



**ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



# The Crier

## January 2009



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**Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 25**  
**one service at 9:00 a.m.**  
followed by the  
**Annual Meeting**  
**with continental breakfast**

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church  
7227 Penn Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423  
612-869-7551  
[www.saint-nicks.org](http://www.saint-nicks.org)

**February issue  
deadline**  
**Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Put in Crier box in office or  
email to [kathy@jsd.net](mailto:kathy@jsd.net)  
Please put "Crier" in subject.

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

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM

The liturgical New Year in most of mainline Christianity is the first Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent is when we move to a new cycle in our three year lectionary cycle and begin the time of expectation and hope for the one who is coming into the world. A recognition of New Year apart from the January New Year is not unusual. The Jewish people and the Chinese people are two cultures among many who mark a New Year based upon long-standing traditions that extend back thousands of years. In many of these cultures, the celebration of their traditional New Year is still far more important and festive than the demarcation we place upon January 1 as the beginning of a New Year in our Gregorian method of keeping time.

In the liturgical calendar that the church follows, January 1<sup>st</sup> is known as Holy Name Day. Holy Name Day comes eight days after Christmas and is connected to the birth of Jesus. In Jewish law and tradition, a male child is circumcised and given a name eight days after their birth.

Names are important. In biblical times, a name was believed to contain one's identity. When Sarah finally conceives and gives birth to a son, the long awaited child of promise, she names him Isaac which comes from the Hebrew word for "laughter" – her response when angelic visitors tell Abraham that she will conceive. When Jacob wrestles with an angel in the River Jabbok and is defeated, he asks the angel's name in order to get power over him. The angel refuses and then he renames Jacob, Israel, which means "one who strives with God." When Jesus calls his principle disciple, upon whom he will found the Church, he chooses a man named Cephas or in Greek, Petra, both of which mean "the Rock."

Our current world is filled with words that speak of longings for salvation: "bailout," "rescue plan," "stimulus," "safety net," "homeland security," to name a few. Things from financial matters, to ecological concerns, to international relations seem fraught with peril like never before. Eight days after his birth, Jesus is given his name, and the church has chosen to commemorate the day, even though it is seldom celebrated unless it falls on a Sunday. The name Jesus, of course, was chosen by an angel and disclosed to both Joseph and Mary before Jesus' birth, but there is something significant about a process of formalizing a given name. Jesus is the Greco-Roman rendering of the Hebrew "Yehoshuah" which means "God Saves" or "God will save" or "God is Salvation."

Perhaps this year this celebration might take on added meaning. While we seem to be unable to find convincing answers and lasting solutions to our problems and the problems that beset the world, we would do well to remember that it is God, first and last, who holds us all in eternity and who has joined our frail condition and loved us fully in Jesus. This love, this eternal care, this assurance is our hope, our salvation. A fitting theme to reflect upon, it seems to me, as we embark upon the beginnings of a New Year.

Blessings,  
Tom



## An Invitation from your Prayer Partners

In Matthew 18:19-20, Jesus said, “<sup>19</sup>Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.” Wow! That’s pretty powerful stuff!

Prayer Partners are on hand in the front of the church during communion at the 10:30 Sunday Service to pray with people for themselves or others. The prayers may be offered for concerns, healing, thanksgivings, sorrows, or joys. Praying together is a simple way of sharing the burdens and joys in our St. Nicholas family. It is a time to come together as children of God to pray together and for one another. While we are waiting for individuals to join us for prayers, we are praying for each of you as you pass by on your way to receive Eucharist.

Because some people may prefer to pray in a quieter, more private area, we have created a Prayer Chapel in the room next to Tom’s office. Beginning in December, in addition to being in the church during communion, the prayer partners will also be available for 15 to 20 minutes following the 10:30 service to pray with individuals in the Prayer Chapel. We’ll close the door to indicate when a prayer session is in progress.

Acts 1:14

*They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. On that Sunday, there will be a single service at 9:00AM. The Annual Meeting will follow the service in the Fireplace Room on the lower level. A light continental breakfast will be served.

## Christian Dream Work

In the Bible there are many instances of God speaking to people in dreams. Richard and I have been participating in Christian dream work groups in the Episcopal church for several years. We would like to share our experience with dream group with others. If you are interested in learning how to listen to God speaking to you in your dreams, please join Richard and me on Saturday, Jan 10 at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Space. We will talk about what Christian dream work is and about forming a dream group at St Nicholas. We will arrange times and frequency of dream group meetings according to the desires of the group. If you have questions you can call me at 612-655-2631 or email at eamiller50@comcast.net

Betty Miller

In your prayers, you are asked to remember....



Pat Peterson

Jill Aicher

Laurice Anderson

Tom Frick

Mavis Sperrick

Betty Cope

Al Cecil

George Olsen

Martha Chambers

Miriam Algernon

Sue Bennitt

Roger Nelson

Dorothy Reese

Kay Poplo

Marilyn Thomasson

Bill Mills

Gayle Ticen’s sister, Shirley Hagenbuch

Kirsten & James Steinmetz

Rufus Simmons & Rosalyn Gantt-Simmons

Carol Lowe’s brother Mac McNeilly

Judy Conn’s granddaughter Rebecca

and the Men and Women of our Armed Forces

## Extravaganza - It gets better every year!

Thanks to everyone who made the 2008 Extravaganza & Potluck such a resounding success: the performers, the chefs, the setup & cleanup crews, the kitchen workers, the stage crew, the camera people, and the receptive and enthusiastic audience! It may be hard to top this year's program, but we must! Next year's event will be ON St. Nicholas Day, so start thinking now about performance possibilities. Keep your creative juices flowing! Joan has a copy of the Parish Directory and knows where you live. Don't make her come and get you! Besides, there's a possibility that Judy might actually FINISH her story next year! You won't want to miss that!

Sweet.....



.....Silly.....



.....SSSOOO Melodious.....



.....AND

.....a little Scary!



**our clergy**  
(notice Judy in the back)



**our senior warden**

**Should we be worried?!**



# Vestry Minutes

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## November 18, 2008

**Members present:** Tom Eklo, Martha Chambers, Todd Oliverius, Andrea Oliverius, Pam Banks, Bill Mills, Alfred Jaryan, Tom McConnell and Dick Kohout.

**Members absent:** Ed Karuki and Debie Tsuchiya

**Opening Prayer:** Tom opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** The October minutes should have indicated that Andrea Oliverius was absent. A motion was made by Dick and seconded by Martha to approve the October minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

**Finance Report:** Dick Kohout reported on our finances. We are \$4,258.95 behind budget for our income from contributions, and our total income is \$7,717.95 behind budget. Total expenses to date are \$124,451.83 which is \$1,675.83 more than budget. Dick indicated that contributions have been picking up. He also noted that a portion of our total income deficit is the result of not holding a fall recycle sale. A motion to accept the finance report as presented was made by Bill and seconded by Tom McConnell. The motion carried.

## Old Business:

### Building Update

Tom McConnell reported that the sprinkler system update work has been completed, and that the problems with the parking lot lights have been resolved.

### Sign Update

Bill Mills reported that everything is set to go for the City of Richfield to get approval for a variance. He has completed the paperwork which needs to be filed, and will submit the paper work together with a check for \$75 this week. At that time he will attempt to get some idea as to when the approval process might be completed.

## New Business:

### New Vestry Positions

The need to replace outgoing Vestry members was discussed. It was noted that we will need both a new Sr. and Jr. Warden for the coming year. It was suggested that the Vestry look for the filling of these 2 positions internally as well as 2 other vestry positions to be filled by new members. The members who are completing their terms were reminded to make contacts with potential new members. Jill indicated that she will no longer be able to act as Vestry Clerk after the December meeting.

### Bishop's Selection Letter

The Bishop's Selection Committee has asked St. Nicolas to write a letter to the committee explaining who we are. Sharon Mills compiled a rough draft of such a letter for the Vestry, and the Vestry added to and finalized that letter.

## Tom's Comments:

### Pledge Sunday Results

Father Tom reported that 29 pledges were received last Sunday. The total amount pledged was \$65,000—which is up 13.5% over the same pledges for 2008.

### Apportionment for the Common Good

Father Tom reported that St. Nicholas has been notified of our 2009 Apportionment for the Common Good for the Diocese of Minnesota. The net annual amount of our ACG for 2009 will be \$16,320 which is \$1,572 less than our ACG for the 2008 year. This will need to be approved at our annual meeting in January.

### Stuffed Animal Adoption

A total of \$54.10 was received from the stuffed animal adoption project. The money was given to the Mission Fund.

### Christmas Events

- Tom reminded everyone of the **Christmas Extravaganza** which will be held on **December 7 at 4 p.m.** followed by a dinner.
- **Wednesday Christmas Eve Services** will be held at **4 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.**
- No decision has been made at this time concerning holding a Christmas Day Service. In the past couple of years, the attendance at such a service has been very sparse with only 2 or 3 people in attendance.

### Christmas Gathering

Father Tom indicated that he would like to arrange a time for the Vestry to gather at his home—possible date suggested was Sunday, December 21.

### Next Vestry Meeting:

The next Vestry Meeting will be on December 16, at 7 p.m. Remember, parishioners are always welcome at Vestry Meetings.

### Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Martha and seconded by Pam. The motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Jill Aicher, Vestry Clerk



The arrival of the Kings in Bethlehem is often referred to as the adoration of the Magi, and it corresponds with the celebration of Epiphany, often called the Twelfth Night of Christmas. In the Episcopal church, Epiphany is celebrated on the 6th of January.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Dec 28</b> <b>8:00 AM Eucharist</b> 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b>	<b>Dec 29</b>	<b>Dec 30</b>	<b>Dec 31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<b>Jan 1</b> <b>7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</b> <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>Jan 2</b>	<b>Jan 3</b>
<b>Jan 4</b> <b>8:00 AM Eucharist</b> 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b>	<b>Jan 5</b>	<b>Jan 6</b>	<b>Jan 7</b> <b>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:30 PM Choir</b>	<b>Jan 8</b>	<b>Jan 9</b> <b>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</b>	<b>Jan 10</b> <b>10:00 AM Christian Dream Work</b>
<b>Jan 11</b> <b>8:00 AM Eucharist</b> 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b>	<b>Jan 12</b>	<b>Jan 13</b> <b>7:00 PM Vestry</b>	<b>Jan 14</b> <b>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:30 PM Choir</b>	<b>Jan 15</b> <b>7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</b> Crier deadline	<b>Jan 16</b> <b>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</b>	<b>Jan 17</b>
<b>Jan 18</b> <b>8:00 AM Eucharist</b> 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b>	<b>Jan 19</b> <i>Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>	<b>Jan 20</b>	<b>Jan 21</b> <b>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:30 PM Choir</b>	<b>Jan 22</b>	<b>Jan 23</b> <b>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</b>	<b>Jan 24</b>
<b>Jan 25</b> <b>9:00 AM Eucharist following the service- Annual Parish Meeting w/ light breakfast</b>	<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>Jan 27</b>	<b>Jan 28</b> <b>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:30 PM Choir</b>	<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Jan 30</b> <b>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</b>	<b>Jan 31</b> <b>12:00 PM Free Lunch</b>
<b>Feb 1</b> <b>8:00 AM Eucharist</b> 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b>	<b>Feb 2</b> <i>Groundhog Day</i>	<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Feb 4</b> <b>9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship</b> <b>7:30 PM Choir</b>	<b>Feb 5</b> <b>7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</b>	<b>Feb 6</b> <b>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</b>	<b>Feb 7</b>



## birthdays

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Blanche Buckley | 16 Tami Hoyle     |
| 4 Sharon Mills    | Rich Makela       |
| Mary Thompson     | 18 Maggie Ingalls |
| Clint Bristol     | 19 Jack Lyon      |
| 5 Jan Lasserud    | Nancy Rowley      |
| 9 Tom McConnell   | 27 Sally Parsons  |
| 12 Arthur Finnell |                   |



## anniversaries

- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| 11 Ijeoma & Lazarus Abasiri |
| 15 Kathy & Ken Cummings     |