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### **Hello, St. Christopher's Community!**

**It's happening again!** Yes, the SPAM emails and Texts are coming in once again, pretending to be Fr. Randy. PLEASE check the number or e-mail address BEFORE you respond! When in doubt, call the office for clarification. Thanks!

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### **These Three Things** *by Fr. Randy+*

Have you ever shared a feeling I experienced this past week of something that we see again and again, but every once in a while that experience breaks through the humdrum and every day? Earlier in the week I had driven by row upon row of planted pine forest near Camp Ripley—viewed from the enclosed capsule of my Volkswagen at a speed of 65 MPH. They were lovely to view, but my engagement with them was without intimacy other than a blur of bushy green seen from a distance.

Late last week, I had a totally different experience with this miracle of nature. I was invited to officiate at a coworker's wedding in Grand Rapids. Jenny and Mitch decided to be married at a place that was near and dear to their hearts—a place which defined for them to be in God's presence. Jenny's family owns and operates a Christmas tree farm, a farm which has been worked for

generations of her family. It is a place of peace and wonderment beyond imagination.

I drove for miles on dusty gravel roads, following the “*blue line*” on the trusty GPS app on my phone, and slowly turned into the farmyard. Upon opening the car door my nose was filled with the sweet scent of pine and my ears discerned a quiet, whispering whoosh sound of the breeze swaying the lofty branches.

I walked through the row upon row of lofty red pines, lit by “*old timey*” white lightbulbs and hung with an “*art gallery*” of 4x6 picture frames holding candid photos of family and friends of the couple to be married. Nearly eighty persons sat in chairs scattered throughout this living, natural cathedral in the pines—a place of the unbridled delight of God’s creation. All persons were in their appointed places—including bride, groom, and a precocious three-year-old boy who was giddily enthralled in throwing pine cones and the forest floor pine needles into the air during the ceremony!

I took the opportunity to speak of a subject close to the hearts of most of us—*love*. My homily text was 1 Corinthians 13—“*The Love Chapter*” written by the apostle Paul to a community in internal stress and turmoil. They were not demonstrating true love towards others. They were in desperate need of a change of course—a turning back to the teachings of Jesus on how to love one another.

Eugene H. Peterson writes a unique version of this critically important teaching of the rule of life in his Bible version; *The Message*:

*Love never gives up.  
Love cares more for others than for self.  
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.  
Love doesn't strut,  
Doesn't have a swelled head,  
Doesn't force itself on others,  
Isn't always "me first,"  
Doesn't fly off the handle,  
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,  
Doesn't revel when others grovel,  
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,  
Puts up with everything,  
Trusts God always,  
Always looks for the best,  
Never looks back,  
But keeps going to the end.  
Love never dies.*

*We have three things to do to lead us toward consummation:*

*Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly.*

*And the best of the three is love.*

**These Three Things.** Make it so in your life. *Randy+*

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## September Adult Forum

Concludes this Sunday, September 29: "Anglican 101: What It Means To Be Anglican/Episcopalian." It will be informal, over coffee, and questions are welcomed. Note that we'll start at **9 am-ish** in the Parish Hall for this series. Everyone is welcome.

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## Annual Hayride and Bonfire Potluck

**Saturday, October 26th – 4 pm** at Bunker Park Stables in Andover.

All are welcome – bring your friends! Cost is \$12/person or \$50/family (up to 6). Contact Marion for scholarship information. Register [here](#). You can also sign up with Marion in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings. Register by Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> so we know how many wagons we need.

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## We're Proud to Announce St. Christopher's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Event Fair!

WE NEED YOU!

The time has come to dream up fellowship opportunities you would like to host!

Help us build and strengthen our St. Christopher's Community through Fellowship and Fun! Raise \$\$ for the Mission Opportunities Fund which helps support ministries in the parish and important outreach!

Please consider donating a fun event to the St. Christopher's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Event Fair. Think outside the box! What are your favorite hobbies, foods, and past times? Offer a karaoke night, lead a hike or bird watching outing, take a group golfing, share a meal with others, teach a cooking class, lead a knitting lesson, offer game night or a day on a lake, or throw a dance party! The options are endless!

Fill out [this linked donation form](#) (go to bottom of linked page) and send it to Ann ([mntrappers@gmail.com](mailto:mntrappers@gmail.com)) or Kim ([kimmersue58@hotmail.com](mailto:kimmersue58@hotmail.com)), or leave it in Ann's mailbox by the office. Event donations are due by **October 20<sup>th</sup>**.

The St. Christopher's Event Fair will occur **December 8<sup>th</sup> through December 29<sup>th</sup>** with specific event sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall...and if you are a snowbird, we will provide instructions to sign up from afar. The actual events will occur in 2025!

Questions? Contact Kim (651-210-7077) or Ann (651-325-8801)

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## Book Group

Some of you may have read [Ordinary Grace](#) by [William Kent Krueger](#). If you have, but did not discuss it with anyone else who has read the book, please join us for our next book, [Ordinary Grace](#) by [William Kent Krueger](#).

*"That was it. That was all of it. A grace so ordinary there was no reason at all to remember it. Yet I have never across the forty years since it was spoken forgotten a single word."*

*New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.*

*Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.*

*Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, Ordinary Grace is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.*

We would like to try a **[hybrid meeting at the Roseville Library in the Board Room on Tuesday, 08-Oct -24 at 5:30.](#)** 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](mailto:angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com), or Rev. Marilyn, so we can send the details of the book we are reading and 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.

--Angela

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### **In case you were wondering...**

For the past few months my daughter, Becky Ferguson, has been on our weekly prayer list. She has progressive pulmonary fibrosis, brought on by complications from her previous treatments for Hodgkin's lymphoma. Currently, Becky is about a month away from completing preparations so that the University of WI at Madison transplant center can list her as a candidate for a double lung transplant. This has been a difficult journey for Becky for years, who is also dealing with a husband with stage 4 kidney cancer, and caring for their fourteen year old son.

If you would like more information about Becky's situation, you can click on the link that follows. The link includes an option to donate through a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that raises funds to help cover medical expenses.

The link to Becky's campaign site is <https://helphopelive.org/campaign/24412/>

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this! And above all, I ask for your prayers for Becky and her family as they continue on the difficult journey

ahead.

Mike Sirany

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## 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!



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## Upcoming Lectionary Readings

### September 29: 19th Pentecost, Proper 21

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50.

### October 6: 20th Pentecost, Proper 22 (10 AM)

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16.

## Sunday Ministries September 29

### 8:00 AM

Lectors: John L, Ann T

Intercessor: Mary P

LEM: Mary P

Altar Guild: Julie S, Robert W

Usher: Chris M

Coffee: Pat A

### 10:30 AM

Nursery: Janet C, Ann D

Lectors - Sue T, Pat A

Intercessor - Ella S

LEM - Kathy A, Madisen C

Ushers - Ann & Larry J

Altar Guild - Jill E

Crucifer - Madisen C

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 US

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