

From: St. Christopher's Episcopal Church <office@stchristophers-mn.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 11:47 AM
To: office@stchristophers-mn.org
Subject: February 2018 e-Traveler

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St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #64

FEBRUARY 2018

A Note from Rev Daniel Pearson



The Rev.
Daniel V. Pearson

Transition Priest



Meet
Christ
Be Christ

We're Well on Our Way

The liturgical season of Epiphany is marked by the idea and experience of the journey. This way of viewing things begins with the journey of the wise-men. Given the account of their journey in Matthew's gospel, the apex of their journey issues in "overwhelming joy." And when they see the child with his mother, they wondrously kneel down paying homage and offer gifts. When acted out by children in church, these numinous responses are magnified! We do note, however, that nefarious Herod is in the background so in their wisdom, the magi "left for their own country by another road." Also, in thinking about the less than full joy and even temptations of making the journey to Jesus, we have the

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Sr. Warden
Joel Norton,
Jr. Warden
(Position Open),
Clerk
Darlene Cross,
Treasurer

uneasy words of T.S. Eliot in his poem about the Magi: "A cold coming we had of it/ Just the worst time of year for a journey...."

At St. Christopher's, we are well on our way in this transitional journey. For me, it's been a delight to meet people and to work with a very gifted and committed staff. Not only are we on this journey of moving forward as a corporate body, but also, we have had a wonderful opportunity to hear specifically about the spiritual journeys of three of our parishioners: Michael Sirany, Scott Crow and Allison Jensen. As I listened to their story, mostly notes of satisfaction were sounded in moving forward but also, as with the human journey including that of Jesus, hints and candor about "A cold coming we had of it....."

Church is where we learn to be "real." When participating in the journey of Jesus and coming to the Eucharistic liturgy, we continually celebrate both death and resurrection. When worshipping at St. Christopher's we see both the processional cross with Jesus on the cross and the large "empty" resurrection cross hanging down prominently from above.

Soon we will be taking our journey past the manger into the way of the cross as we enter the season of Lent. Following Jesus' life, keeps us on the move. One hopes that this transitional moment in our common life will be a transformational one for us as individuals and as the Body of Christ here in Roseville. For the moment, the only thing I am certain of is that I am glad to be on the journey with you.

Fr. Daniel

The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

I did a quick Google search before sitting down to write this entry, concerning Biblical references to immigrants. There were, surprisingly, a great many, and most of them came from the Old Testament. There, the reference most often was to remind Israel that they had been immigrants or aliens or strangers in Egypt.

Mark Brilowski
Jan Fillmore
Karen Hartman
Barbara Hovey
Chris Huntley
Tom Linder
Becky Lucas
Mike Sirany
Lisa Spiro

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen,
Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary
Youth Director
Marion Hunner,
Children's
Ministries
Karla S. Cole,
Director of Music
Rev. Mary Rowe,
Assisting Priest
Rev. Janet MacNally,
Deacon
Rev. Daniel Pearson,
Transition Priest

Our PROGRAM YEAR 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
-Chapel
(2nd & 4th)

10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM
Fellowship

However, there were New Testament references as well. There was the reference to the Holy Family being refugees, strangers, immigrants when they fled to Egypt, to flee Herod's command to slay all male children under two in an effort to remove Jesus from the planet. Other references reminded us that we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, and when Jesus is asked, who is my neighbor? by the lawyer, the answer came in the parable of the Good Samaritan. We are reminded that when we do for the least of these we do it to Jesus, and we hear in several passages by Paul and others that we are to show hospitality to all. Nowhere in any of these passages are we to treat the alien or stranger or immigrant with anything less than love and compassion. None of that was apparent this past week, as I sat as a silent witness to deportation hearings at the Whipple Federal Office Building.

Through the work of our neighbors and the organization *Do Good, Roseville*, the circumstances surrounding our Roseville neighbors who may be undocumented and/or what we call "dreamers" (people who were brought to this country as children by their parents and who have no path to citizenship), has become a pressing issue in our neighborhood. There are many ways to explore this issue; some require a silent presence such as witnessing court proceedings, or collective voices, such as joining in a monthly prayer vigil at the Federal Building at 7:30 am on the second Tuesday morning of every month, or more active participation with people from other faith communities in search of way to ensure a compassionate way to handle the situation these neighbors are in. I write this because I want everyone to know that no matter how small you think your voice may be, or how large you want your voice to sound, there is a place for you in this struggle.

Lent begins this month, and we as the ECMN are being asked to focus on helping to fulfill Martin Luther King Jr's dream of a Beloved Community where all of our neighbors are valued and loved, regardless of race, creed, nationality, gender or preference. So I am asking you in the next few weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday, and then into Lent, to seek me out either in person or by email and have a discussion about where you may feel called to help out, remembering that we are called into our neighborhood by the Holy Spirit not to fix those we encounter, or to inform them the right way to go about their daily lives, but rather to walk with our neighbors, listen to their stories and learn from them. What ideas you may have, to reach out and show radical and unconditional hospitality to our neighbors who are here from foreign countries? Remember, those who show hospitality to strangers have entertained angels unawares.

Amen,
Deacon Janet

Wednesday:

12:15 PM
Holy Eucharist
-Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9 AM - 4 PM

Music Notes



Karla Cole,
Director of Music Ministries

As a young musician, I was completely taken in by the esthetics of music in worship - that tingly feeling you get when the organ swells and the congregation sings vigorously. You can feel the bass pipes vibrating in your bones and the full-throated singing might well be heard all the way up to heaven. You also might feel it when the choir sings a meaningful text in a beautiful setting and you are transported for a bit, captured by their enthusiasm and taken up with them in the moment. That tingly feeling doesn't need a text either; it can crop up when instrumentalists play. The music commands our attention and makes us feel as though all is well, if only for that moment. Musicians can feel it more physically. There's a real sensory pleasure in creating the beautiful sounds with your own hands, the feel of the fingers on the string, the keys, the wood; the buoyancy of the breath, the overtones ringing in your ears as you tune with your neighbor. It might be something akin to an addiction, that drive to do it again and again, striving for that tingly feeling. At any rate it's a real rush and is part of what keeps us coming back for more.

So that unspoken feeling was what had grabbed me as a teen, but then years of musical education ensued. My tastes were refined and my skills improved. I became something of a classical snob. Music in the church was to make extra money along the way, or please my parents when I was home for the holidays. The sacred music of my youth took a decided back seat while I was enveloped in the music of the masters. And that stuff is hard to play and requires a lot of concentration. Those moments of simply being swept up in the music became fewer and further between. To study music seriously can sometimes take away all the joy. Music performance at that level requires commitment to an academic approach, a focus and a dedication that doesn't often allow for mere passion.

But as you might expect, real life got in the way. My children came along and I took a church position because of the kid-friendly hours and frankly, the steady paycheck. When I mentioned my change in musical direction, my piano professor from grad school said, rather officiously, "I suppose church music can be rewarding." Ugh. So I'd been made to feel as if I'd disappointed him and given up on the

highest, and truest calling. And for a long time, I felt a bit as though I'd given up on myself.

So it took quite a while for me to realize that church music wasn't a cop out and music that wasn't strictly "classical" wasn't really beneath me. I suppose it took those years of *sturm und drang* in my life, like the ups and downs in anyone's life, to get to the point where I was ready to pay attention and hear the Spirit's murmuring. I think I am most comfortable with the image of God the Holy Spirit. That's not because I'm some über-feminist, needing to rid myself of all those pesky male references, or some reformist who can't stand the kingly imagery because it's not egalitarian. I just like the thought of the intangible Spirit moving through my life, murmuring here, breathing there. The Holy Spirit has nudged me down paths I would never have thought to take on my own.

And in my daily life as a church musician, from hymn to psalm to prayer, I note how the images touch on what happens in our lives, what we're feeling, and what we need in the way of spiritual sustenance and inspiration. The Spirit murmurs like that all the time in our lives, when we're listening and when we're not. I find that very comforting.

Karla Cole



Footprints FEBRUARY 2018



News from Children's
Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

Sunday, February 4th: Join us for Children's Chapel at 10:30. We will explore a kid-friendly version of the Liturgy of the Word and then join the congregation at the Peace. **THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THIS SUNDAY.**

This month in Sunday School we are exploring stories of Compassion in the Old Testament and preparing for Lent.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. There are several options for family Lenten Disciplines on our website under 'Resources.' <http://www.stchristophers-mn.org/family.html> .

I do want to highlight two particular Lenten resources:



Make Room, A Child's Guide to Easter and Lent, by Laura Alary. This is a great book that helps families look at Lent as a time to Make Time, Make Space, and Make Room. The book is readily available online and in bookstores. Unfortunately, it is not available at Ramsey County Libraries.

An Illustrated Lent for Families: See Marion for a printed copy (or she can send you the PDF). The seven weeks of devotions are meant to be done over a family dinner, or before bedtime. Each devotion is just one page and includes a scripture, some questions (a few very accessible ones and some Going Deeper questions as well), a suggested activity/practice to focus on during the week, and a short prayer. Also included are weekly signs that correspond to that week's devotions. On the sign will be a space for the family to write in what they decide to try and work on during the week, based on the activity/practice from the week's devotion. Then the sign can be placed somewhere visible in the home, so everyone remembers what they are working on. There is also a coloring sheet each week. You can use as much or as little of the devotion as you like.

Looking Ahead! Vacation Bible School July 23-27, 9am-noon

Mark your calendars and invite your friends! This program is for age 3 - 5th grade. 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>

Snow Removal Update

In case you wondered...

Our Snow Plowing Contract calls for a plow at Two Inches or above. (So, if we do get a 1.5 inch overnight snowfall, the plow does not come.) They do a fine job when they are here, and we appreciate their work!

That said, PLEASE be careful on the north side of our building, near the main entry, where the sun does not reach the pavement during the winter. It is icy there most of the winter. (If it gets

REALLY bad, we will have the lot salted - but that costs \$450 each time, and wrecks havoc with the plowing budget, so we try not to do it often.)

Our snow plowing contract also does not include clearing of walkways and entryways. This is why we ask for volunteers to take a week during the winter to keep our walks clear and safe.

SO, please check your calendar, see what week might be convenient for you to come by the church and shovel the walks - and please write your name on our volunteer chart in the upper Narthex. AND, thanks for shoveling!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator



Green Team

Lent is right around the corner, starting on February 14. Instead of giving up some of your favorite foods, how about considering an "Eco-fast"? Here are some suggestions:

1. Practice "Meatless Monday". This is an international campaign to reduce the consumption of meat for health and environmental reasons.



2. Use your car less. You might try combining two trips into one, take mass transit or simply walk.

3. Use reusable grocery bags, water bottles and coffee mugs. You could leave the grocery bags in your car so they are handy when you shop. Having a refillable water bottle makes sense, with the water fill stations becoming more and more common. Some coffee shops take a little of the cost of your coffee when you bring your own travel mug. You can save money while you work to save the environment.

Submitted by Larry Jones

Legacy Giving

"We are stewards of God's bounty. Caretakers. For a brief period we are given time, energy, and resources. What we do with these gifts ultimately defines the character of our life and the depth of our spiritual understanding."
Episcopal Foundation

Would you like to help provide ongoing stability for St. Christopher's into the future? Would you like to create a lasting legacy of your generous spirit that will support the mission of St. Christopher's for future generations? We are seeking to build our financial resources through our Endowment Fund so that we can take care of future capital and other critical needs, to continue to be good stewards of our property and our programs, and to ensure our financial stability for future generations.

If you have an interest in learning more about Legacy Giving, we will be holding informational sessions to provide background information, an opportunity for dialogue, questions and answers. Please join us for one of the following meetings:

Sunday, February 25th, 12:00 pm in the parish hall

Thursday, March 1st, 7:00 pm in the parish hall

If you prefer, we are also available for individual meetings to go over more specific questions.

Please contact any of us if you have questions or are interested in discussing ways to participate in this effort.

Legacy Planning Working Group
Cindy Lee, Bill Hanna, Peter Lee

February Calendar Highlights

Friday, February 2

Office Closed - Ruth Away

6:30 p.m. Couples Bridge - Parish Hall

Sunday, February 4 - 5th Epiphany

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Formation

9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting - Church

9:30 a.m. Adult Forum

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Children's Chapel

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Monday, February 5

Office May Be Closed

Wednesday, February 7

12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist-Chapel

6:15 p.m. Bell Choir - Balcony

6:15 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Room

7:15 p.m. Parish Choir - Music Room

Thursday, February 8

1:00 p.m. Knitting - Library

Sunday, February 11 - 6th Epiphany

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation

9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Formation

9:30 a.m. Adult Forum

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

11:45 a.m. Vestry & Discovery Team - Gathering Room

Monday, February 12

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee - Parish Hall

Tuesday, February 13

Meals on Wheels - Offsite

Wednesday, February 14- ASH WEDNESDAY

12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist w/Ashes-CHURCH

4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Office

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist w/Ashes-CHURCH

Thursday, February 15

3:30 p.m. Discovery - Gathering Room

Saturday, February 17

8:00 a.m. Vestry Retreat - Chapel

Sunday, February 18 - Lent 1

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Formation
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Monday, February 19

President's Day

Wednesday, February 21

- 11:30 a.m. PPS Lunch - Parish Hall
- 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist-Chapel
- 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir - Balcony
- 7:00 p.m. Way of the Cross and HE?
- 7:15 p.m. Parish Choir - Music Room

Thursday, February 22

- 5:30 p.m. Community Dinner - Parish Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group - Dinner

Sunday, February 25 - Lent 2

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Formation
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 12:00 p.m. Legacy Giving - Parish Hall

Monday, February 26

e-Traveler Deadline

Recycling goes out for TUESDAY

Wednesday, February 28

- 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist-Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Office

6:15 p.m. Bell Choir - Balcony
6:15 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Room
7:00 p.m. Way of the Cross and HE?
7:15 p.m. Parish Choir - Music Room

Last Words

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

As I type this message and prepare to send this out on the last day of January, we are rapidly approaching the Super Bowl. I hope that all your travels through this exciting time are safe and not delayed by excess traffic. I'll be hiding in a hotel away from the Cities, myself. The church office is closed on Friday the 2nd of February for this reason.

Stay warm!

Sincerely,

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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