

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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Be Christ.**

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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Cindy Lee, Sr. Warden; Joel Norton, Jr. Warden
Sue Triebenbach, Clerk; Darlene Cross, Treasurer

Mark Brilowski; Jan Fillmore; Karen Hartman; Barbara Hovey; Chris Huntley; Tom Linder;
Becky Lucas; Mike Sirany; 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. Daniel Pearson, Transition Priest

Our SUMMER Schedule

Sunday: 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
in the Chapel

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

A Note from The Rev. Daniel Pearson



**The Rev.
Daniel V. Pearson**
Transition Priest

The Fifth Inning

By now the baseball season is in full swing. Winners and losers are being assessed more and more by performance than by speculation. In minor leagues such as the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball, fun and antics can be a draw for fans—especially in the case of the Saint Paul Saints as the recent focus of attention on a celebrity raccoon displays. Whatever the league or teams, a good game typically involves suspense and outstanding skill.

As we all know sports analogies provide insight and measurement for various enterprises. If I remember correctly, a few months ago business and economics commentators were saying that with respect to the current economic expansion we are in the late—if not ninth inning. Moreover, “three strikes and you’re out” has been invoked in the judicial system. For my purposes at St. Christopher’s as Transitional Priest, I am calling our progress toward the goal of calling a new rector—for what it’s worth-- to be in the fifth inning.

From my point of view, it’s been a great game so far. Hard work and fun—especially on the part of the Discovery and Discernment Team. As has already been noted, they are for the most part finished with their work and on July 11, we will have a joint meeting of the D & D, Search Team and Vestry. It’s time for the D & D to hand it’s work off to the Search Team so they can use what has been discerned and discovered to do their work.

In these first innings, it must be acknowledged that while the D & D Team has been the ones primarily on the field, we’ve had a full roster of support from the staff, wardens and vestry and faithful fans sitting in the pews. As with real baseball games there is a little suspense with regard to the final outcome but there’s no question about our commitment and attendance at the game thus far. Deo gratias! dvp

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

What about the children? Oh, we see them on television, we read about them in the papers, and we do so with a broken heart. Their fate is always the most tragic, inevitably. ... We see their faces, their eyes. Do we hear their pleas? Do we feel their pain, their agony? Some of them -- so many of them -- could be saved.

Those are the words of Eli Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate in a speech given in the East Room of the White House on April 12th, 1999, entitled the "Perils of Indifference." In her introduction of Mr. Wiesel, then First Lady Hilary Clinton said the following, "...I never could have imagined that when the time finally came for him to stand in this spot and to reflect on the past century and the future to come, that we would be seeing children in Kosovo crowded into trains, separated from families, separated from their homes, robbed of their childhoods, their memories, their humanity."

I chose these words because here we are, almost 20 years later, witnessing innocent children face the same sorts of trauma in their young lives, Trauma that results from being forcibly separated from their parents, transported to detention facilities all across the countryside with staff unable to adequately meet their needs, or unable to speak their language. They are experiencing trauma that results from those in charge having no plan or process to begin to reunite them with their families, to begin to restore their childhoods. And the children we are witnessing are not in the Balkans, or Syria, or Somalia, or any place else that is far away and doesn't hold our American values. The children we are witnessing are ones that were forcibly separated from their parents at our borders.

"What is indifference? Etymologically, the word means "no difference." A strange and unnatural state in which the lines blur between light and darkness, dusk and dawn, crime and punishment, cruelty and compassion, good and evil. . . . But indifference is never creative. Even hatred at times may elicit a response. You fight it. You denounce it. You disarm it. Indifference elicits no response. Indifference is not a response."

There has been a flurry of activity at our Southern border and at some of the centers where children have been taken, yet, amid the coverage and the interviews and the wisdom put forth by talking heads, very little has been done to reassure or demonstrate that those in charge have a solid plan for reuniting these children and their parents. And so at this writing, there are over 2,200 children, some as young as babies, being held at locations that no one, not the press, not elected officials, not lawyers, not even the Red Cross, are allowed to see, to interact with. And this is where the peril of indifference can set in and lead to situations far worse than the one we are witnessing.

"Indifference is not a beginning, it is an end. And, therefore, indifference is always the friend of the enemy, for it benefits the aggressor -- never his victim, whose pain is magnified when he or she feels forgotten. The political prisoner in his cell, the hungry

children, the homeless refugees -- not to respond to their plight, not to relieve their solitude by offering them a spark of hope is to exile them from human memory. And in denying their humanity we betray our own."

We, you and I, have had many discussions about going out beyond our doors and joining with our neighbors in the engaging of God's mission for the life of the world. It is the fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant; it is our call as Christians to not be indifferent, to not let the distress of the news cycle make us numb to the suffering of the smallest of our neighbors. To recognize that when a nation is called out by the United Nations (an organization that we helped to form) for human rights violations, it is never a good thing. We need to fight the indifference that can so easily overtake us. And here is the good news in all of this: we don't, nor should we, ever venture out into the neighborhood alone. We go, at the very least, in twos and even better, in groups. We discuss, we share, we brainstorm, we write letters to congress, and above all we pray. We pray without ceasing because by praying we have refused to let indifference overtake us.

I don't have a pithy answer or a 25 word or less plan for the reunification of the families that were separated at our Southern border. What I do know is that by joining together as Christians in the world, we can defeat indifference, and we will effect lasting change. We just need to begin the process. This is my invitation to begin the conversation and determine that process. Won't you join me?

Amen, Deacon Janet

Blessings From Mary



**The Rev.
Mary Rowe**
Assisting Priest

As seniors at St. Christopher's, we are enjoying our time together in Christ. This past year, our PPP&S (Pensioners Praying, Partying & Sharing) group has more than doubled in size. We have enjoyed sharing in each other's lives and learning about the lives and life's work of some of our parishioners. Our faith journeys, shared in community, give context to the resiliency of the St. Christopher's community.

The St. Christopher's summer hiatus from church programming gives each of us a time to reflect and value the rich programming offered at our church. From the children's program, the choir, the youth, the outreach programs, the adult forums to PPP&S, we are one. The work of the Gospel is not confined to any time or space.
Blessings, Mary+

MUSIC NOTES



Karla Cole

**Director of
Music Ministries**

I love a parade

I don't, really, that was just a snazzy title. But we represented St. Christopher's to the hundreds of people who lined County Road B2 and Lexington Avenue to see and hear the Rosefest Parade last week.

There were fewer of us this year. But we put our "float" together, put on our bright blue shirts, gathered up our postcard handouts and candy and traipsed over to the high school parking lot. Last year we noted that you spend quite a lot of time waiting for the parade to start moving and this year we were even nearer the end. So we had the Crows' tailgating kit and the hot dogs were grilling while we waited.

The parking lot was lined with people. St. Rose was there with their retiring priest and their new one; the League of Women Voters all waving American flags; Do Good Roseville had a van and a big sign; some guys were on unicycles; some other guys looked like, maybe mounted police on their trusty steeds; there was a Japanese dance troupe in costumes with all the girls taking tiny little steps; a bunch of medieval-ly dressed folks from the Minnesota Renaissance Fair complete with one woman who walked the entire parade route on stilts; lots of people running for office; and the most amazing thing was what looked like an enormous fish tank with several young men and a bunch of gym equipment inside. Imagine standing on your head or something while the truck slowly pulls your fish tank up the hill.

Oh, and the bands. There were lots of high school bands. Apparently this parade is actually just an excuse for a band contest. They all set off down County Road B2 with their flags waving and fake rifles twirling (I guess that's a thing now). They were nicely spaced out within the parade, so there was no horrible cacophony of blaring instruments, but as each band reached the judges stand at Central Park, the parade ground to a halt while they played their contest piece. We never found out who won.

It was overcast, so thankfully, no intense heat and no rain; and finally, it was our turn to start out. We had brought some handbells, and in spite of the fact that there weren't enough of us to play anything, we sort of waved them at people and every now and then played some rhythmic chords for fun. We had our trailer, um float, pulled by Matt Cole's truck and when the bells started up, he madly rang one out the window of the truck. Fr. Daniel gamely joined us, even though he likes parades less than I do. We had a banner in the front and Marion's VBS banner in the back and the rest of us wandering back and forth handing out candy and postcards. We ran out of candy again this year – even after bumping the amount up from last year (note for next year). Perhaps the number of pieces of candy you need will always be the number you have + X. I think we won the contest for taking up the most space with the fewest participants. Perhaps we were flagging there at the end, but coming up the last bit of Lexington, we were comically spread out. I think we'll need a parade wrangler next year to help us keep the gaps closed (another note for next

year). So that position is open and we need more candy passers and bell ringers. There's room for you! And even though I would never actively go to see a parade, it was a fun outing. And you should join us next year!

Karla Cole



Footprints JULY 2018 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

VBS is Coming July 23-27!

Registration deadline is July 6th!

We welcome kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends!

Please help us transform the sanctuary following the 9:30 service on Sunday, July 22nd. We would also love some help tearing down at noon on Friday, July 27th starting at 12:15pm. **Many hands make light work!**

Needed for VBS:

- Water bottles or CLEAN pop bottles with cap – no more than 20 oz. You can leave them in the basket outside Marion's office
- We would like to BORROW some beach towels – label them with your name (use tape) and leave them outside Marion's office.

Mark your calendars for our Family Fun Movie Night on Thursday, August 16th. We will decorate plant pots, view The Lorax, and plant seeds. There will also be snacks! This event is for Families of all shapes, sizes, and ages. We will be in the youth room this year!

Yoga Mats! Do you have a yoga mat lying around your house? We will be incorporating yoga in to our Children's programming next fall, and we would appreciate donations of gently used yoga mats. You can leave them in the main office or outside Marion's office door.



Chad O'Leary
Youth Ministries
Director



As our staff gathered to plan our calendar for the next year, I joked that my life is in a slight disarray because I am between planners. Being the anal-retentive, Type A person that I am, I can't wait for July 1 to hit so that I can crack open that freshly printed new calendar. Even if just for that new book smell. It is no surprise that for teachers and young people (and, as a result, their parents too!) summer brings shifts in the ordinary fall/winter/spring schedule. Some enjoy this spontaneity more than others (I prefer to plan my spontaneity!) but, at the end of the day, we are all creatures of habit. As we travel, rest, sunbathe (hopefully with sunscreen), and live between planners, I offer this simple prayer to carry us through:

Creator God,
 What about you and me?
 I don't want to
 forget you just because
 I'm off my normal school-year routine.
 Keep close to me, Lord,
 and remind me that my relationship
 with you should never take a break.
 Remind me of my baptism when I swim,
 Recall your unconditional love in the
 sunshine
 And be moved by your Spirit

July Calendar Highlights!

- 1 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**
- 4 Independence Day Holiday**
Office Closed
- 5 Office Closed (Vacation)**
- 6 Office Closed (Vacation)**
- 8 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**
- 9 5:30 PM Finance Committee**
–Parish Hall
- 10 Meals on Wheels – Offsite**
- 11 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel**
4:00 PM Staff Meeting – Office Closes
- 14 2:00 PM Coffee & Conversation with**
Aniak Women – Parish Hall
- 15 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**
- 16 6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall**

in a cool, unexpected breeze on the hottest of summer afternoons.

Amen.

PS - so many great program offerings coming this fall. Look for more information on these opportunities in the August e-Traveler!

18 11:30 AM P P P & S – Parish Hall
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

21 8:00 AM Outdoor Work Day

22 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
VBS Set Up Day!!!

23 9:00 AM VBS Begins!!!

24 9:00 AM – VBS

25 9:00 AM – VBS
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

26 9:00 AM – VBS
5:30 PM Community Dinner
– Parish Hall

27 9:00 AM - VBS

29 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Parish Budget Meeting
and Light Brunch

30 e-Traveler Deadline

31 Meals on Wheels - Offsite

Looking for a 5th-Sunday Teller

Teller needed to count offerings after the 9:30 (10:30) service. Instructions and mentoring opportunities are available. It's a great way to help out one Sunday each month/quarter. Currently we need someone to cover 3-4 times per year when we have 5 Sundays in a month. It is a shared responsibility since tellers always work in pairs. Email Wendy Brilowski for more information. wendyb1@me.com or 612-387-8881.

Last Words



I hope you have enjoyed the July *e-Traveler*, and that you like the new format. I must admit, I have not quite figured out how to get the pictures in, the way I did in the previous versions!

Please let me know how you like the new e-Traveler!

Enjoy the summer!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

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