

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



Meet Christ.
Be Christ.

[Visit our Website](#)

From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**
Rector

“Keeping it Simple”

Keeping it Simple is the watchword of persons engaged in Crisis Communication—when people are impacted by an unexpected event; when undeserved hardship has been put upon them, when a surprise causes a change in daily living, when calamity and chaos rules the day in a community or to an individual.

I teach a course on Crisis Communications to public safety and elected officials—those persons who are called to react and respond to the crisis event and are charged to assist people navigate and process their own response. The best practices and processes of Crisis Communication are rather simple and direct, because persons impacted by this abrupt injection of chaos and confusion require a tightly managed response.

The three steps are predicated on the statement, ***“Keeping it Simple.”***

- Understand what happened.
- Know what is happening now.
- Motivate people to act, based upon what is happening next.

We all know we have been wracked by the COVID-19 pandemic—it has impacted all aspects of our individual and corporate lives. The disease is indiscriminate in its spreading, although more impactful on some in our communities more than others. We are at or near our healthcare systems

capacity to care for the sick and dying from the virus. It has disrupted our lives and livelihood—and the way we wish to live in community.

What's happening now is our need to continue with physical distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands—**simple**, yet still effective. We share our deep love for each other by maintaining these practices. The vaccines have begun to be distributed—*help is on the way!*

Then, we need to motivate persons to take the vaccine when it is offered, and to be patient with the system of prioritizing who gets the vaccine and when. I will be ready to take mine, when it is offered.

Paralleling the above COVID-19 crisis communications is God's story in the coming of the Christ Child into the world. Friends, we are in a crisis of humanity. God shows up in times of great need and works through the hands and voice of his beloved people. Always.

We understand what happened in the sharing once more of the Nativity story—the birth of Jesus in a humble stable, in a backwater town, to regular people—becoming fully human yet fully divine. The Savior has come to us in hope and love.

What is happening now is our journey with Jesus and the sharing of the Good News in Christ as we live into the Gospel—in the sure and certain hope we will find newness and fullness of life. We do this through engaging the practice of prayer and being not afraid to engage in new ways of bringing about intentional discipleship in the Beloved Community and beyond.

As we move towards The Epiphany on January 6, I encourage you to read Matthew 2:1-11. This Gospel passage speaks about the coming of the Magi, who follow the star in search of the Christ child. *Would you make such a journey?* We too must search and seek the Christ Child—and be prepared to see God at work in unimaginable places and through unexpected persons.

And ask yourself;

What will next Christmas be like?

How do you think the world will have changed?

How will you have changed?

Keep it Simple! Learn to do the smallest things with great love—mirroring the outrageous love of God for each one of us. God is not done with us! AMEN.

Randy+

Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

Even the most chilled out people I know are grateful to see the end of 2020. It has certainly been hard, to that we can all attest. And we're fervently praying that this time next year will have brought us a recognizable Christmas. You may not have even thought beyond what you might do for a quarantined New Year's Eve yet, but I live my work life several months ahead of the rest of the world, so I've already begun to try to figure out what might be possible for the upcoming Lent and Easter. And Easter's early this year! This time last year, I had planned anthems and special events, and found myself reworking and simplifying them over again several times as each month found our options dwindling away. Additionally, I was a part of Bishop Craig Loya's Consecration service, and each week's planning meeting revolved around what we couldn't do and what little we could do about it. (Ultimately, it was a lovely virtual service and I think that, perhaps, it brought the ECMN community closer together in ways that the big and beautiful festival service really couldn't have.) But I spent a lot of 2020 in dismay as all my plans came to nothing, trying to suss out what technology was available that we could afford to use, and that my poor technical skills could accomplish. I subscribed to podcasts and blogs and watched webinars and Zoom presentations until my eyes went buggy and my head hurt. I took reams of notes about what other people had done and were doing, and faithfully googled step-by-step lists of instructions that never seemed to match up with what I saw on my own screen.

It was a ten-month-long lesson in frustration. I learned a lot and frankly, along with the successes came some spectacular failures. But I was able to produce a few things. Most recently, ***A Virtual Lessons and Carols*** that you can access on the front page of the website. There's also a link to a bulletin that will provide the lyrics so you can sing along. If you're in a contemplative mood or in need of a little soothing, the *Blue Christmas* banner on the website has a link to a few minutes of quiet piano caroling that Marion has added to a mesmerizing video of candles flickering. And in case you missed it, check out the *HymnSing* in the Music Ministries Blog, found in the dropdown menu under the Music tab on the website. There are some traditional hymns you can sing along with and a link to a lyric sheet as well. Watch for another *HymnSing* coming soon, as well as Tom Linder's CD project of some of the choir's past anthems. In normal times, we usually offer an Evensong just before Lent, so I'm hoping that a virtual evensong can happen in late winter as well.

And as for Easter, well, that's anybody's guess. If the virus is calming down and we can get permission (that's the biggest "if"), the bravest choir members *may* be able to sing an anthem or two for Easter, with a minimum 10' distance around the sanctuary and a mask on. Karen Hanna has been busy designing and making singing masks for everyone. We had purchased some that just weren't optimal – too big, too heavy, not comfortable. So, Karen went to work and made some for the section leaders to use as they recorded Lessons and Carols and they got great reviews, and more are in production for the rest of the choir. Not attractive, mind you. But there's room to open your mouth and they don't collapse onto your face every time you take a big breath. Keep your fingers crossed for us that all of these things can come to pass.

The people that sing in church choirs do so for a variety of reasons – from the *singing is praying twice* concept, to the musical and creative outlet, to just being part of a community – and they have sorely missed the choir. On March 11th, we had just presented our evensong and were turning our efforts toward Easter music when Matt Cole pops up with the announcement that the NBA had suspended play for the season. Nevermind the fact that he was reading on his phone during rehearsal...but it was a watershed moment. Over the next few days, churches were closing all over the country. We had one more (choir-less) Sunday, and we were done, too. Headlines told of church choir rehearsals and weddings and funerals as superspreading events. Episcopal bishops moved quickly to suspend in-person worship and have been holding the line ever since. Though we chafe under the guidelines, they do have our best interest at heart. For after all, 35% of us Episcopalians are over 65. It has been a hard year, indeed. But we keep the faith. As we approach that March 11th anniversary, I'm really hoping we'll be able to actually see the light at the end of the tunnel, and not just a faint glow. And I'm hoping that we'll come out of this with some important lessons learned, as a church community and as a country. Because when this is over, the real work will have just begun.

I do hope you all are able to enjoy this Christmas season as fully as possible with friends and family near or far away in little boxes on the computer screen. Stay vigilant and safe. And with God's help, we'll all have a much better 2021!

Grace and peace,
Karla

Footprints JANUARY 2021 News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



Our Virtual Christmas Pageant, ***Do Not Be Afraid***, debuts at coffee hour (zoom) on Sunday, January 3rd. As is our tradition, it will also become the liturgy of the word for our (recorded) service that Sunday. I am so proud of everyone who contributed to this effort! I am also proud to say that having never edited a video before, I have learned some new skills.

There are twelve scenes in our pageant that include:

- 17 cast members - children, teens, and adults

- 9 videos recorded at home
- 16 videos recorded on zoom
- 10 new costumes
- 1 recording of St. Christopher's choir

Sunday School: We meet on Zoom at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. In December, we finished up our stories about Moses, and dove into some of our family and church traditions for Advent and Christmas. Moving into January, we will explore Baptism – what it looks like in the Episcopal church, the baptism of Jesus, and our own baptism stories

Family Worship: We meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month in person (outside, masked, and socially distanced), where Fr. Randy leads us in interactive storytelling and engages the children in celebrating the Eucharist with him - using individual patens and small cups (with grape juice!). Each child then gets to distribute the Eucharist to their family. In December, we traveled to stations to read scripture and light the Advent candles.

Youth



Chad O'Leary
Director of Youth Ministries

Happy New Year!

Like so many others, I am not in great mourning as we bid farewell to 2020. Wow, what a time we are living through, and while watching a ball drop certainly won't cure all the ills of our world, the symbolic passage of a difficult time is certainly welcome. However, in our haste to "move on," I do think that it is important for us to realize that many lessons -- so many yet to be fully realized -- were planted within us during 2020. I pray that we, individually and collectively, take the time to foster their growth and development in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

This month we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, which is for me one of the most significant elements of our liturgical year. This is the ultimate beginning. And I love being part of a tradition that (re)invites us into that mission each year. Loving God and neighbor. It is as simple and as difficult as this. If you're like me this commitment can be lost at times and January, at the start of a new calendar year, seems the perfect time to recenter and recommit to the true orientation of my life: walking humbly with God. Many of us have been inspired through the years by Deacon Janet's theological reflection on this beautiful event that we rededicate ourselves to each January, so I won't go into great depth here. But, it is this reality that we have all been baptized into Christ's

continued mission in the world, to be God's own hands and feet, that inspired a forthcoming Lenten initiative led by our youth.

In a spirit of Christ's mission, this Lent you will be invited to be part of an intergenerational space of reflection and giving. In partnership with Keystone, we will be organizing a daily collection of needed items for individuals and families to do in their homes. On Ash Wednesday, individuals and families will be invited to bless a receptacle of their choosing to hold the items being placed into the container each day. A prayer or reflection, composed by a member of our community, will accompany each day. Therefore, you will have the chance to pause and reflect each time that a new item is placed into the receptacle. You will have a choice as to how you want to participate, as well. You can commit to doing all 40 days, just a couple days/week, or just during Holy Week. This will be structured so that all individuals and families, regardless of schedule and budget, will have the opportunity to participate. The first week of Easter, we will coordinate a drop-off at the church. How this looks will depend on where we are at in our pandemic at that time, so stay tuned!

Our goal is to respond to the needs in our community, as provided by Keystone, and bring in a variety of voices from all corners of our parish community, to have a side-by-side expression of faith. The youth team and I have been sending out emails inviting people to prayerfully consider taking a day during Lent to pull something together. Thank you to those who have responded already! While we have tried our best to cast a wide net, it is possible that we had a bad email address and so if you are interested in partaking but didn't receive a message from us, please do not hesitate to reach out to us; we'd love to have you included (and we have 40 days to fill!!).

Thank you and many, many 2021 blessings to you all!
Chad

Stewardship Update

It's not too late! If you haven't turned in a Pledge for 2021, **please** prayerfully consider doing so.

As of this sending, we have 93 pledges in of about 116 expected. We are short of our target amount by about \$46,500. If you need a Pledge card, call the office Monday-Thursday and Ruth will mail one. OR, you can just tell Ruth what your pledge will be (by phone or email), and she can enter it in the computer.

If you need to know what you pledged for 2020, to assist in your 2021 pledge decision, please call or email Ruth in the church office, and she will get you the correct information.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

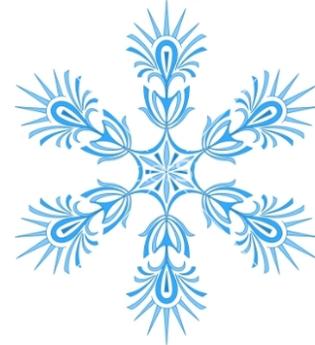
Our 2020 Annual Meeting will be held virtually on January 24, 2021 at 11 AM.

We expect to mail out copies of the Annual Report about one week before the meeting. Please watch for information about logging in for the meeting. It will be very similar to connecting for Adult Forum.

If you will be submitting a report for the Annual Report Book, PLEASE have it in the office not later than **January 10th**. THANK YOU!

Snow Shoveling Helpers Needed

We have not had anyone sign up yet! Please let us know if you can help.



Oh, dear. Yes, it is Wintertime in Roseville.

GOOD NEWS! We have hired our snow plowing service to do the sidewalks and entryways when they are here to plow (2 inches or more). Volunteers are needed only for the lighter snowfalls, and mid-day snow clean up.

SO... Please call or email the office and let us know if you can take a week of Shoveling the sidewalks. We'll do a week of Monday-Sunday. I think mid-April is a safe place to stop the planning. :) Please email or call Ruth in the office and let her know what week(s) you are available. office@stchristophers-mn.org or 651-633-4589 (M-Th).

January

4-10

11-17

18-24

25-31

February

1-7

8-14

15-21

22-28

March

1-7

8-14

15-21

22-28

29-4

April

5-11

12-18 (It should be safe to stop here!) :)



JANUARY Calendar Highlights!

3 Sunday - Epiphany Celebrated

10:30 AM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

6 Wednesday

12:15 PM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

8 Friday

11 AM to 1 PM Keystone Mobile Food Shelf - West Lot

10 Sunday - Baptism of Our Lord

10:30 AM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

11 Monday

6:45 PM Finance Committee Meeting - via Zoom

13 Wednesday

12:15 PM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

17 Sunday - Epiphany 2

10:30 AM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

18 Monday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

6:45 PM Vestry Meeting - via Zoom

20 Wednesday

12:15 PM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

24 Sunday -- Epiphany 3

11:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING and WORSHIP on Zoom

25 Monday

e-Traveler Deadline for January

27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Outdoor Worship - Parking Lot

Please note: Outdoor worship services are now being held in the North

parking lot; please **tune your car radio to 96.1 FM** to hear the service. Due to the COVID-19 protocols in place as we prepare this edition of the e-Traveler, most other activities of our community and outside groups have been cancelled or postponed. If we are able to resume activities, we'll send out plenty of notices.

Last Words



I hope you have enjoyed the January **e-Traveler!**

I miss all of you, and I hope to see many of your smiling faces on our "Zoom Annual Meeting" on the 24th!

< --(In case you've forgotten, this is what I look like without my mask.)

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Kathy Ackerman, Sr. Warden; Mike Sirany, Jr. Warden
Allison Jensen, Clerk; Suzanne Hitchcock, Treasurer

Erin Bowman; Barbara Hovey; Ann DePaolis-Jones; Josh Kattelman;
Alexander Kun; Tom Linder; Jeanna McLoughlin; Al Reedstrom; Lisa Spiro

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary, Youth Ministries Director
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Colleen Carpenter, Seminarian
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Regular Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist (On Hiatus)
8:00 AM Adult Formation/Zoom Coffee Hour
9:00 AM Fellowship
9:30-10:20 AM Children's Education-Room 107
(*NO First Sunday*)
9:30-10:15 AM Youth Education-Youth Room
9:30-10:15 AM Adult Education-Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
---Currently meeting in the North Parking Lot---

10:30 AM Children's Chapel (*First Sunday ONLY*)
11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the North Parking Lot

Current Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.
Roseville, MN 55113
651-633-4589 | Fax 651-633-7361 | www.stchristophers-mn.org

STAY CONNECTED

