

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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"To Mars and Beyond!"



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**
Rector

"To Mars and Beyond!"

Were you present at last Sunday's worship service at St. Christopher's? I truly hope that you were! There was a heightened sense of anticipation from the gathered assembly as the large cadre of Vacation Bible School kids processed into the nave with Cross and clergy and vibrant entrance anthem. Everyone settled in beneath the rows of heavenly bodies still decorating the space...literally space...with planets, stars, and moons suspended above our heads. Since the theme of this year's VBS was "To Mars and Beyond," it all made perfect sense.

As the worship service progressed, I could not help but have my attention drawn to the great group of VBS'ers wearing matching blue camp t-shirts. They were happily sitting up front on the floor, and obviously in excited and animated conversation which underscored their new and deepened relationship with one another. The new and developing relationship between these children and youth embodies and demonstrates the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst at St. Christopher's. With the caring leadership of many adults and youth, these kiddos grew in their own understanding of living out the Gospel message to our community. They learned stories from the Bible, completed mission projects for Keystone's food shelf, tie-dyed pillow cases for kids in our neighborhood, and decorated cookies to share with attendees of our Community Dinner, (and were they EVER decorated- lots and lots of sugar icing!)

Our VBS kids are living out the Gospel in miniature- not because of their shortness of physical stature- but because they project the full stature and

measure of being called to be Christ's hands and feet in our neighborhood. They are learning, growing, and living into our Baptismal Covenant, with God's help, (BCP page 304-305 *or check it out on-line!*)

The closing hymn "Earth and All Stars" was the perfect sending hymn, with VBS kids leading the congregation in enthusiastic singing and physical movement;

"Sing to the Lord a new song!
He has done mar-ve-lous things!
I, too, will praise him with a new song!"

Randy+

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

*Q Will you promise to respect the dignity of every human being?
A I will with God's help*

Those should be familiar words to all of us. They are a part of the Baptismal Covenant which we, as a people of faith in the Episcopal Church, renew each time we experience a baptism in our communities, or witness a confirmation liturgy, or say it in place of the Nicene Creed in liturgies where it is deemed to be important for us to remember these words. Occasions such as the Great Vigil of Easter, All Saints Sunday, or The Baptism of our Lord. The Baptismal Covenant, which arguably is one of the strongest parts of the liturgy, asserts, according to Episcopal liturgical theologian Lee Mitchell, that "Baptism is not a private religious activity without implications for the life in the world. The baptismal covenant commits Christians to living out their baptism in their daily lives."^[1] It is, to quote my sermon from a few weeks back, our living into our call to become a people who have a Mary heart and Martha hands. Or perhaps in this instance a Martha voice. Let me explain.

Two years ago I traveled with our Youth to the American South, where we immersed ourselves into the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-1960s. We came face to face with the realities of turning fire hoses and attack dogs on young people in Birmingham as they marched for the right to vote, of riders being pulled off buses in Montgomery and beaten because they were black and had ridden a bus across state lines, or beaten as they crossed a bridge in Selma, again seeking the right to vote. They were stunned to realize that these things happened in the struggle for Civil Rights. This summer they faced not only the historic struggles of our Native sisters and brothers, but also were witness to the current struggles for dignity. The somber truth of the matter is that while it is

important to remember the struggles of the Civil Rights movement and the sacrifices that were made to obtain rights that are guaranteed to all of us, it is also important that we face the reality that racism in all its forms, and targeting all manner of our brothers and sisters in Christ, is still very much a part of our lives.

In his work, *Walk in Love*, Scott Gunn of *Forward Movement* writes the following concerning our promise to respect the dignity of every human being. “We are saying that we will make our own best effort to respect every human being, whether we look like them or not, whether we agree with them or not, whether we think they deserve it or not. We Christians are called to respect and treat with dignity every single person on this planet as a beautiful being who bears God’s image”^[2] In other words, or perhaps more to the point in practical words, we need to speak out (there’s the Martha voice piece) when we see or hear racism raise its ugly persona in all of its forms in our midst. While the words “Blessed are the peacemakers” are ones we should and do try to live by, sometimes it becomes necessary for us to take action as well. Calling out racism, calling out when those around us fail to respect the dignity of every human being, are just those times, are what we are called as Christians to do. And it’s not easy. Those whose racist voices are the loudest are the people who command a public megaphone, whether they are holding a public office or command a loud voice through media or have made themselves self-appointed leaders on our behalf.

So what should we do? Gunn goes on to point out that the respect that we promise is for all those we encounter, even those with whom we disagree. Liberals or conservatives, rich or poor, loud or quiet, this promise requires that we begin each interaction by respecting the dignity of the person we are interacting with. “We are promising that we will speak the truth in love when others need to hear it, that we will help strangers just as much as we help family, and that we will make room for the needs of others.”^[3]

Is this an overwhelming problem - to be sure; one that seems insurmountable - absolutely; one that would be easier to deal with if we just were to “pray it away” - without a doubt. Still, in taking action there is good news to be found. First of all, it is not up to us as individuals to conquer and solve the whole issue, but rather to face each individual example as we encounter it. Still more important, however, is the good news that the promise recognizes our own human abilities and our limitations. We, too, recognize this as we answer the question with the words “I will, with God’s help.” *Amen.*

^[1] Mitchell, Leonel L., *Praying Shapes Believing*, Harrisburg, PA. Morehouse Publishing. 1985. P102.

^[2] Gunn, Scott. *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*. Cincinnati, Ohio Forward Movement. 2018 p35.

^[3] Ibid.

About Community



The Rev. Mary Rowe
Assisting Priest

The summer seems to be rapidly spiraling down. The upcoming Great Minnesota Get Together is just around the corner.

Most of my summer has been spent in Moab, where Facebook kept me in contact with all that has been going on at St. Christopher's. I really missed our community, the parade, VBS, the garden growth, the brewery gathering, our worship, etc.

Our life in Christ is grounded in community, and being separated from it really increases an awareness of how blessed we are to have each other on our journey.

In Christ, Mary+

Footprints AUGUST 2019 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make *To Mars and Beyond* VBS such a great success! All week we shared Bible Stories, Games, Crafts, Snacks, Music, and Science experiments, as we were challenged to Go Beyond with Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope! 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 92! The collaboration and sense of community among children, teens, and adults is truly a gift to experience. This year we had 18 children, 7 youth, and 19 adults throughout the week! For our mission projects we collected 66 pounds of food for Keystone's food shelf, decorated 60 cookies for St. Christopher's Community Dinner (and ourselves!), and tiedyed over 50 pillow cases for Keystone Community Services (and ourselves!). Look for pictures on posters in the Upper Narthex and main stairway. 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 4-18

Watch for the yellow bus in the Lower Narthex from August 4-18, where we are collecting school supplies for our partners from the Ethiopian Anuak tribe. Many of these families are new to our country and unfamiliar with our tradition of supplying the items that children need in school.

They need all of the typical school supplies for children in elementary through high school: 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 18th**. If you would prefer a monetary donation, please put it in Marion's mailbox and label it "school supplies." We have shoppers who would be thrilled to put it to good use!



Summer Family Picnic – Families should have received an email asking for feedback on the best time to plan a family picnic. If you did not get this email, please contact Marion! Please respond to that email quickly so that we can get this planned!

Youth News



Chad O'Leary
**Youth Ministries
Director**

"After such a warm send off at St. Christopher's we began our trip west by first

stopping at the Two Rivers overlook with a clear view of Bdote -- the convergence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers -- and a place of major significance for the Dakota people. These were the waters that bore a people. However, in 1862 they also became a place of isolation, desolation, and disease as those native peoples who had survived the US-Dakota Conflict were camped there until arrangements could be made for either prosecution under US Law or relocation to the West. It was haunting to look down on this ground that certainly intercepted so many tears. However, we were proud to learn that Episcopalian missionaries, such as Bishop Whipple, were among the very few who visited the camps to baptize, confirm, and bring into communion through the Eucharist. "

This is the beginning of the first entry in the Youth Trip blog. If you have not yet visited the blog, we invite you to do so! We have included pictures along with our impressions of the trip. You can access the blog from the main page of St. Christopher's website.

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Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

First Nations' Kitchen

It's time to start thinking about volunteering for our next date with First Nations Kitchen on September 8, 2019. I need volunteers for food prep and setting up dining room from 1:30 to 4:00 pm and then from 5:00 to 7:30 pm for serving plates in the kitchen, serving in the dining room, busing tables, dish washing and cleaning dining room after meal. I would like to have 4 or 5 people for the 1:30 shift and about 7 or 8 people for the 5:00 pm shift. We partner with St. James Episcopal Church so they will also be providing additional volunteers. If you have never done this I would encourage you to give it a try.

I am also looking for someone to take my place as coordinator for our volunteers from St. Christopher's beginning in November of this year. This job entails selecting dates for the next year in conjunction with the volunteer coordinator from St. James. We generally try to pick dates that fall once in each quarter, though, if we want, we could choose another date or two beyond what we do with St. James. The coordinator also gets a list of volunteers for each date to fill the jobs for the two shifts on the days we serve. I have a list of people who often volunteer but I'm always looking to expand this list. It isn't necessary, if we have a large enough list, for the same people to volunteer for every date unless they wish to. I am willing to help a new coordinator through the process of getting started.

If you want to volunteer for the September date you can contact me, Mary Pendergrass, by phone at 651-336-2622 or by email at marypendergrass41@gmail.com.

Save the Date!

September 8th is the final day we will be together for one service at 9:30. Please join us at 10:30 for a Parish Picnic! More info to come. Want to help? Call Karen Hartman at 651-503-1775 or Randy in the office.

We will also have table space available for any group or committee who would like to show the parish what you have been up to, and/or what you have planned. Please call or email the office to let us know you'd like a space.

You Are Invited to ... Dining Club!

Are you looking for fellowship and good food? Then the Dining Club is for you!

We meet three times a year. Singles and couples are invited. Come and join us!
For more info, please call Ebie Richards at 651-633-5202.

Attention Park-and-Ride Volunteers!

There will be a "State Fair Park & Ride Orientation Meeting" on Saturday, August 17th from 1:30-2:30 at the Employment Center, 1640 Como Ave., Falcon Heights. Please plan to attend! This is a paid training, so the more volunteers that attend, the more money St. Christopher's will receive. Questions? call Don Shiek.

Pulse of the Parish

The Pulse of the Parish is a brief update to keep everyone informed of the actions taken by the Vestry at their meeting on Monday, July 15th, 2019.

- The meeting opened with scripture and prayer.
- The monthly financial reports were reviewed. The June 2019 income and expenses are generally staying within the budget.
- Capital Campaign update: We have had an outstanding response! Campaign balance is at \$374,000. Our goal was \$300,000. The campaign is still open for any additional donations.
- Golf Outing: Golfing and happy hour was well attended. \$850 was raised for Mission Opportunities.
- Building and Grounds: Carpets will be cleaned in high traffic areas of the church. Funds were approved to cover the cost. Discussed repainting lines in parking lot to be completed before the State Fair.
- Safe Churches: The ECMN Safe Church program is in the process of being revised. Annual training will be made available to all church members. Training will be required every 3 years for those working with youth and vulnerable adults. Additional information will be made available over the coming months.
- Summer Events: The youth trip, to Native American historical sites in Minnesota and South Dakota, left this past Sunday. They can be followed on the church website blog. There will also be the State Fair Parking event in August.
- St Christopher's Bylaws: Bylaws are in the process of being updated. Revisions will be presented to vestry as soon as possible.
- Solar Array Update: Made in MN rebate of \$5130 for 2018 has arrived. This is \$742 higher than 2017 and does not include production from the new array on the flat roof.
- Leadership needs: Discussed leadership needs for Community Dinners and First Nations Kitchen. Anyone interested in this role, please contact a member of the vestry.
- Shout Outs: Thank You Harold Danley for decades of service to our church. His service has included organizing annual church grounds clean up events, ushering,

vestry service, weekly locking church doors and many other things. Cindy Lee and Bill Hanna for organizing the successful golf event. Also, the Green Team and all others involved in the Roseville parade. A big THANK YOU! to all of you for all the hard work.

Please be aware that the minutes of the July meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the Vestry's June meeting. Vestry members will be available after the service for any questions you may have.



AUGUST Calendar Highlights!

Friday 2

5 PM Corn Feed Silent Auction Event

Sunday 4

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 7

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting – Office

Sunday 11

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 12

5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall

Tuesday 13

Office may be closed – please call ahead

Meals on Wheels – Offsite

Wednesday 14

Office may be closed – please call ahead

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting – Office

Thursday 15

Office may be closed – please call ahead

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall

Friday 16

Office may be closed – please call ahead

ALL DAY & EVENING – Chinese Day Care Graduation – Parish Hall

Sunday 18

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 19

Office may be closed – please call ahead

6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

Wednesday 21

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting – Office

Thursday 22

STATE FAIR PARKING

Friday 23

STATE FAIR PARKING

Saturday 24

STATE FAIR PARKING

Sunday 25

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

STATE FAIR PARKING (begins at 1 PM)

Monday 26

STATE FAIR PARKING

e-Traveler Deadline

Tuesday 27

STATE FAIR PARKING

Wednesday 28

STATE FAIR PARKING

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist

3 PM Staff Meeting

Thursday 29

STATE FAIR PARKING

5:30 PM Community Dinner

Friday 30

STATE FAIR PARKING

Saturday 31

STATE FAIR PARKING

Sunday September 1

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

STATE FAIR PARKING (begins at 1 PM)

Monday, September 2 – Labor Day
STATE FAIR PARKING

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.

Last Words



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

So here we are at the last month of Summer. Time sure flies when you're having fun! Keep your eyes open for information about Start Up Sunday and the the return to two services next month!

I'll be on vacation August 13-19, so please call ahead to see if anyone is in the office before you make a trip to church.

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

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 SUMMER Sunday Schedule June 9 - September 8

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

STAY CONNECTED

