



THE CHRONICLE

Mankato, Minnesota

October 2011

Paul's Ponderings

Monthly Happenings

As I make my way through the dark streets this morning, my feet keep pace with this rhythmic paraphrase of Psalm 108:

*Set my heart this day, O Lord;
that it may ever be fixed on thee.*

I've taken to enjoy these pre-dawn jaunts through the streets of Mankato or on the river's edge near my home, the Psalm's ever-present mantra on my lips. For as long as I can remember, the daily rhythm of praying the Psalms has been a large part of my spiritual discipline. And though I may go for long stretches of time when prayer seems to escape me, certain lines from the psalter crop up to propel me forward:

*My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed;
I will sing and make melody.
Wake up, my spirit;
awake, lute and harp;
I myself will waken the dawn.*

Or this, from Psalm 69:

*Save me, O God,
for the waters have risen up to my neck.
I am sinking in deep mire,
and there is no firm ground for my feet.*

This passage was especially poignant that

Oct. 2	Outreach Mtg., noon
Oct. 5	ECW Luncheon, noon
Oct. 8	Men's Group, 8 am
Oct. 8	Region IV meeting, 1 pm Confirmation/Reception Service, 3 pm Local Harvest Potluck & Talent Show, 5
Oct. 18	St. Julian's Mtg. 7 pm
Oct. 23	Vestry, noon
Oct. 27	Altar Guild Mtg., 9 am
Oct. 28-29	Diocesan Convention
Oct. 29	Breakfast in a Bag, 9 am, Salvation
Oct. 29	Food for Friends
Nov. 3-5	ECW Rummage Sale
	<i>More inside ...</i>

day this past August on the Isle of Bressay, as I made my way through a peat bog near the edge of a 150 foot cliff overlooking the North Sea! *There is no firm ground for my feet!* Indeed. [Do a Google search on "Bressay" and you can see where I was; on the hill behind the lighthouse in the picture.]

I love the Psalter. Every emotion known to humankind is represented in its verses. This is not surprising, since the Psalter is a collection of 150 poems written by faithful worshippers of the God of Israel who didn't withhold their innermost pas-

sions from God's ears. The emotions and raw feeling which permeate the Psalms speak of a people who trust in God so much that they leave nothing out: rage, vengeance, lust, praise, blessing, curse, love, hatred, beauty, fear. It's all there.

As much as we may all love the 23rd Psalm:

*The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.*

in which the author reveals confidence in a God who protects and cares for the people, how many of us would take up the words of its predecessor, Psalm 22?

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?*

Probably not many. But haven't there been times when you've felt abandoned by God? Aren't there those moments of anger when you just know that God has left you all alone? Of course there are. We've all had them. For me, it is such a blessing to know that one who has gone before me—thousands of years before me—has had that same feeling of being forgotten by God. I know it may sound strange, but to hear these words now, so many centuries after they were first written, helps me to know that God is a God who can take even our feelings of abandonment and transform them.

And this is why I continue to pray the Psalms every day and use them as mantras for my daily walks and recite them in times of joy and pain.

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of
the sea;
Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
The Lord of hosts is with us;*

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Thanks be to God!



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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 06 - Koltin Kolbinger
- 07 - Timothy Olson
- 09 - Betsy Fowler
- 12 - Cathy Colby
- 12 - Ronan Corley
- 12 - Donald Duncanson
- 14 - Eric Westberg
- 17 - Bill Gray
- 19 - Reeve Cumming
- 27 - David Brave Heart
- 29 - Lydia Paul
- 30 - Ginny McNear

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 - Bill and Jan Mickelson



TREASURER'S REPORT AUGUST 2011

We received \$8,762 in offerings this month, \$2,238 in distributions from the Pooled Investment Fund and transferred \$2,000 from the Capital Investment Account into the General Fund. This gave us \$13,000 in revenue to cover the total expenses of \$9,942. The General Fund deficit for the year so far is -\$14,966 compared to our budgeted deficit through August of -\$12,823. We also received \$100 in offerings to the Property Escrow Account. current balance of \$18,360. We paid for some repairs to the Air Conditioner from the Capital Investment Account totaling \$676, leaving a balance in that account of \$11,730.

I will be sending out Pledge Statements after entering the September offerings. This will allow you to check your standing before the Stewardship Drive ends. As always, please check your statements and let me know if you see any discrepancies.

Respectfully submitted,
Nickie VanStelten, Treasurer

Plan and Watch

More details will be coming for
Men's Night Out in Nov. or Dec.
Sponsored by the Men's Group

Shout Outs!

Our appreciation goes out to the three delegates who will be representing St. John's at Diocesan Convention in Minneapolis, October 28 and 29. Keep Ray Splinter, Joan Hertel and Karl Mundell in your thoughts as they take our concerns and interests with them.

It was a busy group of rakers and seeders that finally had the opportunity to sow grass seed last week on the labyrinth lawn. A big thanks to Mike Kolbinger, Mary Berner, Candace Black, Sue Kolbinger, Rochelle Wegman and John Winkworth. More thanks and "good luck" go to those now watering!



Yay! We got the sabbatical grant from Lilly! And that was due to the hard-working Sabbatical Prep Team that included Margo Druschel, Jan Mickelson, Nickie VanStelten, Jerry Stump, Jaci Lageson and Candace Black. More details will follow but meanwhile "Way to go!"

If you get a new job or retire or cross a milestone at school or work, let us know. We'd like to share the good news!

E-mail Betty Winkworth at jbwink@charter.net, or call 387-7170.

St. Julian's Guild will next meet on
Oct. 18, 7 pm at Jan Rozeboom's house,
128 E. Glencrest. All are welcome!

October is Creation Month

Show me your ways O Lord, and teach me your paths. Psalm 25:4

In keeping with the liturgy for October we will be focusing on our spiritual and physical connection to the earth and the ways in which we can nurture and protect our planet. At the 10:30 service members of the Green Team will be leading Prayers of the People and providing displays in the Parish Hall to highlight specific points in sustainability.

“Air”--October 2, Kristen Cvancara will cover the topic of radon; how and why it occurs, its effects and what we can do about it.

“Earth”—October 9, Donna Casella will display what cleaning products are safest and how to use them. Betty Winkworth will provide information on a new tree program for St. John’s called St. John’s Grove.

“Water”—October 16, Kristen Cvancara will point out the complex way we all contribute to the condition of our water; Betty Winkworth will compare Mankato’s tap water to bottled water.

“Fire”—October 23, Steve Druschel will show us the effects of fracking (to extract oil and natural gas) in the Midwest.

October 30 will round out the month by highlighting the sustainability aspects of Fair Trade with a short play by some of our EpiscoPals.



Good News!

You can finally purchase reasonably priced Fair Trade chocolates to give out to your Trick-or-Treaters for Halloween. But you’ll have to act fast. We are ordering the mini chocolate bars in lots of 50 for \$9 but we need to complete our orders on Sunday, Oct. 2nd. There is an example of the chocolate and a sign-up sheet on the Fair Trade table in the Parish Hall. If you miss that you can order on-line from Margo Druschel at mdruschel@gmail.com or phone her at, 978 771-1787. And if you want your children to do reverse Trick-or-Treating (where they give Fair Trade chocolate out to homeowners), you can use these chocolates and the information cards that come with them.

Got Rocks?

We’re on the lookout for a big rock that is 18” high or more to mark the entrance to our labyrinth. The idea is to find something large enough that it can’t be carried away and with at least one flat side that can be engraved with “Welcome to St. John’s Labyrinth.” It would also be nice to come close in color to the Kasota stone of the church building. Have [any ideas? Please contact Mike Kolbinger at kolbing@hickorytech.net](#) or phone him at 345-7878. Thanks!

Food for Friends- October 29th.

St. John's church will again be taking a turn to serve a Saturday noon meal to guests at the Salvation Army. Please sign up to help by bringing a meatloaf or jello, working at the meal, or giving a cash donation. Add your name to the sheet downstairs or talk to Nickie VanStelten or Audrey Splinter if interested in helping with this activity. Thanks!

Looking Ahead....

Rummage Sale

November 3, 4, 5

Please bring your
gently used clothing,
household items,
toys, DVDs, CDs,
books, and more.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Wednesday, October 5

Wow Zone

noon

luncheon - meeting

Musical Fundraiser for Fair Trade

When: Monday, Oct. 17

Where: Red Sky Lounge

520 S. Front St., Mankato

Time: 6:00-8:30 pm

Cost: \$25/person, \$15/for students

A multi-media MAFTTI fundraising event with hors d'oeuvres and stories about Fair Trade.

Music Provided by:

JIM McGUIRE TRIO

FISH FRYE and SISTER GIN

See Margo Druschel for tickets

mdruschel@gmail.com

Tickets also available at:

Café Ambrosia—Red Sky Lounge

Coffee Hag-FillinStation-Smilely Cup

See Margo, 978 771-1787, or
www.Maffti.org

for more info

St. John's Outreach Committee

Mission: To support Christ's mission in the local, national, and international communities.

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

St. John's Outreach Committee met Sunday, September 4th. The meeting was opened with prayer.

In September, we discussed the delivery of school supplies. Thanks go to Bobbie Hovren for delivering to Hoover Elementary and Dakota Meadows, Bobbie Seberson for delivering to Franklin Elementary, and Ginny McNear for delivering to Kennedy Elementary. From Kennedy Elementary we have already received a generous thank you. Let me share it with you:

To ALL of you at St. John's,

The year of school has gotten off to a good start at Kennedy. It would have been a very different start to the year without all the school supplies our children received from you! Thank you so much for caring and being a part of our village that helps to raise these children. What would we do without your help? I don't know—it would be quite different at Kennedy, that's for sure. We love having our Grandma Bobbie and Grammy Mac that come to us from you, too.

With hearts full of thanks,

Kennedy Staff

Thank you to everyone who so generously do-

nated school supplies. Our church is making an impact on our community. We also have a thank you from the Salvation Army and the Echo Foodshelf.

Once again the committee searched through the pile of requests for financial help. This month we decided to help CARE, Feeding America, and MAP.



CARE. Donations to CARE: *provide* emergency food relief to children who are starving, malnourished and at risk, *provide* help to families in poverty with agricultural training and resources, *provide* help to communities by improving access to clean water and sanitation, *provide* women with the opportunity they need by creating small businesses through village savings and loan programs, and *provide* help to girls and boys to become educated so they can improve their lives. Besides their good rating as a charity, this donation was multiplied FIVE TIMES. We donated \$100 which then multiplies five times to become a gift of \$500 to CARE.

Feeding America. The USDA reports 49 million people are food insecure. Among the nearly 49 million Americans facing hunger are more than 16 million children. Five million households experiencing food insecurity include at least one senior. Kraft Foods and its Foundation have been partnering with Feeding America for more than 25 years. This year, through the Kraft Foundation, a matching grant will provide fresh food to families in need. We donated \$75 dol-

(Continued on page 7)

lars and with the match from Kraft, Feeding America receives \$150!

MAP International. MAP International (Medical Assistance Programs International) works to better the health of those living in the world's poorest communities through the provision of essential medicines, the prevention and eradication of neglected tropical diseases, and a focus on community health development. They are \$220,000 short of their yearly goal. Shipments of urgently needed medicines may be delayed getting to the millions of people who so desperately need them and essential programs like the deworming program for children in Côte d'Ivoire may be in jeopardy. Lives could be lost due to delays. We felt lead to donate \$81.42 to MAP.

The Outreach committee meets the first Sunday of each month at noon. Participation in this committee is open to all members of St. John's. Join us in caring for the needs of others.

In Our Prayers

Updates for Bill and Adam Gray's recovery can be found on their Caring Bridge website at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/billandadamgray>. Visit often to read the latest journal entries, visit the photo gallery, and to write a note in the guest book.

If you wish to contribute to the Grays' fund you may do so by putting a check into the offering plate. Simply make your check out to St. John's with a memo line mentioning the Gray's medical fund. Donations can also be sent directly to the financial account established for the Gray family at the Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union.

Green Tips

Tip #1: Unplug it.

Most of us keep our phones plugged into our chargers for too long. The typical device needs just an hour or two of wall juice to keep it going another day. So instead of keeping it plugged in during all the hours you sleep, plug it in when you wake up in the morning. By the time you've showered and are ready to walk out the door, your phone should be nearing a 100% charge. And remember: To avoid vampire energy suckage, don't just unplug the phone from the charger, but also the charger from the wall.



Tip #2: Give old cameras a second life.

When it's time to upgrade, you don't have to throw your camera out. If it still works, you can donate it to a charity or youth program. To recoup some of your investment, try Best Buy's trade-in program for "gently used" electronics, or organize a recycling fundraiser with Ecophones.com. If your camera has truly bitten the dust, look into whether your manufacturer takes back used products (Canon does) or recycle it at Staples.



A Great PrideFest

Once again we thank Meg Stump and her PrideFest committee for topping last year's event. There were more people for the parade. They created strings of peace-related prayer flags to drape on Jerry Stump's classic truck in the parade and to decorate the St. John's booth for the afternoon. In addition to the very appreciated water in paper cups, they also handed out individual prayer flags to people attending the festival.



In Meg's words: "I want to thank everyone for all the ways that you stepped up and were involved. You made it possible for the St. John's PrideFest booth to be present and involved with an often rejected community. Many thanks to everyone who came out to the booth including Bobbie, Ginny, Joan, Pat, Jordan, Karl, Dave, Gerald and Father Paul. Thanks to everyone who helped stamp out the peace/prayer flags and special thanks to Betty for putting a seam on all the flags as well as helping to decorate the truck with flags and ribbons. Thanks to the Mackie's for our ginormous rainbow umbrella and special waving techniques at the cars going by." Well done!



The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!

Bishop Brian Prior will be in Mankato on 8 October, 2011 as part of his visit to congregations in southwest Minnesota. This will be the first time Bishop Prior will be with us and we will celebrate the occasion with a **Confirmation/Reception Service** at 1:00 in the afternoon, followed by a **Locally Grown** potluck dinner (see the accompanying article) and a **Talent Show** at 5 pm. We're not going to get too fancy with the talent show part, but we are asking that if you have a talent you'd like to share: singing, dancing, comedy, plate spinning—*Anything at all*—let us know! There will be more information about this in coming weeks.

We are hoping that many people from throughout our region will be with us to give Bishop Prior a



Local Harvest Potluck

On Oct. 8, we'd like to add a new dimension to the ever-popular Parish Hall potluck. We are asking potluckers to bring dishes made with some local ingredients—those they grew themselves or bought from local sources (within 50 miles, or so). We will all enjoy the freshness of local products, support our local producers and save a lot of energy not buying the oranges from Chile or the

celery from California. Admittedly, for an Oct. 8 potluck that may mean that we harvest or purchase early and freeze some ingredients, or get very creative with apples and squash. But we invite you to give it a try.

In and Around Mankato:

If you don't have a garden (or your neighbor isn't leaving his extra produce at your back door), here are some sources for local produce:

1. Producers at our Mankato Farmers' Market sell fruits, vegetables, eggs and meats produced within a 40 mile radius. It is open every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, as well as, Saturday mornings through October.



2. The St. Peter Co-op prides itself in the number of local foods it carries and labels them with an "L" inside a green circle



3. You can also look for the "locally produced" signs at Hy-Vee and Cub Foods.



St. John's Grove

Perhaps you have heard of the city program, Trees for Life. It allows citizens to select a tree for planting in Mankato to celebrate a wedding, the birth of a child or remember a loved one who has died. When you select your tree and donate \$200 the city will plant a healthy, good-sized tree for you, maintain it and engrave your loved one's name on a bronze leaf on the tree of life at Mankato's City Hall. (see photo) You can even attend the planting of your tree and have a customized certificate placed at your loved one's



funeral.

The Green Team has received the Vestry's approval to work with the city through the Trees of Life program so we at St. John's can have memorial trees planted in the same area to form a St. John's Grove. Besides serving as living memorials, trees cool, fight pollution and global warming, conserve energy, help clean our rivers and streams, benefit wildlife and beautify our city.

Watch for details from the Green Team in the Parish Hall in October for where that location will be and how to participate.



Know how far your food travels

The average meal travels nearly 1,500 miles before it reaches your table. Today's calculator, <http://www.organiclinker.com/food-miles.cfm>, plots the journey of individual food items. For example, a banana from Ecuador would travel roughly 2,704 miles and emit over 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide to arrive in the U.S. To cut down on your food mileage, eat foods that can be grown in your region and don't have to be shipped from another hemisphere.

Lay Ministry Schedule

	8:00 AM SERVICE	10:30 AM SERVICE
<u>October 2</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Bobbie Seberson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren Berner	Peter Poulos, Mary Yurek, L Peterson Meg Stump, Ginny McNear Gerry Schneck, Joan Hertel Brave Heart
<u>October 9</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Jaci Lageson, Leslie Peterson Stephen Deeren Oster/Lageson	Peter Poulos, C Black, Joe Hogan Ray Splinter, Audrey Splinter Karl Mundell, Nickie VanStelten Johnson
<u>October 16</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Cathie Neitge, Bobbie Seberson Stephen Deeren Duncanson	Peter Poulos, Ginny McNear, M Yurek Andrew Westberg, Candace Black Joan Hertel, Pam Bartholomew Cvancara
<u>October 23</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Jaci Lageson, Bobbie Seberson Stephen Deeren Anderson	Peter Poulos, Jan Mickelson, P Johnson John Paul, Joan Hertel Ann Clark, Nickie VanStelten Hudson
<u>October 30</u> Greeters Lectors (1,2) LEM Coffee Hour Hosts	Don Duncanson, Judy Anderson Jaci Lageson, Cathie Neitge Stephen Deeren Mickelson	Peter Poulos, M Yurek, Jordin Johnson Ginny McNear, Audrey Splinter Gerry Schneck, Joan Hertel Mackie

Note:

We will have a training workshop for all LLMs on Sunday 16 October at 1 pm. We really need some more LLMs, so if you know of someone who would like to serve, please let me know!

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

Altar Guild in October


8:00 a.m. Roberta Hovren

10:30 a.m. Pat Johnson, Audrey Splinter

Monthly meeting Thursday, 10/27/11 at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your Altar Guild service.




 SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Praying, Working, Growing, Dancing, in Christ
 PO Box 1119
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St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

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