



Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

When Great Billows Roll *by Fr. Randy+*

Our grandkids have been doing a lot of boating on White Bear Lake in the waning days of summer. They water ski and tube ride, enjoying their time with cousins—and I am certain swallowing great gulps of water when they wipe out! Last week, they came home from a boating excursion a bit subdued—saying that the winds had been very high, causing them to cancel much of their activity. The lofty wave chop had made it a bit perilous to “*throw a leg over the side*” and brave the roiling waters.

I shared this same experience many times on that very body of water, as we sailed this large inland lake. Our family sailed “*Flicka*,” our Montgomery 15 boat, for many years—enjoying both glass-smooth calm and very thrilling heavy seas days. Quickly moving summer storms can rapidly overtake your boat—causing all sorts of concern and chaos and fear. Wild swinging of booms and hastily reefing of mainsails are the threats you must address. The dangers and intrinsic hazards of bobbing in a vessel at sea has always been a source of great risk to life for seafaring folk. These dangers are not exclusively found at sea—they happen in life itself!

Even the Psalmists understood the perils this life can hand us:

Psalm 107: Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles

*²³ Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the mighty waters;*

*²⁴ they saw the deeds of the Lord,
his wondrous works in the deep.*

*²⁵ For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.*

*²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their calamity;*

*²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunkards
and were at their wits' end.*

*28 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out from their distress;
29 he made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
30 Then they were glad because they had quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.
31 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.*



What does “billows roll” mean? A great wave or surge of water--the rolling billows of the sea. A rolling mass (as of flame or smoke) that resembles a high wave, washing over you.

*“It is well with my soul” “When sorrows like sea billows roll”
And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up
and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a dead calm. (Matt 8:26)*

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we
will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be
carried into the midst of the sea. (Psalm 46:1-2)*

I can only hope and pray that we who are living through life’s tragedies will feel the presence of the Lord in our lives and somehow be able to find the peace that passes understanding that the Bible promises.

*“It Is Well” hymn by Philip Bliss (1876)
When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

Randy+

It’s Time for a New Directory!

Matt Cole has agreed to photograph each family unit for a new, do-it-ourselves directory. He will set up a photo booth and take pictures after services on several Sundays, but sadly, NOT including Start-Up Sunday, September 10. So, put on your prettiest smile and get yourself to church!

Or, simply send a recent photo to Ruth in the office and we’ll be glad to add it.

We also need some volunteers to help herd people on Sundays for photos, to update information, and to help put the directory together. Look for more information in weekly news, and email Marilyn ([HERE](#)) to help.

A Very Quiet and Infrequent Ministry

Are you one who wants to contribute to the workings of St. Christopher's, yet don't want to be "on a committee" and need to meet regularly and do things to keep that committee alive and active? Perhaps you'd like to help out as an individual or couple once or twice every three months, and this activity would take about 20-30 minutes each time.

Sound good too good to be true???? Here's the catch - when your turn comes around, it will be on a Sunday, right after the 10:30 service coffee hour winds down. The task is to grab the bag of supplies from the Sexton's closet, and check over the five restrooms that are used pretty much daily. No scrubbing toilets! You empty the trash and ensure there's a good supply of paper towels, toilet paper and kleenex. This is the work of the Bathroom Brigade.

It's important, as our building is well-used during the week and we want it picked up and ready to go for the weekly visitors, guests, meeting attendees, etc. The weekly cleaning service doesn't come till Friday afternoon, which is why the bathrooms need a quick check and resupply on Sundays. You can also do this first thing on Monday mornings if necessary. Are you saying, "I can do that!" ? If so, please contact Ella Snyder at 651-633-3420 or mizella38@gmail.com Oh yes, training is provided.

Hearts and Hands Meets September 21

The Hearts and Hands group will meet on Thursday, September 21, at 10:30 in the Parish Hall. We will be packing our homemade cookies for Community Kitchen in Minneapolis. We would love to have folks in the parish join us in this baking project. If you are interested in participating, drop off your homemade cookies (any variety) in the kitchen on Thursday, September 21, by 10:30.

Community Kitchen makes, packs and delivers hundreds of meals each week to unhoused neighbors. The organization is powered by volunteers and food rescue. Please consider joining us in this community outreach.

If you have any questions call Sally Brown 651-483-8232.



We return to two services 8 and 10:30 AM, on **September 17th!**

Fall Adult Formation

Friends, the remainder of our books may (or may not) be delivered by Saturday, and I know that many are awaiting them. You have the option of downloading it on a Kindle or other reading device, or by reading the linked PDF (above). Even if you hadn't planned to join us for this series, I invite you to read this section and join us for the first session. You might learn something, and we'd all benefit from the discussion.

We'll begin at 9:15 in the Chapel. We'd love to see you there.

In Christ,
Marilyn+

(If the link doesn't work for you, please email Ruth at the church, and she can send you the PDF directly to your email. office@stchristophers-mn.org)

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

September 17: Pentecost 16, Proper 19

Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.

September 24: Pentecost 17, Proper 20

Jonah 3:10—4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

Faithful Innovation 2.0

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, anyone interested is invited to join the Rev. Blair Pogue, and lay leader Judy Johnson, in the ECMN Gathering Space located at 1101 West Broadway Avenue from 10 am to 2 pm, to learn more about the Faithful Innovation process and especially what congregations have been learning these past fourteen months. Those who come will also learn a few new spiritual practices they can take back to their congregation, and will hear from the congregations who have continued to listen to God and other church members, to wonder what God might be up to in the church's neighborhood and their own neighborhoods, and to engage in small, low cost experiments to learn more about what the Holy Spirit is up to in the lives of their neighbors. Please let Blair Pogue know if you plan to come by Wednesday, September 20, at blair.p@episcopalmn.org, and if you have any dietary restrictions.

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.



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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