



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



The Crier

December 2008

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

January issue deadline
Monday, December 15th
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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**

A Reflection from Tom

The two major feasts in the church calendar are Easter and Christmas. Both of them are preceded by periods of time that call for the people of God to give thought and reflection to the incarnational reality of God's redemptive activity in history. The Advent season begins with the groaning of humankind for the presence of God. We are to watch and wait, for the promise is that God will come, even though we don't know when that will be. By the end of Advent, we have the promise of the coming Messiah, announced by the archangel Gabriel to an unsuspecting young woman who in her humility is willing to be the bearer of God's promise for the world. There is a movement in Advent from a sense of despair with a thread of hopefulness moving through it toward the bold announcement from God's messenger that redemption is about to be realized in the birth of a child.

Advent asks us to quietly reflect with joyous anticipation the coming of this holy child into the world, transforming the spectrum of human experience through his life and words. We all know how difficult quietness and reflection can be this time of year. We are bombarded by the lights and sounds of Christmas well before the season of Christmas is even upon us. So why do we as a church bother with an Advent season when no one else seems to care about it? Because ultimately, Advent is about us – you and I. It has to do with our willingness to look inside of our busy lives – to anticipate and prepare within ourselves room once again for the birth of the Christ child. It is a time to reflect once again upon the miracle of this child who would not only transform the world but our lives with his presence. Advent allows us to prepare to welcome with renewed vision and joy the presence of the living Christ into the very fabric of our being.

I invite you to a reflective Advent season. As a part of each Sunday during Advent, we are going to do something new. Each Sunday there will be a poem insert in the bulletin that you are invited to take home with you and reflect on what that poem may be saying to

you in terms of your preparation for the birth of the Christ child. Some of the poetry you may like and some of it may be a challenge for you. Either way, take it home and read it through a couple times during the week and sit with it for a while and see what happens. Poetry has a way of asking all kinds of questions and providing few concrete answers. But poetry also has the capacity to take us to a different place – the opportunity to view the world and our lives from a perspective that may not be a part of our day to day frame of reference. For each of us, this journey through Advent is a unique experience based upon all of the factors that comprise our complex and vital lives. I am hoping that the poetry might be one of those tools that ask the probing questions that arouse your spirit causing you to reflect upon the place you have created in your life for the renewing presence of the Christ child.

God continues to do extraordinary things. A blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas to you all.

Blessings,
Tom





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Many, many thanks!!

Our 14th annual Holiday House Boutique has come to a close and we have SO many people to thank. From setup through the sale to the tear-down, we had more “elves” this year than ever. THANK YOU so much. For the first time, we were able to leave before dark after the cleanup on Sunday.

And major kudos to the bakers. The proceeds from the bake sale alone were \$695.00 . You are unbelievable.

We're still working on the final numbers. As predicted by the media, our total sales were down this year but we are confident that it was well worth the time and effort.

Thank you again and God bless,
Barb & Kathy

Table, table.... whose got the table?

Three of our long banquet tables are missing from the church. If you have borrowed them or know where they are, please help us get them back. We miss them. Especially when setting up for meals at the church. Thank you.



It is with great joy that I would like to announce my ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. This ordination will take place on December 11, 2008 at St. Mark's Cathedral at 7:00 PM. Further, I would like to extend an invitation to all the members of St. Nicholas Church to my ordination. Your attendance would give me personally a tremendous amount of joy. For those who are unable to attend I would ask that you remember me in your prayers that day. Thank you all.

Peace and Blessings,
Christopher Haack

Don't Miss It!
**Song.....Story.....Laughs.....Fun
and Good Food!**
Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 PM
The St. Nicholas Extravaganza
**sharing the performance and cooking
talents of our parish family**

Those who need our prayers....

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| Pat Peterson | Tom Frick | Jill Aicher | Laurice Anderson |
| Mavis Sperrick | Jean Ogden | Betty Cope | Sue Bennitt |
| Marilyn Thomasson | George Olsen | Martha Chambers | Miriam Algernon |
| Dorothy Reese | Roger Nelson | Kirsten & James Steinmetz | Geri Finnell |
| Carol Lowe's brother Mac McNeilly | | Gale Ticen's sister Shirley Hagenbuch | |
| Judy Conn's granddaughter Rebecca | | and the men and women of our armed forces. | |



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



Nicholas, Bishop of Myra Remember our Patron Saint on December 6



Santa & St. Nicholas

Santa Claus is round and plump;
St. Nicholas is tall and thin.

Santa Claus wears a stocking cap;
St. Nicholas wears a bishop's hat.

Santa Claus comes December 25th;
St. Nicholas comes December 6th.

Santa Claus is often seen in stores;
St. Nicholas is often seen in churches.

Santa Claus flies through the air—from the North Pole;
St. Nicholas walked the earth, caring for those in need.

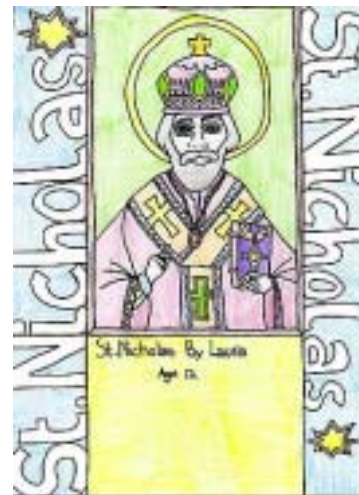
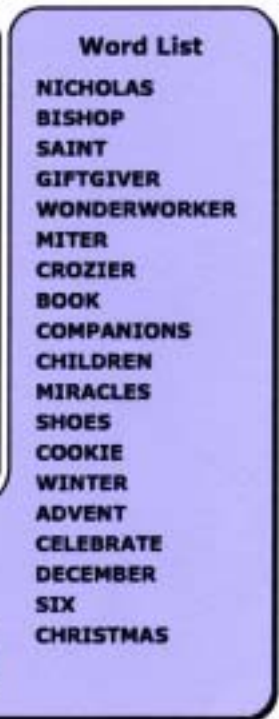
Santa Claus, for some, replaces Jesus at Christmas;
St. Nicholas, for all, points to Jesus at Christmas.

Santa Claus isn't bad;
St. Nicholas is just better!

—C. Myers & J. Rosenthal



by Zoe, age 10



by Laura, age 12

items on this page taken from www.stnicholascenter.org



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



Vestry Minutes October 21, 2008

Members Present: Debie Tsuchiya, Pam Banks, Tom Eklo, Tom McConnell, Alfred Jaryan, Todd Oliverius, Bill Mills and Dick Kohout.

Members Absent: Martha Chambers and Ed Karuki.

Guests: Barb McConnell and Judy Conn.

Opening Prayer: Rev Eklo opened the meeting with prayer.

Meditation: Dick Kohout provided the meditation with a reading from a book by Eric Bonhoffer. Pam Banks will prepare the meditation for the November meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Pam Banks moved the approval of the September minutes as written. Dick Kohout seconded and the motion was approved.

Finance Report: Dick Kohout presented the September Financial Report, which indicated that we are operating with the deficit that was predicted at the Annual meeting when the deficit budget was approved. There was some discussion concerning the deficit, and that it should not continue into 2009. Deb Tsuchiya moved that the finance report be accepted, and Pam Banks seconded. The motion was approved.

Old Business: Tom McConnell reported that the parking lot repairs have been completed. The repair to the fire suppression system (sprinklers) has been requested of the contractor, but no repair date has been scheduled yet. Tom also said that the Fall cleanup was a success.

Bill Mills will contact the City of Richfield in order to get our sign project moving again, as the City has established their new sign ordinance. It was decided that the base of the sign will just indicate the church street address. Tom Eklo said that we should let the parishioners know that the sign project is moving forward.

In accordance with rules that were previously established, Todd Oliverius and Debie Tsuchiya will find names of people to replace them on the Vestry. Both of their terms will expire at the next annual meeting.

New Business: Barb McConnell and Judy Conn presented the Mission Committee current recommendations. The first expense is to reimburse Jan Kohout \$104 for Mission expenses. The committee also wants to provide \$750 to VEAP and \$250 to Meals on Wheels. Pam Banks moved that the Vestry approve these expenses, Dick Kohout seconded. The Motion was approved. Judy indicated that there is not yet a chairperson for the UTO boxes, but all of the items for this drive have been ordered.

Tom Eklo provided dates for some of the upcoming events at St Nicholas.

November 02 – Tom will be the presider at Gideon Pond at 3:00pm.

November 08 – The Ethnic Dinner will be held at 5:00pm.

November 16 – Stewardship Sunday, with a brunch being provided between services.

November 26 – Ecumenical Thanksgiving service.

November 19 thru 23 – Boutique

November 29 – Vestry is in charge of the Saturday Free Lunch.

Tom then gave a report about the last Region 8 meeting. St Nicholas is a member church in this region. He said that All Saints Mission will be starting a regular dinner for the All Saints neighborhood, with the dinner consisting of Native American foods. Tom feels that perhaps St Nicholas can get involved in this project.

Adjournment: All business being completed, Pam Banks moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dick Kohout seconded, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Mills, temporary Vestry Clerk

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 10:30 AM Eucharist	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Dec 4 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Dec 5 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Dec 6 St. Nicholas Day - Nicholas, Bishop of Myra
Dec 7 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist 4:00 PM Extravaganza	Dec 8	Dec 9 7:00 PM Vestry	Dec 10 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Dec 11 7:00 PM Ordination of Christopher Haack to the Diaconate - The Cathedral Church of St. Mark	Dec 12 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Dec 13
Dec 14 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist	Dec 15 Crier deadline	Dec 16	Dec 17 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Dec 18 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Dec 19 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Dec 20
Dec 21 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist Winter begins	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24 4:00 PM Family Eucharist 10:30 PM Candlelight Eucharist Christmas Eve	Dec 25 Christmas	Dec 26	Dec 27 12:00 PM Free Lunch
Dec 28 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 10:30 AM Eucharist	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir New Year's Eve	Jan 1 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom New Year's Day	Jan 2 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Jan 3
Jan 4 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist	Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Jan 8	Jan 9 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Jan 10

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Waweru Kariuki | 10 Dawn Greimel |
| 3 Jim Braasch | 11 Dick Kohout |
| Roseline Kamara | 12 Sonnie Jaryan |
| 6 Mary Jo Andrews | 16 Joyce LaFrance |
| 8 Chibueze Abasiri | Andrea Oliverius |
| | 20 Mary Gleason |

Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 22 Evan Cummings | 29 Helen & Mike Mudgett |
| 24 Alfred Jaryan | |
| 25 Jesus of Nazareth | |
| 29 Tom Harries | |
| 30 Barb Makela | |