



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



# The Crier

# December 2009

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## Christmas Eve Services

**4:00 pm**  
**F amily**  
**Eucahrist**

**10:30 pm**  
**Candlelight**  
**Eucharist**



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

**January issue deadline**  
**Tuesday, December 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



Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the Christian year. But I will also tell you that an appreciation of the beauty and simplicity of Advent was not something that came easily for me. It was much easier to throw myself enthusiastically into the spirit of Christmas as soon as I had pushed myself away from the Thanksgiving table. I seemed to relish being surrounded and bombarded by the various subliminal messages that enticed me to come and experience the promise and joy of Christmas in ways that I could never have imagined. The problem was that by the time I got to Christmas, I was exhausted from the wild chase.

Advent is very different. Advent begins from our experience as the days become shorter and our lives encounter the darkness that surrounds us. Advent begins very darkly and very quietly and moves toward that grand crescendo of expectation and hope in an incarnation of God's presence so monumental that neither heaven nor earth could contain the joy and light of his coming. Like each of the seasons of the Christian year, Advent uses the rich resources of Scripture – the Testaments, the Psalms, and sometimes the Apocrypha to weave a story that is similar in nature to an orchestra that pulls together the various elements and cadences of music to create a vast and complex symphony – simple enough for the hearing of a child, while at the same time amazingly profound and majestic in its meaning.

Advent is a season of expectation. That is what the word "advent" means. We expect something to come, and that expectation is the coming of Jesus, the birth of the Christ child. But why do we do that? What is there about our nature that causes us to return to the birth of this child year after year? I think it has to do once again with our experience of darkness. It is, on the one hand, the visceral reality of darkness. But I think it also has to do with the images of darkness that are a very real part of our lives and of the human condition. Jesus is the light that breaks through the darkness that surrounds our lives. Jesus is the fulfillment of the longing that somehow our lives and the lives of others in the world might find meaning in the light of him who comes to dispel the darkness. But we need to acknowledge that darkness before the light really begins to make sense, and that is what advent is all about.

Advent begins with a solitary light. By the time Christmas Eve arrives, all four of the Advent candles and the Christ candle in its center are lit, a symbolic reminder that Christ comes once again into our lives and into the world – a light in the midst of darkness. On that Christmas night, the heavens were ablaze with light, and the world of heavenly hosts and humble shepherds together rejoiced in its brilliance, and so do we!

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to all!

Blessings,  
Tom



## Extravaganza

Come and join us on **December 6** as we celebrate St. Nicholas Day. The festivities begin a few minutes before 4:00 with a slide show of events of the past year, then a full program of music and skits, followed immediately by our famous potluck. Performers are practicing and potluckers are preparing. Don't miss this fun-filled annual parish event!



## A New St. Nicholas Cookbook



The Mission Committee has decided to produce an update St. Nicholas Cookbook, hopefully by the spring recycle sale. We are having a company print them for us so the recipes need to be in a special format. Those format copies will be available for you to pick up on St. Nicholas Day. Please complete them and get them back to the church office by February 15.



## Wellness Fair at Saint Nicholas

**Sunday January 17, 2010**

What is Wellness?

The World Health Organization says it's "...a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

The buzzword today is "Wellness" as opposed a more narrow approach to health care as has traditionally been practiced. Wellness is more than being free from illness. Wellness is a dynamic process of change and growth. There are many interrelated dimensions of wellness: physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, social, environmental, and occupational. Each dimension is equally vital in the pursuit of optimum health. It is for heart, mind, body and soul.

St Nicholas will be sponsoring a Wellness Fair at the church on Sunday January 17, 2010. So please mark your calendar for this important event to learn more from your fellow parishioners. Join in the journey as we all learn more about an all encompassing lifestyle for our body, mind and spirit to heal and bring things to wholeness not only in person but God's whole created order.

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information.



### VEAP Corner

#### Holiday Toy Drive:

It's time to donate **new unwrapped gifts** for ages birth to 18. Low-income parents, from Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and South Minneapolis, are able to select gifts for their children at VEAP's free Holiday store. **Gifts need to be to VEAP, 9731 James Ave S, Bloomington, (M,T, W, F, 9am-4pm; Th 9am-8pm), by December 15, 2005. VEAP most needs gifts for 0-3 and 8-18 year olds.**

#### Build a Bag for VEAP report

41 boxes of all purpose baking mix were taken to VEAP last Monday. Also 130 pounds of other food items. Thank you for your support.

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



Arthur Finnell

George Wilner

Laurice Anderson

Jill Aicher

Mary Phyllis Meyer

Betty Cope

Marge Stwora

Daisy Druhl

Dee Hughes

Betty Miller

Dorothy Reese

Tom Frick

Kerry Banks

George Wilner's mother The Rev. Jan Wilner

Mary Phyllis Meyer's sister Virginia

Mary Phyllis Meyer's niece, Luisa

Karen Bessler's niece, Lisa

Karen Bessler's brother-in-law, Warren

John Nelson's daughter, Sonja

And the men and women of our armed forces.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Nov 29</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p><b>Nov 30</b></p>	<p><b>Dec 1</b></p>	<p><b>Dec 2</b></p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><b>Dec 3</b></p>	<p><b>Dec 4</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p><b>Dec 5</b></p>
<p><b>Dec 6</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children &amp; Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist 4:00 PM St. Nicholas Day Extravaganza</p>	<p><b>Dec 7</b></p>	<p><b>Dec 8</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Finance Committee</p>	<p><b>Dec 9</b></p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><b>Dec 10</b></p>	<p><b>Dec 11</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p><b>Dec 12</b></p>
<p><b>Dec 13</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children &amp; Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p><b>Dec 14</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</p>	<p><b>Dec 15</b></p> <p>Crier Deadline VEAP Toy Drive Deadline</p>	<p><b>Dec 16</b></p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><b>Dec 17</b></p>	<p><b>Dec 18</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p><b>Dec 19</b></p>
<p><b>Dec 20</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children &amp; Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p><b>Dec 21</b></p> <p>Winter begins</p>	<p><b>Dec 22</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Vestry</p>	<p><b>Dec 23</b></p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><b>Dec 24</b></p> <p>4:00 PM Family Eucharist 10:30 PM Candlelight Eucharist</p>	<p><b>Dec 25</b></p> <p>Christmas</p>	<p><b>Dec 26</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Free Lunch</p>
<p><b>Dec 27</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist 10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p><b>Dec 28</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Daughters of the King - Springs of Shalom</p>	<p><b>Dec 29</b></p>	<p><b>Dec 30</b></p>	<p><b>Dec 31</b></p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p><b>Jan 1</b></p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p><b>Jan 2</b></p>
<p><b>Jan 3</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM Christian Ed - Adult 9:45 AM Christian Ed - Children &amp; Youth 10:30 AM Eucharist</p>	<p><b>Jan 4</b></p>	<p><b>Jan 5</b></p>	<p><b>Jan 6</b></p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><b>Jan 7</b></p>	<p><b>Jan 8</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Adventures in Spirituality</p>	<p><b>Jan 9</b></p>



## birthdays

1 Waweru Kariuki	10 Dawn Greimel	24 Alfred Jaryan
3 Jim Braasch	11 Dick Kohout	25 Jesus of Nazareth
Roseline Kamara	16 Joyce LaFrance	28 Matt Newman
6 Mary Jo Andrews	20 Mary Gleason	29 Tom Harries
8 Chibueze Abasiri	22 Evan Cummings	30 Barb Makela



## anniversaries

29 Helen & Mike Mudgett