



# A Voice From the Wilderness

The Newsletter of St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

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Founded in 1841 – Walworth County's Oldest Parish

June 2009

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## The View From Up Front

By Fr. Steve Capitelli

It has been quite a while since we published the last edition of *A Voice from the Wilderness*. I apologize for the delay. The reason for the delay, however, is something that we can both celebrate and see as an opportunity. The late winter and early spring months have been very busy. Busy-ness may or may not be something to celebrate. Sometimes we can be busy with things that aren't really all that important and tend to crowd out the things that really are important. And sometimes we can be busy doing the things that really are important, things we as Christians, are called to do. I am happy to report that in this, the latter is the case. We have been busy doing the work of the Kingdom of God. We have been busy planting seeds for the Lord's harvest. We have been busy serving the poor and the hungry. We have been busy studying God's Word. We have been busy building community within our parish and with the larger community around us. We have been busy welcoming new members and strengthening the bonds of Christian fellowship with all our members. We have been very busy and when I say "we", I really mean "we." Many members, both new members and long-time members, have spent countless hours in all this busyness, doing what really is the business of the Kingdom of God.

We have much to celebrate for all that has been done here and continues to be done. Of course, what we really celebrate isn't so much what we have done, but what God has done and continues to do for and in us. So, as we pause to celebrate the life and vitality of our parish, let us recall that it is God who has called us, called all of us, to this work. Yes, with God's help, we have been busy, we have done a lot. But, in God's Kingdom, there is always a lot more to do. This is the opportunity, of which I spoke. But, of course, it is really much more than simply an opportunity, a chance to serve. It is our call. It is our vocation. And, as Christians, it is our life. To God, the author and giver of every good gift, be the glory, now and forever. Amen.

A *Voice from the Wilderness* editor, Mary Koss, agreed to continue as editor when Fr. Steve arrived at St. John's and has done a magnificent job. Mary, however, is heavily involved with *Something for the Kids*, *Geraniums on the Garth*, and many other parish, community, and family activities. This sometimes contributes to the delay between newsletters. If you would be interested in serving as editor, please let Fr. Steve know.

## Vestry Members

Tom Koonz, Senior Warden	723-4441
Dave Cox, Junior Warden	723-5272
Carolyn Carlson, Clerk	728-8207
Mike Bell	723-3123
Lynn Koonz	723-4441
Tammy Hatch	
Open Seat (the late Ethel Rollo)	
Judith Mann, Treasurer	723-2788

Next Vestry Meeting: June 17, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

## New Hand Rails in the Church

A set of beautiful new brass hand rails have been installed in the church at the step near the choir. The new rails will enhance the safety and convenience of communicants as they approach and leave the altar rail. The new rails are made possible by a generous bequest from our late sister, Ella Koshudy. They will be dedicated in memory of Ella and Albert Koshudy with small brass plaques.

## Pizza Party

St. John's held its second annual pizza party at Sperino's on Saturday, May 30, 2009. Eighteen parishioners attended. They enjoyed delicious pizza, cold soda and beer, and good fellowship. The event was organized again this year by Dick Comstock. Thanks, Dick!



## Bible Study

Several parishioners have been meeting since early March to study the Gospel of Mark. The Bible Study began as a Lenten exercise, but has carried over through the Easter season and beyond. Parishioners have taken turns hosting the Bible Study in their homes. All parishioners are invited to attend.

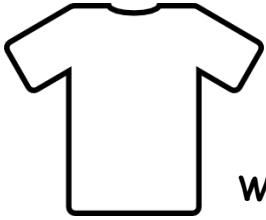


## *New Horizons*

Are you out of work? Are you concerned about losing your job? You are invited to explore *New Horizons*. *New Horizons* is a newly forming group for area residents who have either lost their job or are concerned that their employment is in jeopardy. The purpose of *New Horizons* is to offer pastoral, emotional and social support as well as useful information.

If you are among the many people who are experiencing job loss or insecurity, please join us. There is no cost to you. And remember, you are not alone as we explore *New Horizons*.

Call Fr. Steve at (262)723-4229 for more information



## St. John's Shirts Available

What does every fashionable  
St. John's parishioner wear?

A St. John in the Wilderness polo or t-shirt, of course! Polo shirts and t-shirts sporting the image of our beautiful church are now available. The shirts are tan in color with the print a rust/red color. They are available for the unbelievably low price of \$15 for the polo and \$10 for the t-shirt. Full range of sizes are available. Order yours today.

## Bishop's Visitation and Confirmation

Bishop Steven Miller will visit St. John's on November 8, 2009. Any parishioner age 16 or older who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation may do so at that time. New members may also be confirmed or formally received into the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion at that time as well. Confirmation/Reception classes will be starting in the fall. Watch your bulletin for more information.

## Easter Vigil at St. John's

The Great Vigil of Easter was joyfully celebrated at St. John's on Easter Eve, together with the Church of the Holy Communion, Lake Geneva. The combined choirs of both parishes, under the direction of Fletcher Coolidge, Music Director of Holy Communion, provided the music. The Rev. Nancy Malloy was the principal celebrant, assisted by Deacon Mary Misner. Fr. Steve was the homilist for the liturgy. A champagne reception followed the Great Vigil in the parish library. It was a great beginning to the Easter Season.

Easter Day Photos are below.





## Coffee Hour

(Please sign up at church – most summer Sundays are open.)

OK, I confess. It was me. I forgot I had coffee hour on May 31 and had nothing there. I don't usually forget, but this time I did. As my penance, I bought two kringle sticks and put them in the freezer in the church kitchen. If any of you find yourself in the same situation, go downstairs and get those kringles out to thaw – they'll be fine by the time Mass is over. (If they're not, maybe a little microwaving would do the trick.) Then, YOU go buy a couple and re-stock the freezer. That way we'll always have a back-up plan on hand for us occasional forgetters!

~~~~Mary Koss

## Elkhorn Recreation Department T-Ball Team

St. John in the Wilderness is again the proud sponsor of a t-ball team in the Recreation Department league. What better way to spend a beautiful summer evening than by taking in a ball game! Join some of your church friends by taking in a game and supporting our team. Games are June 17, 6:30 p.m.; June 22, 5:30 p.m.; July 1, 6:30 p.m.; July 6, 6:30 p.m.; July 13, 6:30 p.m.; and July 20, 6:30 p.m. All games are played on the field at St. Pat's School on Sunset Drive.



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### PHOTOS FROM COMMUNITY MEAL HOSTED BY ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS



David Mann



Chuck Carlson



Gladys Burgess, Mary Olesak, Cathy Capitelli

## Parish Picnic



Sunday, June 28,  
is Celebration Sunday,  
the feast of our patron,  
St. John the Baptist.  
Mass will begin at  
10:00 am on the garth,  
maybe at the labyrinth.

The picnic will begin immediately after Mass. Dave Cox is cooking the burgers and brats. We hope to have displays and information from all of the parish ministries: outreach, Habitat for Humanity, Geraniums on the Garth, Something for the Kids, new members, etc. The parish is providing the meat and beverages. A sign-up sheet for dishes to pass is being circulated. Of course, all this depends on the weather. If there is rain, we will have to move inside.

## Grocery Receipts

Martha Bresler has reminded us to get our grocery receipts in the collection boxes at the church entrances promptly. Last quarter, Frank's County Market did not accept over \$600 in receipts, because they were submitted to the church after the deadline. Frank's receipts have a notation of First Quarter, Second Quarter, etc., and are due at Frank's by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the end of that quarter. Sentry's schedule is a little more flexible, but the receipts still need to be submitted in a timely manner. I've decided to store my receipts right in the box with my offering envelopes so I remember to bring them each Sunday, instead of my old practice of bringing them when they overflowed the basket where I collected them!

~~~Mary Koss



**Please remember those on  
our prayer list:**

**We pray for those in need of healing  
or with other special needs, especially:**  
*Marion, Scott, Tim, Aimee, Sue, Denise, Tom,  
Dorothy, Cynthia, Patricia, Dan, Tim, Kate,  
Karen, Carlene, Chrissy, Deborah, B.J., Matt,  
Mary, Mildred, Sarah, Barb, Charlotte, John,  
Patrick, Warren, Judith K., Matt, Noah, Andrew,  
Callie, Amy, Jane, Kay, June, Mike, Jan, Sally,  
Jen, Mildred, Tony, Mike and his family.*

## FOOD PANTRY

The response to the extra needs of the Food Pantry has been great! Let's keep it up. If we each bring just a couple items each week, we can make a big difference!





An Elkhorn family was notified last month that they had been selected to receive the home to be built in Elkhorn. The Potter Family, Lori, Tawny and Dakota, have been renting a house in Elkhorn, and without the help of Habitat for Humanity, would not be able to own their own home. The family will invest 20 "sweat equity" hours in the construction of the home, which is being built on East Marshall Street. Father Capitelli was part of a goodwill delegation who traveled to the family's rental home to give them the good news that they had been selected.

St. John in the Wilderness, along with many other Elkhorn churches, has made a financial pledge of \$5,000 to assist Habitat for Humanity with the construction of the home. Our "Raise a Roof" event last fall raised approximately \$1,300 toward our pledge. Anyone with ideas on raising more toward our pledge is encouraged to share those ideas with a vestry member.

If you wish to make a donation to Habitat for Humanity, please put it in the Sunday collection plate or give it to Father Capitelli or Treasurer Judith Mann.  
~~Mary Koss

### **3rd Annual Diocesan Trip to Miller Park**

Friday, September 25, 2009 at 7:05 p.m. is the 3rd Annual Diocesan Day at Miller Park as the Brewers take on the Phillies. To keep the price low, the Diocese has committed to a block of 260 tickets, which secures the 'Dew Deck' at Miller Park providing a ball park type buffet meal, concessions, a private area for visiting along with a set of restrooms reserved for use on the Dew Deck.

Cost: \$65/person (full payment is due with registration)  
Price includes ticket, buffet meal (brats, burgers, fries, two beers per adult and unlimited soda), colorful t-shirt  
Buffet is served 1 hour before the first pitch until one hour after the first pitch.

Interested parishes are asked to become sponsoring parishes. The role of the sponsoring parish is to pre-purchase blocks of tickets from 10 - 50 which the parishes are then able to sell directly to parishioners and people in their community.

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### *June*

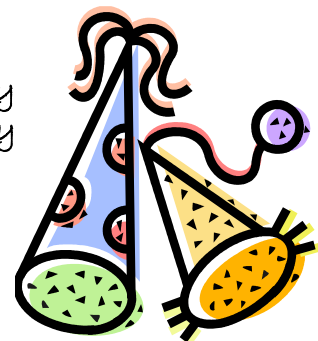
- 3 - Jim & Doris Watson - Anniversary
- 4 - Jen Magill Birthday
- 4 - Lindsay Briggs - Birthday
- 4 - Phil & Mary Koss - Anniversary
- 14 - Doris Watson - Birthday
- 15 - Mike & Sue Mc Donough - Anniversary
- 17 - Steve & Carol Burgess - Anniversary
- 18 - Chris & Meghan Aday - Anniversary
- 20 - Margaret Koss - Birthday
- 20 - Kathy Belcher - Birthday
- 30 - Fr. Steve Capitelli - Ordination

### *July*

- 1 - Mary Misner - Birthday
- 7 - Nicholas French - Birthday
- 8 - Haley Annes - Birthday
- 11 - Phil Koss - Birthday
- 17 - Henry W. Stehno II - Birthday
- 18 - Mike Bell - Birthday
- 22 - Chris Aday - Birthday
- 24 - Evan Henderson - Birthday
- 31 - Susan Briggs - Birthday

### *August*

- 1 - Meghan Aday - Birthday
- 1 - Circe Belcher - Birthday
- 3 - Candy Stehno - Birthday
- 15 - Athena Belcher - Birthday
- 17 - Tammy Hatch - Birthday
- 19 - Steve Burgess - Birthday
- 20 - Mary Koss - Birthday
- 25 - Michael Briggs - Birthday
- 28 - Dorothy Taylor - Birthday
- 31 - Judith Mann - Birthday



# Flower Sale 2009

By Sue Bell

Wow, what a year! Thank you to everyone who brought food, worked at the sale and/or purchased flowers from the sale. If it weren't for you, this sale would never happen. This year we made \$3,500.00, which we will be able to use for our service ministries. Many people volunteered in the absence of Mary Koss, and it took all of them to replace her. The weather was almost perfect, and set up went quickly.

The biggest change this year was having students from the Alternative High School, who came in 2-hour shifts on Thursday and Friday. They unloaded the truck, set up and covered tables, hung atmosphere lighting and made posters. It was wonderful having them, and they saved our energy for the actual sale.





### From the Deacon's Bench –

Isn't it wonderful that we have finally reached the season of summer? Really, it truly is here. June 21<sup>st</sup>. How many times we eagerly wait for a special day, a special event, to live a special memory. This is summer when we can ready ourselves for memory making, like watching Mama Duck crossing a busy street, followed by her brood of

ducklings, as every car on the road stops for the little family to continue their special trip.

This is the time of the year we watch things grow and thrive, tiny animals grow big and robust, the children run and laugh, jump with joy in the warm sunshine, create secret hiding places and dream dreams that only children dream. They grow in stature, in wisdom and charm.

In the beauty of summer, we all have the opportunity to change and grow. As adults, we create memories on our vacations, family reunions, celebrations of the special holidays and events. We share our grown-up dreams with the children. We share what is important to us.

In the summer, in the warmth of the sunshine, cherishing the earth in its full bloom, we encounter the wonders of the teaching of the Church in its mantle of green vestments and altar linens, the color of summer. The Church, for many months, gives us opportunities to grow in our spirituality and deepen our faith. The scriptures help us to see and appreciate the wonders of God. We can grow and find joy in the love of God. We have the opportunity to stop, to watch, to listen to God's creativity and miracles. We, like the children, can laugh and jump with joy. We can take the time to enjoy the wonders around us and those wonders within us, to thank God for them and to continue to bless us deeply with His love.

*Deacon Mary*

## Something for the Kids

By Mary Koss

**Our service ministry to the children and families of Walworth County continues. Our spring diaper drive was a huge success, and the Department of Human Services was very grateful.**

**In addition to the diapers, they made three other special requests: one family needed a crib mattress, one family needed two toddler beds, and one family needed a refrigerator. Through the grace of God, we were able to supply all of those items!**

**Most special requests are handled by sending out an email to a group of parishioners, other churches, and community members. All emails ask that recipients pass the email along to anyone else who might be interested. So far, that system has worked very well. If you aren't receiving those emails and would like to, please let me know. I would love to add your name to the list.**

**We are now embarking on our third annual drive for school supplies and back-to-school clothing. We are asking that all items be here at the church by July 31. This allows us time to organize the items and get them to the Department of Human Services when mid-August rolls around and everyone needs their supplies. Thanks for your support!**

**Items especially needed are:**

\$10 gas cards

School Clothes and Shoes

Backpacks and Messenger Bags

School Supplies:

Spiral Notebooks, Looseleaf Paper (College and Wide Ruled), Binders, Pocket Folders, Book Covers, Pencils (husky and #2), Erasers, Pens, Crayons, Markers, Mechanical Pencils, Highlighters, Flash Drives, Glue (Bottle and Stick), Scissors, Protractors, Compasses, and Calculators (Multi-functional)



## Congregational Retreat

By Mike Bell

On March 14, many church members attended a brainstorming session led by Rev. Gary Manning from Trinity Episcopal Church in Wauwatosa. He is also a certified instructor for the Congregational Development Institute. The focus of this meeting was to help us understand who we are as a parish and what role our church plays in the outside community. Who are we trying to target as members for service and growth of our spiritual life?

We began with an exercise which grouped parishioners by their social awareness and their relationship to the services and to God. We also discussed the generational differences both within the church and the community at large.

Results of this meeting left the Parish with homework and ideas:

Development of a website – in progress

Discussion of the time for services – beginning

Re-evaluation of Sunday School (not for Sundays anymore) – discussion beginning

Why have new people come and stayed? – in progress

Celebration Sunday – June 28<sup>th</sup>

Use of Wilderness concept

More labyrinth consideration

This is just a short summary, but the hope is that all parishioners will become involved in some way in the future of St. John in the Wilderness.

## Tribute to Ethel

About a month ago, our sister, Ethel Rollo, died, leaving us without the opportunity to say “good-bye” or “I love you.” The words “good-bye” and “I love you” were words of truth and endearment that meant so much to Ethel.

These words were grasped dearly by our friend, and they supported her in her pain of loneliness, of defending her disabilities, deepening her faith in people, developing trust, and being open to sharing her life story. Her life as a college professor was cut short following a car accident that changed her life forever. Ethel sought people who would love her and give her genuine hugs followed with “I love you.”

Ethel loved life, loved people, loved to run, loved to carve figures of wood with tremendous sense of humor, she loved to substitute teach, but most of all, she loved her Church. She loved to serve her God with respect and dignity, with grace and thankfulness: thankfulness for her life and the ability to continue in her life of losses and gifts.

Ethel showed me how to love with unconditional love. She shared her faith that was so deep that there could be no words long enough, strong enough, and deep enough to fully express her emotions.

Thank you, Ethel, for all you gave to the world with love and caring, in faith and endurance. Good-bye, Ethel, I love you.

*Deacon Mary*