



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

8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist
 Care for children to age 5 at 10 am

WEDNESDAYS

7 pm Holy Eucharist
 Care for children to age 5 at 6 pm

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
Matt Anderson	Music Minister
Bob Cessna	Sexton
Lorna Cessna	Child Care Provider
Cheryl Sticha	Child Care Provider

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



Volume 50
 Issue 8

Gathering in Love to Serve

People of the Parish

The Ministers

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



August is a month to let your voice be heard in more ways than one. First, as an extension of Adopt-a-Platoon, the program we have participated in for the past six years, St John's is expanding that ministry. It won't cost you a dime, and it will help clear out the clutter in your house. How? By recycling your old cell phone. The recycled phones will be sent to our soldiers so they can stay in touch back home. Second, for every phone collected Operation Minnesota Nice (OMN) will receive \$30. The members of OMN receive the name of a soldier who receives little or no mail. OMN gathers once a month to pool their contributions and send care packages to those soldiers. The cost is minimal and the rewards are great – for those giving and receiving. The money OMN receives from the cell phone gathering helps offset expenses. Please check out their website, www.operationminnesotanice.com, or talk with Deacon Debra, 651/983-1127, or Sandra Williams, to learn more about this exciting ministry.

Phones will be collected on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings only - between August 3rd and August 27th. Please bring the phone, its battery, and any chargers or charging cables with you when you come to church for services or meetings on those days only. To keep the phone and cable together, please take time to place them in a zip lock bag before placing them in the box outside of the Parish Hall (by the elevator). Deacon Deb will collect the phones and answer any questions at those times.



Don't let your voice stop there. On Sunday August 31 at 10:00 am join us for "Voices of Praise" (photo below). Last year they really had our service rocking in a way that only this Baptist choir can do. Mark your calendar and invite your friends to experience worship in a new and energizing way.

See you in Church.

Fr. Mark



*For those in the Armed Forces of our Country
(BCP Page 824)
Almighty God,
we commend to your gracious care and keeping
all the men and women of our armed forces
at home and abroad.
Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace;
strengthen them in their trials and temptations;
give them courage to face the perils which beset them;
and grant them a sense of your abiding presence
wherever they may be;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

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

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUGUST
All Are Welcome!

Sunday Mornings, 9 am in the Parlor

- 8/3** Episcopal Community Services is one of the ways we can help those in need in our wider community. Executive Director Frank Vardeman presents an overview of their services and how we can be more involved in this ministry.
- 8/10** Kate Walsh presents a timely topic in family relations.
- 8/17** Tim Hadley presents another in the series "Old Testament in the New Testament." Join us for *In Adam All Die / In Christ All Will be Made Alive*.
- 8/24** Have you ever wondered about what it takes to be a deacon? Bring your questions to *Called to be a Deacon*, presented by our own Rev. Debra and Rev. Rick.
- 8/31** No Adult Forum – Labor Day weekend.

Wednesday Evenings, 6 pm in the Parlor

Join us for Gospel-Based Discipleship, an informal way of studying & understanding the power of the Bible in our own lives. GBD will move to **Thursdays at 10:30 am** beginning September 11.

PASSAGES

MARRIAGE

Janet Herron & Nathan Dickinson
6/28/2008

THANK YOU
ANDREWS ALLEN &
SUSANNE LINDAHL
FOR YOUR RECENT PLEDGES
TO THE 2008 GENERAL FUND

KATE WALSH BACK WITH US
AGAIN THIS SUMMER

She has graduated from the Marriage & Family Therapy master's program and is now working toward licensure as a marriage & family therapist. She'll work with individuals, couples, & families here this summer. If you are interested in these services, please call her, 651/208-9829.

VOICES OF PRAISE

RETURN TO ST. JOHN'S!

On Sunday, August 31, Gregory (MiracG) Washington & Voices of Praise (photo left) return to St. John's from Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, to provide their unique gospel/funk/soul/rhythm & praise music experience for our 10 am Communion liturgy.

Last summer they raised the roof over our record attendance congregation. Come early to church the last Sunday of this month if you want a good seat in the pews, or any seat at all! But, most everyone will wind up on their feet anyway.

To learn more or to listen to some of their work, go to www.myspace.com/vopraise.

MINISTRY FORUM

Ministry Forum is currently held at 7:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and will move to the 11:30 am on the 1st Sunday beginning in October.

This is the way the various ministries of our church support each other and work together to improve and connect more people. Leaders of each ministry report on new and ongoing work, and new members and people with new ministry ideas are encouraged to attend and ask questions. Please join us; if you have questions, please contact Rev. Marilyn, 651/429-5351 ext. 16 or education@stjohnwilderness.org

CALLING ALL WOMEN...

The Episcopal Church Women's 14th Annual Birthday Luncheon will be held at North Oaks Country Club on Saturday, September 20th at 11 am.

This year's entertainment will be the very talented musical duet, **Paul & Betsy Hanson**. The menu will be a Chicken Buffet. The food will be delicious, and we will have door prizes. Bring your family & friends! We need help to create & donate centerpieces each relating to a month of the year. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the triangular board in the Parish Hall.

We hope to see you there. A registration form will be printed in the September Voice. Please call Cyndi Domin, 651/653-1262, or Susie Mahoney, 651/429-3505, for more information.



Bible Readings

August 3

Genesis 32:22-31 &

Psalm 17:1-7,16 or

Isaiah 55:1-5 &

Psalm 145: 8-9, 15-22

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 10

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 &

Psalm 105, 1-6, 16-22, 45b or

1 Kings 19:9-18 &

Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

August 17

Genesis 45:1-15 &

Psalm 133 or

Isaiah 56:1,6-8 &

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 24

Exodus 1:8-2:10 &

Psalm 124 or

Isaiah 51:1-6 &

Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

August 31

Exodus 3:1-15 &

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c or

Jeremiah 15:15-21 &

Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Underlined verses are read by the Lector during the family-friendly 10 am liturgy.

Optional parts of readings are in parentheses.

THANKS FOREVER!

Although the “afterglow” was more than anybody bargained for—with due respect to unanticipated short-term unpleasanties affecting at least 50 of us who were there—we shall always cherish the memories of the June 18 banquet in our honor. We have been the focus of many farewell gatherings over many years, but this last one had to be the ultimate (which indeed it was). To all of you who attended, or wanted to come but couldn’t, who brought or sent cards and/or made gifts to St. John’s music ministry, we shall be eternally grateful, and humbled by your sentiments and generosity. And the really good news is that we aren’t really saying “goodbye,” although our roles will change, and no longer will we be at the organ console and leading the hymns and the choirs.

To all of you who planned and produced the party, we cannot begin to thank you adequately. The tributes; the exquisite book of memories, pictures, and programs; the choir’s singing of “Draw us in the Spirit’s tether”—all this and more we shall never forget. These ten years at St. John in the Wilderness were truly a blessing—and a bonus—for us who moved (or moved back) to White Bear Lake after already retiring from teaching careers in Illinois.

Soon St. John’s will enter a new musical era. Both of us are extremely pleased with the choice of your new leadership, and we will support Matthew Anderson in whatever way we can, albeit inconspicuously. We look forward to meeting him and his family, and are confident that he will bring the energy and the vision to lead us all as we continue our spiritual journeys in “the beauty of holiness.”

Thanks be to God, forever and ever. Amen!

—David and Helen Gehrenbeck



We support African Friends In Need Network Hostel residents who study tailoring & home economics: (left- right) Gertrude Nanvule, Sarah Babirye, Josephine Nannyunja, Winfred Nalubowa, Joyce Namyenya, Edith Namuddu, Agasa Nabisenke, Gladys Nambatya, Adrine Twikirize, Dianah Nalusiba, Jane Kabega, & Zubeda Bakisha

St John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church-August 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Every Sunday 8 am Eucharist (no music) 10 am Family-friendly Eucharist (with music) Childcare to age 5 available at 10 am only</p>	<p>Every Monday Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>Every Tuesday 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>Every Wednesday 1 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Childcare to age 5 & Adult Education 7 pm Holy Eucharist</p>		<p>1 September Voice deadline</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 See Every Sunday above 9 am Baptism Rehearsal 10 am Holy Baptism 11:15 am Liturgy & Music Committee Meeting (Fireplace Room) Noon BeFriender Training (Parlor) to 5 pm</p>	<p>4 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline 7 pm Outreach Committee Meeting (Parlor) All are welcome!</p>	<p>5 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall) 4 pm Executive Committee Meeting (Fireplace Room)</p>	<p>6 See Every Wednesday above 7:30 pm Kids Hope Leadership Meeting (Library)</p>	<p>7 2:30 pm Cerenity Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>8 11:30 am Cerenity 2nd Friday Holy Eucharist 5 pm Kids Hope Mentors' Picnic (Judy Kroesch's home)</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 See Every Sunday above School Supplies Ingathering 10 am Eucharist on the lawn; bring a blanket or chair to worship Episcopal Youth Music Camp Week begins today</p>	<p>11 Episcopal Youth Music Camp Week Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>12 Episcopal Youth Music Camp Week 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall) 11:30 am Ladies' Lunch (Lake Elmo Inn) 7:30 pm Welcoming Committee Meeting</p>	<p>13 See Every Wednesday above Episcopal Youth Music Camp Week 7:30 pm Ministry Forum: all are welcome; a representative of each ministry, committee or group is expected!</p>	<p>14 Episcopal Youth Music Camp Week</p>	<p>15 Episcopal Youth Music Camp Week</p>	<p>16 Episcopal Youth Music Camp Week ends today</p>
<p>17 See Every Sunday above School Supplies Ingathering 11 am Matthew Anderson, new Music Minister, Welcome Reception (Parish Hall) 11:30 am Vestry Meeting (St. Cecilia's Room) & Healing Team Meeting (St. Luke's Room)</p>	<p>18 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>19 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>20 See Every Wednesday above 11:30 am Retired Men's Group Lunch (Keys, downtown WBL) 7:30 pm Good Grief Group (Parlor)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 See Every Sunday above 11:30 am Kids Hope Kickoff Mentors & Prayer Partners' Gathering (St. Cecilia's Room)</p>	<p>25 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>26 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>27 See Every Wednesday above Noon Staff Retreat to 5 pm 7:30 pm CanSurmount cancer support group (Parlor)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Out to Lunch (Parish Hall)</p>
<p>31 See Every Sunday above 10 am Gregory (MiracG) Washington & Voices of Praise</p>						

St John's Lay Liturgical Ministry-August 2008

LAY READER	LECTOR	LEM	ACOLYTES	LAY HEALER(S)	USHER(S)	GREETER(S)	ALTAR GUILD	VERGER
3 8:00 Judy Kroesch 10:00 Jill Todd	8:00 Marge Polanek 10:00 Jim Delamater	Wed 6, 7 pm Joe Afryl 8:00 Jane Kyle Mary Whitney 10:00 Randy Johnson Jim Petersen	10:00 E. Mahoney Moertels L. McCarthy S. Kraning	Wed 6, 7 pm Cathryn & Dianne 8:00 Cathryn 10:00 Dianne	8:00 Ken Whitney 10:00 Pickerings	8:00 Holtzes 10:00 Linda Waddell	Gere Letourneau Barb Merrill Joann Smith Barb VanSteen	Dennis Thoemke
10 8:00 Tim Hadley 10:00 Jim Petersen	8:00 Lisa Brock 10:00 Pat Petersen	Wed 13, 7 pm June Bennett 8:00 Chiltons 10:00 Judy Kroesch Barb VanSteen	10:00 Thors J. Markoe L. DuFresne S. Bartley S. Sears	Wed 13, 7 pm Sherri & Mary 8:00 Sherri 10:00 Krissa	8:00 Ken Whitney Mike Gerlach 10:00 Canterburys Jim Hartmeister	8:00 Terry Rooney 10:00 Krista Sullivan	Pris Campbell Keiko Farrar Gayle Kasmani Bette Smeed	Margaret Thor
17 8:00 June Bennett 10:00 Randy Johnson	8:00 Terry Rooney 10:00 Kim Johnson	Wed 20, 7 pm Tim Hadley 8:00 Harvey Caldwell Ken Paddock 10:00 Chris Johnson Judy Kroesch	10:00 Longs Whillocks K. Paddock Mariers	Wed 20, 7 pm Krissa & Amy 8:00 Dianne 10:00 Amy	8:00 Ken Whitney Mark Hosfield 10:00 Brunners Jim Marier	8:00 Kobinskis 10:00 Longs	Pat Gagin Sally Holtz Anne Johnson Pat Pickering	John Brunner
24 8:00 Bob Peck 10:00 Judy Kroesch	8:00 June Bennett 10:00 Mike Carpenter	Wed 27, 7 pm Bob Peck 8:00 Jane Kyle Mary Whitney 10:00 Janet Waller Barb VanSteen	10:00 T. Young Karps Todds	Wed 27, 7 pm Sherri & Krissa 8:00 Mary 10:00 Amy	8:00 Ken Whitney Domins 10:00 Linda Carpenter DeSmets	8:00 DeSmets 10:00 Anne Herron	Judy Kroesch Cyndi Domin Deb Schmit Mary Whitney	Bryan DeSmet
31 8:00 Joe Afryl 10:00 Ken Paddock	8:00 Sherri Afryl 10:00 Laurel Stiebler	8:00 Jane Kyle Mary Whitney 10:00 Jill Todd Greg Schmit	10:00 L. Warchol W. Todd G. Gorbatenko J. Vruno	8:00 Sherri 10:00 Krissa	8:00 Ken Whitney Pickerings 10:00 DeSmets Linda Carpenter K. Vruno	8:00 Terry Rooney 10:00 Linda Waddell	June Hochbrunn Peggy Holper Jane Kyle Alice McClaren	Chris Hawley

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!

SHARE THE STORY

Last month I had the opportunity to go to Colorado to connect with my sister, and my son & his family. At about this same time a lady contacted us because she is doing a family genealogy. What a great opportunity to reminisce! For my family, August is a month filled with memorable dates: wedding anniversaries, birth dates, & the anniversary of the death of loved ones. Dates filled with joy and some sorrow. We all have months & days like this.

August 6 is the celebration of the Transfiguration; a date I'm sure that filled the Disciples with amazement. And, I think they were probably no different from my family as they recalled the event - each with his own impression of what happened and each with his own interpretation as to the importance of the event.

Time & life experiences have a way of affecting the way we remember things. St. Peter knew that memories fade &/or change what we remember. In 2 Peter 1:13-16, Peter tells us: "I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty."

Imagine the expression on each Disciple's face as they witness Jesus' appearance change and in seeing Moses & Elijah standing with him. That experience had to be shared. The story had to be told and the memory refreshed for the generations that would follow.

I encourage you spend some time either writing down your memories or take time to share them with your family. Unlike St. Peter, we don't know how soon our death will come. Someday our children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren may want to know how we felt about something, what was happening at a specific time in our life, or how we came to faith in Christ Jesus. Open the dialog. Share the story.

Deacon Debra

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE: OAKDALE AUGUST 25-29

Five churches will participate this year: Ascension Episcopal & Our Savior's Lutheran of Stillwater, White Bear Unitarian of Mahtomedi, and St. John's Episcopal & St. Mary's Catholic of White Bear Lake.

Working side-by-side on a Habitat home with fellow church members as well as the home's future owner is a meaningful & spirit-filled experience. While prior experience or rudimentary skills are helpful, they are by no means required.

In addition to the traditional building roles, we need individuals to act as hosts, to be part of the food committee, and to take pictures.

For those interested, please specify the date(s) you are committing to work. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

Volunteers must be 18+ years old; those 16+ years old are permitted only when supervised by a parent or adult. Shifts can range from 1 day to all week; splitting shifts is not allowed.

An obligatory meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12 at 7 pm at St. John's. Ms. Irina Herme from TCHFH will be there to answer your questions. All volunteers are expected to attend.

We are positioned for the 2nd week of an 8 week build cycle at the Oakdale site: groups of 6-8 2-story town houses. Typically, we can expect to be assembling pre-built wall sections, placing floor joists, & building the 2nd floor. Again this year, we will be working alongside the 3M group.

If you have questions, please contact Ken Paddock, 651/777-8655, or George Gorbatenko, 651/653-4699.

CHURCH FINANCES YTD JUNE 30

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Offerings	215,903	217,625
Special Income	2,638	1,950
Other Income	51,503	51,250
Total	270,044	270,825
Expense		
Formation	2,141	3,875
Office	10,558	9,250
Payroll	180,745	170,444
Property	52,857	46,950
Growth	7,415	8,270
Liturgy	6,978	7,300
Outreach	39,491	40,302
Total	300,186	286,391

Expenses over budget: Office due to unbudgeted new computer system; Payroll to unassessed '07 Q3 pensions paid '08, & new health insurance provider (to save \$) prepaid for July; Property to gifted stained glass window improvements.

WELCOMING NEWS

Mark Your Calendars!

Parish Photo Directory family portraits will be taken October 6-9 from 3-9 pm. Registration sheets will be available beginning Sunday, August 31. Online registration will also be available; watch for information in the weekly Small Voice bulletin insert. College students who want to be included in the directory but who will be unavailable in October: make arrangements with Angie Gordon, 612/216-4792, or Rev. Marilyn, 651/429-5351 ext. 16 or education@stjohnwilderness.org



August Birthdays

- 1 Lorna Cessna
- 1 Amy Whillock
- 2 Shirley Chapman
- 2 Isaac Jemielita
- 2 Robert Peck
- 3 Nathaniel Watkins
- 6 Beverly Boyle
- 6 Lynn Gadbois
- 7 Kate Kidwell
- 8 Stephen Prochnow
- 10 Richard Halbert
- 11 Janet Waller
- 12 Jacquelyn Gardner
- 12 James Knauss
- 12 Elaine Napiwoski
- 14 Frances Baborsky
- 14 Olivia Hawley
- 14 Xavier Knauss
- 15 Arlene Glander
- 16 Kelly DeSmet
- 17 Toby Foster
- 17 Ethan Herrera
- 17 Troy Peterson
- 18 Victoria Canterbury
- 18 Gregory Schmit
- 19 Aidan Herrera
- 20 Sally Keep
- 20 Verne Pickering
- 20 William Swanson
- 20 Maureen Vruno
- 21 Harvey Caldwell
- 21 Loretta Seitz
- 22 Virginia Melin
- 23 Patricia Pickering
- 23 Nancy Purcell
- 24 Suzanne Schradle
- 24 Sandra Stevenson Watson
- 25 Kathleen Johnson
- 25 Charles King
- 25 Kenneth Peatross
- 26 Laura Morgan
- 27 Elizabeth Hyduke-Kelm
- 28 Sarah Prochnow
- 29 Isabelle Carpenter

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.

School Supplies Ingathering

One of the most painful feelings known: "My child needs ... *now*. I have no money. Maybe next week." With absurd gasoline prices, more parents than ever face this. "School starts in a couple of weeks and I cannot buy a backpack, pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons or markers. What will happen?" Together with many congregations and the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, **we will gather in school supplies on August 10th & 17th**. Please help by surrounding the altar with these for blessing and blessings for the children who use them.

Do You Know?

Bishop Whipple's Diary - August 29, 1861

Consecrated to the worship of Almighty God the beautiful church of St. John in the Wilderness White Bear Lake. The Services were very interesting on account of the loving faith which had erected such a beautiful house of worship in such troublesome times. It was designed and erected by Mr. John Aubrey an English churchman who has selected this place for his home. After the service, Mrs. Aubrey served lunch for over one-hundred at her home.

Eagle Scout Project in St. John's Historic Cemetery

I would like the support of the church in doing my Eagle Scout Project at the cemetery. I plan to demolish the main gate pillars and put up new ones in their places. I also plan to renovate the garden in the corner of the cemetery, and put solar lights beneath the flag so that it is lit at night. I hope I speak for everyone when I say that we love the church and want what's best for it, and I believe that those who are buried in the cemetery would want it to look nice as well. Therefore, I ask for donations of labor and money to assist me in doing this, because this won't come easy. If you'd be interested in helping, contact me, Matt Moertel, in person, by phone (651/483-2312), or by e-mail (themoertel@yahoo.com). If you have any questions or concerns about the project, feel free to say it. I'm open to anything. Thank you and God bless.

MarketFest

Thanks to all who made MarketFest a huge success! It was a fabulous opportunity to connect with the community and see lots of smiles over free popcorn. Join us next year!



The Youth Voice

Chicago Youth Mission Trip in Review

Thank you all who bought a wreath/swag/card, enjoyed our spring lawn service or gave donations or support to our youth and their mission trip. We made our dollars go a long way. We were able to accomplish an incredible youth mission opportunity for 17 people on a modest budget. We ate many of our meals at the soup kitchens where we served, slept on a church floor, and took showers at the local community center. If you have ever taken a family vacation, you know how expensive a trip can be for 4 or 5. Add a few more and *high gas prices*. It could get very expensive. Well, this was not a vacation, and we all made sacrifices both to go on the trip and during the trip. As we grow in both faith and in years a great lesson to learn is how to gracefully make sacrifices and have a great time. As we planned our trip we made choices about how much we all wanted to spend on the trip and how much money we wanted to raise for the trip. In the end we decided that the work we would go do was much more important than the accommodations or the food. We had gracious hosts at Church of our Savior, a gracious guide, and lots of great food along the way. It's amazing how blessed we are and how important these opportunities can be to those we serve and those with whom we serve. There was no better moment of the trip than when a young man from the group home we were cleaning asked, "Are you doing this for money?" Our youth responded with, "No, we actually paid to come here." The young man responded, "You came all the way from MN to clean up our mess? Dang that's the nicest thing anyone could ever do. Thank you!" And he meant it. The next day he worked along with us on the projects. We had similar conversations with all the boys living in the house, and we hope to find ways to continue some kind of support or encouragement for them. It is through these moments and people that we truly meet Jesus Christ! - Sheila Foster -



"Safeguarding God's Children"

Safe Church Training Wednesday, 8/20, 5:30-8:30 pm. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet on the activity table outside of the Parish Hall. We need exact numbers to provide the right amount of materials. We are asking for \$10 to cover the cost of materials and your background check. If you have questions about the training please contact Sheila Foster, 651/429-5351 ext. 12 or youth@stjohnwilderness.org, or Rev. Rick Todd, 651/674-5657 or rjtodd@nsatel.net.

Episcopal Youth Music Camp Update

Thank you to St. John in the Wilderness' Episcopal Church Women for the scholarship assistance to all St. John's youth attending music camp in August. The financial support for scholarships and program help is always needed and greatly appreciated.

Thanks to St. John's parishioners who also sponsored youth to attend music camp.

Music camp hosts a final performance on Saturday, August 16th at 1pm which is open to the public. It is a free performance. Feel free to drive up to Camp Heartland and hear the orchestra, band, choir and, new this year, a "mass handbell ring".

This year St. John's will have a record attendance by any one congregation. We have 18 youth camper participants, 1 leadership development participant, and 5 adult staff volunteers. Hurray!

First Year Confirmation

We will have a meeting for parents and youth interested in the first year Confirmation program on Sunday, September 14th from 10 – 10:30 am in St. Bernard's Room. Sheila Foster and Tim Hadley will give an overview of the two-year program. After the meeting each youth can decide if he or she would like to participate in the program. First Year Confirmation is open to youth in 9th grade and above. We meet every Sunday from 10 –10:50 am. Information about our Confirmation program and process can be found on St. John's website, www.stjohnwilderness.org.

Second Year Confirmation

At 7:30 pm on Wednesday, September 17th we will have the youth, parent, and mentor meeting for the youth entering their second year of Confirmation. Materials will be handed out, the program will be explained, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

"Celebrating Our Faith through the Arts"

All 4th – 12th grade youth are invited and wanted to gather on Wednesdays from 6 – 7:30 pm. COFTA will begin on Wednesday, September 17th. We will begin the season performing a series of skits during Wednesday Evening Light Suppers. We will also be developing some dramas to be performed during 9 am worship. Beginning in November we will use this time for the Christmas Play. Watch for updates on future plans and the success of this Wednesday Evening Opportunity.

