

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



Meet Christ.
Be Christ.

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ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on **January 19th**. As we have in the past several years, we will have **ONE** service **Together@9:30 AM**, followed by a light lunch hosted by our Vestry. The Annual Meeting will follow lunch.

If your Committee, Team, or Group would like to have a report included in the Annual Report book, please have it in the office by January 15th.

From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

It is hard to believe that we are taking down our tattered 2019 calendar and replacing it with a pristine, fresh calendar for the new year- *2020!*

I have been reflecting on this year as it closes and another approaches. Before we begin to make all of our plans and set all of our goals for the upcoming year, we ought to take some time to settle with the year we have just closed and tie up whatever loose ends we have. We should desire to go into 2020 with confidence, grace, and healed hearts.

One of the most difficult things about changing seasons is leaving the past behind us and moving forward to what lies ahead.

Philippians 3:13 says; *“Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own, but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,...”*

This can be hard to do, especially if we’ve had a hard year and are struggling to feel positive about what might be next. And yet, even when things have been so sweet, we can be uncertain of the coming season—will it threaten the peace and happiness we’ve come to enjoy? Looking into the future means looking into the unknown.

Either way, I have learned that through Christ, all things are possible. That means that no matter what 2019 held for you, Christ is able to walk alongside you to help you to move forward in your life. That doesn’t mean that we should push our feelings and thoughts aside in an attempt to hurry and get over them for the sake of a new year. Rather, we have to be willing to let go of control and allow Christ to reign and rule over our lives, submitting to his authority and plan, and trust him to help us in whatever way we need while we move forward.

I encourage you take some time between now and the beginning new year to think through your 2019. Take note of the condition of your soul and why it is in the current shape that it’s in. Then, in your quiet prayer time, go to the Lord and have him survey your heart. Do not be afraid to tenderly invite him to dwell in you and lay your 2019 at his feet, and choose to walk with him to the place he has for you.

This has been a year of tremendous change, wonderment, and blessing in my life. Little did I know that a short 365 days ago, I would be reflecting on this past year with my new faith family of St. Christopher’s, and turning towards an even more blessed future. I pray for the same joy, wonderment, and blessing for you this coming year.

Here is a small prayer that you can pray as you reflect on this past year and prepare your heart and mind for the new year that is coming:

A Prayer for the New Year

*Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit
Be with us today and always. Amen.*

(Anonymous)

Randy+



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

Sabbatical

[sab·bat·i·cal]

a period when someone, especially someone in a university job, stops doing their usual work in order to study or travel

Finding its roots in the Bible and coming from the word Sabbath, a Sabbatical is usually "taken." Think back to the beginning of Genesis and the passage that tells us that on the seventh day God rested. Six days work allows for the seventh day of rest or seven years work allows for a year's sabbatical.

Last spring, after much prayer and discernment with my Spiritual Director and in consultation with Karen Olson, our Missioner for Ministry, and with my Bishop, it was decided that perhaps I could benefit from a sabbatical; a time away, a time pray, to reflect, and to grow. This Sunday, January 5th, will be my last Sunday here for a while. And although I have put in almost enough years with you to be granted two years off (!), I will only be gone a few months, and am planning to return to you on April 26th. All of the definitions found online, from various dictionaries, mentioned study and travel and rest as an example of what one was expected to do while away. I plan on doing all three.

Helping Bill fulfill a major bucket list item, to see the Great Barrier Reef without going on an airplane, and actually getting to see a few bucket list items of my own, principally the Holy Land, we are embarking on a very long and very "port packed" trip on the Queen Mary 2. So that takes care of the travel piece. I have some self-guided study materials to delve into on days when we are at sea, the study piece; and of course the rest comes from down-time on the ship. We will leave Minnesota on the evening of January 9th and return here the late afternoon of April 20th. As I said, there has been much planning for this adventure, and as I write this, I am a bit overwhelmed that it is right around the corner. Friends asked if I had started packing. The answer is no, but I do have a list.

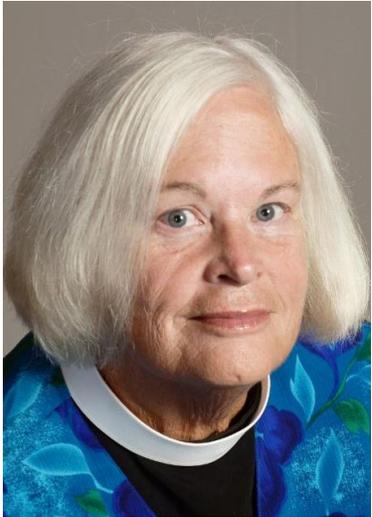
Although I will think of you often, hold you my prayers and on my heart, I have every confidence that St. Christopher's will be just fine. And I will look forward to returning to you and our mission to "Meet Christ, Be Christ." Until then,

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be ever at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rains fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
Amen.

Deacon Janet

A Note from Rev. Mary



**The Rev.
Mary Rowe**

Assisting Priest

As this year comes to a close, and I take time to reflect, my mind immediately goes to images of our children playing on the carpet during the services. The life and vibrancy they add to our worship never fails to amaze me.

This past year has been difficult, as so many of our older parishioners have died, but the surge of new life in our midst brings with it great hope and joy. The Gospel of Jesus always propels us into the future with hope and expectation.

For our January PPP&S luncheon, we have a guest speaker who will talk about her work in befriender ministry. I look forward to our salad luncheon together.

Blessings on your new year.
Mary+

Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

Music Notes

I mentioned this in last month's *Traveler*, but thought I should remind you that there's an open invitation to read **Year of Wonder: Classical Music for Every Day** by Clemency Burton-Hill along with me this year. Ms. Burton-Hill is a veteran of BBC Radio 3's classical programming, but is newly the Creative Director for Music and the Arts at WQXR-FM in New York, the leading American classical music station. Additionally, she is a violinist and an actress. Her book is \$14.48 with free shipping on Amazon just now. It has a page for each day of the year featuring a piece of music with commentary about the piece or the composer, etc. All the music is available on Spotify or YouTube and most of the pieces are under 10 minutes (many well under 10 minutes), with some in the 15-30 minute range. There are selections from popular music, movies and musicals – not just classical music. Your daily commitment may be as little as 5-10 minutes most days, or as much as 45 minutes on just a few days.

Interested? Order up your copy of the book and let me know that you're interested. You'll need a computer with a sound card and speakers, internet service and an email address. We can start simply with an email chain for our own thoughts and commentary along the way, and then maybe get together as time allows. I think it will prove to be a fun and informative year of listening together.

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Thank you, thank you, all! Our Lessons and Carols service was a wonderful evening of music and scripture, mulled wine and Christmas cookies, joy and friendship. Kudos to the Bell Choir for working harder, learning more music and playing more beautifully than they ever have before! Also, a big hurrah for the Parish Choir, who are always terrific, but this year, particularly so. And there are many folks to thank – readers, decorators, bakers, and elves who cleaned it all up. And if you were there, thank you, too!

Karla Cole

Footprints JANUARY 2020 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



Epiphany Presentation – The children, families, and youth will be offering a special Epiphany presentation during the 10:30 liturgy on Sunday, January 6th. This will be instead of Children's Chapel, and there is NO SUNDAY

SCHOOL this day

Annual Meeting – The church’s annual meeting is on Sunday, January 19th. We will have one service at 9:30, and NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on this day. If families would like us to offer a movie to the children during the meeting, please let Marion know by Sunday, January 12th.

Sunday Ministry Schedules

New Sunday Ministry schedules came out via email this week. You should have received your 2020 Quarter 1 schedule(s) if you serve on any of these teams: Usher, Nursery, Lector, Intercessor, or LEM. If you did not receive them, please contact Marion Hunner.

Schedules are also available on our website.

Mid-Winter Blues Buster & BINGO

Silent Auction Event

Tuesday, January 28th

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

\$12 per ticket

Join us for home cooked comfort food, fellowship & bingo! Enjoy a delicious meal -- conquer cabin fever -- and, perhaps, win a prize at bingo!

Transportation provided upon request. You can sign up after services in the Parish Hall, or send your payment (write Bingo on the memo line) to the office.

Green Team

Wishing You a Green New Year

New-to-you clothing—call it *circular fashion*—can mean looking good and living green. Try your local thrift store to fill out your wardrobe or your decor and you’ll help both your pocketbook and the planet. Did you know that producing new clothing contributes about 8 percent of greenhouse gases annually, greater than all combined airplane and maritime travel?

In the past year at the Old School by Steeple People (<https://www.facebook.com/OldSchoolBySteeplePeople/>) across from my work, I have bought a sweater with the tags still on it, summer-weight slacks and a winter storm coat, all in great shape and for cheap. It may take more time to discover the treasures—bring a friend to make the hunt more fun and reward yourself with thoughts of how you are reducing waste and being a climate activist.

Have more ideas? Bring them to the Green Team meeting Jan. 8, 7 p.m., in the Parish Hall!

Pulse of the Parish

The Pulse of the Parish is a brief update to keep everyone informed of the actions taken by the Vestry at their meeting on Monday, December 16th, 2019.

- The meeting opened with scripture and prayer.
- The monthly financial reports were reviewed. We are at 91.67% of this year's budget. November 2019 offering pledge income was below budget, but offset by expense savings. Please check your pledges to be sure you are up-to-date. Overall budgetary numbers for the year look good.
- Stewardship Drive: **The Power of Yes!** So far, 39 pledges still outstanding. Of 81 pledges submitted, 4 are new, 32 have raised their pledge, 39 have stayed the same and 11 have decreased. If you have not yet made or updated your pledge, please email or call the church office as soon as possible.
- Capital Campaign: Several new pledges have come in November. The total is now at \$393,000. Anyone wishing to donate can still do so before year's end, to claim on their 2019 tax return.
- Community Dinner Funding: Was approved through the end of this year.
- Pine Ridge Reservation Messiah Episcopal Church Fundraiser: About \$950 was donated by church members, in addition to the offering plate donation from this past Sunday. An additional \$500 was approved for donation from the Gifts of Hope Fund. **Thank You!** to all who participated.
- Church Room Rental Rates: Were revised and approved to reflect the current rental market. These rates will be available for reference in the church office.
- Adult Education: classes/discussions/events have been scheduled for 9:30 am. Check the scheduled topics on the church website.
- Shout Outs: Thank You to Patrick Hunner in his work on the Bishop Search Committee. To everyone involved in Lessons & Carols, in particular Karla and Matt Cole, Karen Hanna and Darlene Cross, for their organizational skills and another fantastic event. And to Chad and the Youth Group for the care packages and letters to our college young adults. A big **THANK YOU!** to all of you for all the hard work.

Please be aware that the minutes of the December meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the Vestry's January meeting. Vestry members will be available after the service for any questions you may have.



Bishop X Candidate Road Trip

Make plans to attend a candidate forum in person or online from January 13 – January 19. At forums, you'll hear from each candidate about their faith, their vision, and how they think we might join the work of the Holy Spirit in the coming years. Candidate forums will be held on these dates and in these locations:

Monday, January 13, 2020

1pm St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2300 Hamline Avenue North, Roseville

6:30pm St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1700 East Superior Street, Duluth

Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 6pm

Shooting Star Casino
777 Casino Road, Mahanomen

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 6pm

Bishop Whipple Mission/St.Cornelia's Church
38378 Reservation Hwy 101, Morton

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 6pm

The Inn at Shattuck-St. Mary's
1000 Shumway Ave, Faribault

Friday, January 17, 2020, 6pm

St. Mark's Cathedral
519 Oak Grove, Minneapolis



JANUARY Calendar Highlights!

Wednesday 1- New Year's Day

Office Closed

Sunday 5

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Epiphany Pageant

Tuesday 7

Meals on Wheels – Offsite

Wednesday 8

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting--Office

6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

7 PM Green Team – Parish Hall

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Thursday 9

1 PM Knitting – Library

Friday 10

1:30 PM Keystone Mobile Food Shelf – West Lot

Sunday 12

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 13

1-3 PM Bishop X Search Candidate Forum – Church

5:30 PM Finance Meeting

6:45 PM Vestry Meeting (**NOTE** Early Date!)

Wednesday 15

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting--Office

6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

7 PM Green Team – Parish Hall

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Thursday 16

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall

Sunday 19

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARSIH

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Light Lunch

Meeting

Monday 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – Office Closed

Wednesday 22

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting--Office

6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

7 PM Green Team – Parish Hall

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Friday 24

7 PM Gift of Music: Jeremy Hinecker, Guitar

Saturday 25

Election of Bishop X – Offsite

Sunday 26

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 27

eTraveler Deadline

Wednesday 29

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting--Office

6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

7 PM Green Team – Parish Hall

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Thursday 30

5:30 PM Community Dinner

Friday 31

Office Closed (Vacation Day)

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 January *e-Traveler*!

I look forward to seeing most of you at the Annual Meeting on January 19th. I really enjoy that chance to connect with the St. Christopher's community and to refresh my memory of your **FACES** - instead of your name in a directory.

Happy New Year!

Ruth Thillen

Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Joel Norton, Sr. Warden; Kathy Ackerman, Jr. Warden

Sue Triebenbach, Clerk; Suzanne Hitchcock, 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. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Regular Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

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

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

11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 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

