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Issue #41

March 2016

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

We have three full weeks of Lent in March, and then we roll into Holy Week and Easter. This seems early, and it is. Ash Wednesday came early, and so too does Easter. But before we get to Easter celebrations we need to remember the purpose of this season of Lent: to genuinely reflect on what kind of "fast" we are to follow. A fast does not have to mean denying ourselves of something. Instead it can easily mean taking something on that helps us reflect on what God is calling us to do in this life of ours. How do we best follow, model, Jesus in this "fast" we take on during Lent? How do we best make a foundational change in our lives that transforms us into better hands of Jesus in the world around us?

We can so easily say: "I do this, and that, and assist so and so...." And those actions are important and should not be discounted. But this season of Lent is meant to challenge us into reflecting on: whether those things we do are enough; what is the reason we are taking those actions; are they transforming us at the same time they are transforming the individual(s) whom we are in relationship during that action.

All of these active reflections can assist us to better understand and have a more transformative experience when we participate in the Holy Week liturgies, but in particular The Triduum. I know that Deacon Janet has written a comprehensive explanation of this single service, spread over three days. I want to emphasize a few things: this one service experienced over three days is not some made up, kock-a-mamee, hippie-dippie experiment. This is the



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

central liturgy of our faith, placed in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, in a prominent location, meant to emphasize the foundational importance to our faith and prayer and liturgical life.

On Maundy Thursday, we wash feet: an act that is humbling and awkward and off-putting, *something those actions are meant to be*. We are asked to do something personal, and have something personal done to us, to take us out of our comfort zone and jar us into that Last Supper moment we hear about on that evening. We also strip the chancel and nave of all liturgical elements. This is also something meant to jar and upset us: to mark this experience in a palpable way. The experience is not supposed to be pretty, or beautiful, but an experience to remind us of the shift Jesus is beginning: from being with us as a human, to being with us in a new and different way.

Good Friday, the second part of this one service experienced over three days, marks the culmination of Jesus' life and work, and the shifting of responsibility from him to all of his disciples, including us. It is another challenging and difficult service meant to remind us of this important and world-altering act of love God and Jesus offered up to all of us.

On Saturday evening is The Great Easter Vigil, where we enter in darkness, have a true service of light and fire, hear a number of scriptural stories and prayers, and then get to declare that the wait is over, that the Resurrection moment has come. This is a dramatic, beautiful, and awe-inspiring service that needs to be experienced in order to appreciate the depth and breadth of wonder it can create in us.

I commend this one service over the course of three days to all of you. The mysteries of our faith and common life together become more present when we live into great liturgies like these three days provide.

God's Blessings,



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,

Karla S. Cole,
Director of Music
Diane Elliott,
Deacon Intern
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

Thank You



Deacon

One of the gospel passages I tend to find myself in discussion over is John 12:1-11. It takes place in home of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, and is just before the final entry into Jerusalem. Mary has purchased a very expensive jar of *nard*, perfumed oil used for anointing the dead. Normally this jar would have been used for more than one person, but Mary breaks the jar open and anoints Jesus with the entire contents. Judas flies into a rage at Mary, heatedly pointing out that the cost of this very expensive jar of oil would have fed a great deal of the poor, and wouldn't that have been a much better way to spend money. (It is pointed out at this point in the reading that Judas, in his role as treasurer, had done little to ensure that all the monies gathered were in fact going to the poor.) Jesus rebukes Judas with the words,

"Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

What often gets taken out of context at this point are the words "you always have the poor with you," but those words aren't at the heart of Jesus message to Judas, and by extension to us. Mary has recognized, on some level, that things are about to come to a very bad end very soon, and she has taken steps to tend to and care for Jesus in that moment.

The placement of that passage on the Monday of Holy Week seeks to remind us that we are about to travel, through scripture and liturgy, that same journey and that we, too, need to tend to and care for Christ in this moment in time. The Holy Week liturgies, which are my favorite of all of our liturgies, provide us with the opportunity to do just that, to care for and tend to Jesus.

I have spoken before about the thing that I treasure the most in my life is time. I hold that dear to my heart, and despair when I see it running through my fingers, lost, or when I come to the all too often realization that I simply don't have enough time. Yet entering Holy Week, I find that Jesus' call to me through this gospel passage reminds me that I am to give what I treasure the most; and time spent in worship and prayer makes my journey to Easter that much more meaningful.

We are fortunate to have opportunities through all of Holy Week to join Christ as we move through the days to the cross of Good Friday. On Monday and Tuesday, there will be a healing Eucharist in the chapel, and on Wednesday we will experience once again the moving liturgy of words, light, and shadows that are *Tennabrae*. On Maundy Thursday, we move to the Triduum, the one continuous service that begins with the celebration of the Eucharist on Thursday evening, and leads through the remembrance and sorrow of Good Friday to the Great Vigil, which begins in a darkened and shadowy church where we are reminded through word and music

Words cannot express how I feel about all the love and support I have felt from our community.

Thank you all for everything... for serving the lunch for all of our friends. It was a grand celebration and everything I had hoped for.

Love, Ebie

Over 55 Club News

The Over 55 Club, at their February 2016 meeting, has decided to disband.

--Roberta Williams

March Calendar Highlights

- 1 *Meals on Wheels*
- Offsite
- 2 **11:30 AM**
SWAT Group
and guests -
Parish Hall
- 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist-Chapel**
- 6 PM** Walking
through Lent
encore - Parish
Hall
- 6:15 PM** Bell
Choir - Balcony
- 7 PM Way of the Cross and Holy Eucharist**
- Church
- 7 PM** Youth

of the great gift of God's salvation to God's people, where we are reminded of our own symbolic death to our old way of life, and our rising through the waters of baptism to our new lives, joined with Christ in God's mission for the world, and then on the first and most glorious of our Easter celebrations.

The liturgies of the Triduum are among the oldest liturgies that have survived. We know that in some cases, their origins can be traced as far back as 4th Century Jerusalem under Cyril. In other cases, of the Great Vigil and the lighting of the new fire, the threads go back much farther. These three days of worship, of caring for and tending to the passion of Christ, are among the oldest liturgies we have as Christians.

For thousands of years, we as the Body of Christ have joined together on these three most holy days to journey, and eventually celebrate, the Good News of God in Christ. And the good news for us here at St. Christopher's in 2016 is that this ancient and holiest of traditions is still here for us. We, too, can participate in the journey, in the memory and in the celebration. We, too, can take the time to tend to and care for Christ through the darkest of hours in the brightest of lights. All it takes is our time. The hustle and bustle of the world outside the doors of St. Christopher's will always be there. But the gift of the Triduum allows us to slow our pace and simply be with Christ. And all it will require of me is my time. Won't you join me?

***Amen and a blessed Holy Week to all of us,
Deacon Janet***



**March
Footprints**



**News from Children's
Ministries**



Marion Hunner
Children's Ministries Director

Gifts of Hope - This month I received thank you notes from several of the families that we sponsored last December. The notes are on the Children's Ministries bulletin board across from the Children's Library if you would like to read them.

Group-Youth
Room
7:15 PM Parish
Choir-Music
Room

5 1 PM BINGO-
Bowl-Pizza - Offsite

**6 Lent 4
8 AM Holy
Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy
Eucharist**

**9 12:15 PM Holy
Eucharist-
Chapel
6:15 PM Bell
Choir - Balcony
7 PM Way of
the Cross and
Holy Eucharist
- Church
7 PM Youth
Group-Youth
Room
7:15 PM Parish
Choir-Music
Room**

10 1:00 PM
Knitting-Library

11 6:30 PM
Couples Bridge

**13 LENT 5
8 AM Holy
Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy
Eucharist**

15 5:30 PM
Finance
Committee
-Parish Hall

**16 12:15 PM Holy
Eucharist-Chapel
6 PM** Walking
through Lent
encore - Parish
Hall



Saturday, March 5th- As part of our mission to take our gifts outside our doors, the Sunday School children will go to Episcopal Church Home to assist the residents as they play Bingo, then we will head to Midway Pro Bowl for bowling, pizza, and community building.



On Palm Sunday the children will hand out palms, once they are blessed.

The Triduum

What is the Triduum? It is one service that extends from Maundy Thursday through the Easter Vigil. We break it into three parts: Maundy Thursday (7pm), Good Friday (noon), and Easter Vigil (7pm), but it is really a journey through the last days of Jesus' life, his crucifixion, and the waiting for the resurrection. Please consider bringing your children to these services - they will be walking that journey in Sunday School on Palm Sunday, so they may enjoy seeing it unfold in this very special liturgy.



Easter Sunday we will have our traditional Easter Egg Hunt and crafts in the parish hall between the 8 and 10:30 services. Plus the Archangels Choir will sing at the 10:30 service.



Mark your calendars for summer!

St. Christopher's VBS will be July 11-15, 2016 - Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love. Registration and volunteer information will be available after Easter.



Episcopal Creative Arts Daycamp (ECAD)
at St. Mark's Cathedral

- 6:15 PM** Bell Choir - Balcony
- 7 PM** **Way of the Cross and Holy Eucharist** - Church
- 7 PM** Youth Group-Youth Room
- 7:15 PM** Parish Choir-Music Room

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

- 20 PALM SUNDAY**
- 8 AM** Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist

- 21 Monday in Holy Week**
- 6:45 PM** Vestry-Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM** Holy Eucharist with Healing - Chapel

- 22 Tuesday in Holy Week**
- 7:00 PM** Holy Eucharist with Healing - Chapel

- 23 Wednesday in Holy Week**
- 12:15 PM** Holy Eucharist-Chapel
- 6:15 PM** Bell Choir-Balcony
- 7 PM** Youth Group-Youth Room
- 7 PM** Tenebrae



Explore! Create! Adventure! Discover! More details to come, but this camp usually runs during the week that splits July/August.

Youth News



Chad O'Leary
Youth Director

Spring is in the air, and there are a lot of great youth opportunities to get on your calendar! Contact Chad with any questions or clarifications.

WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

March 2, 9, 16 & 23

We meet each Wednesday night from 7:00-8:30 PM. All are welcome!

COMPANY OF HEAVEN REHEARSALS

April 6, 13 & 20

If you are in the youth choir, please get these dates on your calendar!

SERVICE LEARNING RETREAT

March 11-13, 2016

In order to better live out the message of the Resurrection, the youth of St. Christopher's will participating in a service immersion weekend retreat through the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. If you were unable to attend the original January date but can join us this time, please contact Chad!

APPLICATIONS ARE OUT!

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC) RETREATS

April 15-17, 2016 (St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul)

An exciting opportunity is approaching for our high school youth to explore their faith in the context of the death and resurrection of Jesus (Paschal Mystery). Contact Chad if you are interested in attending of these retreats, either as a participant (first time) or team member (returning participant). Scholarship funds available to interested youth. Pick up an application near the lower level youth bulletin board.

-Church
7:15 PM Parish
Choir-Music Rm

**24 Maundy
Thursday
7 PM Holy
Eucharist**
-Church

**25 Good Friday
12 PM Good
Friday Worship**
-Church
**7 PM Way of
the Cross**
- Church

**26 Holy Saturday
7 PM The
Great Vigil
of Easter**

**27 EASTER
8 AM Holy
Eucharist**
9 AM Easter
Egg Hunt for
Children
**10:30 AM Holy
Eucharist**
11:30 AM
Easter Egg
Hunt for
Children

**29 e-Traveler
Deadline!**

**30 12:15 PM Holy
Eucharist**
-Chapel
7 PM Youth
Group-Youth
Room

**31 5:30 PM
Community
Dinner-Parish Hall**

Please note:
Outside

**SUMMER YOUTH TRIP
LAKE ITASCA STATE PARK
July 25-29, 2016**

All St. Christopher's youth (and friends!) are invited to participate in a summer trip to Lake Itasca State Park at the end of July. We will be staying in cabins within the park and will be canoeing, geocaching, and hiking. But, we will also venture out of the park to participate in a ropes course and Escape Room. We will cook our own food, have plenty of bonfires, and begin dreaming of our 2017 summer pilgrimage! Please consider joining us! Cost: \$385/pp. Registration available soon.

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

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!

Green Team News

Recycling: What's Styrofoam got to do with it?

While collecting the recycling and trash around the church one recent Sunday, we saw that people in our parish are doing well at recycling. Thank you!



In the bins were papers, cardboard, glass bottles, plastic bottles and plastic containers-great! Please note that steel and aluminum cans, foil and trays also can go in our single-stream recycling bins. The only items we had to fish out of the recycling bins that day were some plastic bags and a Styrofoam cup.*

We are helped in our recycling efforts by the new, attractive, very visible and commodious recycling and waste bins, purchased through a grant from Ramsey County (thank you, Mary Friend, for submitting our ultimately successful application!).

Moreover, our parish, our community and our Earth are blessed by all of you-by everyone who takes good care of God's Creation.

To be specific, in our recycling bins, please put:

Paper and cardboard: bulletins, newspapers, magazine, phone books, mail, pizza boxes, pasta boxes, pop boxes, etc.

Glass bottles and jars (please rinse and remove caps and lids)

Milk cartons and juice boxes (remove caps and lids, rinse

and flatten)

Steel and aluminum cans, foil and trays (rinse; labels are okay)

Plastics include almost all plastic food and beverage containers: bottles, deli containers, dairy-product tubs and so on. (Rinse, flatten, put caps or lids back on.) Please do not put #3 or #6 plastics in the recycling bins.

Thank you, again, for all you do for this Earth, our island home!

-Allison Jensen, for the Green Team

*Please remember that we have two big bins set aside to collect plastic bags, which are taken to a special recycling center. (As for Styrofoam, it lasts forever, so the Vestry a few years ago made our kitchen Styrofoam-free to contribute to the health of our environment.)

Pulse of the Parish - Two months

Pulse of the Parish for **January 24, 2016**

Good Morning! My name is Darlene Cross and I am on your Vestry. Today I am offering the Pulse of the Parish. As you know, the purpose of these brief updates is to keep you informed of the actions taken by the Vestry.

The Vestry met Monday, January 18th. The following actions were moved, seconded and voted for action. At 100% of our 2015 budget, we find ourselves beginning 2016 with an \$11,213 surplus. That surplus relieves the shortfall on our 2016 budget. We will hear more about that at our Annual Meeting.

The solar panels have yet to be hooked up. This is because of the capriciousness of Excel Energy. This inability to finish our hook up has been going on for almost a year. We are going to file a complaint.

Have you noticed our new recycling bins? Soon there will be guidelines for separating recycled material. We are continuing our quest to be green.

Shout outs to:

Mary Friend for securing a grant for the recycle bins and for getting them unpacked and distributed.

Harold Danley for his continued help with the dishes.

All that have been confirmed and received last Sunday: Kevin Hartman, Joe Frischman, Joe Brilowski, Emma Friend, Chris Norton, Patrick Hunner, Andrew Fortmeyer, Emily Trapnell, Bobby Trapnell and Josh Kattelman.

Karla Cole for her work during the Christmas season.

For retiring Vestry members, Elaine Norling, Jill Eischens, Mary Friend and Jean Crow.

Pulse of the Parish for **February 21, 2016:**

Good Morning. I am Mary Pendergrass, your Senior Warden, and this is the Pulse of the Parish which is given to inform you of the actions undertaken at the Vestry meeting held on February 15th.

1. The minutes for the Vestry's January meeting were approved and those minutes will now be available for you to read in the church library (and on the website).
2. Fr. John presented the Financial report, and we are currently in the black, largely due to pre-paid pledges. We are at 8.33% of the year in terms of finances.
3. We have not yet filed a grievance with regard to Xcel Energy's failure to connect our solar panels, as Sundial Solar has asked us to wait for 2 or 3 weeks, since Sundial thought there was some movement on the part of Xcel. If there is no progress at the end of that time, Fr. John will file the grievance. There have been suggestions that the parish involve the press. There was a question regarding income lost because of the solar panels not being hooked up. At this point we can't know what the financial impact is, but we have gotten an extension on when we must start repaying the loan for the solar panels based on the fact that Xcel has not connected us.
4. We will be switching from paper name tags on Sunday to name buttons with clips, due to the expense of the paper stickers. Vestry members have been asked to put together at least ten buttons. Once all the buttons are made and we begin using them, there will be baskets to return the buttons to after the services, and the Office Angels will be responsible for organizing the buttons weekly for use at Sunday worship.
5. Fr. John shared the Parochial Report, which is filed

annually with the national church and the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. This report details our membership, and income and expenses, and is used by ECMN in determining the amounts we contribute to MMS (Mission and Ministry Support).

6. The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing the Vestry Covenant with no revisions or additions suggested. We will wait until the March meeting to vote on adopting the covenant, in order for members to have additional time to consider and changes they might want to suggest. We also spent time brainstorming ideas for Vestry goals for 2016 and long range goals for the next 5 years. The discussion will be revisited at the next meeting before finalizing the goals.

There are Shout Outs to: Marion Hunner, Karla Cole, and all the volunteers who assisted with the children's Dramatic Sermon; and to all those who helped with th Mardi Gras party.

Please be aware that the minutes of the February meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the March meeting. I will be available at coffee hour after the service to hear your comments or answer questions. And, as always, you can ask questions of, or offer comments to, and Vestry member.

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the March *e-Traveler*. There are lots of things happening, with Easter falling at the end of the month! It looks like the weather has decided to be kind to us, too!

Here's my friend, Lincoln, doing what he does best - waiting. (But you know he's hoping Spring doesn't come TOO quickly! He loves the snow.)



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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