



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

February 2012

Paul's Ponderings

This Month's Happenings

"I do believe that you accomplish that which you determine to do."

So wrote my friend Dawn when I shared with her my misgivings about tackling St. Cuthbert's Way during my sabbatical this summer. Stretching for 62 miles along the border of Scotland and England, Cuthbert's Way marks the route from Melrose Abbey in southeast Scotland to the Holy Island—and Abbey—of Lindisfarne off the coast in northern England. Thousands of pilgrims each year trace the steps of the holy monk in a quest for something beyond themselves, some intangible "otherness" that marks the sacred space between the now and the forever. My first day on the trail will be a 16 miler. I'm a bit anxious about it.

Anxiety is a part of this sabbatical process for all of us at St. John's. One can hardly be blamed for wondering what is going to happen in those four and half months. How will these plans pan out? What will happen if _____? Is there a backup? What if an emergency comes up? And these are just a few of my questions. I can only imagine what yours are!

There's a mantra I've been reciting [actually,

Jan 29	Annual Meeting & Potluck, Single Service at 1030 am
Feb 1	ECW Mtg., Wow Zone at noon
Feb 5	Acolyte Informational Meeting, following 1030 service
Feb 5	Outreach Mtg., noon
Feb 8	Nursing Home Worship-Hillcrest-330pm
Feb 11	Men's Group, 8 am
Feb 21	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5-7pm
Feb 21	St. Julian's Mtg., 6 pm
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday Worship, noon & 7pm
Feb 23	Altar Guild, 9 am
Feb 26	Vestry Meeting, noon
	<i>More Inside...</i>

I sing it, but don't ask me to demonstrate!] during my training hikes these past several months. It helps to keep my pace steady, and it serves to remind me what is really important. It is a variation of a couple of verses from the Psalms: *Set my heart this day, O Lord, that it may firmly be fixed on thee.* Yesterday, as I was slogging through snow and ice and wind chills in the single digits, the verse helped keep me steady, the triplet pattern of its rhythm providing the background *music* to my steps.

Perhaps this can be a mantra for our time in sabbath rest:

Set our hearts this day, O Lord, that they may firmly be fixed on thee.

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Set our hearts this day, O Lord, that they may firmly be fixed on thee.

It takes practice on our parts, too. In order for me to be up to the task that St. Cuthbert's Way presents, I have to keep on walking every day, gradually building up to the kinds of distances I'll have to tackle this summer. One foot in front of the other.

For us—as a congregation—we need to keep putting into practice the things we've been doing all along: volunteering our service, caring for one another, attending to our worship and praise of God on a regular basis, instructing our children [and being instructed ourselves], seeing to the needs of those on the margins, not succumbing to fear but living in hope with love and charity towards our neighbors.

If we all determine to do these things, there is nothing—with God—we cannot accomplish.

Thanks be to God!



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 - Carter May
- 03 - Vi Hudson
- 05 - Olivia Duncanson
- 18 - Mark Manderfeld
- 26 - Jim Pengra
- 28 - Paul Manderfeld

St. John's Men's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Bring your family and come join the men of St. John's Episcopal Church for a Fat Tuesday pancake feed to prepare for Lent.

What: Pancake supper

Where: St. John's Parish Hall

When: Tuesday, February 21, 5:00 to 7:00 PM

How Much: \$5 for adults, \$3.00 for children

Ash Wednesday is 22 February

22 February, Ash Wednesday worship will be at noon and 7pm.



St. John's Outreach Committee

Matthew 25:35 "...for I was hungry and you gave me food, was thirsty and you gave me

drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." 40 "...Truly I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me."

St. John's Outreach Committee met Sunday, January 8 and opened with prayer.

With our reduced budget for 2012, it was decided that we would no longer donate money on behalf of St. John's on a monthly basis. We will now be donating quarterly. Our first donation will take place in March.

At the Episcopal Church in Minnesota's Annual Convention this year, Mission Project 2012 was introduced. The goal is to eliminate poverty in Minnesota. How can Outreach fulfill this goal? We believe that this year we are to place an emphasis on helping our immediate community.

Kids Against Hunger. Our first project will take place during Lent. On the last Sunday of February, the 10:30 service's coffee hour will serve a taste of the rice-soy blend provided by Kids Against Hunger. This is a rich source of easily digestible protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins needed by a malnourished child's body and mind. It offers all nine of the essential amino acids required for complete nutrition, it accommodates the broad diversity of ethnic tastes and religious differences, and is

made from four readily available dry ingredients that are easy to package and keep for long periods. It requires only boiling with water to prepare. Despite the simplicity of the food's content, it is a nutritionally complex and well balanced meal.

Why support a non-profit organization that many of us think of as only serving the internal community? Because it also serves nationally and locally. For example, in December a bus load of food was sent to three Native American reservations in South Dakota. In our immediate community some of the Kids Against Hunger food is provided to the ECHO food shelf and the Salvation Army. If anyone in need goes to the door of Kids Against Hunger, they will receive packages of the food upon request. This is an often overlooked local resource that we will introduce to St. John's parishioners. Sometime in March, preferably early in March, St. John's children and adults will be invited to bag the rice-soy mix. More about this will be posted in the Weekly Evangelist as details become clarified.

Our first project will involve the participation of the whole church. This is not just a project done only by the members of the Outreach committee. This year, outreach expects to involve everyone. All of us will want to give to our community.

* * * * *

Missing something?

We have two spots you can look. For left-behind pans and food containers, look on the kitchen counter to the right of the refrigerator.

For other lost items check out the credenza in the narthex (also known as, the cabinet in the entry-way). Inside it's left-hand door there are all manner of lost items. Happy Hunting!



Notice of 2012 Annual Meeting

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The right and honorable 2012 Annual Meeting of the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist will be held on **SUNDAY, 29 JANUARY** during 10.30am worship. In order to come together as a full congregation, we will only have one service of worship on this day.

We have been holding our Annual Meetings the past several years during the Offertory because this is when we present to God those parts of our lives—treasure mainly, but also our time and talents—as a “reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice” [to quote the Eucharistic Prayer]. Isn’t that what we’re doing at our Annual Meetings: Presenting to God the work of our labors in the vineyard, planning for more harvest, giving thanks to God for all we are? Of course! Oh, and don’t forget the potluck to follow. Bring something to share!

NOTE: A Change in Time

St. Julian’s Guild will next meet on Tuesday, February 21st at **6:00 pm** in the Library at St. John’s. This will enable all of us to support the Pancake Feed and still complete our meeting business. Please Join Us!

Another Julie item—The Super Duper Green Cloth Bags are back in the Parish Hall. They are \$6 each or 2 for \$10.

Sabbatical Planning Group

The Sabbatical Committee continues with plans for our activities and for pastoral coverage while Fr Paul is away on Sabbatical. Some of the activities include book studies in neighborhoods around Mankato; a class on Labyrinths that will explore and use our labyrinth; a Retreat to the Episcopal House of Prayer on the first weekend in June; a special outing to Pipestone to explore the Native American sites and the natural beauty there on a Saturday in July; and local nature outings for families and individuals to Rasmussen Woods and the Kasota Prairie.

Watch for a Preview of Activities between worship on March 18th at 9:30 am.

Fr. Paul, Jaci, Candace, Margo, Jan, Jerry S., Nickie

Fair Trade Valentine Hearts

You have one more Sunday, January 29th, to order your Fair Trade Valentine Hearts. If you are not familiar with this product there are about 23

small foil-wrapped high quality Chocolate baglike remains, your expanded can order



high quality small foil-wrapped hearts made from ity Divine in each attractive box. The cost \$6 per box, but choices have ex- this year. You milk chocolate,

dark chocolate or dark chocolate filled with raspberry. You’ll find the display in the Parish Hall for you to fill out an order slip and attach your check.

Why not sweeten your life and support the self-sufficiency of the first farmer-owned chocolate company in the world?

Prayer Book Basics

The Adult Forum on Sundays at 930am continues with a primer on The Book of Common Prayer [I'd call it *The Prayer Book for Dummies*, but didn't want to offend anyone!]. This is a basic "What is the Prayer Book all about" sort of class. Among other things this class will help you will discover:

1. A short history of the BCP.
2. The exciting world of the *rubric*.
3. How to follow along without losing your mind.
4. How to use the BCP in your spiritual life.

Nursing Home Worship

From time to time St. John's is responsible for providing worship to the residents of our area nursing homes. Most of the time, our rector Paul has done these on his own but he'd like to share the joy. And it is such a wonderful joy to be able to share God's Word and to sing and pray with our elderly neighbors!

We are looking for volunteers to assist in this important ministry. No special talent is necessary, but if you play a musical instrument or like to tell stories or read, that'd be great. Volunteer duties may include, but are not limited to: assisting the residents with songbooks, showing hospitality, and encouraging participation among the worshippers.

This ministry involves one hour of your time on a Wednesday afternoon approximately four times per year. Please call the Church Office at 388.1969 or speak to Paul if you would like to be put on this volunteer list. Many elderly are unable to worship in their own church on Sunday. This ministry is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with them! Our next scheduled service is at Hillcrest Nursing Home on 8 February at 330pm.

And Now For Something Completely Different...

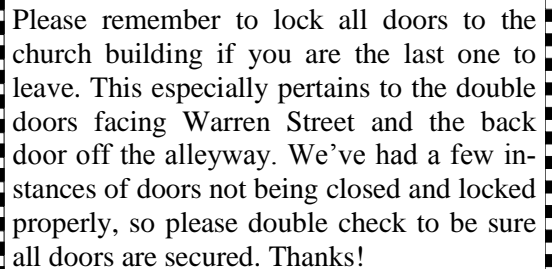
St. Julian's Guild has made a tradition of throwing a baby party each March celebrating our new babies in the congregation with our "presents" going to ECHO Food Shelf babies.

This year (with no new babies to celebrate) we will be celebrating each other and the great community we have. How?--with a chili supper and an intergenerational spelling bee!

We will start with an early supper, 5:30 pm, on Saturday, March 10, and follow with a fun evening of spelling as a team sport that includes young and old alike. So, set aside the date, **March 10**, and look for more details in February.

Shout Outs!

From Elsie Olson—Many thanks to Rochelle Wegman, Jan Mickelson and Betty Winkworth for taking turns washing the coffee cups and glasses that we use for our Coffee Fellowship after worship.



Please remember to lock all doors to the church building if you are the last one to leave. This especially pertains to the double doors facing Warren Street and the back door off the alleyway. We've had a few instances of doors not being closed and locked properly, so please double check to be sure all doors are secured. Thanks!



Sunday School

Nursery – BRANDI IS BACK!! Brandi was with us last year and has returned from a semester abroad. The nursery will be open during Sunday School and during the 10:30 worship service.

Sunday School – We will continue to have Sunday School from 9:30am – 10:25am weekly. Adults are then able to join in the adult education class while the children are being taken care of in the nursery or in Sunday School.

February teacher’s schedule:

Preschool – Lisa Westberg and Jackie Means (except Feb 26th – Meg Stump and Jackie Means)

K-2nd grade – Joan Hertel and Bobbie Seberson

3rd – 5th grade – Jill Fischer and Betty Winkworth

** Thank you Jerry Stump for putting up clocks in the Sunday School rooms. This helps immensely! **

*** *Acolyte informational meeting February 5th directly following the 10:30 service.* ***

This is for all children in 3rd grade or higher and adults interested in becoming part of our church service. It would be wonderful if we could have acolytes trained and have participated in an actual service prior to the bishop’s visit in April.

Why am I on the OUTREACH COMMITTEE?

First let me say that the Outreach Committee is important to me because I know I am helping people in need. It is my belief that this is part of growing as a Christian and honoring my Lord. I feel a sense of satisfaction when I learn how lives are touched through the aid of St. John's Episcopal Church. In 2011, St. John's had the "Undie Project." Seeing the items were received touched my heart. I wished I had more to give. I am seeing the positive consequences of St. John's generosity and it is a gift. How could I not want to be a part of this organization?



This past Saturday, the Outreach Committee came up with a "vision statement for 2012." It states: The outreach committee is making a difference by helping others and acknowledging that because there is strength in numbers the congregation can experience satisfaction, enthusiasm, and a closer feeling to God by seeing the positive consequences of their action with more hands-on activities.

Another aspect of this committee that I appreciate is the free discussions at each meeting. We are a consensual group and everything that we decide is fully discussed, researched, and voted on. *Joan Hertel*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

ECW will meet

February 1 at noon

WOW ZONE

luncheon - meeting

Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<u>February 5</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Steve Druschel, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren Duncanson	Mary Yurek, L Peterson, Peter Poulos Andrew Westberg, Candace Black Nickie VanStelten, Ann Clark Winkworth
<u>February 12</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Margo Druschel, Leslie Peterson Stephen Deeren Berners	Peter Poulos, Jan Mickelson, Joe Hogan Ray Splinter, Joan Hertel Karl Mundell, Gerry Schneck Zimmerman
<u>February 19</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren Oster	Peter Poulos, Pat Johnson, G McNear John Paul, Ginny McNear Nickie VanStelten, Pam Bartholomew Lybeck
<u>February 26</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Leslie Peterson, Steve Druschel Stephen Deeren Anderson	Peter Poulos, Mary Yurek, C Black Audrey Splinter, Meg Stump Joan Hertel, Gerry Schneck McNear/Hertel

Please do note that we are meeting in the Parish Library five minutes prior to each service of worship for a gathering prayer.

As always, if you are unavailable on your scheduled date, please make your own substitutions and inform the Church Office at stjohns@hickorytech.net no later than the Wednesday prior. That way we can be sure to include the right list of servers in our Weekly Evangelist. and we can send the service reminder to the right person! Thanks!



Altar Guild in February

8:00 a.m. Bobbi Hovren


10:30 a.m. Nickie VanStelten, Jordin Johnson

Monthly meeting Thursday, 2/23/12 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.



SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Praying, Working, Growing, Dancing in Christ
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