



Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Windshield Time, Books, and Carrot Cookies *by Fr. Randy+*

I have been a bit of a “*Road Warrior*” the past couple of weeks, making trips to Moose Lake, Camp Ripley, Red Wing, and Morris. I have been doing training sessions, exercise and drill workshops, and planning meetings with school administrators and leadership teams. There is much preparation work done prior to pushing the start button in the car, yet is all worthwhile when you can bring something of value to our education and public safety partners. Greater Minnesota is so very diverse in topography, economic opportunity, and population density—prairies and lakes, wooded hillsides and meandering rivers and streams. Ice and snow, rutted farm fields, towering grain elevators, and slippery road surfaces.

The windshield time affords me a minor luxury—a chunk of time to think and ponder, to reflect and refresh my mind away from the “push/pull” world of legislative activity. It is refreshing to work with partner agencies and school leaders to apply public policy initiatives into practical action. It is also gratifying to listen and learn from so many persons throughout the state who are doing marvelous things—making a real difference in the lives of individuals and their communities. Many selfless people sharing their God-given gifts and talents with others.

Besides the scheduled meetings and trainings, I tend to have a small amount of discretionary time available for discovery and exploring in the communities I visit. This past week, while visiting the lovely city of Red Wing, I had the occasion to walk the streets of their picturesque downtown. I ventured into a small, storefront bookstore which featured an eclectic collection of books and hand-crafted ornate rugs and collectables. The kind bookstore owner watched me pour over books in the Indigenous history and Minnesota regional section. She approached as I was perusing a book written about Bishop Whipple—the first Episcopal bishop of Minnesota, which chronicled his intentional and personal engagement with the original peoples of the region. She told me few people ever opened this book—I told her I was a priest and found this literary

work fascinating. She then shared with me that she was a vestry member of Christ Church in Red Wing, and I marveled at a new bond and friendship being made over printed words on bound paper. It gave me much joy and pleasure to meet and share time with a beloved sister in Christ. Prepare to be surprised by a most surprising God! Grace and joy abound.

Minutes later, I wandered down the block to a local coffee house and old-fashioned bakery—nothing but deliciousness wafting through the air! A warm beverage and an enormous sweet roll later, I happened to look up at the small table near the front window. A young mother and her blue-eyed, blond pony-tailed daughter were sharing a day on the town. Mom was drinking coffee from a large café cup, and her four-year-old daughter was happily munching on a colossal carrot-shaped sugar cookie. The most amazing part of the entire event was that her cookie had a gargantuan glob of orange and green frosting piled an inch-thick on the top! The frosting was on her hands and lips and dress—it was quite a sight! I looked at the mom as I left the bakery and commented to her that I bet the cookie tasted like a vegetable—the young girl vigorously shook her head back and forth, saying, *“No! It tastes like SUGAR!”*



Such joy and love and encouragement and fun! It exemplified the encouraging words Paul shared to the Thessalonian church;

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

May the grace of God fill your heart and soul, today and evermore.
Randy+

“WILL YOU?”

A LENTEN STUDY OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

(Book by Amanda Perkins McGriff)

During the upcoming Lenten season, we will be studying the Baptismal Covenant promises we made, or were made for us by our sponsors. The first three questions of the Covenant echo the words of our creeds, our beliefs about God and the church. The last five questions focus on action. They each begin with the words: "Will You?"

These "Will You" questions articulate how we are to animate our baptism, to follow Christ's example in our relationships with others, our communities, and

the world. These questions move from a "gathering in" to a "sending out"--they are a call to embrace and practice evangelism by proclaiming the Good News of Christ in all we do and say.

This five-week Lenten small group study offers daily reflections, examples of evangelism in action, and an invitation to think in new ways about the promises we make to God, each other, and ourselves in baptism.

We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15; if there is interest, we can schedule a discussion group online during the week, as well. Included in the book is a short daily meditation for each day of Lent.

Books will be available soon, or you may download on Kindle. (Print books will be \$12.). Contact Marilyn+ (email) to reserve a book.

Lenten Reflections

Would you like to join our Lenten reflection Project? Here's how it works – There will be a blog on the St. Christopher's website, and each morning during Lent a new reflection will appear based on the readings for the day. Where do these reflections come from? They come from you! If you are interested in writing a reflection, contact Marion@stchristophers-mn.org. She will assign you a date and send the readings to you. We are collecting them NOW, so that the blog can be set up and run smoothly throughout Lent. There are 40 days in Lent, so don't be afraid to jump in. It could be a prayer, thoughts about the readings, or a personal reflection about Lent. There is no required format (or length) – just share what comes from your heart.

Lenten Soup Suppers are returning to St Christopher's - Mark Your Calendars!

A simple soup supper will be provided from 5:30-7:00 each Wednesday: February 14, 21 & 28 and March 6, 13 & 20.

Interested in volunteering, or hosting a week?
Contact Kim Johnson (651.210.7077) or Ann Trapnell (651.325.8801)



Our Facebook WORSHIP Fans

We've been working to get our 10:30 service online, for those who cannot be with us. (If you're not following us on FaceBook yet, please do!) We hope to be able to bring it to you every week. It's especially helpful with winter weather, and it's an opportunity to connect with our snowbirds, and people we haven't met yet.

Here's where **you** come in! We really only need one person per Sunday to set up and monitor a tablet during the service, and take it down afterwards. We

could use several more people so that the commitment is not a burden to a few. This is a great ministry opportunity for anyone to get started in a low-key way! Volunteers of any age are encouraged; the only requirement is some familiarity with tablets, and we'll train and provide simple directions.

Please consider this important outreach opportunity! Contact Marilyn+ for more information and to sign up. [Marilyn's email](#)

MEANWHILE, if you are not "on" FaceBook, here is a link that will take you to the St. Christopher's page, so you can watch the service live streamed, or go back later to watch the recording.

<https://www.facebook.com/St.ChristophersRoseville>

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

January 28: Epiphany 4

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13;
Mark 1:21-28.

February 4: Epiphany 5

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

Sunday Ministries January 28

8:00 AM

Lectors - John L, Chris M
Intercessor - Ann T
LEM - Chris M
Usher - Hartman family
Altar Guild - Jennifer W
Coffee Hosts: (open)

10:30 AM

Nursery - Rich P, Connie H
Lectors - Sue T, Jennifer W
Intercessor - Ella S
LEM - Madisen C, Chris B
Ushers - Jones family
Altar Guild - Jean D
Crucifer - Madisen C
Coffee Hosts: Kathy & Ross A

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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