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St. Christopher's

e-Traveler

Issue #51

JANUARY 2017

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

Happy 2017, St. Christopher's! As we enter the Season of Epiphany in our church calendar, I bid you the Peace from Steven Shakespeare's "Prayers For An Inclusive Church" -

*Jesus has broken down the dividing wall
that made us strangers to one another;
He has made us one humanity
that God might be all in all;
Jesus is our life, our hope, our peace.*

We are blessed with a long Epiphany-tide this year, stretching all the way through February, allowing us to hear readings in our lectionary cycle that generally go unheard. Epiphany is one of those flexible church seasons that expands and contracts depending on when Easter falls. Easter falls late in the calendar this year, so we have a protracted Epiphany: a longer time to reflect on this gift God has given us in Jesus being with us in human form.

For the January portion of the Epiphany Season, Sundays at St. Christopher's will include:

- Celebrating Epiphany this coming Sunday, the 9th, at both our 8:00 and 10:30 Eucharistic services.
- On Sunday the 15th we will begin exploring racism in Minnesota at our Adult Forum. This will be a continuing topic of discussion and exploration throughout Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. Our discussions will begin by using the book "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota," as a starting point.
- The Annual Meeting will be the following Sunday, the 22nd, following our Together @ 9:30 Eucharistic Service. The Vestry will be hosting a light brunch to sustain us through the meeting.
- The next Sunday, the 29th, is a "5th" Sunday and Healing



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

Prayers will be a component of our Eucharistic liturgies.

Your Finance Team and Vestry continue their efforts to present a balanced and financially stable budget at the Annual Meeting. The results of the Stewardship Campaign were very encouraging, but our revenue from other sources has decreased, making the 2017 program budget not what had been requested. Based on additional pledges that have been secured, the budget sent out to the parish in early December has been slightly modified, restoring some cuts, but the reduction in employee hours have not been restored. Even given these facts, the truth remains that St. Christopher's is doing very well:

- with a strong missional heart continuing to lead us to be Jesus' hands in our neighborhood;
- with a pastoral sense helping us be empathetic to each other and our neighbors; and
- with a quiet confidence knowing that Jesus' love for us will help us through whatever challenges that will face us this coming year.

This Epiphany-tide:

"May Jesus, who draws the nations to himself, teach us to love our enemies; may Jesus, who enters the water of baptism, lead us to die to all but love; may Jesus, who gives new wine for the world, turn our sadness and worry into joy; and may God, the Holy Three in One, bless us and guide us always." (from S. Shakespeare: Prayers for an Inclusive Church)

Epiphany Blessings,



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

It always seems at this week in every year there is a cartoon of sorts that pictures the outgoing year as a tired, hunched over weary old man with a long beard and sad eyes and the incoming year as a toddler with energy and high expectations. I think that image at the least the one of the outgoing year is particularly poignant this year. Too many conversations that I have had over the past few weeks have said that 2017 has got to be better. And yet at this time last year 2016 was depicted as that cheerful toddler ready to take the helm.

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

9:00-9:25 AM

Archangels

-Music Room

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

Food Shelf Update

Food collection for
November and
December
amounted to 83

I understand the feeling, because I have it as well. We, as a nation, weathered one of the most contentious and mean-spirited political seasons on record. It has ended with uncertainty and fear for some of our neighbors and for the world community as well. We faced, at the end of this year, daily photos of the absolute destruction of the city of Aleppo in Syria. Thousands of its citizens now homeless refugees as their government bombed their neighborhoods to rubble.

And then there was the revelation that Russia hacked computer systems in this country, in order to influence the outcome of that most contentious election. Resembling something that I am not sure even James Bond could cope with, their actions left us all feeling insecure. Our laptops, phones and other devices which have always been our trusted companions (we truly never leave home without them!) now had the reality of a more sinister connection. There has been talk, carelessly transmitted as tweets, that perhaps we should consider enlarging and enhancing our nuclear arsenal after decades of international efforts to do just the opposite, and there has been messaging that the United Nations is a worthless organization that meets to talk and have a good time. And the long-fought-for two-state solution to the Palestine-Israel situation that would bring peace to that most unpeaceful area of the world is now in serious jeopardy. All of which make the outgoing year and us as well a weary lot indeed.

It would, of course, be foolish to think that the incoming year, fresh faced in the cartoon and full of hope, would be all that we need to move beyond the troubles that 2016 brought. And it would be foolish to imagine that at the stroke of midnight all things would be well. And worse, it would be wrong to get so caught in the troubles of 2016 that we have no hope. Remember the words of John's Gospel: "the light came into the world and the darkness could not overcome it."

Now more than ever, we, as Christians, need to remember the gift that was given to us in that wonder-filled birth at Bethlehem. The gift of God incarnate, Emmanuel, God is with us. And we need, now more than ever, to remember that there is always something that we can and must do, no matter how hopeless we feel our circumstance is. Pray. Pray daily. Pray without ceasing. As we move into the next year, let us a faith community commit ourselves to daily prayer for the health and life of our world. It's easy; let me give you something to get us all started:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Amen,
Deacon Janet**

Music Notes

pounds.

Many many thanks to those who gave, especially cereal.

-Pamela Case

Midwinter Blues Buster & BINGO

Enjoy a wonderful lunch and a few games of Bingo on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM in the Parish Hall.

Rides provided, if requested, to this Silent Auction event.

The cost is \$12.00 and space is limited.

Call Ann Trapnell at 651-482-8992 to reserve a spot for this fun afternoon. Checks may be sent to the Church Office. Include "Lunch Bingo" in the memo line.

Silent Auction 2016: THANK YOU

A Big Thank You goes out to all who made this year's Silent Auction a great success. This year's recap (benefits Mission Opportunities) is:

Auction
\$4,634.00



Karla Cole,
Music Director

On January 27th at 7pm, some of my favorite chamber musicians will join me in presenting a program of works by three composers who lived in Vienna and whose compositional lives were intertwined. First on the program, the Op. 11 Clarinet trio of Ludwig von Beethoven, written in 1797. Frequent St. Christopher's visitor, Rolf Krogstad and his son, Lars Krogstad Otiz will join me in a string trio version. Over the years, this piece by the young Beethoven has garnered the traditional nickname *Gassenhauer* or "street song" trio. The last movement is based on a melody from an opera by Joseph Wiegler, a prolific, but no longer remembered contemporary of the master composer. The little tune was all the rage in Vienna at the time, hummed and whistled by the folks in the streets, hence the nickname. Beethoven makes this little tune his very own by turning it into a set of variations - each variation a different twist on the same melody. Beethoven was a great improviser at the keyboard and completely mastered the variation form, writing more than twenty for solo piano and frequently using the form within other works as well.

Next we turn to the music of Franz Schubert, primarily known for his lovely art songs and his symphonies, the first of which was hailed as Beethoven's 10th. In the *Trockne Blumen* Variations for piano and flute, Schubert wrote these variations on his own melody from the song cycle *Die Schöne Mullerin* (The Miller's Fair Daughter) that he had written a few years before. *Trockne Blumen* (Withered Flowers) is a sad little song about flowers on the singer's grave and perhaps Schubert returned to it in, as he wrote to his brother Ferdinand in 1824, "a period of fateful recognition of a miserable reality". Poor Schubert was quite ill at the time and despondent and though he would only live another four years, he would "endeavor to beautify as far as possible" his miserable reality with an exceedingly prolific outpouring of beautiful music. Carol Gilkey, who teaches flute lessons in our choir room on Saturdays, will join me for this gorgeous set of variations.

Last, we take on the music of Johannes Brahms. The section leaders from St. Christopher's Choir will join me for a set of waltzes. Brahms was quite taken with a set of *Ländler*, little waltz-like folk dances that Franz Schubert had written for piano. Though it is not proven, it is sometimes posited that Brahms was inspired by his love for another composer's wife (Clara Schumann) to write his own waltzes, setting love poems from Georg Friedrich Daumer's *Polydora*. Originally written for mixed voices and piano four hands, the *Liebeslieder Walzer*, or "Love-song Waltzes" were immensely popular and proved quite a reliable revenue source. In the years that followed, Brahms arranged other settings of these popular waltzes as well as having composed a second set of them. We will use the composer's own setting of a piano solo

Cash & Carry	371.00
Small Bites/ Big Bids	407.24
Raffle	<u>1,025.00</u>
Total	\$6,437.24

JANUARY Calendar Highlights

- 1 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**
- 2 Office Closed**
- 4 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist**
-Chapel
6:15 PM Youth Group-Youth Rm
7:15 PM Parish Choir-Music Rm
- 8 8 AM Holy Eucharist**
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9 5:30 PM**
Finance Comm.
-Parish Hall
- 10 Meals on Wheels-Offsite**
- 11 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
- 15 8 AM Holy Eucharist**
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 16 6:45 PM Vestry-Parish Hall**
- 17 ANNUAL**

accompaniment. The waltzes are all quite brief, by turns delighted, nostalgic, despairing, impassioned and always expressive.

So do join us for an evening (actually just about an hour) of Viennese music and plan to stay for a reception featuring *viennoiserie* (things of Vienna) - like maybe a *linzertorte* or a *sachertorte* or an *apfelstrudel*. Mmm! You should come!

Karla Cole



Footprints January 2017



News from Children's
Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

Epiphany is almost here - I found this resource for the Epiphany practice of chalking the door - a great way to bring the message of Epiphany into your home! <http://www.buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Epiphany-Chalking-the-door.pdf>

New in 2017 - Children's Chapel

On the first Sunday of each month (skipping January because of New Year's Day) 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. We will begin on Sunday, February 5th.

Gifts of Hope

Many thanks to all who participated in our Gifts of Hope program this year. We sponsored 19 people in 4 families and provided over 50 gifts. The staff at Keystone Community Services was thrilled that we were able to be so generous, and I'm quite confident that the recipients were as well. Watch for the thank-you notes that will appear on the Children's Ministries bulletin board across from the children's library.

Youth News

REPORTS due in the office!

18 12:15 PM Holy
Eucharist
-Chapel

6:15 PM Youth
Group-Youth Rm

7:15 PM Parish
Choir-Music Rm

22 9:30 AM
Together@9:30
Holy Eucharist

11 AM ANNUAL
MEETING of
the PARISH

25 11:30 AM
SWAT Group -
Parish Hall

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

26 COMMUNITY
DINNER

27 7 PM Gift of
Music: Karla
and Friends

29 8 AM Holy
Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy
Eucharist

30 e-Traveler
Deadline

31 11:30 AM
MidWinter Blues
Buster & BINGO-
Silent Auction
Event-Parish Hall

Please note:

Outside
group use of the
building
has not
been listed here.
Please note that we



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

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!

As we ring in 2017, there are many opportunities for our youth. Please read what's on the docket for this month and contact me with any questions!

We will be gathering each Wednesday this month (Jan 4, 11, 18 & 25). During this winter and spring, we will be looking closely at how we can identify, and dismantle, systemic racism in our society.

On January 4, Deacon Janet will be joining us. We will begin by taking a short field trip to the site where Philando Castile was killed last summer. While there, Deacon Janet will lead us in a short prayer. Upon returning to church, we will watch a documentary called Four Little Girls, a documentary about the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Church in Birmingham, Alabama (a site that will be visited by our pilgrims this summer). We will then work together to form connections between the two events.

On January 11, we will be sharing a meal together and participating in some fun team-building activities. We are always growing and there is always something new to learn about the other young people in our group!

On January 18, we will be looking at how we can be part of the Easter Vigil this year, and begin planning how that will look. We may also do some baking as we work toward a new Communion bread recipe.

On January 25, we will have a game night! Bring your favorite game and a CHARGED electronic device (smartphone or tablet) because, as you have requested, we will be bringing back JackBox TV games.

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Pulse of the Parish - December 2015

Good Morning. My name is Jan Fillmore, 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, December 19th.

- The monthly financial report was reviewed. Budgeted income is below expectations due to the kitchen not being used by renters. Our budgeted expenses for the month and year are below budgeted amounts. Our financial situation remains stable and as budgeted. As a reminder, we ask that if you have not yet started participating in the automatic withdrawal payment program, that you contact Ruth Thillen, our Parish Administrator, to begin participating in that program. It allows for more reliable cash flow.
- The Vestry learned that the LED light bulbs have arrived and are installed in the church space, and partially installed in the remainder of the building. That work should be completed in early January.
- The Vestry reviewed and approved slight modifications to the 2017 program budget based on new pledges received and as recommended by the Finance Team.
- The Vestry reviewed applications for and discussed the *Mardi Gras* fundraiser, awarding the fundraiser this year to the Youth, to assist in raising money for their summer mission trip.
- The Vestry reviewed plans for our **Annual Meeting**, which is scheduled for **Sunday, January 22nd** following the Together @ 9:30 service.
- The Vestry learned about a pilot program we will be testing for our Sunday Children's Education. The first Sunday of the month (starting in February), the children will have a "Chapel Education Experience," beginning at the start of the 10:30 service. The children will join the rest of the congregation on those Sundays at the Peace. For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Marion Hunner, our Children's Ministries Director.
- The Vestry would like to recognize the following people in our "Shout-outs" for the work they have recently done for our parish:
 - Don Shiek for his continuing work installing the LED light bulbs.
 - Ruth Thillen for her continuing efforts in her administration work for the parish.
 - All involved in putting on this year's Service of Lessons and Carols.

Please be aware that the minutes of the December meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the Vestry's January 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

Before The Flood

Before the (first) flood, the Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently evil. So the Lord



was sorry he had ever made them on the earth. It broke his heart... (Genesis 6:5-6).



Today, *Before The (second) Flood*, is a documentary directed by Fisher Stevens about climate change. In it, Leonardo DiCaprio and others traveled the globe documenting effects of climate change and how the world's warming climate has brought about melting ice caps, rising sea levels and changing weather patterns over all the earth.

Please join the Green Team for a viewing of **Before The Flood** at St. Christopher's in the next few months. Watch for postings of the time and date of this unique opportunity.



Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the January *e-Traveler*. The sun is shining as I write, and I am glad it is not YET a cold, sunny January day - but I do look forward to them. They make me appreciate hot July days. I always try not to complain about either one. :)

THIS guy, though, as bored as he looks while waiting for his dad to return from a pastoral visit, loves the cold and the snow. He bounces and hops and drags Fr. John through all the drifts in the church yard, a real contrast to this sprawl!



Remember the **Annual Meeting on January 22nd**. If you are making a report to the parish that gets published in the Annual Report book, please note the deadline will be **January 17th**.

Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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