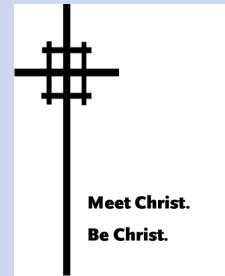


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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Hello, St. Christopher's Community! Please be sure to mark your calendars for **January 19th**, when we will gather for **worship at 9:30 AM**, and then we will meet in the Parish Hall for the **ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH!** We'll hear about the highs and lows of the last year, and then elect some new leadership.

From the Rector



The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson

Rector

What Are You Bringing To The Party? *by Fr. Randy+*

This is the season, isn't it? The time of gathering together, celebrating and joining together in celebratory parties. And it seems that the constant question is, *"What should I bring? What should I contribute? What am I capable of putting together of interest or value or benefit?"*

This question is even magnified in our Holy Scripture readings for the Epiphany—the moment in time that the Scholars from the East looked at the strange activity of the stars, and made their way to the village of Bethlehem, in the territory of Judah ruled by Herod. They inquired where they may find the newborn King of the Jews—as they observed the star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. This single, world shaking event, set them on a pilgrimage to worship him.

This terrified Herod, and frankly, most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time to gather his high priests and religious scholars to learn where this *"thing"* has happened—*"Where is this alleged Messiah to have been born?"* The religious leaders told him to look towards Bethlehem, Judah territory—as the prophets plainly pointed towards.

Wily Herod arranged a secret meeting with the Scholars from the East, and

pretended to be as devout as they were—just to get the inside scoop of the exact place of the Holy Birth—in order to eliminate this challenge to his authority and rule. The Wise Ones immediately saw through this ruse of Herod's false statements, and continued to follow the star which led directly to the place where Jesus and Mary and Joseph were staying.

They entered the house and saw the child in Mary's arms. The Son of God incarnate. Overcome, they knelt before him and worshipped him. They opened their luggage and presented him with precious gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory ruled by evil Herod, and left without being seen—returning to their own country to spread the news of the Messiah's birth.

And, this story once again left me thinking—pondering what exactly is it saying to us in our own time and space? The Wise Ones from the East came bearing gifts for the Messiah—the Son of God which had been spoken of and predicted by the prophets of all time. What gifts could I possibly share with Him? What of value could I ever dream to contribute to honor and glorify His presence in our world?

Well, I think that the gifts we lay at the feet of Jesus are the very same gifts we are called to share with our neighbor—as directed by the words of Jesus in his years of ministry on this earth. Each one of us are given holy gifts—gifts we are emboldened to share with the world. Our greatest challenge is to recognize these gifts as beloved and worthy of sharing. Do not ever discount the gifts you are destined to share with others. The gifts of listening and compassion, the gifts of teaching and speaking, the gifts of prophesy and kindness, the gifts of healing and hospitality, the gifts of music and worship, the gifts of friendship and neighborliness. Each one of us has been baptized into the community and body of Christ. And each one of us has been infused with tremendous gifts of power and presence. Bring yourself—in all of your wonder and glory.

So, what are you bringing to the party of the joy of living in Christ? Maybe it is gold. Maybe it is frankincense or myrrh. Or, maybe it is a bag of tortilla chips and a jar of picante sauce. Or, for we Minnesotans, a serving of lutefisk and a tater tot hotdish. And you know what? It is undoubtedly the perfect gift to share with our neighbors in Jesus' precious name.

The party is all set for us to attend. We all are invited. Come. Show up. Come to the party and live fully into the life in Christ Jesus. Amen. *Randy+*





**Marion Hunner,
Children and Youth Director**

Epiphany Presentation – Sunday, January 5th at 10:30

Please join us as we tell the stories of Advent and Christmas – a recap before we head into the season of Epiphany. All of our children and youth are involved, as well as many adults.

Bible Story Project – We are looking forward to recording more Bible stories in the new year. This is an ongoing project in which we gather to explore a story of the Bible and then don costumes and record it. Once we have several stories recorded and edited, 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.

JANUARY Calendar

1 Wednesday—New Year's Day – Office Closed

2 Thursday

10:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction—Library—to 12 PM

3 Friday

4 Saturday

1 PM Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal and Dinner

5 Sunday—Epiphany (Celebrated)

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Epiphany Pageant

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

6 Monday (Epiphany)

4 PM Cello Lessons - #219 – to 7 PM

7 Tuesday

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

10:30 AM Meals on Wheels – Offsite

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

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

8 Wednesday

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

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

9 Thursday

10 Friday

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

11 Saturday

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

12 Sunday—1st Sunday after Epiphany

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

13 Monday

4 PM *Cello Lessons--#214—to 7:00 PM*

5:30 PM Finance Committee—Parish Hall (*early*)

6:45 PM Vestry—Parish Hall (*early*)

14 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*

15 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

16 Thursday

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall

17 Friday

18 Saturday

19 Sunday—2nd Sunday after Epiphany—ANNUAL MEETING

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Fellowship & Refreshments—Parish Hall

11:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING

20 Monday—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Office Closed

21 Tuesday

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

10 AM *Tuesday OA--#218*

10 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 11 AM*

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

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

22 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

23 Thursday

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

24 Friday

10:30 AM Conversation, Crafts & Crunch Event– Parish Hall – to 1 PM

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

25 Saturday

12 PM Aghan Dinner Prep – Kitchen

6:30 PM Afghan Dinner Event – Parish Hall

26 Sunday—3rd Sunday after Epiphany

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

9:15 AM Adult Forum—Gathering Room

10:30 AM **Holy Eucharist**

11:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

27 Monday

4 PM *Cello Lessons--#214—to 7:00 PM*

28 Tuesday

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*

29 Wednesday—Chinese New Year

10 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 11 AM*

12 PM *Chinese Day Care Chinese New Year Celebration-Parish Hall-to 5 PM*

6 PM Bell Choir—Balcony

6:30 PM *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room

30 Thursday

31 Friday

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 January *e-Traveler!*

Christmas came and went in its usual fashion - too fast! But now, the days are slowly getting longer, and when the very cold weather returns, as we all know it will, we'll have just that much more sunshine to get us through!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Barb Hovey, Sr. Warden; Josh Kattelman, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Bruce Warkentien, Treasurer

Kathy Ackerman; Cheryl Bailey;
Darlene Cross, Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican;
Rich Pieper; 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. 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

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