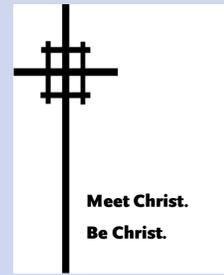


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

All Things New *by Fr. Randy+*

Kim mentioned in passing this past week, *"We are going to have a 'four-footer' staying with us overnight this weekend."* I said nothing in response, as it registered in my mind that we would be having one of our four-foot-tall grandkids staying over, as they have regularly done the past few years. On Friday evening, I recalled the earlier conversation and asked her which one of the kids would be coming. She said, *"Pepper, of course!"* Oh yeah, *"four-footer"* as in *"four paws!"* Pepper is a darling 3-year old Basset Hound grand-dog, being named for the freckling of dark spots on her muzzle and dazzling white paws.



It has been a delight to celebrate Pepper's curious nature as she explores and experiences God's creation in our neighborhood. She holds her nose close to the ground, dragging her enormous ears through the vegetation, and snorts the fragrant scents of this foreign place into her nostrils as if a canine vacuum cleaner. *A miraculous scent hound she is...*

She relishes frolicking with new human and canine neighbors, curiously staring down hopping orange-breasted robins, patiently sitting next to the wildlife pond gazing at the returning Sandhill cranes and Canada geese, and trying to figure out what the wild turkeys are clucking about in the adjacent woods. And of course, each time she returns to the house after an outside trek, there is a treat to be had. *It is good to be at Grammie's house, indeed!*

Absolutely everything Pepper is experiencing is done with a deep sense of awe, and wonderment, and joy, and delight. **All things are new**—spring is sprung, a new season is emerging, the old is set aside, and we are refreshed with the abundance of newfangled enchantments!

What Pepper is experiencing in her life is likewise mirroring great change in our own context. We are emerging from an extended time of difficult seasons—the impact of COVID, separation from one another, the trauma of war and conflict and strife in the world. God is recreating and reclaiming us in this season of great change. And the Holy Spirit is inviting us to join in the celebration of new life and boundless hope.

*“And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making **all things new.**” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”* (Rev. 21:5) This is the promise we cling to in difficult times and circumstances. In the Eastertide following the Lenten season, we experience the joy of Christ's glorious resurrection as an Easter people—the promise of life everlasting is fulfilled for each one of us as followers of Jesus.

Now is the time to fully embrace the kingdom life right here and right now! I pray you will join me in delighting in this gift of life and communion with all creation, much as I have experienced once again through the eyes--*and nose!*--of our dear Miss Pepper. *“You have heard; now see **all this**; and will you not declare it? From this time forward I make you hear **new things**, hidden **things** that you have not known.”* (Isaiah 48:6) God's peace and joy be with you.

Randy+

Music Notes



Karla Cole

**Director of Music
Ministries**

Before the Russians began shelling Ukrainian cities, I knew almost nothing about Ukraine. There's the Ukrainian Bell Carol (popularly known as the Carol of the Bells), but I couldn't have told you that it was written by Mykola Leontovych. And there are those beautiful Ukrainian Easter eggs.

During my one miserable year as the music teacher at a Catholic grade school, the best day was when the assistant principal set up her egg decorating equipment and made *pysanka* eggs with the kids. You can see a fascinating video if you search YouTube for "See the mesmerizing creation of a Ukrainian Easter egg." Additionally, a quick Google search will yield tons of beautiful photos of the elaborately colored eggs.

As we've learned from the overwhelming news reporting, the Ukrainian people are fiercely proud and patriotic and are becoming more so by the day. They've certainly won the hearts of most of the rest of the world, and I see makeshift Ukrainian flags almost everywhere I go these days. But when I am curious about a place, I like to explore it through their music and culture. And I quickly discovered that I had never heard of most of the Ukrainian composers. Perhaps the most famous of all would be Serge Prokofiev, who was born in Ukraine, but lived most of his life in, and is zealously claimed by Russia. I won't bore you with the other names I found, all of which actually sound pretty Russian and have an abundance of consonants, but I did look up a lot of their pieces and in a personal prayer for the people of Ukraine, have played several of them in church over this last month. Much of it is based on a folk tune and sounds quite Slavic to our Western ears. Many of the pieces begin with a somber melody in a minor key and transition to a more dance-like melody by way of a gradual acceleration of the tempo. This might remind you of any Russian folk dancing you might have seen. Or the Russian dancers in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Choosing music to play for church rules out some styles – things that are too loud or *bravura* (Italian for show-offy), or too long. No one wants to sit through a 15 minute prelude, and no one *will* sit through a 15 minute postlude. So that leaves shorter pieces and interior movements of longer works which are more often in a slower tempo and more likely to be in a minor key. Music is based on a series of scales, and in Western music, most are either major or minor. Simplistically speaking, major keys sound pretty happy and minor keys sound a little sad. Lent is a good time of the church year for those sad-sounding pieces in minor keys. But I'll always remember being cautioned early in my career about not allowing Lent to become too dreary. And just last week, Rev. Marilyn reminded us that the eucharist is always a "little Easter." In an ordinary year, I think I thread that needle pretty well, but this year, I find myself gravitating more than usual toward the solemn and somber. While the lectionary readings always get darker and more bleak as we approach Holy Week, I think my melancholy is exacerbated by the times we're living through. So, if I've been a Debbie Downer for you on a Sunday lately, I do apologize. The good news is that there are only a few more weeks of Lent and Easter's a-comin'!

Grace and peace,

Footprints April 2022 News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Director of
Children's Ministries**

Sunday School

We are happy to be back in Sunday School! Lessons started on March 20th and will run through Sunday, May 22nd. We are in the Parish Hall now, but we will be back in the classroom after Easter.

Family Worship

At our March Family Worship event we made Gratitude Boxes to use as a Lenten Practice, buried the alleluias, and in our worship service we distributed ashes. On April 3rd we will make Empty Tomb Gardens. All families welcome – any size, age, and shape! We meet at 4pm on the first Sunday of each month.



Easter Egg Hunt!

Sunday, April 17 following the 10:30 service!

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School 2022!

Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God

July 25-29 9am-noon

Invite your family and friends to join you!

Participants are age 3 – 5th grade

Youth Volunteers have completed 6th – 12th grade

Adult Volunteers are . . . well, older than that!



Registration will be available starting Easter Sunday for participants and youth volunteers.

Adults who are interested in helping, please reach out to Marion

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 14: Maundy Thursday:

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 PM

April 15: Good Friday:

Worship at 12:15 PM

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm



April 16: Holy Saturday:

9-11 AM Labyrinth Walk, with service at 10 am-Parish Hall

April 17: EASTER:

Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt follows the 10:30 service.

(Please note, NO Stations on Wednesday, April 13.)

Ministry Schedules

If you serve as a Lector, Intercessor, Usher, Crucifer or Junior Acolyte, the new schedule was emailed out on March 26th. If you did not get it, please contact Marion Hunner Marion@stchristophers-mn.org

Lenten Reflections

Many thanks to those who contributed to our Lenten Reflections in March. It has been wonderful hearing from all of these different voices during Lent!

Cheryl Bailey Madisen Crow Pete & Cindy Lee
Marilyn Baldwin Karen Hartman Becky Lucas
Sally Brown Barb Hovey Mary Pendergrass
Karla Cole Marion Hunner Julie Shiek
Scott Crow Allison Jensen Don Shiek
Jean Crow Randy Johnson Mike Sirany

Ann Trapnell
Bruce Warkentien
Cassidy Wegwerth
Jennifer Wright

Green Team: Earth Day – Friday, April 22nd, 2022

Every April 22nd is Earth Day – a day celebrated globally, but one that was started in 1970 in the United States by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. At that time there was no Environmental Protection Agency, no Clean Air Act, and no Clean Water Act, so Earth Day was a way for the Senator to bring his environmental agenda to national attention.

I encourage you to check out the website www.earthday.org. You will read about ways to invest in the planet, both locally and globally. If everyone works together to try and reduce the number of miles driven each day, to cut down on plastic usage, to clean up trash around the neighborhood, the world will be a

better place. Small actions by many, many people make a big difference. No action to improve the planet is too small!

How are you going to celebrate Earth Day?

Jean Crow
Green Team

Pulse of the Parish

Vestry meeting held on March 21, 2022

This brief report is to inform you about the work and actions from the March 21st Vestry meeting.

Fr. Randy opened our meeting with the Leadership Prayer, followed by Madisen Crow's Vestry Covenant reading.

We saluted retiring Clerk Allison Jensen for her service as she ceremonially passed the keyboard over to our new Clerk, Robert Williams.

Finance Team member Tom Linder gave an in-depth overview of our faith family financial reports, sharing that overall we're looking very good financially as we start the second quarter of the year. Pat Ahern, liaison to Finance, reported that Xcel has paid us a total of twenty-six thousand dollars. The Finance team recommended to Vestry that the twenty thousand, for the easement purchase, to go to the Pooled Investment Fund. The six thousand, for use of parking lot, will go to the parking lot maintenance fund.

Jr. Warden Karen Hartman informed the Vestry members what teams they would be serving as liaisons to for the year. They will reach out to team chairs to let them know of their relationship.

In Unfinished business, Ann DePaolis Jones led the Vestry in a review and update of the Vestry Covenant. She also led a discussion on how we might better use our Parish Hall floor labyrinth. For starters, Fr. Randy shared that Rev. Marilyn Baldwin will be conducting a labyrinth instructional along with Holy Saturday morning services.

In Other business, Jr. Warden Karen Hartman reported that she and Cheryl Bailey discussed ideas, and also requested ideas from Vestry, for our top priority of reconnecting and reengaging our faith family members for the greater health and welfare of our community. This is being done in earnest as the pandemic subsides and we return to some normalcy in the coming months.

Under New Business, Library Team chair Allison Jensen shared that a historical hymn book was donated to the library and asked that the Vestry consider donating it to the U of M Archives where it would be put to good research use.

Other new business, with the focus on reconnecting with our faith family first and foremost, the Vestry decided it was best to pass on participating in the Roseville Rosefest parade this year, and left the door open for exploring other

opportunities for the 2023 Rosefest.

In the Rector Report, Fr. Randy mentioned hosting the Rev. Ted Neuhaus funeral with Bishop Loya presiding on March 24. We are re-evaluating our policy for our coffee gatherings, and are waiting for an update from ECMN on COVID guidelines. We briefly discussed the option of using a mask or not, and leaving it up to whatever each faith family member would be comfortable with. In addition, we discussed the possible purchase of HEPA air filters to be placed in various well used spaces in our facility.

Shout Outs to Bruce Warkentien and Steph Mann for helping us shred a dozen boxes of old parish dozen boxes of old parish documents. Calvary Episcopal Church (Rochester) and Janet McNally - For their donations of household furnishing and monetary donation for our future resettlement family.

The meeting ended with Eric Hedican leading us in Compline.

Please feel free to contact any of our Vestry members if you have questions or comments. The meeting minutes will be available after they have been approved at the next Vestry meeting on April 18th. Thank you!

ADDENDUM: We didn't want to wait a month to give this big shout out: Bishop Loya was very grateful for our hospitality hosting the Rev. Ted Neuhaus funeral on Thursday, March 24; especially several parish members for all their compassionate work: Bruce Warkentien, Jean Hammer, Kathy Ackerman, Tom Linder, Jennifer Wright, Al Reedstrom, and Karla Cole.

CALENDAR for APRIL

1 Friday - April Fool's Day!

3:45 PM to 6:45 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

2 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

3 Sunday - LENT 5

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 PM Family Worship

4 Monday

10:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

3:00 PM to 8 PM - Cello Lessons - Music Room

3:15 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

5 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Gathering Room - to 5 PM

8:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

2 PM to 6 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

7 PM Recorder Consort - Church

6 Wednesday**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** - Church**3 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219**6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA** - Gathering Room**6 PM Way of the Cross** - Church**7 Thursday****3:45 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219**5 PM to 8 PM** - Cello Lessons - Music Room**8 Friday****10 AM Private Spiritual Direction** - Library**3:45 PM to 6:45 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219**9 Saturday****9 AM Flute Lessons** - Music Room**10 Sunday - Palm Sunday****8 AM Holy Eucharist****9:30 AM** Sunday School**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist****11 Monday****9:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction** - Library**3:00 PM to 8 PM** - Cello Lessons - Music Room**3:15 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219**6:45 PM** Finance Team - Parish Hall**12 Tuesday****10 AM SG Group** - Gathering Room - to Noon**2 PM to 6 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219**6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal** - Parish Hall**7 PM Recorder Consort** - Church**13 Wednesday****10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction** - Library**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** - Church**3 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219**6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA** - Gathering Room**14 Thursday - Maundy Thursday****2 PM Private Spiritual Direction** - Library**5 PM to 8 PM** - Cello Lessons - Music Room**3:45 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219**7 PM Holy Eucharist** - Church**15 Friday - Good Friday****12:15 PM Worship for Good Friday****3:45 PM to 6:45 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219**7 PM Way of the Cross (Stations)** - Church**16 Saturday - Holy Saturday****8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction** - Library**9 AM Flute Lessons** - Music Room**9 AM to 11 AM** - Labyrinth Walk and Service - Parish Hall

17 Sunday - EASTER

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

18 Monday

3:00 PM to 8 PM - Cello Lessons - Music Room

6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall

19 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Gathering Room - to 5 PM

3:30 PM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

7 PM Recorder Consort - Church

20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6:30 PM - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

21 Thursday

3:45 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

5 PM to 8 PM - Cello Lessons - Music Room

22 Friday - EARTH DAY

3:45 PM to 6:45 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

23 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

24 Sunday - Easter 2

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

25 Monday - e-Traveler Deadline!

3:00 PM to 8 PM - Cello Lessons - Music Room

26 Tuesday

11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

2 PM to 6 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

7 PM Recorder Consort - Church

27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

3 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6:30 PM - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

28 Thursday

5 PM to 8 PM - Cello Lessons - Music Room

3:45 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

29 Friday

3:45 PM to 6:45 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

30 Saturday

Please note that some of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Some of those groups are now on this calendar to avoid over-scheduling. Always check with the church office before scheduling a meeting.

Last Words



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

April Showers should bring May flowers! I heard this week that May flowers bring June brides. Sounds good!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Chris Mayr, Sr. Warden; Karen Hartman, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman; Patrick Ahern; Cheryl Bailey;
Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican; Ann DePaolis-Jones;
Alexander Kun; Jeanna McLoughlin; Leslie Norton

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Regular Schedule:

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary
9:30 AM Sunday School (Not on First Sundays)
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

STAY CONNECTED

