



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA



The Crier

July 2009

Happy 4th of July

**In God
 We Trust**

Come join the parade...page 3

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

March issue deadline
Wednesday, July 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

Summer is a time when we get to go for long (or short) walks without the fear of freezing to death. If we are lucky enough to get to a place where there are well-worn paths through natural habitat, we get to enjoy the sounds and smells of the forest – the singing of birds that may be a new song for our hearts, the smell of pine and the smell of damp earth, the sounds of a gentle breeze or a robust wind as it moves through the branches and rustles the leaves. It is a delight for most of us, and a time to refresh the soul, take a deep breath, and give thanks for the gift of life – life in all of its manifestations that surrounds us.

I am reading the latest book by Barbara Brown Taylor, one of my favorite writers. Entitled “An Altar in the World,” it invites us through her experiences and her thoughts to think about our daily lives and routine as altars where the sacred is experienced. We so often look for the sacred as something uniquely separate from our everyday lives – church on Sundays or those moments of prayer and reflection that dot our lives. The ancient Greeks have given us their perspective on all of this, and it has tended to stick over the years – the spirit is good and the flesh is evil. Barbara Brown Taylor takes issue with that long standing argument and claims that Christianity is so grounded within our flesh and blood experience that virtually all of what we experience in our lives is saturated with the holy. We miss most of this holiness because we do not open ourselves up to its possibility. We too often lack the awareness, the mindfulness that comes with recognizing the totality of our whole being, the totality of creation, in relationship with the holy.

One of the chapters in her book is entitled “The Practice of Walking on the Earth.” She quotes Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Buddhist, who says, “The miracle is not to walk on water but on the earth.” I think he is right. We are a people driven by destination, by results, and we miss the miracles, the altars of the here and now in our path. Barbara Brown Taylor – “Not everyone is able to walk, but most people can, which makes walking one of the most easily available spiritual practices of all. All it takes is the decision to walk with some awareness,

both of who you are and what you are doing. Where you are going is not as important, however counterintuitive that may seem. To detach the walking from the destination is in fact one of the best ways to recognize the altars you are passing right by all the time. Most of us spend so much time thinking about where we have been or where we are supposed to be going that we have a hard time recognizing where we actually are. When someone asks us where we want to be in our lives, the last thing that occurs to us is to look down at our feet and say, “Here, I guess, since this is where I am.”

Go for a walk in this lovely summer season. Go for a walk and open yourself up to the altars, the presence of the holy that surrounds you.

Blessings,
Tom



Care Squares

The article in last month's Crier told of the project to knit and crochet squares used for blanket to be given to AIDS orphans in Africa and to make scarves for our own homeless ministry. A box will be placed in the Gathering Space by July 5 for collecting your squares.

Knitting instructions

FOR ONE 8 x 8" (20 x 20 cms)

SQUARE, you will need:

Yarn from a 100 gram (3.5 oz) ball of yarn or scraps in worsted

Size needles 10, USA

A yarn sewing needle.

1. Cast on 32 stitches (try to make your stitches neither too loose nor too tight to help ensure uniform squares)
2. Row 1: knit
3. Row 2: knit. These two rows form the 'garter' stitch knitting pattern for your square
4. Continue knitting as per these two rows until you have knitted a square
5. To ensure you knit a definite square, either use a tape measure to make sure the side of the square is the same length as the width, or form a triangle by folding one corner of your square over to meet the opposite corner - if all sides are equal - then you have a square
6. Cast off
7. Use your yarn sewing needle to sew in all the yarn ends using a darning metho

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Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

Jean Ogden has delivered meals for many years but now finds that it is too much for her. She will continue to do the Coordination and calling. Also, the passing of another long time driver Sue Bennitt, leaves another opening in our schedule. We need to find 2 permanent drivers to fill their time slots. The openings are for a Tuesday or a Thursday.

Permanent drivers have a schedule for the entire year and drive every other month on their assigned day. Sometimes they can get the same route in Richfield to deliver. Time commitment is 1 ½ hours from 11:30 – 1:00 PM. Meals are picked up at the Church of Peace on Xerxes Ave. Richfield and empty cases are dropped off there after delivery. Please call Jan Kohout 952-941-7561 or Jean Ogden 612-869-8404 to volunteer. We would like to have these slots filled in July or as soon as possible.



Come be in a Parade

St Nicholas is going to have a float in the Richfield Hometown 4th of July parade. For those interested in joining the parade celebration we will first meet at the Oliverius home (7001 14th Ave S) around 11:00 for lunch. At 12:30 we will go to our start position; parade starts at 1:00. After the short walk / ride we will continue back to the Oliverius home for desert. This has always been a lot of fun and we hope to see you there.



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

Kristin Cummings

Jill Aicher

Daisy Druhl

John Nelson's mother June Kestner

Charlotte Grantier's parents Opal and Bill Howard

George Wilner

George Olsen

Dee Hughes

Laurice Anderson

Betty Cope

Tom Frick

Kerry Banks mother Mary Helms

Gayle Ticen's sister Shirley Hagenbuch

Marge Stwora

Dorothy Reese

Gertrude Gajeski

And the men and women of our armed forces.



Pix from the Pic

May 31

St. Nicholas Ethnic Picnic

complete with a dancing lion
or.....lion dance







Vestry Minutes

May 19, 2009

Members Present: Tom McConnell, Bill Mills, Karen Bessler, Andrea Oliverous, Dick Kohout, Rev. Tom Eklo, Gretchen Eichorn, Carol Barthelemy and Pam Banks.

Members Absent: Alfred Jaryan, Ed Kariuki.

Rev Tom opened the meeting with prayer. This was followed by a meditation from the compiled writings of the book Attitudes of Gratitude and was presented by Bill.

Secretaries Report: The minutes of the March 17, 2009, Vestry meeting were presented. Dick moved that these minutes be approved as read. Andrea seconded this motion and it was approved. This was followed by the presentation of the April 21, 2009, Vestry minutes. Pam moved that these minutes be approved with the following correction. Show that Rev. Tom provided the devotion, not Tom M. Dick seconded this motion and it was approved.

Finance Report: Dick presented the Finance report as of the end of April. It shows that we are ahead of budget on income and our expenses are what were expected. Pam moved that the Vestry accept the Finance Report as shown. Gretchen seconded the motion and it passed.

Old Business: Rev Tom and Tom M reported on the current status of the sign. The total sign will be about 2 inches higher than the current sign, but we do not expect this to be a problem. We do not have a date for installation yet.

Pam said that things are moving along nicely for the Ethnic Picnic. If extra things are needed she will post that on the bulletin board.

Tom M said that the shortening of a pew to allow another handicap seating space is on schedule. This will be accomplished by manually shortening an existing pew. Which pew to shorten has not been decided. Tom will report on this at the next Vestry meeting.

Karen reported on the establishment of the Music Committee, and said that all nominated people have been contacted. This group will meet June 10, 2009, at 7:00pm.

Rev Tom discussed the ongoing plans for the Wellness Center. He and Judy Conn will be meeting with Joanie Delameter about how St John in The Wilderness has operated their Wellness Center. This is an informational meeting, and will include any legal problems that might have been encountered.

New Business: It was reported that on Monday, May 18, the main and north doors were found to be unlocked. They were all locked after church on Sunday, but no one has a clue who might have unlocked them.

Andrea said that St Nicholas has signed up to be in the Richfield Fourth of July parade.

Rev Tom talked about the Alternative Service which is presented periodically. He would like it made known to the congregation that individuals are welcome to join this group, and to develop ideas for the type of service which could be done. The next Alternative Service might be about the Labyrinth.

Gretchen is interested in having Rev Tom set up an instructed Eucharist service. He will look into ways that he might incorporate some of that into a normal service.

There was some discussion about establishing a Columbarium at St Nicholas. This might require quite a bit of study, and further discussion was tabled for now.

Rev Tom provided the following information. He will be gone June 21, and the Rev Penny Warren will be here that day. The summer liturgy will commence Sunday June 14. Rev Tom has been asked to consider being the Chaplain to the Bishops (Diocesan) office staff. He has not yet decided if he will accept this call, which does not affect his time at St Nicholas in any appreciable way.

All business being completed, Dick moved that this Vestry meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and was approved.

The next Vestry meeting will be held June 16, 2009, at 7:00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Mills
Clerk of Vestry



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Basic double crochet square

Yarn: Worsted weight #4

Hook Size: J/10 6.00mm

Gauge: 11.5 sts x 5.5 rows = 4"

Abbreviations: Ch(s)-chain(s), dc-double crochet, rep-repeat

Crochet instructions

Row 1. Ch 24, dc in 3rd ch from hook & each ch to end (23 sts including chs), turn.

Row 2. Ch 2 (counts as 1 dc here and throughout), dc in each dc across, turn.

Rep last row 11 times. Finish off, leave 2 yard (2 metre) tail for sewing up.

Crochet in whatever spare yarn you have

Wool or high wool blends are good for those children who will own a crochet blanket and live in shacks with high exposure to naked flames (candles, camp fires and paraffin stoves. Wool has a fire retardant quality, while acrylic can melt.

We welcome squares out of any yarn you have, as we will use them for the children who live in care, orphanages or for children who head up families in small houses, and who live in great poverty.

The need is so great, we will use every single square that is sent to help keep a cold child warm.

VERY IMPORTANT

Leave a two metre (2 and a bit yards) length of your yarn attached to your work after you have cast off. This will be used to join the squares together.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Jun 28 9:00 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Jun 29</p>	<p>Jun 30</p>	<p>Jul 1</p>	<p>Jul 2 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</p>	<p>Jul 3</p>	<p>Jul 4 11:00 AM Come join us in the Richfield 4th of July Parade (see page 3) Independence Day</p>
<p>Jul 5 9:00 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Jul 6</p>	<p>Jul 7</p>	<p>Jul 8</p>	<p>Jul 9</p>	<p>Jul 10 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Jul 11</p>
<p>Jul 12 9:00 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Jul 13</p>	<p>Jul 14 7:00 PM Finance Committee</p>	<p>Jul 15 Crier deadline</p>	<p>Jul 16 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom 7:00 PM Vestry</p>	<p>Jul 17 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Jul 18 10:00 AM Christian Dream Work</p>
<p>Jul 19 9:00 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Jul 20</p>	<p>Jul 21</p>	<p>Jul 22</p>	<p>Jul 23</p>	<p>Jul 24 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Jul 25 12:00 PM Free Lunch</p>
<p>Jul 26 9:00 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Jul 27</p>	<p>Jul 28</p>	<p>Jul 29</p>	<p>Jul 30</p>	<p>Jul 31 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Aug 1</p>
<p>Aug 2 9:00 AM Eucharist</p>	<p>Aug 3</p>	<p>Aug 4</p>	<p>Aug 5</p>	<p>Aug 6 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</p>	<p>Aug 7 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p>Aug 8</p>



2 Yvonne Lokken	14 Miriam Harries
3 Janice Fraser	15 Enid Kivuti Kariuki
4 Sarah Fraser	18 Sue Newman
8 Martha Chambers	31 Jacob Fraser
14 Bette Braasch	



9 Sachiko & Tom Slough