



The Voice

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 PERMIT NO. 126

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



**December
 2007**

**Volume 49
 Issue 12**

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

VESTRY

Chris Hawley	Warden
Ken Paddock	Warden
Margaret Thor	Treasurer
Becky Monson	Clerk of Vestry
June Bennett	2008
Michael Carpenter	2008
Tom Long	2008
John Fennig	2009
Brent Torgerson	2009
Rich Hovland	2010
Gayle Kasmani	2010
Tim Schmuck	2010
Krista Sullivan	2010

People of the Parish

The Ministers

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



PUT THE CHRIST CHILD BACK INTO THE SEASON

Saturday the 1st

Advent Quiet Day Mini-Retreat. Join us for a meditative morning preparing for the birth of our Messiah. The theme is, "I wonder as I wander." Contact: Colleen Johnson 651/633-6687.

Sunday the 2nd

At all three liturgies, the Reverend Canon Robert Twobulls will preach. Bob is the director of the Department of Indian Works for the Diocese of Minnesota.

Saturday the 8th

10:00 am Greening of the Church. All ages are welcome to come decorate our parish Christmas trees in the Church Nave & Parish Hall. Bring an ornament from home to hang on the Christmas tree at church if you wish. Please stay and join in on the All Parish Christmas Caroling at Cerenity Care Center.

11:30 am All Parish Christmas Caroling. Meet at Cerenity (1891 Florence St, White Bear Lake) to spread the joy of the season among the nursing home residents. Please sign up on the activities table in the Parish Hall so we know how many people might be joining us. Questions: contact Beth Kelm, ehyduke@comcast.net

Cerenity Senior Care, formerly known as HealthEast Senior Care, is pronounced just like the word "serenity" yet substitutes a capital "C" for "S" to emphasize "caring, community & compassion."

Sunday the 9th Adopt-A-Family Ingathering Final Collection Day

9:00 am St. Nick Celebration. *Nursery care is available.* This special advent event brings fun & festivity to our parish with a visit from St. Nicholas who is sure to bring with him small treats, surprises and some great stories of his goodness & kind deeds.

Noon Prayer Bead Workshop. Create your own Anglican rosary and learn the meanings of the various prayers. Contact: Kate Johnson: 612/237-8611. Cost: \$15

Wednesday the 12th

7:00 pm Advent Play "Sleepover at the Stable" with Communion. *Nursery care is available.* Hear our children & youth sing & tell the story of the first Christmas Day from the perspective of the stable animals (and a few mice). The play reminds us all of the true meaning of the season by bringing us back to the manger.

Sunday the 16th

9:00 am Advent Play "Sleepover at the Stable" with Communion. *Nursery care is available.* Hear our children & youth sing & tell the story of the first Christmas Day from the perspective of the stable animals (and a few mice). The play reminds us all of the true meaning of the season by bringing us back to the manger.

4:00 pm Lessons & Carols followed by a traditional English reception. Modeled after King's College, Cambridge, the choirs of St. John's feature traditional & novel carols interspersed with Scripture to prepare your soul for the coming of the Christ Child. Along with our excellent Chancel & Youth choirs, we will also enjoy the music of our new Handbell Choir and the Teens to Twenties Treble Ensemble. *Gathering Music & Nursery Care begin at 3:30 pm.*

Sunday the 23rd

7:30 am Early Risers Holy Eucharist, 9:00 am Family-friendly Eucharist, & 10:30 am Choral Eucharist with Holy Baptism.

Monday the 24th

4:00 pm Family-friendly Christmas Eve Eucharist. *Nursery care is available.* This year our youth and children will present a nativity tableau offering a special interpretation of our Savior's birth.

10:30 pm Choral Christmas Eve Eucharist.

Tuesday the 25th

10:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist

Saturday the 29th

11:30 am Out to lunch. Come give a gift of your time in the season of giving. Contact: Gayle Kasmani, 651/407-0656.

See you in Church.

Fr. Mark

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

LESSONS & CAROLS DECEMBER 16 TO FEATURE "ADAM" PREMIER

Following Lesson I at every Lessons & Carols service since 1998, we have alternated between two settings of the medieval carol "Adam lay ybounden." This year a new "Adam" will be introduced—by a young White Bear Lake native, Michael Djupstrom (WBLHS class of 1998), who already has received international acclaim for his compositions. Indeed, the new "Adam," commissioned by St. John in the Wilderness, will receive its *world premiere* shortly after 4 pm on Advent III, Sunday, December 16.

That, and much more, awaits you that afternoon beginning at 3:30 with a half-hour of Gathering Music for handbells, trumpet, oboe, and organ leading directly into "Once in royal David's city" from the balcony. Many of the carols sung by the choirs (Chancel [augmented], Youth, & the new Teens to Twenties Treble Ensemble) will be familiar, but the final chorus (after Lesson IX) will be another first for us: "And God said: 'The day shall dawn/To bring a flow'r, newly born,'" the rapturous finale to Arthur Honegger's *King David*.

The turnout for the Lessons & Carols Choir has exceeded the capacity of the choir pews, but no one will be left standing. We trust the turnout in the nave will present similar challenges for seating space. "O come, all ye faithful," and do tarry for an elegant reception in the Parish Hall.

David Gehrenbeck, organist/choirmaster

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Every year, Episcopal Community Services offers the opportunity to help families in need during the Christmas season. The Adopt-a-Family program coordinates the distribution of gifts and food certificates to families in our metropolitan area.

It is well known that the holidays can be stressful for everyone, but they can be especially trying for those parents who are unable, because of poverty or other difficult circumstances, to provide gifts or special holiday meals for their children and other family members.

Thanks to ECS, there is a way that we can all help to make someone else's Christmas brighter. Trees decorated with gift tags will be in the Parish Hall through Sunday, December 9th. Simply choose the tags for the gifts that you would like to purchase, then record your name and phone number on the corresponding poster. This simple act will open the door for you and your family to help spread the joy of the Christmas season to others. What better way to share with our children the wonderful practice of helping those who are less fortunate than we are? What better way to reassure others that there is hope in the world and that God's love shines throughout?

PASSAGES

BAPTISMS

Aidan Douglas Huspek	11/1/2007
Tobias Antonia Acero	11/1/2007
Anna Hyduke Kelm	11/1/2007
Krissa Ellen Kyle	11/1/2007

CONFIRMATIONS

Zachary David Tabor	11/1/2007
Nicole Michelle Mahanna	11/3/2007
Shannon Marie Mahanna	11/3/2007

RECEPTIONS

Marilou Ficocello	11/1/2007
Randy W. Johnson	11/1/2007
Kimberly S. Johnson	11/1/2007
Nancy V. Purcell	11/1/2007
Laurel A. Stiebler	11/1/2007

MARRIAGE

David Joseph Sarjeant Buelow & Rachael Sharee Gagnon	11/16/2007
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NEW TRANSFERS

Timothy Leland Hadley	10/29/2007
Pamela J. Hadley	10/29/2007
Thomas Edward Carroll	10/30/2007

BURIAL

Richard Gilbert Livesay	11/11/2007
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2008 ANNUAL MEETING AT 9 AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Annual Reports are due by noon December 31st, e-mailed to wilderness2@visi.com, or submitted on a portable drive, CD or floppy disk in the Parish Administrator mail slot, in a file type openable by MS Office Word or Publisher 2000. If you have e-mail access, please type your report in the body of an e-mail, avoiding file attachments. Reports written or typed on paper will be returned. Reports shall be 1 printed page maximum, in 11 point font.



Bible Readings

December 2, Advent I

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

December 9, Advent II

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 16, Advent III

Isaiah 35:1-10

Canticle 15

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 16, Lessons & Carols

4:00 pm

December 23, Advent IV

Isaiah 7:10-17

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 pm

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

10:30 pm

Isaiah 62:6-7, 10-12

Psalms 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:1-20

December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 am

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98

Hebrews 1:1-12

John 1:1-14

December 30,

First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 147:13-21

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

Underlined verses are read during the family-friendly liturgy.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH & THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

A **Lectionary** is a table of readings from Scripture appointed to be read at public worship. The association of particular texts with specific days began in the 4th century. The Lectionary [1969, revised 1981] developed by the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican II provided for a three-year cycle of Sunday readings. This Roman lectionary provided the basis for lectionary in The Book of Common Prayer 1979 as well as those developed by many other denominations.

The Common Lectionary, published in 1983, was an ecumenical project of several American & Canadian denominations, developed out of a concern for the unity of the Church and a desire for a common experience of Scripture. It was intended as a harmonization of the many different denominational approaches to the three-year lectionary. It has been in trial use in the Episcopal Church and among the member denominations since 1983.

The Revised Common Lectionary, published in 1992, takes into account constructive criticism of the Common Lectionary based on the evaluation of its trial use and like the current prayer-book lectionary is a three-year cycle of Sunday Eucharistic readings in which Matthew, Mark and Luke are read in successive years with some material from John read in each year.

The Revised Common Lectionary provides these new features:

- The option of semi-continuous reading of the great Old Testament narratives on the Sundays after Pentecost, to provide exciting new preaching opportunities, vacation Bible School ideas or informal summer story-telling for adults as well as children.

[Genesis through Judges in year A; the Davidic Covenant & Wisdom literature in Year B; the prophets: Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel & Habbakuk in Year C]

- The option of lections in thematic harmony with the Gospel of the day for the Sundays after Pentecost.

This follows the pattern of the present lectionary in which the readings from the Old Testament & the New Testament are chosen in relation to the Gospel.

- The Inclusion of women and their role in salvation history, offering texts about women never heard on Sunday before.

The most notable example is the account of the woman anointing Jesus at Bethany [Mark 14:3-9]. Jesus responded by saying "wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." This text, omitted in the present lectionary, is included in the Revised Common Lectionary as part of the Passion narrative read on Palm Sunday in Year B.

The Revised Common Lectionary preserves around 90% of the Gospel readings in the Lectionary of The Book of Common Prayer 1979.

Why is the Revised Common Lectionary of value to the Episcopal Church?

- It is a truly ecumenical lectionary shared by most Protestant denominations and widely used throughout the Anglican Communion.
- It provides new opportunities for ecumenical Bible study and shared resources for teaching and preaching.
- It has improved the choice of appropriate texts for Sundays & Festivals.
- It incorporates most of the readings with which the church is familiar.
- Most new resources for preaching, teaching and the planning of worship are already being developed to support the Revised Common Lectionary.

Prepared by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for the Episcopal Church.

St. John's will begin using the RCL on December 2, Advent 1.

St John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church-December 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Every Sunday 7:30 am Eucharist (no music) 9 am Family-friendly Eucharist 10 am Christian Education 10:30 am Choral Eucharist Nursery care available 9 & 10:30 Handbell Choir</p>	<p>Every Monday 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>Every Tuesday 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall) 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 494</p>	<p>Every Wednesday 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:00 pm TTT Ensemble 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:00 pm Nursery Care, Youth Choir & Adult Education 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist & Jr. High Youth Group 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Every Thursday Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>		<p>1 9 am Advent Quiet Day until noon</p>
<p>2 Advent I Rev. Robert Twobulls preaches 10 am Sr. High Youth Group (St. Bernard's Room) 11:45 am Executive Committee Meeting (Fireplace Room) 6:30 pm @ Home in the Wilderness until 8:30 pm (Parlor)</p>	<p>3 7 pm Outreach Committee Meeting (Parlor) All are welcome! 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>4 See Every Tuesday above 2:30 pm Cerenity Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Altar Guild Meeting (Parlor)</p>	<p>5 See Every Wednesday above 7:30 pm Deacon Meeting</p>	<p>6 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline 2:30 pm Cerenity Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10 am Christmas Tree Decorating 11:30 am Christmas Caroling (Cerenity, 1891 Florence St, WBL)</p>
<p>9 Advent II Adopt a Family Ingathering 9 am St. Nicholas 11 am Children's Ministry Meeting (Parish Hall) 11:45 am BeFriends (Parlor) Noon Prayer Bead Workshop (Parish Hall) All are welcome; sign up!</p>	<p>10 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>11 See Every Tuesday above 11 am Bald Eagle Women's Club (Parish Hall & Kitchen) until 4 pm</p>	<p>12 See Every Wednesday above 1 pm Staff Christmas Lunch (Gasthaus) 7 pm Advent Play performance during Eucharist 7:30 pm Ministry Forum</p>	<p>13 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 494 Leader Recognition (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10 am Lessons & Carols Choir Rehearsal until noon Noon Lessons & Carols Reader Rehearsal until 1 pm</p>
<p>16 Advent III 9 am Advent Play performance during Eucharist 10 am Sr. High Youth Group (St. Bernard's Room) 3:30 pm Gathering Music until 4 pm 4 pm Lessons & Carols</p>	<p>17 January Voice deadline 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>18 See Every Tuesday above 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (St. Cecilia's Room)</p>	<p>19 See Every Wednesday above 10:15 am St. Andrew's Village Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Retired Men's Lunch (Key's, downtown WBL) 7:30 pm Good Grief Group</p>	<p>20 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline 2 pm Red Cross Blood Drive (Parish Hall) until 7 pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Advent IV 10 am Christmas Tableau Rehearsal 10:30 am Holy Baptism</p> <p>30 No Youth or Children's Education</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 4 pm Family-friendly service with Nursery Care available 10:30 pm Choral Eucharist, no Nursery Care</p> <p>31 New Year's Eve Noon Annual Report deadline No paper submissions</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day 10 am Holy Eucharist, no Nursery Care</p> <p>January 1 New Year's Day Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Out to Lunch</p>

AFINNET CENTRE SCHOOL DOUBLES GRADUATION CLASS

October 23 was graduation day for 53 students attending the AFINNET Centre School in Mityana, Uganda. Forty students had earned certificates in the tailoring program, 8 had completed the home economics program, and 5 were qualified in the carpentry program. This graduation class is more than double the 25 students graduating in 2006 that the St. John's delegation was privileged to observe beginning a new life of promise! Each tailoring graduate received a sewing machine on an interest-free loan basis. This new program will allow the tradition of graduation sewing machines to continue even if donors become scarce, and also confers AFINNET alumni with the dignity of contributing to the support of their school.

More good news has arrived for AFINNET. The Weyerhaeuser Foundation has just fully funded St. John's grant proposal on behalf of AFINNET for \$21,000.⁰⁰, and another grant is pending. However, most foundations do not allow grant funds to be spent on infrastructure. Work to complete the hostel awaits additional funds for completion:

Steel doors & windows, cement, sand, transport & labor \$6,224

Plastering requiring sand, lime, cement, transport & labor \$4,159

Concrete floor & verandas, and labor \$4,484

Electrical wiring, materials & labor \$4,330

Total \$19,197

The hostel is critical to provide safe housing for students who must leave their villages to attend school at AFINNET. Please consider AFINNET when you are budgeting for Christmas gifts.



Some 2007 AFINNET graduates celebrate with song and dance, above.

The current status of the AFINNET Hostel, below.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you are interested in flowers for Christmas in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone special in your life, please fill out a flower form (found in the parking lot entry or by the office mail slots). The Deadline is Monday, December 17. Make your \$35 check payable to St. John's Altar Guild and mail it to the church attn Altar Guild or place it in their mail slot.

If you have any questions, please call Barb Van Steen, 651/484-1614.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Mornings

10:00 am in the Parlor: Tim Hadley leads us in an Advent series focusing on the time of Christ. Why did Jesus come when and where he did? The answers are foretold in the Scriptures, and we will learn more about the culture of the time.

Wednesday Evenings

5:30 pm in the Parish Hall: Light Supper

6:00 pm in the Parlor: Special Advent series on various forms of prayer, led by Rev. Joanie

Advent Quiet Day, Saturday, December 1, 9 am – noon: mini-retreat with Colleen Johnson and Rev. Andy Jensen. This was a very popular event last year. Please sign up in the Parish Hall.

Advent Bead Workshop, Sunday, December 9 at noon: Kate Johnson will lead us in this activity. Assemble an Anglican Rosary for yourself or someone on your gift list, while you learn the meaning and use of the symbols. Please sign up in the Parish Hall. *A \$15 fee covers a light lunch and all materials.*

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A DEACON ANYWAY?

The Bible tells of the apostles laying their hands on seven men and sending them out to assist the needy widows and children. While scripture does not refer to him as the 'first deacon', St. Stephen was one of those seven. You may recall that he was the first martyred by stoning, with Saul (later to be known as the apostle Paul) watching on (Acts 6:8-7:2, 51-60). Please don't misunderstand – none of us are volunteering to follow in his foot-steps as a martyr. I think it is important to note how he lived to understand the role of a deacon. He and the others were the first deacons in the church, and to this day you can still find deacons involved in some way with Social Actions and Outreach. It wasn't until centuries later that deacons became involved in liturgy but that is the subject of another article.

On December 26, we celebrate the Feast of St. Stephen, and the lyrics of the song usually sung on that day speak directly to the role of the deacon:

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,
You shall find the winter's rage freeze your blood less coldly."
In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

Serving others and reaching out beyond the doors of the church is the primary charge for a deacon. At our ordination, Bishop Jelinek charged us to be bridge builders between the church and the people. Several years ago, in a homily given by The Venerable Doctor Irma Wyman, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Minnesota, she referred to deacons as the St. Bernard of the church. We are to go out and find people in need, and then either bring the help to the people or lead the people to the help. Sounds like a St. Bernard to me. (However, she was very clear to add, that we are not to wear a flask of whiskey around our neck.)

The point is that that our first charge is to go out into the world and help those in need. St. John's has a Social Action and an Outreach Committee reaching out to the community. Did you realize that you are a member of those committees? We all are. Whether we attend the monthly meetings, mentor as a part of Kids Hope, or serve once a month at the Out-to-Lunch ministry (to name a few), we serve as members of Social Action and Outreach. While not everyone is ordained, every one of us is called to be a St. Bernard in the church. We all need to be mindful of the needs of others and to reach out beyond the doors of the church to serve Christ as we serve others.

Call me. Let's talk. I want to know what ignites the passion(s) in your heart. The committees at St. John's such as Social Action and Outreach need you. Go out into the world and to be the church, loving and serving the Lord.

Blessing this Advent season, Rev. Debra

STATUS REPORT: THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

We are pleased to report that as of November, 2007, \$662,200 in contributions to the Campaign for St. John in the Wilderness have been collected. This means we have collected 86% of our goal of \$770,000.

We continue to use some of the money raised to update our historic Church building, the latest being the remodeling of the Choir Room. If you have not seen it, please do so. The new St. Cecilia's Room is located on the second floor of the original church building. If you remember the old Choir Room, you will see the transformation is terrific.

If you have an outstanding 2007 balance on your campaign pledge, we ask that you remit this by December 31, 2007. Make checks payable to "The Campaign for St. John in the Wilderness".

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Thirty contributors have signed up for electronic giving so far: 18 are giving this way in 2007; 12 more begin in 2008.

Electronic giving is a safe and easy way to keep pledges current. The Electronic Giving Authorization Form is available on the parish website (www.stjohnwilderness.org) under Stewardship Committee, 2008 Pledge Drive. Simply complete the form and mail it to the church or place it in the Parish Administrator mail slot. Your donation amount & frequency will be recorded, and your form will be mailed to Vanco Services, our fund transfer service

St John's Lay Liturgical Ministry-December 2007

LAY READER	LECTOR	LEM	ACOLYTES	HEALER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	VERGER
2 7:30 Joe Afryl 10:30 Ken Paddock	7:30 Sherri Afryl 9:00 Kim Severson 10:30 Barb Kraning	Wed 5, 7 pm June Bennett 7:30 Bari Chilton 9:00 Barb VanSteen Susie Mahoney 10:30 Greg Schmit	9:00 E. Mahoney Moertels 10:30 K. Larson L. McCarthy R. Monyak	9:00 Cathryn 10:30 Dianne	9:00 Cossalters 10:30 Johnsons	June Hochbrunn Gayle Kasmani Alice McClaren Bette Smeed	Dennis Thoenke
9 7:30 June Bennett 10:30 Jim Petersen	7:30 Marge Polanek 9:00 Maureen Vruno 10:30 Wendy Muscanto	Wed 12, 7 pm R. Peck & J. Bennett 7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Pris Campbell Janet Waller 10:30 Joe Afryl	9:00 Thors 10:30 L. DuFresne S. Bartley	9:00 Cathryn 10:30 Sherri	9:00 Canterbury 10:30 Jim Hartmeister Mike Gerlach	Mary Whitney Pat Gagin Peggy Holper Cyndi Domin	Margaret Thor
16 7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Lee Wilson 4:00 L & C	7:30 Allan Fagley 9:00 Advent Play 10:30 June Bennett	Wed 19, 7 pm Bob Peck 7:30 Jane Kyle 9:00 Linda Monyak Barb VanSteen 10:30 Joe Afryl	9:00 Longs Whillocks 10:30 K. Paddock Mariers	9:00 Dianne 10:30 Sherri	9:00 4 th & 5 th Graders 10:30 Mark Hosfield Jim Marier	Pat Pickering Anne Johnson Gere Letourneau Meg Thorson	John Brunner Dennis & Bryan
23 7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Chris Johnson	7:30 Marge Polanek 9:00 Peggy Holper 10:30 Helen Kissel	Wed 26, 7 pm Ken Paddock 7:30 Jane Kyle 9:00 Pris Campbell Judy Kroesch 10:30 Lee Wilson	9:00 T. Young Karps 10:30 Todds	9:00 Dianne 10:30 Cathryn	9:00 Linda Carpenter Domins 10:30 DeSmets	Janet Waller Pris Campbell Keiko Farrar Sally Holtz Jane Kyle Barb VanSteen	Bryan DeSmet
24 4:00 Colleen Johnson 10:30 Ken Paddock	4:00 Maureen Vruno 10:30 Jim Delamater	4:00 Linda Monyak Janet Waller 10:30 Bob Peck Greg Schmit		4:00 Dianne 10:30 Cathryn		Janet Waller Pris Campbell Keiko Farrar Sally Holtz Jane Kyle Barb VanSteen	Dennis Thoenke
25 10:00 Judy Kroesch	10:00 Barb Kraning	10:00 Bari Chilton Ed Chilton				Janet Waller Pris Campbell Keiko Farrar Sally Holtz Jane Kyle Barb VanSteen	
30 7:30 June Bennett 10:30 Chris Johnson	7:30 Alice Fagley 9:00 G. Brunner 10:30 Jill Todd	7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Pris Campbell Barb VanSteen 10:30 Ken Paddock	9:00 L. Warchol 10:30 Todds P. Schneider	9:00 Cathryn 10:30 Sherri	9:00 DeSmets 10:30 Pickerings Linda Carpenter	Cyndi Domin Jeanne LeFevre Barb Merrill Joann Smith	Chris Hawley

THANK YOU PARISHIONER HOUSEHOLDS FOR PLEDGING THE 2008 GENERAL OPERATING FUND!

Bruce Ackerman	Michael Gerlach	Richard Kyle	Nancy Rice
Joseph Afryl	Jeanne Gilbertson	Helen LaBarre	Cheryl Roden
Jack Ambler	George Glander	Julia Lafean	Terry Rooney
A. Kenneth Anderson	George Gorbatenko	Richard Larson	Harry Schlieff
Gladys Anderson	Angela Gordon	Richard Lee	Gregory Schmit
Lois Anderson	Richard Gwynn	Victor Lee	Timothy Schmuck
James Anthony	Dorothy Haas	John LeFevre	Suzanne Schradle
Geraldine Babcock	Helen Halbert	Geraldine Letourneau	David Seitz
Fred Baborsky	Richard Halbert	Donald Levin	Martha Shaffer
Marilyn Baldwin	Andrew Harding	Nathan Lief	Paula Sherman
Cathryn Bashore	Betty Harholdt	Alma Limbach	Daryl Skobba
William Beebe	Sara Harker-Olson	Corinne Livesay	Bette Smeed
June Bennett	Louis Harris	Thomas Long	Joann Smith
Joan Berry	James Hartmeister	Sharon Lund	Kathryn Smith
Kevin Blake	Christopher Hawley	Lawrence Mahoney	Susanne Smith
Bradley Boyle	Karen Herrera	Albert Maiers	Erik Sorensen
Fosten Boyle	Anne Herron	James Marier	Sandra Stevenson Watson
John Brunner	Janet Herron	James Markoe	Charles Stuck
Harvey Caldwell	Nancy Hess	James Matko	Donald Sulentic
Priscilla Campbell	Lois Hildebrandt	A. James Matson	Robert Sullivan
Bruce Canterbury	Junice Hochbrunn	Gene McAlister	William Swanson
Bradford Carpenter	Margaret Holper	William McBride	Steven Swisher
Robert Cessna	Peter Holtz	Edwin McCarthy	J. Dixon Tews
Shirley Chapman	Mark Hosfield	Alice McClaren	Dennis Thoemke
Betty Chappell	Richard Hovland	Thomas Medd	Margaret Thor
Edward Chilton	David Hyduke	Robert Melin	Margaret Thorson
Karla Collins	John Irvine	Barbara Merrill	Edward Titcomb, III
Debra Cossalter	G. Robert Jagusch	Glenn Monson	Richard Todd
Margaret Cost	Philip Jemielita	Lyles Monson	Brent Torgerson
Nancy Cottle	Andrew Jensen	Robert Monson	Elizabeth Uppgren
George Crockett	Christopher Johnson	David Monyak	Elaine Uttermark
Gretchen Davidson	Colleen Johnson	Wendy Muscanto	David Valentine
James Delamater	John Johnson	Eugene Napiwoski	Charles Van Steen
Dorothy Dokmo	Randy Johnson	Amy Okaya	Amanda Vickstrom
Ron Domin	Stephen Johnson	Clare O'Neil	Kathleen Vincent
Karen Dufresne	Carrie Jones	Richard Oswald	John Vruno
George Earl	Christopher Karp	Kenneth Paddock	Kern Walker
Gregory Eick	Gayle Kasmani	Kenneth Peatross	Janet Waller
Virginia Ellis	Muli Kasmani	Robert Peck	Linda Wall-Wadell
Rebecca Emerson	Sally Keep	James Petersen	Nathaniel Watkins
Allan Fagley	Stanley Kegler	Cheryll Peterson	Ronald Weide
Keiko Farrar	Janet Kelber	Joan Piasecki	Doris Weinhagen
Alison Feigh	Mark Kelm	Verne Pickering	Debra Welch
John Fennig	Charles King	Lael Pickett	Tom Wesley
Ivan Fletcher	Helen Kissel	Marjorie Polanek	Kenneth Whitney
Sheila Foster	Jason Knauss	Ellis Pope	Sandra Williams
David Gadbois	John Kobinski	Charles Power, Jr.	Lee Wilson
Patricia Gagin	Jean Kohn	Joanne Power	Diane Wingfield
Joan Gardner	Barry Kostyk	Robert Prochnow	Barbara Youngblood
Charles Gedge	Judith Kroesch	Nancy Purcell	James Zinter
David Gehrenbeck	Molly Kroesch	John Reed	



December Birthdays

- 1 John McLean
- 1 Jennifer Tantt
- 1 Avis Watkins
- 1 Stella WoiWor
- 2 Judith Kroesch
- 3 Bette Smeed
- 4 Grace McVay
- 5 Sam Bartley
- 5 Keiko Farrar
- 5 Daniel Sullivan
- 5 Emily Waymire
- 7 Andrew Harding
- 7 Jenna Korth
- 8 Korey Brown
- 8 Sarah Korth
- 9 Alma Limbach
- 9 Albert Maiers
- 9 Brett Tantt
- 10 Alea Eick
- 10 Betty Harholdt
- 13 Pamela Collins
- 15 Martha Wright
- 16 William Beebe
- 16 Alison Feigh
- 16 Elizabeth Mahoney
- 17 Heather Fisher
- 17 Nancy Maiers
- 17 Wayne Todd
- 18 Bradley Boyle
- 18 Amber Hammond
- 18 John Reed
- 19 Rebecca Monson
- 19 Henry Schneider
- 20 Sylvia Hawley
- 20 Katie Larson
- 21 Wade Cossalter
- 23 Theodore Karp
- 24 Christine Karp
- 24 Stanley Kegler
- 25 Jean Watson
- 26 Dorothy Burt
- 27 Sheila Foster
- 27 Jeanne LeFevre
- 27 James Petersen
- 30 Kenneth Gildner
- 30 Andrew Jensen
- 30 Geoff Purcell

If you have a birthday this month but are not listed, please e-mail wilderness2@visi.com, or leave a message at 651/429-5351 ext. 10. Records are not always complete. Thank you.

Memorials and Gifts

Faithful and generous parishioners: the Memorial & Gift Committee remind you that all gifts to the church, large or small, must be approved by the Committee. Cash gifts may be given anytime to either Endowment Fund or to any of our parish ministries. Please make checks payable to St. John in the Wilderness Church, and you will be credited on your contributor statements. *Don't* leave any computer equipment at the church; computers & TVs contain 2-8 lbs of toxic lead. It has cost the parish money to dispose of several computers left here. If you have suggestions for the committee to consider, please contact one of its members (area code 651): Bev Boyle 429-6769, Barbara Merrill 429-1005, Mary Whitney 429-3431, John Johnson 429-0618, Jane Kyle 429-5730, June Hochbrunn 762-6662, Marilyn King 426-2458, or Judy Kroesch 429-0291.

Approved items and approximate costs (if known):

Church Nave baseboard restoration	
new pew-back tract racks	
changeable entrance sign	
St. John's processional banner	\$4,000
Gospel Book ceremonial cover	+\$400
unity candle stands	+\$1,000
Book of Occasional Readings	\$100
St. John's Parish Endowment Fund	
Youth & Children's Endowment Fund	
Music Fund, Outreach Fund, & Cemetery Fund	
Prayer Books, Hymnals, library books, choir robes, & altar linens	

Do You Know?

What, or who, is the E.C.W.? The Episcopal Church Women organization in the Minnesota Diocese started about 1881. All Episcopal church women were eligible to be members. At St. John in the Wilderness, before World War II, it was called St. John's Guild and had two groups - the St. Agnes Circle and the St. Elizabeth Circle. Members of St. Agnes put on rummage sales and other related events. The younger women in the St. Elizabeth Circle handled parish dinners. Around 1950, the two groups combined and became known as the Episcopal Church Women or E.C.W.

Question for next month: The baptismal font in our church is engraved "E.C.W." Was the baptismal font a gift from the Episcopal Church Women?

The 54th Annual Bazaar

was very successful; revenue totaled \$4,500.⁰⁰. The Episcopal Church Women thank everyone who donated items for or worked on the Bazaar. Many helpers set-up and clean-up to accomplish a successful sale. Thank you to everyone involved; we wish you all a very happy holiday season.

Future ECW Activities

Bible Study Programs on February 7th and 14th begin at 10 am. Nursery Care is provided.

The Spring Luncheon is also on February 14th, at noon after the program.

Rummage Sale week is April 27th to May 3rd. You may bring items in beginning March 24th.

The Youth Voice

Children's Ministries

Thank You to the Episcopal Church Women

for supporting our youth and adults who attended Great Northern Teens Encounter Christ in October. Four St. John's youth attended as candidates along with 18 St. John's members on team.

Senior High Youth Group Meeting dates & Times

Please mark your calendars on the 1st & 3rd Sunday at 10 am with St. Bernard's Room upstairs.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

December 2nd & 16th

January 6th & 20th

February 3rd & 17th

March 2nd & 16th

April 6th & 20th

May 4th & 18th

Mission Trip dates of

June 23rd - 29th, 2008 have been proposed. The location is yet to be determined.

Christmas Wreath Sales

On Sundays November 25th, and December 2nd & 9th the Sr. High Youth will sell wreaths for \$20. The funds raised will help offset the cost of this year's Youth Mission Trip.

Jr. / Sr. High Treasure Hunt

Saturday, January 5th, Noon - 3 pm.

The traditional youth Christmas exchange will follow our treasure hunt.

Diocesan Jr. High Youth Event

January 26th - 27th

"Playing in the Water"

Baptism and the game show event of the year for 6th - 8th grade youth. Registrations are due by January 11th. The cost is \$25. Registration forms are available on the youth board in the Parish Hall.

"Sleep Over at the Stable"

Join us in the retelling of Christ's Birth from the viewpoint of the stable animals! The children and youth of St. John's are putting all of their creative powers into the telling of the story. We will have everything from chickens to dancing angels and more.

Remainder of the Rehearsal Schedule:

Wednesday, December 5th, 7 - 8 pm

Wednesday, December 12th,

6:30 pm costumes,

7 pm full dress rehearsal

Sunday, December 16th,

8:40 am costumes, 9 am Service

Christmas Eve 4 pm Service

Actors Needed

If you were unable to participate in the pageant and would like to help tell the Christmas Story there is still an opportunity. At the 4 pm Christmas Eve service, December 24th, we will present a tableau of the Gospel story. We need volunteers who will be able to rehearse on Sunday, December 23rd during education time and be in costume on the 24th for the service. Please contact Sheila Foster, 651/429-5351 ext. 12, if your family will be here and would like to participate in this very important Gospel reading.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Thank you to those families lighting the advent wreath candles each Sunday.

Check out the thank you note

from the White Bear Lake Food Shelf. Trick or Treat for the food shelf collected 154 lbs. of donations. Thank You!

No Youth or Children's Education Hour December 30th, Christmas Break.

Education Time will resume January 6th, 10 am.

For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father,
you have blessed us with the joy and care of children:

Give us calm strength and patient wisdom
as we bring them up, that we may teach them
to love whatever is just and true and good,
following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer Page 830)