



ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

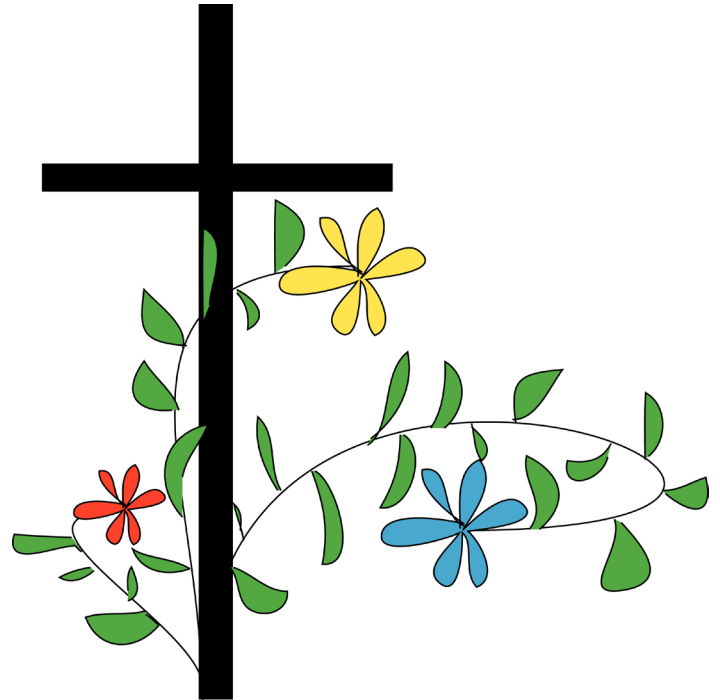


The Crier

August 2011

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St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
7227 Penn Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
612-869-7551
www.saint-nicks.org

September issue deadline
Monday, August 15th
Put in Crier box in office or
email to kathy@isd.net
Please put "Crier" in subject.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
7227 Penn Avenue South
612-869-7551

Sunday Service

9:00 am Eucharist
10:15 am Adult Education



Ministers **All Parish Members**
Priest **The Rev. Thomas Eklo**
Deacon **The Rev. Judy Conn**
Senior Warden **Mary Gleason**
Junior Warden **Terry Houle**
Director of Music **Charlotte Grantier**
Crier Editor **Kathy Cummings**



Vestry Members

Carol Barthelemy Gretchen Eichhorn
Carol Hocking Craig Kettleon
Todd Oliverius Maxine Parsons

Treasurer **Rich Makela**
Vestry Clerk **Bill Mills**

Reflections from Tom

E. Glen Hinson writes an article in “Weavings – A Journal of Christian Spirituality” entitled “Church as Schola Caritatis” or Church as the school of love. Essentially he says that the church needs to be the presence of Christ, the presence of love. He takes as his primary authority on this the writings of Paul (the Corinthian letters) and the gospel story of Zacchaeus.

Hinson’s sees in the story of Zacchaeus found in Luke’s gospel a model for churches to be schools of love based upon the actions of Jesus. Zacchaeus, as you will remember, is the wee little tax collector who climbed the sycamore tree in order to see Jesus pass by. To his utter astonishment, Jesus recognizes Zacchaeus, tells him to come down from the tree because Jesus wants to go to his house to stay.

Hinson says there are four aspects to this model – attention, acceptance, association, affirmation.

Attention – When Jesus came to that place “he stopped and looked up.” Zacchaeus certainly did not expect Jesus to look up. He was not the type of guy who fit the mold of Jesus’ followers. But Jesus gave Zacchaeus a precious gift – attention. Inattention hurts. It sometimes hurts worse than being badly treated, and we humans can’t stand a lot of inattention. It saps self-esteem. It shrivels our souls. When Jesus looked up, old Zach must have almost fallen out of that tree.

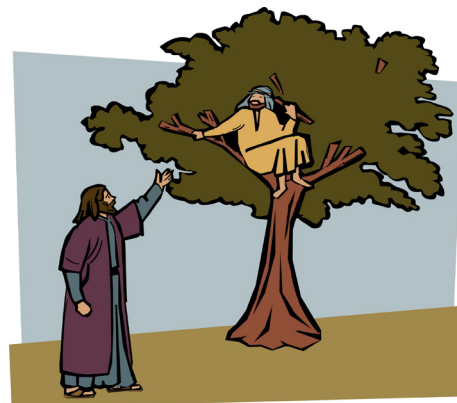
Acceptance – Jesus adds acceptance. “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down from there, for I have to stay at your house today.” Jesus confirms Zacchaeus with the precious gifts of attention and acceptance within seconds. A hated tax collector is suddenly the attention of someone who wants to spend some time with him.

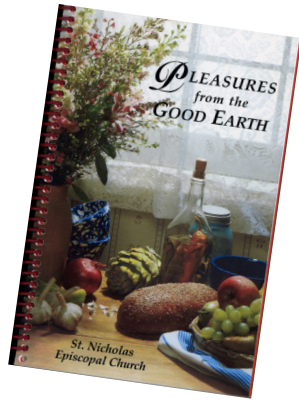
Association – Jesus is risking his life and reputation by association with this piranha of society. He knows it and he does not care. He is about the business of loving all and the transformation of lives. Suddenly, a nobody becomes a somebody. The heart of Zacchaeus must have been beating 150 times a minute. Luke says, “He scrambled down and received Jesus rejoicing.”

Affirmation – As soon as Jesus gets to his house, Zacchaeus begins to defend his practices as a tax collector, claiming he has never ripped anybody off. Some think the subsequent response of Jesus is in some sense forgiveness for the confession of Zacchaeus. But I tend to think otherwise. I think the response of Jesus is an affirmation of this man that no one else can manage to stomach. It is grounded in God’s infinite mercy and love – “Today salvation has come to this house, for he too is a child of Abraham.”

We often see St. Nicholas as a school of love, and in many of the ways we live out our life in this community, it does reflect that love. But I think it is important for us to always be reflecting upon our call as Christians to love one another, and sometimes it is hard work. Sometimes there is a Zacchaeus in the tree. We know the response of Jesus. What is ours?

Blessings,
Tom





COOKBOOKS:

August is the month most college students go back to school. Many of them are moving to apartments. Wouldn't a St. Nicholas cookbook be a great idea to send with them? Don't let them subsist on fast food and pizza alone! Give them the chance to experiment with tried and true recipes. Get your St. Nicholas cookbook today. \$10 each. See Karen, Jan or Joan.

BREAKING NEWS

The date for the Extravaganza has been set! It will be Sunday, December 4, 2011, at 4:00pm.

Please mark your calendars!

Parish Vets

We are gathering names and pictures of veterans and current members of the armed forces from St. Nicholas. Please see Craig Kettleson or Todd Oliverius if you have the name and/or picture of someone who should be included. Thank you.

New Families

June's Crier welcomed new families to St. Nicholas...the Kents and the Svelas. Getting to know you is our next pleasure!

Little five-month-old Samuel Kent was baptized earlier this summer and some of you have already experienced the fun of holding him in church or at coffee afterwards. And some of you have met his Mom, Bekah when she helped "Clorox clean" the toys in our nursery after it was recently refreshed and painted. Bekah met Ben several years ago in England where he was Anglican and worked in theaters east of London as an electrical engineer. Bekah was raised in the Brainerd area as a Lutheran. She earned two degrees at the U of MN, Law and public health. She is now a part of a company which consults with and supports entrepreneurs. Ben is taking courses at the MN School of Business to combine his engineering skills with computer technology. Living only a few blocks from church means that they can walk to St. Nicholas. They also enjoy walking the Labyrinth, the warm and friendliness of St. Nicholas, the hymns and music program, the progressive spirit of our liturgy and Father Tom's homilies. Welcome little Samuel and Your Mom and Dad to our parish family!



Summer story time is enjoyed by the congregation. Sam is a really BIG, little fan!

Summer VEAP Collections

Again, this year, we are given a list which VEAP challenges us to fill. Back to School items include: backpacks, wide spiral notebooks, 2-pocket folders (solid colors), pencil pouches, glue sticks, highlighter packs, dry erase markers, composition notebooks (wide-rule). Most of these items will be going sale so watch the advertisements for great deals.

On your prayers, you are asked to remember....

Jill Aicher

Cassell Wherland

Betty Cope

Marge Stwora

Mary Phykis Meyer

Vicky Condon

George Woskie

Tom Frick

Gayle Ticen's sister, Shirley Hagenbuch

Joy Mudgett

Todd Olivius' mother, Mary Lou Oliverius

Sally Parson's friend, Bernie Sura

Sharon Mill's sister, Joanie Cook

Roslyn Gantt-Simmons friend, Vince Buie

The people of Norway

And the men and women of our armed forces.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9 am - Holv Eucharist	1	2 6:30pm - Topps @	3 9:30am - Gospel	4 7 pm - Labvrinth	5	6
7 9 am - Holv Eucharist	8	9 2:30pm - Finance 6:30pm - Topps @	10 9:30am - Gospel	11 7 pm - Labvrinth	12 9:30am - Needlewor	13
14 9 am - Holv Eucharist	15 10 am - Crier Input	16 6:30pm - Topps @	17 9:30am - Gospel	18 6:30pm - Needlewor 7 pm - Labvrinth 7 pm - Vestrv	19	20 10 am - Holv Dream
21 9 am - Holv Eucharist	22	23 6:30pm - Topps @	24 9:30am - Gospel	25 7 pm - Labvrinth	26	27
28 9 am - Holv Eucharist	29	30 6:30pm - Topps @	31 9:30am - Gospel	1 7 pm - Labvrinth	2	3