



# The Voice

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OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2175 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET • WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA 55110

*Return Service Requested*

[www.stjohnwilderness.org](http://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

**PARISH STAFF**

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

**VESTRY**

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

People of the Parish

The Ministers



February  
 2008

Volume 50  
 Issue 2

*Gathering in Love to Serve*

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



## St John in the Wilderness 2008 Lenten Schedule

February 2	5:00 pm	Mardi Gras Beach Party Potluck presented by Families Inc and Fellowship (Nursery Care). Burning of the Palms concludes the evening.
February 3	9:00 am	Rite of Affirmation for Eight Graders
February 6	Noon	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
	5:30 pm	Soup Supper in Parish Hall (Nursery Care)
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Liturgy (Nursery Care)
February 7 & 14	10:30 am	E.C.W. Philippians Bible Study presented by Fr. Mark (Nursery Care) All are welcome
February 17	10:00 am	Children's Pretzel Making
February 1, 20, 27 & March 5, 12 (Wednesdays)	(Nursery Care 5:45-7:30pm)	
	5:30-6:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper in Parish Hall
	6:00-7:00 pm	Adult Education in Parish Hall
	6:00-7:00 pm	Children's Choir
	6:15-7:00 pm	Confirmation in Sheila's Office
	7:00-7:30 pm	Healing Service and Eucharist
	7:00-8:00 pm	Junior High Youth Group, begin by going to healing service together
	7:15-9:00 pm	Adult Choir
February 24	2:00 pm	"Beyond Knowing: Mysteries and Messages of Life and Death from a Forensic Pathologist" presented by Dr. Janis Amatuzio. Cost is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Contact: Rev. Marilyn Baldwin (NurseryCare)
March 16	7:30, 9, & 10:30 am	Palm Sunday (Nursery Care)
March 17	7:00 pm	Holy Monday Eucharist
March 18	7:00 pm	Holy Tuesday Eucharist
March 19	4:00-7:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
	7:00 pm	Holy Wednesday Eucharist (Nursery Care)
March 20	6:00 pm	All Parish Potluck (Nursery Care)
	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Liturgy (Nursery Care)
	8:30 pm	Vigil and Sr. High Youth Group Overnight
March 21	9:00 am	Morning Prayer
	Noon	Good Friday Liturgy
	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
March 22	5:00 pm	Easter Vigil with Baptisms (Nursery Care) Bring a small bell to ring during this child friendly service service followed by supper and Easter egg hunt
March 23	8 & 10 am	Easter Day Eucharist (Nursery Care)

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

## ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEBRUARY

*All Are Welcome!*

### Sunday Mornings, 10 AM in the Parlor

- *Through 2/10*: David Monyak completes a series based on the book *Quarks, Chaos & Christianity* by John Polkinghorne.
- *Beginning 2/17*: A new Lenten series presented by Kathy Smith. More information will follow in the Small Voice.

### Wednesday Evenings

**5:30 pm** Light Supper in the Parish Hall (no supper on Ash Wednesday, February 6).

**6 pm** During this Lent (beginning February 13; no formation Ash Wednesday, 2/6) we offer different options:

- *Lenten Journey to Christ*, an intergenerational presentation and discussion based on personal experiences of our own members.
- *Individual Spiritual Disciplines* led by Dianne Del Giorno and others in a limited group setting.
- A special presentation, *Christ in the Passover*, will be offered on March 19 by a member of Jews for Jesus.

**Sunday, February 24 at 2 pm we welcome Dr. Janis Amatuzio**, noted author and coroner, to speak on *Mysteries and Messages of Life and Death from a Forensic Pathologist*. As she's very popular speaker, we expect a number of guests from the larger community. Admission is by ticket only; order forms are available in the Parish Hall and other entrances, and online at the church website. Please invite your friends to hear this powerful presentation, and sign up in the Parish Hall to volunteer for this event. See Rev. Marilyn with questions.

## WELCOMING

AND EVANGELISM

### NEWS

*(Shhh! We're soft-pedaling the "E" word!)*

### How can we become a more welcoming church?

Here are more ways to offer welcome to others:

- Park farther away at big services & events. Yes, I said *farther!* One of the ways to make visitors feel welcome is to provide a close parking spot for them.
- Sit in a different spot in church. You'd be surprised at the different perspective, and how you'll notice new people to get to know.
- Introduce yourself!

## CALLING ALL COOKS

This year we will put on a dinner of Greek & Russian ethnic foods served after the Easter Eve Service. It is a lot of fun but also a lot of work. Given enough people to serve on the committees makes it reasonable.

Again we will roast lamb on the spit. Other foods served include Pascha (makes cheese cake look like diet food), Kylitch (silo-style Easter bread) & pirogy (sheet cakes with a variety of fillings), and a large assortment of salads & ethnic specialty foods. Clearly, there will be no shortage of food

For more information please contact George Gorbatenko, 651/653-4699 or [gorby@ece.umn.edu](mailto:gorby@ece.umn.edu). There will be several committees. As the time draws near, there will be sign-up sheets posted for the various shifts.

George Gorbatenko

## PASSAGES

### BURIALS

Patricia Kathleen Gill 1/10/2008

Allen Weir Buckbee 1/22/2008

### THANK YOU

### PARISHIONER HOUSEHOLDS FOR YOUR RECENT PLEDGES TO THE 2008 GENERAL FUND

Lisa Brock  
Michael Carpenter  
Bryan DeSmet  
Louise Harding  
John Korth  
Krissa Kyle  
Laurel Stiebler

## EASTER CHOIR BEGINS FEBRUARY 13

Easter 2008 being the earliest ever (March 23), so begins the Easter Choir--on Wednesday, Feb. 13. That will be one week beyond Ash Wednesday! 7:15 p.m. in St. Cecilia's Room, and every Wednesday through March 19.

On the docket this year will be Brahms (again), Handel (again and again), and a new setting by John Rutter, "Christ the Lord is risen again" (the "again" in this case is part of the title!).

All voiceparts (SATB) are welcome. We shall hope to swell the choir chancel as we did for Lessons and Carols--again!

--David Gehrenbeck,  
organist/choirmaster

## Vestry Hilites

**New Vestry Members** presented at the annual meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, John Kobinski (replacing Gayle Kasmani for 2 years); and 3 year terms: Terry Rooney, Bob Peck, & Chantell Knauss

**Personnel Committee** Lisa Brock, Bari Chilton, & Ann Heron

**Nominating Committee** Gretchen Brunner & Chris Johnson

**Diocesan Delegate** Kathy Smith

**Diocesan Alternates** Steve Swisher & Emily Waymire

**Senior Warden** Ken Paddock who has served this past year as Junior Warden

**Junior Warden** Janet Kelber who has served on the Vestry in the past and will be a great Warden and support for this church community

**AA & Boy Scouts:** Chris Hawley addressed Alma Limbach's concerns about our outreach and not being able to accommodate these 2 groups on a charity basis anymore, meaning they chose to go somewhere else because we asked them to pay in accordance with our Vestry approved Building Use Policy. The Boy Scouts will continue to do the yearly cemetery clean-up and as always are welcome.

**Use of the Church Building Policy** Fr. Mark would like this policy to be reviewed in 2008. Instead of having 4 categories, he would like to see (if possible) only two: (1) members use & (2) non-members use. The way the policy reads now it is too complicated to distinguish the difference.

Fr. Mark gave his heartfelt **thanks to each outgoing Vestry Member** for all of the hard work they have done so well while serving on the Vestry.

Kudos to Administration for keeping spending on track. **Spending was within \$132 of the 2007 Financial Plan.** Capital funds planned for use in 2008 = \$86,400.

## News after Katrina

Although only a few of St. John's parishioners had the opportunity to travel to Mississippi to help after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, recently we received some good news from Adam & Catherine Gautier, owners of the home that the Outreach Committee and friends helped to roof in May of 2006. Here is the email that they sent to us:

“Adam and I are going to have a baby on July 30<sup>th</sup> or thereabouts. Thanks again to the volunteers who helped fix up the house in 2006...we never would have been able to think about decorating a baby room with all of the other stuff a mess. Now we just need to paint indoors, put in floors in the bedrooms, and trim out to get the main work over. We almost have the outside of the house done, too, except for a bit of wood work. We are super excited, and to think I was told 10 years ago that this might never happen. Miracle!

Best wishes to all, Catherine”

It may seem like a long time ago, but rest assured, our good works have not been forgotten!



## Bible Readings

February 2

Burning of the Palms

February 3

Last Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

February 6

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 103:8-14

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

February 10

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

February 17

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

February 24

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

*Underlined verses  
are read by the Lector  
during the family-friendly  
9:00 liturgy.*

# St John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church-February 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Every Sunday</p> <p>7:30 am Eucharist (no music)</p> <p>9 am Family-friendly Eucharist</p> <p>10 am Christian Education</p> <p>10:30 am Choral Eucharist</p> <p>Nursery care available 9 &amp; 10:30</p> <p>11:30 am Handbell Choir (St. Cecilia's Room)</p>			<p>Every Wednesday</p> <p>1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30 pm Light Supper</p> <p>6:00 pm Nursery Care, Youth Choir, &amp; Adult Education</p> <p>6:15 pm Confirmation</p> <p>7:00 pm Holy Eucharist</p> <p>7:00 pm Jr. High Youth Group</p> <p>7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Every Thursday</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	1	<p>2</p> <p>5 pm Mardi Gras Beach Party</p> <p>Potluck followed by <b>Burning of the Palms</b></p>
<p>3</p> <p>9 am Rite of Affirmation for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 pm Outreach Committee Meeting (Parlor) All are welcome!</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p> <p>2:30 pm Holy Eucharist (Cerenity)</p> <p>6:30 pm Altar Guild Meeting (Parlor)</p>	<p>6 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>See Every Wednesday above</p> <p>Noon &amp; 7 pm</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 am Episcopal Church Women Meeting (Parlor)</p> <p>10:30 am ECW sponsored Bible Study of Philipians led by Fr. Mark; all are welcome!</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p> <p>2:30 pm Holy Eucharist (Cerenity)</p>	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>10 am Sr. High Youth Group Meeting (St. Bernard's Room)</p> <p>11:45 BeFriender Meeting (Parlor)</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>See Every Wednesday above</p> <p>7:30 pm Ministry Forum (Parlor)</p> <p>All are welcome!</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30 am ECW sponsored Bible Study of Philipians led by Fr. Mark; all are welcome!</p> <p>Noon Episcopal Church Women Spring Luncheon</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>10 am Pretzel Making (Parish Hall), and Sr. High Youth Group Meeting (St. Bernard's Room)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Presidents' Day</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>See Every Wednesday above</p> <p>10:15 am Holy Eucharist (St. Andrew's Village)</p> <p>11:30 am Retired Men's Group Lunch (Key's, downtown WBL)</p> <p>6 pm Instructed Eucharist (Church Nave)</p> <p>7:30 pm Good Grief Group (Parlor)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	22	<p>23</p> <p>Out to Lunch (Parish Hall)</p>
<p>24</p> <p>2 pm Dr. Janis Amatzio, noted author &amp; coroner, speaks on <i>Mysteries and Messages of Life and Death from a Forensic Pathologist</i></p> <p>Admission by ticket only; see page 3 for information</p>	25	<p>26</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>See Every Wednesday above</p> <p>7:30 pm CanSurmount cancer support group (Parlor)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	29	Leap Day

# St John's Lay Liturgical Ministry-February 2008

LAY READER	LECTOR	LEM	ACOLYTES	HEALER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	VERGER
3  7:30 Joe Afryl  10:30 Chris Johnson	7:30 Sherri Afryl 9:00 Caryn Thor  10:30 W. Muscanto	7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Chiltons  10:30 Greg Schmit	9:00 E. Mahoney Moertels 10:30 L. McCarthy	9:00 Dianne  10:30 Cathryn	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Cossalters  10:30 Johnsons	Pat Gagin Judy Kroesch Jeanne LeFevre Deb Schmit	Dennis Thoemke
6 Ash Wednesday  Noon Judy Kroesch  7 pm Joe Afryl		6 Ash Wednesday  Noon Ed Chilton  7 pm June Bennett				Pat Gagin Judy Kroesch Jeanne LeFevre Deb Schmit	Jason Knauss
10  7:30 June Bennett  10:30 Judy Kroesch	7:30 Marge Polanek 9:00 Will Long  10:30 Jill Todd	Wed 13, 7 pm Bob Peck 7:30 Bob Peck 9:00 Barb VanSteen Janet Waller 10:30 Joe Afryl	9:00 Thors  10:30 L. DuFresne S. Bartley	9:00 Cathryn  10:30 Sherri	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Canterburys  10:30 Jim Hartmeister Mike Gerlach	Barb VanSteen Joann Smith Meg Thorson Mary Whitney	Margaret Thor
17  7:30 Bob Peck  10:30 Colleen Johnson	7:30 David Gadbois 9:00 Peter Thor 10:30 Jim Delamater	Wed 20, 7 pm Ken Paddock 7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Pris Campbell June Bennett 10:30 Ken Paddock	9:00 Longs Whillocks 10:30 K. Paddock Mariers	9:00 Dianne  10:30 Cathryn	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Graders  10:30 Mark Hosfield Jim Marier	Barb Merrill Alice Fagley Anne Johnson Gayle Kasmani	John Brunner
24  7:30 Joe Afryl  10:30 Jim Petersen	7:30 Allan Fagley 9:00 Larry Mahoney  10:30 Pat Petersen	Wed 27, 7 pm Linda Monyak 7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Susie Mahoney Barb VanSteen 10:30 Bob Peck	9:00 T. Young Karps 10:30 Todds	9:00 Dianne  10:30 Sherri	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Linda Carpenter Domins 10:30 DeSmets	Pris Campbell Lynn Gadbois Alice McClaren Bette Smeed	Bryan DeSmet

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

## DO YOU KNOW?

The carved wooden lectern in the shape of an eagle was a gift to the old church in 1883. It was given by Mrs. Hoyt and Mrs. E. C. Williams in memory of their brother, Captain Eugene B. Gibbs. He was a captain in the Second Regiment, California Infantry in 1862 - 1866. He served in California, safeguarding settlers from the Indians.

An organization honoring Civil War veterans, the "Grand Army of the Republic," chartered a post in White Bear in 1884. It was given the name, "E. B. Gibbs Post, No. 76," with James C. Murray as the first commander. Mr. Murray was a long time member of our church.

John Johnson

## READY FOR SUCCESS

Episcopal Community Services' Ready for Success program seeks women volunteers as Personal Shoppers for our St. Paul location.

The program provides gently used professional clothing and accessories. With clients, personal shoppers assemble outfits suitable for interviewing and the workplace.

Many women volunteering their time & talent to our organization makes Ready for Success possible. It's a very meaningful outreach experience.

Contact: Deana Downs, Volunteer Coordinator, 612/871-4086 or [ddowns@ecsmn.org](mailto:ddowns@ecsmn.org).

## WANT TO GET CLOSER TO THE ONE YOU LOVE?

You can on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, 44 hours when married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, & phones – and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, & enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Marriage Encounter weekend can make!

The next Twin Cities area Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend will be February 29 – March 3. For more information contact Richard & Catherine Lemons, 952/944-8220 or [richncath@aol.com](mailto:richncath@aol.com), or register on-line, [www.episcopalme.com](http://www.episcopalme.com). Registration is limited so respond quickly.

## NEEDLEPOINTERS NOTE

Three new cushions have been designed for the bench in the Sanctuary. Your talents with the needle will be greatly appreciated to finish the project.

At 6 pm Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> we shall meet in the Church Library.

Please bring a sample of your work so we may coordinate for the new cushions. The painted canvas and yarn will be available at that time.

Please call Marge Polanek, 651/429-5983, with any questions.



## BEGINNING A NEW MINISTRY TOGETHER

In January former St. John in the Wilderness parishioner The Rev. Tom Eklo (left) was installed as rector of St. Nicholas, Richfield.

## HABITAT UPDATE

Preparations are being made for a Habitat build this summer. This year we hope to be working in Oakdale. By choosing a summer slot, we are hoping to avail this opportunity to those who have wanted to participate but were precluded from doing so, such as teachers, students, etc.

St Mary's on the Lake has joined our coalition which brings us to five churches representing four denominations. We also look forward to a build in White Bear in 2009. We are soliciting the other area churches on that build.

As more information is made available to us, it will be disseminated to you. In the meantime, consider working for a one or more days this summer.

George Gorbatenko



## February Birthdays

- 1 Glenn Taibl
- 4 Patricia Gagin
- 4 Mairin Torgerson
- 5 Nancy Jagusch
- 5 Amanda Vickstrom
- 7 Corinne Livesay
- 7 Jeanie Long
- 8 Eric Gadbois
- 8 John LeFevre
- 9 Jean McMillan
- 9 Cynthia Stuck
- 11 Angela Harding
- 12 Dorothy Dokmo
- 14 Elizabeth Ackerman
- 14 Brendan Johnson
- 14 Janet Kraemer
- 16 John Irvine
- 16 Tess McVay
- 18 Barbara Monson
- 18 Janet Stellmacher
- 19 Frank Dolliver
- 19 Timothy Hadley
- 20 Benjamin Long
- 20 William McBride
- 20 Neil Vruno
- 21 Katherine LeFevre
- 22 Jill Todd
- 24 Emily Brown
- 24 Zoe Foster
- 24 Muriel Gilbert
- 24 Jeremy Gulbranson
- 24 Jean Tews
- 28 Lura Ann Jensen

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

*Thank you.*

## Children's Ministry

Pretzel time is here! Join us February 17<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall following 9 am worship. We'll make pretzels, a traditional symbol of prayer. See the Children's Ministry board for information on the history of the pretzel. If you would like to help out, we need volunteers to pre-bake pretzels, bring in dough, & man the ovens. Please contact Christine Karp or Sheila Foster for more information.

After the pretzels have been formed, Kate Johnson will continue activities with a prayer bead workshop for the children.

Children & youth knitters are needed! Please consider sharing your talent, or learn a new one, by creating baptismal stoles. This ministry of the heart provides stoles used during the sacrament of Holy Baptism to wrap the child with prayers & God's love. Kits & instructions are available through Children's Ministry.

We will offer a special Eucharist Instruction for children on Wednesday, February 20 at 6 pm..Wednesday programs begin with 5:30 pm dinner, so no worries, you can take part in dinner and then attend the Eucharist Instruction. Please contact Rev. Mark Kelm if you have questions about this opportunity.

The Children's Ministry committee will meet next on February 10, at 11 am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

## Families in Christ

Join us for an Intergenerational Mardi Gras Beach Party, a fun & festive potluck in the Parish Hall Saturday, February 2 at 5 pm. There will be games, prizes, & activities for children. Two adults & 2 children will receive prizes for the best beach attire. The evening will end with the Burning of the Palms at 7 pm. If you have palms from previous Palm Sundays, please bring them. We'll use the ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 6. Please sign up on the clipboards in the Parish Hall to bring a dish to share.

## Kids Hope Program Grows Successfully

From the first 2 mentors who made their way into O. H. Anderson Elementary School in December to the 9 who now see students there weekly, Kids Hope is indeed alive & growing. There have been some rough spots along the way, and questions whether the momentum was there to keep the program rolling, but it appears that the way is smoother ahead. With the expert help of Lynda Halbert, a grant has been submitted to The Sheltering Arms Foundation in Minneapolis to help underwrite program costs. Lynda most graciously donated her time & energy to this very extensive project; she deserves the highest accolades for her dedication to Kids Hope at St. John in the Wilderness. Thank you from the bottom of *all* our hearts!

If you have had the chance to talk to any of St John's mentors, you have undoubtedly been warmed by their stories. The children's biggest joy seems to be the fact that they don't have to share their mentors with other students. One mentor, 1 child, 1 hour a week; what a simple concept to help make the life of a struggling child just a little bit better. Children are reporting back to their teachers, with huge smiles on their faces, that they plan on spending a lot of time with their mentors. Sharing with a child can be so easy.

Through the Kids Hope training program and the facilitation of director Kate Vincent, mentors are equipped with an array of things to fill time while with the children. Often times, friendly chatter & happy sounds are heard as they discuss daily activities, future hopes & dreams, or the latest spelling words. All too quickly, the hour has passed and they must say goodbye for another week. The children are quickly learning that the mentors are adults who can be trusted to return exactly when promised. Rumors has it that some O. H. Anderson students are on high alert to see a red Kids Hope sweatshirt heading down the hall. A week can be a long time to wait to see a friend.

# The Youth Voice

## **Jr. High Youth win Treasure Hunt**

A team consisting of 4 Jr. High youth & 2 adults won the 7th Annual Treasure Hunt. The Sr. High team sported 9 youth & 3 adults. Both teams did an outstanding job of finding, making, & locating 15 items on the search list. Our judges, Chris Hawley, Elizabeth Schmit, & Rachel Ford, did an awesome job of judging the items presented to them. Thank you to all the parents who helped with food & driving; you made the event a ton of fun. A special *thank you* goes to Christine Karp for organizing the children's church treasure hunt.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rite of Affirmation**

This service will be held on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am. Along with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth and their parents, we need Sr. High youth to attend and support the 8<sup>th</sup> graders with the youth responses. This will be an opportunity to bring everyone together and support each other with strong voices.

## **Youth Mission Trip Planning Update Meeting 10 am Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Bernard's Room**

Trip dates will be approximately June 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, depending on selection of Chicago or Seattle as the mission location. The youth are also finding ways to off set the costs of the trip through fundraising outside of St. John's. A dinner & concert is being planned for mid February at the Mason's Lodge, and a band concert for youth is being planned for April at a Minneapolis location. Coming your way soon will be a youth Mission Commitment Form. We are asking that youth make a commitment to the planning process of the trip along with their commitment of attendance at worship and youth meetings. A parents meeting is being planned.

## **Episcopal Youth Music Festival 4:30 pm February 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis**

St. John in the Wilderness and St. John's Episcopal Church Women have supported youth in music by sending them to Music Camp. Another event that goes along with summer camp, is the Music Festival in winter. The choral music learned at camp is the same that is sung for the Youth Music Festival. New this year will be an orchestra along with handbells and drums to accompany the choirs and also provide the prelude and offertory music with organ. This year's guest conductor will be Karla Cole, the Parish Music Minister for St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. If you would like more information about this event please contact Sheila Foster.

## **Lent is coming...fast**

We will ready ourselves for our Lenten Journey by gathering Saturday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5-7pm for a Mardi Gras Beach Party & Potluck. This party will be complete with the DJ. sounds and lights of "Some Assembly Required," the Foster family. We promise that it will be great fun, so you don't want to miss it.

## **Sr. High Youth Meetings**

Because there is a need for regular connection among Sr. High youth, they plan to meet every Sunday at 10 am in St. Bernard's Room (game room). Join us the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday for Special Events planning meetings, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday for community building games, topics & conversation.

2/3 Mission Trip "Parent Information" Meeting

2/10 Topic \*God is the Potter, Romans 9:1-33

2/24 Mission Trip planning: special events

3/2 Mission Trip planning: budget & to-do-list

## **Teens Encounter Christ Retreat Weekends**

The Northern TEC Weekend is planned for March 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Duluth. The TEC team meeting is being planned for either 2/29 – 3/1 or March 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> in Duluth. Please watch your mail and e-mail for more information. TEC candidate and team forms will be posted on the Youth Board in the Parish Hall when they arrive.

St. Paul TEC information will also be posted when it arrives. Youth in grades 9 – 12 are encouraged to attend a TEC weekend. Retreat Weekends help youth go farther with their faith and create an environment that helps youth share their faith with the St. John's community.

## **Jr. High Youth Group Meetings 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

Jr. High youth meetings are another opportunity for the youth to gather and share their Christian experience with each other. Along with the Sunday 10 am Jr. High youth meeting time, our Wednesday night 7-8 pm time is primarily for community building and sometimes for special projects that need more time than Sunday morning. Please consider adding this time to your schedule. The friendships that are gained in this time of life can be very beneficial as youth move into the high school years.

2/6 Ash Wednesday Service

2/13 "Being Popular" activities & discussion

2/20 Labyrinth Making – outside in the snow

2/27 "Facing Fears" activities & discussion

*Let all you do be done with God's Love.*

*~Sheila Foster~*