



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



The Crier

June 2009



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

July issue deadline
Monday, June 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

Summer Sunday Service

9:00 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 will admit to you that this is the second draft of my Crier article for June. My first draft began with a splendid description of the beauty and warmth of summer, especially after the hard, long winter most of us experienced. I was going to go on about how important it is for us to take time to rest, relax and rejuvenate during this season of the year when the options for vacation time, travel and activity seem far more appealing. While all of that is wonderfully appropriate in a culture that does not value rest, I have said all of it before, and so I have chosen to head off in a different direction that has absolutely nothing to do with June or summer for that matter.

I have been reading a book entitled “Christianity Worth Believing In” by Doug Pagitt. Doug Pagitt is the pastor of Solomon’s Porch, an “emergent” congregation here in Minneapolis. Doug Pagitt is one of the primary national voices contributing to the conversation around the emergent movement within Christianity and what that means. His book is very readable and particularly helpful if you have come from a more traditional theological perspective of Christianity and find that perspective difficult or questionable in the “Post-Everything Age” we find ourselves in.

Pagitt says that much of what has been handed down to us through the centuries as the truth of Scripture comes from the writings of Augustine and Aquinas and other church fathers that found it necessary to codify theology within the construct of a church that suddenly found itself no longer a sect, but an integral part of the empire or nation state. There was much at stake for all involved, and the church was a necessary institution within this framework for achieving stability and direction within society. In all fairness to Augustine and the others, it must be said that they were not purposefully seeking to lead the church in a direction that many of us see as being at odds with the original message of Scripture. It was a theological construct built upon a careful interpretation of Scripture, but an interpretation, nonetheless. The fact of the matter is that the

Christian church was in a different place at the beginning of the fifth century than it was at the middle of the first century, and the efforts of these men was focused on trying to make sense of that shift in a meaningful way. The church of the 21st Century is no longer the church of the 5th Century. Time for another shift!

Now comes the hard part!! While all of us can perhaps cognitively agree with the historical premise that Pagitt puts forward, most of us have a very difficult time shifting our theology. Most of us can recite the story of Adam and Eve, and like it or not, there is a nagging tendency to always understand that story as the theological foundation for the doctrine of original sin. It has been pounded into us. But what if a theology of original sin can no longer be held as tenable? Our tendency is to relegate the story to the trash heap of irrelevancy or simply throw it away. But I often wonder why we do that? The story of Adam and Eve was a part of human understanding and meaning long before the fifth century Augustine decided it was the story of human depravity and original sin. What does the story of Adam and Eve tell us about humanity and relationships if we strip away the underlying chasm created by a theology of original sin? What does it say to us today?

Your task this summer during those periods of rest and relaxation is to pick out one or two of those fundamental stories of Scripture that seem irrelevant on the surface and wrestle with their potential theological significance for the 21st Century. I’m looking forward to hearing what you come up with.

Blessings,
Tom





Contemplative Service Planners Needed

As many of you know, we try to schedule and plan a contemplative service five or six times during the year. These services are very different from what we do on Sunday mornings. These services involve readings (poetry, essays, prayers) and music (wide variety) that seek to reflect a theme and illicit a sense of quiet and reflection following a busy week. Those of us who have been involved in planning these services have enjoyed the planning process very much. It has been very creative, life affirming and downright fun. As we begin to plan for the fall in late summer, I would invite any of you who would like to contribute your gifts (that means all of you are on the hook) to this process of planning our creative contemplative services. Watch for the planning announcement in late summer.

Spring Plant Sale Report

First, thank you to all the helpers; Karen Bessler, Daisy Druhl, Gretchen Eichorn, Gail Gardener, Betty Miller, Barb McConnell, Helen Mudgett, Andrea Oliverius, Maxine Parsons, Sally Parsons. I could not have done the job without you.

Second, thanks for all of the outside orders you obtained. We could not have reached our goal without them. Our 2 top sales people were; Barb Makela and Craig Kettleon. They each had 8 orders.

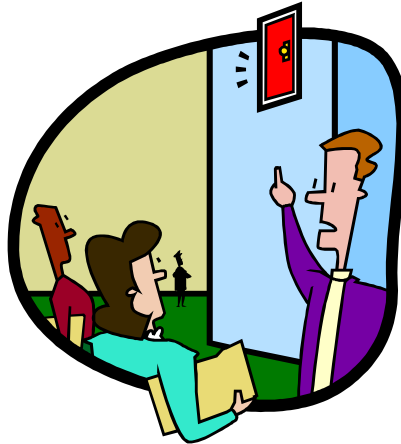
The final totals are in and St. Nicholas has \$1091.00 to add to our General Fund.

Now just keep those flowers watered and have a blooming summer.

Jan Kohout



Church Doors left Unlocked



We continue to have a problem with the Church doors being left unlocked overnight or when no one is here. If you are the last to leave the church, please make sure the main doors and the door to the north parking lot are locked. Sometimes the push bar on the doors will stick open upon being pushed, so one cannot assume the door will always lock behind you. Please verify that the doors are locked by pulling on the handles of the door after you exit. Your attention to this security matter is greatly appreciated.

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



Kristin Cummings

Sue Bennitt

George Wilner

Laurice Anderson

Marge Stwora

Pat Peterson

Jill Aicher

George Olsen

Betty Cope

Dorothy Reese

Daisy Druhl

Gertrude Gajeski

Dee Hughes

Pat McClure

John Nelson's mother **June** Kestner

Kerry Banks mother **Mary** Helms

Roslyn Gantt-Simmons father **Roscoe** Gantt

Sallie Parsons cousin **Melanie** Spears

Charlotte Grantier's parents **Opal** and **Bill** Howard.

Mary Phyllis Meyer's son-in-law **Gary** Cravin and sister **Virginia** Gaebe.

Gayle Ticen's sister **Shirley** Hagenbuch

And the men and women of our armed forces.

The VEAP Corner Group Volunteer Opportunity

Is your group looking for a great team-building exercise or service opportunity? Look no further!

Monday through Friday VEAP is looking for groups to stock the Food Pantry to prepare for the 80 households coming in for service from 8am - 9am. Organize your group to be make a difference.

For more information, talk to Shari 952-888-9616, about this opportunity!

New Service Hours

Monday VEAP begins its additional evening to meet the needs of its communities.

NEW VEAP Hours:

Monday & Thursday 9am-6:30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 9am-4pm

Monday Evening Volunteer Opportunities!

Positions still available on Monday evenings from 4-6:30pm.

1 Food Pantry, 1 Greeter, 1 Receptionist, 1 Pantry Stocker, 1 Ride Home Driver

If interested in one of these evening positions call the VEAP office 952-888-9616



Care Squares for Kids & more

Springs of Shalom, Daughters of the King (SOSDOK) has learned of another opportunity serve God's people. A group in South Africa is collecting 8" knitted or crocheted squares which they join together to make blankets for children who have been orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Africa. We will be asking members and friends of the St. Nicholas family to help us with this project. We will send half of the squares we collect to the Africa ministry and use the rest to make prayer shawls, winter scarves, etc. for our own ministries.

You can help us in a couple of different ways: 1) make an 8" square; and/or 2) donate your yarn leftovers and we will use it to make the squares. Within the next couple of weeks we will provide a location where you can put your donations. Or give them to a SOSDOK member.

If you would like more info about the African ministry go to www.knit-a-square.com/knitting-for-charity.html.

Thanks for your help, Ann, Diannah, Dorothy, Kathy, Laurice, Martha, Sharon

Presiding Bishop's visit

More photos, text of sermons available

Now available on the diocesan website are additional photos from the Presiding Bishop's May 14-17 visit as well as the text of her sermons delivered at Breck School, Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour, and Holy Apostles. A special commemorative printed album is being produced and will be available to congregations by the end of June.

Bishop Search

Teams forming to visit 8 remaining candidates

submitted by the Rev. Neil Willard

Your Search Committee for the IX Bishop of Minnesota has started the process of checking references for the 8 remaining candidates and forming teams to visit each of them at her or his current ministry location. At the same time, these candidates have started the process of answering an on-line leadership assessment questionnaire. This is to assess their mental and emotional readiness for executive leadership. Please continue to pray for both the candidates and the committee members as we ask for the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Election nominations open

Now is the time to submit your name for an elected office of the Diocese of Minnesota. Elected this October at Diocesan Convention will be new members for Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, Trustees, and a Trustee of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. Not interested in running but know someone who might be? Download the elections booklet and nomination form and pass it along. The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2009.



Resolutions now being accepted

June 30 is the deadline for submitting resolutions to be considered by Diocesan Convention. Contact Canon Karen Olson, Secretary to Convention, for details.

Ministry Resources

Safe Church Training Upcoming

A Safe Church training workshop is scheduled for 6 pm on July 15 at St. David's, Minnetonka. Cost is \$10 to cover the cost of dinner. Contact Dave Sheldon, 952-935-3336, ext. 14, for details.

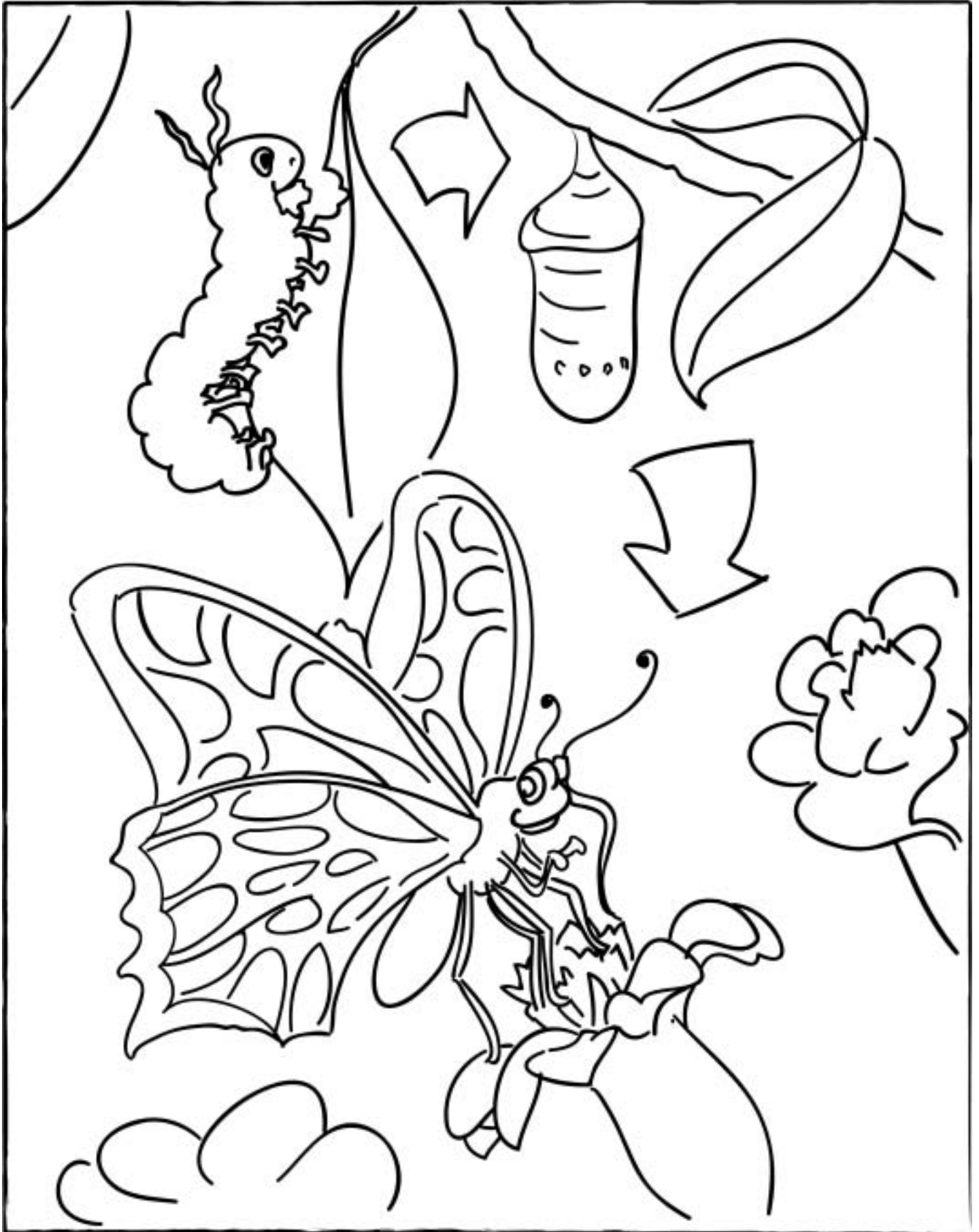
Nurturing the Spirit of Youth workshop

June 11, 8:30 am to 12 noon, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Bloomington

June 18, 8:30 am to 12 noon, Mount Calvary Church, Excelsior

Based on more than three years of scientific research directly involving youth people, this workshop addresses spiritual development as a core part of the human experience. Participants will explore the role of spiritual experience in the lives of youth and how to help foster spiritual development as a normal part of building healthy youth people. Cost is \$15. Contact The Youth & Family Institute for details.

Coloring Page





Vestry Minutes

MARCH 17, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McConnell, Tom Eklo, Andrea Oliverius, Karen Bessler, Carol Barthelemy, Gretchen Eichorn, Bill Mills, Alfred Jaryan, Pam Banks, Dick Kohout and Ed Kariuki

Karen called the meeting to order, and Tom E opened the meeting with prayer.

Tom Mc presented the meeting devotion with a reading about Patrick, the Celtic Saint.

MINUTES: The minutes from the Vestry Retreat were read. Tom E moved that these minutes be approved as read. Gretchen seconded the motion and it was approved.

FINANCE REPORT: Dick K gave the report. He said that the combined Rue/Freeman fund will be referred to as the Special Operations Fund. Pam moved that the Finance report be accepted. The motion was seconded and was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Pam talked about the plans for the Ethnic picnic, and said that it will be held May 31, after the 9:00 service. She indicated that there will probably be music for people walking the Labyrinth and that there might be a Chinese Lion Dance for entertainment.

Tom E gave an update on the electronic sign. He said that an electrician has been contracted, and that the communication cable will be installed soon. It is expected that the sign will be installed mid to late April.

Tom E said that it is time to establish the committee which is to decide how to develop our future music program. This committee might be as large as eight people who will look at all of the music that we currently use and other types of music that we might include in the future. It was also suggested that we might set up a music endowment fund which could be used to pay special guest musicians from time to time. The Vestry people included in this committee are Karen B and Bill M. The remainder of the committee will be selected soon.

NEW BUSINESS: It was suggested that perhaps St Nicholas set up a second handicap pew. Several ideas for this proposal were presented. Carol B moved that the Vestry look into the feasibility of establishing a second handicap pew. Dick K seconded the motion and it was approved.

Gretchen said that the March 28 Free Lunch is going to be handled by Buildings and Grounds. It was thought that the April lunch might be handled by the Vestry.

Dick K said that our bank needs a Corporate Resolution in order that they might know which individuals are assigned to transact business for St Nicholas. Carol B moved that the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden and the Treasurer are assigned as the officers of St Nicholas. Pam seconded the motion and it was approved.

Tom E said that he will not be available on Sunday, March 29. Penny Warren will preside that day.

Judy C and Tom E are developing a special Tennebrae service.

All business being completed, Dick K moved that the meeting be adjourned. Alfred seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Mills, Clerk of Vestry



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 31 9:00 AM Eucharist Pentecost Summer Ethnic Picnic - following the service	Jun 1	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Jun 5 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Jun 6
Jun 7 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jun 8	Jun 9 7:00 PM Finance Committee	Jun 10	Jun 11	Jun 12 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Jun 13
Jun 14 9:00 AM Eucharist Flag Day	Jun 15 Crier deadline	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom 7:00 PM Vestry	Jun 19 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Jun 20 10:00 AM Christian Dream Work
Jun 21 9:00 AM Eucharist Father's Day Summer begins	Jun 22	Jun 23	Jun 24	Jun 25	Jun 26 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Jun 27 12:00 PM Free Lunch
Jun 28 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jun 29	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Jul 3 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Jul 4 Independence Day
Jul 5 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jul 6	Jul 7	Jul 8	Jul 9	Jul 10 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Jul 11



birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Lisa Tsuchiya | 15 Somtochukwu Abasiri |
| 2 Jill Aicher | 21 Francoise Moenkhaus |
| 6 Ijeoma Abasiri | 22 Carol Barthelemy |
| 7 Roger Nelson | Denise Famodu |
| 9 John Tsuchiya | 24 Lew Cope |
| 10 Jamie Oliverius | 25 Jigbeh Jaryan |
| 14 Dan Greimel | 27 Jeff Theis |
| 15 Roslyn Gantt-Simmons | 29 Cassell Wherland |
| Karl Knoblauch | Virtue Finnell |



anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10 Deb & Paul Tsuchiya | 21 Roslyn & Rufus Simmons |
| 12 Barb & Rich Makela | 24 Diannah Robertson |
| Jill & Bob Aicher | & Tom Harries |
| 13 Sharol & Bill Lehnertz | Denise & Tunde Famodu |
| | 28 Betty & Lewis Cope |
| | 30 Dawn & Dan Greimel |