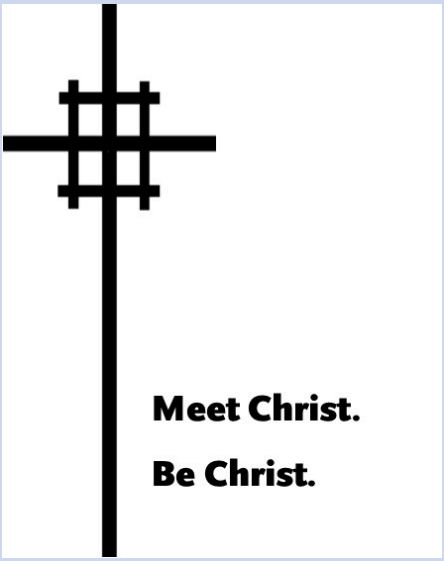

Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Playing It Safe *by Fr. Randy+*

I believe there is something to be said about reaching personal milestones. This week, I did the regular stuff of life—churchy-churchy stuff, bought a replacement car for the one totaled in a car crash (don't ask), dog sitting our grand-dogs, and doing hours of deferred lawn maintenance with the help of our grandson, Henry. I also reached a milestone in my own life, turning the page to another decade of life on this earth. It gave me some sacred space to ponder and take stock of my life up until now—accomplishments, failures, attempted or unfinished business.

While doing some research and studying for my upcoming Sunday sermon, I ran across a most interesting article by Steve Goodier. His words reminded me that I needed desperately to make a greater effort to challenge myself to take good risks in life, rather than be locked in the unfortunate and life-paralyzing stasis of always playing it safe.

I am sharing with you an adaptation of his message:

A young reporter wanted to get a feel for agriculture, so he called upon a farmer and said, *"How's your wheat coming along?"*

The farmer replied, *"I didn't plant any."*

"Really?" asked the reporter. *"I thought this was supposed to be wheat country."*

"Some say it is," came the reply. *"But I was afraid we might not see enough rain this year."*

"Well, what about your corn. How is it doing?" the young man inquired.

"Didn't plant corn this year. I was afraid of corn blight."

"Alfalfa?"

“Nope. Afraid the price might drop.”

“Well, then,” asked the reporter, *“what did you plant?”*

“Nothin’,” the farmer said. *“I just played it safe.”* Hmmm…

Here is a couple who REALLY played it safe:

The bride, white of hair, is stooped over her cane,
Her footsteps- uncertain-need guiding,
While down the opposite church aisle
With a wan, toothless smile
The bridegroom in a wheelchair comes riding.

Now who is this elderly couple, thus wed?
Well, you’ll find when you’ve closely explored it
That here is that rare,
Most conservative pair
Who waited ‘til they could afford it!

Do you like playing it safe? If so, I found a Web site you just might love: Dull Men’s Club. No excitement there. You’ll never have to leave your comfort zone. The Dull Men’s Club, found at http://www.dullmensclub.com, is a place in cyberspace for guys who feel *“born to be mild”* and enjoy adventure of such activities as watching grass grow and paint dry or the thrill of riding escalators! I think dull women will like it, too.

But, as most of you know, some of the best things in life can only be found after we cast aside a bit of caution. Our teenaged grandson Gib is a talented young baseball player. He is well on his way to learning and fine-tuning baseball strategies and skills. He is learning and growing in confidence and practice, including the art of base stealing. Ninety feet never seem so long as when you’re trying to steal second base. And more than once he has been thrown out trying to steal. But what a feeling when he slid in safely! Joy. Exhilaration. The downside was worth it.

There is a life lesson here: you can’t steal second base unless you run away from first. In some things, it is all or nothing. Run flat out or stay back, for there is no changing your mind.

Sometimes it takes courage to do what you’ve never done and go where you never have been. It’s like stealing second base—whatever huge decision looms before you, your best solution will likely be made from the side of courage, rather than fear.

If you have any regrets 20 or 30 years from now, what will they be about? I don’t think mine will be about the things I did. I think they will be more about the things I could have done, but was afraid to try. Those times I was afraid to take a chance because I might be rejected or thought to be silly. Those times I was afraid to do something new--make a change--because I was afraid I might fail.

Canadian Claude Thomas Bissell is credited with saying something profound about living life fully. He said:

“Risk more than others think is safe.
Care more than others think is wise.
Dream more than others think is practical.
Expect more than others think is possible.”

It’s much the same for those of us who chose to be followers of Jesus. Yes, it is a risky choice, but the benefits eclipse the costs. Our promised gift from God is life eternal.

You can’t always play it safe if you want to live.
Randy+

School Supply Collection

Bring your donations to the Lower Narthex from August 2-16, where we are collecting supplies for Roseville Area Schools. They need all of the typical school supplies for children in elementary through high school. If you would prefer a monetary donation, please put it in Marion’s mailbox and label it “school supplies.” We have shoppers who would be thrilled to put it to good use!

State Fair Park-n-Ride Returns!

The State Fair dates for 2026 are August 27 - September 7

Please sign up to volunteer for a parking shift - morning or afternoon; no evenings - and help fair-goers park and get to the bus to the Fairgrounds. You can sign up on the clipboards in the upper Narthex, or, use this link to choose your time slot(s)! Park-N-Ride Sign Up

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Episcopalians invited to commemorate 50 years of ‘full and equal claim’ for LGBTQ+ people

At the 65th General Convention in 1976 in Minneapolis, The Episcopal Church **adopted a resolution** affirming that homosexual people are children of God with a full and equal claim upon the church’s love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care.

Fifty years later, Episcopalians are invited to return to Minneapolis **Sept. 3–5** for **“Full & Equal: 50 Years in Pursuit of a Promise,”** a gathering marking that milestone and reflecting on the church’s ongoing journey toward LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Register here for the three-day event will include worship, workshops, and storytelling celebrating the progress of the last 50 years while renewing the church's commitment to the work that remains.

The gathering is part of the work of the Task Force on LGBTQ Inclusion, the interim body charged by General Convention with beginning the process of archiving the history of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the church.

"Our hope is that by marking this anniversary moment with a churchwide gathering, we not only archive and share the stories of some of our elders and stakeholders in the movement for LGBTQ+ equity, but also equip diocesan and parish leaders to go back and capture their own stories in their own contexts—preserving our history in order to inform our work moving forward into God's future," said the Rev. Susan Russell, task force chair and canon for engagement across difference in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

The event will include storytelling workshops with The Moth, a global storytelling nonprofit. Workshops and additional plenary sessions will explore the following:

- The Story of Then
- The Story of Now
- The Story of Next

The Friday evening program will include a multimedia look back at 50 years of struggle and success, written and produced by award-winning documentarian Katie Sherrod, and first-person stories from representative voices of different generations along the journey.

The event will conclude on Saturday with a festival Eucharist during which Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe will preside and Bishop Gene Robinson will preach. In 2003, Robinson became the first openly gay bishop elected in The Episcopal Church.

In addition to Russell, other participants include the Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan; the Very Rev. Winnie Varghese, dean, the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York; the Rev. Michael Hopkins, rector, Church of the Redeemer in Addison, New York; the Rev. Miguel Escobar, vicar, Iglesia Episcopal de San Andrés/Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, New York; and the Rev. Cameron Partridge, rector, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in San Francisco, California.

For more information and to register, **click here**.

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

August 9: Pentecost 11 (Proper 14), Year A

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33.

August 2: Pentecost 12 (Proper 15), Year A

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28.

Sunday Ministries August 9

9:30 AM

Nursery - Connie H
Lectors - Becky L, Roland K
Intercessor - Millie W
LEM - Robert W, Lyn L
Crucifer - Cameron G
Ushers - Don S, Carol K
Altar Guild - Julie S, Robert W, Jean H, Kitty R, Rich P
Coffee Hosts - Bill & Karen H

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 or email the office to add or remove a name from the list.

(Please note: There is NO way to reply to the prayer request form.)

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.

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

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