

**Meet Christ.**  
**Be Christ.**

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Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

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### **Go To The Head Of The Class** *by Fr. Randy+*

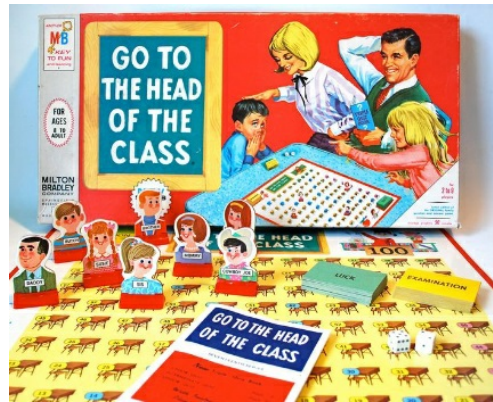
The group of people gathered around the table were quite familiar with each other. Some of them even looked much like each other—which was an accurate observation. As I scanned the room—the parish hall—I witnessed several other tables around the room which had a similar make-up. People were in extremely engaged conversations—laughing, crying, and hugging. Little kids were returning again and again to the desert table—grabbing all kinds of goodies, and most especially the M & M cookies—and counting the number of M & M's to decide which one was the very most special one! Small dinner rolls with ham and cheese, macaroni salad, pickles, bars, and of course, the requisite “funeral jello.” You guessed it. I have spent the past week presiding at and attending funerals.

And, I suppose it is most appropriate I do so, since we have walked our way through Holy Week and the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Day! *Alleluia! The Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Families and friends and neighbors--gathering and greeting. Sharing stories and memories, as well as catching up on all that has happened in their lives since they were last together. It may have been days or weeks, but more likely it has been years and years. Re-living the most memorable moments in their lives—the events which most shaped them and formed how they thought and grew and lived each and every day.

I sat and visited with my many cousins and uncles and aunts at my uncle Jim Erickson's funeral in Alexandria. We shared many, many stories and recollections of “incidents” we were involved with as kids growing up together. It is a miracle that we all survived to adulthood—*Thanks be to God!* We reminisced about the times our parents and grandparents finally got us under control, and had us play board and card games—a time to just slow down the pace of our physical activity. We played card games like “*Authors,*” or “*PIT,*” or “*Rook.*” But we also played board games—most especially “*Go To*

*The Head Of The Class.*” You may have played it, too. It was developed by the Milton-Bradley Company in 1936. The premise of the game was to advance through the classroom—*desk to desk*—to finally be at the head of the class. You did so by answering questions about a variety of academic subjects; language, science, art & music, math, history, literature, and geography. The things essential to understanding this world and this life.



The game is finished when one of the players reaches the final desk at the front of the class, and is given a diploma upon answering the final exam question.

I guess that at each of the funerals I have presided at, the person who has died and passed on into the resurrection life, has passed the final examination. They have reached the pinnacle of their life and have now earned their crown of glory with our Lord. And for that, we are eternally grateful.

But, what does that mean for the rest of us? Our conversation around the funeral luncheon table became focused upon this undeniable truth—we have all just moved up a desk in the classroom of life. We have just advanced another step towards our own goal of graduation—of claiming our own resurrection life in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So—what do we do about it? What are we called to do as we take one more step forward in advancement in our earthly lives. *Well—this is my own thought about this...*

We are once again called to share our wisdom and honor and compassion and understanding with all those we encounter and engage in this life. Our life experience cannot be understated or duplicated. We are called to be fully present with those around us—to share practices and understandings with those with whom we live and love. This is essential and holy work. I pray that you take your desk, stake your position of authority and standing, and share the wisdom and life experience you have borne witness to, and enrich the lives of others who so dearly need your life presence. In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Peace and all things good. *Randy+*

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## THIS JUST IN!

The Hearts and Hands group will be volunteering at Second Stork on **Thursday, April 18th**. We'll gather at **10:00 AM** to carpool and plan to volunteer from 10:30 -11:45. We count diapers and pack bags that hospitals give out to Moms needing help, they also may receive a pack-n-play. It's an

easy and rewarding volunteer experience. Any questions, please call Sally Brown 651-483-8232.

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## **Time to Turn in your Lenten Calendar Donations!**

Have you been following the Lenten Calendar that the kids presented in February? Please bring your donations on Sunday, and mark the memo line, "Lenten Calendar." For more information about this project, please click this Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KoqyTm9IKmq88KP02PaMF5dJrBJEGIHP/view>

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## **Acts Bible Study Continues this week!**

Do you want to find out more about what happened in the young Church after the first Easter? We'll learn the stories of the Apostles and other followers of Jesus in the Book of Acts. Bring your Bible (any version) and join us at 9:15 on Sundays through May. Even better if it has a map of the Holy Land in it (not required, though)! Questions? Contact Lyn Lawyer or Marilyn Baldwin.

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## **We hope you'll join us for Cocktails & Canapes!**

Saturday, April 20th

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Parish Hall

Price per person: \$20

Event Donors: Bailey-Humes', Crows, DePaolis-Jones', Hartmans, Trapnells

All are welcome for an elevated happy hour at St. Christopher's with a specialty cocktail or two, beer, wine, and plenty of non-alcoholic choices to enjoy. Assorted appetizers will complete the event. Feel free to invite a friend!

(If you missed your chance to sign up during the event fair, it's not too late to attend! Please contact Ann Trapnell at 651-325-8801 to register.)

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## **Our Facebook WORSHIP Fans**

We've got our 10:30 service online, for those who cannot be with us. (If you're not following us on FaceBook yet, please do!) 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 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](#)

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>

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## Upcoming Lectionary Readings

### April 14: Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48.

### April 15: Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18.

## Sunday Ministries April 14

### 8:00 AM

Lectors - John L, Millie W

Intercessor - Mike S

LEM - Mike S

Usher - Bob H

Altar Guild - Julie S, Robert W

Coffee Hosts: Don & Julie S

### 10:30 AM

Nursery - Connie H, Jane S

Lectors - Scott C, Jean C

Intercessor - Roland K

LEM - Kathy A, Jean C

Ushers - Ross A, Ella S

Altar Guild - Jean H

Crucifer - Alexander K

Coffee Hosts: Ann & Larry J

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### 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](http://www.stchristophers-mn.org).

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*Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.*

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113

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