



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



# The Crier

## November 2009

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

**December issue deadline**  
**Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 Put in Crier box in office or  
 email to [kathy@isd.net](mailto: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 Eichhorn**      **Ed Kariuki**  
**Dick Kohout**      **Tom McConnell**  
**Bill Mills**      **Andrea Oliverius**

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

# Reflections from Tom

The association we draw most strongly with the month of November is the feast day known as Thanksgiving. It is not a religious or liturgical observance per se like Christmas or Easter. It is a national holiday, decreed each year by the President of the United States. It tends to draw its roots of origin from what is certainly in part lore about the pilgrims and the native peoples of Massachusetts sitting down together to a feast following a successful harvest that probably ensured they would not starve to death in the harsh months of a long New England winter.

It does seem appropriate to stop the rush of life for a day and be mindful of the gift of family and friends and give thanks for the bounty that is enjoyed by many in this country. But we also know that a day of thanksgiving gives way quickly to the business of life come Friday, some setting their alarms as early as 4:00AM to get in on the early bird bonus buys offered by retailers to initiate the Christmas shopping season.

We are constantly reminded as Christians that we are always to be a people giving thanks. In fact, the focus of our Sunday worship, the "Eucharist", comes from the Greek word meaning "to give thanks." The foundation of our thanksgiving as Christian people is the simple, yet complex understanding that wholeness and life in all of its manifestations are gifts from God.

There are two other occasions on our church calendar in November for us to express our thanksgiving. The first of these is the occasion upon which we come to you and ask you to prayerfully consider your financial contribution to St. Nicholas for 2010. The ministry and mission of this congregation exist by the grace of God and the generous gifts of those who find this community to be a vital part of their lives. The underlying motivation of biblical stewardship in all of its forms is not about paying for electricity, new furnishings and Rector's salaries. It is about returning to God a portion of what God has given us, and that is the thanksgiving part. What part does thanksgiving play in your decisions about giving?

The second occasion is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening, November 10, 6PM, at the church. It is a critical meeting of the congregation to discuss how we grow the church, and why we want to grow the church. Time and time again I hear how thankful people are for this community and the importance of this community in their lives. How do we take what we know to be true of our experience in this place and share it with the communities in which we live and work? How do we become an invitation to others to come and be a part of what we have to offer? The importance of this meeting is critical for the congregation because the decisions and efforts made in the months to come must be focused and any such focus needs the passionate support and participation of the congregation if it is to succeed. We begin with prayer filled and thankful hearts and open ourselves to the possibilities of where the Spirit of God may be leading us, and that may surprise us.

November, a month filled with the thoughts and the tangible realities of giving thanks.

Blessings,  
Tom





## Women's Tent

Save Saturday morning, November 28th for the Women's Tent, a half day retreat for women, beginning at 9 AM. The theme of this tent will focus on the knitting project. There are many references to knitting in scripture and the rich symbolism between scripture and the knitting project for African children orphaned by AIDS is worth the time to contemplate as we begin the Advent season.



## Stewardship Sunday

Our Stewardship Ingathering this year will be Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. All of you will have received your financial stewardship materials before that Sunday. The Ingathering is a chance to bring your pledge card for 2010 to church and place it in the offering plate during the offering. But it is also a day to celebrate and give thanks to God for our life together. There will be a single worship service on that day at 9:00AM, followed by a "Potluck Brunch" in the fireplace room. Mark your calendars! Mark the worship time difference! Plan to be here!

## Annual Poinsettia Mission Fundraiser

Snow has already covered the gardens and pumpkins so it must be time to think about holiday poinsettias and our mission fundraiser.

Sign up now through November 22 for a variety of colors and sizes.

Pick up will be the weekend of December 5, just in time to perk up your holiday décor.

Your check, payable to St. Nicholas, is due at order time. All information regarding the sale is posted on the bulletin board near the office.



## Church Growth Seminar

On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM, we will gather as a congregation to have a dialogue about Church Growth and what that means for St. Nicholas in the months and years ahead. Part of the discussion will center on questions such as "Do we want to grow?" "Why do we want to grow?" "What are the things we do very well?" "What are the things we need to change or give up?" The congregation is at a significant turning point, and it is important for as many to attend as possible, for if growth is going to occur, it must be the passion/work of the entire congregation. Bring a "Brown Bag" lunch/dinner. The Rector has chips, and the Vestry will provide beverages and dessert.

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



Kristin Cummings  
Jill Aicher

George Wilner  
Mary Phyllis Meyer

Laurice Anderson  
Betty Cope

Marge Stwora  
Dorothy Reese

Daisy Druhl

Dee Hughes

Tom Frick

Gayle Ticen's sister Shirley Hagenbuch

Mary Phyllis Meyer's sister Virginia Gaebe

Ann Wilner's sister Deb Exted

Ann Wilner's father's friend Sharron Miller

Mary Phyllis Meyer's daughter Mary Kay

Karen Bessler's son-in-law Lisa Peterson

George Wilner's mother The Rev. Jan Wilner

Betty Miller's nephew Tony, sister Mary & brother Ray

And the men and women of our armed forces.

## Sharing Magazines for the Environment



Want to save some money and help the environment at the same time? A magazine Reuse rack has been set up for people to bring in magazines they have read. Pick up a new one. You don't have to bring one in to pick one up but certainly would be nice to get a cycle going. If you do pick one up for use please make sure it is passed on again or recycled at the minimum.

It is Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in that order. Help yourself and help the planet for future generations. The bookcase and reuse rack are located just down the hallway from the Youth Room on the first floor.



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## Special November Services

**Contemplative Worship Service**  
**Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 7PM**  
**Fellowship and Refreshments**  
**follow the Service**



**Thanksgiving Eve Service**  
**Emerson Congregational Church**  
**7601 Girard Ave So.**  
**(Corner of 76<sup>th</sup> St. & 35W)**  
**Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 7PM**  
**Tom Eklo, Preaching**



# Vestry Minutes

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September 15, 2009

Members Present: Gretchen Eichhorn, Pam Banks, Karen Bessler, Carol Barthelemy, Dick Kohout, Rev Tom Eklo, Tom McConnell, Ed Kariuki, Bill Mills

Members Absent: Andrea Oliverious, Alfred Jaryan

Rev Tom Eklo opened the meeting with an evening prayer reading from the New Zealand Prayer Book. This was followed with the meditation reading of the 23rd Psalm by Pam Banks.

**Secretaries Report:** The minutes of the August 25, 2009, Vestry Meeting was presented. Dick Kohout moved the acceptance of these minutes, Pam Banks seconded and the motion passed.

**Finance Report:** Dick Kohout presented the Finance Report as of the end of August. Our income is slightly behind for the year. Ed Kariuki moved that the Finance report be accepted, and Carol Barthelemy seconded the motion, which was approved.

**Old Business:** Dick Kohout has met with a designer of kitchen areas, and that person has recommended certain new appliances. Needing replacement are the refrigerator, the microwave and the dishwasher. The designer is also looking at other possibilities for the kitchen, and no formal costs have been developed.

Karen Bessler spoke about the building key situation, and said that it has been impossible to track all of the 45 keys that were assigned to people. However, most of them have been located.

Rev Tom Eklo reported on the Wellness Center. He said that the committee is being determined and that further reports will be made later on.

Information on a new Church Directory has been slow because Carol Barthelemy has been unable to get the existing directory records. She feels that we need to have a printout of the current directory so that people can verify address information.

**New Business:** Tom McConnell talked about the kitchen microwave. No action was taken at this time because this item is included in the kitchen study.

It was noted that there will be no Holiday Boutique this year.

**Notes from the Rev:** Tom E read a note from Martha Chambers which was received after her move to Vermont. She was expressing her feelings about her time with the St Nicholas family, and how much it meant to her.

Tom then talked about the Walkabout being done with all of the Bishop candidates. The local meetings will be at St Christopher's and Breck School on October 19.

H1N1 has made its mark in the Episcopal Church. This is because of the use of a common chalice and the personal space issues of the passing of the peace. Tom is taking no stance on this issue at the present time.

Tom will be holding his Tai Chi classes on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. There will be eight sessions.

Tom also talked about a church growth seminar. He may set up an evening meeting for this in order to develop ideas about this subject.

All business being concluded, Carol Barthelemy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Pam Banks seconded and the motion passed.

The next Vestry Meeting will be October 20, 2009. All parishioners are invited to attend these meetings.

Respectfully submitted.  
Bill Mills, Clerk of Vestry

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Nov 1</b> 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time Ends <b>8:00 AM Eucharist</b> 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b>	<b>Nov 2</b>	<b>Nov 3</b> ElectionDay	<b>Nov 4</b> 7:30 PM Choir	<b>Nov 5</b> 7:00 PM Tai Chi for Health	<b>Nov 6</b> 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	<b>Nov 7</b>
<b>Nov 8</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>Nov 9</b> 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	<b>Nov 10</b> 6:00 PM Church Growth Seminar	<b>Nov 11</b> 7:30 PM Choir VeteransDay	<b>Nov 12</b> 7:00 PM Tai Chi for Health	<b>Nov 13</b> 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	<b>Nov 14</b>
<b>Nov 15</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> Crier deadline	<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Nov 17</b>	<b>Nov 18</b> 7:30 PM Choir	<b>Nov 19</b> 7:00 PM Tai Chi for Health	<b>Nov 20</b> 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality 7:00 PM Contemplative Service	<b>Nov 21</b>
<b>Nov 22</b> 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b> Poinsettia Orders due	<b>Nov 23</b> 7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom	<b>Nov 24</b> 7:00 PM Vestry	<b>Nov 25</b> 7:00 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Emerson Ave Congregational (details, page 4)	<b>Nov 26</b> Thanksgiving	<b>Nov 27</b>	<b>Nov 28</b> 9:00 AM Women's Tent 12:00 PM Free Lunch
<b>Nov 29</b> <b>8:00 AM Eucharist</b> 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b>	<b>Nov 30</b>	<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Dec 2</b> 7:30 PM Choir	<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>Dec 4</b> 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	<b>Dec 5</b>
<b>Dec 6</b> 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children & Youth <b>10:30 AM Eucharist</b> <b>4:00 PM St. Nicholas Day Extravaganza</b>	<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Dec 8</b> 7:00 PM Finance Committee	<b>Dec 9</b> 7:30 PM Choir	<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>Dec 11</b> 10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality	<b>Dec 12</b>

## birthdays

- |                     |                    |                  |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Lucretia Dennis   | 6 Justice Finnell  | 19 Doris Barnard |
| 2 Al Cecil          | 9 Kristin Cummings | 21 Nyaga Kariuki |
| Tunde Famodu        | 11 Taylor Hoyle    | 26 Dolores Deger |
| 4 M. Garmais Oulahi | 12 Keagan Cummings | 30 Rose Ekegren  |
|                     | 18 Jan Kohout      |                  |



12 Dorothy & Al Koch

## anniversaries