

St. Christopher's

# e-Traveler



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## St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

### VESTRY:

Joel Norton, Sr. Warden; Kathy Ackerman, Jr. Warden  
Sue Triebenbach, Clerk; Suzanne Hitchcock, Treasurer

Erin Bowman; Mark Brilowski; Karen Hartman; Barbara Hovey; Chris Huntley;  
Josh Kattelman; Tom Linder; Al Reedstrom; Lisa Spiro

### STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator  
Chad O'Leary, Youth Ministries Director  
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director  
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries  
Rev. Mary Rowe, Assisting Priest  
Rev. Janet MacNally, Deacon  
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

### Our REGULAR Sunday 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-Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

**Wednesday:** 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

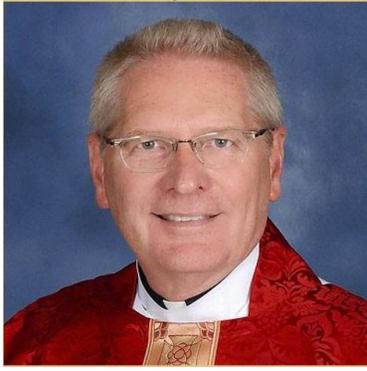
### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

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## Musings from a Mug...

The Rev.



**Randy W. Johnson**

**Rector**

As I sit quietly in my office this morning, I cannot help but seek a moment of silence and reflection on the tremendously busy past week at my new home at St. Christopher's. It has been a week of multiple meetings with staff and committees and parishioners, learning schedules and systems, and connecting with many new persons. I am learning the customs and context of the rhythm of life as experienced by this community. I am listening to the stories of the past, and the present, as well as intentionally exploring our vision of who are as we project into the future. I am listening to voices that speak of joys and sorrows, hurts and healings, blessings upon blessings, and in all things a deep sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit as she moves before, behind, and beside us. Growth occurs with change. It is exciting! God is good.

And in this very moment, I sip coffee from a mug that many will find familiar. The glaze graphic is multi-colored, festooned with balloons and an image of a young Dr. Seuss cartoon child standing on top of a kaleidoscope mountain... "Oh! *The Places You'll Go!*" is emblazoned across the surface. I bet many of you have given either this mug or the Dr. Seuss book of the same title to persons graduating from high school or university- I know we surely have. It is almost a rite of passage for many persons to read and digest the wisdom of this unassuming and beloved story as we move from one stage of life to another. Growth occurs with change. It is exciting! God is good!

Moving to a new place of living involves and invites another set of feelings which I did not anticipate. In leaving my former parish of St. John in the Wilderness as a clergy person, my close relationship with a good number of individuals in that faith community has forever changed. With that change comes a sense of separation and loss, yet I know they are also sensing a positive change as they move forward sharing the Good News of the Gospel in their neighborhood. I am blessed beyond measure with fond memories of these saints and their faithful witness. Growth occurs with change. It is exciting! God is good!

As I paid for my coffee this morning, I reached into my wallet and saw a folded and worn scrap of paper in the corner of the paper currency section. Being curious, I carefully unfolded the fragile, soiled sheet, and read the words written:

### **Jeremiah 29:11-14**

*<sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.*

And I remembered...a beloved saint had handed me this piece of paper containing these verses from Jeremiah at a time when I was mightily struggling, wrestling with my sense of call to ordained ministry during my discernment process towards Holy Orders. In reading and dwelling in these words once more, I

am reminded to be still, listen, learn, and know that God has plans for me, and each one of us, as we seek to love all persons and serve God in all places and all times. When we seek God, we will find God. Growth occurs with change. It is exciting! God is good!

As we walk together in this holy season of Lent, I pray that we will seek God in the quiet stillness, see and hear The Word in new ways with open hearts and minds, and turn back in repentance to our loving God and Father of all. Our Lord Christ has set his face towards Jerusalem and to the Cross. I humbly encourage us to join together in community worship as we live into the Passion Story and Holy Week.

Peace and all good,  
*Randy+*

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## The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.  
Janet MacNally**  
**Deacon**

*Christ of the Breadlines* wood carving By Fritz Eichenberg circa 1953

As a Lenten devotion, I obtained a copy of meditations entitled *Meeting Jesus on the Margins* published by the Forward Movement. On day two, the meditation by The Reverend Lee Anne Reat, an Episcopal priest, centered on the image above. It was in that meditation that I found thoughts and images that resonated not only with me, but with us as a faith community and our call to serve Christ in serving our neighbors.

Reat points out, and rightly so, that we as a church are very good at feeding people. And we at St. Christopher's are very good at feeding people as well. There are egg bake offerings and the occasional soup supper and potlucks and parties. We contribute on a regular basis to the local food shelf and we open our doors to our neighbors each month for a Community Dinner. Yet Reat asks if that is enough. In directing our attention to the figures in Eichenberg's art, Reat asks if we are perhaps missing an even deeper kind of hunger. The figures in the

artwork are standing wrapped in clothing to keep them warm, but also to act as a sort of barrier or protection from the rest of the world. Their faces are turned toward the ground (with one exception and while that person is looking up his hat obscures his vision), making them a group that is comprised of people that are all alone. What is the deeper hunger that the figures in the artwork are experiencing, what is the deeper hunger that our neighbors, and perhaps all of us, are encountering? Don't we all hunger for connection, for relationships, for community? Isn't that a strong need that crosses all economic barriers and pertains to all of us?

When we conceived our Community Dinners almost six years ago, we divided our members from St. Christopher's into two groups: Marthas and Marys. Marthas were the ones who volunteered under the guidance of our original chef, Joel Wilkie, and our current chef, The Rev. Vant Washington. They help prepare and serve the meals to our guests, interacting with them as they circulate the parish hall. Marys sit at table with our guests and listen. They are not there to fix our guests problems or lead our guests on the right path, but rather they are to form relationships built on active listening and caring. As time continued, we recognized that the need for relationship could be present for members of our St. Christopher's family as well, and we extended the invitation for anyone from the faith community who was in need of a good meal and great conversation to join us.

This is what has the potential to set our offering apart, to begin to break down the barrier between Us and the Other. It is the reason that I have asked that we count and report all plates, seconds, and to-go meals without designating who is receiving the plate. Because when we separate our attendance into Us versus the Other do we not separate the presence of Christ from our offering as well?

To paraphrase The Rev. Reat, when we gather around the table in solidarity with our guests, our Community Dinner becomes a eucharistic celebration; everyone's hearts are filled along with their stomachs. When we are open and vulnerable enough to allow ourselves to be fed both with food and relationships, alongside and joined with our neighbors, we open the way for the transforming love and healing power of God. It is then that we find that we have welcomed Christ into our midst, and discovered the Christ that is in each one of us.

***Amen Deacon Janet***

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## Music Notes



**Karla Cole**  
**Director of**  
**Music Ministries**

In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, every Texas student, despite the dwindling of history and civics classes in the US in general, takes a Texas History class. Now Texas really is a whole 'nother country, as they say. It was settled by ornery, hardscrabble folk who

were the ancestors of today's Libertarian, Republican, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, "get the gov'mint outta my life" folks who populate the state and its attitudes today. But really, Texans do have a right to be proud of their storied history and culture. It's an amalgam of white American culture from the perspective of every financial strata and wave of white immigration; it is infused with Hispanic culture, politics and language; and there is a lot of African-American history woven in as well.

In the 1850's, there was an arm of the Underground Railroad running south through Texas to help freed and escaped slaves across the Rio Grande river to Mexico, where slavery had been abolished some twenty years before. In my 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, my teacher presented a unit on slave songs to go along with the discussion of Texas' part in the Civil War. Already a music lover, I was drawn to the haunting melodies of the spirituals and toe-tapping rhythms of the jubilee and work songs. As a Sunday School student, I knew every story and well understood how an enslaved people from Africa could identify with the Israelites' stories in their masters' Bible. And I was fascinated that this band of ill-educated, malnourished and maltreated people could create lyrics with a double entendre that gave clues to the Underground Railroad, while singing of such hope and joy, even in a life of slavery. I love those spirituals.

Some time ago, I purchased a copy of ***Songs My Grandma Sang*** by the Rev. Michael B. Curry, the current Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the USA. A quick flip through in the bookstore revealed that those songs were my beloved spirituals, so I bought the book. I have a number of books stacked in a pile on the nightstand. They look at me hopefully every night when I crawl into bed – and then reproachfully when I consider the money spent on books that just collect dust on the nightstand. Sidelined with a nasty bug a few weeks ago, I settled in with tissues and tea and Rev. Curry. If you've not experienced his preaching, this book is a good introduction. If you have, this book is like having coffee with an old friend. The book is only 130 pages and he writes informally, with anecdotes from his colorful life and family, tying the texts of spirituals into scripture and into our lives as modern Christians. He touches on subjects as wide ranging as the wonders of God's plan for our salvation, the power of love (Well, that *is* his signature subject matter after all) and witnessing for Christ (Gosh, do we *have* to?) even though we're Episcopalian. And the answer is, yes, be a witness. Be the heart and hands of Jesus in a world that sees far too much hypocrisy and bigotry perpetrated in his name. Spread the love.

This book is going to be available in our library soon. Stop in and check it out for yourself. Don't read it in a public place, because you'll be singing and humming your way through it!

\* \* \*

**What Would Jesus Drink?** We're going to combine a handbell field trip with our brewery outing **next week on April 7<sup>th</sup>**. The handbell choir invites you to join them for a concert by the Twin Cities Bronze, a local professional handbell choir. They play way better than us and if you've never been to a handbell concert, you should – they're lots of fun. The concert is at **Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul at 3pm**. The church is at 1400 South Robert St in West St. Paul.

And after the concert, you can head back home by way of the **Tin Whiskers Brewery at 125 South 9<sup>th</sup> St.** in downtown St. Paul. The brewery is in the same building as Sawatdee and Black Sheep Pizza, so you'll forgive us for not bringing you any snacks that day.

The brewery will save us a couple of tables at **4:00**, so if you don't go to the bell

concert, you can get a head start at Tin Whiskers. Children are welcome, there are sodas in the fridge, and they've just begun making cider for gluten-free types! Street parking is free on Sundays in St. Paul and there is a parking lot behind the building's own parking lot (careful where you park) or a parking garage in the next block south. Come join us for one or both of these events!

Karla Cole

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## Footprints APRIL 2019 - News from Children's Ministries



**Marion Hunner**

**Children's Ministries  
Director**



### **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 - we will have special bulletins for them, and the Easter Vigil is where we release the Alleluia balloons.



**Easter Sunday** we will have our traditional Easter Egg Hunt and crafts in the parish hall following the 10:30 service. There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** on Easter Sunday.

**Honoring our Graduates:** During April and May the Sunday School children will be tying fleece blankets for our two high school seniors who will be graduating in June.

### **Looking Ahead to Summer!**

**July 22-26** Our Vacation Bible School program will run from 9am – noon at St. Christopher's. It is designed for children in preschool through finishing 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome as volunteers, and adults are always needed to help. Feel free to contact Marion with questions.

More information available at: <http://www.stchristophers-mn.org/vbs.html>



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## Youth News



**Chad O'Leary**

**Youth Ministries  
Director**

### APRIL YOUTH GROUP

While Easter won't arrive until later in the month, it's never too early to warm up for your morning egg hunt, right? We will gather for Chipotle at 5:30 PM, which will immediately be followed by a treasure hunt. The lucky participant(s) will walk away with a basket of sweet goodies from the Easter aisles at Target. After the hunt we will take time to discuss the significance of Holy Week, the Triduum, and Easter celebrations so that you will have a better scriptural context and understanding of traditions that surround them, when these holy days arrive.

### SUMMER TRIP INFORMATION

Families who have committed to helping plan our summer trip are reminded to continue piecing together interesting stops/conversations along the journey! Our meeting dates will be: **April 14, April 28, May 12, June 2, June 16 & June 30** immediately following the 10:30AM service (9:30AM service when summer schedule begins). We will begin by reading An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. If you have not already, please let Chad know how many copies you would like for your family.

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Much Peace on the Journey,  
Chad O'Leary

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**Thank You!**

Dear Friends,

When preparing for my presentation at the Adult Forum, I noticed a basket on the hospitality table I use for my computer. It was seeded with cards. I noticed the top one had the name “Daniel” on it—a clear sign of my last day. All in all it was wonderful: the worship, the fellowship, the celebration of ministry together. It was delightfully busy so reading the well-wishes and cards would come later. That “later” has happened and now I simply want to say “thanks” for your care and thoughtfulness. And thanks be to God for your new chapter about to begin. God be with you. God be for you.

Fr. Daniel



## Announcing the Creating Our Future - Fulfilling Our Mission Capital Campaign!

St. Christopher's will soon be embarking on the ***Creating Our Future – Fulfilling Our Mission*** Capital Campaign to eliminate our solar panel debt and grow the endowment fund from the sewer repair costs! The ***Creating Our Future – Fulfilling Our Mission*** theme conveys our desire to ensure a dynamic future and continue living the mission of St. Christopher's.

Using the feasibility study that was recently conducted, we have set a goal of raising \$300,000 or more over a three-year period above and beyond our annual giving. Members will be asked for a three-year pledge to the campaign this spring.

Over the next month, information will be provided about the ***Creating Our Future – Fulfilling Our Mission*** Capital Campaign in various ways including: bulletins, e-mail, mail, website, gatherings, etc. Please look for the campaign logo to learn

more about these efforts and how it will enhance our ministries and mission.

We also ask members to pray for God's guidance throughout this process as well as the campaign volunteers and entire St. Christopher's community.

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## Cap Hanson Library Update



2019 marks the start of refreshing the physical space of St. Christopher's Cap Hanson Library. Come check it out as we paint, obtain new, cozy furniture, and most importantly find compelling and enriching books for us to read! Other ideas: a St. Christopher's book club; a Cap Hanson Library Road Trip; a new Parish Cookbook; a quarterly "party" in the library just for kicks; and monthly guest topics for congregants to offer a book or set of books that might be of topical interest to the rest of us.



Cap Hanson was a long-time parishioner at St. Christopher's, and faithfully kept the library up and running. Kathy Curtis worked alongside him, and then independently kept the space fresh and importantly got the volumes categorized electronically. Now Allison Jensen has energized several people in the parish to get good color schemes, nice furniture, and hopefully lots of new books to make the room really grow into a place we all use. That means you! Come check out the books we have, and let us know about the volumes you'd like to see available.

Plans for the spring: the youth group is making a 12 day pilgrimage in July through Native American communities, and there will be several books read in preparation for the trip. The library team hopes the entire congregation will be energized by the books, making the report of the pilgrimage all the more meaningful.

**FINALLY:** An invitation to join us to see and hear Barbara Brown Taylor, an ordained Episcopal priest who now works as a professor, author and speaker. We have several of her books available in the library. She comes to Minneapolis on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. We will set up carpools to get as many of us there as possible, probably leaving church before 11am to get seats.

This is a part of the Westminster Town Hall Forum, broadcast monthly on MPR. The event is free, and we might find a way to stop somewhere for lunch after the speech.

Please check out one of her books (displayed on the front table) and read it before attending! There is a sign-up sheet in front of the library for all who would like to carpool.

In the meantime, please see or email any of the Library team members if you have books to donate or questions!

Allison Jensen, [allisoncampbelljensen@gmail.com](mailto:allisoncampbelljensen@gmail.com)  
Kathy Curtis, [Kathy.bob@comcast.net](mailto:Kathy.bob@comcast.net)  
Cheryl Bailey, [auntdrcb@comcast.net](mailto:auntdrcb@comcast.net)  
Darlene Cross, [darlene2r@comcast.net](mailto:darlene2r@comcast.net)  
Ann Depaolis-Jones, [depjones89@gmail.com](mailto:depjones89@gmail.com)  
Karen Hanna, [khanna52@aol.com](mailto:khanna52@aol.com)  
Ann Trapnell, [mnrappers@gmail.com](mailto:mnrappers@gmail.com)

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## APRIL Calendar Highlights!

### 3 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office

5:30 PM Youth Group - Youth Room, Parish Hall

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

### 7:00 PM Way of the Cross and Holy Eucharist

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

### 7 LENT 5

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

8 5:30 PM Finance Committee - Parish Hall

9 *Meals on Wheels - Offsite*

### 10 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

### 7:00 PM Way of the Cross - Church

7:00 PM Green Team - Library

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

11 1:00 PM Knitting - Library

12 1:00 PM Couples Bridge - Parish Hall

### 14 PALM SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

15 6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall

### 17 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony  
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

**18 MAUNDY THURSDAY**

10:30 AM Hearts & Hands - Parish Hall  
**7:00 PM Holy Eucharist**

**19 GOOD FRIDAY**

**12:00 PM Worship for Good Friday with Reserve Sacrament**  
**7:00 PM Way of the Cross with Reserve Sacrament**

**20 Holy Saturday**

**7:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter**

**21 EASTER SUNDAY**

**8:00 AM Holy Eucharist**  
**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**  
11:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt!

**24 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel**

4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office  
6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony  
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

**25 5:30 PM Community Dinner - Parish Hall**

**28 Easter 2**

**8:00 AM Holy Eucharist**  
**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**29 e-Traveler Deadline**

*30 Meals on Wheels - Offsite*

Please note: These are the parish events occurring this month. Please remember that many outside groups use our building daily. If you need to use a building space, please check with the office to see that your time, date and space are available.

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## Last Words



I hope you have enjoyed the APRIL *e-Traveler*!

Finally Spring has arrived, the birds are returning and calling to each other in their LOUD voices, and Easter is upon us.

Oh, yeah! AND we have a new Rector! I hope you are all having as much fun getting to know Fr. Randy Johnson as I am.

See you all soon!

Ruth Thillen  
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville, MN 55113  
651-633-4589 | Fax 651-633-7361 | www.stchristophers-mn.org

STAY CONNECTED

