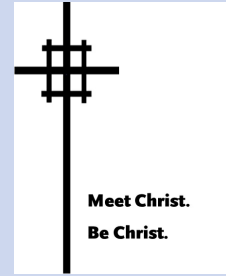


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

Of Gold, Exotic Spices, and Tater Tot Hotdish

by Fr. Randy+

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matt 2:7-11)

On Christmas Eve-Eve (yeah, I know this is not an official holiday) several of the St. C faithful gathered at church to participate in the "Greening of the Church." It was an exhilarating experience to decorate for the coming Christmastide. Greens and decorated trees and candles and lights and angels...and, of course, the beautiful nativity set prominently placed at the altar. We are intrigued by the intricate details of the clothed figures and the glorious colors of their richly adorned regal fabrics. This is especially true in the portrayal of the kings visiting the Christ Child and bearing exotic gifts.

"We Three Kings..." is the immediate carol that comes to mind as we approach The Feast of The Epiphany on January 6—the day appointed on the

church calendar that the Kings followed the star--traveling far to pay homage to the Son of God laying in a manger. The story is told and retold, and the details become more and more diverse as it is interpreted further and further distanced from the text. The identification of "three kings" and "three gifts" is assumed as the story and song have been handed down through the cultural lens of many centuries.

On The Feast of The Epiphany—the 12th Day of Christmas—we celebrate that the wise men not only bring gifts, but they also herald the new year ahead. Christmas is over, and so we push onward towards Candlemas and then to Lent.

But, as we lean into the new year, let us not forget the important inspiration the magi inspire in each of us—the significance of bearing of gifts to honor and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. It encourages us to likewise share our own abundant gifts in the name of Jesus with the whole world. The magi brought gifts of their riches. While we may not be rich in a purely economic sense, each of us are uniquely blessed with God-given gifts, gifts meant to share with the world.

One of our kings in the St. C's nativity scene is holding a lovely silver metallic box. An altar guild member stepped back from this king, smiled and said, "I think this king could be presenting a Tater Tot Hotdish!" We joyfully giggled at the improbable possibility of this actually happening. But, once again, I pondered what this comment clarified in my own mind in this moment. Each of us is called to joyfully share our unique gifts with God and others—even if this gift is that of compassionately feeding of people, in body and in soul—even if that gift is a delicious Tater Tot Hotdish.



With Christmas now over, we can take down our Christmas trees and decorations, and look forward to the lengthening of days. So let us end as we begin. Let us be vigilant and watchful, waiting for our Lord and ensuring that Christmas never becomes less than what it truly is: the celebration of Christ's nativity, the sharing of the gifts of God, the welcoming each year of God made flesh, revealed among us, now and until the end of time. *Randy+*

Annual Meeting of the Parish January 21st!

Please join us on January 21st for a single service at 9:30 AM, followed by some fellowship time (details are not yet in place) and the Annual Meeting

beginning about 11 AM. We will elect Wardens and Vestry members, and hear about the 2023 Financials and final 2024 Budget.

There are openings for Vestry positions; please speak with Fr. Randy or the Wardens for more information.

Reports for the Annual Report Book are due by Monday, January 15th. All groups are invited to report on your 2023 activities and plans for 2024.

Footprints JANUARY 2024

News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Director of
Children's Ministries**

Sunday School:

Epiphany Presentation – Sunday, January 7th at 10:30

We will be looking for folks interested in reading and/or donning a costume for our Epiphany Presentation on January 7th. The commitment is a rehearsal on January 6th beginning at 4 PM, followed by supper and cookie decorating, as well as the 10:30 service on January 7th. If you are interested or want more details, please let Marion know.

Happy New Year!

This year, as we celebrate the gifts and strengths of our parish family, we look with joy to our future. St. Christopher's Episcopal Church turns 75 years old this year, and we're planning an exciting event for the whole congregation.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 6, 2024, for one service followed by a specially catered luncheon, and other activities for you, your family, and any past members of our church. We'll update you throughout the year to build enthusiasm for the festivities!

-The 75th Anniversary committee: Don Shiek, Jean Crow, Chris Mayr, Ella Snyder, Cynthia Verhey, and Cheryl Bailey.

Stewardship Campaign Update

We are *On the Road!* 89.6% of pledges have been received (through 12/29). Please prayerfully consider responding with a pledge for the coming fiscal year. At this time, we are short of our "ask" by about \$36,000. The Vestry, with input from the Finance team, has requested a 3% increase to keep us *On the Road*.

If you need a Pledge Form, please call the office, or go to: <https://www.stchristophers-mn.org/publications.html> and scroll down to "Here is the 2024 Pledge Form."



A Little Help from Our Friends

I am here again to ask all of you to volunteer for a week of snow shoveling for the church! I DO thiiiiink it will snow, eventually...

Shoveling weeks are Monday-to-Sunday (because no one wants to wake up to snow on Sunday and not remember that it's the START of your week).

Anything over 2 inches is covered by our plowing service when they plow, BUT, we do need help sometimes mid-day to keep things safe before they arrive. Sand and salt are in (or near) the entries. Call the office if you have questions!

THANK YOU to each and every person and family who has signed up, only to not be needed, and to all of those who have helped in the past!

Vestry Shorts

The vestry met on December 18th.

- At the top of the items discussed was the budget for next year and stewardship. We still have a few parishioners we have not heard from in the way of a pledge. The budget was looked at and \$56,300 is needed to cover the shortfall between the budget and current pledges. We have surplus funds to cover the shortfall in 2024. The surplus will run out in about four years unless we increase pledges or lower expenses. This will be discussed at the annual meeting in January.

- Vestry candidates update: For next year, it has been a challenge to find Vestry candidates. At this time there is only 1 member who has stepped up to serve on the vestry. We have few people to ask, many have declined due to having already served once or more! If you are interested please let Fr. Randy or a vestry member know.

- Fellowship/Social Activities: Many great events were offered at the Event Fair, and signed up for. The sign-up sheets will continue to be posted until the first of the year. If you haven't signed up yet, there are still openings for many events!

· The 75th Anniversary Committee will hold a fundraising event on May 19, 2024, after the 8 o'clock and the 10:30 services to help cover the cost of the celebration on October 6, 2024. Details to come.

· **Shout out** to all those who worked so hard on the Event Fair and Talent Table: Ann Trapnell, Kim Johnson, Jean Crow, Ann DePaolis Jones, Cheryl Warkentien, Karen Hanna, and Jane Suilman! And all of the people who participated in every aspect of 9 Lessons and Carols, with a special thanks to Karen Hanna and Karla- it was once again wonderful.

Green Team News: GotSneakers?

The Green Team is collecting used athletic shoes. The sneakers will be sent to the company GotSneakers? and the shoes will be either recycled or reused. St. Christopher's will get paid for the shoes we recycle. The Green Team tried it out by recycling 18 pairs of sneakers. The results were

Sustainability Impact

Landfill: 18 pairs displaced from the landfill

Carbon Dioxide: 540 pounds displaced

Water: 40,626 gallons saved

And, the church received a check for \$13.50!

So, ask your neighbors, friends and relatives-- and look in your own closets for any athletic shoes you don't wear anymore or are too old and worn out to wear. The company will take **Any** athletic shoes in **Any** condition. Look for collection bins around church to put your shoes in. (The company does not accept nonathletic shoes).

If you have any questions, ask a member of the Green Team – Joel and Leslie Norton, Larry Jones, Joan Hoium, Karen Hartman, Sally Brown, and Jean Crow

JANUARY Calendar

1 Monday - New Years' Day – Office Closed

2 Tuesday

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

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

3 Wednesday

10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

1:15 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA Group – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

4 Thursday

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

5 Friday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

6 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room

2 PM Roberta Williams Memorial – Offsite

4 PM Epiphany Presentation Rehearsal – Church, Parish Hall, Kitchen

7 Sunday – Epiphany 1

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Epiphany Pageant

11:30 AM Fellowship

8 Monday

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM

5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall

9 Tuesday

10 AM SG Peer Group – Gathering Room

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

10 Wednesday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction –Gathering Room

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

1:15 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

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

4 PM Cello Book Recital – Church – to 4:45 PM

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA Group – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

11 Thursday

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

12 Friday

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

13 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room

14 Sunday – Epiphany 2

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:15 AM Adult Forum

9:30 AM Sunday School – Room 107

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

15 Monday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – Office Closed

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM

6:45 PM VESTRY – Parish Hall

16 Tuesday

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

10 AM OA Group - #218

10:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

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

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA Group – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

18 Thursday

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

19 Friday

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

5 PM Movie Event – Parish Hall – to 9 PM

20 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room

21 Sunday – Epiphany 3 – ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Fellowship

11 AM ANNUAL MEETING

22 Monday

23 Tuesday

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

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

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA Group – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

25 Thursday

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

26 Friday

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

27 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

12 PM Flute Recital – Church – to 4PM

28 Sunday – Epiphany 4

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:15 AM Adult Forum

9:30 AM Sunday School – Room 107

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

3 PM Afghan Meal Cooking Event – Kitchen

5 PM Afghan Meal Event – Parish Hall

29 Monday

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM

30 Tuesday

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall

31 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

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

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA Group – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

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. Days with no activity scheduled have been left off this calendar.



Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the January **e-Traveler!** It IS a bit late, but I don't think we've missed anything. Thank you to all who brought treats to the office during the holidays. As I work on this edition, I wonder if we'll ever get any snow... and then I remember that there are 3 more months of cold on the calendar!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Karen Hartman, Sr. Warden; Barb Hovey, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman; Patrick Ahern; Cheryl Bailey;
Darlene Cross, Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican;
Leslie Norton; Rich Pieper; Ann Trapnell

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.

Sundays through May 2024:

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Fellowship

9:15-10:15 AM Adult Forum

9:30-10:15 AM Sunday School

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.
Roseville, MN 55113

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