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St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #52

FEBRUARY 2017

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

We are blessed with a long Epiphany Season this year. The length of this Season of Light and Enlightenment is determined by the date of Easter, which determines when Ash Wednesday occurs, which determines how many Epiphany Sundays we are gifted...kind of like counting backwards. Since Easter falls "late" this year, we are blessed with a longer Epiphany (four Sundays longer than last year!) This means we hear more of Jesus' teachings to his disciples - often focusing on what it means to be disciples of this Jesus Movement of which we are all a part. We will hear in February about being salty, and loving, and peacemakers, and justice seekers, and caregivers. All of which are meant to prepare us, teach us, embolden us to mimic Jesus in our world.

Many find February to be a month that can drag: ironic given it is the shortest month of all. Yet, our weather here in Minnesota can start to get to us, make us less than charitable to one another waiting for the arrival of Spring, that seems as if it may never come again. The gift of a long Epiphany allows us time, as the days slowly lengthen and the light lasts longer, time to reflect how we can be that salty, light-bearing, peaceful justice seeker.

My prayer for all of us this February is that we all can take these Epiphany-tide teachings and blessings and incorporate them into our daily lives. Let us pray:

God of rising sun and gentle rain,
whose gifts are uncanted
whose care is uncaged:
free us from measured love
which keeps a record of wrong
and fails before our violence;
recall us to your image



Meet
Christ
Be Christ

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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stchristophers-mn.org

VESTRY:

Mary Pendergrass,
Sr. Warden
Jeff Jensen,
Jr. Warden
Ann DePaolis-Jones,
Clerk
Suzanne Hitchcock,
Treasurer
Kathy Ackerman
Darlene Cross
Harold Danley
Jan Fillmore
Elizabeth Grayden
Christopher Lacher
Becky Lucas
Mike Sirany
Barbara Swanson

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen,
Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary
Youth Director

shining and alive
 in many-colored eyes;
 through Jesus Christ, the peacemaker.
 Amen
 (from "Prayers for an Inclusive Church")

God's Blessings,



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
 Janet MacNally,
 Deacon

Editor's note: Our deacon is away on a medical leave, but it is our hope that she will return in time for the March *e-Traveler* deadline.

Music Notes



Karla Cole,
 Music Director

Currently, I'm in Chicago with my daughter, who broke her wrist in three places, and we're stuck in the hurry-up-and-wait of doctors' appointments. With the e-Traveler deadline looming, I'm toting my laptop everywhere, trying to find a little inspiration. But I'm officially giving up. I've revisited this piece from several years ago and it says almost everything that I'd like to say now. So please bear with me while I share it again:

One Christmas when the kids were small, my husband, Matt found a book that he knew I would love and had the kids sign it. Five-year-old Henry signed a quavery "Hehry" and three-year-old Geneva wrote "GEE" with the G on its back and the Es with an exuberant excess of lines. Matt was right, I loved the book and love it even more now for the inscription. It's a book about spirituals that I pull out every year about this time. You see, my Texas History teacher was an African American woman who made a huge impression on me. She might be disappointed to know that all these years later, I can't remember very much about the Battle of San Jacinto or how many times Sam Houston went begging to

Marion Hunner,
 Children's Ministries
 Karla S. Cole,
 Director of Music
 Rev. Mary Rowe,
 Assisting Priest
 Rev. Janet MacNally,
 Deacon
 Rev. John F. Dwyer,
 Rector

Our PROGRAM YEAR Schedule

Sunday:

8:00 AM

Holy

Eucharist

9:00 AM

Fellowship

9:30-10:20 AM

Children's

Education

-Room 107

9:30-10:15 AM

Youth Education

-Youth Room

9:30-10:15 AM

Adult Education

-Chapel

(1st & 3rd)

10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM

Fellowship

Wednesday:

12:15 PM

Holy Eucharist

-Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9 AM - 4 PM

FEBRUARY Calendar Highlights

**1 12:15 PM Holy
 Eucharist**

-Chapel

6:15 PM Youth

Group-Youth Rm

7:15 PM Parish

Washington for Texas' statehood. But I do remember her love of spirituals and that she passed it on to me.

The Africans that were taken halfway around the world on slave ships in the 17th and 18th centuries were a singing people. Singing, drumming or dancing ordered their days in both work and celebration. In America, they encountered the slave owners' religion and though it was hypocritical that these white people spoke of love and brotherhood and dealt it out to the African people with whip and chain, the Africans were caught up by the Biblical stories that paralleled their own lives of hardship. By the late 1700's their love of singing and their evolving Christianity were giving voice to spirituals that were passed from one to another in time-honored oral tradition. Like the Israelites, the Africans longed for freedom and their songs spoke of a better life in the promised land. While the slave owners assumed they were singing about the next life, Frederick Douglass, in My Bondage and Freedom, tells us that the spirituals held coded messages from the Underground Railroad.

The songs are full of double entendre. *Follow the Drinkin' Gourd*, meaning the Big Dipper, is probably the best known example of these coded spirituals. *Steal Away* was a call to steal into the woods for a nighttime meeting or an escape. *Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray* was likely a warning to cool it because an escape had failed. *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* was a call to be ready for the "chariot" to safety. *Wade in the Water* gave directions to walk through the water to keep the hounds from tracking their scent. Additionally maps and symbols were sewn into quilts to guide them, as well as to keep them warm on the trip north. A healthy slave might have made it to safety in a couple of months, but many journeyed for as long as a year, heading for destinations in Canada or the Minnesota or Dakota Territories. Spirituals guided and comforted the travelers on their way.

I've been told by opinionated people over the years that waspy white folks have no business singing African American music. Fortunately for the music world, Elvis Presley hadn't heard that, for he was fascinated as a boy by spirituals and gospel music and as his career took off, his rhythm and blues became a foundational influence for the musicians of all stripes that came after him. Now when the car with the big booming woofers pulls up next to you blaring hiphop or gangsta rap, it's as likely to be a white kid with his baseball cap on backwards as anybody. So I don't see why we can't we sing African American music here at St. Christopher's. Spirituals and gospel and the blues and jazz are our most indigenous American musical styles. They're also part of the mosaic that is our heritage of sacred music; as valid for us to sing as *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven* or *Amazing Grace* or *For All the Saints*. Granted, we Episcopalians have to loosen up a bit to sing with the right stylistic flare. But I think that's good for us! You'll hear quite a lot of African American music in church over the next couple of months. May it speak to your heart as it always has to mine.

I felt it was particularly important to explore African American music as we, St. Christopher's congregation, begin an organized look at racism in our own backyard. I think most of us who live in the Roseville area were shocked and horrified when a young African

Choir-Music Rm

4 9 am - 3 PM
ECMN Leadership Resource Day - Parish Hall, Classrooms

5 8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

8 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
-Chapel
6:15 PM Bell Choir-Balcony
6:15 PM Youth Group-Youth Rm
7:00 PM Green Team-Parish Hall
7:15 PM Parish Choir-Music Rm

9 1-2:30 PM
Knitting - Library

10 6:30 PM
Couples Bridge-Parish Hall

11 8-11 AM Vestry Retreat and Meeting-Chapel

12 9:30 AM Altar Guild Meeting - Church

13 5:30 PM
Finance Comm. -Parish Hall

15 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
-Chapel
6:15 PM Youth Group-Youth Rm
7:15 PM Parish Choir-Music Rm

19 8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

21 Meals on Wheels-Offsite

American man, Philando Castile, was shot and killed by a policeman across the street from a watering hole frequented by the choir and the Green Team. The accounts of violence between police and the African American community were starkly illuminated for us in the images of the mourners and protesters who gathered at that spot and maintain a shrine even today, more than six months after the incident. I'll leave it to you to examine the facts and your own thoughts about these things. And I'll leave it to others to preach the Gospel and help us view these things through the prism of Christ's life and work. Oh, but I feel. And I think that's where healing will start - with empathy.

Karla Cole



Footprints February 2017



News from Children's
Ministries



Marion Hunner
Children's Ministries Director

New in 2017 - Children's Chapel - Starts

February 5th!

On the first Sunday of each month we are offering a new opportunity for children PK-5th grade.

On that Sunday we will not have regular Sunday School Classes - instead, families will come to the 10:30 liturgy, and the children will meet in the small chapel for a Children's Chapel experience. They will then join their families in the pews at the peace. This will offer families one Sunday per month where they are only at church for the one hour liturgy as well as provide a different presentation of the Liturgy of the Word for the children.

Sunday School

During the month of February we are exploring some of Jesus' parables. We will end the month preparing our "Alleluias" to be put away on the last Sunday before Lent (February 26th)

Looking Ahead ...



welcome!

On Saturday, March 25th, we will gather for our annual Church Home, Bowling and Pizza outing. More details will come as the date gets closer. This event is for Sunday School age children (age 4-5th grade) and at least one parent, but entire families are

**22 12:15 PM Holy
Eucharist**

-Chapel

6:15 PM Bell

Choir-Balcony

6:15 PM Youth

Group-Youth Rm

7:15 PM Parish

Choir-Music Rm

**23 5:30 PM
COMMUNITY
DINNER**

**26 8 AM Holy
Eucharist**

**10:30 AM Holy
Eucharist**

**27 e-Traveler
Deadline**

28 MARDI GRAS
Benefits the
Youth Pilgrimage-
Watch for details!!

Please note:

Outside group use of the building has not been listed here. Please note that we now have music lessons Monday through Saturday. Please check the calendar in the office before scheduling a meeting or event. Our weekly building-use calendar is **quite busy!**



St. Christopher's Vacation Bible School program will run from **9am-noon Monday through Friday, July 17-21**. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends! More information about registration and curriculum will be available closer to Easter.

Youth News



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

We will be gathering each Wednesday again this month. During this winter and spring, we will be looking closely at how we can identify, and dismantle, systemic racism in our society.

Please remember we move to Thursday night on the 23rd, to help with the Community Dinner

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Pulse of the Parish - January 2015

Good Morning. My name is Mike Sirany and I am on your Vestry. Today I am offering the Pulse of the Parish. The purpose of this brief update is to keep you informed of the actions taken by the Vestry at their meeting on Monday, January 16th.

- The monthly and year end financial reports were reviewed. As budgeted, we ended the year in the red, utilizing \$6570 of the 2015 Surplus to balance our budget. \$4,643 remains in surplus and that amount has been added to the 2017 Program Budget. We had budgeted to use all of that surplus and the Vestry and Finance Team are pleased that we were able to stay under budget.
- The Vestry reviewed and approved the 2017 Program Budget as recommended to them by the Finance Team. This Budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- The Vestry reviewed plans for hosting the Annual Meeting and heard a report about St. Christopher's participation in the Roseville Parade.
- The Vestry reviewed and approved a Mission Opportunity

Grant Request for \$5000 to fund the 2017 Community Dinners.

- The Vestry Learned about two workshops
 - The Lay Leaders Workshop to be hosted by St. Christopher's on Saturday February 4th, and
 - The Invite, Welcome, Connect Workshop to be hosted by St. John the Evangelist on January 28th.
 - More information can be found about these workshops in your leaflet on as posted on our Bulletin Boards
 - The Vestry thanked our retiring Sr. Warden, Mary Pendergrass, and the three retiring Vestry Members: Kathy Ackerman, Harold Danley, and Christ Lacher.
 - The Vestry would like to recognize the following people in our "Shout-outs" for the work they have recently done for our parish:
 - The Altar Guild for making our Christmastide beautiful
 - To all pledging members of St. Christopher's for their good stewardship this year, by honoring their pledges allowing us to make it almost to 100%.
 - To all our snow shovelers!

Please be aware that the minutes of the January meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the Vestry's February meeting. I will be at coffee hour after the service. Please feel free to ask any Vestry member or me any questions you have about this meeting. Thank you for your attention.

Green Team

Valentine's Day will soon be upon us. How about trying to make your Valentine's Day giving more earth friendly? For example, instead of purchasing valentines cards, you can make homemade valentines out of materials you have around the house. Reused gift paper, ribbons and old cards can be repurposed into new valentine or other greeting cards. Consider giving the gift of an experience instead of something purchased.

And a home baked treat can be given using a lot less packaging than a heart full of chocolates. Something to think about...



The green team has previewed the National Geographic documentary, "[Before the Flood](#)". This film presents an account of changes occurring around the world due to climate change. It also describes actions that can be taken by individuals and as a society to prevent catastrophic changes on our planet. The green team is planning a screening of the film at St. Christopher's in the near future. [Stay tuned](#) for more information.

St. Christopher's is planning on participating in the [Roseville parade on Monday, June 26](#). The green team has volunteered to organize St. Christopher's to march, highlighting our efforts as a green congregation. All are encouraged to march in the parade.

More information will follow as we get closer to the parade.

Enjoy a nice bottle of wine? Save the cork! The green team will be collecting corks to be repurposed by the company, Natural Built Home. Watch for the cork collecting container in the parish hall and drop your corks off there.

Submitted by Larry Jones

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the February *e-Traveler*.

You know what happens when I leave the office for a couple of minutes? I get this "where have you BEEN?" face.



Yeah, I stop to pet him and make him happy again. I am a well-trained office human!

Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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