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St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #55

MAY 2017

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

The light of radiant dawn streams out
and praise fills heaven all about,
earth echoes the exultant shout
and groaning death is put to rout.

The risen Jesus is glory bright
has banished death's eternal night,
and having harrowed death with might
brings forth the sleeping saints to light.

We pray you, Jesus, with glory crowned,
let this our paschal joy resound;
for we, who once by death were bound,
through you have life and freedom found.

To you, O risen Jesus, once more,
our joyous alleluias soar,
whom with the Spirit we adore,
and the Creator, evermore. Amen.

St. Helena's Breviary: A Hymn for Eastertide

A joyous Eastertide! We had glorious Holy Week and Easter services, marking this Holy and spiritual time as the special and important one it is in our faith and our lives. Our Eastertide liturgical season is one where we celebrate God's great and all-encompassing love for each and every one of us. This celebration of the risen Jesus, who is present with us always, marks these 50 days of Easter as different from every other period of time in our church calendar. These days are a reminder to us that as followers of Jesus, we are called to act differently from those around us: to stand out as the living hands, feet, eyes, ears, voice, and heart of Jesus in the world today. Yes, we are joyous in our celebrations, and we are also active in living out our faith and our beliefs.

We have multiple opportunities for all of us to be this active presence of the Jesus in our world today, and I invite every one of us to do something this Eastertide that makes a difference (small or great) to those for whom our missional efforts are directed.

Entombed behind the stone of late,



Meet Christ
Be Christ

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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stchristophers-mn.org

VESTRY:

Jeff Jensen,
Sr. Warden
Cindy Lee,
Jr. Warden
Ann DePaolis-Jones,
Clerk
Suzanne Hitchcock,
Treasurer
Mark Brilowski
Darlene Cross
Jan Fillmore
Elizabeth Grayden
Karen Hartman
Chris Huntley
Becky Lucas
Mike Sirany
Barbara Swanson

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen,
Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary
Youth Director
Marion Hunner,
Children's Ministries
Karla S. Cole,
Director of Music
Rev. Mary Rowe,
Assisting Priest
Rev. Janet MacNally,
Deacon

securely sealed, where soldiers wait,
now shining in triumphant state,
Jesus rises victor from death's gate.

Death's chains are loosed and demons fled,
captivity is captive led;
the angel, crowned with light, has said:
Jesus is risen from the dead.

We pray you, Jesus, with glory crowned,
let this our paschal joy resound,
for we, who once by death were bound,
Through you have life and freedom found.

To you, O risen Jesus, once more,
our joyous alleluias soar,
whom with the Spirit we adore,
and the Creator evermore. Amen

St. Helena's Breviary: A Hymn for Eastertide

A Blessed Eastertide to all!



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

Some time ago, and in a parish far, far away, the Rector of the church I was attending gave a sermon during Eastertide in which he told of entering a Hallmark Store a few weeks past Easter, intending to find Easter/spring like decorations for a family birthday party. He seemed confused at the reality that although for the church, where we celebrate a full fifty days of Easter, Hallmark had decreed the season over on Easter Monday. I remember thinking "Well duh! Christmas, if we are lucky, lasts until New Year's, not Epiphany. Why would Easter which is, by retail standards, a lesser feast day, last until Pentecost?" This is one of those times when we can muse to ourselves that we are lucky to have a Christian liturgical year, one that allows a total twelve days of Christmas and because Easter is for us the greatest feast, we have a full fifty days to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

The early Church took advantage of the Great Fifty Days to engage in a series of lectures and sermons that were meant for those who had just been baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter, to explain to them further lessons on how to follow Christ. The season took on the name of *mystagogy*, or interpretation of mystery. The sermons were well attended and have been recorded as some of the finest in the early history of the Church. We, too, have a somewhat season of *mystagogy*, in that the lessons that we hear during the Great Fifty Days are ones that explain to us the depth of Christ's love for us and the mandate to love each other with that same depth. These are the days when we shout "Alleluia", wear white vestments and in general continue the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Because one day is just not enough!

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

Food Shelf Update



Our Lent Challenge was a success! We delivered 110 pounds of food and \$20 to Keystone. (That's twice as much as our Jan-Feb delivery!)

Thank you!
Pamela Case

MAY Calendar

"Every good gift of the year, now with its Master returns!" sings the hymn, which gives us a chance to remember and celebrate with every sign of Spring that we witness. The return of Robins, the blossoming of tulips and daffodils and crocus, the haze of green that appears on the trees as they begin to grow their leaves once more, all of these things remind us of the mystery and the joy that is found in Easter. And although we are fast (it seems) heading into summer, this wonderful season gives us a chance to dwell on the Mystery and perhaps discern where we might be called next, on our journey as Christians going forth into to the world to love and serve in the name of Christ. More on that later; for now, give thanks and praise for the goodness of God. Just don't be too disappointed if you discover that Hallmark as put away all their decorations. After all, we don't need Hallmark to celebrate Easter for these Great Fifty Days; we only have to look at the world around us.

Amen, Deacon Janet

Music Notes



Karla Cole,

Music Ministries Director

In my home state of Texas, the state flowers, the bluebonnets are blooming in magnificent profusion this year. My FaceBook friends have posted so many beautiful photos, making me almost a little homesick. It's a weed, really, the bluebonnet. Back in the days before it was illegal to pick them, kids picked armloads of the things and by the time you got home, they were wilted into a sticky mess. Some things are best left blooming where they were planted. Along with the bright indigo bluebonnets are often just a few scarlet flowers to break up the perfection, like the Amish quilter who deliberately leaves one little imperfection in a quilt, the red Indian paintbrush stand bravely in the face of all that blue. And I guess we're all a bit like those little red paintbrushes - we who drive off to church on Sunday morning while all around us our neighbors sleep in, or mow the lawn, or drink coffee and read the **NYTimes**.

These days, there are learned folks writing books and articles about the difficulties of getting people to come to church. Not a few are predicting a disappointing outcome for the church at large in the 21st century. And there are that many more offering band-aids and easy fixes. Really, there are no easy fixes. And what might work for one church, might not for another. I guess we just have to do the old spaghetti test time and time again - toss something at the wall and see if it sticks. And be flexible enough to move on to something else if it doesn't. Church music is a lot like that.

We who attend church regularly have all come to recognize that amongst our friends, we might be the only ones who ever go to church. That contrast with our neighbors in the real world is especially obvious to me during Holy Week. I'm off to church in the late afternoon and my neighbors are out enjoying the April sunshine. And sometimes it feels like those of us in the choir go to church all the time, especially during Holy Week. And I am so grateful for all of our faithful musicians. They outdid themselves this year, from the Matthew Passion by Orlando diLasso on Palm Sunday to the rousing gospel chorus on Easter, they sang with full-throated and full-hearted fervor. Many thanks to them for their

Highlights

- 1 **11 AM** Bev Webster Funeral
- 3 **12:15 PM** Holy Eucharist -Chapel
6:30 PM Youth Group-Youth room
7:15 PM Parish Choir-Music Rm
- 5 **7 PM** ECMN Middle School Pre-TEC Retreat at St. Christopher's
- 6 **ALL DAY** ECMN Middle School Pre-TEC Retreat at St. Christopher's
- 7 **8 AM Holy Eucharist**
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Children's Chapel-Chapel
- 8 **2 PM** Orrell Nilsson Memorial service-church
5:30 PM AUDIT-Finance Comm. -Office & Gathering Room
- 10 **12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** -Chapel
6:30 PM Youth Group-Youth room
7:15 PM Parish Choir-Music Rm
- 11 **1:00 PM** Knitting - Library
- 12 **6:30 PM** Couples Bridge - Parish Hall
- 14 **8 AM Holy Eucharist**
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 15 **6:45 PM** Vestry - Parish Hall
- 16 *Meals on Wheels - Offsite*
- 17 **11:30 AM** SWAT Group -Parish Hall

dedicated service to St. Christopher's choir. They enjoyed a full week of rest this year as the Northern Lights Cello Academy played in our 10:30 service last week. The choir will be back now, and singing regularly through Pentecost, when they will take a longer and much-deserved rest for the summer. If they've sung a particular piece or done something that touched you in some way, please tell them about it. It's not like they do this for adulation, but it's nice to be appreciated.

Karla Cole



Footprints May 2017



News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner
Children's Ministries Director

Outreach Activities

- Last month the children went to Episcopal Church Homes and made door hangers with the residents.
- We are currently working on a project tying fleece blankets for our graduating high school seniors.

May 21st is "Recognition Sunday."

Sunday School: Teachers and assistants present lessons on a rotating schedule Sept - May. **Thank you** to Kathy Ackerman, Jean Darnell, Carol Duff, Chris Huntley, and Craig Hunner.

Children's Chapel: Becky Lucas has been leading this new monthly opportunity.

Nursery - Volunteers serve in pairs about once a month to provide a warm, welcoming environment to our youngest parishioners - and a quiet worship opportunity for their parents. **Thank you** to Allison Jensen, Becky Lucas, Bill Cross, Connie Hendrick, Ebie Richards, Janet Campanaro, Jean Crow, and Mary Friend. Most of these dedicated folks have been volunteering for 2-3 years - it would be great to get some new help. Contact Marion if this opportunity interests you!

Bulletin Boards, Decorations, and Poster displays (anything artistic!!) **Thank you** to Darlene Cross, Karen Hanna, and Jane Suilman.

Summer Opportunities:



St. Christopher's will be walking in the **Roseville Parade on Monday, June 26!** Mark your calendars and watch for details. The more the merrier!



12:15 PM Holy Eucharist

-Chapel

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

21 RECOGNITION SUNDAY

8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

24 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist

-Chapel
7:15 PM Parish Choir-Music Rm

25 5:30 PM COMMUNITY DINNER

28 8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

29 Memorial Day Office Closed

30 e-Traveler Deadline

31 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
-Chapel
7:15 PM Parish Choir-Music Rm

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!**



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

July 17th-21st:

Information and Registration is available on our website. Paper copies are available on the Children's Ministries bulletin board across from the Children's Library.

I am still looking for some youth and/or adults to a) run our Games Station and b) take

pictures. Please let me know if you would like more details - you do not have to be available all 5 days to help.

More information available at:

<http://www.stchristophers-mn.org/vbs.html>

July 24-28: Episcopal Creative Arts

Daycamp will run from 9am - 3pm at St. Mark's Cathedral. (PK-5th grade). For more information go to: <http://ourcathedral.org/ecad-2017>



Youth News



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

The closure each programming year always brings with it a feelings of gratitude and thanksgiving. It is always important to thank those that have enhanced our youth programs this year. First, the program could not exist without the help of Elizabeth Grayden, who has committed to being present twice per week to be sure that we have two adults to meet Safe Church guidelines. I am also humbled by the willingness of the parents of our youth to go above and beyond to provide for the whole group, whether if that be in the form of food, supplies, or time. This year, we received the gift of an altar from the 1800s from St. Paul's on the Hill parish. Each liturgical season Darlene Cross decorated the altar with beautiful linens and we are very thankful for her time and talent. It is also necessary to thank other members of staff for making our teenagers a priority -- specifically, Deacon Janet for her work on our upcoming pilgrimage and Karla for opening creative channels for us to explore our faith in new ways. It takes a village to help young people grow into the best versions of themselves -- and I am glad that St. Christopher's can be one place where our teens feel welcomed and valued.

Many events are on the docket for this month and rest of the summer. We will meet as a youth group on May 3 & 10. May 10 will be an end-of-the-year party with food and games. Our annual trek to Valleyfair will be Saturday, May 20. Youth should sign up no later than May 15 so that tickets can be ordered. The cost is

\$30/pp if we register 15 people.

Youth and families participating in the pilgrimage this summer should keep an eye on their email and Christogram as we schedule some formation activities ahead of the trip.

Have a wonderful month!

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Pulse of the Parish

Good Morning. My name is (Mike Sirany/Chris Huntley) 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, April 17th.

- The Vestry had a vibrant discussion about Chapter 2 of the book, "The Agile Church: Spirit-led Innovation in an Uncertain Age," written by The Rev. Dwight Zscheile.
- The monthly financial reports were reviewed. Our income from offerings and building use are ahead of budget projections. Expenses were lower than budgeted, resulting in our being in the black for the month. For the year we remain in the black, and overall, our cash flow is in good shape.
- The Vestry continued our discussion of our Goals and Dreams for this year, and projecting out five years. We narrowed our focus to particular issues and efforts and split into teams, volunteering to lead the efforts to complete these tasks. More information in regard to these efforts will be shared in the coming weeks.
- The Vestry began making plans for our Pentecost brunch, following the Together at 9:30 Eucharist on Sunday, June 4th.
- The Vestry heard about the initial efforts made by the Finance Team in putting together a financial campaign to create a Reserve Account for the parish's Technology Systems. As the Finance Team and Vestry make these plans more concrete, a detailed description will be provided to the parish.
- 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 clean-up of the trash in the cloverleaf, thrown by drivers entering Highway 36.
 - For all those sidewalk snow shovelers who volunteered this year to keep our walkways clear of ice and snow.
 - For all who volunteered, worked to create, and participated in our very special Holy Week liturgies, including but not limited to the: acolytes, lectors, LEMs, choir, altar guild, staff, and clergy.

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

Submitted by Allison Jensen

St. Christopher's Giving Garden will be planted soon on the south side of the church. With God's help, rain, and the work of many hands, vegetables will emerge from the combination of sun, soil and seeds. We strive to make our garden environmentally friendly by using organic compost.



And with only a mile between the church and the Roseville location of Keystone Food Shelf, the carbon footprint of our harvest is much smaller than that of foods that must travel farther to our hungry neighbors.

The Green Team invites everyone to take a few turns tending the garden, by weeding, watering and, later in the season, harvesting. Perhaps one or two could offer to deliver the harvest, as the Food Shelf drop-off hours, Monday through Friday, 9 to 4, are not convenient for everyone.

Find your role, be green and help meet our mission of feeding the hungry. Watch for a sign-up sheet!

Last Words

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

Please keep your eyes out for information about a new **Picture Directory**. Barb Swanson has stepped up to help manage the planning - thanks, Barb! We'll be getting pictures taken **June 15-17**, so please keep those dates open.

I'll have to convince Lincoln to sit up for his Directory shot - here he is using my foot for a pillow.



My cat thinks I'm a pillow, too - here's Geordie:



Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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