



The Voice

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OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2175 1ST STREET • WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA 55110

Return Service Requested

www.stjohnwilderness.org

651/429-5351

SUNDAYS

7:30, 9 & 10:30 am,
 Nursery Care at 9 & 10:30 am
 Sunday School & Adult Formation 10 am

WEDNESDAY EVENING

7 pm Holy Eucharist
 Nursery Care at 6 pm



**April
 2008**

Volume 50
 Issue 4

Gathering in Love to Serve

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Mark Wm. Kelm	Rector
The Rev. Joanie Delamater	Associate Priest
The Rev. Marilyn Baldwin	Associate Priest
The Rev. Rick Todd	Deacon
The Rev. Debra Welch	Deacon
Maureen Vruno	Parish Administrator
Sheila Foster	Youth & Children's Minister
Dr. David M. Gehrenbeck	Organist/Choirmaster
Helen Gehrenbeck	Youth Choir Director
Bob Cessna	Sexton
Lorna Cessna	Nursery Care
Cheryl Sticha	Nursery Care
Kate Vincent	Kids Hope

VESTRY

Ken Paddock	Warden
Janet Kelber	Warden
Steve Johnson	Treasurer
Becky Monson	Clerk of Vestry
John Fennig	2009
Brent Torgerson	2009
Rich Hovland	2010
John Kobinski	2010
Tim Schmuck	2010
Krista Sullivan	2010
Chantell Knauss	2011
Bob Peck	2011
Terry Rooney	2011

People of the Parish

The Ministers

The "Voice" is published as a monthly newsletter of The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness



ST. JOHN'S INTRODUCES COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS OF NAILS

We at St. John's have the opportunity to join a worldwide community of reconciliation called the *Community of the Cross of Nails*. The program is based on the original message of Christ: love and reconciliation with all, even one's enemies. It is named for the cross formed by nails left after the bombing of Coventry Cathedral during World War II, which led to efforts to respond with peace, forgiveness, & understanding for all. It involves participation in a small group community as well as forming spiritual friendships.

The program will begin during April and will be led by clergy, with a different focus every week. The topics, prayers, readings, and meditation will lead us into a deeper relationship with Christ and with all others, both within and outside our own community.

We introduce CCN as the Wednesday evening Adult Formation series, beginning at 6 pm. Our schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
4/9	Suffering and Stillness
4/16	Personal Reconciliation
4/23	Family and Community Reconciliation
4/30	Racism, Oppression, and Privilege
5/7	Global Reconciliation



As a member of the Community since 2002, I highly recommend this series as a spirit-changing opportunity for ourselves, our Christian community, and the greater community of God's people. Please join us on our journey of reconciliation. You may sign up in the Parish Hall or speak to Rev. Marilyn for details.

YOUTH & ADULTS ENJOY
APPLES TO APPLES
BIBLE EDITION
IN THE PARISH HALL
AFTER CHURCH
ON FEBRUARY 17



Wherever you are on your faith journey...St. John's welcomes you.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR APRIL *All Are Welcome!*

Sunday Mornings, 10 am in the Parlor

April 6 & 13 Rev. Marilyn presents *Shame and Anxiety - A Personal Journey*. What is shame, and how does it affect our lives? How can we identify it and stop the old tapes from affecting our future? Join us and learn more about it.

Beginning April 20, member Mark Thorson, a professor at Bethel University, presents a new series, *Cities of Earth & Heaven*, about the misunderstood concept of separation of church and state. The topic is especially timely in this election year. There is a preview "test" that you may take, available on a clipboard in the Parish Hall and on St. John's website, in preparation for the series. Please join us for this new series.

Sundays at Noon in the Parlor (through April 13) *Anglican 101* is an informal presentation and discussion led by Rev. Marilyn about the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church. Bring your questions and your knowledge of other traditions.

Wednesday Evenings

5:30 pm Light Supper in the Parish Hall

6 pm in the Parlor We wrap up our earlier series, *Called to be Disciples*, on April 2. A new series of prayer and meditation, *The Community of the Cross of Nails*, begins on April 9. It is based on a worldwide reconciliation movement which began following World War II, and will be led by a different clergy person each week. This is a very powerful series leading us to reconciliation in our individual lives as well as in our faith and public communities.

ECW SPRING GRANTS

All grant requests must be submitted in writing to Pat Pickering, ECW President, by May 8th. Place your request in the Episcopal Church Women mail slot, or mail it to the church, Attention: Pat Pickering.

The Episcopal Church Women will award their Spring Grants on May 15th.

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION, SATURDAY, 5/10

Any adults who are new to the Episcopal Church from another tradition, or who have not experienced Confirmation by a bishop, may participate in the service at St. Mark's Cathedral. Please speak to Rev. Marilyn.

GET OUT YOUR GARDEN GLOVES!

Join fellow parishioners & Boy Scout Troop 494 Saturday, May 3rd, 9 am - 1 pm for St. John's Historic Cemetery Spring Cleanup on the SE corner of White Bear Ave & South Shore Blvd.

The scouts will grill out for all in attendance. It should be a fun time and a great get together!

Please bring your own lawn care hand tools, such as rakes.

We'll see you there!

PASSAGES

NEW TRANSFER

Julie Thiss McAlister 3/10/2008

BURIAL

Nancy Hatton Brown 3/15/2008

THANK YOU

PARISHIONER HOUSEHOLDS FOR YOUR RECENT PLEDGES TO THE 2008 GENERAL FUND

James Berry
Thomas Napiwoski

WELCOMING & EVANGELISM NEWS

We'll have a **Newcomers Luncheon** at noon Sunday, April 27. If you've recently joined us and haven't been to a luncheon, sign up in the Parish Hall. Please let us know if you need child care. Contact: Rev. Marilyn, 651/429-5351 ext. 16.

We still need a **St. John's logo** for Welcoming publications. Please submit your ideas in the Welcoming Committee mail slot by the end of April.

Marketfest is coming! This year's is 7 weeks beginning Thursday, June 19 (exception: Wednesday, July 2, due to the holiday). We need a few good people to staff the booth for an evening, 5:30 - 9 pm. We plan to offer fresh popcorn which should create some good visibility for us. Sign up in the Parish Hall to reserve your evening! Contact Jason Knauss, 651/426-3535, or Becky & Glenn Monson, 651/771-6810, if you have questions.



Bible Readings

April 6

Acts 2:14a,36-41

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

April 13

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

April 20

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:1-10

John 14:1-14

April 27

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

*Underlined verses
are read by the Lector.*

AN OPEN LETTER OF THANKS

to the Rector, Priests, Vestry and members of St. John in the Wilderness Church.

I am writing this letter as an acknowledgement of and thanksgiving for all the generosity and stewardship of time, energy and financial support of St. John in the Wilderness Church.

I attended the annual presentation of the financial report to the congregation on the first Sunday after the Epiphany and I am very pleased and encouraged by the financial support which this congregation has made to our parish. I give thanks to our clergy and the Stewardship Committed for boldly stepping forward and requesting our financial support. I especially applaud and thank each member of St. John's who responded to this humble call for responsible stewardship. Finally, I encourage all members who have not yet completed his or her pledge to generously support this fine ministry.

Our collective offerings for the past three years have grown approximately 10% per year. These financial gifts have empowered St. John's to do outstanding ministry inside and outside our Parish family. These gifts have also empowered us to reinvest in our parish property thus creating a safe comfortable physical environment in which we conduct our ministries.

Finally, St John's is to be applauded for its generous support of Minnesota's Diocesan Community by continuing to honor its Apportionment for the Common Good of the Diocese. We are all one Episcopal community and many of our mission parishes have much less than we do as a parish. We at St. John's are blessed abundantly in all ways. It is our generosity and outreach to others with much less which makes us one healthy spiritual Christian community.

We can feel good that our Lord is guiding us to be unified by living out the sacrament of our Baptismal covenant so generously given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

May we all continue to be richly blessed by our Lord and Savior.

Many thanks,

James R. Delamater
Parishioner of St. John in the Wilderness
Trustee of the Diocese of Minnesota

St John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church-April 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Every Sunday</p> <p>7:30 am Eucharist (no music)</p> <p>9 am Family-friendly Eucharist</p> <p>Nursery care available 9 & 10:30</p> <p>10 am Christian Education, & Sr. High Youth Group (St. Bernard's Room)</p> <p>10:30 am Choral Eucharist</p> <p>11:30 am Handbell Choir (St. Cecilia's Room)</p>	<p>Every Monday</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals</p> <p>Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p> <p>2:30 pm Holy Eucharist (Cerenity)</p> <p>4 pm Executive Committee Meeting (Fireplace Room)</p> <p>6:30 pm Altar Guild Meeting (Parlor)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>See Every Wednesday below</p> <p>6 pm Lay Reader Training (Church Nave)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1 pm Healing Ministry (Parlor) until 4 pm</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Noon Anglican 101 (Parlor): Liturgy & Music Committee Meeting (Fireplace Room)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p> <p>7 pm Outreach Committee Meeting (Parlor) All are welcome!</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals</p> <p>Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p> <p>6 pm Kids Hope USA Event (O. H. Anderson Elementary, Mahtomedi) until 7 pm</p> <p>7 pm Welcoming Committee Meeting (Parlor) All are welcome!</p>	<p>9</p> <p>See Every Wednesday below</p> <p>7:30 pm Ministry Forum (Parlor)</p> <p>All are welcome; a representative of each committee, ministry, & group is expected</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>11:45 BeFriender Meeting (Church Nave)</p> <p>Noon Safe Church Training (St. Cecilia's Room) until 3 pm;</p> <p>Anglican 101 (Parlor)</p> <p>4 pm Ultreya (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>15</p> <p>May Voice deadline</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals</p> <p>Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>See Every Wednesday below</p> <p>10:15 am Holy Eucharist (St. Andrew's Village)</p> <p>11:30 am Retired Men's Group Lunch (Key's, downtown WBL)</p> <p>7:30 pm Good Grief Group (Parlor)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Diocesan Council</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1 pm Healing Ministry Training (Parlor) until 4 pm</p>
<p>20</p> <p>11:45 Healing Team Meeting (St. Luke's Room)</p> <p>Noon Vestry Meeting (St. Cecilia's Room)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p> <p>7 pm Baby Sign Language Class (Parish Hall) until 8:30 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals</p> <p>Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p> <p>1:30 pm Memorial & Gift Committee Meeting (Parlor)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>See Every Wednesday below</p> <p>7:30 pm CanSurmount cancer support group (Parlor)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Out to Lunch (Parish Hall)</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10:30 Holy Baptism</p> <p>Noon Newcomers Lunch (Parish Hall)</p> <p>Rummage Week begins</p>	<p>28 Rummage</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>29 Rummage</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals</p> <p>Watercolor Painting Group (St. Cecilia's Room)</p>	<p>30 Rummage</p> <p>See Every Wednesday right</p> <p>6 pm All Parish Rummage Sale (Parish Hall) until 8 pm</p>	<p>Every Wednesday</p> <p>1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30 pm Light Supper</p> <p>6:00 pm Nursery Care, Youth Choir, & Adult Education</p> <p>6:15 pm Confirmation</p> <p>7:00 pm Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:00 pm Jr. High Youth Group</p> <p>7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>		

EASTER PEOPLE

I once heard a preacher speak about the transformation of a caterpillar from the cocoon into a butterfly; he compared it to the new life we experience through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we believe that Jesus rose from the grave, but we often struggle with how that plays out in our daily lives.

The butterfly would not and cannot go back to what it was before; to stay forever within the nice, comfy cocoon would mean starvation and ultimately death. What about us? How do we face changes in our individual lives and in our communities? Life changes; the environment changes; we change. Can we expect that our customary things, whatever they are, will stay the same forever; and would we really want them to?

Resurrection, transformation, is not just a one-time thing, but is ongoing, and impacts our outlook on everything around us and within us. Letting go of our own preconceptions in our church community is a great place to start. We need to open up space within us to allow the Spirit in, and we cannot control exactly how and where that Spirit takes us. That's the point.

In this Easter season, and always, Jesus calls us to new life in him. Truly living our Christian beliefs means following Jesus' way, not our own. The results are transforming!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rev. Marilyn

GUNSHIP OR SAILBOAT

It's late and I'm sitting at work. My mind is whirling with so much going on here, at church and at home. I try to unwind but the sounds in the distance keep distracting me. People are talking low and there is static coming from a radio in a cube down the row from mine. I'm not really nervous but there is an underlying, undefined electricity coursing through my muscles. The droning from a fan's motor in the distance has a comforting affect - because it's familiar. So why am I on edge?

When I worked in the medical field I was always a bit on edge, always ready to respond to certain situations in a specific way. That's the way I was trained. I counted on everyone in the team to perform their duties as they had been trained, no questions asked and not a lot of thought or conversation involved. Time did not permit it. I did what I was trained to do, and, I could literally do it without thinking about each action.

While I may not be able to discern why I am feeling 'on edge' I'm mindful that our military men and women may be experiencing the same undefined feeling wherever they are. Yes, *wherever* they are. How does what I experienced when I was in medicine have anything to do with the soldiers? They too are trained. It's sometimes referred to as 'muscle training'. They respond to certain stimuli without thinking. They count on the people in their platoon to do what they are trained to do. It's how everyone survives. But they are home now and they should be able to relax. But it takes time to acclimate into the normalcy of life with family in the United States.

What can we do? First, remember that this isn't about war. It's about people. A soldier doesn't complete a tour of duty by themselves. Family, friends and community complete the tour of duty too.

Join me on Sunday, May 4, during Adult Education for a presentation by Carolyn Fick, RN and Rural Outreach Nurse Care Coordinator at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. We can gain a new understanding of a soldier's life as it was, and learn more about what they are experiencing now as they reintegrate into an environment that isn't a war zone. I believe that by the time you leave you will have discovered that many people (in and outside of the military) live their life as if they're on a Gunship, not a Sailboat.

Deacon Debra

Happy spring everyone! We're pleased to announce Kids Hope will hold it's 1st celebration at O. H. Anderson Elementary School, Mahtomedi, on April 8, 6 - 7 pm, the 1st time all our students, parents, teachers, mentors, prayer partners & clergy will come together to get acquainted. We'll host a supper & some fun activities for all to enjoy. We hope to have some photographs of this exciting event to share next month.

Reports from parents, teachers, students & mentors tell us that the time our volunteers invest in this young St. John's ministry is returning exciting & heartwarming results.

We'll offer mentor training again in early May as well as continuing education training for all of our volunteers. Watch worship bulletin inserts for dates & times.

All of our available mentors are in operation, and we need at least 11 new mentors & 6 prayer partners this spring to enable us to be in full force by September, 2008. If you need more information about Kids Hope, please pick up a volunteer packet in the Parish Hall from the Kids Hope USA media center or contact Kate Vincent, KidsHope@stjohnwilderness.org or 651/442-1957.

Could you be the one to bring HOPE to a child? One child, one hour, one church, one school.

We would like to extend a huge "Thank You" for the generous, anonymous donation of \$5,000.⁰⁰ to SJKHUSA. Our students are all *proudly* wearing their Kids Hope USA T-shirts, with smiles of delight on their little faces! God's Blessings to you for your thoughtfulness & generosity, and promoting the continuation of this ministry in our local community.

Our spring fund raising event will conclude at the end of April. Watch the May Voice to see how we did!

Are you missing friends you haven't seen in a while? How about the food, the stories, the music? Maybe even the chicken suits? Well the wait is over.

Join us for an open Ultreya at St. John in the Wilderness on April 13, 4-7 pm. If you don't know what an Ultreya is, please join us and experience a gathering of Christians who have been to a Cursillo. The Cursillo experience begins with people participating in a weekend retreat and continues on as they keep growing spiritually and in community.

Please let other 4th Dayers know about this joyful evening. This is a pot-luck event so bring your favorite dish to share, your music book and your cross. We may remember your face but have forgotten your name, so please help us and wear your nametag. In addition, please bring non-perishable items for a donation to the White Bear Lake food shelf.

More questions, please contact The Rev. Joanie Delamater, 651/429-5351, ext. 14.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE: BUILD IN OAKDALE AUGUST 25-29

This year's build is scheduled in Oakdale the last week in August. Because we're in the 2nd week in the build cycle, we can expect our job to be framing: assembling pre-built panels to make walls, securing floor joists, etc. In addition to swinging hammers, we need people to work on the food committee, a photographer, & a volunteer to serve as site host.

The following was heavily plagiarized from Lee Miller's article to Ascension folks:

For several years Ascension has partnered with other local churches to help build Habitat for Humanity homes. It is a unique experience working with future owners as they build sweat equity, and with our volunteers, as we see new homes emerge before our eyes. In past years we have worked in the Fall.

This year our coalition requested a summer week so a broader set of people, including teens 14+, can join. Our coalition has grown to include Our Savior's Lutheran, Ascension Episcopal, White Bear Unitarian Universalist, and our new member, St Mary of the Lake, Catholic. You'll make new friends and have interesting discussions about our churches.

You needn't be a skilled carpenter or builder to volunteer. Helping move & place materials is a major part of the job. Volunteers will be organized in work teams with knowledgeable crew leaders who provide guidance & training. In addition, we need volunteers to prepare simple lunches, and site hosts to assure volunteers are logged in & assigned to a team. The work day is 8—4:30. The minimum volunteer period is 1 day,

though many contribute a full week of their time.

The maximum number of construction volunteers is 18/ day. With 5 churches involved, the available openings may fill quickly, so sign up soon. Teens must work along side a parent or adult friend. We'll have a sign up list in the Parish Hall and meet with our partner churches mid-May to integrate volunteer schedules.

You'll go home each day having made a very tangible contribution, whether raising a wall, installing a window, nailing flooring, or feeding the work crew. For more information please call or write George Gorbatenko, 651/653-7759 or gorbby@ece.umn.edu, or Ken Paddock, 651/777-8655 or kcpaddock@comcast.net.

ggg

St John's Lay Liturgical Ministry-April 2008

LAY READER	LECTOR	LEM	ACOLYTES	HEALER	USHER(S)	ALTAR GUILD	VERGER
6 7:30 Judy Kroesch 10:30 Ken Paddock	7:30 Allan Fagley 9:00 Larry Mahoney 10:30 Jim Delamater	Wed 2, 7 pm Pris Campbell 7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Susie Mahoney Barb VanSteen 10:30 Pris Campbell	9:00 E. Mahoney Moertels 10:30 L. McCarthy S. Kraning	9:00 Cathryn 10:30 Krissa	7:30 Jim Hartmeister 9:00 Cossalters 10:30 Johnsons	Barb Merrill Alice Fagley Gere Letourneau Bette Smeed	Dennis Thoenke
13 7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Jim Petersen	7:30 Alice Fagley 9:00 John Fennig 10:30 Pat Petersen	Wed 9, 7 pm Ken Paddock 7:30 Allan Fagley 9:00 Linda Monyak Janet Waller 10:30 Greg Schmit	9:00 Thors J. Markoe 10:30 L. DuFresne S. Bartley S. Sears	9:00 Sherri 10:30 Cathryn	7:30 Jim Hartmeister 9:00 Canterburys 10:30 Jim Hartmeister Mike Gerlach	Janet Waller Keiko Farrar Peggy Holper Anne Johnson	Margaret Thor
20 7:30 Joe Afryl 10:30 Chris Johnson	7:30 Sherri Afryl 9:00 Louise Harding 10:30 Laurel Stiebler	Wed 16, 7 pm June Bennett 7:30 Bari Chilton 9:00 Judy Kroesch Pris Campbell 10:30 Bob Peck	9:00 Longs Whillocks 10:30 K. Paddock Mariers	9:00 Dianne 10:30 Mary	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 4 th & 5 th Graders 10:30 Mark Hosfield Jim Marier	Deb Schmit Sally Holtz Jeanne LeFevre Mary Whitney	John Brunner
27 7:30 June Bennett 10:30 Lee Wilson	7:30 David Gadbois 9:00 Michael Carpenter 10:30 Wendy Muscanto	Wed 23, 7 pm Bob Peck 7:30 Jane Kyle 9:00 Bari Chilton Ed Chilton 10:30 Joe Afryl Wed 30, 7 pm Joe Afryl	9:00 T. Young Karps 10:30 Todds	9:00 Dianne 10:30 Amy	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Linda Carpenter Domins 10:30 DeSmets	Gere Letourneau Lynn Gadbois Alice McClaren Meg Thorson	Bryan DeSmet

Ushers Note Linda Carpenter has taken over usher-scheduling duties. If you have a scheduling conflict, please contact Linda, lthompson@kennedy-graven.com, or 651/773-5548. Linda will do her best to work out conflicts, but those brought to her attention at least three weeks in advance have the best chance of rescheduling. Thank you Chris Hawley for all of the hard work with the ushers over the past several months!

DO YOU KNOW?

Vol. 1, No. 19, SAINT JOHN'S MESSENGER, Oct. 1923 - published monthly. There was an article - "LISTENIN' IN" by Chas. M. Price.

"Radio is the latest and probably the greatest of modern miracles. Thousands of people of all ages are enjoying the fascinating experience of hearing in their own homes the voices of speakers and singers and the music of orchestras all over the country. Radio today, wonderful as it is, is still as crude as the early telephone. What it will be fifty or even twenty-five years from now, no one even dare guess."

"The day is not far distant when the canned noises from various types of phonographs will become a thing of the past. These instruments of torture will be replaced by clear tones sent through the air onto aërials and from there to receiving sets to be heard through head sets or through loud speakers. One of my friends has become so enamored with radio that he constructed in a cigar box a single tube set that he carries everywhere he goes in his car. He uses a single loop aerial and as a consequence is in constant touch with what is going on around him."

Also in that issue of the MESSENGER - "There never was a time when we could say: 'It is yesterday.'" and there will never be a time when we can say "It is tomorrow." - forever and forever it is today. The past has ceased to be and the future does not exist. Therefore, whatever we hope to accomplish must be done in the now. The present is all we have; and somewhere hidden away in the magic words: "Today" and "Now" lies the secret of happiness. - As an aid to faith - Come to church."

John Johnson

ANOTHER CHANCE TO READ PHILIPPIANS TOGETHER

The @ Home in the Wilderness Bible study group is about to begin a 4 session study of Philippians on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of April & May at 6:30 pm in the church Parlor. We would be delighted if any of you joined us. For this study we will use one of N. T. Wright's *New Testament for Everyone* commentary series as a study guide. (Wright is an Anglican bishop in Durham.) The paperback we'll use is *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (For Everyone)*. Each section begins with Wright's own translation of the text followed by stories and a gentle dialogue with the reader. While you may certainly order this book on your own, I can purchase the books at cost at a local seminary bookstore. Please let me know if I should order a copy for you by contacting Linda Monyak, 651/481-8697 or lcmonyak@comcast.net. Anyone is welcome to join us.

FAMILIES INC. TO HOST BABY SIGN LANGUAGE WORKSHOP MONDAY, APRIL 21, 7-8:30 PM

Parishioner Jenny Lief, MA, CCC, is a Speech-Language Pathologist who uses these techniques daily in her professional work as well as at home with her two young boys. She will teach these techniques to us in our Parish Hall.

During the past two decades, parents and other caregivers have discovered the joys of using sign language with preverbal hearing babies. Why use sign language with babies who can hear? Babies can control their arms and hands before they develop the oral motor skills necessary for speech, so signing allows babies and toddlers to express their thoughts before they can speak, great for both babies and their caregivers!

Research has proven that using sign language to communicate with preverbal hearing babies is beneficial in several ways:

Babies and caregivers experience reduced frustration

Signing stimulates creative and intellectual development

Improved communication facilitates a closer child-caregiver bond

Babies who sign tend to speak earlier and have a larger spoken vocabulary

Parents, caregivers, daycare providers, and grandparents will enjoy learning the techniques for introducing and reinforcing signs with babies and toddlers in this single session workshop.

Workshop participants will receive handouts and a sign language reference guide for identification of 148 signs. Children need not be in attendance and nursery care will be provided. The workshop is free for St. John's parishioners and \$25/family for non-parishioners. Please tell everyone who may be interested. Call Chantell Knauss, 651/387-8288, to register by April 14.



April Birthdays

- 1 Edward Chilton
- 1 G. Robert Jagusch
- 1 Joanna Torgerson
- 2 Marilyn King
- 3 Sally Gilchrist
- 3 Gretchen Peck
- 4 Lael Pickett
- 5 Dianne Del Giorno
- 5 Sandy Sears
- 6 Eve Purnell
- 7 Bruce Ackerman
- 7 Anne Brunner
- 12 Grace Kelm
- 14 Richard Todd
- 14 Ronald Weide
- 15 Michael Carpenter
- 15 Joanne Power
- 16 Louis Harris
- 18 Layla Bly
- 18 Ivan Fletcher
- 18 Nichole Korth
- 18 Stephanie Schmit
- 19 Virginia Ellis
- 19 Anne Herron
- 19 Bert Larson
- 19 Doris Long
- 20 Karen Dufresne
- 22 Helen Gehrenbeck
- 22 Tyler Young
- 23 John Holland
- 23 Evan Vickstrom
- 24 John Vruno
- 25 John Fennig
- 25 Emmy Kegler
- 25 Caryn Thor
- 27 Annalee Blake
- 29 Brennan Maloney
- 30 Jacob Reichert

If you have a birthday this month but are not listed, please contact the church with your date of birth. Records are not always complete.

Thank you.

Recycle, Reuse

No, you can't get out of cleaning your closet, cupboards, attic, basement, & garage. You know there's stuff hiding there that you'll never use, so put it to work for a good cause: bring it for the Spring Rummage Sale!

Scoop & schedule You will help, won't you? Set Up April 28-30. Workers can snoop & shop all week. Parish Sale Wed, April 30, 6-8 pm. Straighten up & reorganize Thu, May 1. Public Sales Fri 9 am -3 pm, & Sat 9-noon (\$2/bag). Clean Up Will you or maybe your kids help clean up? Child care Tue - Fri. Soup Lunches Tue - Thu. Friday is anyone's guess.

Don't leave rummage outside or in the entry. Don't bring computers, microwaves, mattresses, or anything that doesn't work. Do stack items neatly behind the Parish Hall divider cabinets. Do call Christine Karp, Pat Pickering, or Lynn Gadbois to clear questionable or large items. Do participate.

Memorial & Gift Committee Update

Since January of this year gifts have been given to the church for the General Operating Fund, General Endowment, Youth Endowment, toward new computers & installation, in thanksgiving for services at St. Andrew's Village, and general memorial gifts. The Episcopal Church Women have given a gift for a St. John's Banner. Many thanks to all for your generous support of our parish!

Children's Ministry

Summer is just around the corner and we are thinking ahead to Vacation Bible School. It takes many hearts, hands and ideas to create this fun and faith-filled time. Do you have a knack for crafts, a love of storytelling, like to 'do lunch' or have the gift of music? We can use your talents in VBS! If you are interested in sharing in this lively experience please join our planning meeting on Sunday, April 13 at 11am in the Parish Hall.

Fall Birthday Luncheon

The Episcopal Church Women's Fall Birthday Luncheon at North Oaks Golf Club will be held on Saturday, September 20 at 11 am. Put the date on your calendar. Bring friends and enjoy fabulous food, fellowship and great entertainment while you celebrate your birthdays together.

The Gehrenbeck Retirement Dinner

Helen & David will retire from St. John's staff on July 1. We would like everyone to save Wednesday, June 18 for a retirement dinner at St. John's. All parishioners will receive an invitation in May.

Please mark your calendars now, and plan to join us as we honor the Gehrenbecks' many years of service to our music programs.

Pretzel Making in the Parish Hall on February 17



The Youth Voice

Jr. High Youth Group Meetings

6th – 8th grade

We'll be back to our regular schedule (with Sheila Foster & Max Stevenson). We plan to finish our Mosaic project on April 2nd.

The Jr. High Youth also meet on Sunday Mornings at 10 am in St. Angelico's Room (with Kathryn Schneider and Kelly DeSmet). For the month of April the youth and their leaders will watch "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Sr. High Youth Group Meetings

9th – 12th grade

Sr. High youth meet in St. Bernard's Room at 10 am Sundays, but when the group has been smaller they have met in the Youth Office. The 1st & 3rd Sundays are scheduled for mission trip planning and other Sundays are planned & led by the youth with either games or topical conversations.

Safe Church Training Opportunities

Sunday, April 13th Noon – 3 pm

St. John in the Wilderness

A sign up sheet will be available in the Parish Hall.

Saturday, April 26th 9am – Noon

St. Christopher's, Roseville

Register with Renee Carlson at the Episcopal Center, 612/870-3315.

If you have not taken Safe Church Training, now is the time. Safe Church Training benefits all. Training opportunities are limited. Everyone, regardless of present role, should consider training. It is better to have already taken training than to wait on an opportunity because you have not. Currently all volunteers with children & youth, everyone in a leadership role, and everyone with a church access code and/or keys must take training. Also consider this valuable if you are an aunt/uncle, grandparent, or caregiver of children or vulnerable adults. The information shared will help keep our church community safer and can also benefit the greater community. Please consider doing your part by participating.

Teens Encounter Christ

Retreat Weekends

St. Paul TEC for 9th – 12th grade youth will be held April 18th - 20th at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in St. Paul. Please contact Sheila Foster for more information and registration forms.

Yard Cleanup Saturday, April 19th

A Mission Trip Fundraiser is planned to benefit both Youth & St. John's parishioners. The Mission Trip Youth will be available for hire Saturday, April 19th. We believe we can accomplish approx. 4-5 yards that day. If you would like to help sponsor the youth and prepare your yard for spring, contact Sheila Foster, 651/429-5351 ext. 12, or John Kobinski, 651/773-0249, for more information or requests.

Spring Regional Confirmation

Saturday, May 10th

The service begins at 11 am at St. Mark's Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove, Minneapolis.

Anyone who desires to be confirmed and has completed the 2 year youth confirmation program or has attended an Adult Ed course is eligible for confirmation. Youth please contact Sheila Foster.

Youth Mission Trips

Camp Heartland: May 16-17

Chicago: June 22-28

Youth (8th – 12th Grade) can find paper copies of the registration forms on the Youth Board in the Parish Hall. Electronic Forms were sent out March 8th. Please note the deadlines for registration and fees. If you need to request a scholarship please contact Sheila. All requests are kept confidential. Ongoing planning meetings for the mission trip will be on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 10 am in St. Bernard's Room. All are welcome to help in the planning of this important ministry. Please return your forms ASAP.

Confirmation Class Banquet

Sunday, May 18th @ 5 pm

It has been a tradition to have a banquet at the end of the 2-year youth confirmation program. We will gather the families and confirmation mentors to celebrate the journey of faith each youth has made with his or her mentor.

This is a time to celebrate participation in the process and to thank the mentors and families who have supported the youth in the program. Thank you mentors: John Brunner, Jody Eick, Kate Johnson, and Jill Todd.

We will celebrate the Faith Journey of Maggie DeSmet, Zoe Foster, Louis Karp, Marcella Kobinski, and Lindsey Lee.

2nd Year Confirmation

Mentors Needed:

We currently have 7 youth in our 1st year confirmation class. In Fall 2008 they will begin the 2nd year of the process. Do not be surprised if we ask you to be a Confirmation Mentor. It is a wonderful opportunity to look at your own faith while walking with our young people on their faith journey. Being a mentor is an opportunity to wonder and ask questions, a time to build relationships that can continue for a life time. Bonds that are built in faith are bonds that last. Please consider being a mentor when you are asked.

Confirmation Class

