

2009

Report to the Community
Presented during the Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 17, 2010, 9:00 am



St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

2175 1st St at Clark Ave White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651/429-5351 www.StJohnWilderness.org

*All are welcome in The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness,
where members seek, with God's help, to provide a spiritual home
for children, youth and adults as they travel on their journey of faith
through the wilderness of human experience*

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Agenda

Opening Hymn and Morning Devotion

I. Election of Secretary for this Meeting

II. Minutes of January 18, 2009 Meeting

III. Elections

A. Review Voter Qualification

B. Nominating Committee

C. Distribution of ballots and voting (if applicable)

D. Tellers collect ballots (if applicable)

IV. Annual Reports

A. "Our Life Together" Rector's Report

(Video Presentation by Dr. David Monyak)

B. 2009 Financial Report

C. 2010 Financial Plan

D. Warden Report: Sesquicentennial,
Futures Task Force

V. Recognitions

A. Episcopal Church Women
Cornelia Whipple Award

B. Presentations to Retiring Vestry Members
and Warden

C. Rector's Recognition of
Outstanding Evangelism

VI. Benediction and Close

Opening Hymn "The Church's one foundation"

AURELIA

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the word:
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Morning Devotion

From Psalm 51 *spoken by all in unison*

Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

A Reading: Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV) The Sheep and the Goats

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Officiant

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely
bestowed upon us.

Lay Leader

For the beauty and wonder of your creation,
in earth and sky and sea. *We thank you, Lord.*

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ. *We thank you, Lord.*

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families,
and our friends. *We thank you, Lord.*

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve.
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play.
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity. *We thank you, Lord.*

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice. *We thank you, Lord.*

For the communion of saints, in all times and places. *We thank you, Lord.*

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be they Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Officiant

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 20, 2008

Opening hymn and morning devotion began the 2007 Annual Meeting @ 9:00 am.

- 1 Election of the Secretary of the Annual Meeting
Rebecca Monson was nominated and accepted.
- 2 Minutes from 2006 Annual Meeting were accepted as presented.
- 3 Fr. Mark reviewed voter qualifications as per canon law and parish bylaw.
- 4 Nominating Committee
Jeanne Thoemke presented the Committee Nominees listed in the booklet.
Gayle Kasmani resigned from the Vestry due to other commitments, with John Kobinski replacing her for 2 years. Slate of nominees was accepted by voice vote after hearing no nominations from the floor.
- 5 Recognitions
 - 1 Cornelia Whipple Award presented by Pat Pickering to Sherri Afryl after explanation of this Episcopal Church Women Award
 - 2 Outgoing Vestry Members Chris Hawley, June Bennett, Tom Long & Mike Carpenter were handed a special pin from Fr. Mark with words of gratitude.
 - 3 Past Wardens were recognized as well as the current Vestry members for all of their hard work and dedication to St. John's.
- 6 Reports
 - 1 "Our Life Together" presentation by David Monyak (our unsung hero)
 - 2 Warden Chris Hawley urges volunteers to do something you'd like to do. We need new faces to complement the parish. Keep up the good work.
 - 3 Warden Ken Paddock thanked everyone for attending at the coldest time of the year. We expect to see many good changes, some started last year & new ones. We'll continue trying to offset time, weather and normal wear & tear on our building. We expect to see a 10% increase in membership & worship attendance. We'll update some of our 40+ & growing Ministry Groups / Committees / Activities as new service areas are identified. Liturgy & Music and Outreach are umbrella committees containing many separate groups. All ministries are trying to better serve by modifying either their programs or the target groups whom they serve. Each ministry is summarized in our Parish Life Directory. We see 2008 as a year of good change, with continuing preventive care of our facility, expansion of our ministry & service to others. We want St. John's to make a positive mark in our surrounding community, and be a place known to help our community where everyone can receive the Good News of Jesus Christ.
 - 4 Fr. Mark reports Alison Feigh has started a new aspect of her life's journey. She will tour with her latest book signings. Sheila Foster comes to us with many talents and will get everyone involved. Please join us at the monthly Ministry Forum meetings, a great way to stay in tuned with what's happening.
 - 5 Financial Report (Steve Johnson for Margaret Thor) The Financial Plan was reviewed on Sunday, January 13. The Vestry will monitor the Plan in the 1st quarter. We'll continue to use our resources responsibly.
 - 6 St. Christopher's has completed the audits of our books.

The meeting was adjourned @ 10:30 am.

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 18, 2009

Opening hymn and morning devotion began the 2008 Annual Meeting @ 9:00 am.

- 1 Election of the Secretary of the Annual Meeting
Rebecca Monson was nominated and accepted.
- 2 Minutes from 2007 Annual Meeting were not available; motion made and approved for the Vestry in the next meeting in February to review and accept the minutes as submitted in that meeting.
- 3 Fr. Mark reviewed voter qualifications as per canon law and parish bylaw.
- 4 Nominating Committee
Cyndi Domin presented the Committee Nominees as follows:
Vestry: Jim Petersen, Warden; Randy Johnson, Marilyn King & Rich Oswald
Diocesan Delegates & Alternates:
Ken Paddock, Margaret Thor & Angie Gordon
Nominating Committee: Kate Prochnow & Barry Kostyk
Personnel Committee: Meg Thorson & Martha Wright
No other nominations were heard from the floor.
A motion was made and approved to close the nominations. (Thor/Stiebler)
Noted: Verbal acknowledgement, no ballots needed.
- 5 Recognitions
 - 1 Cornelia Whipple Award presented by Pat Pickering to Nancy Jagusch (who was not present) after explanation of this Episcopal Church Women award
 - 2 Outgoing Vestry Members Ken Paddock, John Fennig & Brent Torgerson were handed a special pin from Fr. Mark with words of gratitude.
 - 3 Past Wardens were recognized as well as the current Vestry members for all of their hard work and dedication to St. John's.
 - 4 Outstanding Evangelism: Fr. Mark presented David & Linda Monyak for their continued service to St. John's. A unanimous vote was taken at the past Vestry meeting to recognize this couple for the Website which continues to amaze our community, adult education, and as fellow Uganda travelers.
- 6 Reports
 - 1 "Our Life Together @ St. John's" video by David Monyak for 2008
 - 2 Treasurer Steve Johnson reports significant economic changes from 2008 to 2009. We anticipate using \$91,000 of Capital Funds to sustain the 2009 Financial Plan as discussed on Sunday, January 11, 2009, with 30 in attendance.
 - 3 Warden Ken Paddock reported on our accomplishments as a program church. 60% of our households pledge; 40% don't commit on a regular basis. Our goal is 80% pledging. Our endowment income decreased. Ken thanked our current staff; each brings a new & different talent to St. John's. We have no mortgage payment; no money was borrowed for remodeling or maintenance. The Vestry will monitor the financial plan in the 1st quarter.
We will continue to use our resources responsibly.

The meeting was adjourned @ 10:30 am.

Vestry

Janet Kelber	Warden	2010
James Petersen	Warden	2011
Randy Johnson	Stewardship	2012
John Kobinski	Property	2010
Rich Hovland		2010
Tim Schmuck		2010
Krista Sullivan		2010
Marilyn King		2011
Chantell Knauss		2011
Bob Peck		2011
Rich Oswald		2012
Becky Monson Clerk of the Vestry (non-voting)		2010

Terms expire at Annual Meeting during year shown

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consists of Chris Johnson, Gretchen Brunner, Kate Prochnow, & Barry Kostyk.

The **outgoing** persons

Vestry

Janet Kelber, Warden
Rich Hovland
John Kobinski
Tim Schmuck
Krista Sullivan

*All current Diocesan
Delegates & Alternates
re-nominated for 3 year
terms in accordance with
Diocesan Council Policy*

Nominating Committee

Chris Johnson
Gretchen Brunner

Personnel Committee

Lisa Brock
Bari Chilton
Anne Herron

Persons being **nominated**

Vestry

Becky Monson, Warden
George Gorbatenko
Greg Kliner
Dick Mesenburg
Mark Smeltzer

Diocesan Delegates

Joe & Sherri Afryl
Kathy Smith
Ken Paddock
Margaret Thor

Alternate Delegates

John & Jeanne LeFevre
Emily Waymire
Steve Swisher
Angie Gordon

Nominating Committee

June Bennett
Glenn Monson

Personnel Committee

Bonnie Peterson
Martha Wright
Carol Zinter

Rector's Annual Report

The year 2009 will certainly go down in the history books as a difficult year for all of us. Many of us have faced incredibly hard financial challenges in 2009. All of us have been affected in one way or another. I hope in the midst of the turmoil that you were able to find comfort in your faith and in fellowship and worship with others here at St. John's, your spiritual home.

I am pleased to report that St. John's has, for the most part, weathered the financial turmoil fairly well. Even though our draw from the endowment decreased, pledge income remained steady, and we were able to cut our expenses and end the year with a balanced budget.

Our attendance remains strong, and we continue to build on the strong historic foundation of our faith community. Our staff has done an outstanding job of meeting the current demands of our program-sized parish. Their dedication to St. John's is apparent to all. I truly believe we have the best team in the Diocese, and feel lucky to work with such talented individuals.

Of course the true backbone of our parish is you, the lay people. It is through your grace-filled commitment to our parish that we are able to do so many wonderful ministries that reach out beyond the walls of our church building and into the surrounding community and the world. Thank you for your dedication, your ideas and willingness to run with them, your continued attendance, and your support of the staff and each other.

I look forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit will lead us in 2010.

On God's Mission,

Fr. Mark

17 Baptisms

Jonathan Preston Muehleck, Zachary Daniel Harding, Matthew Lawrence Millard, Nicolas James Westby, Brady Tully Gulbranson, Kristofer Michael Fisher, Avory Scott Knutson-DeMars, Valerie Amelia Zarbok, Zachariah Ward Griffith, James Steven Griffith, Madelyn Emma Brown, Reid Leighton Vickstrom, Lucy Anne Sorensen, Eliana Rose Acero, Lucia Hope Markoe, Rocco James Penna, Skyler Grace Kurkoski

12 Confirmations

Nathan George Karp, Louis Christopher Karp, Julia Celeste Markoe, Stephen Dylan Moertel, Wayne Richard Todd, Jessica Christine Thoemke, Sydney Rachel Foster, Zoe Nicole Foster, Henry Standridge Cole, Geneva Valerie Cole, Maxine Mae Kobinski

4 Received by the Bishop

Harvey George Caldwell, Barbara Ann Kraning, Nicholas John Pearson, Danielle Theresa Ringhausen

8 Marriages

David & Carol Hough, Harvey & Judith Caldwell, Larry & Valerie Koutek, Dustin & Kari McCloud-Drake, Jeramie & Cristel Knutson-DeMars, Jeffrey & Robyn Bricker, Nathan & Jennifer Charter, Matthew & Anna Millard

19 Transferred their membership into St. John's

Sarah Muehleck, Chris Muehleck, Patricia Ann Stewart, Donna Hinrichs, Ervin Hinrichs, Mark Edward Sears, Rosa Sears, Sandra Elizabeth Sears, Lee Anne Wilson, Angela M. Gordon, David Edward Hough, Carol Marie Firner, Mark A. Anderson, Henry Standridge Cole, Geneva Valerie Cole, Teresa Sanders, Richard Mesenburg, Marshall Hatfield, Elizabeth Hatfield

In the course of this year we have also said goodbye to some of our beloved members:

17 Burials

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servants, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

George William S. Kiewel, Clotilde Irvine Earl, Aaron Jacob Hinrichs, Lois Fullmer Anderson, Berthine Signe Uttermark, Barbara How Merrill, James Elliot Johnston, Frances Dahlgren Goodwin, Rodney Lee Olson, Leonard W. Nelson, Helen Elizabeth Ferron, Loretta Ann Seitz, Charles Edward Power Jr, Arthur John Gill, Helen A. LaBarre, Leelain Edwardo Marcia de Jovel, Donald Charles Levin

Liturgies and Attendance

Fall/Winter/Spring Schedule

102 Eucharists	
8:00 am	1,163
9:00 am	3,774
10:30 am	<u>3,726</u>
	Total 8,663
per Sunday average	255

Summer Schedule

34 Eucharists	
8:00 am	925
10:00 am	<u>2,691</u>
	Total 3,616
per Sunday average	213

Wednesday Evenings

52 Eucharists	
7:00 pm Total	1,062
per Wednesday avg	20

Lay Eucharistic Visits	34
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Lessons & Carols	185
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Easter

5:00 pm (vigil)	230
8:00 am	103
10:00 am	<u>197</u>
Total	<u>530</u>

Christmas

4:00 pm (eve)	233
10:30 pm (eve)	95
10:00 am (day)	<u>49</u>
Total	<u>377</u>

Ministry Forum

The Forum is the “committee of committees” within our church. We exist to support each other and help connect people & ministries within our community. Discussion points are provided to the Rector, Vestry, & community. If you’re new, or if you have an idea for a new ministry, come to our meeting after the late Eucharist on the 1st Sunday of the month. We’ll gladly give an update of what’s happening, or help get your idea going. No invitation is needed; all are welcome!

Liturgy & Music Committee

Liturgy & Music Committee meets monthly to share information including training & scheduling the Lay Liturgical Ministries which include Worship Leaders (Lay Readers), Lectors, & Lay Eucharist Ministers.

Worship Leaders & Lay Eucharist Ministers are licensed by the Diocese of Minnesota for a period of 3 years after training sessions under direction of clergy. Lectors receive training but do not require licenses.

Members of this committee are The Rev. Mark Kelm, Rector; Matt Anderson, Music Minister; & The Rev. Dn Debra Welch. Vergers who work directly with clergy in covering the needs of all services are John Brunner, Bryan DeSmet, Chris Hawley, Jason Knauss, Dennis Thoenke, & Margaret Thor. The Altar Guild Representative is Alice McClaren. The Greeters & Ushers Chair is Linda Carpenter. Vestry representatives are Randy Johnson & Kenneth Paddock.

June Bennett

Music Ministry

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 819
For Church Musicians and Artists

Summary

Our choirs are central to our worship life throughout the year and I'm grateful for their commitment. In 2010 I would like to see the Children's Choir resume in the fall. We hope to coordinate schedules and music leadership so that the Children's Choir (grades 1-6) and Youth Choir (grades 7-12) rehearse concurrently from 6:00-7:00 pm. Please let me know if your family is interested in participating.

2009 Participants

Chancel Choir: Sarah Anderson, Jim Berry, Harvey Caldwell, Lynda Halbert, Carol Harris, Lou Harris, Nancy Jagusch, Lura Jensen, Chris Johnson, Chantall Knauss, Cristel Knutson, Max Kraning, Sharon Lund, Becky Monson, Glenn Monson, Melissa Monson, Linda Monyak, Rachel Monyak, Amy Okaya, Carole Paddock, Pat Petersen, Angela Robinson, Mary Schickert, Greg Schmit, David Seitz, Don Sulentic, Stephanie Sulentic, Mike Thillen, Ruth Thillen, Maureen Vruno

Youth Choir: Analee Blake, Henry Cole, Zoë Foster, Sydney Foster, Marcella Kobinski, Maxine Kobinski, Jessica Thoemke, Megan Thoemke, Wayne Todd

Handbell Choir: Zoë Foster (director), Sheila Foster, Sydney Foster, Katrina Gadwa, Chris Johnson, Marcella Kobinski, Maxine Kobinski, Chantall McMahon, Wayne Todd, Luisa Wiegaand

Your gifts make our ministry possible

Thank you for your support of time and financial resources. You make our ministry together possible: new music for singers and instrumentalists, bell mallets and supplies, choir folders, organ and piano maintenance, a new keyboard for outdoor worship, a portable sound system for use in the Parish Hall and outdoors, choir vestments, guest musicians for Sundays and special events, and much more. Thank you!

We need you!

This past year has been filled with excitement and energy. New singers are welcome at any time. Consider joining one of the ensembles on a short-term basis as we prepare for the Lent and Easter seasons. Our rehearsal process at St John's is a collaborative process which yields rich blessings. Peace be with you!

Matt Anderson, Music Minister

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a service organization called to serve God by preparing and caring for the places and essentials of worship. Guild members maintain the linens, silver, brass, candles, vestments and paraments and are responsible for the sacramental elements and distributing the flowers after worship. In addition to regular service, the Guild assists at weddings, funerals and baptisms.

The Altar Guild meets monthly for informational updates, training and fellowship. Five members serve each week. A designated team leader works with the team to determine assignments for the week. In addition to regular care, the Guild has special cleaning days before Easter and Christmas.

The Special Service booklet has been updated. We continue with special outdoor Sunday worship. We encourage parishioners to provide the Sunday altar flowers for special occasions or in memory of loved ones. Alice McClaren attended the monthly Liturgy & Music meetings and Pat Pickering attended the monthly Ministry Forum meetings. A team of members has written guidelines for altar flower purchases and deliveries for Weddings and Funerals. Joann Smith made special communion bread for special Eucharists.

Two members are on leave of absence, and we now have 20 active members of the Guild. All members have taken Safeguarding God's Children training and are trained to help with communion during worship. In 2010 we plan to continue to serve our church family, and we always welcome anyone interested in becoming an Altar Guild member.

The Sacristans (men's Altar Guild group) were sorry to accept the resignation of Stan Kegler but are happy with the addition of Harvey Caldwell to their team. This group is responsible for helping the Altar Guild with difficult and heavy work done around the holidays; they are greatly appreciated.

Judy Caldwell, Director

Episcopal Church Women

The ECW is a service organization open to all women in the parish. The committee members are Beverly Boyle, Bari Chilton, Lynn Gadbois, Nancy Jagusch, Judy Lafean, Carole Paddock, Pat Pickering, & Joanna Torgerson. Arlene Glander continues to represent us by sending cards to parishioners for various occasions during the year. Bari Chilton serves as ECW Secretary and is in charge of funeral & memorial service receptions. Joanna Torgerson serves as the ECW Treasurer.

At the Annual Meeting last January we presented the Cornelia Whipple Award to Nancy Jagusch.

In February we hosted 2 programs open to everyone.

We again contributed \$400+ in new baby clothes, purchased by Bonnie & Bob Peck, helping needy mothers via a program coordinated with the St. Paul Area Council of Churches.

Lynn Gadbois & Pat Pickering co-chaired our successful Spring & Fall Rummage Sales, which provide outstanding fellowship for all participating in the set-up, sorting, & clean up.

Each June a group thoroughly clean the church kitchen and inventory supplies. They then purchase any needed items.

Cyndi Domin & Susie Mahoney again chaired the fall luncheon held at North Oaks Country Club.

Many ECW members donated a substantial amount of time for 11 funeral and memorial service receptions in 2009.

Lynn Gadbois & Pat Pickering chaired the Holiday Sale. Proceeds from our sales & receptions constitute our yearly operating budget.

The ECW thank the many people who help with the set-up & clean up for our Rummage & Holiday Sales. We also thank all who made soup during rummage weeks.

Pat Pickering

**CHURCHWOMEN OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS
2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

BALANCE ON HAND - DEC. 31, 2008

ECW Checking	\$3,525.90
ECW Savings	\$2,090.30
	\$5,616.20

INCOME

Dues	\$315.00
Interest	\$6.64
Rummage Sales	\$5,410.70
Receptions	\$2,585.00
Donations	\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$52.00
Holiday Bazaar	\$2,037.20
Luncheon Receipts	\$1,120.00
	\$13,526.54
	\$19,142.74

TOTAL

DISBURSEMENTS

Bible Study honorarium & lunches	\$215.00
Luncheons (includes entertainment & deposit for next year)	\$1,602.24
Reception Supplies	\$379.22
Misc.(cards/postage/engrav./nametags/checks/office supplies)	\$691.24
Grants (includes some parish contributions)	\$9,039.99
Parish Contributions:	
Coffee Machine Repair	\$115.00
New Teakettle for Kitchen	\$36.28
Rummage Sale/Bazaar Costs	\$366.94
Child Care	\$160.00
Parish Staff Christmas Gifts	\$650.00
	\$13,255.91

BALANCE ON HAND - DEC. 15, 2009

\$5,886.83

Hospitality

Our Hospitality group provides refreshments following the 9:00 am Eucharist each Sunday for fellowship.

Coffee makers per Sunday of the month: Mary & Jim Bartley, Sandra Stevenson-Watson (1st), Joanna Torgerson, Kim Johnson, Pat Stewart (2nd), Zach Griffith (3rd), Janet Kelber, Joann Smith (4th), Helen Kissel, Nance Purcell, Teresa Sanders (5th)

In 2009, the committee served the Annual Meeting continental breakfast, served refreshments outdoors for 2 Pet Blessings, prepared & served lunch twice for Hospice workers, served refreshments for 4 summer front lawn Eucharists, and prepared homemade refreshments for a silver service reception following Lessons & Carols.

Nancy Jagusch & Lura Jensen clean up the kitchen after 10:30 am worship most Sundays. Teresa Sanders often makes goodies & coffee for after 8:00 am worship. On occasion, church members brought “special goodies”. Thank you!

We buy Fair Trade coffee for church functions and appreciate the Cecilware Twin Coffee Machines provided by St. John’s Episcopal Church Women in November 2008.

Joann Smith, Chair

BeFriender Ministry

Purpose: BeFriender Ministers are parish members who provide an ongoing listening presence to others of the church family who are going through a transitional experience such as illness, divorce, death/grief, or isolation and desiring such support.

Leadership Team: Rev. Joanie Delamater, Fr. Andy Jensen, Laurel Stiebler

Team Members: Joe & Sherri Afryl, Joyce Anderson, Harvey Caldwell, Pris Campbell, Bari & Ed Chilton, Bryan DeSmet, Angie Gordon, Nancy Hess, Janet Kelber, Marilyn King, Helen Kissel, Nick Pearson, Greg & Deb Schmit, Bette Smeed, Joann Smith, Kathy Smith, Avis Watkins, Lee Wilson

2009 Activities: 22 BeFrienders made 260 visits to 40 individuals. We met monthly to practice our active listening skills and ask for and receive mutual support. We discussed mental health and spirituality, life transitions, grief & loss, prayer, end of life issues, how to bring God into a visit, and BeFriending the holidays. We had a celebration of our ministry at the beginning of the year at Ed & Bari Chilton's home and a picnic this summer at Rev. Joanie Delamater's home. Two new people joined the team and we bestowed the title of BeFriender Emerita to Alma Limbach.

2010 vision & expectations: We will continue to discern the needs of the congregation for befriending as well as train & commission new BeFrienders. We plan to sponsor a presentation by Caring Bridge for St. John's. A joint retreat of the "Heart Centered Ministries" at St. John's, including BeFrienders, the Healing Team, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, & Prayer Shawl Ministers, will take place during 2010.

Rev. Joanie

Healing Ministry

Purpose: The primary purpose is to share with and assist clergy in the healing ministries of the church, particularly laying-on of hands in the narthex and at the rail, as well as Healing Touch sessions in the healing room, in hospital settings, in care facilities, and in homes. In addition, members of the Healing Ministry share personal, interpersonal, and community practices of prayer, study, meditation, sharing, listening, and supportive service. Members communicate frequently with each other and meet monthly as a team.

Leadership Team: Sherri Afryl, Cathryn Bashore, Rev. Joanie Delamater, Dianne Del Giorno

Team Members: Mary Gorbatenko, Max Kraning, Krissa Kyle, Amy Okaya, and Laurel Stiebler

2009 Activities: Lay members of the Healing Team offered four retreats in 2009, one for each “Season of the Soul.” Over the course of the year, Laurel Stiebler was commissioned as a healer, Sherri Afryl and Cathryn Bashore completed their advanced work in healing practice and earned their certification in Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry, and Amy Okaya pursued studies at the Center for Mind-Body Oneness. In June, Healing Team members began offering healing touch sessions every Wednesday for residents at the Episcopal Church Home. In mid-summer, the leadership team presented at the worldwide healing conference in Colorado, offering two sessions on creating and sustaining a church-based healing ministry.

2010 Plans: The team will explore a variety of spiritual practices, such as Taize services, meditation, and labyrinth walking, and will encourage other parishioners to participate as well as. More workshop/conference sessions on healing will be offered for those seeking to begin or grow church-based healing ministries. In addition, the team hopes to begin a documentary film on healing experiences.

Dianne Del Giorno

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee serves as a focus for various ministries broadly dealing with social justice & advocacy, emphasizing programs dealing with the disenfranchised & underemployed. We encourage & promote our parish family's participation. Finally, we strive to reach out beyond our community to make a positive difference in this world.

With First Lutheran, we launched Project Home. Administered by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches (SPACC), selected churches open their doors to house homeless families unable to secure housing due to overflow conditions in the local shelter. Other churches involved: St Mary's, Ascension, & WBUUC. We hope we can continue this new initiative next year.

Ongoing projects which we continued this year:

- A Care Packs for Kids ingathering for the Children's Home Society
- A Household Goods ingathering for the Hill Home shelter
- A School Supplies ingathering for needy students
- Toys for Tots (joint with youth) Christmas gifts
- White Bear Food Shelf: A year long ingathering of groceries (1,000+ lbs)
- Second Harvest: assisting in preparation of donated foods for distribution
- Two American Red Cross blood drives

We renewed our membership in the following organizations:

- JRLC (Joint Religious Legislative Council) \$ 250
- MICAH (Metro Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing) \$ 250
- SPACC (St. Paul Area Council of Churches) \$ 250

We are also active with the East Metro & Minneapolis Project Connect Programs, one-stop shops for the homeless, as well as the Dorothy Day Center. Deacon Rick invites all who are interested in social justice to learn more and participate in these important programs.

Our parish family's response to these opportunities to share our gifts in service to our community has been a wonderful demonstration of the love and caring that our Christianity engenders.

Our committee meets monthly. This is a spirit-filled group to which all are invited.

George Gorbatenko

Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based program whose goal is to build affordable homes.

We are part of a 5 church coalition, including Episcopal, Lutheran, Catholic, & Unitarian traditions, who share equally in the \$6,000/week build cost & providing food for workers. Our share is provided by a semi-formal fund raising dinner. The next dinner is on January 30, 2010, to which all are invited.

We participated in a 2-week build in the last 2 weeks of July. About 16 parishioners with fellow Coalition members erected the 2nd story walls & roof of a triplex at 1611 Case Ave, St. Paul.

In 2010, we again plan to build for 2 weeks, hopefully on the Whitaker site near the White Bear Lake Food Shelf, and invite all who are interested to participate.

George Gorbatenko, Ken Paddock

Caring Meals is a responsive ministry when there is a need, providing meals for parishioners for the birth of a baby, after a hospitalization, or when a family is in need. We try to assist, therefore our ministry ebbs and flows. We were honored to serve fifteen meals in 2009.

Committee members are the cooks. Thank you all for a job well done.

In 2010, we feel called to continue this ministry of reaching out.

Jane Kyle

Out to Lunch

The White Bear Lake Churches of St. John in the Wilderness, First Presbyterian, & St. Mary of the Lake serve a monthly free lunch to seniors, disabled persons, single-parent families, chemical dependency / mental illness support groups, & other community members who are in need. Out To Lunch is about feeding the hungry by providing a balanced & nutritious meal in a safe & respectful Christian environment.

Unlike other soup kitchens, sponsoring churches create a special experience for all guests by using real dishes served on decorated tables. In 2009 we served 1,050 meals. Attendance averages 80-90 per month.

Each sponsoring church provides a cooking crew, setup, serving, table hosts & a cleanup crew for the month they providing the meal. All churches help each other when necessary. In 2009, over 210 person-days were volunteered to provide this benefit to the community.

The program is paid for by the 3 participating churches & receives low priced or free food items from Second Harvest Heartland. Guests may make a free-will offering, given to St. John's to help offset the cost of utilities. The program offers many different volunteer opportunities.

Midyear, long time director Gayle Kasmani requested to be relieved from directing all OTL activities. She retired in name only, is at most meals, and serves as head cook, backup & any other activity as needed. I've taken over this program and have become very aware of the work involved, and the very good feeling when thankful people hold our hand in gratitude for the wonderful meal we provided them.

Ken Paddock

Kids Hope USA

Purpose: matching 1 church with 1 area elementary school where trained volunteers mentor 1 at-risk child for 1 hour during the school day weekly. Each mentor has a prayer partner praying for him/her, the child & his/her family weekly

Leadership Team: The Rev. Joanie Delamater, director; Angela Robinson, prayer partners; Judy Caldwell, communications; Richard Lee, finance; Melanie Lee, events; Patti Kostyk, program development & newsletter; Deacon Debra Welch, pastoral care; Fr. Mark Kelm, rector

Mentors: Joyce Anderson, Mark Anderson, John Brunner, Judy Caldwell, Bari Chilton, Ed Chilton, Joanie Delamater, Helen Gehrenbeck, George Gorbatenko, Mary Gorbatenko, Helen Halbert, Peter Holtz, Anne Johnson, Marilyn King, Helen Kissel, Julie Kliner, Barry Kostyk, Ken Paddock, Pat Petersen, Verne Pickering, Susan Schmuck, David Seitz, Laurel Stiebler, Jean Tews, Dennis Thoenke

Substitute Mentors: Andy Allen, Michael Carpenter, Tom Carroll, Diane Wingfield

Prayer Partners: Linda Carpenter, Angie Gordon, Stephanie Griffith, Fr. Andy Jensen, Stan Kegler, Janet Kelber, Jennifer Kobinski, Larry & Val Koutek, Max Kraning, Melanie & Richard Lee, Alma Limbach, David Monyak, Penny Napiwoski, Clare O'Neil, Laurie Otte, Bonnie Peck, Josie Power, Nance Purcell, Shirley Reed, Angela Robinson, Kathy Smith, Nat Watkins, Debra Welch, Lee Wilson

Funding Sources: donations; fund raising events such as The Epiphany Tea & ECW bake sale; & grants, this year from St. John's ECW, IBM Corporation & Sheltering Arms Foundation; *not from church operating funds*

2009 Activities: a Winter Event, a Spring Awards Dinner, & a Fall Fun Event. Students & families were invited to the Manitou Days BBQ & parade; 7 attended. We grew the program from 7 students served in the '08-'09 school year to 20 now! We had a booth at the National Civic Summit in Minneapolis for the Secretaries of States, where people could learn about Kids Hope USA from some of our experienced mentors & leadership team members.

2010 Expectations: Our goal is to serve all referred students. This fall 35 students were referred; we currently have 26 mentors working with students in grades 3,4, & 5 at OH Anderson Elementary School in Mahtomedi.

Rev. Joanie

Families Inc was created in the spring of 2004 to meet the needs of families with children birth-5th grade. We seek to

Build a sense of community through fun activities for those walking through the wilderness of parenting young children;

Foster Christian values in our children and families; and

Reach Out together to those in the world who are in need.

During 2009, we continued our success, with new individuals and families continuing to join us in the fun. For the 5th year in a row, we hosted an all-parish event to create 600 valentines to send to our military troops stationed in Iraq. We marched in the Manitou Days parade, and held monthly play dates at fun locations over the summer. We served root beer floats to residents at Cerenity Care Center. We again hosted a hayride at a pumpkin patch attended by more than 40 people despite freezing temperatures. We provided a bounce house for the children on Rally Sunday. We hosted a back-to-school Wednesday supper at church complete with a sundae bar. We also planned a morning of tree decorating at the church followed by Christmas caroling at Cerenity Care Center attended by parishioners of all ages. Each planned activity has been well-attended, and new families continue to join us. We are especially grateful to the Rodman Foundation for a gift which helped us to pay for activities and supplies this year.

On January 31, 2010, we will host our 6th annual valentine-making event. This all-parish event is fun for families to do together. All are welcome to come join the fun!

The group currently functions under the leadership of Beth Hyduke-Kelm, but individual families are also asked to schedule and plan events.

Elizabeth J. Hyduke-Kelm

Moms' Group

Our purpose is to provide friendship & support to each other and to hold our young adults in our prayers.

Members: Deb Schmit, Molly Anthony, Kathryn Schneider, Susie Mahoney, Deb Cossalter, Janet Waller, Sandy Severson, Bonnie Peterson, Vicki Canterbury, Jeanie Long, Teri Moertel, Catherine Bashore, Cyndi Domin, Jill Todd, Rev. Joanie Delamater, Kate Prochnow, Susan Schmuck, Jeannie LeFevre, Barb Anderson, Marilyn King (Vestry Liaison), & Bonnie Peck (Chair)

In 2009, we met several times at Avalon Tea & Café Cravings to socialize and offer friendship & support to one another. Twice we assembled "care packages" including notes of encouragement & prayers for our young adults away from home. During our final 2009 meeting, we decided to discontinue sending "care packages" of goodies, as the group of young adults has grown too large for our resources.

In 2010 we plan to continue to meet & share our journeys.

Bonnie Peck

Youth & Children's Ministry

Committee members: *Godly Play*: Melanie Lee, Beth Whillock, Donna Starkey, Jessica Thoenke, Syndie Sorensen, Maxine Kobinski, Jen Kobinski, Henry Cole. *Youth Activity Program*: Jill Todd, Lisa McBride, Bob Peck, Gretchen Brunner. *Youth Education Program*: Tim Hadley, Chris Johnson. *Youth Art Reflection Time*: Kate Johnson & Zach Griffith. *Celebrating Our Faith Through the Arts*: Kate Johnson, Katrina Gadwa, Sheila Foster. *Teens Encounter Christ*: Rich Oswald, Bob Peck, Chris Johnson, Alison Feigh, Katrina Gadwa, Sheila Foster. Outreach and fundraising: John Kobinski.

We strive to create a safe, nurturing, & welcoming atmosphere for children to learn & grow in their individual faith while encouraging a connection to a greater community, the Body of Christ. We offer Christian Education & Faith Formation for preschoolers through 12th graders after 9 am worship September through May. Ninety children & youth are registered for the 2009-2010 school year.

Pre-school - 3rd graders are educated through Godly Play on Sunday mornings & a Children's Activity Program on Wednesday evenings. Godly Play emphasizes creative reflection on Bible stories. In Winter & Spring we kept with the prior year's model of youth education not integrating all age groups. In May 11 youth were confirmed at St. Mark's Cathedral. Since Fall our new model incorporates 4th – 12th graders choosing a program fitting their interests & learning styles. YAP is a lectionary based activity program engaging youth & leaders in outreach, ministries, & community. YEP is our confirmation program utilizing the book *My Faith, My Life*. YART uses each Sunday's readings & Psalms to inspire artistic responses.

Veggie Tales Vacation Bible School took place in June & our "Fruitful Trails" intergenerational VBS on 3 July Sundays. This multigenerational (ages 3–80) education included lunches, stories, music, crafts, & a field trip to the town square. Fifteen Sr. High Youth & 3 adults traveled to All Saints Indian Mission, Minneapolis for a week long in-state mission trip in July. Over 24 children, youth & adults participated in Episcopal Youth Music Camp in August.

Other special events: Treasure Hunt, Epiphany Drama, Lenten Pretzel Making, Easter Vigil Egg Hunt, St. Crispin Foot Blessing, Halloween Food Collection, All Saints' Day Procession, & Advent Craft Event. Children & youth had several opportunities to present the Christmas story in this year's play, "Away in the Manger" or during worship on Christmas Eve. Older youth had overnights for the Annual Meeting, Maundy Thursday, Fall COFTA kick-off, & Advent Cookie Baking.

Our 2010 goal is to increase attendance & participation of children, youth & families in programs, education, & worship. Many families only attend worship; we wish to engage them more fully in education & programs. We hope to increase by 20+ children & youth for the next school year.

It is a blessing to share our time & faith with St. John's children & youth.

Christine Karp, Bob Peck, Sheila Foster
Children's Ministry Chair, Youth Ministry Chair, Youth & Children's Minister

Welcoming & Evangelism Committee

In February we offered our first Super Bowl Party, complete with large-screen projection TV, snacks, beverages, and our first Chili Cook-off, with a traveling trophy for our first winner, Kim Johnson. Judging by the number of participants, the party was a huge success, and will be repeated this year.

Early in 2009 we were pleased to unveil the new Church Photo Directory with many photos and up-to-date contact information as well. Later in the year we released an online directory link which allows members to print photo directory information for selected groups and individuals. Many thanks to Angie Gordon for her long hours of painstaking detail in helping to produce this directory.

This year we combined the ministries of ushers and greeters, offering training to all who wish to be a part of the Welcome Team. We have updated the handouts for our Welcome Bags (which are decorated by our youth) to include seasonal flyers and information. We've also placed a new Visitor Card in the pews so we may more easily follow up with newcomers. We've offered two newcomer luncheons, along with an Easter Sunday continental breakfast for all worshipers.

In addition to the usual Easter and Rally Day mailings, we participated in several local events: the Governor's Fishing Opener in May, Hugo Good Neighbor Days, and White Bear Lake's MarketFest during June and July. Thanks especially to the Monsons and to the many other volunteers who made popcorn and greeted visitors to St. John's booth at MarketFest.

We welcome new participants to the Welcoming Committee! It's an uplifting (and sneaky) way to help people connect with God and our community while we live out Jesus' words, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35) Please join us.

Rev. Marilyn

Adult Christian Formation Committee

We take our mission “to equip the work of the saints” (*Eph. 4:12*) quite seriously, offering a range of programs for adult learners as well as intergenerational experiences. This year we provided a number of new offerings on Sundays and Wednesdays, from *Tokens of Trust* and *The Advent Conspiracy* to the Ten Commandments and sacraments. Sunday presentations tend to be more structured, while Wednesday evenings are primarily informal discussion groups. We offer year-around Sunday formation, school-year Wednesday classes, and Gospel-Based discipleship on Wednesdays in the summer, along with Intergenerational Vacation Bible School on Sundays, midsummer.

Our attendance at Adult Formation events in 2009:

Sunday Mornings	359
Wednesday Evenings	<u>447</u>
Total Attendance	806

Participating in Adult Formation is a way of helping to put faith into action by learning more about God’s world around us and how we can be of service in our community. We welcome your thoughts on topics you might like to learn about, and encourage you to lead a session or series.

Special thanks to David Monyak, Chris Johnson, Tim Hadley, Kate Walsh, Kathy Smith, Richard Lee, and Angie Gordon, each of whom led classes this year. Also involved are other members who help with planning and choosing topics and programs. Join us!

Rev. Marilyn

@ Home in the Wilderness

We meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

We started 2009 reading and discussing Philemon and Colossians using *Paul for Everyone* by N. T. Wright. In September we started Acts of the Apostles using *Acts for Everyone* by N. T. Wright to stimulate our discussions. Our members have varied backgrounds and a wide range of experience in studying the Bible. This leads to interesting, thoughtful, respectful discussions that benefit everyone.

What started as prayer requests has evolved into sharing our joys and concerns because many of our prayers have been answered.

We will continue studying Acts of the Apostles through 2010. All are invited to join us on the 1st & 3rd Sunday evenings in the church Parlor.

Angie Gordon

Property Committee

Active Members: Bev Boyle, John Brunner, Chris Hawley, John Kobinski (Chairman), Tom Long, Dennis Thoemke, Brent Torgerson, John Vruno, Ken Whitney, & Bob Cessna (Sexton)

We focus on preserving the heritage of our building while striving to make it a safe, secure & beautiful parish home.

In 2009 we completed projects to help keep our building beautiful, while controlling costs in these tough economic times:

- Parking lot patching & repair for safety
- Computer wiring (very challenging in an old building)
- Church nave cleaning: pew washing, dusting floor - rafters
- Painting downstairs: hallway & some of the classrooms
- Several repairs to hopefully prolong the life of the boilers
- Cemetery Spring Clean-up by 40-50 amazing volunteers
- Veterans' memorial installation NW corner near flagpoles
- Cemetery landscaping

The Property committee thanks everyone who gave their time & effort to help with projects this past year. We hope for your continued support to maintain our spiritual & physical home.

Projects considered for 2010:

- update the youth rooms upstairs
- Remodel Youth & Children's Minister's Office
- Solve storage issues at the back of Parish Hall
- Remodel the accessible restroom next to Parlor
- Accessible ramp from parking lot to the North entrance

John Kobinski

Cemetery Subcommittee

Members: Chris Hawley, Chair; John Kobinski, Property Chair; Will McBride; and members of the Property Committee

Finance: A couple of years ago the Vestry voted to move the cemetery perpetual care fund to the Diocesan Pooled Investment Fund. Over 2007 & 2008, our investment lost approximately 25% of its value. In 2009 we have almost recovered to pre-2007 levels. We have not made any more investment into the Pooled Investment Fund since the initial investment. At the beginning of 2010, the Cemetery committee will recommend investing monies in excess of the operation needs of the cemetery.

Policy and Procedures: A cemetery policies and procedures review is underway and will be presented to the Vestry in 2010.

Beautification: A portion of the cemetery operating budget is to be used for beautification. This year we restored/replaced the cemetery gardens and installed a monument commemorating all United States Veterans. A portion of the fence damaged by a fallen tree limb was replaced. The committee is considering additional trees, updating the entrance gates & signage declaring cemetery rules, and replacing/rebuilding the old hand pump.

Events: This year Rev. Kelm and the clergy staff dedicated the Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day. Over 170 people attended, including Army National Guard Flag Team members, the Coon Rapids American Legion Rifle Squad, parishioner members of the Army National Guard, local & state politicians, and members of the local American Legion & Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations. The cemetery subcommittee is considering future Veterans' Day events and establishing a Memorial Day event. The memorial was paid for with donations from the White Bear Lake American Legion, The White Bear Lake VFW, Schoenrock Monument Company, Parker & Sons Cemetery Services Company, and the cemetery beautification fund.

Contributions; Many people give to the cemetery every year. A portion of all cemetery income is placed in the perpetual care fund. If you wish to donate to the perpetual care fund, to the cemetery, or to a specific project, please contact me.

Chris Hawley

Memorial & Gift Committee

The committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Vestry for the use of memorial & gift money and for keeping an accurate & updated record of all gifts & memorials.

The Committee members are Fr. Mark Kelm, Beverly Boyle, Judy Caldwell, Pam Hadley, June Hochbrunn, John Johnson, Marilyn King, Jane Kyle, Sharon Lund, Mary Whitney, and Jim Petersen (Chair).

Gifts given in memory of, and memorial purchases made this past year, were as follows:

Memorials were given in memory of Lois Anderson, Helen La Barre, Brad Boyle, Nancy Brown, Helen Ferron, Charles Gedge, Fran Goodwin, James Johnston, Donald Levin, Ruth Mattlin, Barbara Merrill, Leonard Nelson, Rod Olson, Charles Power, and Loretta Seitz.

Memorials were given for the purchase of:

St. John in the Wilderness Banner by Fosten, Beverly and Dana Boyle; Mattlin family; and Nancy Brown, family and friends

Unity Candles by multiple givers

Music Equipment by multiple givers

Gifts Given:

Cemetery Wall and Gate Rebuilding by Matt Moertel

Loretta Seitz Painting from Fosten and Beverly Boyle

The Gift and Memorial Registry is updated by Dana Boyle. Photographs of the memorials for the Memorial Scrap Book are taken by June Hochbrunn. Mary Whitney updates the Scrap Book, and Marilyn King writes the thank you notes. Members of the committee work with design and purchases. We wish to thank Barbara Merrill for her devoted service to the committee. She is sadly missed.

The Memorial & Gift Committee and Vestry welcome gifts & memorials. Each gift or memorial must be approved by the Committee before purchase or donation. Please contact a Memorial & Gift Committee member for gift suggestions. Any individual or committee may make suggestions for consideration by the Memorial & Gift Committee. We are committed to helping all find St. John's a warm and welcoming opportunity to worship our Lord. Your gifts & memorials help us in spreading God's blessings.

Jim Petersen, Chair

Sesquicentennial Committee

Members David Gehrenbeck, Helen Halbert, Anne Hovland, David Monyak, Jim Petersen, Dave Seitz, Kathryn Smith, LuAnne Speeter, and Richard Lee (Chair) seek, with God's help, to provide direction and leadership in celebrating the legacy of St. John in the Wilderness and preparing for the future.

Not only were we the first church in White Bear Lake, a missional church, seeing the needs of a broken world, seeing the potential in the wilderness of the human experience, we created and are creating ministries that bring people into community and into personal relationship with God, through Jesus Christ.

Our parish has been an important part of the White Bear Lake area, initiating activities to help people in need, hosting community events in our Parish Hall: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, AA, Out to Lunch, dances and countless other activities. Not only have we hosted these events, these events have changed our community. The Sesquicentennial Committee hopes for a year-long series of events that celebrate the rich history of our parish and the community organizations with whom we have been intertwined during the past century and a half.

Our vision is to augment our rich historical documents with the social implications of our actions, using celebrations of our past to provide a vision for the future, one community coming together, journeying forward and meeting needs of our changing and diverse lives.

We have defined the planning tasks and now begin the process of learning what our parish & community feel is important, both in terms of celebration and in needs of the community. The first focus groups for parish input are Wednesday, January 27, 6–7 pm and Saturday, February 6, 10–11 am, both in the Parish Hall.

The fear of failure must not stop us from building, growing and changing to meet the continuing needs of our community.

Richard Lee

Heritage Society

The St. John in the Wilderness Endowment Fund was established by a vote of the congregation at our Annual Meeting in January 1998. At that time, The Heritage Society was formed to recognize all those who have made arrangements for the future of St. John's through their wills, planned gifts, or outright gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Endowment Fund. Endowment funds provide a permanent source of funds for the Church. The funds are invested and only a percentage of the income is taken for annual use. All of St. John's endowment funds are managed by The Saint Paul Foundation, ensuring professional investment management security and stability, and providing a valuable resource to our church's lay leadership and peace of mind to all of us who invest in the future of St. John's.

The Heritage Society is responsible for encouraging new Heritage Society members and new gifts to the endowment funds. We are fortunate that the total endowments of the church are now about \$1 million, something that is unusual for an Episcopal Church of our size. We recognize members of The Heritage Society on a plaque in the church corridor.

The following are members of the Heritage Society:

Andrews Allen, June Bennett, Beverley & Fosten Boyle, Priscilla Campbell, Shirley Chapman, Edward Chilton & Bari Jagger, The Rev. Joanie Delamater, Dorothy Dokmo, John Fennig & Martha Wright, Vicki Ford, Jacquelyn B. Gardner, James & Joan Gardner, Junice Hochbrunn, Anne & Richard Hovland, John & Carolyn Johnson, The Rev. Mark Kelm & Beth Hydeke-Kelm, Judith Kroesch, Jane & Richard Kyle, Sharon Lund, Roberta Lutgen, James & Sarah-Jane Markoe, Margaret Mattlin, Teri Moertel, Glenn & Becky Monson, Betty Nelson, Ken & Carole Paddock, Charles & Joanne Power, Elizabeth Schmuck, Christian & Anne Schwab, Suzanne Schradle, Burnett & Jane Sullivan, J. Dixon & Jean Tews, Elizabeth Uppgren, Kenneth & Mary Whitney, Linda Wolf, Anonymous (4)

In Memoriam:

Frances Goodwin, The Rev. J. Greenlee & Mabel Haynes, Edna Imm, James Kroesch, Eva Jane Larson, Harold & Mary Mattlin, Anne Rogers, Archie & Kay Steele

Jean Tews

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee works on projects to increase the gifts of Time, Talent, & Treasure. It organizes the annual fall pledge drive and nurtures year-round stewardship awareness within our parish community. In 2009, the committee identified *Commitment* as the critical component each of us can offer to enrich our lives in Christ. *Commitment* is a positive step one takes to enrich and support the many programs and ministries of our parish. The *Commitment* begins with a true commitment to God and a willingness to share a portion of the gifts He has freely given to us.

Stewardship through commitment is a spiritual reality just as much a part of our spiritual lives as Bible reading, prayer, & witnessing. It brings to life our own church motto, "Gathering in Love to Serve." It is exemplified in our commitment to gather together as God's people as we worship and serve our Lord. Members of our parish, clergy & staff, have made a significant commitment to God through our Time, Talent, & Treasure. St. John's is widely recognized for our wide range of successful programs & ministries. Many parishioners have contributed greatly to these ministries, acting as true Stewards of the Faith. We are truly thankful for the commitment each of them has made to serve the Lord.

In 2009, 202 families or individuals pledged funds to the church, a decrease from the nearly 240 pledges received in 2008. Planning for the current and future budget cycles depends greatly on the ability to accurately predict funding sources and amounts. Pledging monetary gifts to the parish provides the best mechanism to do so. The 2009 decrease in pledging has had a significant financial impact on the ministries of the parish. The Vestry, clergy, staff and ministries have made a commitment to ensure the effective and efficient use of budgetary funds.

As we move towards 2010, the Stewardship Committee is exploring innovative opportunities for parish members to discern and utilize their personal commitment and financial support of St. John's. Over 40 households have St. John's in their wills for planned giving out of their estates. St. John's recently registered as a non-profit entity to accept on-line giving on Razoo. The Razoo site is accessed from our parish website, allowing an opportunity for individuals, as well as non-profit organizations, to make financial contributions to support our missions and programs. The site allows contributions to be made by credit card, as an option to the traditional pledging process. Many parishioners have "Gone Green", choosing to participate in the electronic giving option for their annual pledges, making a unique connection between financial stewardship & environmental stewardship.

Luke 12:34 says, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The call to stewardship is the call to *Commitment*. The Stewardship Committee thanks all who have dedicated their Time, Talent, & Treasure to the service of the Lord at St. John's. We pray that all parish members and friends will make a personal commitment to the service of God in our faith community.

Randy Johnson

Pledging members provide a strong foundation for St. John's ministry of worship, learning & outreach. Through these pledges, members provide the "treasure" portion of "time, talent & treasure" to fulfill the annual budgetary needs of this church. The following 202 individuals & their families pledged \$387,915 in support to St. John in the Wilderness for the year 2009:

Bruce Ackerman, Joseph Afryl, Andrews Allen, Jack Ambler, A. Ken Anderson, Erika Anderson, Gladys Anderson, Lois Anderson, James Anthony, Geraldine Babcock, Fred Baborsky, Marilyn Baldwin, Cathryn Bashore, William Beebe, June Bennett, Joan Berry, Kevin Blake, Dana Boyle, Fosten Boyle, Korey Brown, John Brunner, Janette Buckbee, Harvey Caldwell, Judith Caldwell, Priscilla Campbell, Bruce Canterbury, Bradford Carpenter, Michael Carpenter, Robert Cessna, Shirley Chapman, Betty Chappell, Edward Chilton, Karla Collins, Margaret Cost, Nancy Cottle, James Delamater, Bryan DeSmet, Dorothy Dokmo, Ronald Domin, Karen Dufresne, George Earl, Gregory Eick, Virginia Ellis, Allan Fagley, Keiko Farrar, Alison Feigh, John Fennig, Ivan Fletcher, Sheila Foster, David Gadbois, Eric Gadbois, Joan Gardner, Jone Gedge, David Gehrenbeck, Jeanne Gilbertson, George Glander, George Gorbatenko, Angela Gordon, Richard Gwynn, Dorothy Haas, Timothy Hadley, Helen Halbert, Richard Halbert, Andrew Harding, Louise Harding, Betty Harholdt, Sara Harker-Olson, Louis Harris, James Hartmeister, Mary Jo Hawkinson, Christopher Hawley, Anne Herron, Nancy Hess, Lois Hildebrandt, Joseph Hill, Junice Hochbrunn, Margaret Holper, Peter Holtz, Mark Hosfield, George Hough III, Richard Hovland, David Hyduke, G. Robert Jagusch, Andrew Jensen, Christopher Johnson, John Johnson, Randy Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Gayle Kasmani, Sally Keep, Stanley Kegler, Janet Kelber, Mark Kelm, Charles King, Helen Kissel, Gregory Kliner, Julie Kliner, Jason Knauss, John Kobinski, Jean Kohn, John Korth, Barry Kostyk, Larry Koutek, Molly Kroesch, Richard Kyle, Helen LaBarre, Julia Lafean, Bert Larson, Richard Larson, Victor Lee, Donald Levin, Nathan Lief, Alma Limbach, Susanne Lindahl, Corinne Livesay, Thomas Long, Sharon Lund, Lawrence Mahoney, Albert Maiers, Barbara Maloney, James Marier, James Markoe, James Matko, Gene McAlister, William McBride, Edwin McCarthy, Alice McClaren, Thomas Medd, Robert Melin, Barbara Merrill, Matthew Millard, Glenn Monson, Lyles Monson, Robert Monson, David Monyak, Priscilla Moody, Christopher Muehleck, Wendy Muscanto, Elaine Napiwoski, Thomas Napiwoski, James Nieman, Amy Okaya, Clare O'Neil, Kenneth Paddock, Kenneth Peatross, Robert Peck, James Petersen, Cheryl Peterson, Joan Piasecki, Verne Pickering, Marjorie Polanek, Robert Prochnow, Nancy Purcell, John Reed, Patricia Reioux, Nancy Rice, Angela Robinson, Teresa Sanders, Harry Schlieff, Gregory Schmit, Timothy Schmuck, Suzanne Schradle, Mark Sears, David Seitz, Martha Shaffer, Daryl Skobba, Bette Smeed, Mark Smeltzer, Joann Smith, Kathryn Smith, Susanne Smith, Erik Sorensen, Laurel Stiebler, Donald Sulentic, Robert Sullivan, William Swanson, Brett Tanttu, J. Dixon Tews, Dennis Thoemke, Margaret Thor, Margaret Thorson, Edward Titcomb III, Richard Todd, Brent Torgerson, Elizabeth Uppgren, Elaine Uttermark, Charles Van Steen, John Vruno, Kern Walker, Janet Waller, Margaret Wangensteen, Nathaniel Watkins, Ronald Weide, Doris Weinhausen, Debra Welch, Kenneth Whitney, Cecil Widener, Sandra Williams, Lee Wilson, Diane Wingfield, Barbara Youngblood, & James Zinter

Treasurer's Report

In this report last year, I reported that we were entering 2009 facing economic uncertainty with many of us having our retirement funds significantly reduced while others were losing their jobs and livelihood. I said the vestry would closely monitor the early months against plan and take action, as it deemed appropriate. By March, at the low point of the markets, pledgers who were not current, were behind by over \$10,000. That amount carried forward would have left our pledge projections \$40k short for the year. We could not afford this since the plan already had a \$92k shortfall to be filled by capital campaign "plan for growth" funds. The Vestry took action by stopping the funding of the major improvement fund thus saving \$9k and asking all programs to cut expenses by 10%.

Over the rest of the year, a miracle occurred. Pledges in arrears retreated so the year-end in arrears amount was less than \$9k. In addition, others paid significantly more than their pledge. For the first time I can ever remember, total pledge payments made exceeded the amount pledged for the year! Although the final figures are not in, expenses and income were within a couple hundred dollars of each other – without using any capital funds. However, one point is of great financial concern – although membership in our church is up, the number pledging each year is declining. Only 60% of our members make a written commitment to support their church. The national average is closer to 80%.

I am pleased to report the vestry has approved the 2010 Financial plan which calls for income and spending of \$556,650. About \$46,000 of that is supported by the use of capital campaign funds raised and designated as part of the "plan for growth". The final amount represents a \$300 decrease from last year's plan.

As we enter 2010, we still face economic uncertainty. Although the markets have recovered, they are still well below the highs earlier in the decade, and the recovery is very slow on Main Street as opposed to Wall Street. Despite the market rebound, I don't expect distributions from our endowments at the St. Paul Foundation to be higher than last year's as the distributions are based on a 4-year rolling average. Thankfully, St. John in the Wilderness is in far better financial health than many churches in the area.

Only summary financial information is included in the annual report, and the figures for 2009 will not be final until the end of January. Should anyone want the detailed statements when they become available, send an email to johns745@umn.edu and I will be happy to send you a copy.

Steve Johnson, Treasurer

	2007 Actual	Change from prior year	2008 Actual	Change from prior year	2009 Actual (Estimate)	Change from prior year	2010 Plan	Change from prior year
Total Income	523,769	10%	582,030	11%	507,828	-13%	556,650	10%
Faith Formation	6,327	10%	6,926	10%	5,558	-20%	6,500	17%
Office Related	13,307	-10%	18,965	42%	14,214	-25%	17,000	20%
Payroll & related	339,641	11%	348,359	3%	346,401	-1%	379,000	9%
Building & Property	65,517	32%	106,086	62%	47,202	-56%	50,600	7%
Growth & Retention	12,866	-10%	14,209	10%	10,017	-30%	15,350	53%
Liturgy & Music	9,505	50%	10,772	13%	7,411	-31%	13,500	82%
Outreach	75,920	10%	77,367	2%	76,600	-1%	74,689	-2%
Total Expense	523,083	12%	582,684	11%	507,402	-13%	556,639	10%
Income-Expense	686		-654		426		11	

Wardens' Report

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this year in the overall care & upkeep of the church, and developing & managing St. John's Financial Plan. We thank the Vestry for their dedicated efforts, especially Rich Hovland, John Kobinski, Tim Schmuck & Krista Sullivan as they complete their term.

This year has been a blessed but challenging one as the economy & world situation affected many St. John's families. Fr. Mark, Rev's Joanie & Marilyn, Deacons Debra & Rick work tirelessly as God's messengers of love & strength. Our attendance for Winter & Spring averaged 262 vs. 241 last year, an 8+% increase. Summer attendance is somewhat lower. We have over 42 ministries/programs to provide opportunities for all of us to be involved. New initiatives such as the Eco Group, an environmental initiative, & Project Homeless, partnering with First Lutheran, provide opportunities for us to be involved in outreach.

St. John's 2009 Financial Plan held the line on expenses. A Vestry Financial Subcommittee provided recommendations in July to guide us through this difficult time. Pledging & contributions are critical to maintain a balanced budget without making staff or program changes. Pledges are down for 2010. We need everyone's support. Please prayerfully consider your commitment. The clergy, Treasurer Steve Johnson & your Vestry monitor our finances. The Vestry has approved a Futures Task Force to identify our program & facility needs to support our future direction. We hope you'll be involved in this task force.

We're blessed with a strong music program under Matt Anderson's direction and Youth & Children's Programs with Sheila Foster's leadership. Our choirs, weekly activities, COFTA for youth, & Vacation Bible School are examples of the wonderful opportunities for adults & youth. Many volunteers help lead committees that support St. John's as an active church in the community. Fr. Mark & Cemetery Chair Chris Hawley with Past Chair Ken Whitney led the dedication on Veterans' Day of the new Veterans Memorial. Summer worship on the front lawn, celebrations for Thanksgiving, Christmas, adult education, & many outreach activities are examples of the blessings we all have at St. John's. Please be a part of God's work in our parish. St. John's approaches our 150th year as a church. A Sesquicentennial Committee is in the planning stages for a celebration in 2010-2011, and invites all who wish to be involved to contact Richard Lee, Chair. It will be exciting to share our past as we build for the future.

Wardens lead Vestry meetings, Executive Committee meetings & provide oversight for our church under the Canons of the Episcopal Church and St. John's Bylaws & Policies. The Vestry meetings are open to all. The Vestry's two main responsibilities are property & finance. Ministry Forum meets monthly after church to review activities. The Ministry Forum is the starting place for all concerns, questions & ideas not involving finances. Consider as part of your spiritual journey becoming involved with your fellow parishioners in the Lord's work as you share your time, talents & treasure. We Gather in Love to Serve as God's family. We look forward to 2010 and our journey of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Janet Kelber, Jim Petersen

Thank you Janet Kelber for your prayerful & dedicated service as Sr. Warden.