

Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Happy New Year! We gave Fr. Randy a week off of writing for the e-Blast. We thought you'd like to read our Presiding Bishop's thoughts about President Carter.

Statement from Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on the death of President Jimmy Carter

I give thanks for the life and witness of President Jimmy Carter, who has died at the age of 100. He was a devoted peacemaker and steadfast public servant whose faithful labor for his country, his church, and the cause of global democracy and human rights has long been an inspiration to Christians across the world.

As a politician and humanitarian leader, President Carter met adversity with resilience and never relented when he saw an opportunity to serve. Whether seeking peace in the Middle East, leading the international campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease, or building houses with Habitat for Humanity, he eschewed wealth and celebrity in favor of service to God and his fellow humans.

In 2002, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development." His legacy will live on through The Carter Center, which he founded with his beloved wife, Rosalynn, and which continues the selfless work they did throughout their lives.

When Jimmy Carter took the oath of office to become the 39th president of the United States in 1977, he did so on a family Bible laid open to Micah 6:8. The nation was hurting and divided in the wake of scandal, and to set forth a new vision, he read the words of the prophet: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

May we follow his example of Christian service, and may his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe
Presiding Bishop

Fr. Randy Update

You may have wondered about Fr. Randy's name on the prayer list. On 12/31 he underwent surgery, and I sat at the hospital with Kim and their daughter until he was sent to recovery. Later that day Kim reported that he was eating and walking, and he was released from the hospital on Wednesday afternoon. It may be several weeks before he is feeling up to any sort of work, and he will need time to rest and regain his strength. Please continue your prayers for him, Kim, and their family.

Marilyn+

ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH JANUARY 19th

(Editor's Note: I meant to include this in the January e-Traveler, but I failed to do so.--Ruth)

The **Annual Meeting of the Parish** will be held on **Sunday, January 19th**, following **ONE service at 9:30 AM**. The meeting will begin at approximately **11:00 AM**. This is the time when we re-cap all that has happened in the last year, review the completed Budget for 2024, and present the new 2025 Budget. We also elect new members to leadership on the Vestry.

If you are a Committee or Group Chairperson or just "leader" or "coordinator," and you'd like to write a report about what your group has been doing, we would love to have it! The **deadline** to submit reports for the Annual Report document is **January 15th**.

We do not, as of this e-Blast, have a slate of candidates for election to the Vestry (2 are needed), and we do not have a candidate for Jr. Warden. If you would be interested in serving in this capacity, or would like more information, please check in with the church office, or see one of the Wardens. Whether you have been on Vestry before or not, you are welcome!

A Light for All

(Written by James Erickson)

On this Epiphany, we stand in awe,
before a light that pierces the dark,
a star that guided those who sought,
a humble child who holds the heart.

In the stillness of this sacred night,
we hear a call to seek the light—
not just in stars, but deep within,
where love is born, where hope begins.

This moment invites us to begin again,

to heal, to grow, to see beyond.
The road ahead may not be clear,
but each step brings us closer to what matters.

Let kindness be the gift we offer,
let mercy be the path we follow.
For in this child, so small, so pure,
lies the promise of light that endures.

As we move through the days to come,
may love guide our hearts and hands.
In every act, in every prayer,
the light of Epiphany will remain.

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We Get By with A Little Help from Our Friends

I am here again to ask all of you to volunteer for a week of snow shoveling for the church!

Shoveling weeks are Monday-to-Sunday (because no one wants to wake up to snow on Sunday and not remember that it's the START of your week). **When you sign up, please mark your calendar so you remember which week you "took." Thanks!

Anything over **1.5** inches is covered by our plowing service *when they plow*, BUT, we do need help sometimes mid-day to keep things safe before they arrive. Sand and salt are in (or near) the entries. Call the office if you have questions!

THANK YOU to each and every person and family who has signed up!

Afghan Dinner Event Date Change

Surprise!!! Due to an unexpected family wedding, we need to change the date of the Afghani dinner from 1/11/2025 to 1/25/2025. Time of the event will not change (6:30 PM). Attendees, please remove your name from the sign up sheet in the Parish Hall if this change is not something you are able to accommodate. Also, if you are helpers please notify Becky if you can not attend on the new date, so she can get a replacement.

Question? Please contact Becky at lucasmonahan@gmail.com

Greetings and Blessings Book Group,

The Book Group, proposed name: **St. Christopher's Crossings**. Please let us know what you might suggest for our book group name.

*We will be meeting on **January 23rd 2025** in the **Gathering Room at 6:00 PM**. It is a hybrid meeting.*

We are reading **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

There is an audiobook version on YouTube, **Braiding Sweetgrass**. Enjoy!

January Book

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings are we capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learning to give our own gifts in return.

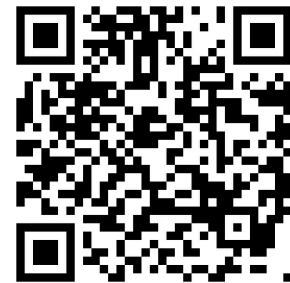
There are several copies spread out among the library systems. Also try Half Price Books, Alibris, or anywhere you can get an inexpensive copy because the library copy is unavailable.

Are you interested in joining us? You will need to contact Angela Robinson, angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com or Rev. Marilyn, so we can send the details of the meeting information for those who wish to join online.

Also, we look forward to hearing from you about any suggestions you may have as to specific books or genres.

Prayer List Requests

Have you noticed a “Prayer Requests” button on our website? This is a very short form to add a name to our prayer list! Requests will be monitored Monday through Friday and added to the list published on Fridays. You may, of course, still call the office to add or remove a name from the list. AND, you can use this QR Code to go right to the website!



Upcoming Lectionary Readings

January 5: Epiphany (Celebrated)

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.

At 10:30 AM, our Epiphany Pageant includes today's readings.

January 12: 1st Sunday after Epiphany, Year C

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

Sunday Ministries January 5

8:00 AM

Lectors - John L, Bruce W

Intercessor - Bruce W
LEM - Robert W
Usher - Pete & Cindy L
Altar Guild - Karen H
Coffee Host: open

10:30 AM

Nursery: Kathy A, Jane S
Lectors - (None)
Intercessor - Josh K
LEM - Madisen C, Marion H
Crucifer - Madisen C
Ushers - Ann & Larry J
Altar Guild - Jill E
Coffee Hosts - Pageant team

Are you receiving this email forwarded by a friend?

You can now sign up to receive the weekly Parish Mail and monthly *e-Traveler* in your own inbox. A sign-up form is now on the main page at our website. Just go to www.stchristophers-mn.org.

www.stchristophers-mn.org



Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.

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