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Issue #43

MAY 2016

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

May 2016

The month of May can seem to be a time of change: getting ready to end school-studies, gearing up for summertime activities, weeding gardens and caring for our new plantings, coming to the end of Eastertide and celebrating Pentecost, and then walking into the long green Season After Pentecost. In other words, the month of May can be a crossroads for many of us. Aiden Clarke, in his book *The Secret Jesus* (a book about bringing Jesus' presence to the world around us) has this passage:

Go to the busiest crossroads you know, and try to notice everything: all the people, the cars, the buses, the colours, the noises, the clouds, the birds, the spaces. Notice the impatience.

Now picture the cross on which Jesus died as a crossroads of people, time and place; a physical crossroads through which at some time all people pass. Understand the cross as a meeting-place of all history with God, the source of all love, forgiveness and peace.

And there are metaphoric crossroads here at St. Christopher's this month of May. We have two weeks of Eastertide, then our celebration of Pentecost, and then our easy slide into the summer schedule. Pentecost is Sunday, May 15th, and that is the first day of our combined summer schedule: where we meet for Sunday worship and Eucharist at 9:30. On the 15th, there will be a



Meet Christ
Be Christ

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VESTRY:

Mary Pendergrass,
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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
Karla S. Cole,

celebratory brunch offered by the Vestry following the service. The following Sunday is "Recognition Sunday," where we celebrate all the great work done during this concluding program year by our children and youth, as well as the many volunteers that make those programs possible. The next Sunday, May 29th, is Memorial Day Weekend and the "true" beginning of summer. Please mark your calendars for the change in Sunday service times. We will return to our two Sunday services when the new program year begins in September.

On Sunday, May 1st, I will wake up at a metaphorical crossroads myself, as a change is happening in my life. On Saturday, April 30th at 3:00, my partner Dr. Benjamin Riggs and I will be married in a small, private service in our home. We are both overjoyed at this change that is happening in our lives. We are glad to announce that we can share this joy with St. Christopher's on Sunday, July 10th, when Bishop Prior will visit us during our 9:30 combined service and bless our marriage. We both hope that many of you will be able to attend that day and celebrate with us.

As we leave Eastertide and enter into the Season After Pentecost, my hope and prayer for all of us is:

May the Holy Spirit's loving prods and pushes enable us to more fully live into being Jesus' hands and voice in the world around us, helping us to be a crossroads for those we encounter.

Blessings and Peace to all!



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,

Deacon

Our program year is moving swiftly to an end. It seems as though we have been on a fast and short course between Christmas and Pentecost, and in fact we have been. With Easter falling as early as it did this year we have been moving with along a fairly fast pace and now we are heading into the home stretch, Pentecost, important day and long season that will stretch out over our relaxed summer days. Yet because Pentecost is such an important day in the life of church the season that accompanies it

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

Our SUMMER Schedule (*Begins* *May 15*)

should not only be the longest of the church year, but one that focuses on action despite the urge we all have to stretch out those lazy summer days and weeks. And there are multiple opportunities here at St. Christopher's for us to embrace the sending forth into the world that the Holy Spirit calls us into.

Our community dinners serve people over the summer months. There is a myth that somehow people have enough food over the summer and that is simply not true. Not only do our dinners reach folks who need a good meal and great company and conversation during the summer, Keystone Food shelf is in need of our donations as well. Interested in getting involved? There is always room for more to be involved. And speaking of food and food shelves, our newly remodeled (thanks Austin Trapnell!) our Giving Garden needs folks to water or weed or tend all summer long as we raise pounds of fresh produce to donate.

Our "Walking With Our Muslim Neighbors" program will end the information gathering portion of the program just before Pentecost with a final presentation from the American Refugee Council who will tell us of their experience of boots on the ground with the Syrian refugee camps. On Pentecost over brunch we will hold our final table talk to discuss ideas and opportunities that are calling us to further our association with the neighbors we have just met. Didn't get a chance to attend and hear our speakers, no worries the conversation is meant to be inclusive and to welcome all of our faith community into the next steps that the Holy Spirit is calling us into, calling us to discover where She is out ahead of us and where the dance has not only begun, but is in full swing.

As you read this I will be on my way home from a retreat with the sisters of the Order of St. Helena where I hope to explore more avenues for our intentional prayer group which also will continue during the summer months. So welcome long days filled sun and warmth and barbeques and outdoor activity, the Holy Spirit is in dancing in our neighborhood, calling us all to join Her!

Amen, Deacon Janet

Music Notes



Karla Cole,
Music Director

Sunday:

9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM

Fellowship

Wednesday:

12:15 PM

Holy Eucharist

-Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9 AM - 4 PM

MAY 1st is UTO SUNDAY!

We are collecting your gifts of thanks from your "Blue Box" on Sunday, May 1st. Envelopes are available in the Narthex.

Thank Offerings are granted for many purposes throughout our country and the world - last year, a grant in Minnesota went to the Youth Bicycle Program, Building Community on the White Earth Indian Reservation.

Several years ago, a grant was given to Holy Apostles in St. Paul, to help translate the Book of Common Prayer into the Hmong language. That book is now in regular use at Holy Apostles, and at several locations in Colorado, California and Wisconsin, where

Karla Cole



May Footprints



News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

Outreach Activities

- During Lent the Sunday School families were given "Gratitude Boxes." Each day they had a task - prayer, scripture, or outreach. The boxes were returned on Easter, and the \$23 collected was donated to the Green Team to help purchase seeds/seedlings for the Giving Garden.
- The children are currently working on a project tying fleece blankets for our graduating high school seniors.

Sunday School

As we finish our program year, the children are learning about some of the early People of God from the Book of Genesis: Abraham, Sarah, Jacob and Joseph.

May 22nd is "Recognition Sunday." This is when we recognize everyone involved in Faith Formation. It takes a LOT of dedicated volunteers to make our children's programs so successful, and I would like to especially thank some of those key people:

- **Sunday School:** Teachers and assistants present lessons on a rotating schedule Sept - May. **Thank you** to Kathy Ackerman, Jean Darnell, Carol Duff, Joe Fear, Chris Huntley, and Craig Hunner.
- **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 Ebie & Jim Richards, Mary Friend, Connie Hendrick, Jean Crow, Becky Lucas, Lyn Lawyer, Allison Jensen, and Bill Cross. Most of these dedicated folks have been volunteering for 2-3 years - it would be great to

Rev. Toua Vang is planting new Hmong missions for the Episcopal Church. (If you didn't know, Rev. Toua and his family live in our "yellow house," and help with security for our buildings.)

And you thought a little change in Thanks Giving wouldn't be much? The United Thank Offering is strong because of our thanks for daily blessings.



Sunday Tellers

We are still looking for full-time (especially 2nd Sunday) and substitute tellers to help count offerings on Sundays after the 10:30 AM (9:30 in summer) service. You can schedule to help on a rotating basis. Training is available & you won't work alone. Please contact Wendy Brilowski at 651-429-9328 if you can help out with this ministry.

Columbarium News

On July 1st of this year, the cost to purchase a

get some new help. Contact Marion if this opportunity interests you!

- **Bulletin Boards, Decorations, and Poster displays** (anything artistic!!)

Thank you to Darlene Cross and Karen Hanna

VBS Loan Request: If anyone has a hot knife (for cutting styrene foam) that we could borrow to make VBS decorations, please contact Marion Hunner.

Summer Opportunities!



St. Christopher's Vacation Bible School Program **July 11-15!** And don't forget to keep the week-end open so that the kids can share some of their Surf Shack songs in church on July 17th. Registrations are available online and under the Children's Ministries bulletin board (across from the Children's Library). Friends are welcome.



July 25 - 29: Episcopal Creative Arts Daycamp will run from 9am - 3pm at St. Mark's Cathedral. (PK-5th grade). For more information go to ourcathedral.org.



July 31 - August 6: Episcopal Youth Music Camp (EYMC) at Camp Heartland (Willow River, MN) for grades 3-12. More information at episcopalmnccamps.org

May Youth News



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

It's hard to believe that we are already wrapping

Columbarium Niche will increase to \$2,000 plus engraving costs. A niche holds two cremains.

Food Shelf News

Food shelf collection for March and April totaled 51 pounds and \$20.00.

Thank you for your donation.

May Calendar Highlights

1 UTO InGathering
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel
6:15 PM Bell
Choir-Balcony
7 PM Youth
Group-Youth Room
7:15 PM
Choir-Music Room

8 Mother's Day
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

9 5:30 PM Finance Team-Annual Audit-Office, Gathering Room

11 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel
6 PM Walking with our Muslim Neighbors-P Hall
7 PM Youth

up the year! I am looking forward to a strong finish and to many fun events this summer!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES SURVEY

Youth and families have been emailed a survey that will be used to help plan summer activities. Please take five minutes and fill out the survey as soon as possible. If you did not receive the survey, please contact Chad.

WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming Dates: May 4 & 11

We meet from 7:00-8:30PM. We will have an end-of-the-year party on May 11!

** REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW DUE!**

SUMMER YOUTH TRIP--LAKE ITASCA STATE PARK

July 18-22, 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: \$350.

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Library News

The Library has purchased two new, important books. Both books are on the NY Times Bestseller list!

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

Dr. Kalanithi was a brilliant neurosurgeon, just starting his career, when he was diagnosed with lung cancer. His book was published after his death in March, 2015. It is a description of his and his family's journey through diagnosis and treatment. This book is both inspiring and heart breaking.



Between the World and Me by Ta Nehisi Coates

Winner at the National Book Award, this timely book is a meditation on race in America. This memoir is written as a series of letters by a black man to his adolescent son.

Both books are available for check-out. They are displayed on the New Books table in the Library.

Group-Youth Room
7 PM Green
Team-Parish Hall
7 PM Choir and
Bell Choir - Offsite

12 1 PM Knitting
-Library

13 6:30 PM Couples
Bridge-Parish Hall

15 ***Pentecost!!***
9:30 AM

Together@9:30
Worship

10:30 AM Brunch
hosted by the Vestry

16 (Vestry has been
rescheduled to the
23rd)

18 **12:15 PM Holy**
Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell
Choir-Balcony
7 PM Youth
Group-Youth Room
7:15 PM
Choir-Music Room

22 ***Trinity Sunday***
and *Recognition*
Sunday!
9:30 AM Holy
Eucharist

23 ***e-Traveler***

Deadline
6:45 PM Vestry
-Parish Hall

24 Meals on Wheels
- Offsite

25 **12:15 PM Holy**
Eucharist - Chapel

26 5:30 PM
Community Dinner
-Parish Hall

29 **9:30 AM Holy**

Green Team News

Happy Spring! The Green team is getting excited to start planting in our newly expanded Giving Garden space. A big thank you to the children who collected money during lent and raised \$23 for vegetable seeds!



With the larger gardens, we will need more help in maintaining the beds. Grab a friend and sign up to weed during the early months and harvest later in the summer. It doesn't take much time, and we would really appreciate the help!

Becky Lucas is coordinating the volunteers; please contact her to add your name to the list. You can just help just once, or multiple times. Keystone and their clients sure appreciate our home grown vegetables!

Speaking of vegetables, there is an Ugly Fruit and Vegetable movement (endfoodwaste.org) to promote decreasing food waste by eating the asymmetrical, spotty, discolored fruits and vegetables that are often discarded despite being just as delicious as their supermodel produce counterparts.

Another of our goals should be to reduce food waste. Foods that end up in landfills are a major producer of methane and carbon dioxide - green house gases. Reducing our own food waste will save us money and decrease the environmental burden of throwing food away.

The annual bike blessing will be June 5th before the 9:30 service (meet around 9:15). It takes place in the lower parking lot with a brief service. So, grab your helmet and bike and bike to church.

Check out the website below for tips on being green
<http://earth911.com/home/8-easy-ways-to-start-being-green/>

The next green team meeting is May 11th at 7:00 PM

Thanks for being green,
 The Green Team

Pulse of the Parish - March and April

March 2016

Good morning. I'm Mary Pendergrass, your Senior Warden, and this morning I bring you the Pulse of the Parish for the Vestry meeting held on March 21. This is to keep you informed of the

Eucharist with Healing

30 Memorial Day
Office Closed

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!

actions of your vestry.

With regard to Finances, at the end of February we were \$566.00 in the red for the month, but were up approximately \$22,000 for the year, largely due to prepaid pledges for 2016.

The fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity brought in \$1,224.00.

The Over 55 Club has disbanded, largely due to lack of attendance.

As you may know by now, the solar panels have been connected to "the grid" and are operational, and we should start seeing a positive impact on the church's utility bills.

A Mission Opportunities grant request was received from our Youth Director, for the cost of our youth attending a youth service retreat sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Churches, to address inequality and injustice in the Twin Cities. It was forwarded by the Finance committee, and approved by the vestry.

On behalf of the vestry, Harold Danley and Mike Sirany are looking for 3-4 bids for carpet cleaning from environmentally friendly services. Our carpets have not been professionally cleaned since they were installed.

We discussed participation in the Roseville parade, scheduled for June 27. We decided not to participate this year, but will put it on the agenda for later this year, when there will be more time to make plans and build enthusiasm within in the parish for the event.

We also discussed transportation assistance for members in our parish who can no longer drive due to age or disability. The discussion was inspired by a phone call from a woman new to the area who would like to come to our church but cannot drive. It was suggested that we provide assistance on an individual basis, once we can put together a list of volunteers who would be willing to drive someone to church.

There are Shout-Outs to the following:

Joel Norton and Mary Friend for their hard work on getting the solar panels installed and connected.

All who worked on the three funerals in five weeks, prior to the March vestry meeting.

All who signed up to shovel our sidewalks this winter.

Karla Cole for the wonderful Easter music.

April 2016

Good Morning. My name is Mike Sirany, 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 18th.

- The monthly financial report was reviewed. Pledge income was down for the month due to winter travel and spring break vacations. All other income and expenses are in line, and we remain in the black for the year.
- The kitchen has been rented to an individual who makes granola. She will begin using the space shortly, coordinating her 6 to 10 hours a week with our parish administrator, Ruth Thillen. The vestry is working on advertising our kitchen's availability through a number of different avenues: Craig's List, various cooking schools around the Twin Cities, and Restaurant Depot.
- The need to alter how we provide gatherings after funerals was discussed at length. A meeting after the 9:30 summer service will be planned in the near future to discuss with the Parish the options the Vestry are considering, to receive feedback and other ideas from parishioners before the Vestry makes any final decisions.
- The Finance Team recommended that the Vestry approve having the engraving of the Columbarium shutters improved by painting the names and the dates a dark gray, allowing those names and dates to be more easily seen. One shutter was done as a test. The cost is \$35 per shutter. The Vestry approved the cost of this improvement.
- The newly forming Communications Team will have a meeting after the 9:30 service on May 22nd. More information will be provided prior to that meeting date.
- There will be a brunch hosted by the Vestry following our Together at 9:30 Pentecost service on May 15th.
- The Vestry would like to recognize the following people in our "Shout-outs" for the work they have done for our parish this past month:
 - Don Shiek - for all he does, including fixing the Men's Room handle after 2 of our members got stuck in the Men's Room last Sunday.
 - Mark Brilowski and Don Shiek for changing the light bulbs in the Chancel.
 - Diane Elliot for her leadership of our "Walking with our Muslim Neighbor" series.

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

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the May **e-Traveler**. As I write, we are enjoying those "April Showers that bring May flowers" - and they are coming fast! Have you noticed how green the courtyard is getting? I love that peace-full space.

Here's Lincoln, lounging by my desk last month.



Sincerely,

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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