

From: St. Christopher's Episcopal Church <office@stchristophers-mn.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 3:55 PM
To: office@stchristophers-mn.org
Subject: December 2017 e-Traveler

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St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #62

DECEMBER 2017

A Note from Rev Mary Rowe



The Rev.
Mary Rowe
Assisting Priest



Meet
Christ
Be Christ

Today I was musing about the difference in which we celebrate our new church year, to the traditional way of celebrating the secular new year.

Instead of lots of plans- partying with confetti, a myriad of promises of self improvement, and bottles of cheer- we stop and take a self inventory.

Advent is a time to empty the closet of our mind and heart and to wait, so we can embrace where the Spirit wants to lead us.

We cannot force fit a place within ourselves for God. Advent is an opportunity to remember that like a vulnerable baby, God enters in whenever we leave an opening and yearn for God to fill it.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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VESTRY:

Jeff Jensen,
Sr. Warden
Cindy Lee,
Jr. Warden
Ann DePaolis-Jones,
Clerk
Suzanne Hitchcock,
Treasurer

Blessings and wonder on our new year, as we journey into the future together.

Mary+

The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

Although the days grow shorter and the weather turns colder, I have always loved the season of Advent. There is something that is comforting in a season that calls each of us to stop and faithfully wait, through prayer, through meditation, through intention for the coming of the gift of God Incarnate.

Advent calls us out of the hustle and bustle of the world that surrounds us beyond these doors, into a world of quiet and patient waiting. Because we had the unique situation of an early Thanksgiving this year, we have been surrounded by the sights and sounds and retail frenzy that accompany the Holiday Season. And now, more than ever, the season of Advent calls us to slow down, and for that I am always grateful. Something very big, very important, life changing, is about to be remembered and it is nice to have not only permission, but encouragement as well, to pause and take notice of the immeasurable event that we will soon celebrate. So it is right and fitting that we set aside these four Sundays as a time to do just that.

Several years ago I wrote about my son, now a father twice over himself, and the case of the missing Baby Jesus. It was common for us as a family to pull out the decorations for Christmas early in the Advent season; the tree had to wait, but the rest of the festooning could commence. Bill and I had purchased a very dear (to us) crèche set at the National Cathedral not long after we were married, and every year it took a place of honor in the dining room. One year, when our son was about six or seven, we noticed that the Baby Jesus was suddenly missing from his place in the manger. We questioned our children and finally our son (the once and future attorney) admitted that he knew where the Babe was. It seems that he had decided that it was not yet Christmas and therefore the Baby Jesus could not be placed with the rest of crèche. Yes, he knew where the Baby Jesus was hidden,

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Chad O'Leary
Youth Director
Marion Hunner,
Children's
Ministries
Karla S. Cole,
Director of Music
Rev. Mary Rowe,
Assisting Priest
Rev. Janet MacNally,
Deacon
Rev. Daniel Pearson,
Transition Priest

Our PROGRAM YEAR 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
-Chapel
(2nd & 4th)

10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM
Fellowship

promised that the Baby Jesus was safe, and that when it was time He would appear. And so we as his parents found ourselves waiting with our own different sense of anticipation and wonder that Advent season for the return of the Baby Jesus. Sure enough, when we returned from the family service on Christmas Eve, our son found time during the hustle and bustle of preparing dinner to sneak off, and without any fanfare or fuss, place the Babe back in the manger. At dinner he declared, "Now we have been to church, now it is officially Christmas, now the Baby Jesus can be borned." It was a small gesture in the larger scheme of things I suppose, but it did in its own way center all of us on patiently waiting during those Advents.

The tradition continued until he became an adult, with a job, a wife and family of his own in Chicago. But I often think back to those years of not hurrying the one thing above all that makes all the difference, the arrival of light into the world, in the human form of a baby. And some traditions deserve to be continued. As I said, he has children of his own now, and as their Grandmother I am very much looking forward to teaching them their father's Advent tradition!

May we all wait in peace and quiet, secure in the hope of the gift of God in Incarnate.

Deacon Janet



Footprints DECEMBER 2017



News from Children's
Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

Sunday, December 3rd - Children's Chapel! Children are invited to join us in the small chapel for a special presentation of the Liturgy of the Word. We will join the congregation in the pews at the peace. There is **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY**.

Wednesday:

12:15 PM
Holy Eucharist
-Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9 AM - 4 PM

Food Shelf Update



Total food donation to Keystone for September and October amounted to 71 pounds.

Thank you!!

If you are wondering what to add for Christmas, canned pineapple is always enjoyed.

The December food will be delivered week of the 18th, at least a week earlier than usual.

Merry Christmas, and again, Thank You to all who help keep this outreach going.

--Pamela Case

Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual Christmas Card Contest. Margaret Zaro's picture will appear on the front of St. Christopher's Christmas card, which will be mailed soon. All of the entries will be displayed on the bulletin board in the Upper Narthex

Suggested Advent prayers and activities for home - during this very busy season, I hope that families will be able to find some quiet time to prepare their homes and hearts for the coming of Jesus. Traditions that you begin when they are young can last a lifetime. I have posted several advent resources on St. Christopher's website under Resources/Family - please take a look. Also, if you would like a set of purple and pink Advent candles (tapers) for your Advent wreath at home, please let me know - I have a limited number of these available.

Fleece Blankets - The children and youth, along with some of our adults, did a great job cutting and tying fleece blankets last month. These will go to Keystone Community services' Winter Warm-Up program

New Giving Opportunity - During this holiday season we are partnering with Roseville Area School District to provide items for a family who recently moved to Roseville from Nigeria. Details are elsewhere in the *e-Traveler*.

Lessons and Carols - All are welcome to this lovely service of music and scripture at 4pm on Sunday, December 17th. It lasts about 1 hour, and there is a beautiful reception that follows the service.

Family Christmas Eve Service:

In addition to our 5:00 Choral Eucharist, we have a special family service at 3:00pm. This service will only be about 45 minutes long, and all are welcome. Children will be asked to bring forward the elements of the crèche as the nativity story unfolds, and everyone will have a star to contribute. Please see Fr. John or Deacon Janet before the service to get a piece of the crèche to bring forward - stars will be placed in the bulletins.

Holiday Sunday School Schedule

We will miss two weeks of Sunday School for the holidays this year: December 24th, and December 30th.

Youth News

CHANGE to the GIFTS of HOPE program



Keystone Community Services has decided to redirect their efforts and resources away from the annual Gifts of Hope program, and into more year-round Basic Needs support.

While we will continue to support Keystone Community Services throughout the year in other ways, we have partnered with Roseville Area High School to identify families that are in particular need this holiday season.

While many of us enjoy going out to purchase those special "extras" for these families, it is basic winter apparel that they need most.

Please find the beautiful pinecone display, created by our youth, in the



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director



Hello Everyone! Take a peek below our list of December events. Hope to see you at each!

YOUTH GROUP

December 6

: Movie Night! *Elf* with popcorn/pop!

December 13: Our annual (early) Christmas Party! Come for pizza and games. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift for our exchange. This gift should be very inexpensive or something random from around the house that will cause a chuckle.

December 20: Blue Christmas. We will offer a small gift to those attending the Blue Christmas service and keep them in prayer while they gather upstairs.

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Green Team

The green team has some tips for making your holidays environmentally friendly!

~ To wrap your presents, use cloth bags or recycled wrapping paper. Try to avoid paper with a glossy or metallic coating because it is harder to recycle.



lower narthex. Each pinecone has information about an item needed right here in our neighborhood, for a Roseville family that recently moved from Nigeria.

Items range from smaller items like hats and mittens, up to bigger items like boots and coats. Please find item(s) that suit your budget, purchase, and **return to church by Sunday, December 17th.**

This holiday season we will also support Keystone community Services and their Winter Warm Up Program. On some of the pinecones, you will find requests for blankets or fleece blanket kits. The blankets will go directly to Keystone, and the fleece blanket kits will be cut and tied here at St. Christopher's and then passed on to Keystone once completed.

All donations are due by Sunday, December 17th.

~ Use LED Christmas lights. We will again be collecting lights that do not work. Look for the box in the lower narthex.

~ Use real dishes and napkins - disposable plates and silverware might be easier but just make your guests do the dishes. If you need to buy disposable, buy items that can be composted.

~ Buy local

~ Give battery-free gifts

~Purchase candles made from soy or beeswax. Candles made from paraffin are made from petroleum.

~Shop with reusable bags.

~Decorate a tree outside for the birds - use peanut butter on a pine cone and roll in bird seed

or hang grapes and dried apples on a tree

~Make your presents or give environmentally friendly gifts.

~Give a membership to the St. Christopher's Green Team!

The Green Team wishes you a Merry Christmas!

Our next meeting is **January 10th at 7:00 pm** in the parish hall.

DECEMBER Calendar Highlights

3 ADVENT 1

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Formation for Youth

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Children's Chapel (Chapel)

11:30 AM Fellowship

4 7:00 PM Spectre Quartet Concert (Saxophone Quartet)

--Church

6 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

6:15 PM Youth Group - Youth Room

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

8 6 PM Couples Bridge - Parish Hall

10 ADVENT 2

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Adult Forum

9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

11 5:30 PM Finance Committee - Parish Hall

12 Meals on Wheels - Offsite

13 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

6:15 PM Youth Group - Youth Room

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

17 ADVENT 3

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

4:00 PM A Service of Lessons and Carols,
with Reception following

18 6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall

20 11:30 AM Christmas Tea for Seniors - Parish Hall

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

6:15 PM Youth Group - Youth Room

7:00 PM Service of Remembrance (*Blue Christmas*)

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

24 ADVENT 4

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Fellowship

CHRISTMAS EVE

3 PM Children's Christmas Holy Eucharist

5 PM Festival Holy Eucharist with Choir

25 CHRISTMAS DAY (*Office Closed*)

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

26 *Office Closed*

27 *e-Traveler Deadline! (Transferred from Monday)*

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

6:15 PM Youth Group - Youth Room

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

28 5:30 PM Community Dinner - Parish Hall

31 8 AM Holy Eucharist with Healing

9 AM Fellowship

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Healing

11:30 AM Fellowship

Please note: Outside-group use of the building has **not** been listed here. We now have music lessons Monday through Saturday, and ongoing kitchen use. Please check the calendar in the office before scheduling a meeting or event; *please also check* that the kitchen is available to do prep work for an already scheduled event! Our weekly building-use calendar is quite busy!

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the December *e-Traveler*.

As I finalize this issue, The Rev. Daniel Pearson is moving into the Rector's office to begin as our Transition Priest. A great way to begin a new Church year!

Wishing all of you and your families a peaceful Advent and a Merry, merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

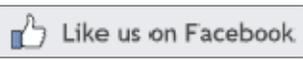
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