



St. George's Episcopal Church

Where everyone has a place at Christ's table



St. George's Episcopal Church

www.StGeorgesonline.org

January, 2008

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 14, No. 1

Manifesting the Mission of the Church

by the Rev. Canon Paul S. Nancarrow, PhD

The month of January is taken up with the liturgical celebration of Epiphany: the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, and the season of Epiphanytide (or, to use the more modern but less poetic phrase, the “season after Epiphany”) up until the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. One of the themes of Epiphany is the *mission* of the Church, that is, how we take our part in God’s mission to make the good news of Christ manifest in the wider world, and how we invite the world to participate in the good news as we experience it in our Christian communities. The connection between Epiphany and mission begins right with the story of the Wise Men and the star—the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, the Prayer Book calls it—and the theme of the inclusion of “all nations” in the mission of God in Christ. The theme of mission continues through the gospel stories of Jesus’ early preaching and announcement of his mission, as well as his calling of disciples—Andrew, Peter, James, John—to become “fishers of people” and join Jesus in mission. The connection between mission and Epiphany continues right down to our efforts to proclaim good news today: mission is how we make manifest, how we “epiphanyize” the Spirit of Christ with us in our world.

Back in October our Diocesan Convention accepted the Report of the Bishop’s Commission on Mission Strategy. This is a far-ranging and visionary document about reclaiming our identity and purpose as a church, and living out that identity and purpose in the practical dimensions of our congregational lives. Among its many insights and observations,

there are some goals and strategies that will have important ramifications for our parish.

The Report says that “Our purpose as the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota is to seed and cultivate vibrant congregations of maturing Christian disciples, equipping and emboldening them to be Christ’s heart, hands and voice in the world.” That implies that we, as a congregation of the diocese, see *our* purpose as being a “vibrant” community of “mature” disciples who want to be “equipped” and “emboldened” to show forth Christ’s presence “in the world.” What do those key words mean to us? Do we see ourselves in those words? What might we do to live out those words more fully?

The Report names a goal of “Spiritual Transformation and Fuller Participation in God’s Mission,” and specifies one (among many!) operational strategy of renewing in congregations a “Focus on Worship, Bible Study, Dwelling in the Word.” What would it really look like for St George’s if we put our *primary* time, energy, and resources into our worship, our study of the scriptures, and our gathering in groups to hear what the Word says to us—not just analysis or history, but what the Word says *to us* for living God’s love in these times?

The Report calls for us to re-envision both lay and clergy leadership. It notes that “in recent years in the Episcopal Church, our predominant model of clergy leadership has been that of family care-giver / chaplain and administrator of a non-profit voluntary organization.” It also says that “we have generally not developed leaders who are focused on unleashing the missional energies of the laity.”

Accordingly, the report calls for operational strategies to “empower and equip lay leaders for ministry in their contexts of relationships and work, in their congregations and in the ministry of the diocese” and at the same time to “strengthen the spirit of mutual support and collaboration among clergy and lay leaders.” What would it look like, what *actual steps* could we take, for St George’s to move from “chaplaincy” to “mutual” leadership?

On Sunday, January 20 we will hold our parish Annual Meeting. At that meeting we will elect new members to the Vestry, review our 2008 budget (including pledge commitments), and generally take counsel together for our ministry and mission in the coming year. The themes and suggestions of the Bishop’s Commission on Mission Strategy Report will focus our attention on important questions for our mission as a congregation. In this season of Epiphanytide, we can be empowered by the Spirit of Christ for our mission all year long.

Youth News

by Heather Whitesell

We had a nice Yuletide gathering in the youth room last Sunday. We ate pizza, decorated cookies, and opened small gifts. The kids watched Flight 93 about the hijacked plane that landed in the field on Sept. 11. It made us all think about things in life a little differently. Blessings of the Season to everyone and see you in the New Year!



Sunday School Scoop

by Rachelle Troyer

I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and peaceful New Year. I would like to thank the children and their families for their hard work on the Christmas pageant. Thanks also to the Praise

Group for their beautiful music. Well done everyone!

With the start of the New Year, the Sunday school will be switching to a new lectionary-based curriculum. From 9:00 to 9:45 the kids will be getting a preview of the day’s lessons and readings, this way the kids will be better prepared to hear the readings at the 10:00 service.

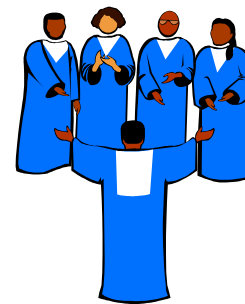
You may have noticed the Sunday school sign on the last few pews in church. By having this area available to families with young children we are hoping to meet the needs of the children as well as the other parishioners.

Outreach update- In November the kids helped the animals. They collected items and money to donate to the Golden Valley Humane Society. Leslie Olufson then gave us an amazing tour of the facilities.

In January the outreach theme will be children. I thought right after Christmas would be a good time to collect and donate toys and clothes that the kids have outgrown.

Luther College Nordic Choir Concert

The Luther College Nordic Choir, Craig Arnold, conductor, will appear in concert on **Saturday, February 2, 2008, 7:30 p.m.** At **Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park.** This evening of sacred choral music will feature works by Palestrina, Tavener, Bernstein, Vivaldi, F.M. Christiansen, Copland, and Messiaen. For tickets visit www.luthertickets.com or call 1-800-4 LUTHER..



Environmental Stewardship

by Dawn Bacon

The Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission (MEEESC) states its mission as follows: *We believe creation is a gift of God, and all creation is interconnected. We seek to instill this spiritual awareness in parishioners, clergy and staff of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota; and to promote stewardship of and advocacy for planet Earth.*

RECYCLING



Have you ever found yourself holding your breath while scrubbing out your tub or coughing and walking out of a room after using cleaning products? I have, and I do not consider myself to have a more heightened chemical sensitivity. What is in your cleaning cabinet?

The conventional household products we use to “clean” our home are unhealthy for us as well as our planet. Many products contain toxic substances that are not fully processed by sewage and septic systems and eventually pollute our groundwater, streams, rivers, and oceans. In addition, a number of products are manufactured with petrochemicals, a finite resource. The plastic bottles used to package cleaning products pose another problem by contributing to waste in landfills. Fortunately, there are a growing number of healthier and environmentally responsible alternatives available; soaps, dishwashing liquids, and laundry detergents to name a few. Brands such as Arm and Hammer Essentials, Seventh Generation, Whole Foods and Shakalee all offer conscientious consumers such options. I’ve noticed local Whole Foods stores have

stations where you can refill your natural cleaning bottles to reduce waste. Shaklee cleaners are concentrated so that you can add water, avoid waste and save on shipping costs. A Shaklee distributor who lives in St. Louis Park is Sheryl Turner she can be reached at 612-750-7700 and will give a percentage of proceeds of any sales to church members back to St. George’s.

Another option is to make your own homemade cleaner. Most are made with common ingredients like baking soda, borax, vinegar and olive oil. I prefer recipes where essential oils such as peppermint or tea tree are added (handle carefully) Here is one recipe:

1/2 water

1/2 vinegar

4 tablespoons lemon juice

10-20 drops tea tree oil

spray bottle

Combine all ingredients in a plastic spray bottle. Has a tea tree/vinegar smell. (If you don’t like the smell of tea tree oil, try lavender or citrus.) Shake your to mix. Use this all purpose cleaner anywhere as needed.

Loaves & Fishes

by Beth Dodds

January 31st, 2007 2pm prep time, 5pm serve time, 6pm clean up. Sign up for all times or for just one!

Please come and join in on a fun filled, heart filled afternoon feeding those who might not have a hot meal during the cold winter months! Any questions? Call Beth Ann 952-250-3912

Notices



January Birthdays:

3	Peter Davis
4	Madeline Kerr
5	Cindy Schall-Karwacki
9	Carole Leonard
10	Carol Morgan
18	Patti Wales
20	Jim Kimble Nancy Johnson
21	Robert Appelbaum
22	Kathy Eckstrom
25	Myrt Glynn
26	Tom Zaun Alfred Tsang
27	Chuck Murphy
30	Bruce Bauer Louise Gibbs
31	Katherine Cady Betty Wheelock

Thank you to:

- The Choir for doing such a fantastic job this Advent and Christmas and all the extra work they put into this season. Bravo!!
- The Praise Group for leading us in music this Christmas Season.
- Bill Stromberg and David Sell for putting up the red lights on the Minnetonka Blvd. Side of the building.
- Nick, Liz and Patty Dittrich, for coming over on a Friday evening and hanging up the wreaths on the doors and over the stairway.
- Tom and Art Zaun for getting into the storage room after the lock malfunctioned.
- Mary Poulsen for her creativity in making the Narthex more inviting.
- Everyone who stayed and helped with the greening on December 23rd.
- Dave Dittrich for putting the aisle candles up.

- Everyone who participated in the Christmas Services, ie. Lectors, chalice, greeters, ushers, or just being here to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- Altar Guild members for putting in extra time getting the things set up for the services and getting things cleaned up afterwards.

Welcome to:

- Christy and Geoff Eckenrode
- Jim Musser
- Scott, Sara, Noah and Lillian Friesen
- Yosef Hunter



Congratulations:

- To Ev Mejia, Ev was sworn in as a citizen on Weds., December 19th!
Congratulations!

Calendar of Events January, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday 1 New Year's Day	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4	Saturday 5
6 8:00 am – HE, Rite I 8:30 am – Choir 9:00 am- Sunday School for all ages 10:00am – HE, Rite II	7	8 7:00 pm - Finance & Personnel (CEB) 7:00 pm- Mothers & More (L/L)	9	10 6:30 pm – AA (L/L) 6:30 pm – AA (L/L)	11	12
13 8:00 am – HE, Rite I 8:30 am – Choir 9:00 am- Sunday School for all ages 10:00am – HE, Rite II	14	15	16 7:00pm- Vestry (CEB)	17 6:30 pm – AA(LL) 6:30pm – Prayer Shawl Ministry (PH)	18	19
20 9:00am – HE, Rite II 10:30am – Brunch 11:00am- Annual Meeting	21 Noon – St. Mary's Circle(PH)	22 7:00 pm- Mothers & More (L/L)	23	24 6:30 pm – AA 6:30 pm – Prayer Shawl Ministry at the home of Sandy Stonhouse	25	26
27 8:00 am – HE, Rite I 8:30 am – Choir 9:00 am- Sunday School for all ages 10:00am – HE, Rite II	28 7:00 pm - Buildings & Grounds (CEB)	29 Noon - Housemeeting	30	31 Loaves & Fishes 6:30 pm - AA		
						PH- Parish Hall LL – Library Lounge CEB – Conference Room Christian Ed. Building

Ministers of the Eucharistic Assembly January 2008

	January 6 Epiphany	January 13 1 st Sunday After Epiphany	January 20 2 nd Sunday After Epiphany	January 27 3 rd Sunday After Epiphany	
Chalice	Maraline Keeling Cyprian Troyer Leslie Olufson	Karen Hurlbert Kathie Brown Alan Poulsen	John Hagerman	Steve Harvala Laura Harmon Eileen Harvala	
Lectors	Maraline Keeling Cyprian Troyer Mary Weekes	Karen Hurlbert John Stonhouse Emma Eschweiler	John Hagerman	Carole Leonard Caryl Eschweiler Eileen Harvala	
Lay Eucharist Visitors	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Greeters 10:00 a.m.	John and Nancy Taylor	Nina, Mark and Gage Monroe	TBD	Alan and Mary Poulsen	
Ushers	Bob Miller Bruce Becker Bill Stromberg Kitty Reese	Ron Erickson Ron Holbach Tom Zaun Leon Vann	Bob Miller Jane Jacobson	Chuck Murphy Ron Holbach Bob Jones Lou Michelich	
Acolyte 10:00 a.m.					
Coffee Hour 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Ron Holbach Karen Hurlbert Mike and Nancy Johnson	Katherine Cady Myrt Glynn Alan and Mary Poulsen	Annual Meeting Brunch	Carole Leonard John and Sandy Stonhouse	

About St. George's

5224 Minnetonka Boulevard
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-926-1646

www.StGeorgesOnline.org

or

www.SaintG.org

Parish staff:

The Rev. Canon Paul Nancarrow, Ph.D., Rector
Patty Dittrich, Parish Administrator
Heather Whitesell and Rachele Troyer
Children and Youth Coordinators

Wardens and Vestry:

Carole Leonard, Dawn Bacon, John Carlson, Pat
FitzSimons, Eileen Harvala, Karen Hurlbert, Mike A.
Johnson, Gordy Justus, Leslie Olufson, Bill Stromberg,
Cyprian Troyer,

Our Mission is to:

Listen, Proclaim, Serve, Celebrate!

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Permit No. 152

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 20, 2008

Join us for 1 Service at 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast by the Youth of St. George's

(Tickets will be available for sale beginning Jan. 6)

Annual Meeting to Follow

Pick up your Annual Report Information on Sunday, January 13th.