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# St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #57

JULY 2017

## From the RECTOR



The Rev.  
John F. Dwyer  
Rector



Meet  
Christ  
Be Christ

One of the joys of June is that the staff gathers and has a very long meeting, where we review the Program Year just finished and make plans for the entirety of the coming program year that begins in September. That meeting occurred on June 20th and, as in past years, was a joy to lead and a reminder that we are blessed with a dedicated, spirit-infused, joyful, thoughtful, and loving staff who take their responsibilities seriously.

There is a lot to be excited about for the 2017-18 Program Year, and I will leave to the individual staff members to provide detail as we get closer to the start of the program year. Here are some overarching themes and highlights of our discussion on the 20th.

- Because of changing schedules, we are moving staff meetings from every Tuesday morning to twice a month, occurring on Wednesday late afternoons.
- We, as a staff, will continue to have conversations with our families with children and develop initiatives from those conversations responding to their needs and desires.
- As Children's Chapel will be the first Sunday of each month, Adult Forum will move to the 2nd and 4th Sundays starting in September. A schedule will be published at the end of August. We will, once again, ask that no meetings be scheduled on those 2nd and 4th Sundays, between services, but instead be scheduled on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays.
- In December, Advent 4 falls on Christmas Eve, making "greening" of the church a challenge. We will have one service on the morning of December 24th, celebrating Advent 4....and then have a festive coffee hour, upstairs, asking attendees to assist in preparing for our afternoon Christmas Eve services! Details to come as we get closer.
- The year will be filled with many of our favorite activities and some new and inventive ideas...so stay tuned for an exciting program year to come!

July and August are our planning months for the program year to come, but are active as well, with two large and important events occurring. Vacation Bible School ("VBS") takes over our space the week of July 17th, and our Children's Ministries Director is deeply

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### VESTRY:

Jeff Jensen,  
Sr. Warden  
Cindy Lee,  
Jr. Warden  
Ann DePaolis-Jones,  
Clerk  
Suzanne Hitchcock,  
Treasurer  
Mark Brilowski  
Darlene Cross  
Jan Fillmore  
Elizabeth Grayden  
Karen Hartman  
Chris Huntley  
Becky Lucas  
Mike Sirany  
Barbara Swanson

### STAFF:

Ruth Thillen,  
Parish Administrator  
Chad O'Leary  
Youth Director  
Marion Hunner,  
Children's Ministries  
Karla S. Cole,  
Director of Music  
Rev. Mary Rowe,  
Assisting Priest  
Rev. Janet MacNally,  
Deacon

immersed in planning and creating this important event, with slews of dedicated volunteers gearing up to transform the lives of the participants. Also in July, many of our youth will be taking a youth trip, exploring the civil rights history of our country, visiting important sites and locations of that movement. Please keep the youth and their guides in your daily prayers (their trip starts July 8th and they return on July 19th).

**A Prayer for the Youth Civil Rights Pilgrimage**

All powerful, ever-living, and loving God, when Abraham left his own land and departed from his own people, You kept him safe all through his journey. Protect our youth and their guides as they begin their Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Protect them, walk by their side, be their companion and their strength on the road. Lead them, O God, so that they will reach their destinations in safety and happiness, and guide them safely on their return to us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A blessed and safe July to one and all, wherever this month finds you,



Rev. John F. Dwyer,  
Rector

**Our  
SUMMER  
Schedule**

*(begins June 4!)*

**Sunday:**

**9:30 AM**

**Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 AM**

Fellowship

**Wednesday:**

**12:15 PM**

**Holy Eucharist**

-Chapel

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday

9 AM - 4 PM

## The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.  
Janet MacNally,  
Deacon

As I sit to write this I cannot believe that we are already into July, the middle of summer. It honestly seems that it was just a few days ago when I wrote that we were heading into summer, and stressed that although the days are warmer and longer and can at times seem to be a slower pace, here at St. Christopher's we continue along at a brisk pace. Perhaps that is the reason I seem to have lost the entire month of June!

We have been busy, very busy, as summer has rolled along. Busy with our Community Dinners, busy with all wonderful additions such as instrumentalists and hand bells enriching our worship time together, busy getting ready for Vacation Bible School, busy with the final preparations for our Youth Group's Civil Rights pilgrimage, busy with the Giving Garden and the Courtyard Garden, just to name a few. And it would be easy to lose the month of July in all that activity, as easily as it was to lose June! So how, you may ask, do we manage to balance the time so that we do not lose the activity and energy of our ministries, and yet find the time to slow down and well, breathe, in what summer has to offer. Perhaps a good answer might be prayer.

Visiting the Order of St. Helena at their convent a year ago allowed me to immerse myself into a daily rhythm that included an active routine that took the sisters out and about and into the neighborhood, that was punctuated by gathering in the chapel four times a day for sung prayer. It was a wonderful way to allow yourself to step back and out of the hustle and bustle and become quiet and contemplative. And even though it was only for a short amount of time, each act of intentional prayer left me feeling grounded, refreshed and at peace.

Now, I am not suggesting that we all enter into a schedule where we find ourselves participating in sung prayer, but I am suggesting that perhaps we could, as a way to slow our busy summer down, enter into intentional prayer at some point during our day. There are many fine ways to engage in this practice. Our BCP has not only full morning and evening prayer liturgies, but also smaller, more intimate services for those times of day. Compline in its complete form in the prayer book is a concise service for the close of our day. There are multiple websites that offer daily prayer; some even contain music, The Daily Office of The Mission of St. Clare is a good choice. Or, you can search out several books that contain small services for daily prayer; a particular favorite of mine is *The Divine Hours* by Phyllis Tickle. Or then again, just finding a small space of time to quietly gather thoughts, petitions and thanksgivings is all that is required.

So as we rush head long into July, with August not far behind, I am inviting you to join me and set aside just a few moments each day for contemplative prayer. And who knows, setting a routine that slows our pace enough to enjoy and give thanks for the gifts that God has given us this summer could well lead into fall and beyond, right? It may not change the way the world is rushing by, but it will change us. And that will make all the difference.

**Amen, Deacon Janet**

## Music Notes



Karla Cole,  
Music Ministries Director

There's nothing quite like a small town parade - homemade floats, kids drumming on upside down plastic buckets, the high school bands with twirlers and flag-bearers and all the little kids watching excitedly from the sidelines. Last week, St. Christopher's was admirably represented by our own homemade float, our intergenerational crew (from strollers to grandparents) in their bright blue tshirts handing out candy and information, and our marching handbell choir. Didn't know there was such a thing as a marching handbell choir? Yeah, well, it isn't really a thing. Try the Google if you don't believe me. Despite being sandwiched between the Brian Boru pipe band and the Waconia High School marching band, we valiantly played our tinkly little bells every time the pipers came up for air. It was all very festive and I think the parade committee was well pleased with the combined efforts.





We have lessons learned - mostly about the bbq we should have planned for the RAHS parking lot while waiting for the parade to get going, and figuring out something to do to during all the standing around time along the route. Regardless, a good time was had by all and I suspect there'll be more than a passing interest in doing it again next year.



We may never know if we'll get anyone to come to VBS or to check out our morning worship by appearing in the Rosefest Parade. But it's one of a number of things we're doing to raise our profile in the community - improved signage and landscaping, the Giving Garden, the community dinner, Lessons & Carols and concerts, being a part of the Do Good Roseville discussions on how we treat our neighbors, wearing those blue shirts around the neighborhood. It's a collective effort - as Janet and the Bishop would say, "engaging in God's mission", and actively looking for folks to join us along the way.

*Karla Cole*



**Footprints  
JULY 2017**



**News from Children's  
Ministries**



Marion Hunner  
Children's Ministries Director

**VBS is Coming July 17-21!**



Please help us transform the sanctuary following the 9:30 service on Sunday, July 16th. We would also love some help tearing down at noon on Friday, July 21st starting at 12:15pm. **Many hands make light work!**

Everyone is invited to stop by during VBS (9am-noon) to see what the kids are up to as they tinker their way through the week.

### I am looking for 2-4 volunteers

to come in on Thursday morning, July 20th, to rinse the items that we will be tie dying on Wednesday. Please contact me if you can help: marion@stchristophers-mn.org



### Mark your calendars for our Family Fun Movie Night on Friday, August 11th.

We will be making "cars" out of cardboard boxes, enjoying snacks, and then watching the movie Cars at our "drive-in" in the parish hall. Adults are welcome to bring lawn chairs or use the regular chairs in the parish hall. **We are**

**collecting all sizes of cardboard boxes (would especially like really big ones that the kids can sit in) to make into cars.** If you have any boxes, please leave them in room 106 (down the hall from the Children's Library). Families of all shapes, sizes, and ages are welcome to join us!

### Sunday Ministries Note

New Sunday Ministry schedules came out via email in mid-June. You should have received your Quarter 3 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.

### Pulse of the Parish

Good Morning. My name is Jan Fillmore and I am on your Vestry. Today I am offering the Pulse of the Parish. The purpose of this brief update is to keep you informed of the actions taken by the Vestry at their meeting on Monday, June 19th.

- The Vestry had a vibrant discussion about Chapter 4 of the book, "The Agile Church: Spirit-led Innovation in an Uncertain Age," written by The Rev. Dwight Zscheile. ("Shy-lee")
- The monthly financial reports were reviewed. Our income from offerings and building use are ahead of budget projections. Expenses were below those budgeted, resulting in our being in the black (positive) for the month. For the year we remain in the black, and overall, our cash flow is in good shape.
- The Vestry heard reports from individual vestry members who have taken on assignments stemming from Goals established by the Vestry. Reports concerning the bids for our sewer line repair, the need to increase volunteers, church growth and evangelism, the potential to increase revenue from facility rental, and planned giving development were presented and discussed.
- The Vestry discussed the plans surrounding our participation in the Roseville Parade on Monday, June 26th, and expressed excitement about our showing our face to the

- community
- The Vestry received a report about the success of the State Fair Parking volunteer drive, discussed ways to make St. Christopher's programs known to those who utilize our lot, and expressed deep gratitude to all who have volunteered their time for this outreach opportunity to the community.
- The Vestry would like to recognize the following people in our "Shout-outs" for the work they have recently done for our parish:
  - Barb Swanson for her leadership and time in making our new Photo-Directory possible.
  - All the people helping in our Pentecost Brunch.
  - Those who worked on the yearly financial audit for St. Christopher's

Please be aware that the minutes of the June meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the Vestry's June meeting. I will be at coffee hour after the service. Please feel free to ask any Vestry member or me any questions you have about this meeting. Thank you for your attention.

## Legacy Planning

"We are stewards of God's bounty. Caretakers. For a brief period we are given time, energy, and resources. What we do with these gifts ultimately defines the character of our life and the depth of our spiritual understanding."

Would you like to help provide ongoing stability for St. Christopher's into the future? Would you like to create a lasting legacy of your generous spirit that will support the mission of St. Christophers for future generations?

A newly formed Vestry/Finance Committee team is starting to develop an approach to reinvigorate Legacy Planning at St. Christophers. We are gathering informational materials about planned giving to present to the parish, which we plan to distribute to the parish in several different ways over the coming months. We plan to hold one or more informational sessions in September, giving an opportunity for dialogue, questions and answers. We will also be available for individual meetings to go over more specific questions.

Our goals are to build our financial resources so that we can take care of future capital and other critical needs, to continue to be good stewards of our property and our programs, and to ensure our financial stability for future generations.

Legacy gifts can be large or small, and can take a number of different forms, ranging from very simple processes to more complex procedures. As a starting point, here are some preliminary suggested ideas to consider:

### BEQUESTS

Including St. Christopher's in your will is an easy way to make a generous gift to St. Christopher's. In your will you have choices about how you name St. Christopher's as a beneficiary.

- You may wish to leave a fixed dollar amount to St. Christopher's. You will need to specify exactly how much you would like the church to receive.
- Another popular option is to give St. Christopher's a



percentage of your estate. This makes good sense if you don't have a clear idea of how much your estate will be worth at your death.

### **RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS**

Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets such as a gift from your IRA (IRA charitable Rollover), 401(k), 403(b), pension or other tax-deferred plan is an excellent way to make a gift. Benefits of gifts of retirement assets:

- Avoid potential estate tax on retirement assets
- Your heirs would avoid income tax on any retirement assets funded on pre-tax basis
- Receive potential estate tax savings from an estate tax deduction

To leave your retirement assets to St. Christopher's, you will just need to complete a beneficiary designation form provided by your retirement plan custodian. If you designate St. Christopher's as beneficiary, we will benefit from the full value of your gift because your IRA assets will not be taxed at your death. Your estate will benefit from an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift.

### **IRA DISTRIBUTIONS**

At age 70 ½, IRA owners are required by law to take mandatory minimum distributions. An increasingly popular way to make gifts tax-free, transfers to St. Christopher's must be made directly from the IRA or by writing a check from the IRA up to a \$100,000 limit. Now that the IRA Charitable Rollover legislation is passed permanently, this enables donors to plan each year in advance.

### **LIFE INSURANCE**

A gift of your life insurance is an excellent way to make a gift to St. Christopher's. If you have a life insurance policy that has outlasted its original purpose, consider making a gift of your insurance policy. Contact your insurance provider, request a beneficiary designation form and include ST. CHRISTOPHER'S as the beneficiary of your policy.

As we move forward, we encourage you to contact any of us if you have questions or are interested in discussing ways to participate in this effort. We also welcome more members to join our working group if you have a passion for this topic.

Legacy Planning Working Group - Cindy Lee, Bill Hanna, Peter Lee, Fr. John Dwyer

## **Facility Revenue**

In 2017, a Vestry priority is to explore different ways to expand the use of our building and facilities, seeking to both promote community engagement and to generate revenue. If you are interested in developing creative ideas to implement this goal, please consider joining our working group!

Here are a few of our preliminary ideas:

- Craft Fair//Farmer's Market// Flea Market//
- Community corn feed, BBQ or multi-cultural food event
- Happy hour/micro-brew event
- Coffee kiosk or food truck in our parking lot
- Rent out Parish Hall for Yoga classes, or Continuing Ed classes, or

functions - graduations, anniversaries etc.

- Rent sanctuary as performance/recital space
- Partner with another church for music or educational events to promote diversity and cultural awareness

We need your input! Please let us know if you are interested in participating, or if you have ideas and/or have contacts/resources in any of these areas that could help us move forward. We would love to hear from you!

Cindy Lee and Becky Lucas

## **JULY Calendar Highlights**

**2 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**4 Independence Day - *Office Closed***

**8 Youth Trip begins!**

**9 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**10 5:30 PM Finance Committee - Parish Hall**

**12 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel**

**16 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**11 AM VBS Setup**

**17 9 AM - VBS Begins**

**6:45 PM Vestry**

**18 9 AM - VBS!**

*Meals on Wheels - Offsite*

**19 9 AM - VBS!**

**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel**

**Youth Trip Ends**

**20 9 AM - VBS!**

**21 9 AM - VBS!**

**23 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**24 e-Traveler Deadline!**

**27 5:30 PM Community Dinner - Parish Hall**

**30 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

### **Please note:**

Outside group use of the building has not been listed here. Please note that we now have music lessons Monday through Saturday. Please check the calendar in the office before scheduling a meeting or event. Our weekly building-use calendar is **quite busy!**

### **Last Words**



I hope you have enjoyed the July **e-Traveler**.

Thanks to everyone who was photographed for the new Directory. We should be handing those out in early August.

I often think about how many of those addresses, phone numbers and emails will have changed by the time we see the book. Please be sure to let the office know of the changes in YOUR contact information! We will publish a "changes" sheet if necessary when the book comes out.

Today Lincoln was wide awake and keeping track of everyone going in and out of the office:



Do, please, remember that it is vacation season - if you need to stop in the office, please call ahead to be sure the ones you want to see are here!

Sincerely,  
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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