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St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #59

SEPTEMBER 2017

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector



Meet Christ
Be Christ

Welcome Back to our 2017-18 Program Year!

There are three distinct areas for my article this month, and finding no way to tie them together in a nice poetic fashion, they are simply presented separately....

Worship is Important

Labor Day is September 4th, which marks, for many, the non-official end of summer. The great Minnesota get-together ends that day, as does our filled-to-over-flowing-parking-lot from all the Fairgoers who utilized our lot for their Park and Ride experience. A few parishioners commented that "Gee, wouldn't it be nice to see the parking lot this full for both services each Sunday?" I, of course, responded, "Yes it would!" This picks up on a theme many of my clergy colleagues and I have been discussing of late. We all have parishioners, and families, that tell us they love our church, our programs, our worship and music, and yet come, maybe, once a month. Their pledges are up to date, but their attendance is spotty. This is not just a St. Christopher's issue, or an ECMN issue, it is church-wide... and not just limited to The Episcopal Church.

An acquaintance of mine said to me recently, "We Episcopalians have made it too easy for people to skip Church! There's no sin or guilt in not showing up, so folks just skip without any repercussions!" I chuckled and moved the conversation in another direction. But his statement has stuck with me.

One of the most important reasons to participate in corporate worship is the gift of time we give ourselves to consciously remember God's loving presence in our lives. So often, we allow our busyness to take precedence over our attendance at worship. And in so doing, we start to equate worship with work: another thing we have to do. And so we skip that *gift*, because we equate it to something else on our calendar, something expendable.

We need to tell ourselves, and others, that worship is not work. Worship is actually a pause in our work: a time of refreshment and rejuvenation and joy and wonder. It is not a waste of time when we could have been responding to an email or reading the newspaper or running that next errand. By giving ourselves that gift of time to

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Cindy Lee,
Jr. Warden
Ann DePaolis-Jones,
Clerk
Suzanne Hitchcock,
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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

remember God's love for us, we are also then continuing our work of becoming the love-oriented and love-centered people Jesus calls us to be as his followers.

Worship helps us be healthy. Without giving ourselves this gift of time, we all too easily, and often without realizing, slip into not being able to cope as well with issues in our lives, our relationships with people become harder and more challenging, and our focus becomes the transitory, instead of that which is important and should be the center of our focus.

Corporate worship is important. We support each other, and our true selves, when we celebrate with joy and imagination the deep and abiding love God has for us, and that we see in each other, as well as the stranger whom we help. Remember this Program Year that coming to St. Christopher's to worship isn't work, but is a healthy and soul-filling opportunity, giving us the wherewithal to do all of the work of our individual lives.

Start-Up Sunday: a/k/a "Mission, Ministry, and Mini-Bites"

Sunday, September 10th, following our last 9:30 Eucharist, we will have our Mission, Ministry, and Mini-Bites festival. Come and chat about all the great things St. Christopher's has done this past Program Year, and what the plans are for this new Program Year. This truly is a time of celebration and excitement about what was, and what will be! The following Sunday, the 17th, will mark our return to two Sunday Eucharistic services: at 8:00 and 10:30, with Formation opportunities between the services. If anyone, or any group, wants a table to "represent to the community," please call Ruth in the office, or speak with me, and we will make sure there is space available!

Our Sewer Line

There is no easy or nice way to say this, so: our sewer line is failing and needs to be replaced. Many will remember the recurrent problems with back-ups in our sewer system. We have had an extensive review of the system and there are many problems, which unfortunately begin underneath our lower narthex. The 4-inch cast iron pipe has a "belly" extending the entire length of the lower narthex. A "belly" is a depression making passage through the pipe challenging, as well as causing stress on the pipe leading to breaks in the pipe. We are told that this belly has a large amount of "standing water" resident within it.

When the line leaves the building, it takes a ninety-degree turn toward Hamline Avenue and continues under the grass to the newly-unearthed manhole cover near the door at the west end of the building ("the choir door"), and from there joins another line from our building, and goes on an angle out to the Hamline Avenue line. There are multiple issues on the outside line.

After the line leaves the building and turns sharply toward Hamline, there is another 20 foot long belly. Ten feet beyond that, there is a separation in the pipe. After the line passes the recently uncovered manhole cover, there are two more substantial bellies. We have been told the system is near collapsing. This failure of the sewer line system is due to nothing more than age, and therefore there is no possibility for insurance to cover any of the costs associated with replacement. Cast iron has a life span of approximately 50 years. Ours has lasted a lot longer than its expected serviceability.

The Vestry is waiting on the second bid for the replacement of the entire system: with work starting underneath the lower narthex and continuing out to Hamline Avenue. This is a complicated and extensive project: interior work including, but not limited to, concrete work, tile, carpet, shutting off of water and sewer, bringing in port-a-potties and water; and exterior, digging out a new line,

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

(2nd & 4th)

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



Summer food collection - May through August - was a total of 170 pounds.

Thanks to all for their donations.

-Pamela Case

Knitting Update

insulating it with sand and stone, covering it with dirt, new asphalt and parking stall striping. We are told the job should take 10 to 14 business days to complete. The cost of the project is substantial. The first bid received is \$225,000. The vestry is waiting on the second bid prior to making any decisions, although we recognize that the work can only be done and completed before the first frost or next spring after the possibility of frost has past.

To pay for this project the Vestry is looking at the following options: pay for it from our investments (which currently stand at \$390,000); and asking for donations from parishioners who have the capability in helping pay a portion of this project. No decisions have been made, except for the reality that this work has to be done prior to the system failing, which would be catastrophic to the operations and sustainability of St. Christopher's.

Your Vestry will keep you advised as more information is received.

God's Blessings and Peace,



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

The lady pulled her car into the waiting spot just a little after 9:00am, got out, hustled over to me, and said, "The lot I always park in was full, and I didn't know what I was going to do, and suddenly I saw your sign and the gentleman flagging people in, and I was so happy! Where am I by the way?" "Welcome" I replied, "You are at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, and we are so happy that you found us!"

It was a beautiful Thursday morning. One of those late summer mornings where the air is just a little cooler than it had been, the humidity is low, and the sun is brilliant. It was a glorious morning for Bill and me to join Pete Lee, Bruce Warkentien, and our fearless leader, Don Shiek, for the first day of St. Christopher's being a Park and Ride site for the State Fair. The lady who asked where she was came at the right time; shortly after she arrived we had a full lot, and a line of folks waiting for the bus(es) to arrive and take them to the Great Minnesota Get Together. And while the buses could have been a bit more prompt, which would have made the lines a bit shorter, everyone was in a great mood and just happy to have found a place to park and ride. And we had a marvelous opportunity to practice what we in the church refer to as "radical hospitality."

We have had the great opportunity to have people on our campus, to meet and greet them and engage in conversation even if it was about corn dogs, mini doughnuts and the giant slide. This was our chance to put a public face on St. Christopher's, in the most positive of ways. In a conversation I had with Don a few days

Knitting will resume
Thursday
September 14th, at
1 pm in the library.

Please call Pamela
651-633-5749 if
interested.

Hurricane Response

Please continue to keep all those impacted by this devastating hurricane in your prayers. Please consider sharing your resources with those desperately in need. Please continue to be a part of God's grace showing up with those who need to feel the loving arms of Christ wrap around them.

[The Hurricane Harvey Response Fund of Episcopal Relief and Development:](#)

*(Underlined portion
above is the link)*

is receiving donations to provide emergency assistance to people recovering from the impact of flooding after this major storm. Please reach out and help those who have lost so much.

later, when we were well into the swing of things, he commented that so many of the people, especially young families, were so grateful for the safe, secure and free place to leave their car while they enjoyed the fair. And it was FUN!

It is important to be reminded from time to time that engaging in God's mission outside the doors of the church can take all forms and shapes. Make no mistake about it, Park and Ride is a missional activity. This has allowed us to connect with our neighbors in an unexpected and unique way, and I am so grateful for the opportunity that we were given. Seriously, keep this in mind: for a great time of meeting and greeting neighbors, join the State Fair Parking Team!

Summer is almost over; soon it will Labor Day, the fair will close, and we will all return to our "regular" routines. We will return to our regularly scheduled two services, our choir comes out of the pews and into the stalls, Sunday School and Youth Group resume, as does most of our parish life. As always, I welcome the return of those things and very much look forward to seeing you all once again.

Amen, Deacon Janet

Music Notes



Karla Cole,
Music Ministries Director

The traffic in Roseville is crazy just now, the lines at Target are long, and the weather has a distinct tinge of fall to it - must be time to start the choirs up again! I've been sifting through potential music, and Karen, the Choir Mum, and I have been tidying the choir library. We're almost ready to host the first rehearsal of the new season. New members are always welcome! Just call or email, or even just show up on Wednesday at 7:15. We're a nice bunch of folks!

The handbell choir is a little tougher to just up and join. While you don't technically need to read music to get started, you will learn along the way. See me or a bell choir member if you're interested.

We've changed the schedule a little for this year. The choir won't be singing an anthem on the second Sunday of the month. Instead, the handbell choir will play a little more often, and our own St. Christopher's instrumentalists will have the opportunity to play as well. Over the next few weeks, I will be connecting folks with music to learn and dates to play. If you have something in mind, please let me know. If you played an instrument in the dim, distant past, pull it back out and start practicing. There is quite a lot of "flex music" in print now - for disparate groups of instruments, all tied together with a keyboard. There are also Orff arrangements for music readers - to enjoy playing with the xylophones and metallophones. It should result in some beautiful sounds and fun music-making. Let me know if you're interested in playing. If I don't hear from you, I'll come and find you!!

Karla Cole



Footprints SEPTEMBER 2017



News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director



Many thanks to those who donated to our School Supply Drive.

I was honored to deliver to Keystone: 9 grocery bags of school supplies, 28 backpacks (some full of supplies), and a full grocery cart of supplies that I purchased with our

\$130 in monetary donations. This is the most that I have delivered since I began doing this - way to go, St. Christopher's!

As we approach the beginning of a new school year, please note that our final Together@9:30 service on Sunday, Sept 10, will be followed by a light brunch and Ministry Fair. Registration for Sunday School (age 4 - 5th grade) will begin then, and this is a great chance to learn about the many opportunities at St. Christopher's. Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 17th.

Mark Your Calendars:



Saturday, October 28th, is the annual All Parish Hayride at Bunker Hills Stables in Andover. Meet at the stables at 4 pm. The wagons leave at 4:30, and we will have a potluck dinner & bonfire following the hayride. **Sign-up will be available on Sundays beginning September 10th.**

Youth News



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

Well, I heard Paul Douglas announce that September is the start of meteorological fall (and weather forecasters are always right) so here's wishing a Happy Autumn to you all! With the arrival of fall come many questions about what the upcoming programming year will entail. I hope this article comes bearing answers to those questions that you may have.

This year you will see lots of familiar activities. We will still gather at 9:30 AM on Sunday morning. It is a great time to wake up before engaging in our 10:30 AM liturgy! We will also gather for youth group on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays from 6:15 PM-7:45 PM. We moved our time from last year so that those with musical inklings can have some time at youth group AND practicing with Karla. Speaking of which, if you are interested in Bell Choir this year, please reach out to Karla! Finally, on the last Thursday of the month, we will be supporting our Community Dinner through serving food, cleaning up, welcoming guests, etc. This year, to be sure that we have enough volunteers, I will be asking families to commit to being present during the months that work best for them. I will be sending out an email shortly asking for your availability. Thank you, in advance, for your support of this great ministry! Additionally, and this is an exciting new addition this year, we are going to be doing some joint youth group gatherings with our friends at St. John the Evangelist in St. Paul. Be on the lookout for more information about this.

In addition to our regular meetings, please also get TEC on your calendars. Fall TEC will be held November 10-12 and Spring TEC April 13-15 (both at St. John's in St. Paul). All high school youth are encouraged to participate, either as a 1st time participant or team member, as it is a beautiful collaboration from people all over the metro area and a chance to see the "bigger Church." Those preparing for Confirmation will be required to attend one of these two retreats.

There will also be a peer ministry retreat January 19-21 for 10th-12th grade students looking to build leadership skills. It will be held at Ascension in Stillwater, and is a collaborative effort by youth ministers throughout the metro area.

As you can surely tell, I have tried to condense a lot of information in the space above so that you can start to get those family calendars filled in -- but, as always, please reach out if you need any clarifications.

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Silent Auction Update

After three years of excellent leadership, co-chairs Julie Shiek and Cynthia Verhey are stepping down from leading the annual Silent Auction. Many thanks for all of their phenomenal work!

The Vestry discussed this at our last meeting, and we wholeheartedly concur that the Silent Auction is a very important event in our church year, fostering much fellowship and creativity in our community, and raising important resources for our Mission Opportunities. In order to do this, we need volunteers to step up to do the work of running and administering the auction. Support and guidance will be provided.

As we seek new volunteers to step up for this year, the Vestry considered possible ways of making the Silent Auction event more streamlined and focused, so that it could be even simpler to administer for the new co-chairs.

In the past few years, donations of parties and social events have grown stronger and have generated more and more of the

proceeds that we use towards so many important mission opportunities. Our gift card and wine/beer raffles have also grown in popularity and revenue. One suggestion would be to possibly focus the Silent Auction offerings on parties and social events. Like last year, we would like to host a festive Saturday evening wine and appetizer bidding party, which will also include our popular gift card trees and wine/beer selection raffles.

Also please consider hosting a new social event this year - we encourage you to think creatively about offering fun and fellowship gatherings.

Please let Fr. John or the Wardens know if you would be willing to give some of your time to this important and fun event!

Community Dinner Mission Update

St. Christopher's monthly Community Dinner is a flourishing outreach and welcoming ministry for us. Each month, we welcome our neighbors to join us for food, community and conversation.

Around these tables, we connect and engage, strengthening the ties to our own surrounding community, and providing much more than simple nourishment.

Our Community Dinner team is an amazing group of collaborative and dedicated parishioners. Head cooks Vant and Maureen plan and prepare an array of wonderful meals.



Our mighty team of volunteer kitchen preparers, servers, table hosts, greeters, table setters and clean-up crew work together with scheduler Connie Hendrick to plan, prepare and serve the meal and clean up afterwards. Our 'Mary' table hosts join guests at each table to engage and connect directly with our guests. Deacon Janet is actively involved in this ministry, including her ongoing coordination with the Roseville school district to identify families and immigrants in need and connect them with our dinner program.

We welcome one and all, including families and quite a few elderly singles. Each month, we serve an average of around 35 guests hot, hearty meals (except for a few cold meals in the hot days of summer). Our Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holiday meals have served two or three times that amount. We also provide many second helpings and to-go meals, helping those in need to make ends meet as the end of the month nears. Based on Second Harvest Heartland counting and reporting guidelines, we maintain a detailed count each month of the meals served, plus the seconds and to-go boxes.

Many of our guests have joined us regularly since the beginning, yet we also see an increasing number of new attendees each month. We see relationships forming around the tables at each monthly gathering.

I have been a team volunteer since the dinners started, and I truly value the opportunity to be a part of this mission. I am heartened when I run into our guests at the grocery store or library, which happens on a regular basis. This clearly confirms that St. Christopher's is truly engaging with our neighbors in the community that surrounds us.

--Cindy Lee

Green Team



Next meeting September 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
All are welcome!

SEPTEMBER Calendar Highlights

STATE FAIR PARKING through September 4!

- 3 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**
- 4 LABOR DAY** Office Closed
- 6 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** - Chapel
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room
- 10 START UP SUNDAY**
Together@9:30 Holy Eucharist
"Mission, Ministry and Mini-Bites" Reception
- 11 5:30 PM** Finance Committee - Parish Hall
- 13 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** - Chapel
4:15 PM Staff Meeting - Office
6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony
6:30 PM Youth Group - Youth Room
7:00 PM Green Team - Parish Hall
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room
- 14 1:00 PM** Knitting - Library
- 15 1:00 PM** Women's Bridge- Gathering Room
6:30 PM Couples Bridge - Parish Hall
- 17 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist**
9:30 AM Education for All
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 18 6:45 PM** Vestry - Parish Hall
- 19 Meals on Wheels** - Offsite
- 20 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** - Chapel
6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony
6:30 PM Youth Group - Youth Room
7:00 PM Green Team - Parish Hall
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room
- 24 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist**
9:30 AM Education for All
9:30 AM Adult Forum - Chapel
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 25 e-Traveler** Deadline
- 27 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** - Chapel
4:15 PM Staff Meeting - Office
6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony
7:00 PM Green Team - Parish Hall
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room
- 28 5:30 PM Community Dinner** - Parish Hall
5:30 PM Youth Group - Dinner

Please note: Outside-group use of the building has not been listed here. We now have music lessons Monday through Saturday, and ongoing kitchen use. Please check the calendar in the office before scheduling a meeting or event; *please also check* that the kitchen is available to do prep work for an already scheduled event! Our weekly building-use calendar is quite busy!

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the September **e-Traveler**. As I write, we are experiencing our first day of State Fair parking. The west portion of our lot filled up quickly between 9:00 and 9:45 am. (I should have commissioned someone to bring me back some cotton candy. Maybe next time!) :)

Here's a great shot of Lincoln that Fr. John got while I was on vacation. Lincoln wanted me to know that he was not happy I was away. I missed him, too!



Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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