

# 2006

## Report to the Community

### St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

2175 1<sup>st</sup> St at Clark Ave White Bear Lake, MN 55110 651/429-5351 [www.stjohnwilderness.org](http://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.

#### Staff

The Rev. Mark Wm. Kelm, Rector  
The Rev. Joanie Delamater, Associate Priest  
The Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Associate Priest  
The Rev. Rick Todd, Deacon  
Therese Branby, Warden  
Chris Hawley, Warden  
Dr. David Gehrenbeck, Organist/Choirmaster  
Alison Feigh, Youth and Children's Minister  
Maureen Vruno, Parish Administrator  
Bob Cessna, Sexton  
Kelly Larson, Nursery  
Nastacia Foster, Nursery

Presented during the Annual Parish Meeting  
January 21, 2007, 9:00 am

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### Agenda

#### Opening Hymn and Morning Devotion

- I. Election of Secretary for this Meeting
- II. Minutes of Previous Meeting – January 15, 2006
- III. Elections:
  - A. Review voter qualifications
  - B. Nominating
  - C. Distribution of ballots and voting (if applicable)
  - D. Tellers collect ballots (if applicable)
- IV. Annual Reports:
  - A. “Our Life Together” Rector’s Report
  - B. Financial Reports
  - C. Budget Report – 2007
  - D. Other Reports
- V. Recognitions:
  - A. Presentations to Retiring Vestry Members and Warden
  - B. ECW Cornelia Whipple Award Presentation
- VI. Benediction and Close

Closing Hymn

### Opening Hymn

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

*Cantor*

1. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, from heav - en shine forth

with your glo - rious light. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

2. Come from the four winds, O Spir - it, come breath of God; dis -

perse the shad - ows ov - er us, re - new and strength - en your

peo - ple. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

*Translation: Come, Holy Spirit.*

Section: Spiritual Songs  
Title: Veni Sancte Spiritus

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)  
Words: Pentecost Sequence: Taizé Community, 1978 Used by permission.

**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: I Peter 1:3**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

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

*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.

*Officiant and People*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy 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*

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. *Amen.*

## **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting**

**January 15, 2006**

Fr. Mark Kelm called the Annual Parish Meeting to order at 8:30 am.  
It was moved and seconded to elect Barbara Merrill as secretary of the meeting. Motion carried.  
It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on January 16, 2005.  
Motion carried.

Fr. Mark reviewed the qualifications for voting. Dick Halbert presented the Nomination Committee's report.

Vestry:  
Chris Hawley - Warden  
Brent Torgerson  
John Fennig

Diocesan Delegates:	Diocesan Alternate:
Sally Holtz	Pris Campbell
Pete Holtz	

Nominating Committee:  
Anne Hovland  
Jeanne Thoemke

Personnel Committee:  
Molly Anthony  
Steve Johnson  
Janet Waller

There were no further nominations. It was moved and seconded to approve the nominations. Motion carried.

Fr. Mark reported on "Our Life Together," and David Monyak presented a visual on the 2005 events in the church.

Committee and financial reports were printed in the Annual Report. Steve Johnson presented information on the budget.

The Bylaws Committee presented the proposed changes in bylaws. It was moved and seconded to have the second sentence in 7.01 read: There shall be no less than three (3) and no more than (12) elected members. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded to have 7.03 read: As nearly as practicable one third of the members shall be elected at each Annual Parish Meeting. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded to end the debate. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded to approve the bylaws as amended. Motion carried.

Recognition was given to members whose terms on the Vestry had ended: Steve Johnson, Jason Knauss, John Vruno, Anne Hovland, and Deb Schmit.

Fr. Mark also thanked Beverly Boyle for all her work on the Capital Campaign.  
Pat Pickering presented the Cornelia Whipple Award to Christine Karp.

Barbara Merrill  
Secretary for the Annual Parish Meeting

## Vestry

Therese Branby	Warden	2007 ( <i>Terms expire at Annual Meeting of stated year</i> )
Chris Hawley	Warden	2008
Christine Karp		2007
Janet Kelber		2007
Tim Hammond		2007
Peggy Holper		2007
June Bennett		2008
Michael Carpenter		2008
Tom Long		2008
John Fennig	Stewardship	2009
Brent Torgerson	Property	2009
Christine Karp	Clerk of the Vestry	2007 (non-voting)
Pat Pickering	Episcopal Church Women	representative (non-voting)
<b>Diocesan Delegates</b>	Margaret Thor, Delegate,	2007
	Sharon Lund, Alternate,	2008
	Sally & Pete Holtz, Delegates; Priscilla Campbell, Alternate,	2009

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consists of Beverly Boyle, Anne Hovland, Jeanne LeFevre, and Jeanne Thoemke.

The **outgoing** persons:

Persons being **nominated** for these positions:

Vestry:

Therese Branby, Warden;  
Christine Karp,  
Janet Kelber,  
Tim Hammond, and  
Peggy Holper

Vestry:

Ken Paddock, Warden;  
Rich Hovland,  
Gayle Kasmani,  
Tim Schmuck, and  
Krista Sullivan

Diocesan Delegate:

Margaret Thor

Diocesan Delegates and Alternates:

Sherri & Joe Afryl, and Margaret Thor, Delegates  
John & Jeanne LeFevre, Alternates

Nominating Committee:

Beverly Boyle and Jeanne LeFevre

Nominating Committee:

Joe Afryl and Cyndi Domin

Personnel Committee:

John LeFevre and Loretta Seitz

Personnel Committee:

Amy Okaya and Dennis Thoemke

## Rector's Annual Report

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being:  
We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit,  
that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you,  
but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

*(A Collect for Guidance, Book of Common Prayer Page 100)*



In 2006, our parishioners found new and expanded ways to serve those in need. To name a few, our Out-to-Lunch monthly feeding program has expanded, and we are now assisted by First Presbyterian and St. Mary's Catholic Church. Adult members went on a mission trip to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina, while our wonderful youth traveled to New York City to live out the Gospel there with the poor. Our Christmas Episcopal Community Services Adopt-A-Family program was expanded this year and will be again next year. Parishioners very generously supported African Friends in Need Network and its efforts to educate women and girls in Mityana, Uganda. Parishioners have also started to participate in Habitat for Humanity and are about to undertake a large fundraising dinner so that our efforts can expand even more. These are just a few ways that the people of St. John's are active and well in reaching out to others with the compassion to which the Gospel calls us.

Parishioners have continued to pay their pledges to the Capital Campaign--thank you! From this, our beloved building, staff and endowment have all benefited. The parish gratefully received the proceeds of former Rector the Rev. Greenlee Haynes' estate, and the vestry is deciding how to spend the gift. A generous endowment was set up by Joan and Jim Gardner to benefit our children and youth in honor and memory of their son, Matthew Gardner.

Thank you to all of you who participate in the life of St. John's. Our parish functions so well and so vibrantly only because you, the people of St. John's, do so much.

### **24 Baptisms**

Amelia Ann Kroesch, Donald James Kroesch, Brandon James Saldana, Corissa Lynn Hedrick, Jack Robert Hedrick, Brendan Patrick Johnson, Isaiah Edward Knutson-DeMars, Helena Demiya Oglesby, Jonathan Walker Oglesby, T. DeVante Jerome Watts, Joyce Marie Sebastian, Ethan Francisco Herrera, Edward Rodman Titcomb IV, Duc Tai Kurkoski, Jonathan Dean Stedt, Saige Kathleen Tinsley, Maximus Richard Grey, Carly Alberta Braaten, Jessa Nykole VanceBryan, Xavier Jason Knauss, David John Mamer, Seth David Mamer, Kelsey Jolynn Mitchell, and Layla Sue Bly

**11 Confirmations**

Ellen Elizabeth Anthony, Spencer Charles Cossalter, Ashley Rose Delamater, Emily Cait Hammond, Katie Noel Larson, Sarah Sue Larson, Elizabeth Ann Mahoney, Peter Craig Schneider, Samuel Eaton Todd, Ann Stevenson Watson, and Anne Elisabeth Herron

**5 Marriages**

Eric & Meghan Gadbois, Brad & Anne Kurkoski, Jonathan & Marie Breyan, William & Dena Rogers, and Jeremy & Jennifer Gulbranson

**19 Transferred their membership into St. John’s**

Edward Rodman Titcomb III, Megan Louise Horan Titcomb, Lyles E. Monson, Betty Monson, Jennifer Tully, Jeremy Gulbranson, Adrienne Bruce, Robert Bruce, Richard Kamla, Helen Halbert, Anne Elisabeth Herron, Allan Fagley, Alice Fagley, Harvey Caldwell, MaryAnn Caldwell, Erik Michael Sorensen, Syndie Lorene Sorensen, Ella Jane Sorensen, and Tate Michael Sorensen

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

**6 Transferred their membership out of St. John’s**

Lynn McNaughton, Nathan McNaughton, Heather McNaughton, Stephen Ingerson, Stephanie Allen, and Michael Harnois

**6 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.* Harold T. “Duke” Wingfield, Barbara Kinsley Blien Rooney, Nancy Ottis Harris, Howard William “Bill” Harholdt, Richard Frederick Schradle, and BettyAnn Barron

**Liturgies and Attendance**

Fall/Winter/Spring Schedule	Wednesday Evenings	Lessons & Carols	212
105 Eucharists	52 Eucharists		
7:30 am 1,108	7:00 pm Total 1,269		
9:00 am 3,903	per Wednesday average 24		
10:30 am <u>3,098</u>		Christmas	
Total 8,109		4:00 pm (eve)	240
per Sunday average 232	Easter	10:30 pm (eve)	128
	5:00 pm (vigil) 203	10:00 am (day)	<u>33</u>
Summer Schedule	8:00 am 91	Total	401
32 Eucharists	10:00 am <u>220</u>		
8:00 am 895	Total 514		
10:00 am <u>2,299</u>			
Total 3,194			
per Sunday average 200		71 Lay Eucharistic Visitations	

On God’s Mission, The Rev. Mark W. Kelm  
**Report of The Rev. Marilyn Baldwin**

After ordination to Transitional Deacon in June 2006, I began working at St. John’s in late July. My

duties include assisting at worship, providing pastoral care and coordinating adult education; and working with the Newcomers and Evangelism committee, along with providing clergy presence on the Ministry Forum. I spent much of the first few months getting to know the people involved in these committees along with how each of them worked in relationship to the church community.

My first task was to coordinate adult education opportunities for the fall, including both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening forums. With formation activities and leaders already in place, it became a matter of deciding what to offer and to balance one set of opportunities with complementary ones, and to encourage participation by more parishioners. A small education committee became a larger group who helped choose additional opportunities to involve more people. In addition, we offered a special "Body by God" series and an Advent Quiet Day mini-retreat. Plans for early 2007 include offering "Life Keys" on Wednesday evenings, and a series "Experiencing God" on Sunday mornings, and two Lenten series.

Newcomers and Evangelism has responsibility for inviting the community to the Rally Day celebration in the fall, and Lessons and Carols in Advent, along with hosting new member luncheons. Additional options to invite and welcome visitors are being discussed.

The Ministry Forum is an opportunity for the various committees to share information on their activities and plans, and for new ministries to be reviewed and supported whenever possible.

I have also participated in meetings of the Healing Team, BeFriends, and the Grief Group, and plan to attend other groups as time permits in the future. I have found the St. John's community to be warm, welcoming, and supportive, and am looking forward to more opportunities to invite people to deeper relationship with God and God's people.

In Christ, The Rev. Marilyn Baldwin

### **The Liturgy and Music Committee**

The Liturgy & Music Committee meets through out the year to plan and organize the liturgical and musical services held at St. John in the Wilderness.

In providing different liturgies, we hope to provide some educational opportunities for the congregation.

The committee is responsible for the recruiting and training of vergers, acolytes and ushers.

In 2006 our members have included June Bennett, Chris Hawley, Judy Kroesch, Rev. Mark Kelm, Deacon Candidate Jan MacNally, John Brunner, Jason Knauss, and Margaret Thor

Respectfully Submitted, Chris Hawley



### **Organist/Choirmaster's Report**

While St. John's musical component can take no credit for the church's new sound system, certainly music is a principal beneficiary. Now, besides the spoken word, all anthems, hymns, the sung liturgy and even the organ voluntaries may be recorded for dissemination upon demand. The system was put to the test initially at the Advent III morning services, and then again at Lessons and Carols that afternoon. Within hours, Lessons and Carols was available on the church's web site. But that in itself is nothing new, thanks to the continuing efforts and expertise of one Dr. David Monyak.

Every year Lessons and Carols seems to be the highpoint of the musical season, and this year perhaps even more so. Even from the perspective of the organ bench, all the elements seemed to jell into a cohesive whole, with no major vexations and few minor indiscretions. The Chancel (adult) Choir

was at maximum strength (and subtlety), and with the addition of three guest soloists, filled the lectern-side choir chancel to overflowing. From the pulpit side was the reinvigorated Youth Choir, singing from memory and following its interim director's every gesture, occasionally alternating stanzas of carols with the Chancel Choir across the aisle.

But before any of this took place, the assembling congregation hushed to less than a whisper as Cellist Daryl Skoba of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (and a new member of St. John's) played a Vivaldi cello sonata as the last of the Gathering Music. Having the availability and willingness of talent of this caliber speaks well of the future.

I would be remiss were I to ignore further mention of the Youth Choir (in recent years known as the Children's Choir). A change in leadership brought a new director on the scene in late summer, a young woman who seemed to fit the church's needs ideally. Unfortunately, the match proved not to be as ideal as anticipated, and by mid-October she had resigned, leaving the Youth Choir leaderless. Helen Gehrenbeck agreed to fill the void through Christmas, which she has done with more than nominal success. And now, at year's end, she has agreed to continue serving for the remainder of the school year. While the arrangement involves the current organist/choirmaster more than heretofore, it is one that appears to be working well, as well it should!

A year ago the Chancel Choir hovered around a dozen members on an average Sunday morning. By this fall that number had increased to about 15, with the addition of Jim Berry, Richard Kamla, and Eric Thor. Several additional singers, members or friends of the parish, augmented the choir for Lessons and Carols. What would be thrilling beyond words would be to have a choir chancel that full week after week after week!

David Gehrenbeck, Organist/Choirmaster

### **Altar Guild**

The mission of the Altar Guild is to provide physical preparation for worship; to care for the altar, vestments, vessels and altar linens of the parish; and to provide such other support for worship services as may be requested by the clergy. The

Altar Guild also supervises the decoration of the sanctuary.

Members are Sherri Afryl, Barb Anderson, Pris Campbell, Cyndi Domin, Keiko Farrar, Lynn Gadbois, Pat Gagin, June Hochbrunn, Anne Johnson, Gayle Kasmani, Judy Kroesch, Jane Kyle, Jeanne LeFevre, Gere Letourneau, Alice McClaren, Barbara Merrill, Pat Pickering, Bette Smeed, Joann Smith, Deb Schmit, Barb Van Steen, Janet Waller, Mary Whitney, and Barbara Youngblood. All members are Safe Church Trained and trained to serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

Our goal in 2007 is to continue in our ministry of service so as to support and enhance the worship experiences of all who come to St. John in the Wilderness.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Waller, Director

### **Episcopal Church Women**

The ECW is a service project organization open to all women in the parish. At the Annual Meeting in January we presented the Cornelia Whipple to Christine Karp.

In February the ECW hosted two programs that were open to everyone on the topic of Prayer led by Dr. Jeanette Bakke. We contributed over \$400 of new baby clothes to a program that helps needy mothers with new babies. Shelia White Eagle of the St. Paul Council of Churches coordinates this program. Bonnie and Bob Peck purchased the clothes, and we thank them for their help.

Lynn Gadbois and Christine Karp co-chaired our very successful Spring and Fall Rummage Sales. Besides the money raised the sale week provides outstanding fellowship for all who participate in the set-up, sorting, and clean up.

Joanna Torgerson serves as the ECW treasurer. Arlene Glander continues to represent the ECW by sending cards to parishioners for various occasions during the year. Bari Chilton serves as ECW secretary. She also serves as overall chairperson for all receptions: funeral, memorial, and other celebrations. During the year many ECW members donate substantial hours in this service. We always welcome more volunteers.

Each June a group of women gather to clean and take inventory in the church kitchen. Needed kitchen supplies are purchased at this time.

The fall luncheon held at North Oaks Country Club was chaired by Cyndi Domin and Susie Mahoney. This year we had an accordion and banjo playing pair.

Lynn Gadbois and Beverly Boyle chaired the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar. Proceeds from the Rummage Sales and the Bazaar constitute our yearly operating budget. In 2005 we voted that for the next three years we would return 80% of our operating budget to St. John's. This year we gave over \$9,000 to various St. John's projects. Please refer to our 2006 financial report.

The ECW would like to thank the many men of the parish who help with the set-up and clean up for our Rummage Sales and Bazaar. Also, we especially thank the woodworkers who make many items for sale at the Bazaar. We greatly appreciate all of you.

The ECW committee members are Pat Pickering, Beverly Boyle, Christine Karp, Arlene Glander, Nancy Jagusch, Lynn Gadbois, Joanna Torgerson, and Bari Chilton. Judy Kroesch retired last December after many years of very active service.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Pickering, Chair

**ECW Holiday Bazaar**

Donations	\$200.00
Quilt Raffle Tickets	\$0.00
Gifts, Jewelry & Treasure Trove	\$4,506.59
Luncheon & Recipe Sales (125)	<u>\$875.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$5,581.59
Publicity	\$62.80
Food	\$271.26
Pecans	\$317.37
Rada Cutlery	\$80.70
Nursery Care	\$120.00
Picture Framing	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$902.13
2006 Profit	\$4,679.46

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Kroesch, Bazaar Treasurer

**Hospitality**

Members: Mary and Jim Bartley, Amy Hawley, Janet Kelber, Alma Limbach, Sandra Stevenson-Watson, Joann Smith, Kathryn Smith, and Joanna Torgerson

The Hospitality committee served coffee and treats provided by the members of the church or store-bought treats at the 9 am service each Sunday. This wonderful group also provided food and hours of support for many events the committee is called upon to support throughout the church year.

In 2006, the Hospitality committee started off the year with a continental breakfast at the Annual Meeting. The committee oversaw the reception for the Rite of Affirmation and the Easter Eve Agape Dinner. They served real lemonade and cookies at the Manitou Day Pet Parade. They provided support for the All Parish Cookout. Finally, in the month of December, the committee was responsible for the reception for the Christmas Pageant at the 9:00 am service and the Lessons & Carols reception after the 4:00 pm service.

We are still serving Fair Trade Coffee at all church functions.

This hard-working group of people would appreciate anyone willing to help us on any given Sunday as we continue to provide coffee after the 9 am service.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Kelber, Chair

**BeFriender Ministry**

The BeFriender Ministry is a lay pastoral care ministry of listening presence. BeFrienders are trained lay ministers to expand the capacity of our church to provide pastoral care. Every one of us is, at times, on a difficult journey and needs a caring companion who will listen, empathize and be a reminder of a caring community.

The BeFriender Ministry Program at St. John in the Wilderness was re-established in 2006. Rev. Joanie Delamater is a certified trainer from the BeFriender Ministry National Office. She and Rev. Andrew Jensen provided extensive training over a period of 4 months to a dedicated group of 14 individuals who are the BeFriender team. These 14 people were commissioned on June 25, 2006.

Some of the topics covered in training were as follows:

- Christians' call to ministry
- The attitude of befriending
- Active listening skills; attending, following, & responding
- How to conduct a befriending visit
- Acting in the name of the faith community
- Roles & responsibilities within BeFriender group
- A small group process for learning from ministry
- Confidentiality

The BeFriender Leadership team is comprised of Rev. Joanie Delamater, Rev. Andrew Jensen and Cathryn Bashore. They also provide supervision, support, and coordination of continuing education and training to the group. BeFrienders meet monthly to learn from each other, support each other and enhance their skills. Since the commissioning in June, the BeFrienders have provided support to at least 20 people with a total of approximately 150 contacts.

Respectfully submitted, Cathryn Bashore

## Healing Ministry

Lay participation in our Healing Ministry at St. John's began in 2006 with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and training from Rev. Joanie and Fr Andy. It was fitting that the first four lay members were commissioned on Pentecost.

Since Pentecost, lay members have ministered with clergy at the healing station on Sunday mornings and during the healing service on Wednesday evenings. In addition, members of the healing team have visited parishioners in hospitals and homes, and they have held healing sessions on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, per parishioner requests.

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. Several of the members have completed a 5-course program in Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry, and they often share Healing Touch practices with other members of the team.

In the fall of 2006, the team grew spiritually in four ways: sharing a team retreat, sponsoring the second annual Spiritual Spa, inviting new members to the ministry, and creating a private space for healing touch sessions. We look ahead to 2007 with joy, hope, and confidence that the Spirit will continue to lead and bless this ministry.

Respectfully submitted, Dianne Del Giorno



## Outreach Committee

Committee Members: George Gorbatenko, Peggy Holper, Jan MacNally, Sue Schmuck, Tim Schmuck, and Rick Todd.

The Outreach Committee promotes the Christian ministry of our parish by coordinating its resources to address needs within our community. The committee also participates in projects that have a national or global focus.

The committee evaluates requests for financial assistance to worthwhile charitable organizations and provides parishioners opportunities to offer their services as volunteers, or to contribute gifts that may be appropriate to special community needs.

During the past year our parish undertook the following projects:

- Donated goods to the Children's Home Society
- Care packs for Kids program
- Provided gifts for the Hill Home – Tubman Family Alliance
- Gathered school supplies for needy students
- Gave wooden crosses to parishioners during Lent
- Continued a yearlong ingathering of groceries for the White Bear Food Shelf
- Sponsored 3 American Red Cross blood drives
- Katrina response: roofed a Mississippi home
- Took part in a Habitat for Humanity project
- Conducted a special Thanksgiving ingathering for the White Bear Food Shelf
- Gave Christmas gifts to 4 families through Adopt-A-Family

Cash grants were made to these charitable organizations:

East Metro Women's Council	\$250
Episcopal Community Services	\$500
Metro Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing	\$250
Rebuild Resources	\$250
African Friends in Need Network	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total	\$6,250

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Holper and Dave Seitz, Co-Chairs

**Families Inc.**

Families Inc. was created in the spring of 2004 to meet the needs of families with children birth-fifth 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 2006, we continued our success, with new families joining us in activities. We hosted an all-parish event to create 600 valentines to send to our military troops stationed overseas, hosted a beach party, assisted with the annual clean-up of the parish cemetery, marched in the Manitou Days parade, and hosted a hayride at a pumpkin patch. We had a weekly play date for those whose schedules allowed which lasted through the summer. We provided a "bounce house" for the children on Rally Sunday. We also planned a morning of tree decorating at the church followed by Christmas caroling at the White Bear Care Center attended by approximately 40 parishioners of all ages. We have provided a gift to each baby and/or young person baptized in 2006 (over 20 of them!) along with information about our group and upcoming events. Each planned activity has been well attended, and new families continue to join us. On January 14, 2007, we will host our third annual valentine-making event for military troops stationed overseas. All are welcome to come and join the fun!

The group currently functions under the leadership of Beth Hyduke-Kelm, but individual families are also asked to take responsibility for scheduling and planning events.



**Children's Ministry Committee**

Members: Gretchen Brunner, Alison Feigh, Will McBride, Kelsey Mitchell, Christine Karp, Molly Kroesch, Kate Prochnow, Jeanne Thoenke, Sam Todd, Beth Whillock, Carol Zinter

Children's Ministry strives to create a safe space for children to grow in their individual faith while encouraging a connection to the greater community, the Body of Christ. We encourage active learning and plenty of questions. There are

32 children registered for the 2006-2007 school year.

Curriculum – Back to Basics focus. Beth Whillock has been sharing her story telling gifts with the children as we tell Bible Stories in a Godly Play format. On alternating weeks we use a curriculum crafted by Barb Van Steen and Barb Anderson to strengthen our children's faith foundation in the Episcopal Church.

Recurring Activities – Treasure Hunt, Pretzel Making, Easter Egg Hunt, Bibles for 1<sup>st</sup> graders, St Crispin shoe blessing, decorated bags for Meals on Wheels, Advent Craft Day, Music Camp, Christmas Pageant

New Goals reached – Vacation Bible School! having two male Sunday school teachers, and cubbies ordered for the nursery.

Enhanced Activities – Nursery Care. Kelly Larson and Nastacia Foster do an amazing job. We are blessed to call on Lara Delamater, Rona Johnson, and youth & adult parishioners as substitutes as needed. A children's program was also offered during Lent this year.

Looking ahead – Growing our Vacation Bible School and training additional teachers in Godly Play.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Karp

### **Youth Ministry Committee**

Members: Molly Anthony, James Anthony, Jeanie Long, Bonnie Peck, Deb Schmit and Bob Peck

It has been a great learning experience for me this past year working with and getting to know the youth and Alison better. I have relied heavily on Alison's organizational skills and those of Deb Schmit. To work with these people has been an opportunity to witness selfless devotion in action. I was introduced to two TEC experiences this year in which I had the opportunity to see our youth come together in loving ways which affected me personally as I witnessed them interact on personal, social, emotional, and spiritual levels. Throughout the year I watched St. John's youthful cadre, spearheaded by Alison and her army of

silent and not so silent volunteers, march time after time into experiences of unadorned service, without fanfare, but with much humor, as they worked and learned together about the rewards of befriending one another, supporting one another, sharing personal experiences with one another, praying together, helping those in need, and in serving their God. It has been an honor to be among them.

Mission - The youth ministry committee works with Alison Feigh, Youth and Children's Minister, to identify and meet the spiritual, social, and educational needs of the youth of the parish and their families. Our program has a strong relational ministry component and a focus on service. We are committed to helping the youth grow in relationship with God, each other, the parish family, and the larger church.

Although some of the events overlap (Mission Trips could be service, spiritual, social, and educational) here are some of the highlights:

Spiritual – Teens Encounter Christ (24 St. John's people at Northern TEC in March; 5 of the 24 brought a friend from school to attend as a first time participant), Holy Week (youth coordinated the foot washing service for Maundy Thursday; 23 of the 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Maundy Thursday all night vigil), World AIDS Day Vigil, Rite of Affirmation

Social – Treasure Hunt, Lock-ins (18 Sr High students at the last Advent Lock-in), Moms' Group, New Junior High Parents' group, MarketFest, Lake Day at Mahoneys' home, Wreath/Bulb sales

Educational – Our two-year Confirmation preparation program, Junior and Senior High Youth Groups, MOSAIC, Christmas Pageant with children, Music Camp in August

Volunteer Teachers and Youth Group Assistants: Katheryn Schneider, Kelly DeSmet, Max Stevenson, Rich Oswald, & Joanna Torgerson. We couldn't do it without your help.

Service - mission trips to Camp Heartland in April and NYC in July, all Confirmation students commit to serving in a church ministry, making Valentine's Day and Halloween cards for our college students, bake and deliver cookies to people who work overnight (Advent), VBS and Sunday School

Looking ahead – We would like to have more committee members (most do not have children involved in the program)

Respectfully submitted, Bob Peck



### Adult Education and Formation

Membership: David The Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Michael Carpenter, Colleen Johnson, Richard Lee, Melanie Lee, David Monyak, Linda Monyak, Kathryn Smith

Mission Statement: to promote and provide activities for adult Christian education and formation

2006 Activities:

12 part series on the Gospel of Matthew

10 part series Living Faith. Exploring the Essentials of Christianity (presented twice, once on Sundays, once on Wednesdays)

5 part Lent series, The Prophetic Imagination

6 part series The Purpose Driven Life

6 part series God After Darwin

6 part series Introduction to Anglicanism ("Anglicanism 101")

4 part series A Coming Christ in Advent

*Lectio Divina* bible studies during the season after Epiphany and during the Advent season

6 part series Body by God

Advent Quiet Day Retreat

single sessions The River Echoes in My Ministry, Tackling the *Da Vinci Code*, The Jesus Prayer, The Bible for the Biblically Challenged, Discovering the Deacon, Episcopal Community Services, Prayer: The Rest of the Story

2007 Goals and Plans:

continue in-depth studies of topics basic to faith and Christian formation on Sundays mornings and Wednesday evenings

include series such as Living Faith and Introduction to Anglicanism on the essentials of the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church

include a series to help individuals discern their spiritual gifts and talents (The *LifeKeys* series started January 3, 2007)

explore providing more half-day themed retreats enhance presentations by using PowerPoint and media when appropriate, and by providing resources for further study

when possible, make schedules, references for further reading, presentations and handouts readily available through the internet

The Adult Education web site ([www.StJohnAdultEd.Org](http://www.StJohnAdultEd.Org)) is listed as a General Education Resource on Anglicans On Line. In 2006, the site had 412,713 visitors.

Respectfully submitted, David Monyak, Chair

### Welcoming & Evangelism Committee

Membership: Krista Sullivan, Anne Herron, Sally Holtz, Sharon Lund, Tim Hammond, and Rev. Marilyn Baldwin

The Committee maintained basic welcoming strategies, continued a greeter ministry, participated in MarketFest, and organized and executed three mass mailings. Basic strategies involve creating a welcoming environment at Sunday services so guests can experience the hospitality of our membership. To achieve this goal the following methods were employed:

Distribute welcoming bags that contain information about our Church and Community along with a mug to remember us by and cocoa or tea to warm their hearts. In 2006 approximately 200 welcoming bags were distributed to guests.

Send Welcome letters to visitors who sign the guest book.

Add one new exterior banner - Got God? Lenten program banner.

Host two Newcomer's Events at the church. The spring luncheon was not well attended, but the fall luncheon had over 25 newcomers in attendance.

Send postcard mailings to new residents. Two mailings were sent to 55110 and 55038, Lenten/Easter and Rally Day (1,800). For the fall, we added zip codes 55109 and 55127 for the Lessons and Carols mailing (3,000).

Send hand-written Christmas cards to our new members.

Collaboration with other committees such as Liturgy, Stewardship and Fellowship is an essential part of improving Welcoming & Evangelism efforts. Projects we assisted with include the following:

*MarketFest* offers the Church a unique opportunity to participate as part of the larger community and spread the word that there is an Episcopal presence on 1<sup>st</sup> and Clark. This year we gave away God Rocks rubber band bracelets.

We began scheduling greeters before 9 and 10:30 am Sunday liturgies. Greeter nametags were purchased. Umbrellas are available to escort people into the building during inclement weather. This ministry will continue to be enhanced.

Children's Ministry continues to assist us by providing child-painted bags and handmade magnetic crosses for our Welcoming Bags.

Discussions were started with Stewardship for coordinated home visits to new members.

Respectfully Submitted, Krista Sullivan

## **Property Committee**

Members: Bev Boyle, John Brunner, Chris Hawley, John Kobinski, Tom Long, Dennis Thoemke, John Vruno, Ken Whitney, and Bob Cessna, Sexton

As a new chairman, I am proud to say that our committee was able to meet its goals for the year, all under budget. In addition to the not-so-glamorous tasks of day-to-day maintenance, the following is a list of some of the more notable projects that were completed in 2006:

Security/Fire Protection System - started in 2005  
Air Conditioning for worship area - started in 2005

Construction of Outdoor Storage Shed  
Draft and approval of Church Use policy  
Installation of new sound system for worship area and auxiliary speakers in Parlor, Library, Office, Parish Hall, and Nursery  
Replacement of windows in Parlor and Youth Room  
Repair/replacement of various lighting fixtures

Also, the following work was completed with the cooperation of the Cemetery sub-committee:

Spring clean up

Consolidation of cemetery maintenance with one contractor

Draft and approval of updated Cemetery Use policy

Paving of cemetery driveway

Installation of columbarium at cemetery

The accomplishments listed above wouldn't have been possible without the groundwork laid by my predecessors and their continued support, along with the hard work of the people on our committee. I am learning much about our wonderful church and all that is necessary to keep it in the shape it is in today. Our vestry has been very cooperative and supportive of our committee as it strives to meet the needs of both the church and cemetery property. In addition, we have been blessed to have had the help of our former Sexton, Jim Knauss, and our current Sexton, Bob Cessna. They have been my "eyes and ears" and take care of everyday maintenance and cleaning. As I reflect on what we have done and where St. John's is going, I look forward to another year full of progress and continued support. Depending upon budget and timing, projects being considered for 2007 include:

Formation of building sub-committee to meet with outside consultants regarding improvements of existing church space and evaluation of short and long term plans for current property

Remodel Sacristy

Remodel Nursery (may include demolition of block wall, carpet, etc.)

Addition of closed circuit TV system to new sound system

Construction of handicap accessible ramp on parking lot entrance

Parking lot sealing and/or re-surfacing

Landscaping around new columbarium and install new benches (Cemetery)

Plot East side of cemetery around new columbarium (Cemetery)

Respectfully submitted, Brent Torgerson, Chairman

## **Cemetery**

More benches were donated for the cemetery. Placement of new and existing benches is underway.

A \$1,000 donation was given to purchase cemetery trees. This will be discussed more in 2007.

We spent \$29,000 designing, building, and installing the new 40 double-niche columbarium. Landscaping will come in 2007. The cemetery committee wrote and the vestry approved guidelines for the cemetery and columbarium.

The cemetery road was paved this year.

In 2007 the property committee will discuss the needs of the cemetery, its funds and revenue.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Hawley

## **Gift & Memorial Committee**

The Gift and Memorial committee members are Fr. Mark Kelm, Beverly Boyle, June Hochbrunn, John Johnson, Barbara Merrill, Jack Reed, Mary Whitney and Judy Kroesch, Chair.

The Gifts and Memorials Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Vestry for the use of Gifts and Memorial money, and keeping an accurate and updated record of all gifts and memorials.

Gifts given and Memorial purchases made this past year were as follows:

Anne Rogers – a set of Festival Paraments  
Anonymous – 5 choir room chairs  
Barbara Rooney – to ECW for 2 chairs for funeral receptions, 1 chair for ladies bathroom  
Matthew Gardener – Youth Ministry  
Richard Schradle – to Altar Guild  
7 cemetery benches by Ellis Pope  
a wheelchair by June Bennett

a Bar B Que Grill & kitchen waste disposal by Mary & George Gorbatenko

Other gifts were given in memory of Ruth Mattlin, Duke Wingfield, and Al Borders.

The Gift and Memorial Register in the church has been updated regularly by Dana Boyle. Mary Whitney and June Hochbrunn have updated our picture album. A picture of Fr. Mark Kelm was hung in the church hallway. Our bylaws were updated and approved, and new flags for the cemetery and church were purchased.

Our new Chair for 2007 will be Mary Whitney.

The Gifts and Memorial committee and Vestry must approve all gifts and memorials before they are purchased or donated. Any committee or person may give suggestions of memorials or gifts for consideration by our committee.

The following is a list of approved gifts and/or memorials:

Sacristy remodeling  
church baseboard restoration  
new pew-back tract racks  
changeable entryway directory sign  
St. John's Processional Banner  
Gospel Book ceremonial cover  
Unity Candle Stand  
Book of Occasional Readings  
Parlor AV equipment, pull down projection screen & cabinet style white board  
Funds are always accepted for St. John's Endowment Fund and the Children & Youth Endowment Fund, Music Fund, Outreach and Cemetery, prayer books, hymnals, library books, Vestments, choir and acolyte robes and altar linens.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Kroesch, Chair

## **Stewardship**

Congregation members who pledge provide a strong foundation for St. John's ministry of worship, learning and outreach. Through these stewardship pledges, members provide the "treasure" portion of "time, talent and treasure" to fulfill the annual budgetary needs of the congregation.

The following 204 individuals and their families pledged a total of \$343,847 in financial support to St. John in the Wilderness for the year 2006:

Bruce Ackerman, Joseph Afryl, Andrews Allen, Jack Ambler, A. Kenneth Anderson, Barbara Anderson, Gladys Anderson, LeRoi Anderson, James Anthony, Geraldine Babcock, Fred Baborsky, Jim Bartley, Cathryn Bashore, William Beebe, June Bennett, Joan Berry, Bradley Boyle, Fosten Boyle, Therese Branby, Lisa Brock, Nancy Brown, John Brunner, Priscilla Campbell, Bruce Canterbury, Bradford Carpenter, Michael Carpenter, Shirley Chapman, Edward Chilton, Karla Collins, Debra Cossalter, Nancy Cottle, George Crockett, Gretchen Davidson, Joan Delamater, Dorothy Dokmo, Karen Dufresne, George Earl, Gregory Eick, Virginia Ellis, Patrick Emerson, Keiko Farrar, Alison Feigh, John Fennig, Richard Fiddle, Ivan Fletcher, David Gadbois, Eric Gadbois, Patricia Gagin, Jacquelyn Gardner, Joan Gardner, David Gehrenbeck, Jeanne Gilbertson, George Glander, Karl Glander, George Gorbatenko, Jeremy Gulbranson, Richard Gwynn, Dorothy Haas, Helen Halbert, Richard Halbert, Timothy Hammond, Andrew Harding, Louise Harding, Howard Harholdt, Sara Harker-Olson, Michael Harnois, Louis Harris, James Hartmeister, Christine Hauser, Mary Jo Hawkinson, Christopher Hawley, Karen Herrera, Anne Herron, Nancy Hess, Lois Hildebrandt, Junice Hochbrunn, Margaret Holper, Peter Holtz, Matt Hoover, Mark Hosfield, Richard Hovland, David Hyduke, Robert Jagusch, Philip Jemielita, Andrew Jensen, Christopher Johnson, Colleen Johnson, John Johnson, Stephen Johnson, James Johnston, Christopher Karp, Gayle Kasmani, Sally Keep, Stan Kegler, Janet Kelber, Mark Kelm, Charles King, John Kissel, Jason Knauss, John Korth, Barry Kostyk, Max Kraning, James Kroesch, Richard Kyle, Helen LaBarre, Eva Jane Larson, Mary Larson, Richard Larson, Victor Lee, John LeFevre, Geraldine Letourneau, Nathan Lief, Alma Limbach, Doris Long, Thomas Long, Sharon Lund, Roberta Lutgen, J. Keith MacKenzie, William MacNally, Lawrence Mahoney, Albert Maiers, James Marier, Gladys Marquardt, James Matko, A. James Matson, Ruth Mattlin, Gene McAlister, William McBride, Edwin McCarthy, Alice McClaren, John McLean, Jean McMillan, Sean McVay, Tom Medd, Barbara Merrill, Kathleen Miller, Glenn Monson, Lyles Monson, Robert Monson, David Monyak, Priscilla Moody, Wendy Muscanto, Eugene Napiwoski, Amy Okaya, Richard Oswald, Kenneth Paddock, Kenneth Peatross, Robert Peck, Cheryll Peterson, Joan Piasecki, Verne Pickering, Marjorie Polanek, Lucille Popp, Charles Power Jr, Joanne Power, Sterling Price, Robert Prochnow, Nancy Purcell, Michael Purnell, John Reed, Nancy Rice, Terry Rooney, Ward Sanford, Harry Schlieff, Gregory Schmit, Timothy Schmuck, Katheryn Schneider, Suzanne Schradle, David Seitz, Marc Senjem, Martha Shaffer, Paula Sherman, Bette Smeed, Joann Smith, Sandra Stevenson Watson, Charles Stuck, Donald Sulentic, Burnett Sullivan, Robert Sullivan, William Swanson, Steven Swisher, J. Dixon Tews, Dennis Thoemke, Margaret Thor, Richard Todd, Brent Torgerson, Elizabeth Uppgren, John Uttermark, David Valentine, Chuck Van Steen, Amanda Vickstrom, John Vruno, Kern Walker, Janet Waller, Margaret Wangensteen, Nathaniel Watkins, Ronald Weide, Doris Weinhagen, Elizabeth Whillock, Kenneth Whitney, Lee Wilson, Diane Wingfield, Barbara Youngblood, & James Zinter

**St. John in the Wilderness  
2007 Financial Plan  
As Approved by Vestry  
December 12, 2006**

	<b>2004 Actual</b>		<b>2005 Actual</b>		<b>2006 Est.</b>		<b>2007 Plan</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>358,059</b>		<b>419,382</b>		<b>474,897</b>		<b>539,500</b>

<b>Expenses</b>									
<b>Total building related</b>	43,882	12.0%	48,590	11.7%	58,059	12.2%	72,500	13.4%	
<b>Total payroll related</b>	217,358	59.6%	266,729	63.3%	306,919	64.6%	336,957	62.5%	
<b>Total office</b>	15,948	4.4%	14,458	3.5%	14,817	3.1%	16,500	3.1%	
<b>Total faith formation</b>	2,698	0.7%	5,120	1.2%	5,616	1.2%	7,405	1.4%	
<b>Total growth</b>	15,683	4.3%	12,221	2.9%	14,316	3.0%	19,630	3.6%	
<b>Total liturgy &amp; music</b>	3,395	0.9%	4,515	1.1%	6,340	1.3%	9,000	1.7%	
<b>Total outreach</b>	65,500	18.0%	67,285	16.2%	68,844	14.5%	77,358	14.3%	
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>364,464</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>418,919</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>474,911</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>539,500</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Income less expense</b>	<b>(6,405)</b>		<b>463</b>		<b>(14)</b>		<b>0</b>		
<b>Beginning net assets</b>	<b>7,615</b>		<b>1,210</b>		<b>1,673</b>		<b>1,659</b>		
<b>Ending net assets</b>	<b>1,210</b>		<b>1,673</b>		<b>1,659</b>		<b>1,659</b>		

**Churchwomen of St. John in the  
Wilderness 2006 Annual Report**

**12/31/2005 Balance on Hand**

ECW Checking	\$7,548.82
ECW Savings	\$3,109.44
	<u><b>\$10,658.26</b></u>

<b>Income</b>	Dues	\$415.00
	Interest	\$125.81
	Rummage Sale	\$3,584.87

	Receptions	\$1,050.00
	Donations	\$1,500.00
	Miscellaneous	\$56.68
	Holiday Bazaar	\$4,449.63
	Luncheon Receipts	\$1,534
	Memorials	\$590.00
		<b>\$13,305.99</b>
		<b>\$23,964.25</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	Bible Study Honorarium & Lunch	\$200.00
	Luncheons	\$4,553.12
	Reception Supplies	\$277.53
	Misc. (cards,postage,engrave,nametags)	\$551.32
	Grants (itemized below)	\$7,041.59
	<b>Parish Contributions</b>	
	May Fellowship	\$400.00
	Rummage Sale / Bazaar Costs	\$317.00
	Child Care	\$240.00
	Parish Staff Christmas Gifts	\$575.00
	Cottas/Cassocks	\$177.50
	Cabinet Lock Repair	\$60.00
	TEC Books, Acolyte B'fast, Usher Carn.	\$175.70
	Commitment Sunday Breakfast	\$219.28
	Reception Chairs	\$478.00
		<b>\$15,266.04</b>
	<b>12/15/2006 Balance on Hand</b>	<b>\$8,698.21</b>
<b>Grants</b>	Diocesan Youth Music Camp	\$700.00
	Youth Mission Trip	\$496.00
	Habitat for Humanity	\$400.00
	Liturgy & Music	\$2,951.25
	Forward Movement Publication	\$32.00
	Children's Ministry	\$793.49
	Parlor Redecoration	\$1,006.00
	Bible Garden Plants	\$85.85
	Carpet Cleaning	\$577.00
		<b>\$7,041.59</b>

**Annual Report of  
The Rev. Joanie Delamater,  
Associate Priest**

This year began with my absence from St. John's as I recovered from thyroid cancer surgery and treatment. Though I was not physically present until the first week in February, my prayers were with this amazing faith community. I am still full of gratitude for your thoughts, cards, jokes, prayers and meals during my healing time.

When I returned to work, my schedule changed to Wednesdays 1-9 pm, Fridays 9-5 and Sunday mornings. My position as associate priest is still 20 hours a week. The focus of my ministry in 2006 was on healing and wholeness and pastoral care. I worked on building a healing team of laypersons to join the clergy in laying on hands and anointing during the Sunday services and Wednesday evenings. Fr. Andy Jensen and Dianne DelGiorno assisted me in training those interested in the healing ministry over a four-

month period. Please contact me if you are interested in learning more or to make an appointment for extended unction or healing touch 651/ 429-5351 ext. 14.

The healing team was commissioned this June and sponsored the second annual Spiritual Spa on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Spiritual Spa is a day of opportunities to still and stir body, mind and spirit. This year the theme was *Joy*. Dianne DelGiorno started the day off with humor and the power of storytelling (the liturgy of the Word). Dr. Mary Freitag, a psychologist specializing in mindfulness, joined the Spiritual Spa and led the 65 participants in mindfulness exercises including mindful eating. Sherri Afryl demonstrated deep breathing exercises to let go of stress and anxiety and got our bodies moving throughout the day. Colleen Johnson explained her role as a spiritual director and invited people to walk a canvas labyrinth (on the choir room floor) or to sit in the meditation garden or to write prayers. Cathryn Bashore gave a presentation on the Psalms and guided us in writing our own psalms with magnetic words, phrases, and colorful shapes. I spoke about prayer and the power of connecting with God and others through deep listening and becoming aware of the physical and spiritual world around us. The day was wrapped in music, transitioning us from one experience into another by the talented Betsy and Paul Hanson and John Sundell, musicians I have known for years through Cursillo.

To assist us in being good stewards of the earth and mindful eating, all the food and beverages offered at the Spiritual Spa were homemade and organic. Stan Kegler, husband of Dianne DelGiorno, made the soups and was in charge of the kitchen crew. Lowell Johnson and Jim Delamater assisted Stan. Joe Afryl helped with audio and video presentations.

For many the first step to joy is letting go, and we ritualized this by writing down anything we wanted to let go of emotionally, physically or

spiritually. We then burned the notes as an offering before we joyfully entered the sanctuary to complete the day with a healing Eucharist (the liturgy of the table).

Fifteen lay people were commissioned this spring as BeFriender Ministers. BeFrienders are trained lay people who assist the clergy in ongoing pastoral care. Their ministry is one of holy listening and prayerful presence. They don't fix others, but rather journey with others, one on one, as they experience grief, illness, divorce, transitions or any life crisis. Fr. Andy Jensen and I worked with this group of dedicated men and women in learning how to be present to others in crisis. The BeFrienders meet on a monthly basis for ongoing training and support with Cathryn Bashore and Fr. Andy or me. If you are interested in having a BeFriender or becoming one, please contact me at 651/429-5351 ext. 14, or Cathryn Bashore at 651/653-8380.

I continue to assist Fr. Mark with leading worship, preaching, teaching and administering the sacraments. I look forward to continuing my work with the Lay Eucharistic Ministers, the Good Grief Group and with helping new members become involved in our many ministries at St. John in the Wilderness.

I am deeply grateful for renewed health, the amazing staff here and the opportunity to serve the people of God at St. John in the Wilderness.

Yours in Christ, the Rev. Joanie Delamater

### **Closing Hymn**

*Long Time Son*

S. Thomson

May the long time sun shine upon you,  
Our love surround you.  
And the pure, pure light that's within you,  
Guide your way home.