

Issue #69 | August 2018

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



Meet Christ.
Be Christ.

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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Cindy Lee, Sr. Warden; Joel Norton, Jr. Warden
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Tom Linder; Becky Lucas; Mike Sirany; 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. Daniel Pearson, Transition Priest

Our SUMMER Schedule

Sunday: 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
in the Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

A Note from The Rev. Daniel Pearson



**The Rev.
Daniel V. Pearson**
Transition Priest

Minding the Poor

“Happy are they who consider the poor and needy!”

This beginning line of Psalm 41 expresses an ethical perspective that is shared not only by all major religions, but also by caring people not necessarily instructed by religious orientation. In teaching his disciples, Jesus affirms the importance of regarding the poor as he tells them, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.” (Luke 6:20) Yet, he also makes clear that this affirmation and respect for the poor does not relieve those who are not poor from giving to the poor. We might recall, for example, that when a rich young man asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life, the ultimate and somewhat stunning response is “sell what you own and give the money to the poor.” (Mark 10:23)

The best way to regard the poor and the needy can be subject to a wide difference of opinion. The disposition to let the poor “pull up their own bootstraps” is one thing; simply cascading benefits upon them is another. Figuring out how best to help those in need typically involves some wrestling. Recently, I read a review of a book I’ve heard about but not actually read, namely, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse it.)* by Robert Lupton. To be sure the title is more than a little provocative and doubtless, a schooled reading could be salutary. Meanwhile, a main point is to “do no harm” which at best involves careful listening, planning and follow-through. And this warning: “Wherever there is sustained one way giving, unwholesome dynamics and pathologies fester under the cover of kindheartedness”.

We all know there are all kinds of giving, with enormous levels of how much to give. It’s one thing to provide a fresh water well for a village in Haiti or build homes for the poor in Mexico, but quite another to support your local food shelf and buy backpacks for kids going to school. In recent years there has been a paradigm shift in our understanding of giving in the church. For years and years we simply talked about “outreach”—caring for those beyond our doors by supplying things people need. More recently, we’re being schooled in our giving by the missional church conversation. In this latter perspective, emphasis is on developing personal relationships and being involved in the lives of those we want to help. It takes time and it’s kind of organic, meaning we are left to discover what help actually means to both the giver and receiver. We find ourselves wondering in what ways is it better to give than to receive.

dvp

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

I found the Bishop's Blog to be of particular interest this past week. In it, he discussed the process that leads to forming relationships and how important it is to gather, to share stories, to spend time listening to one another. It was through that sharing, that listening, that we began to develop a relationship with the other person(s), and as those small seeds begin to grow we begin to discover that we truly care for the other person(s) and truly want to deepen the relationship into one that not only shares stories, but shares burdens and joys as well. It seems like a simple plan to start with and one that has tremendous potential.

Remember a few weeks back when the Gospel lesson was all about the mustard seed? We learned that the seed was, in fact, very small and could germinate in almost any condition; and once it got started, little got in the way of it spreading every which way. It seems to me that the parable of the mustard seed is much like the way our Bishop described the process of forming relationships with our neighbors. The relationships start small and slow in the beginning and we really have no control over the initial discourse, or how that opening conversation will be received, or even what it might yield. Yet, like the mustard seed, we find that if we are patient we are able to germinate, to take hold, to begin to develop wherever or with whoever we as neighbors begin to share our stories. And then, much like the mustard seed, we too begin to grow. The mustard seed into an unruly weed-like plant and us into a much deeper friendship, and as the Bishop points out, a potential that is limitless.

The trap that we can and often do fall into is that we are not patient enough to let the process dictate the speed at which we move. We do live in a fast paced, instant gratification-laden society. Our internet provides us with a multitude of wonders all at our fingertips and on a computer that we can carry in our pockets, and if the connection is just a bit slow, well it drives us nuts! Ask anyone who has traveled to a location whose service gets interrupted by large bodies of water, or mountains, or deserts, or an area that just simply doesn't have great service. Our frustration levels immediately rise, and we do not always take our lack of control in the best way!!

A few years back, a book entitled *Slow Church* was published. It was an interesting little book that was not about ways to slow down the Sunday liturgy, but rather how to slow down our expectations of how we measure success as we strive to be the church in the neighborhood. Much like the lesson of mustard seed and the example offered by the Bishop, the authors suggested that we need to take our missional efforts beyond our doors on God's time. When Martha (from the Anuak community) and I finally settled on a date to have our first meeting, we agreed that in many ways it had been necessary for us

to delay our initial meeting. We agreed we needed to let go and that we were operating on the schedule set by the Holy Spirit. And while it can be hard to let go of our control needs, it can also have the feeling of tremendous freedom.

And so we move into the neighborhood, seeking out where the Holy Spirit is already at work ahead of us, and where it is that we are being called to join in. We join conversations that share stories that discover things held in common, and things vastly different, and we rejoice in it all. We continue to meet, share stories, and repeat, and as we do so, when we least expect it, we find that our relationships have entered into a deeper intensity that allows for change to occur for all persons involved. The missional church, joining where the Holy Spirit is at work in the neighborhood, where we join with Christ in God's mission for the life of the world, is a patient and gentle endeavor. Jesus said nothing about calculating numbers in order to determine whether an undertaking is a success or a failure. In fact, Jesus never used the term failure when describing how the disciples were to go out into their neighborhoods. Jesus did, however, speak a great deal about loving your neighbor as yourself, and not offering judgments but rather peace. And He gave us the gift of being slow, patient, and able to develop true and deep relationships based upon mutual care and concern. There are many ways, right here in Roseville, to partner with our fellow faith communities and our neighbors and strive to be about the ever-breaking-in reign of God. It is a slow process by design, but one that yields tremendous possibility, and the gift of mutual effort, as we all share in bringing about the Kingdom.

Amen, Deacon Janet

MUSIC NOTES



Karla Cole
Director of
Music Ministries

As I climb down off the organ bench or wander into coffee hour these days, I'm met with curiosity and people ask me, "what was wrong with the organ today?" If you've been in church lately, you've maybe noticed the organ singing one long note throughout the whole hymn, or hanging on after the hymn was over, or even one Sunday, I dove from the organ to the piano in the middle of a verse. The problem is diagnosed as "ciphering", where air is escaping from where it shouldn't – the bane of organists the world over.

Sometimes it just needs a little lift. The organ at St. Mary's Episcopal had several notes that were prone to cipher and they were even marked with little arrows because it happened so often. My husband, Matt was cued up to run to the pipe room just behind the choir and lift the offending pipe up and set it back down. Usually, that fixed it. When I went to St. Luke's Episcopal, the pipe room was up in the bell tower (where there weren't any bells) and you had to run upstairs, crawl

up a ladder in one of the Sunday School rooms, walk across the roof outside in the elements and vault yourself into the pipe room. It was quite the process. But because the pipe room was pretty well sealed and climate controlled, we had fewer issues there.

Here at St. Christopher's, the cipher is usually a smaller pipe or a few pipes and is probably more frustrating for me than you, but it is sub-optimal nevertheless. Our problem isn't a simple matter of lifting and replacing a little pipe. It's the same thing that is wrong with that sticky doorjamb at your house or the cabinet drawer that gives you trouble now, but will be fine in the fall. It's not the heat, it's the humidity. The organ has wooden, leather and felt parts that fill up with moisture in the spring and summer. This year, the problem has been especially noticeable and dropping the temperature of the air conditioner for a little while ahead of the service just hasn't been enough to solve the problem. It has seemed fine when I've warmed up before the service and it seems fine all through the prelude. Then halfway into the first hymn, she begins to misbehave. So the problem is exacerbated when the people come in and breathe. Perhaps if all of you could just hold your breath during the service, the organ wouldn't cipher so much!

Typically, organs are "installed" in a church. They have a console, where the organist sits and a designated pipe room or a space where the temperature and humidity can be controlled somewhat. But there is nothing typical about our little organ. What you see is what you get. It's all right there, wrapped around itself, something like the roots of a plant that needs to be repotted. There's no wasted space in there. Come up front after church and have a look sometime.

This ciphering thing is not a sign that the organ's life is drawing to a close and will soon give up the ghost. It is also not a sign that we will need a costly organ repair. It *is* a sign that we need a congregational sense of humor about the whole thing, and patience because by the end of September, things will be fine. You've heard of three season porches? Our organ is kind of like that. And one other thing to keep in mind: the long-range climate cast is for warmer and wetter summers in our region, which sadly, will probably mean more ciphering. Thank goodness we have a nice piano.

Karla Cole

Footprints JULY 2018 - News from Children's Ministries





Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make Shipwrecked VBS such a great success! All week we shared Bible Stories, Games, Crafts Snacks, Music, Science experiments, and special skits that helped us learn that Jesus Rescues . . . when we're lonely, we worry, we struggle, we do wrong, and we feel powerless. It was a high energy, spirit-filled week. Every year I am overwhelmed with the presence of the Holy Spirit among our group that ranges from age 3 to 90! The collaboration and sense of community among children, teens and adults is truly a gift to experience. For our mission projects we collected canned meats and fruits for Keystone's food shelf, tied fleece blankets for their outreach programs, and decorated cookies which were served at St. Christopher's Community Dinner on Thursday. If you would like to see pictures from each day, they are on posters in the Upper and Lower Narthex and the Children's Ministries bulletin board. You can also find pictures on St. Christopher's Facebook page – you do not need to be a Facebook user to access our page:

www.facebook.com/St.ChristophersRoseville



School Supply Collection – August 5-19

Watch for the yellow bus in the Lower Narthex from August 6-19, where we are collecting school supplies for Roseville Area Schools. They need all of the typical school

supplies: backpacks, colored pencils, pens (red, black, blue ink), compasses & protractors, notebooks (wide & college ruled), pencil bags/cases, glue, scissors, markers (narrow & wide), crayons (24). . . . etc. Anything you find in the back to school section of the store would be great! Please place supplies in the bus no later than Sunday, August 19th. If you would prefer a monetary donation, please put it in Marion's mailbox and label it "school supplies." We will use it to purchase items for the drive.



Family Fun Movie Night, Thursday, August 16th 6:00-8:30pm

Families of all ages, shapes and sizes are invited. We will decorate plant pots and then watch Disney's The Lorax. Snacks provided!



August Calendar Highlights!

- 1 12:15 PM** Holy Eucharist - Chapel
- 3 5:30 PM** Corn Feed – Parish Hall
- 4 2:00 PM** Coffee & Beads – Parish Hall
- 5 9:30 AM** Holy Eucharist - Church
- 8 12:15 PM** Holy Eucharist – Chapel
4:00 PM Staff Meeting (Office Closes)
- 12 9:30 AM** Holy Eucharist

13 5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall

14 PRIMARY ELECTION

7:00 AM-8:00 PM Voting in Parish Hall

15 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

16 6:00 – 8:30 PM Family movie night!

19 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church

20 6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

21 *Meals on Wheels – Offsite*

22 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

4:00 PM Staff Meeting (Office Closes)

23 STATE FAIR PARKING BEGINS-daily through September 3

26 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

27 e-Traveler Deadline

29 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

30 5:30 PM Community Dinner – Parish Hall

Hearts and Hands

A group of women, called "Hearts and Hands," will be meeting on the third Friday of each month, beginning in August, in the Parish Hall. Our mission is to support one another, and use our hands for some community projects in the name of St. Christopher's. We plan to gather at 10:30 am, do a project, and then have coffee and goodies.

At this time, the community projects include making sandwiches for two organizations that deliver them nightly in the Twin Cities Area; Grab-and-Go bags for patients at the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge; and helping at Second Stork in St. Paul. In the future, we will look for additional projects. Our projects cost each of us about \$3-5 each meeting.

If you are interested, come join us! Bring your own cup for coffee, and if you feel like bringing something to share, please do! For more information, call Sally Brown at 651-483-8232.

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork
Psalm 90:17*

Last Words



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

It is hard to believe that VBS finished up last week; and we are hearing more and more about the State Fair, and being a Park-n-Ride site again, in just a few weeks! Enjoy!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

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STAY CONNECTED



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