.

Old Business: Tom McConnell talked about the one fire safety sprinkler head that was discovered not to be working, and that we must have that repaired. The cost for this repair will be approximately \$500. Dick Kohout moved that we allocate funds of approximately \$500 for the repair of the sprinkler head. Debie Tsuchiya seconded and the motion was approved.

Tom McConnell also said that the repair of the parking lot to eliminate the puddle at the end of the sidewalk and to seal the cracks in the rest of the lot will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Tom Eklo is establishing a schedule for the Gospel Based Discipleship program and will publish that when it is completed.

New Business: Tom Eklo talked about the upcoming Stewardship Campaign. The Vestry and the Finance Committee should work out a budget that addresses our budget deficiency. We cannot continue to construct a budget that is not balanced.

Each Vestry person whose term is expiring in 2009 has been asked to nominate a person to replace themselves.

Due to one of the St Nicholas lay convention delegate's current health situation, we are unsure if the person will be able to attend the convention in Rochester. In that event, Dick Kohout has been appointed by the Vestry to be certified as a delegate and attend in place of the current delegate.

Adjournment: All business being completed, Tom McConnell moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be October 21, 2008, at the usual place.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Mills, temporary Vestry clerk



October 28, 2008

The Holy Spirit moved among us at our diocesan convention this past weekend in Rochester.

I heard from many beforehand that they were fearing long, difficult debates during the business sessions, and that did not happen, thanks to each of two dynamics: 1) Those who were in disagreement about certain matters came together beforehand and it was clear that we wanted the same things but differed on the way to get there. That did not really take long to clarify—a couple of hours of conversation and a good bit of time, mostly by one person, drafting the essence of the conversation into a substitute resolution. 2) The 150 days of mission, especially the shoe drive, changed us. I mentioned this in my address to the convention, because I had been noticing some of these changes in the weeks immediately before we gathered, but I did not know how much we were being transformed. *It was amazing!*

I am so grateful to the convention planning committee who gathered with a few staff last spring and came up with the idea of the shoe drive in partnership with Soles4Souls. Almost every one of our congregations, schools, and organizations participated, with boxes in narthexes and gathering spaces that had to be emptied several times. Holy Trinity, International Falls, brought the most, a trailer stuffed full of more

than 1,200 shoes. Breck School contributed so many they had to be shipped directly to Soles4Souls. In all, we received over 32,000 pair of shoes, the most ever collected in any state in this country. The media, hungry for good news in these difficult times, reported on this locally, state-wide, and even nationally. We did not do this for media attention, but we sure got it.

As a result of the shoe drive, there are some wonderful stories that are being told around the diocese. In one city on the Iron Range, a woman contributed her late uncle's shoes. He died last year, and she has been unable to do anything about his things, but this drive to help others moved her and her aunt to begin to sort through her uncle's clothing. Every pair of shoes was polished before dropping them off at church. Another woman, who lost her husband a year or so ago, and who was also overcome by her grief, unable to do anything with her husband's clothing, heard about the local Episcopal congregation's collection, and brought in his shoes, saying that she was now beginning to *move through* her grief, that this had helped her in her inner journey.

Soles4Souls hired a truck driver, Julie, to come with her semi-trailer (yes, it takes a semi to move 64,000 shoes) to Rochester to pick up the shoes and take them to Alabama. She and Phil, from our staff, and Josh (the 10-year old son of our Communications Director, Wendy Johnson), spent most of the day on Friday AND Saturday loading the semi. At the end of convention, while singing the wonderful African hymn, "We are marching in the light of God," people rose from their seats, spontaneously moved toward the stage, and picked up boxes and bags to carry the last of the load to the truck. They had smiles on their faces and tears in their eyes. And Julie, who had never knowingly consorted with Episcopalians before, closed the truck, hugged everyone good-bye, thanked us for welcoming her so greatly into our midst, and drove away with tears in her eyes. She emailed us that she got to Alabama at 3:00 am Monday where people started unloading the shoes for hurricane victims and others who needed them.

"Whoda thunk it?" as one comedian used to say. It was a fun idea to spend as many days as the diocese is years old to collect shoes to be given away. Some knew the idea had good possibilities for getting all of us to be mindful of others as we cooperated with each other. I doubt that anyone imagined how far this would go, how many people would experience this personally and powerfully, *not just moved by what we were doing, but transformed*. The women I mentioned are not the only ones, and I would love to have you send us more stories of people who have been transformed by this on-going event. I know it has been the best evangelism we have done in many years (maybe 100 of our 150?), and I would love to hear those stories, too.

We Minnesotans, we Episcopalians, are always so modest about what we do in the name of God. We are so much better at admiring our problems than we are at noticing our successes. I said that the Holy Spirit moved among us, and I really mean it. We set out on mission, the task of collecting shoes for those who need them, and we were transformed in the process, which, in turn, witnessed to God's longings for healing and helping those in need, and others saw the church in another light. Notice the order: mission, transformation, evangelism. Rather like the hymn based on Jesus' farewell to his apostles, commanding them to love one another: "They'll know we are Christians by our love." We Episcopalians are not alone in showing the world when we are not *in love*, but this time we showed them that is the way we are trying to live.

As I began, I think this in large part moved us toward each other in the midst of disagreements. We became clearer on what we are for on issues rather than defining ourselves by what we are against. That posture invites others into conversation, invites vulnerability, invites us to see each other more clearly and hear each other more deeply. So instead of floor fights, we had substitute resolutions, crafted together. And when I asked the convention delegates to affirm the extra assessment to fund the work of the Mission Strategy Network next year, reminding them that their affirmative vote would commit them to work for their congregation's full participation, the vote was unanimous in support. I do not remember a unanimous vote about money in my sixteen diocesan conventions!

A year from this coming Friday, we shall elect my successor, God willing. It is my deep and abiding hope that this experience of transformation which so many of us have shared will spread through all of our congregations, so that we may have a growing unity in Christ, marked by partnership and cooperation, characterized by an openness to God's transforming power, and all in the love of Jesus Christ.

One last thing, on a personal note: when I fell from the stage Friday night during the Eucharist and landed on my back, I was hurt, particularly very sore the next day and less and less so each day since then. We have many medical people around and I was urged to have x-rays, which Dr. Casey Caldwell arranged for me at Mayo just after we adjourned. He called with the news that nothing is broken and that I should be fine. Thank you all for your prayers and kind thoughts and comments and concern.



+James L. Jelinek

Bishop of Minnesota

PS: With regard to the Mission Strategy Network (MSN) special assessment debate at convention, someone was near the microphone but not indicating immediately that he intended to speak when I called for the vote. He wanted to make the point that this assessment is not 1/2 percent of a congregation's budget but is rather 2.5 percent of their apportionment. I checked with the chair of diocesan finance/audit committee (DFAC) and he said that it is not a substantial difference in terms of dollars to any congregation. However, as a body it is important that everyone have the opportunity to be heard. I apologize that I inadvertently failed to recognize there was someone yet to speak on this issue and felt it important to address this topic in this letter so that all voices are honored in the process.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Nov 2</p> <p>2:00AM Daylight Savings Time Ends</p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult</p> <p>9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth</p> <p>10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Nov 3</p>	<p>Nov 4</p> <p>ElectionDay</p>	<p>Nov 5</p> <p>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>Nov 6</p> <p>7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</p>	<p>Nov 7</p> <p>10:30 AM Memorial Service for Hoyt Oswald</p>	<p>Nov 8</p> <p>5:00 PM Ethnic Dinner</p>
<p>Nov 9</p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult</p> <p>9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth</p> <p>10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Nov 10</p>	<p>Nov 11</p> <p>7:00 PM Vestry</p> <p>VeteransDay</p>	<p>Nov 12</p> <p>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>Nov 13</p>	<p>Nov 14</p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Nov 15</p> <p>Crier deadline</p>
<p>Nov 16</p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 AM Pledge Sunday Brunch</p> <p>10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Nov 17</p>	<p>Nov 18</p>	<p>Nov 19</p> <p>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>Nov 20</p> <p>7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</p>	<p>Nov 21</p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Nov 22</p>
<p>Boutique Set-up</p>			<p>14th Annual Holiday House Boutique</p>			
<p>Nov 23</p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult</p> <p>10:30 AM Eucharist</p> <p>Pointsettia orders due</p> <p>14th Annual Holiday House Boutique</p>	<p>Nov 24</p>	<p>Nov 25</p>	<p>Nov 26</p> <p>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:00 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - St. Richards</p>	<p>Nov 27</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p>Nov 28</p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Nov 29</p> <p>12:00 PM Free Lunch</p>
<p>Nov 30</p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult</p> <p>10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Dec 1</p>	<p>Dec 2</p>	<p>Dec 3</p> <p>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>Dec 4</p> <p>7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</p>	<p>Dec 5</p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Dec 6</p>
<p>Dec 7</p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist</p> <p>9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult</p> <p>9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth</p> <p>10:30 AM Eucharist</p> <p>4:00 PM Extravaganza</p>	<p>Dec 8</p>	<p>Dec 9</p> <p>7:00 PM Vestry</p>	<p>Dec 10</p> <p>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>Dec 11</p>	<p>Dec 12</p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Dec 13</p>

Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Lucretia Dennis | 9 Kristin Cummings | 19 Dorothy Steinmeier |
| 2 Al Cecil | Sharol Lehnertz | Yolanda Yoh |
| Tunde Famodu | 11 Taylor Hoyle | 21 Nyaga Kariuki |
| 4 M. Garmais Oulahi | 12 Keagan Cummings | 26 Dolores Deger |
| 6 Justice Finnell | 18 Jan Kohout | 27 Jean Ogden |
| 7 Evelyn Johnson | 19 Doris Barnard | 30 Rose Ekegren |