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Issue #45

JULY 2016

St. Christopher's
e-Traveler



Meet Christ
Be Christ

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

**St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church**

2300 Hamline Ave N
Roseville, MN 55113
651-633-4589
stchristophers-mn.org

C. S. Lewis wrote: "The castle towered above them and before them were the sands, with rocks and little pools of salt water, and seaweed and the smell of the sea and long miles of bluish-green waves breaking for ever and ever on the beach. And oh, the cry of the seagulls! Have you heard it? Can you remember?"

We enter July and the depths of summer. Travel, relaxation, excursions, family gatherings allow us to find a place to renew and rejoice in the glory of our lives and the gifts we have been given. And even though we have slowed the pace, somewhat, here at St. Christopher's, there is still plenty going on this month to keep us occupied as well as present-and-future-focused.

- VBS Week, where children and their supervising adults and youth take over our campus (July 11th-15th)
- The Bishop's visit to bless Ben and my marriage (July 10th)
- The Youth Trip (July 25th-30th)
- Our carpet will be cleaned, facility-wide (July 6th)
- The staff making lesson plans, and other arrangements and planning for the 2016-2017 Program Year
- A wedding, as well as our normal monthly activities (including the Community Dinner) plus our regular renters (flute lessons, cello lessons, bag-pipers, AA,

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
Karla S. Cole,

OA, CA) will be populating our space with life and service

- Staff are staggering our vacations to ensure coverage of our ongoing ministries

So, even though we are listening for (or trying to remember the sound of) seagulls and the crash of waves, or the cry of the loon on a lake, or the crackling of a fire at our campground, or the crunch of our footsteps during a hike along a forest trail, we still carry-on with life's responsibilities. One of those responsibilities we should remember in these more quiet of times, is the need to center ourselves in prayer: which is another avenue with which we can renew ourselves. I offer a prayer to carry us through these quieter times:

O Tree of Jesus
 send your roots deep down
 into my heart.
 Gather together the soil of my heart,
 the sands of my fickleness,
 the stones of my stubbornness,
 the mud of my desires;
 bind them all together,
 O Tree of Jesus;
 interlace them with your strong roots;
 entwine and support them with the network
 of your sustaining love.

Adapted from Chandran Devanesen's
The Infinite Christ: Poems

God's Blessings and Peace,



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
 Janet MacNally,
 Deacon

Director of Music
 Rev. Mary Rowe,
 Assisting Priest
 Rev. Janet MacNally,
 Deacon
 Rev. John F. Dwyer,
 Rector

Our SUMMER Schedule (*Begins May 15*)

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

From the WELCOME Committee

If you know someone who needs a ride to church, or if you are someone who needs a ride to church on Sunday mornings, please contact Becky Lucas at lucasmonahan@gmail.com, or Jan Fillmore at janfillmore@q.com, to let us know of your need. We will do our best to assist in coordinating those rides.

Food Shelf Donations

It is summer, almost the 4th of July, and to be honest, I have started this piece three times and have still not settled on what I want to write about. I think that is part of the problem with summer. Things slow down, the weather calls us into a more leisurely pace, and sometimes our thoughts just seem to wander like a small stream making its way to the larger body of water. Quiet and gentle, it flows along in a seemingly effortless motion, which belies the strength and endurance of its journey. I think in some ways we as the church are a bit like that stream. Calm and restful, yet ever moving in the direction that God is calling us to follow.

There are times in our calendar year when we move at what seems to be a frantic pace. Think of how things build up during Advent as we set our sights on Christmas or the buildup for Lent which leads into the buildup for Easter. These are times of energy and action, as we mark the most important occasions of the church year. And there are the summer months. As I said before, a time when we slow down and much like that stream, meander our way in the world outside our doors.

We refer to this season as Pentecost, but other faith traditions refer to this as Ordinary Time. I have, in the past, found that to be a misguided way to refer to the summer months. However, a closer study of the word ordinary finds that its roots are the same as the word ordained. Looking at the word ordinary through that lens, the season in the church year takes on a completely different meaning. Rather than being mundane or predictable as one might think, the season is, rather, a time when we focus on our call as Christians to move out into the neighborhoods to find where God is at work ahead of us. Much like the stream that gently seems to flow along the course it has been called to follow, we too move in a less frantic, but all the more determined pace, as well.

The stream follows its course. There will be times of drought with very slow movement, and times of an overabundance of water that cause it to move with great speed and force; but for the most part the stream will be "ordinary" as it follows the course it has been given. These are our ordinary days. These are the days in which we seem to move at perhaps the slowest of paces, yet days where we are steadfastly following where the Spirit is leading us. The dance is always there, the Spirit is always leading, we are always called to follow God's course. These are our ordered days, days in which we are called into the world outside our doors to seek Christ in everyone we meet, and days to embrace the joy of our journey, however gentle it may seem at the time.

Amen,

Food shelf donations for May and June totaled 113 pounds. Included were cans of cat and dog food, which are always a need for our pets. Thank you.

Habitat for Humanity Work Week

We will be working, for the 26th time, with our friends from St. Timothy Lutheran Church.

The dates are Monday-Friday, **September 26-30**. We will be at 1282 Clarence Street in St. Paul. It is too early, of course, to know what jobs we will be doing.

Contact Ebie Richards (651-633-5202) if you can work construction (all week), or help with food (just Thursday & Friday).

Many thanks to the Vestry for approving a Grant to cover the remaining cost (after the fundraiser) of our \$2,500 obligation for this work week.

JULY Calendar Highlights

Please be aware that there are numerous staff vacations this month.

3 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 Independence Day -
Office Closed

5 Meals on Wheels -

Deacon Janet



**Footprints
July 2016**



News from Children's
Ministries



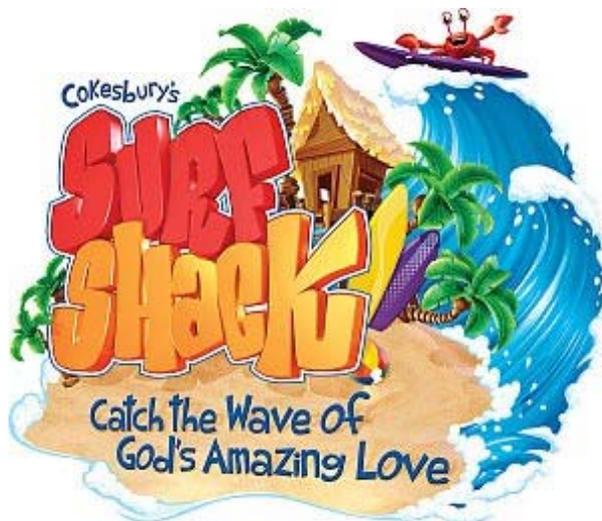
Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

Offsite

- 6** *Carpet Cleaning*
throughout building
12:15 PM Holy
Eucharist-Chapel
- 10** **9:30 Holy Eucharist**
Bishop Prior Visits!
- VBS Setup
- 11** **VBS: Catch the Wave!**
9 AM - Noon
5:30 PM Finance Team
- 12** **VBS: Catch the Wave!**
9 AM - Noon
- 13** **VBS: Catch the Wave!**
9 AM - Noon
12:15 PM Holy
Eucharist-Chapel
- 14** **VBS: Catch the Wave!**
9 AM - Noon
- 15** **VBS: Catch the Wave!**
9 AM - Noon
5 PM Wedding
Rehearsal-Church
- 16** **5 PM** Wedding
- 17** **9:30 AM Holy**
Eucharist
- 18** **6:45 PM** Vestry
- 20** **12:15 PM Holy**
Eucharist-Chapel
- 24** **9:30 AM Holy**
Eucharist
- 25** *e-Traveler* Deadline
- 26** *Meals on Wheels*
-Offsite
- 27** **12:15 PM Holy**
Eucharist-Chapel
- 28** **5:30 PM** Community

VBS is Coming July 11-15!



Please help us transform the sanctuary into a beach following the 9:30 service on Sunday, July 10th.

Many hands make light work!

This is the day that Bishop Prior comes to bless Fr.

John's marriage to Ben Riggs, and there will be a reception following the service. We welcome people to attend the reception and then come back upstairs to give us a hand!

Everyone is invited to stop by during the week of July 11-15 (9 am-noon) to see what the kids are up to, as they ***Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love.***

May Youth News



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

Happy Summer!

I hope that all youth are enjoying a break from academics and the opportunity it affords to sharpen athletic abilities, sleep so the growing brain can thrive, develop important skills for future employment, or even strengthen those video game fingers. Please be on the lookout for some very exciting opportunities for the 2016-2017 programming year, which will be outlined next month!

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Pulse of the Parish - June

Good Morning. My name is Becky Lucas 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, June 20th.

The monthly financial report was reviewed. Pledge income, has been caught up in June, and the Vestry thanks all those parishioners who made their pledges current. 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 easier cash flow, particularly in the

Dinner

**31 9:30 AM Holy
Eucharist with Healing**

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!

summer months. All other income and expenses are in line, and we remain in the black for the month of May and for the year. The Vestry discussed various options for future types of after funeral gatherings and reviewed the planning for the parish gathering to discuss the various options available to us. That meeting will happen today, after this service, during coffee hour in the Parish Hall. The Vestry reviewed plans for the coffee hour that will follow Bishop Brian's visit on July 10th, where, as part of the service, he will bless Fr. John's and Ben's marriage. The Vestry revisited last month's discussion about the Move to Amend network of faith communities that is building nationwide, and listened to a presentation. The Vestry unanimously voted to make St. Christopher's an Endorsing Congregation to this movement. More information on this decision will be provided in the coming weeks. The Vestry approved two Fundraising Requests:

- 1 - There will be a Silent Auction in November, to benefit our Mission Opportunity Grant Fund. More information will be provided by the organizers in the early Fall.
- 2 - In July and August there will be an "Adopt an LED Light Bulb" fundraiser to benefit the Green Team's initiative to lessen our carbon footprint. More information will be provided in early July about this exciting project.

The Vestry approved two Mission Opportunity Grant Requests:

- 1 - A grant of \$2,500 was approved for our In-House Feeding Ministry to continue the good work of our Monthly Community Dinners.
- 2 - A grant of \$1,276 was approved to complete the fundraising needed for our participation in this year's Habitat for Humanity build.

The Vestry would like to recognize the following people in our "Shout-outs" for the work they have recently done for our parish:

- All people who participated in the Hamline and highway access cleanup.
- For those planning and attending the "Finding Nemo" and "Hunger Games" movie nights.

Please be aware that the minutes of the June meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the Vestry's July 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 July *e-Traveler*. Please note that I will be on vacation July 11-18. You may want to call ahead before stopping in the office.

I was getting ready to snap a picture of Lincoln, when he got curious: So, a Lincoln Selfie today! (His nose really is that big!)



Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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651-633-4589

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