



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

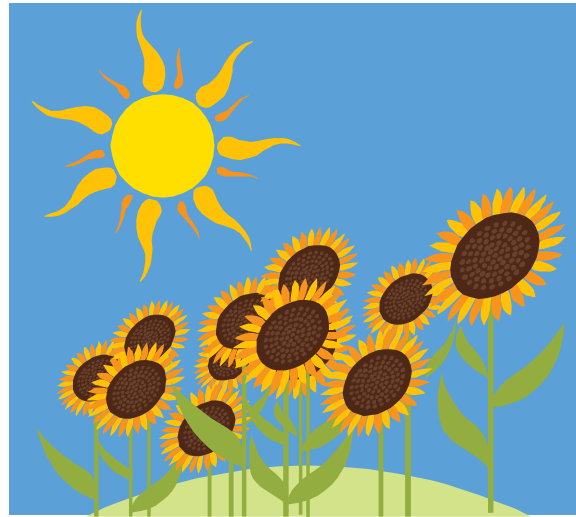


The Crier

August 2009

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

**September issue
 deadline
 Saturday, August 15th
 Put in Crier box in office or
 email to 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 **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 recently read a wonderful short article by the Rev. Mark Sargent, pastor of Embury Hills United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The title of the article might surprise you – “Tomato Time.” Yes, tomato, as in the little red fruit we all tend to crave this time of year. He speaks in great detail about the first time he encountered a home-grown tomato. It was at his Tennessee grandmother’s house as a young boy. One bite into that vine ripened wonder, and it was, as he describes it, the beginning of a love affair between him and the juicy red fruit (it actually is a fruit, even though the rather opinionated Andy Rooney of Sixty Minutes adamantly refuses to call it anything other than a vegetable).

Living in a townhome, I have been trying to grow tomatoes in a patio container, and the results are less than ideal. The limited soil tends to get leached from watering, and there is little you can do to counter the eventual calcium deficiency in the soil which is essential for the development of a healthy tomato. But I try, and I will keep trying, because I tend to agree with Mark that there is little else (except perhaps Minnesota sweet corn) this time of year that brings as much enjoyment as a wonderful home-grown tomato. It’s tomato time. For those of you who have no desire to acknowledge tomato time or cannot, for that matter, fathom the idea of ever placing a tomato on your tongue, I encourage you to read on, nonetheless. There is a moral to the story.

Mark goes on to compare the delight of this amazing late summer home-grown beauty with the tomatoes that are available to us for most of the year. Picked while they are “mature green”, these winter tomatoes are laid out on pallets for three days and sprayed with a harmless ethylene gas that tricks the tomato (and us) into thinking that it is ripe. It turns red and softens somewhat, but the inside of the tomato never gets beyond that “mature green” stage. For all intents and purposes, they look like a tomato, but they assuredly do not taste like one.

Mark continues – “Think of all that makes that home-grown tomato such a delight. Think of all of that as the love of Jesus. For us Christians, it is

the love of Jesus that ripens us and flavors us and infuses us with the kind of enlivening spiritual explosiveness that makes a difference in the world.”

“Tomato season affords an opportunity for each of us to ponder our Christian fruitfulness. It’s one thing to look like a Christian – attending church, tending to this or that religious ritual or tradition. It’s quite another to have been so touched by the love of Jesus that others can taste and see and touch and experience the brightness of his love in us.”

I tend to love the sensory imagery in his analogy, and it begs the question – What kind of Christians are we? Sprayed or ripe?

Blessings,
Tom



Mark Your Calendars 2009 Recycle & Bake Sale

Time flies! It's August, and time for back to school sales and the State Fair. Soon it will be September, and the children will be back in school and fall activities will begin in earnest. Before you know it, it will be time for the Fall Recycle Sale and the 5th annual Blue Moon Tea (October 18). You won't want to miss that! This year we will "Celebrate the Seasons." By this time, Thanksgiving will be just around the corner, and then you know what comes next: the Extravaganza! Some people are already working on their three-minute act. Is yours ready? This year the Extravaganza is ON St. Nicholas Day. Don't ya just love it!



We hope you will all be pleased to know the fall sale is in the works. The success of the spring sale was mainly due to all of you who gave exceptional treasures. Just being able to add a dollar or so with each item makes a difference.

When this issue of the Crier is published, you will have about two months to get your donations collected and priced (with masking tape).

The bake sale will again be in business, so you have a variety of ways to help make \$ for St. Nicholas.

Drop off days are Friday-Monday, September 25-28 from 9:00-3:00.

Sale days are Thursday-Saturday, October 1-3, 2009.

A sign up sheet will be posted later.

Thanks for supporting St. Nicholas.



The VEAP Corner

Although the school year just ended, VEAP is preparing for the next school year. The Back-School Program this year will be slightly different than in the past. VEAP has asked that we focus our collection on only **5 specific** school items. All donations must be new and in original packing. We will begin our collection July 5th and continue until August 16. Items need to be at VEAP before August 17 to be sorted and distributed.



School items requested:

- Folders (500)
- Loose Leaf Paper (not spiral bound) (350 pkgs.)
- Glue bottles (100)
- Backpacks (30)
- Erasers (100)

The numbers in parenthesis are sent by VEAP as our challenge amount. I will count items and give you a report at the end of the drive.

With only 5 items on the list your shopping should go quickly! Thanks for your help in educating our young people.

COMING SOON!!!



**MORE DETAILED
INFORMATION
IN FUTURE CRIERS**

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

Kristin Cummings
Jill Aicher

George Wilner
George Olsen

Laurice Anderson
Betty Cope

Marge Stwora
Dorothy Reese

Daisy Druhl

Dee Hughes

Tom Frick

Gertrude Gajeski

John Nelson's mother June Kestner

Kerry Banks mother Mary Helms

Charlotte Grantier's parents Opal and Bill Howard

Gayle Ticen's sister Shirley Hagenbuch

And the men and women of our armed forces.



Sustainability Notes

Tired of Junk Mail and want to free your mailbox and help the planet. On the web go to: https://www.directmail.com/directory/mail_preference. This is the Direct Mail Marketing Associate website and if you have an email address you can unsubscribe from their web site. Or if you do not have email you can also write to

National Do Not Mail List
201 Skip Jack Rd.
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

and asked to be removed. It may take some time and you will not get 100% but it should help.

Also remember to bring a reusable bag whenever you go shopping and keep one in your car.

Switch off a light that is not needed whether at home, work, school or church. You have the power. Remember you can just choose to switch off pollution.

Learn more about the Earth Charter (C064) being discussed the 76th General Convention. It is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century An excerpt from the Preamble regarding The Global Situation goes on to say:

The dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental devastation, the depletion of resources, and a massive extinction of species. Communities are being undermined. The benefits of development are not shared equitably and the gap between rich and poor is widening. Injustice, poverty, ignorance, and violent conflict are widespread and the cause of great suffering. An unprecedented rise in human population has overburdened ecological and social systems. These trends are perilous—but not inevitable.

Also visit its web site <http://www.earthcharter.org> to get many more ideas, downloads, etc.

contributed by Terry Houle

General Convention of The Episcopal Church Passes Landmark Resolutions

General Convention is the triennial meeting of The Episcopal Church. Held in Anaheim, California July 7-17, this most recent meeting of the General Convention considered important issues ranging from the inclusion of LGBT individuals in all levels of Ordination to a proactive stance on protecting the environment.

The following is a brief summary of some of the resolutions passed during General Convention. A complete summary of all resolutions passed at GC09 is available at <http://gc2009.org/ViewLegislation/>. You can also read our deputies reflections on General Convention on their blog, www.mngc09.wordpress.com.

- Added a new role, lay evangelist, to the list of possible licensed ministries in the canons. (Resolution A065)
- Approved full communion with the Moravian Church and an agreement for continued dialogue with the Presbyterian Church. Also approved an interim Eucharistic sharing with the United Methodist Church and starting a dialogue with the historic African American Methodist Churches. (Resolutions A073, A075, D054)
- Adopted a new liturgical resource to assist individuals and families dealing with childbirth and the loss of children. (Resolution A088, Rachel's Tears, Hannah's Hopes)
- Established a mandatory pension plan for lay church employees working at least 1,000 hours/year. (Resolution A138)
- Approved a health insurance plan for all dioceses, congregations and affiliated organizations. (Resolution A177)
- Called for the creation of "theological and liturgical resources for the blessing of same gender relationships" by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to be presented for consideration at the 2012 General Convention. (Resolution C056)
- Committed The Episcopal Church to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from every facility it maintains by a minimum of 50% within ten years. Agreed to restrict use of water bottles at General Convention and to encourage members to practice water conservation. (Resolution C170, A045)
- Invited The Episcopal Church to reflect on and repent of our complicity in the causes of the economic crisis, inviting dioceses and parishes in The Episcopal Church to focus the season of Lent 2010 as a time of reflection on the brokenness of the global economic order and its reformation in light of the Gospel using resources from the Public Narrative Project, and the MDG pilot projects, among others. (Resolution D018)
- Affirmed the openness of the Ordination process for all baptized and affirmed our commitment and support of the Anglican Communion. (Resolution D025)

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It was a very Happy 4th of July

Thanks abound to Todd, Andrea & Jamie Oliverius for lunch and their generous hospitality!
The parade weather was fabulous and the company of our St. Nick's family, even better.



Behind the cameras and not pictured, Tom Eklo & Christopher Haack





Vestry Minutes

June 16, 2009

Members present: Tom McConnell, Bill Mills, Andrea Oliverous, Rev Tom Eklo, Gretchen Eichorn, Dick Kohout and Carol Barthelemy.

Members absent: Karen Bessler, Ed Kariuki, Alfred Jaryan and Pam Banks.

Rev Tom opened the meeting with prayer, and Tom McConnell led the meditation with a reading from Day By Day.

Secretaries Report: The minutes of the May 19, 2009 Vestry meeting were presented. Tom M moved that these minutes be accepted with no change. This motion was seconded and was approved.

Finance Report: Dick presented the Finance report as of the end of May, 2009. It showed that we still are slightly ahead of budget on income and that expenses are about on target. Gretchen moved that the Finance report be accepted as presented and Carol seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

Old Business: Tom M gave an update on the electronic sign, and indicated that it might be installed about June 17, weather permitting. Software training for the sign usage will follow perhaps the week after installation.

Tom M talked about the shortening of the pew to provide for an additional handicap seating space. He has talked to his son, Bob, about completing this project, which can be done as soon as we decide which pew will be selected for shortening. There was further discussion about sanctuary seating, and that perhaps all of the pews could be removed, being replaced with movable chairs. Carol then voiced the opinion that she would rather see the kitchen updated before we get into an expensive pew replacement. As a result of this discussion, Tom M will look into the costs of replacing the pews, and Dick will look into the costs associated with a kitchen upgrade. They will report on their findings at a later meeting.

Rev Tom reported on the results of the first meeting of the Music Study committee, which held their first meeting on June 10. This committee recommended that the first step to take might be to reduce the volume, as our organ can overcome the singing voices at times. Mary Gleason, as a committee member, suggested that we sing some easy, perhaps young peoples music during the summer. There were other topics discussed, but no decisions were made and the topics will be carried over till the next meeting.

Rev Tom said that he had met with Rev Delamater from St Johns, White Bear Lake, regarding how their Wellness Center operates. Their program operates on a quarterly basis. Rev Tom has checked with our church insurance staff, and they indicated that each practitioner in this program might have to obtain their own professional liability insurance contract. This is still an open project at this point.

Andrea said that St Nicholas is all signed up for our part in the Richfield July fourth parade. All who want to participate should be at the Oliverous homestead about 11:00 on the fourth for lunch, and then again after the parade for winding down.

New Business: Gretchen wanted to know if we need a new church directory, or if there is a way to provide updates for the current edition. We have had many changes which should be included at this time. Carol will contact Dan Greimel and Jill Aicher for ideas on how to accomplish this upgrade.

Dick would like St Nicholas to change the Account Administrator for our Brokerage Account. This will make it easier for our finance committee to handle stocks which might have been or are left to us via memorials or other donations. Dick moved that we change our administrator from UBS to Morgan Stanley. Tom M seconded and the motion was approved.

Janice Fraser was contacted by the Epilepsy Foundation because they would like to place a collection receptacle on our property. The Vestry felt that this could be agreed to as long as it could be placed where it would not affect our parking or winter snow removal. After discussion, Gretchen moved that St Nicholas accept the placement of a collection bin on our property, and that it should be placed on the Northeast corner of the North parking lot. Tom M seconded this motion, and it was approved with five aye votes, one nay vote and one abstention.

As a final item, Rev Tom said that he has accepted the position of Chaplain to the Diocesan staff. This might require a couple of hours per week of his time.

All business being completed, it was moved that the Vestry meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved.

The next Vestry meeting will be held July 21, 2009. All parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Mills
Clerk of Vestry

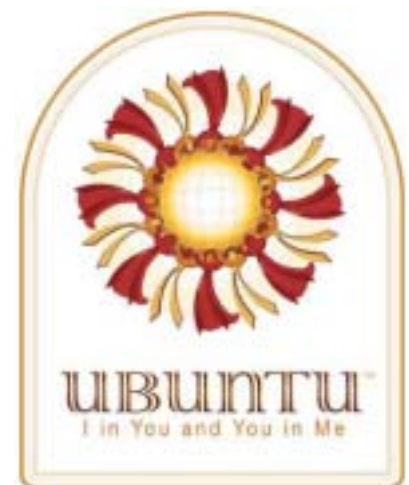
St. Nicholas Financials				
	June		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$5,850	\$9,793	\$69,478	\$67,676
Expense	\$12,869	\$10,276	\$73,255	\$74,671
Net	\$7,019	\$483	\$3,777	\$6,995

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- Called for a major strategic vision for outreach to Latino/Hispanic people. (Resolution D038)
- Challenged dioceses and congregations to participate in a new or ongoing project “that engages in a relationship with another part of the body of Christ in the world.” It also directs the Standing Commission on World Mission to develop strategies to help individuals, congregations and dioceses engage in mission activities. (Resolution D075)
- Called the church to speak out against domestic violence and for clergy and lay leaders to be trained in responding appropriately to victims. (Resolution D096)
- Approved a \$141 million budget for 2010-2012. Compared to the current 2007-2009 budget of \$164 million, this plan reduces church-wide spending by \$23 million. Some changes:
 - o The next General Convention may be shortened by two days
 - o Dedication of 0.7 percent of income to U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) work and commitment of a corresponding percentage for domestic-poverty initiatives
 - o Significant staff reductions were made at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City
 - o Interim church bodies will meet electronically more often, rather than face-to-face

Minnesota was at the forefront of many of the most important conversations at General Convention. Thank you to all of our faithful and hard-working General Convention deputies:

Rev. LeeAnne Watkins, Rev. Neysa Ellgren, Bishop Jelinek, Mr. James Huber, Mr. Bob Carmack , Rev. Dr. Doug Sparks, Ms. Sally Johnson (co-chair), Rev. Devon Anderson (co-chair), Ms. Gail Shedly



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 26 9:00 AM Eucharist	Jul 27	Jul 28	Jul 29	Jul 30	Jul 31 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Aug 1
Aug 2 9:00 AM Eucharist	Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Aug 7 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Aug 8
Aug 9 9:00 AM Eucharist	Aug 10	Aug 11 7:00 PM Finance Committee	Aug 12	Aug 13	Aug 14 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Aug 15 10:00 AM Christian Dream Work Crier deadline
Aug 16 9:00 AM Eucharist Deadline for VEAP School Supply drop-off	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom 7:00 PM Vestry	Aug 21 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Aug 22
Aug 23 9:00 AM Eucharist	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Aug 29 12:00 PM Free Lunch
Aug 30 9:00 AM Eucharist	Aug 31	Sep 1	Sep 2 7:30 PM Choir	Sep 3 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	Sep 4 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	Sep 5



birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Patti Cline | 25 Frank Adamek |
| 3 Julie Hayek | John Bartee |
| 12 Seth Hoyle | 26 Paul Tsuchiya |
| 14 Ted Sperrick | Diannah Robertson |
| 17 Brian Anderson | 31 Katy Holten |
| 20 Mary Jackson | Mary Jaryan |
| George Wilner | John Johnson |
| 21 Don Rowley | |



anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 Nadine & Clint Bristol | 21 Irene & Frank Erickson |
| 11 Sheryl & Darrell Doss | 22 Jan & Dick Kohout |
| Mercilyn & Richard Hoyle | 24 Mary & Alfred Jaryan |