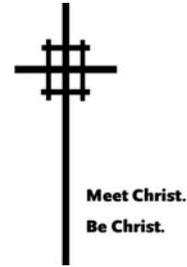


From: St. Christopher's Episcopal Church <office@stchristophers-mn.org>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 4:06 PM
To: office@stchristophers-mn.org
Subject: February 2019 e-Traveler

Issue #75 | FEBRUARY 2019

St. Christopher's
e-Traveler



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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Joel Norton, Sr. Warden; Kathy Ackerman, Jr. Warden
Sue Triebenbach, Clerk; Darlene Cross, Treasurer

Erin Bowman; Mark Brilowski; Karen Hartman; Barbara Hovey; Chris Huntley; Josh Kattelman; Tom Linder; 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
Rev. Mary Rowe, Assisting Priest
Rev. Janet MacNally, Deacon
Rev. Daniel Pearson, Transition Priest

Our REGULAR Sunday Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM Fellowship
9:30-10:20 AM Children's Education-Room 107
9:30-10:15 AM Youth Education-Youth Room
9:30-10:15 AM Adult Education-Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

A Note from The Rev. Daniel Pearson



**The Rev.
Daniel V. Pearson**
Transition Priest

A Church Out of Season

A primary symbol for the liturgical season of Epiphany is light, as light helps reveal. According to the gospel, Jesus is “the true light, which enlightens everyone,” (John 1:9) and he wants his followers to be light: “You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). In other words, we are to help manifest the light of Christ as he did. Following the narrative of Jesus presented in our gospel readings for Epiphany, we find him as worthy of worship, given a godly vocation in baptism, providing plenty, healing, teaching and showing extravagant love. Apart from being worshipped, all the rest of what Jesus does can and should to some degree be a part of our witness and action. As we say at St. Christopher’s, “Meet Christ; Be Christ.”

For some reason, I keep wondering why the Episcopal Church is not more successful doing this. We’ve gotten honest and shifted our identity from being the Establishment to being what our current Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls “the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement in the world.” We’re trying to think “discipleship.” We’re trying to get more committed and comfortable in joining what God is doing in our neighborhood.

But every once in a while, I think, “Well, maybe our lack of success is not all our problem, our lack of verve and commitment. Maybe it has something to do with the times we live in.” Recently, the following excerpt from the pundit, Frank Bruni, struck a cord: “With everything from Twitter followers to television booking, we’re rewarded for fierce conviction, for utter certainty, for emphatically taking sides and staying unconditionally faithful to what we’ve pushed for and against in the past. We each have our brand, and the narrower and unyielding it is, the more currency it has and the more loyal our

customers. Instead of bucking the political tribalism in America, we ride it...A 'hot take' is prized. Nobody talks about a 'cold take' though that's the temperature of truth." (NYT, Jan 22)

Some one once described traditional Episcopal liturgy as "coolly elegant." How uncool could this be when lots of churches are turning up the volume? Moreover, our whole history is about being the "via media," being the middle way between conflicting paths. We Episcopalians tend to be 'reasonable', 'moderate' and 'diplomatic.'

So will we ever come back in season? Recently, I read of a moderate Republican Governor whose gaining political currency. Likewise, of a moderate Democratic governor. Who knows?

dvp

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**
Deacon

I have, over the past few years, been fortunate enough to visit places that I never thought I would ever see for myself. Most of these places were countries that, at the time of my growing up, were a part of the Soviet Bloc, or in other words communist countries. But the Soviet Union fell apart and the countries that once made up that body emerged to reclaim their former place in the world. It has been interesting to watch as these countries move into the 21st Century with all that entails from cell phones to WiFi to the tourist industry. Perhaps the most subtle change, however, is the resurrection of the Christian faith. I am always amazed at the tenacity of Christianity. Stories by our guides of churches that were forced to worship literally underground, or the private wedding with a priest for just a few close family and friends before the civil wedding that was, to anyone looking on, main event. Perhaps the most touching was the private, almost held in secret, baptism of the newborn baby, thus assuring that the faith would continue.

Although it is still a communist country, Cuba's Christian heritage also held on, and as of late and the result of a visit from Pope John Paul II in the late 90's, has experienced a resurrection as well. On our recent visit we were told in all of the towns we visited that after the Pope came and preached, Castro had

decided that perhaps Christianity or religion in general was not such a threat. Although churches have reopened, they still are without native raised priests; but the people are confident that will soon not be the case. And the churches and cathedrals themselves are once again opened for anyone who might wish to stop by and offer a prayer. A whole political philosophy and way of ordering the lives of the people tried very hard to remove religion in general, and Christianity in particular, from the countries they governed. And yet like a seed that has been waiting in the ground until the time was right, Christianity remained alive and active.

Last month, I wrote about our interim time as sort of holding pattern, a waiting time for us as the faith community that is St. Christopher's. And I don't mean to suggest that our situation is the same as those former Soviet Countries or Cuba, where open expression of faith was driven into hiding. Still, we are in a place where the push of our common life as a faith community has become somewhat quiet as we listen, discern, and invite the person that will join us in moving our community forward into the neighborhood once more. I think there is a common thread though, between St. Christopher's and those places where a resurrection of open faith has occurred, in that we all have experienced an interim phrase, a period of waiting ordained by the Spirit.

It is bitterly cold outside as I write this. So cold that the warning of the TV weather people is a stern "don't go out unless you have to!" And so for now, schools are closed, folks are putting off going out, and when we do go out we are bundled up almost beyond recognition! And above all we know that this will not last, that the weather will warm up and schools will reopen and we will all get back to business of our lives.

So, too, will our common life as the faith community of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, get back to the business of joining God in the neighborhood for the life of the world. The seed in the ground continues to be active; soon it will break forth and grow. Spring is coming, resurrection is at hand!

Amen, Deacon Janet

MUSIC NOTES



Karla Cole

**Director of Music
Ministries**

One would think that the dead of winter would be quiet around here. But not so! There are a number of events coming up and if you can brave the cold, there are some interesting programs to be heard.

February 2nd at 2pm in our sanctuary – Cellist, David Holmes (he's the guy who brings all his young cellists to play in church every year) and his string quartet, the **Northern Lights Quartet** are giving a recital in competition with the Girl Scout cookie pick-up going on in the parking lot. Perhaps you can enjoy an hour of lovely music and buy some cookies on your way out!

February 3rd at 5pm at St. Mark's Cathedral – The women of St. Christopher's Choir are joining with the women of St. Paul's Lake of the Isles (where former St. Christopher's music director, Jacob Manier is now) for an evensong in the cathedral with the mighty, newly rehabbed organ. And then you can dash to your Super Bowl party just in time for the kick-off. If you can handle the musical whiplash, you can experience both soaring Anglican harmonies and that most American experience – the Super Bowl halftime show in one fell swoop. BTW, the halftime performers this year are Maroon 5, Big Boi (I'm always amused by the serial misspellings of rap artists) and Travis Scott (another rap artist, in spite of his normal-sounding name).

February 8th at 7pm in our sanctuary – The **Quintessence Winds** will offer a varied program of music composed specifically for woodwind quintet and music arranged for the same. A woodwind quintet is comprised of a flute, an oboe, a clarinet, a bassoon and a French horn. Our own Barb Hovey is the clarinet player and many, if not all of these musicians also play in the orchestra of the Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company. And while I'm plugging musical events – the GSVLOC is presenting ***The Mikado* this year from March 15th to April 7th**. Watch for the poster to go up in our building, or check their website for showtimes and ticket information.

What would Jesus drink? – Most people think he drank wine, but we have an inside scoop that tells us he didn't mind beer, either. We haven't had a brewery outing since before Christmas, so it's past time to start that up again. Watch for the signs around the building to tell you when and where, and come hang with us for a Sunday afternoon, or grab a quick beer on your way to somewhere else.

March 3rd Evensong at 4pm in our sanctuary – We do evensong a little differently here at St. Christopher's. It's not so high and holy as at the cathedral, but is still a thoughtful, worshipful escape from the daily grind. There are lessons and prayers and lovely music – no communion, no sermon. Then we offer Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall with pots of tea and tiny sandwiches and treats, and something special from my English mother-in-law's recipe box. Do join us!

Karla Cole

Footprints JANUARY 2019 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



Sunday, February 2nd^h –Children' Chapel!

For children age 3 and up as well as interested adults. Meet in the Christ Child Chapel at 10:25am. We devote our time to three main components of the Liturgy of the Word: **Singing, Scripture, and Prayer**. We will join the congregation at the Peace.

This month in Sunday School we will begin incorporating the yoga moves that were introduced in the fall into our lessons about Jesus. At the end of the month we will decorate our Alleluias in preparation for putting them away on March 3rd.

Looking Ahead! Vacation Bible School July 22-26, 9 am-noon

Mark your calendars and invite your friends! This program is for age 3 – 5th grade. Youth volunteers have completed 6th grade or older. Details and registration will be available after Easter. You can see information and pictures from previous VBS programs here: <http://www.stchristophers-mn.org/vbs.html>

Green Team

Thank you to everyone at St. Christopher's for supporting our Mission Opportunities Grants. Dozens of food shelf guests now have energy-efficient light bulbs, thanks to your generosity--and some work by Joel Norton and his family! The Green Team dreamed up this idea earlier this winter, applied for and received a \$250 grant. That buys a lot of light bulbs at Costco, the Nortons discovered. And when they took the LED bulbs to our local food shelf (the same place that distributes our Giving Garden harvests), they found the guests were very appreciative! Now these folks could spend their hard-earned money on more protein items or other household needs, rather than bulbs. And we all did our part for the planet! Thanks, again!

First Nations Kitchen

It's time for volunteering for the next First Nations Kitchen date, February 24, 2019. I need people for all jobs: 1:30 - 4:30 for food prep work for dinner, setting tables and some preliminary dishwashing as well as some cleaning. 5:00 - 7:30 or 8:00 for serving from the kitchen, serving tables in the dining room, busing, clean-up of dining room and kitchen after meal and dishwashing. I could use 6 volunteers for the early shift and 8 for the dinner shift starting at 5:00 pm. We have four dates this year and if you volunteer it isn't necessary that you do them all (thought that would be awfully nice). The dates are: February 24, May 19, September 8 and October 27, You can call me, Mary Pendergrass, at 651-336-2622 or email me at marypendergrass41@gmail.com if you can help with this service project.



FEBRUARY Calendar Highlights!

3 8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

5 Meals on Wheels - Offsite

6 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

5:30 PM Youth Group - Youth Room, Parish Hall

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

7 5:30 PM Capital Campaign Team - Gathering Room

8 1:00 PM Couples Bridge - Parish Hall

10 8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Library Meeting - Library

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11 5:30 PM Finance Committee - Parish Hall

13 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

14 Happy Valentine's Day!

1:00 PM Knitting - Library

17 8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

18 President's Day Holiday - Office Closed

6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall

20 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

21 10:30 AM Hearts & Hands - Parish Hall

24 8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

25 e-Traveler Deadline

27 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

28 5:30 PM Community Dinner - Parish Hall

Please note: These are the parish events occurring this month. Please remember that many outside groups use our building daily. If you need to use a building space, please check with the office to see that your time, date and space are available.

Last Words



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

As we have readied this edition to send out, the weather has been unusually cold. The office was closed for three straight days - a first for me!



I certainly enjoyed checking the office email with a cat in my lap. (He has adamantly refused to come to the office with me; he hates the car!)

Now that we have been reminded that we do, indeed, live in Minnesota, I hope that things will moderate a bit so we can "get back to normal."

Happy Valentine's Day!!
Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

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