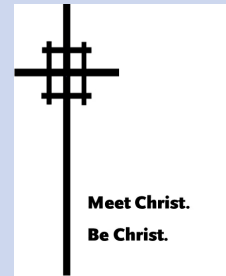


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

From the Rector



The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson
Rector

Radical Hospitality *by Fr. Randy+*

Theologian Henri Nouwen once wrote, *“If there is any concept worth restoring to its original depth and evocative potential, it is the concept of hospitality.”*

I have been pondering this wisdom of Nouwen’s for quite a while this past year. The term *“hospitality”* conjures up many different forms in our mind’s eye—everything from exclusive clubs, delicate tea parties with hats and gloves required, bland conversation about *“blah, blah”* things—possibly even leather club chairs in a darkened fireplace room evoking a general atmosphere of coziness.

But today, I am more inclined to lean into the basic understanding of the term hospitality—the hospitality of much earlier times. It was the welcoming of strangers into a home and offering them food, shelter, and protection—all key components in the practice of true hospitality. The usage and understanding of the term hospitality has changed over the past many centuries. It seems to have lost its moral dimension and, in the process, most followers of Jesus have lost touch with the amazingly rich and complex tradition of hospitality practiced by Jesus in his time.

Hospitality today is more of a nice extra, if we have the time or resources, as we rarely view it as a spiritual obligation or as a dynamic expression of Christianity. Those of us blessed with abundant resources can usually avoid depending upon the personal hospitality of strangers for food, shelter, and

safety. Away from home, we buy our meals and book comfortable hotel rooms. Unless we travel to a foreign land, live through a devastating event, or run into car trouble on the road, we're unlikely to know what it is to be a vulnerable stranger needing someone else's help. Whereas in ancient times all strangers depended on someone else's hospitality, today, it is those without resources who depend most on the free provision of food, shelter, and protection that characterizes hospitality.

Unfortunately and with great trepidation, the past few weeks in America, we have witnessed a delamination of this concept of hospitality—especially when it involves those already living on the margins, the oppressed, the poor and sick, the widow and the orphan, the refugee fleeing terror and death. Oh, how quickly we forget that any one of us is only a heartbeat away from being placed in that frightening situation...

I pray that we quickly reset and reclaim our course as a people of God, to a place where hospitality towards strangers is a highly valued moral practice, an important expression of kindness, mutual aid, neighborliness, and response to the life of faith. Even those of us who do not depend on hospitality for basic needs know something of the joy of being welcomed warmly. We also know the pain of being excluded. Although hospitality has lost much of its earlier significance, memories and feelings associated with it can still be very powerful.

The many activities of hospitality provided by our Event Fair activities at St. Christopher's have once again established a *"level-setting"* of the concept of hospitality in my heart, mind, and soul. I believe I am not the only one who has been nourished by the opportunity to both give and accept the gift of hospitality by members of this faith community. I fervently pray that this gift will not be exclusively held and shared only within our cloistered ranks.

I pray you will join me in opening our arms and hearts to sharing this gift of hospitality to others—reclaiming the moral dimension and spiritual obligation and dynamic expression, practice, and joy in providing true hospitality to others in Christ's name.

As Nouwen so eloquently said, *"If there is any concept worth restoring to its original depth and evocative potential, it is the concept of hospitality."*
Amen.





**Marion Hunner,
Children and Youth Director**



Epiphany Presentation – Thank you to everyone who participated in the Epiphany Presentation on January 5th. It was great to see the children take on more responsibilities and to bring in more members of our Faith Community. There is a poster with photos hanging in the Upper Narthex.

Como Zoo Event – We are very excited that Pete Lee will be giving us a behind the scenes tour at Como Zoo on February 1st! We are lucky that Jill Eischens, our fantastic photographer, will be joining us, so look for pictures to come.

Bible Story Project – We are looking forward to recording more Bible stories, beginning on February 1st. This is an ongoing project in which we gather to explore a story of the Bible and then don costumes and record it. After this we have two more stories to go, then we will gather for a watch party and discuss the stories and how they are connected to each other and our world today. Carol Duff is working closely with me on this project, and we draw in other adults from our faith family.

Pre-YE Middle School Retreat – I am excited to join Ellery and Roland at the ECMN Pre-YE retreat February 8-9 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Please Pray for the youth and leaders of this event, that they would see where God is at work – in, around, an through them- and step into that work with God. Pray for deepened relationships. Pray for their sessions and discussions. Pray for encouragement. Pray for any obstacles they may need to overcome. Pray that they may hang onto the truth that God chose to be with them and for them in Jesus Christ, and that there is nothing that can shake God's will to love them.

“The Chosen” Video Group - on Zoom 2/20/25

By now you've heard us talk about “The Chosen” video series (on Netflix, CW, The Chosen app, and more) which combines the Gospel stories of Jesus in a watchable, beautiful way. Have you been watching it? If so, join us to recap the first two seasons on Zoom on Thursday, February 20, at 6:30 pm. Contact Marilyn+ ([Gmail link here](#)) to be invited.

We'll convene in March to talk about Seasons 3 and 4, and may be able to see

Season 5 in theaters sometime in April. This would make a wonderful Lenten series for you to do at home or with others.

Green Team

Recycling Facility Tour

The Green Team has organized a tour of the Ramsey/Washington County Recycling and Energy Center. Tours highlight how the facility works and how waste is managed in the East Metro as well as how to better reduce, reuse and recycle. The tour is

February 6th at 10:00 AM

Meet at church (lower parking lot) at 9:15

RSVP to Larry Jones at ljones4325@gmail.com

If you plan to attend, click the link and type *waiver* in the search bar. You **MUST** fill out a waiver to go on a tour. <https://recyclingandenergy.org/>

Please join us!

Plastic Free Challenge in February

Start the New Year off right by resolving to reduce your impact and be part of the solution with the Plastic-Free Challenge. The month-long challenge starting on February 1 will help you reduce plastic consumption, especially single-use plastics, in ways that fit best in your lifestyle and are most impactful to reducing your footprint. There are many simple changes you can make that will add up to a big impact from learning more about plastic waste and recycling. Check out the link to learn more.

<https://tcplasticfree.ecochallenge.org/>

We all can learn new habits to lower the impact on the environment!

St. Christopher's Crossings Book Group

*We will be meeting on **February 27th, 2025** in the Gathering Room at **6:00 PM**. It is a hybrid meeting.*

For the meeting link, please contact:

- Angela Robinson, angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com
- Rev. Marilyn

February Book

In honor of Black History Month we are reading **James** by **Percival Everett**. Please join us on **February 27, 2025** for a hybrid meeting to discuss this book.

A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he

decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, who recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

While many narrative set pieces of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.

Brimming with the electrifying humor and lacerating observations that have made Everett a literary icon, this brilliant and tender novel radically illuminates Jim's agency, intelligence, and compassion as never before. James is destined to be a major publishing event and a cornerstone of twenty-first-century American literature.

Discussion and Question Guides are available in the Parish Hall.

Are you interested in joining us? Contact Angela Robinson, angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com or Rev. Marilyn, so we can send the details of 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.

Coming back in March... We are reading *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

For those of you who might be struggling to finish the book, we divided the book into two parts.

Part 2, March 27, 2025: Discuss sections *Braiding Sweetgrass* to the end. **Discussion and Question Guides** are available in the Parish Hall.

Looking Ahead...



We hope you will join us in the Parish Hall for **Lenten Soup Suppers!**

(Ash Wednesday is March 5th)

Wednesdays through Lent from 5:30-7:00 pm:

March 5, 12, 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9

(Gluten free and vegetarian soups will be available weekly!)

Way of the Cross will be at 7:00 pm, beginning March 12th.

Vestry Shorts

The Vestry met on January 13, a week early to finish business before the Annual Meeting on the 21st.

Bruce Warkentien and Pat Ahern reviewed the December finances and the 2025 Budget. The vestry approved the 2025 budget.

Ann Trapnell gave a summary of the Event Fair.

Number of events: 25

Individual registrations: 337

Participating households: 51

Money raised for the Mission Opportunity Funds: \$5,900

Fr. Randy commented that he is in good health after his surgery. He gave his thanks to Marilyn Baldwin, Mary Rowe, and Christopher Haack for handling things while he is recovering from surgery.

Shout Out:

--Altar Guild and the volunteers for Greening of the Church.

--The musicians for the beautiful music for the Christmas Service.

--The retiring Vestry members for their years of service.

This includes Barb Hovey, Eric Hedican, Cheryl Bailey and Madisen Crow.

FEBRUARY Calendar

1 Saturday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction—Library—to 11 AM

1 PM Children & Youth Bible Story Project – Gathering Room, Parish Hall



2 Sunday—Epiphany 4

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

3 Monday

10 AM Kitchen in use (Prep for future Event)

4 PM Cello Lessons - #219 – to 7 PM

4 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

4:30 PM Cello Lessons – 219 – to 6:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall & Chapel

5 Wednesday

10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction—Library—to 12 PM

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

1 PM Private Spiritual Direction—Library—to 2:30 PM

3:30 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 7:30 PM

6 PM Bell Choir—Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room
7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room

6 Thursday

7 Friday
2:15 PM Cello Lessons--#218—to 4:30 PM

8 Saturday

9 Sunday—Epiphany 5
8 AM Holy Eucharist
9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

10 Monday
4 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 7:00 PM

11 Tuesday
10 AM SG Peer Group – Gathering Room – to 12 PM
4:30 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 6:30 PM
7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall & Chapel

12 Wednesday
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church
1:15 PM Private Spiritual Direction—Library—to 2:30 PM
3:30 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 7:30 PM
6 PM Bell Choir—Balcony
6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room
7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room

13 Thursday

14 Friday—Valentine’s Day—Office Closed
12 PM Blues Buster BINGO Event – Parish Hall

15 Saturday
9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10:30 AM
5:30 PM Pub Supper Event - Offsite

16 Sunday—Epiphany 6
8 AM Holy Eucharist
9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall
1 PM GSVLOC – Parish Hall – to 5 PM

17 Monday—Presidents’ Day
5:30 PM Finance Committee—Parish Hall
6:45 PM Vestry—Parish Hall

18 Tuesday
8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

10 AM Tuesday OA--#218

10:30 AM Meals on Wheels – Offsite

4:30 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 6:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall & Chapel

19 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

3:30 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 7:30 PM

6 PM Bell Choir—Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room

20 Thursday

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10:30 AM

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction—Gathering Room—to 11 AM

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall

21 Friday

2:15 PM Cello Lessons--#218—to 4:30 PM

4 PM Holmes Cello Rehearsals – Church – to 9 PM

22 Saturday

12 PM Cello Federation Gathering –Church—to 6 PM

6:30 PM Russian Dinner Event – Offsite

23 Sunday—Epiphany 7

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

1 PM GSVLOC – Parish Hall – to 5 PM

24 Monday

4 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 7:00 PM

25 Tuesday

4:30 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 6:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall & Chapel

26 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

3:30 PM Cello Lessons--#214—to 7:30 PM

6 PM Bell Choir—Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room

27 Thursday

6 PM St. Christopher's Book Group—Gathering Room

28 Friday

2:15 PM Cello Lessons--#218—to 4:30 PM

Please note that most of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Those groups are now on this calendar (*in italics*) to avoid over-

scheduling. **ALWAYS check** with the church office before scheduling a meeting.



Last Words

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

Lots of fun Events from the Event Fair are happening...
Lent holds off until March!

I'm taking Valentine's Day off to go to a "Con" - the last one we had was just weeks before Covid-19 locked us all down in 2020, so I am really looking forward to it!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Josh Kattelman, Sr. Warden; Ann DePaolis-Jones, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Bruce Warkentien, Treasurer

Kathy Ackerman; Darlene Cross;
Becky Lucas; Rich Pieper; Jane Suilman;
Ann Trapnell; Betsy Wesenberg

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Christopher Haack, Deacon
Rev. Mary Rowe, Assisting Priest
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Schedule:

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Recorded services can be found on YouTube at:

Saint Christopher's Episcopal Roseville MN

Sundays:

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM Fellowship

9:15 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.
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