



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



The Crier

February 2009

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Service of
Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, February 25
12:00 Noon & 7:00 PM



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

March issue deadline
Sunday, February 15th
Put in Crier box in office or
email to kathy@isd.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



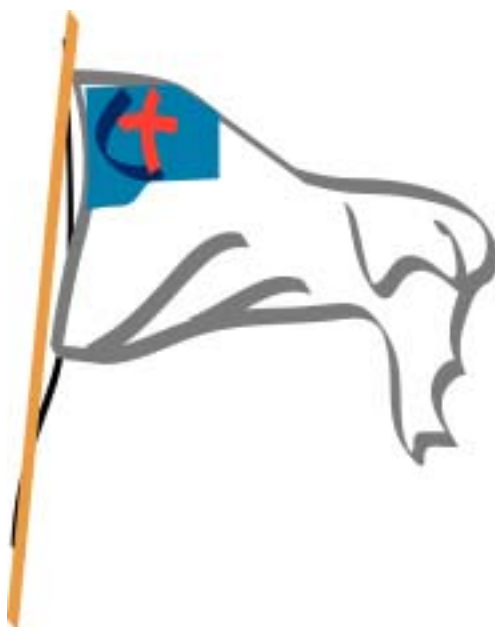
Ministers **All Parish Members**
Priest **The Rev. Thomas Eklo**
Deacon **The Rev. Judy Conn**
Senior Warden **Karen Bessler**
Junior Warden **Dick Kohout**
Director of Music **Charlotte Grantier**
Crier Editor **Kathy Cummings**



Vestry Members

Pam Banks Carol Barthelemy
Gretchen Eickhorn Ed Kariuki
Dick Kohout Tom McConnell
Bill Mills Andrea Oliverius

Treasurer **Rich Makela**
Vestry Clerk **Bill Mills**



Reflections from Tom

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM

I have just finished a book by Phyllis Tickle entitled “The Great Emergence.” It is a book that is getting a lot of attention these days among clergy, interested lay persons, and church scholars who know that something is afoot in the church and it is very hard to place a finger on exactly what that is. For many, it is a time of great uncertainty. The thriving church of the past centuries that seemed to crescendo in the fifties and the sixties is gone. Any desire to return to that time in the church is forever lost, and many are scratching their heads wondering what is next and how best to plug into that “next.” Phyllis Tickle has a theory about all of this. It is more of a big picture approach to the issue which takes into account the history of the church down through the ages.

Her answer – Since its inception, the church has gone through a “re-traditioning” of itself every 500 years or so. The last such great “re-traditioning” of the church was the Protestant Reformation in which the church literally split apart into protestant and catholic camps that have been at odds with each other for centuries. The Protestant Reformation was five hundred years ago. According to Tickle, the church now finds itself once again in one of those “re-traditioning” periods and has been for some time already. What emerges on the other side of this re-traditioning is not yet altogether clear, but it is very clear that we have moved beyond the point of ever returning to the main theological premises of the Protestant Reformation that were so intrinsic to the life of the church for the last five hundred years.

At stake in this continuing dialog is a fundamental question. What is the authority in the church? In every single one of the re-traditioning periods, the established and accepted standard of authority is jettisoned, and a new authority is established. In the Reformation, the authority of the Church and the Pope are replaced by the authority of Scripture. “Sola Scriptura,” or “Scripture only” became the mantra of the Protestants. Scripture became the sole source of authority for the life of the church and its doctrine. Nothing else mattered. Evidence of the power of that authority can be seen in the continuing debates that peg those who hold to an inerrant view of Scripture as God’s only revelation of self against those who view Scripture as sacred, but only one of the many diverse ways God reveals self to Christians and the church. Tickle says that a new accepted authority in the church has not yet emerged, but the signs are that it will be more egalitarian, more diffuse, and more participatory than anything we have ever seen before.

I don’t know about you, but I think it is an exciting time to be the church. We are in the throes of a church that looks in the eyes of many to be in chaos and decline. In fact, Christian thought and practice in its diverse forms may be on the cusp of something that will emerge as the foundation for the church in the centuries to come. We may pine for the “good old days”, but I think God is calling us into something new, and that sounds a lot like the message of Jesus. God is calling us to be visionaries and creative agents of change, and you and I get to be a part of that. That is exciting!

Blessings,
Tom



Christian Dream Work continued:

We held our first dream group meeting January 10. Approximately 12 people attended. We talked about the basics of Christian dream work and we worked together to discern the messages hidden in one of Richard's dreams. Our next dream group will be February 7th, 10 am to 12 noon in the Gathering Space. We are going to meet monthly. If you are interested in learning how to listen to God speaking to you in your dreams, please join us. If you don't remember your dreams, you are still welcome to join us. Participating in a dream group is helpful in developing an ability to remember dreams. You are also welcome to join us even if you don't want to share or talk about your personal dreams. If you have questions you can call me at 612-655-2631 or email at eamiller50@comcast.net. Internet information about Christian dream work can be found at www.seedwork.org and at www.hadeninstitute.com

Betty Miller

Sharing Our Gifts

"Sharing Our Gifts" is a newly expanded ministry at St. Nicholas. It is built on the foundation of the ministry of Sue Newman who, for years, has arranged for meals to be delivered to parish members in need of help, and on the ministry of George Olsen who recently shared a list of "Fifty Things You Can Do To Help" by Brenda Elsagher from her book, **If The Battle is Over, Why Am I Still in Uniform?**

The current Mission Committee has agreed to coordinate the beginnings of "Sharing Our Gifts," but all parish members and friends are encouraged to participate. There is a loose-leaf notebook in the church office with a checklist of needs that each of us might be able to fill, such as preparing a meal, sending a card, picking up a prescription, changing bed linens, shoveling a driveway, connecting a computer, etc. There is also a checklist of needs that an individual might have at a particular time, such as help writing thank-you notes, having a visit with someone who could bring coffee and a treat, having help with a jigsaw puzzle, joining someone for a movie, getting a ride to church, etc.

The mission of this new ministry is to connect those who are willing to offer help with those who are willing to receive help. If you have gifts you can offer, please fill out one of the checklists and file it in

the book. If you are in need, please fill out a checklist and file it in the book. If you know someone in need, please bring them a checklist, help them fill it out and then file it in the book. The Mission Committee will check the book each Sunday, Wednesday and Friday and attempt to match up the helpers with the helpees.

Together we can share our gifts and enrich the lives of those in the community around us. Together we can be energized by the spirit and be empowered to do God's work in the world.

Deacon Judy



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

Tom Frick

Jill Aicher

Pat Peterson

Mavis Spernick

George Olsen

Gayle Ticen's sister, Shirley Hagenbuch

John Nelson's mother June Kestner

Yonnette Chu's mother Miriam Algernon

Mary Phyllis Meyer's sister Virginia Gaebe

and the Men and Women of our Armed Forces



This report was omitted from the Annual Report

Building and Grounds Committee

Many thanks to all who have helped out with those big and little on going projects at St Nicholas. Our committee members are Dave Newman, Paul Tsuchiya, George Olsen, Jan Kohout, Dick Kohout, Andrea Oliverius, Todd Oliverius, Peter Taylor, Alfred Jaryan, and Tom McConnell.

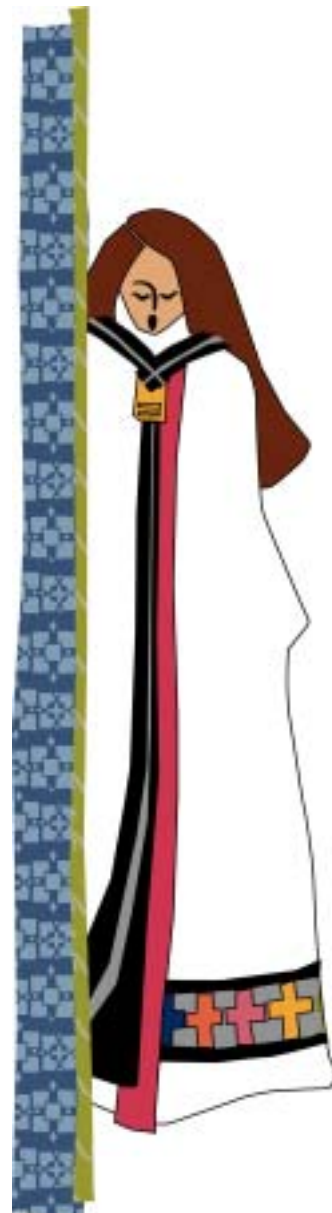
Our biggest improvement (safety issue) was getting the parking lot to sidewalk transition leveled to prevent water and ice build up.

Our spring and fall cleanups went well, with lots of help, thank you. A second leaf cleanup was proposed later in the fall but the weather prevented it.

Other projects completed were; Replace air conditioner in Tom's office with a more efficient unit (old unit was blowing the circuit breaker). Repair leaking water pipe to sacristy sink and provide hot water to it also. Fire sprinkler system brought up to current code. Minor painting projects. Also helped with the fireplace room improvements.

Again our lawn mowing and care was kept up by Dave Newman and Paul Tsuchiya. Many thanks to them for all their work. Special thanks to those who kept the flower beds & shrubs looking good all summer.

Respectfully, Tom McConnell



Lent



Reflection
Commitment
Repentance

Join the Festival Choir

We will be having a Festival Choir for Easter and invite your participation. We have all new music that joyfully proclaims the good news of Easter. Singing resurrection music will lift your spirits. No experience is required except your willingness to join us in song.

Rehearsals begin on Wed. evening, Feb. 3rd, at 7:30. No rehearsal on Wed. Feb. 11th. We will rehearse on Sun. Feb., 15th at 9:30 AM instead. Please call Charlotte Grantier at 952-934-3425 or clgrantier@comcast.net if you have any questions.

59th Annual Meeting on January 24, 2009



The Rev. Tom Eklo joins the departing Vestry members to give our thanks: left to right - Martha Chambers, Debi Tsuchiya, Todd Oliverius, Tom Eklo, Jill Aicher



Welcome to the new Vestry members: left to right - Jr. Warden-Dick Kohout, Sr. Warden-Karen Bessler, new members-Carol Barthelemy & Gretchen Eickhorn, continuing as a member, Bill Mills will also take over the duties of the Clerk of the Vestry.



Treasurer, Rich Makela, shares the budget info



Everyone enjoyed a continental breakfast





Vestry Minutes

Vestry Minutes, December 16, 2008

Members present: Tom Eklo, Martha Chambers, Debie Tsuchiya, Todd Oliverius, Andrea Oliverius, Tom McConnell and Dick Kohout.

Members absent: Pam Banks, Bill Mills, Alfred Jaryan, and Ed Karuki

Opening Prayer: Tom opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Finance Report: Dick Kohout reported on our finances. We are close to the budgeted \$12,000. Tom E. noted approx 20 people who pledged last year have not yet pledged. Due to the state of the stock market the endowments fund is down over 25% for the year. Deb. made a motion to accept the financial report, Tom M. seconded. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Sign Update

Tom E received a call from an electrician, about pulling a permit for the sign; he will call Aim electronics to follow-up. Tom M. will call Bill Mills to check on the status of the permit.

New Vestry Positions

Martha has done a great job recruiting new members for the vestry, Carol Barthelomy has agreed to be a member, Karen Bessler has agreed to be the senior warden, and Dick Kohout has agreed to be the junior warden. There is still one more position to be filled.

Budgets

Finance committee is looking for budgets from other committees; they need them to complete the 2009 budget prior to the annual meeting.

New Business:

All Saints Congregation

Provides a community dinner every Sunday, and is looking for help with, supplies, food prep, serving, and clean-up. Martha has been helping out for several weeks, and would like to see if St. Nicks can participate as a group. More info would be needed, perhaps a presentation to our congregation.

Tom's Comments:

Christmas Extravaganza

Close to 100 people attended the event, fun was had by all.

Annual meeting

Annual meeting to be held on the 25th of January to follow single 9:00 service, need to elect 2 diocese delegate & an alternate along with new vestry members.

Art Show

Tom to have an art show in the gathering space for parishioners during lent.

Next Vestry Meeting:

The next Vestry Meeting will be on January 20, at 7 p.m. Remember, parishioners are always welcome at Vestry Meetings.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Martha and seconded by Dick. The motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Jamie Oliverius

Excerpted from Bishop Jelinek's invocation:

Acolyte Festival Sermon

What a week this has been!

No matter what you may think of our new president and his politics, we have just experienced together a watershed moment in American history. For those of us who marched on Washington, D.C., participated in the Poor People's Campaign, or were in Selma or other cities for civil rights witness and protests against segregation and racism, when Barack Obama took the oath of office as President of the United States of America, we as a country, as a people, moved from the sometimes sterile rhetoric of equality to its fulfillment.



Perhaps I speak for you; perhaps I do not. Personally, as I listened to the concert from the Lincoln Memorial last Sunday on a long road trip, I was moved to tears again and again as I heard the words of many of our great leaders of the past speaking of democracy and freedom and justice and hope. When hope is being fulfilled, when goodness is happening around us, there is no way to contain the joy, and it comes out in laughter, in choking sobs and in tears of relief after so much pent-up frustration, so many false starts, so much injustice. We could see the joy and the relief on the faces of many who have suffered greatly in our society. We could hear it in their voices. We all have renewed hope that we Americans are becoming what our ancestors dreamed: free, equal, and respected in our human dignity.

Each February in this Cathedral and elsewhere in the diocese, we celebrate the life of Absalom Jones, the first African-American priest in The Episcopal Church. He was a free man, who bought his own and his family's freedom, and experienced a call to serve God as a priest in 1819. The psalm at that liturgy is Psalm 137, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange, new land?" It is a song taken from the Israelite literature written in the Babylonian captivity when there was no home to return to, there was no happiness for singing. It was an experience African-Americans brought over as slaves shared 2500 years later, and it was people like Absalom Jones who helped his friends find their voice and sing the Lord's song in the midst of a church that was not sure it wanted to hear God's song from them. At the inauguration, in the Benediction, we heard the words of that great hymn by James Weldon Johnson, known as the Black national anthem,

"Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast."

This is deeply personal for me, having lived and served as a priest in the Black community for many years. Even though I am well aware we have not, in one day or one week, wiped out prejudice or banished institutional racism, I know we have taken a significant step forward as a people. Every once in a while God speaks in a whole society to say very clearly, "Your hatreds come from your own hearts, your own narrowness. Do not try to claim them as mine to justify yourselves. I love and welcome everyone, even you, just leave your hatreds at the door when you come in."

Sometimes God speaks in a still, small voice in the midst of the devastation of war, asking us, "What are you doing? This is not my way; this is your way. See where it leads—ruin and destruction." Sometimes, like this week, God speaks in the soul-bursting, mind-blowing passion of millions of people being linked heart to heart, hope to hope, joy to joy, if only for a moment, yet a moment in which we taste glory together. I believe that is what happened this week, and I thank and praise God for this taste of goodness and glory.

+James L. Jelinek

25 January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 1 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist	Feb 2 <i>GroundhogDay</i>	Feb 3	Feb 4 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Feb 5 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Feb 6 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Feb 7 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Christian Dream Work
Feb 8 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist	Feb 9	Feb 10 7:00 PM Vestry	Feb 11 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Feb 12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	Feb 13 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Feb 14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>
Feb 15 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist Crier deadline	Feb 16 <i>President's Day</i>	Feb 17	Feb 18 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Feb 19 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Feb 20 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Feb 21
Feb 22 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25 12:00 PM Imposition of Ashes 7:00 PM Imposition of Ashes Ash Wednesday	Feb 26	Feb 27 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Feb 28 12:00 PM Free Lunch
Mar 1 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Mar 5 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Mar 6 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Mar 7 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Christian Dream Work
Mar 8 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	Mar 9	Mar 10 7:00 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Vestry	Mar 11 9:30 AM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:00 PM Gospel-based Discipleship 7:30 PM Choir	Mar 12	Mar 13 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Mar 14

birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Marge Stwora | 13 Joan Spivey |
| Andy Newman | Bill Lehnertz |
| 8 Landon Banks | 18 Laurice Anderson |
| 12 Mynra Rikke | 24 Kathy Cummings |
| 13 Barb McConnell | 26 Bill Wherland |

anniversaries

14 Rebecca & Karl Knoblauch