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Issue #49

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

We are busy around here in November! And what a blessing it is to be such an active and vibrant faith community within ECMN. First and foremost up on the calendar is our Silent Auction Soiree and bidding jungle on the 5th and 6th of November. This is a fundraiser, with all proceeds going to the Mission Opportunity Grant Fund, from which many of our missional efforts are funded. Please come on Saturday and enjoy the fine appetizers and aperitifs and bid on your favorite items and events! Don't forget to come back on Sunday to "guard" those items you so want to have and bid them up!!! We will also have raffle tickets for our libations table and gift card trees! Buy lots of those tickets too!!! This is going to be a fun and life-giving-event-to-St-Christopher's! Please come and enjoy our community and help us continue in our missional efforts.

On Tuesday the 8th, we will be welcoming all those folks who are coming to St. Christopher's to vote. We have opportunities for people to volunteer to hand out coffee, breakfast treats, water, and cookies throughout the day. Please sign up on the board located in the upper narthex, or call Ruth Thillen, our Parish Administrator to volunteer. We expect long lines and lots of people voting, so being hospitable to our neighbors is the call of the day!

On Sunday, October 30th, we had an "Ingathering" of Pledges for our 2017 program year. If you haven't gotten your pledge in yet, please mail it today. If you misplaced your pledge card, please call Ruth in the office and let her know what your pledge is for next year: she will provide you with a confirmation for your records. Our Finance Team needs your pledge so that a finalized 2017 Program

NOVEMBER 2016



Meet
Christ
Be Christ

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

2300 Hamline Ave N
Roseville, MN 55113
651-633-4589
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
Marion Hunner,
Children's Ministries

Year Budget can be confirmed. Please save your Finance Team and Vestry the phone call asking for your pledge by getting it in very soon.

Our annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner will be on Wednesday the 23rd, the day before Thanksgiving. We are taking reservations so that we know how much food to prepare, so please call the office if you plan on attending, and please invite those who you think might like to attend to come to this free and festive meal.

Our calendar is quite full, with a number of groups and organizations renting various spaces from us. Please call the office if you want to use one of our spaces and you are not already on the calendar. None of us can presume that there is a space at the inn without a reservation.

And speaking of No Vacancy signs, Advent starts at the end of this month! (How did that roll around so quickly?) This short season of preparing for Jesus' coming among us is such a special time in the life of our community and the Church in general. We will be exploring this as we walk through Advent together, but in the meantime, I pray that all of us walk together in love and peace as we close out our Church calendar year, and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

God's Blessings and Peace,



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

I was asked the other day what would replace all the political advertisements on the airwaves once the election was over. I responded "Christmas!" and I am afraid that will be true. It is hard to make your way into any mall or shop these days without seeing the familiar red, green and white decorations that let everyone know they are to be in full Christmas mode! Toys, cards, decorations, goodies, you name it and the Christmas themed version is on display for your consumption. Sad, because I always feel that we miss not only some of what makes Advent such a rich time in our liturgical year (more on that next time), but we also

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

Gifts of Hope:

seem to gloss over the fun of Halloween, the joy of All Saints, and the warmth and fellowship that is Thanksgiving.

For the past few years we have been offering, on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, a full, traditional Thanksgiving feast for our community dinner. The dinner is one of the best-attended meals of the year, and is the only time we serve buffet style. This allows our guests to pick and chose those Thanksgiving favorites, light or dark meat, and which of the sides, and how much do they want. The first year, one guest commented to me that their plate seemed loaded down with all that we had to offer and I replied, then, it was a proper Thanksgiving plate. Because who among us has not fallen prey to our eyes being just a bit bigger than our stomachs? Let's face it; Thanksgiving is just that kind of day! And we always have plenty of food for leftovers for our guests to take home.

This dinner, above all the others, is an open door to anyone who may be looking for community as well as a great meal. If you are going to be alone, if you and your friends would like the fellowship without the prep work and dishes, if you are big fan of Thanksgiving and just want a second turkey dinner with all the trimmings, whatever your reason may be, you are welcome at our table!

Thanksgiving is time for food, conversation, laughter, and above all, community. We are planning on "getting stuffed!" We will be serving a great meal with all the trimmings, great conversation and great community on **Wednesday, November 23rd**, starting at 5:30 and serving until 6:30. We invite you to join us at the table as we give thanks for all of our blessings!

Amen,
Deacon Janet

Music Notes



Karla Cole,
Music Director

We were recently privileged to celebrate the life of Mattie Abdullai with her family and friends; and the choir was especially honored to be asked by Samuel to sing at the funeral. I only knew Mattie as the lovely lady with a hat and a beautiful smile. Most of you knew her better than I, so I will not attempt to eulogize her for you, but I would like to share my experience of her funeral.

Would you like to sponsor an entire family?

Gifts of Hope is a program run by Keystone Community Services. They select several client families who are in particular need of help at the holidays, and typically St. Christopher's will sponsor 3-4 of those families.

We make a display where our parishioners may choose to purchase one or several gifts as part of this program. We will do the same thing this year, however, last year there was interest from several of our St. Christopher's families to sponsor an entire Keystone family.

If you are interested in sponsoring an entire family (roughly a \$250 commitment), please contact Marion before **November 1st**. She will request a family of whatever size you choose for you to sponsor. You will then be given their wish lists and asked to bring the items to church by the deadline - usually a week or

Oh my goodness, there were more than 500 people there. The parish hall had been set up and the hundred or so folks downstairs could only hear the service, but that didn't hinder their participation. Upstairs, people filled the chairs and spilled over into the aisles and out into the narthex. They were fervent in their expressions of love and grief and overwhelmingly responsive in their prayer and song. The congregation seemed like one enormous organic body as they began to sing, finding their own tempo (I harbor no illusions that I was leading any of their singing!) and practically shaking the rafters. The family had asked for certain hymns and songs - none of them from the comfortable blue hymnal - most of them from the 19th century - and the choir and I had prepared the music, working for authenticity in a genre we haven't widely experienced. We also brought some spirituals and gospel songs of our own, but it was the congregational singing that was so amazing, and that I will never forget. If you've read my musings over the years, you know that I get wound up about congregational singing and the physical, psychological and emotional responses that singing together invokes. I can't think of a better example of what congregational singing could be than the incredibly beautiful singing at Mattie's funeral.

I found that I did know most of the hymns already, coming as I do from the Bible Belt. One in particular, *Come, Ye Disconsolate* is found in the hymnal of my youth, so I must have sung it at some point, and I keep hearing it, even all these weeks later. It was written by the Irish poet, Thomas Moore, the Irish knowing a thing or two about suffering and loss. It was set to a simple tune, which allowed the elegant Irish melancholy of the text to be appreciated. And when 500 people sing it in unison, you cannot help but feel the pathos.

*Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish,
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;
earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.*

Thomas Moore studied the law at Trinity College in Dublin, but was not permitted to graduate because he was a Catholic. In the end, he decided to devote himself to his literary skills and his 1809 collection titled *Irish Melodies* earned him the moniker of the "Voice of Ireland" and the mantle of the Scottish poet, Robert Burns. Today, he is perhaps best known for a couple of songs - *The Last Rose of Summer* and *Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms*. The former was set by composers as varied as Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Britten. In recent years, it has been recorded by the Irish flutist, James Galway, as well as The Celtic Women, Charlotte Church and the Irish Tenors. If you watch PBS specials, you've heard it. *Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms* would be known by children of all ages in that time before Looney Tunes were deemed too violent for Saturday mornings. Bugs Bunny is picking out the melody on a piano that has very obviously been wired to blow up by Yosemite Sam. Bugs keeps

two before
Christmas.

NOVEMBER Calendar Highlights

- 2 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist**
-Chapel
- 6:15 PM Bell**
Choir-Balcony
- 6:15 PM Youth Group** - Youth Room
- 7:15 PM Choir** - Music Room

- 3 9:30AM-3:30PM ECMN**
*Pre-Advent
Clergy Retreat -
Parish Hall,
Chapel*

- 5 5:00 PM Small Bites/
Big Bids!**
Silent Auction

- 6 8 AM Holy Eucharist**
9 AM - Noon
Silent Auction
Bidding
Continues
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

- 8 Election Day**
Voting in Parish Hall 7 AM-8 PM

- 9 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist**
-Chapel
- 6:15 PM Bell**
Choir-Balcony
- 6:15 PM Youth Group** - Youth Room
- 7 PM Green**

attempting to find the highest note in the phrase, playing it incorrectly over and over again, frustrating Sam, who is hovering in the background. Eventually, Sam can't take it anymore, rushes in and shoves Bugs aside, playing the tune quickly and perfectly - and Blam! That's what became of the works of Thomas Moore. We're not always very respectful of that which came before.

When I started writing this piece, I would have guessed that *Believe Me* had been written by the American composer, Stephen Foster, he of *My Old Kentucky Home* and *Oh! Susannah*. From our lofty position in the 21st century, we often take a rather dismissive attitude toward a lot of music from the 19th and early 20th centuries. I'll cop to that. I'm guilty. Our ears have been challenged and stretched so much further than theirs and we enjoy a greater complexity in phrasing and harmony. But in dismissing the simpler music, we shouldn't overlook the texts, because our humanity and timeless truths reside there. And there is beauty to the poetry, an elegance to the language that we sometimes lack in our age of simplification, quick soundbites and 140 character tweets. At Mattie's funeral, we reveled in song, the easily managed tunes, the poetic language, the timeless messages. Through music and the wisdom of the hymn writers, we remind ourselves of the love and faithfulness of God. Truly, earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal.

Karla Cole

Silent Auction

It is finally here!

The doors will open at **5 PM** ('til 8 PM) for the **Small Bites/Big Bids** and **Silent Auction** on Saturday, **November 5th**. The Auction will continue until 12 noon on Sunday, November 6, with the drawing of the winners for the raffle. Tickets for the Small Bites/Big Bids will be available at the door: adult tickets will be \$12.00; and \$25.00 for a family.



Reminder the last Drop-Off date of donated items is:
Wednesday, Nov. 2nd from 5 PM until 7 PM
in the Parish Hall.

Remember, the Auction benefits our Mission Opportunities, and many have given their time, talent and treasures to make this a fun and enjoyable event. The phrase for these days will be "**Bid high and Bid often!**" Let's have a great time.



Team-Parish Hall
7:15 PM Choir
- Music Room

10 1:00 PM
Knitting-
Library

11 6:30 PM
Couples Bridge-
Parish Hall

**13 8 AM Holy
Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy
Eucharist**

14 5:30 PM
Finance
Committee-
Parish Hall

16 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
Room

7:15 PM Choir
- Music Room

**20 8 AM Holy
Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy
Eucharist**

21 6:45 PM Vestry-
Parish Hall

23 5:30 PM
**Thanksgiving
Community
Dinner**
-Parish Hall
**5:30 PM Youth
Group-Dinner/
Youth Rm**



Footprints November 2016



News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

November 5th - The Silent Auction Small Bites/Big Bids event is a family friendly event for the whole congregation! Many of our items are events, and they fill up fast. Come on Saturday to reserve your place!

Christmas Card Contest - EEK! Did I just write "Christmas," immediately after Halloween? I hate it when the stores do that! But, time is of the essence, so yes, I'm talking Christmas already. Each year we invite the children (Pk - 5th grade) to submit artwork for our Christmas Card. One drawing will be chosen to adorn the front of the St. Christopher's Christmas Card, which is mailed to all families in our faith community. The card is mailed at the beginning of Advent, and it tells families about all of the services during Advent and Christmas. Since the card is mailed so early, the entries for the contest are due on Sunday, November 13. We ask the children to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and Advent, and then to draw a picture to represent this very special time. We encourage LOTS of color! You can use crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc. Forms will be available in the classrooms and the Upper Narthex beginning Sunday, November 6th.



24 Thanksgiving Day
10 AM Holy Eucharist

25 Office Closed

27 Advent I
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

28

e-Traveler Deadline

29 Meals on Wheels - Offsite

30 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
-Chapel
6:15 PM Youth Group-Youth Rm
6:15 PM Bell Choir-Balcony
7:15 PM Choir - Music Room

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!



Sunday, November 20th - Intergenerational Faith Formation Children, Youth, and Adults will meet in the Parish Hall at 9:30. All are welcome! The youth are planning a display for our Gifts of Hope donation drive. They will bring their plan to the event and have all of us work together to prepare the display. Please come support both our youth and the Keystone Gifts of Hope program.

Community Dinner:

Thanksgiving Meal on Wednesday, November 23rd !
Please consider joining the Community Dinner either as a helper or a guest. This is the largest Community Dinner, and we cater to those hungry for both food and community. Guests should make a reservation with the office, and helpers should contact RJ Duff.

Youth News



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

Phew! There are a *lot* of opportunities for youth to explore their spirituality during the month of November. You are invited to get some -- or all -- of these events on your kitchen calendar!

YOUTH GROUP

We will be gathering on November 2, 9, 16, 23 (Community Dinner Thanksgiving) & 30. All are welcome!

HIGH SCHOOL TEC RETREAT

We have two members of our youth group who have signed up to be on Team for the St. Paul TEC weekend coming up November 11-13 at St. John the Evangelist in St. Paul (and Chad will be

working on the Kitchen Team). If you are interested in TEC or just want to learn a little more about it, please ask Chad. We'd love to have a strong St. Christopher's showing!

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

The TEC-equivalent for middle school students will be offered the following weekend, November 18-19, at Church of the Nativity in Burnsville. You can sign up by going to this link: www.tinyurl.com/pretecfall2016. If some youth want to go, Chad will join them and arrange transportation. There are two of these diocesan retreats each year and we will be hosting the second one at St. Christopher's in April. It would be wonderful to get some of our group on this one so that we can be ready to host in the spring. Let Chad know if you want to go!

PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION/MEETING

Our pilgrimage to sacred sites from the Civil Rights Movement is scheduled for July 7-20, 2017. We will have our next teen/adult pilgrimage meeting on Sunday, November 20 immediately after the 10:30AM service. We will meet in the Youth Room. We are aware of football needs and will make it a quick meeting; this will be an opportunity for us to talk about several logistics of the trip: fundraising, important meetings that Deacon Janet and I were able to arrange for our group, partnering with other faith communities, etc. If you/your teen are planning to go, please submit a \$100 check by this November 20 meeting date -- or bring it with you. Please note that this money is fully refundable until all of the final details of the trip have been made. If you really want your son/daughter to participate but are anxious about the financial commitment, please contact me so that we can help make this happen for him/her!

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Pulse of the Parish

Good Morning. I serve 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, October 17th.

- The monthly financial report was reviewed. Budgeted income is below expectations due to the kitchen not being more robustly used by renters. Our budgeted expenses for the month and year are below expectations and our financial situation remains as has been 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 discussed the status of the Silent Auction, the Stewardship Campaign, and the creation of our yearly Nominating Committee for new Vestry members.
- The Vestry were told about, and discussed, the offer of St. Christopher's being a site for parking during next year's State Fair. We will be paid \$100 per day for use of our facility. The Fair managers make accommodations for churches so that on Sundays, and other days when our parking lot is needed, the lot will not be open to the public until after our needs are concluded. There is a possibility that St. Christopher's can receive a donation equaling twice what will be paid if we supply some of the volunteers needed to supervise the lot. The Vestry will re-visit this issue in the next few months.
- The Vestry approved an application process to host the Mardi Gras Fundraiser. The Vestry will determine the recipient of the proceeds of the event. Applicants must be participants in a group within St. Christopher's. Applications and more information will be made available in November.
- The Vestry would like to recognize the following people in our "Shout-outs" for the work they have recently done for our parish:
 - For all the volunteers who worked at Mattie Abdullai's funeral
 - For our Music Director Karla Cole and the choir, for being present at Mattie's funeral
 - For all who contributed to the LED bulb fundraiser
 - For the Giving Garden team for all the fresh vegetables donated to Keystone this year. We donated over 700 pounds of fresh produce to our neighbors in need!
 - For the youth who assisted in raising money for the Standing Rocks Sacred Stone Compound Kitchen

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

Habitat for Humanity 2016

This was our "last hurrah" -- our 26th year working on Habitat houses with St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Our Work Week was September 26-30, framing a new house at 1282 Clarence Street in St. Paul.

This year, our part of the crew were:

Cheryl Bailey	Dan Humes	Jean Crow
Dave Ingram	Harold Danley	Joe Fear
Barb Jordahl	Jay Jordahl	Carl Kuhl
Andy Gerst	Gary Gerst	Ray Gerst

John Trapnell

We served our usual good food on Thursday and Friday. Those who worked or contributed were:

Peggy Barker	Karin Brown	Sally Brown
Pamela Case	Kathy Curtis	Barb Danley
Karen Gerst	Judith Goff	Joan Ingram
Becky Lucas	Steph Mann	Ebie Richards

It has been a great run, with so many wonderful volunteers from St. Christopher's over the years. Many thanks for a job well done!

--Ebie Richards

Green Team

The giving garden is cleaned up and ready for next year. How many pounds of food did it produce for Keystone?

- A. 804
- B. 707
- C. 250
- D. 378



If you answered **B** you are correct! We donated 707 lbs of food. Thanks to everyone who helped plant, water, weed, harvest and pray for rain.

Speaking of food, it is staggering how much food is wasted. 1/3 of all food produced worldwide gets lost in wasted food. In the United States, 30% of the food supply is wasted. Organic waste is the 2nd highest component of the landfills which results in the largest source of methane emission.

What can we do? We can.....

THINK - be a smart shopper and think about what you are buying at the grocery store and when it will be eaten

EAT - become a mindful eater

SAVE - become a conscious consumer

We can also compost our food waste. Many Ramsey County compost sites accept organic wastes including vegetables, fruits, meats, poultry, fish, bones, grains, dairy, egg shells, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, etc. The sites are open year round.

We are excited to try and increase our giving garden donations next year. In the meantime, let's think about how we can all reduce our food waste.

--Jean Crow

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the November *e-Traveler*. While I was working on this issue, I heard snoring. I walked around the desk to find this sleepy boy:



He didn't really want to be bothered, but he put up a paw to be "held." He is a silly boy!

I am thankful this season for Lincoln, for Fr. John who brings him to keep the office happy, and for all of you, spreading the Good News to Roseville and beyond. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2300 Hamline Ave N
Roseville, MN 55113
office@stchristophers-mn.org
651-633-4589

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