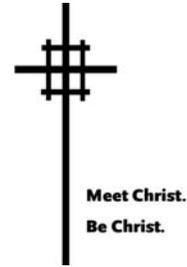


From: St. Christopher's Episcopal Church <office@stchristophers-mn.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 1, 2018 5:10 AM
To: office@stchristophers-mn.org
Subject: December e-Traveler

Issue #73 | DECEMBER 2018

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Cindy Lee, Sr. Warden; Joel Norton, Jr. Warden
Sue Triebenbach, Clerk; Darlene Cross, Treasurer

Mark Brilowski; Jan Fillmore; Karen Hartman; Barbara Hovey; Chris Huntley;
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 REGULAR Sunday Schedule

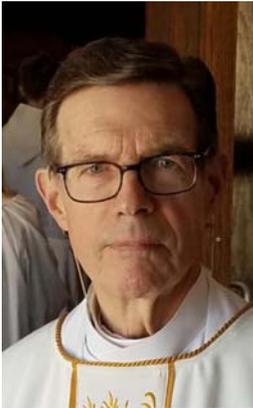
Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM Fellowship
9:30-10:20 AM Children's Education-Room 107
9:30-10:15 AM Youth Education-Youth Room
9:30-10:15 AM Adult Education-Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

A Note from The Rev. Daniel Pearson



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

Seeing Fully

“For nothing is hidden that will not become manifest...” Luke 8: 17

It’s November. In Minnesota most all signs of fall are gone, leaving bare-branched trees, reedy bushes and withered grasses. And since there is no snow cover as of this writing, the landscape is spare. Now we see the core, “y’s” at the juncture of limb and branch, grasses, yellow, dry and half bent by the wind.

Beauty is not obvious this time of year. We look for it in this interstice of our fading memory of trees on fire and the pacific blanketing of snow yet to come. For the home owner, this moment is a gratuitous space to make final preparations for winter—putting the garden hose away and installing spruce tops for festal array.

For me, this in-between times is precious: a looking back at a year of ministry at St. Christopher’s and a looking ahead for what is to come for each of us. This viewing is consonant with the Christian view of history—where we are in the scheme of things. The liturgical season of Advent is about both the first and the second coming of Jesus the Christ. As we look back to Christmas—the first coming, we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth. As we come to the end of the liturgical year and begin another, we look forward to his coming again in glory. Thus, we live in-between the beginning and the End. Like the bare branches of November, this is a spare thought, a bit sobering but real. Because of God’s history, we have a real end and a real new

beginning. And as T.S. Eliot put it at the beginning and at the end of his poem *East Coker*: “In my beginning is my end...” and “...In my end is my beginning.”

dvp

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

For those in the secular world, there was an earlier start to the Christmas season this year. Unlike most years, the calendar this year gave us an early Thanksgiving, and therefore an extra week of Pentecost. The Sunday after Thanksgiving was not the first Sunday in Advent, but rather Christ the King. None the less, the tradition of Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade ended with the Christmas kickoff of the appearance of Santa Claus on the final float; and the day after Thanksgiving was Black Friday, the traditional beginning of everyone’s Christmas shopping.

There was a rush to begin Christmas decorations as well, and when I pointed out to my family that we were still in the season of Pentecost, and would be for over another week, it was pointed out that not everyone lived by a liturgical calendar; I replied that perhaps we should. Yet, regardless of my fussing and protesting, it would seem as if we are full on and into the hustle and bustle of Christmas. From shopping, to carols piped in over the expanse of shopping malls, to parties, to way too many things that are small and so good to eat, not the least of which would be cookies; it would seem as though we have blown through the quiet waiting of Advent and on to the big event once again.

So how does one begin the Advent season? How do we, as people of faith, observe this most wonderful season of hope and patience and expectation and wonder? I have long thought that the season, especially for those of us who live in Northern climes, lends itself to quiet nights and meditative discipline. But then again we are hearty folk, we who live in Minnesota, and have found a way to embrace not only the longer dark but the cold as well. We need, it seems, just as much practice and discipline as everyone else to enter into the quiet of Advent.

That being said, there are many ways we can observe a holy Advent. Something as simple as lighting an Advent wreath at the family dinner table, and offering prayers for those who wait in hope and expectation each night, is a good practice for all ages and sizes of families. Reading small books of meditations, just a short piece each day, helps to make your day ordered. And something as simple as taking time out to intentionally pray works nicely too. The good news is, there is no right or wrong answer; the difficult news is that there is no right or wrong answer and we need to find the answer that works the best for us in this moment.

There are, of course, more active ways to mark the season as well. One of the things that I brought back from my time spent with Episcopal Migration Ministries were ways to expand our time and work spent with Anuak women from Ethiopia. Much of it is spent by engaging in active listening, not being the presence that has the answers, or is looking to be the person who swoops in to fix things, but rather the non-anxious presence that respects the dignity of every human being by listening to their story. We are looking to City House to help train us in active listening, which will give us the tools we need. And while we may not enter into practicing-your-English coffee sessions until the New Year, or helping folks study for citizenship tests, we will be begin to make plans for that activity as well. I would ask all of us to look into our hearts and schedules and see if we cannot find a time to quietly, and with intent, prepare to increase the welcome to our neighbors.

The end of this month also remembers the Holy Family's flight to Egypt, as refugees escaping the terror of Herod. I leave you this image that has been the logo for Episcopal Migration Ministries since 1939.

Amen, Deacon Janet



MUSIC NOTES



Karla Cole

**Director of Music
Ministries**

Last Sunday, I made an announcement in choir: “only three rehearsals to Lessons and Carols!” It was met with silence. I don’t think that’s particularly scary, but it is a little sobering when you consider it was a tacit reminder of everything that we think we have to get done before Christmas. All those little tasks that we assign ourselves – the cookies, the cleaning, the shopping, the whatever – before the company comes. I have learned from long experience that Christmas, and the company, comes no matter whether you get that last batch of cookies baked, or move all the furniture to vacuum underneath, or get the bows on the packages. Yes, presents have come from the Coles without sufficient adornment!! One year, it was the packages that go in the mail because they’ll just get squashed anyway, and then another year it was because there was insufficient ribbon and no time to fight the hordes at the store for it – and the dam had broken. And when the kids were small, people would give them Christmas cookies because they knew for sure that I wasn’t baking any. I sometimes felt as though my poor family suffered from the lack of a proper Christmas celebration because I just couldn’t keep it all together and provide that rosy, cozy Hallmark Christmas that we all expect.

But yes, Christmas comes anyway. And after all the hoopla is over, the Lessons and Carols service, the crazy kids’ service, the big Christmas service with all the carols and the visitors, finally the quiet comes. The gifts have been wrapped to a minimum standard, a few cookies and pies have been baked, the groceries have been procured for Christmas dinner, Matt has a fire in the fireplace and non-stop carols on the turntable, the guests have arrived and everyone is settling down to a contemplative state, and if we’re lucky, Mother Nature is providing that White Christmas that we’re all so fond of. I have to think Mary and Joseph appreciated that, too. The shepherds and all their critters have gone and the angel choirs have stopped singing their boisterous glorias, and the baby has finally fallen asleep. For the moment, all is quiet and peaceful.

That’s Christmas for me - a chance to stop twirling and think a bit about the year past and all the blessings in it. I think Christmas Day is maybe my favorite day in all the year. What’s done is done and there’s no time for anything more.

There's a worship service and most of you don't come, even my family – which is just fine with me. It's quiet and thoughtful and feels rather timeless. Most years I can turn everything off and just be present in the moment with the words and songs that have been used for centuries to tell the story and praise God for the miracle.

In our Advent worship we try to affect a calm, contemplative waiting before the arrival of a joyful Christmas – and then at least for an hour each week we can rest in that calm. But meanwhile, it just seems that the world is spinning faster. We venture out into it and if you're like me, get totally caught up in the holly, jolly Christmas bustle. And a little of that goes a long way. So in this season, I wish you all the peace of Christ that passeth all human understanding. And may the world find it, too.

Karla Cole

Footprints DECEMBER 2018 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



Sunday, December 2nd – Children's Chapel! For children age 3 and up as well as interested adults. Meet in the Christ Child Chapel at 10:25am. We devote our time to three main components of the Liturgy of the Word: **Singing, Scripture, and Prayer**. Today we will also discuss Advent as the "waiting time," and do a special project. We will join the congregation at the Peace. Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual **Christmas Card Contest**. **Ellery Bowman's** picture will appear on the front of St. Christopher's Christmas card, which will be mailed soon. Our Christmas bulletins will be adorned with the artwork of **Madeline Drake** and **Margy Zaro**.

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.

Gifts of Hope – Our 2018 Gifts of Hope are helping a Roseville family in need. This Hmong mother of 13 children (ages 3 months – 20 years) recently finds herself single and relocated from Minneapolis. She is educated and working full time, and her three oldest children are in college. If you would like to contribute to this sponsorship but prefer not to shop, please give a check (written to St. Christopher's) or cash to Marion or the office and label it for Gifts of Hope - we use these donations to fill in where items are missing. Please look for the display in the Lower Narthex.

Lessons and Carols – All are welcome to this lovely service of music and scripture at 4pm on Sunday, December 16th. 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.

Holiday Sunday School Schedule

We will miss two weeks of Sunday School for the holidays this year: December 23rd, and December 30th.

YOUTH NEWS



Chad O'Leary

**Youth Ministries
Director**

SUMMER TRIP MEETING

Sunday, December 2 (immediately following 10:30AM Service)

All youth and parents interested in participating in a June 2019 road trip to sacred Native American sites in the American West are invited to a meeting Sunday, December 2, immediately following the 10:30AM Service in the youth room. The primary goal of this meeting is to decide the scope of the trip and then select some possible sites. Families will be welcome to continue on their own adventures if you would prefer to do even more exploring! Because we want to carve out the experience that appeals to the most members of our youth community, please come and share your ideas! After this meeting, Chad will design an itinerary and begin sign-ups around Christmas.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 19 (5:30-8:00PM)

This will be a fun night of fellowship, starting with Chipotle! Then, participants will compete in minute-to-win-it style games for 5lbs worth of Hershey's chocolate! Finally, bring a wrapped White Elephant gift (something laying around the house or a cheap gag gift) for our annual exchange. College students are welcome back so we can form a collegiate team to take on our youth...

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:

Please plan on attending 10:30AM service on Dec 16 (with your sponsor, if possible). We plan to offer a blessing/prayer that has been part of the Christian initiation process for hundreds of years. This will be an important step in your preparation for the Confirmation liturgy on Sunday, January 13, with Bishop Brian. We will go over the meaning/significance of the ritual during our 9:30AM service preceding the service.

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

GREEN TEAM

As you start your decorating, don't forget to bring in for recycling any strings of Christmas lights that do not work. We will have a box in the lower narthex where you can place them.

We will have some green gift options for Christmas at the talent table after the services on December 2nd. Otherwise, check out the website <https://eartheasy.com/gifts/> for eco-friendly gift ideas. Why not follow that up by wrapping the presents in reusable bags? For anyone who sews, making bags from fun holiday print fabric makes wrapping easy and leaves no waste.

Have a very Merry Christmas from the Green Team!



December Calendar Highlights!

2 Advent 1

8 AM Holy Eucharist

8 AM – Noon Talent Table Event – Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 *Meals on Wheels – Offsite*

5 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

9 Advent 2

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10 5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall

12 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

13 1 PM Knitting – Library

16 Advent 3

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 PM Lessons and Carols

Reception follows

17 6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

19 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

5:30 PM Youth Group Christmas Gathering

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

20 10:30 AM Hearts & Hands – Parish Hall

7 PM Service of Hope & Remembrance

(Blue Christmas) – Chapel

23 Advent 4

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

24 Christmas Eve

3 PM Children's Eucharist

5 PM Festival Eucharist

25 Christmas Day

10 AM Holy Eucharist

26 Office may be closed

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir

27 e-Traveler Deadline
5:30 PM Community Dinner

30 Christmas 1
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

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



Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

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

We have lots of joy-filled activities on our calendar again this month, including Lessons and Carols on the 16th - I can hardly wait!

Oh! But this is the Season of Waiting, right? ADVENT! And in 4 weeks - Merry Christmas to all!

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