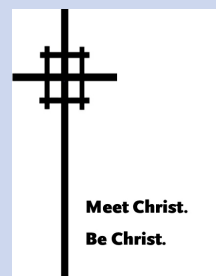


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

Building on Discipleship *by Fr. Randy+*

Sometimes we are pretty free and loose as we fling around the term *Discipleship* when we discuss our relationship with Jesus. But, anyone who takes seriously the teachings of Jesus in the gospels knows full well that he or she is called to be a *disciple*.

There are five parables on *Discipleship* found in Matthew and Luke—they specifically deal with being a disciple of Jesus. As we begin our journey into the 2022 New Year, my mind is drawn to the parable of the two builders (Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:47-49.) I believe they have much to point us towards as we seek to love and serve the Lord as individuals and as our faith community at St. Christopher's. I also believe as we apply the teaching offered by the gospel writers, we will be intentionally provoked, challenged, and move boldly towards a concrete response to Jesus' invitation to *discipleship*.

I remember clearly hours spent on the floor with my kids and grandkids as they attempted to build enormous towers of wooden blocks or Lincoln Logs—all the way to the sky! (*Oh...my aching back!*) But, inevitably, the skyscraper would begin to totter and sway—the hastily built foundational base was insufficient to support the massive upper structure. **CRASH**—down it would fall in a pile of debris. The crash was sometimes greeted with crazy laughter, but most times it was followed by frustration and tears. Successful and sound construction most often depended upon learning from the wisdom of one who knows how to

build a sturdy building.

Those buildings built by the little ones were not built with solid foundations. They could not withstand the effects of unforgiving laws of physics and the sometimes chaotic forces of destruction—*sisters, brothers, and pets!* The parables of the builders speak to the unforeseen and sometimes unexpected influences and events that impact our own lives—*even today*.

How important the foundation of the house or building is! It is the first item to be constructed, and the person who is the supervisor of the building foundation has to be listened to in order for the structure to be sturdy. The same is true in the parable of the two builders. Those who listen to Jesus will not only build a good house (a church), but their faith as *disciples* will not be shaken. Readers of every generation realize that *discipleship* includes obedience to Jesus. A *disciple* must be tuned in to listen to the words he speaks—which then leads to actions that he demands. These demands include practicing —*practicing the beatitudes, praying, and not hiding one's light*—one's time, talent, and treasure.

The parable of the two builders requires each one of us to reflect on true wisdom. The wise builder digs deep and lays his or her foundation for life on the word of God—as found in both the Sacred Scriptures and the person of Jesus. At times, this requires us to keep digging until you get in touch with the rock-solid revelation of God in Jesus, and then building your life upon that rock.

As together we begin our grand adventure called the year 2022, I pray that we all focus upon becoming stronger and truer *disciples* of Jesus. Come on—let's get building!

Randy+

Footprints JANUARY 2022 News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Director of
Children's Ministries**



Our Virtual Christmas Pageant, ***Make Me Wise***, debuts on Sunday, January 2nd. We will show it in the Parish Hall following both services and on Zoom at 1:00. Our story takes place in heaven on the night before Jesus' descent to, and birth on earth. Jesus, as Son of God in heaven, is apprehensive about his task ahead and tells God, his Father, that he may not be ready to go. God asks Gabriel to gather all the elders in heaven to share their wisdom with Jesus to prepare him for life on earth.

I am so proud of everyone who contributed to this effort! It was great fun to work with many adults in addition to the children – and especially to watch the children and adults work together.

There are fifteen scenes in our pageant that include:

- 25 cast members
- 18 families
- 24 videos recorded at church
- 16 videos recorded on zoom



Sunday School: We meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the parish hall. We are rotating between Yoga and Godly Play Bible stories.

Family Worship: We continue to meet on the 1st Sunday of the month (except in January this year) in person outside. Randy and I both look forward to this each month, and I think the families do as well.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on January 23, 2022, following the 9:30 AM Eucharist. Please plan to attend! REPORTS are due in the office on January 11th.

Co-Sponsoring a New Neighbor!

St. Christopher's is pleased to announce that the vestry voted to allow St. Christopher's to become a co-sponsoring parish, in support of the Episcopal Church of Minnesota and Minnesota Council of Churches Afghanistan Refugee Co-Sponsorship Project. There is a team of 13 people who will serve on St. Christopher's Afghan Family Support Team. There will be plenty of additional opportunities for anyone interested in this project to become involved. Please contact Becky Lucas if you have any questions, want to find out more or become involved with this parish-wide project. Becky's email is lucasmonahan@gmail.com. Please keep this project, and those who are working directly with our new Afghan neighbors, in your prayers.

Pulse of the Parish

Vestry meeting held on December 20, 2021

The purpose of this report is to inform you about the work and actions from the December 20th Vestry meeting.

The Vestry meeting opened with a Scripture reading and the Vestry Covenant.

Parish member Becky Lucas presented information and asked for Vestry approval for sponsoring an Afghan refugee family through a Minnesota Council of Churches program, including our ECMN Diocese. Several St. Christopher's faith family members have already offered to help with transportation, lodging and food provisions. Fr. Randy pointed out that the Minnesota Council of Churches will be working with nearly two billion dollars in federal funds. Some of our faith family members, along with others outside our church, have also offered eight thousand dollars in additional support for the endeavor. The Vestry unanimously approved St. Christopher's co-sponsoring of one Afghan family with our primary involvement of providing time and effort to support and work with the family. For more information, contact Becky Lucas.

The Vestry approved the November minutes.

Sr. Warden Mike Sirany reviewed the financial situation, which included significant surplus from this year, due to PPP loan forgiveness and the rector's salary remaining at fifty percent of full time compensation for the entire 2021 year, in addition to some generous parishioner donations. Thanking our entire faith family, Jr. Warden Chris Mayr shared the results of the God Has Work for Us to Do Fall Stewardship appeal, exceeding our budgeted goal by a significant amount. With all that, we enter 2022 with a very healthy financial outlook.

The Vestry approved the following recommendations from the Finance team:

Considering they did not receive a salary increase in 2021, our staff will receive a four percent salary increase in 2022. This will include a restoration of the rector's full-time compensation, which should begin in April 2022.

Rev. Marilyn Baldwin will be given a modest stipend for her unpaid and generous donation of service to our faith family.

The annual draw from our Pooled Investment fund will be reduced from five

percent to four percent to help preserve and grow principal in the fund.

The candidates for Jr. Warden and Vestry were announced, new Junior Warden Karen Hartman, and new Vestry members Cheryl Bailey, Madisen Crow and Eric Hedican.

Vestry liaison reports included:

Buildings and Grounds: Completion of phone upgrades and improvements to our Wi-Fi throughout the building

Hearts and Hands made bags including Don Horton's book, and delivered them to our faith family home-bound folks

Ross Ackerman continues to work with and refine our new camera recording system.

Special Shout Outs to:

-Karla Cole, the musicians, and readers for a wonderful Lessons and Carols;

-Mark Brilowski for all the work on our heating system and broken pipe;

-Marion Hunner for her work on the Christmas 'pageant';

-Finance chair Bruce Warkentien for work on gathering data regarding salary increases.

The meeting ended with Compline.

Please feel free to visit with any of our Vestry members after today's service if you have questions or comments. The minutes of the meeting will be available after they have been approved at the next Vestry meeting, Monday, January 17, 2022.

CALENDAR for JANUARY

1 Saturday - New Year's Day

2 Sunday - Epiphany (Christmas 2)

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

3 Monday

3:15 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

4 Tuesday

8:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

2 PM to 6 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

5 Wednesday

10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

3 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

6 Thursday

3:45 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

7 Friday

3:45 PM to 6:45 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

8 Saturday

8 AM OA - Room 218

11 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

9 Sunday - Baptism of Our Lord

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School-Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10 Monday

3:15 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6:45 PM Finance Team - Parish Hall, in person

11 Tuesday

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

10 AM SG Peer Group - Gathering Room

11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

2 PM to 6 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

12 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

3 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

13 Thursday

2 PM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

3:45 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

14 Friday

15 Saturday

11 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

16 Sunday - Epiphany 2

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School - Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

17 Monday - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Office Closed

3:15 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219

6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall

18 Tuesday

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

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

19 Wednesday

11 AM - Private Spiritual Direction - Library

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6:30 PM - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

22 Saturday

11 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

23 Sunday - Epiphany 3 - ANNUAL MEETING

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11 AM ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH - Parish Hall

24 Monday

25 Tuesday

8 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

26 Wednesday

10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6:30 PM - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

30 Sunday - Epiphany 4

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School - Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

31 Monday - e-Traveler Deadline!

Please note that some of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Some of those groups are now on this calendar to avoid over-scheduling. Always check with the church office before scheduling a meeting.

Last Words



Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

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

I write this from my dining room table on the Monday after Christmas - ice on the roads and sidewalks has kept me home, but, things are still happening at St. Christopher's! I hope to see many of you in person (in Covid allows!) at the Annual Meeting on January 23rd!

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Michael Sirany, Sr. Warden; Chris Mayr, Jr. Warden
Allison Jensen, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman, Patrick Ahern, Erin Bowman;
Ann DePaolis-Jones; Josh Kattelman; Alexander Kun;
Jeanna McLoughlin; Leslie Norton; Al Reedstrom

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. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Regular Schedule:

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary
9:30 AM Sunday School (Not on First Sundays)
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

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.
Roseville, MN 55113
651-633-4589 | Fax 651-633-7361 | www.stchristophers-mn.org

STAY CONNECTED

