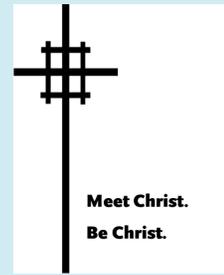


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**
Rector

Holding Up In Prayer *by Fr. Randy+*

I cannot begin to count the number of times I have ended a conversation with another person with the words, *"I will hold you and your loved one(s) up in prayer."* You may actually be one of my beloved friends that have heard me utter those very words. But when we say, 'we hold them in our prayers,' what do we really mean? When I kneel in my office or chapel, or retreat to the church nave in prayer—what am I actually doing? When we gather to pray, and pray with deep longing and love and compassion for those suffering—why do we do it?

It's because we believe that this kind of prayer—our heartfelt prayer of desire and longing for another in need—actually does something. The prayer of intercession is tremendously powerful and can change lives. The life of the person you pray for is changed, as well as your own life.

St. Paul had written to his beloved Timothy, *"I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day."* Paul learned and knew the power of prayer because he was witness to it in the life of Jesus. Jesus prayed and prayed and prayed—through the night, before the daybreak, alone and with others, and in The Garden and on The Cross.

Jesus' disciples learned the power of prayer from Jesus. Although they knew he was now exulted in the Father's glory, he was still very close to them—and

they had no doubt that his prayers continued for them. We have the imagery written in the Letter to the Hebrews of Jesus as our great high priest who opened up a way for us—a way for our deepest prayer and our deepest longing to reach the very throne of God. Jesus continues praying for us to the Father, as written in Hebrews 7, “...*he always lives to make intercession for us.*”

The verb ‘Intercession’ does not literally mean making petitions or saying any words at all. It means to meet or be with someone, on behalf of another. So when we talk about Jesus making intercession for us to the Father, it’s not Jesus talking to God about us. It is Jesus being intimately close to his Father and carrying us whom he loves, on his heart, and into the heart of God. And that is what we are doing when we light a small candle and just sit or kneel in silence, with our sorrow for another, our love, our yearning for healing of another. In doing so, we share the sadness, the grief, and the burden of another.

Intercession, as shared by Jesus with the Father, is not just a detached impassioned grocery list of the world’s needs. And, it is not informing God of something he knows already. Rather, it is a profound, loving and costly holding up of others who are on our hearts before God.

Engaging in true intercession is being with God, being fully present, with the people in our hearts.

I am holding you up in prayer. *Randy+*

Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

The last lines of Martin Luther King’s speech on the last night of his life were from the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.” It was quite prescient in retrospect, for he was assassinated the next day on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. A couple of months later, Andy Williams sang it at the end of the requiem mass for Bobby Kennedy. The song was ubiquitous in those days. The subtext was as easily understood by Judy Garland’s television audience when she sang it after JFK’s assassination, as it was by the folks that were fortunate to have heard MLK speak that last time. Everyone knew the song, knew the words and could join in, as they did with Joan Baez at the end of her tour concerts in the 60s. Even in 1993, Judy Collins was able to get folks to sing along at a Memorial Day concert in front of the Capitol building. By the

time of the 9/11 memorial service, the song had become an anthem of sorts for the country and all five living presidents chimed in. Perhaps one of the most moving moments in the aftermath of 9/11 was when the *Battle Hymn* was sung in its entirety by the choir of men and boys, the organ and congregation in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The throngs outside listened quietly as they watched the service on the jumbotron, a lonely American flag waving overhead.

This particular song was written in 1861 by Julia Ward Howe, who had gone to a public review of the Union troops with her husband. The soldiers started up some singing while they marched, a rowdy set of their own lyrics to a popular song of the day. Julia, who was an established hymnwriter by that time, kept the tune, but crafted a new text for a hymn that came to be sung on both sides with equal fervor. That's the problem with wars. Everyone thinks that God's on their side. Although in this case, the author was a staunch Abolitionist and a Union supporter. Her hymn earned her \$5 and graced the cover of *The Atlantic Monthly* in February of 1862. It went on to embody the nation's attitudes toward war and peace, good and evil, the collective sense of mission and purpose to protect the defenseless and spread liberty.

If you're feeling like taking a rabbit hole expedition, you can search for it on YouTube. You can hear Joan Baez and the Judys Garland and Collins, as well as Elvis and Johnny Cash. If you embark on this journey, you shouldn't miss the multiple versions from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. They're live at West Point, accompanied by the West Point Band in the classic Peter Wilhousky arrangement with snare and trumpets and gorgeous harmony for the tenors and basses. You can also see them arrayed in front of the rows and rows... and rows and rows of organ pipes in their temple in Salt Lake City. And if you can find it, there's a video where they've all crammed into flatbed trucks and are singing in front of the newly sworn President Reagan at the inaugural parade in 1981. If you've seriously been hooked, do check out the updated version of the hymn by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir from President Obama's second inaugural in 2013. And you might need to grab a Kleenex to watch the British sing the *Battle Hymn* in their very square, but very heartfelt version from St. Paul's.

Our country seems beset and besieged by lots of angry people with disparate points of view. But it was ever so. Democracy is messy, much as the workings of the church are messy. There really is no black and white. And the greatest tragedy of all are the many folks that are looking for that certainty, or someone to give it to them. The only certainty we really have in this world is that there is none. This ephemeral God that we worship lives and moves with and in us – but only if you look and listen for the signs. They're all around just now.

Karla Cole



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



On Sunday afternoon, May 23rd, the families gathered at church. We planted flowers in the pots that we painted for Earth Day, we tied fleece blankets for our four graduating seniors, and the parents heard a presentation from our Junior Warden, Chris Mayr.





Join us for Family Worship on Sunday, June 13th at 4pm at St. Christopher's!

We are looking ahead to Vacation Bible School! As many of you know, this is my favorite event of the year, and I am very excited to bring it back this



summer. Our theme is God's Backyard Bible Camp. Most of it will take place outside, and we will follow ECMN's COVID precautions. I am looking for a guitar player who would help us in singing camp songs. If that is you, or someone you know, please

reach out to me! More information and registration forms are on our website: <https://www.stchristophers-mn.org/vbs.html>

Youth



Chad O'Leary
Director of Youth Ministries

This month we have the honor of sending off four of our young people on to the next leg of their journey.

Also, please enjoy a short trip down memory lane (in pictures!) and CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!

--Chad

Ben Ackerman

Ben, son of Kathy and Ross Ackerman, graduated from Champlin Park High School and is planning to take classes at a community college next year before likely transferring to the University of Minnesota.





Katherine Brilowski

Katherine, daughter of Wendy and Mark Brilowski, graduated from Centennial High School and next year will be attending North Dakota State University studying aviation.



Ruthie Darnell

Ruthie, daughter of Jean and Rick, graduated from Irondale High school and will be attending Florida State University studying forensic science.



Jackson Humes

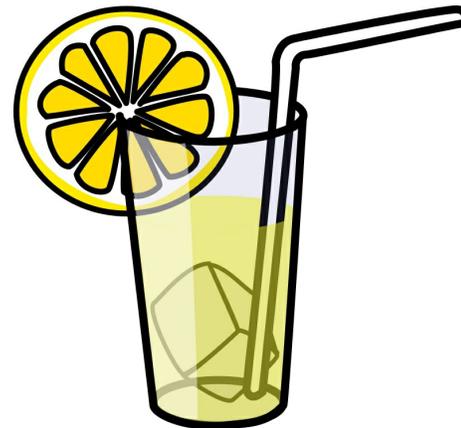
Jackson, son of Cheryl Bailey and Dan, graduated from Central High School and will be attending Michigan State University studying physical therapy/athletic training.



Lemonade on the Lawn

St. Christopher's Faith Family members, it's time to turn the lemons of zooming, masking and social distancing of the past year into lemonade! Join us on June 6th for our first **Lemonade on the Lawn** gathering after the 9:30 a.m. service. Thanks to Millie Woodbury for naming this summer weekly gathering, and to her and Sally Brown for signing up to host the first one! We hope to have others

sign up to host at least one Sunday through the summer. Please contact Connie Hendrick at c-hend@umn.edu or 612-306-0182. Thank you! Cheers!



Garden Graces

I would like to thank the following people for their donation of time or items used by the flower gardeners:

Suzanne Hitchcock, for her donation of five beautiful decorated clay pots that will be used at the lower entrance and in the courtyard for plants, and a full bucket of Preen weed-preventer to help keep weeds down.

Don Shiek, who bought, hauled and spread about 50 bags of wood mulch for the courtyard. The courtyard looks much refreshed now.

Bruce Warkentien, who muscled out five of the overgrown tall grasses next to

the courtyard patio area. It was a tough job to get them dug out and hauled out of the courtyard.

And last, but not least, to Janet Campanaro, Darlene Cross, Connie Hendrick, Allison Jensen and Ann DePaolis-Jones for spending the morning cleaning up our flower gardens, and for their willingness to take turns keeping our gardens looking pretty all season long.

Karen Hanna

St. Christopher's Stewardship

We have an Attitude of Gratitude! Here's a special thank you from Sally Brown and the Meals on Wheels team to you, our faith family members for your philanthropic support to our parish each year. Some of your support goes to our faith family's social justice programs like Meals on Wheels!

[Click this text to see the video!](#)

Thanks for all you do for our faith family!

Pulse of the Parish

Vestry meeting held on May 17, 2021

The purpose of this report is to keep you, our parish, informed about the work and action taken by the Vestry at the most recent meeting.

After opening prayer and approval of the April minutes, Tom Linder presented a summary of key points from the Finance meeting the previous week.

Included:

- Our PPP loan continues to be used to pay for salaries and will be exhausted by next month. If the loan is forgiven, it will be a positive boost for our budget this year.
- Groups have been slow to return to building use, and building revenue, though slowly increasing, is still lower than pre-pandemic levels. Chinese day care is still paying a decreased amount due to low numbers of children. AA has returned, and spiritual direction use is increasing; music rental groups are still meeting for lessons on-line.
- Offerings were less than expected this month, due to pre-paid pledges for the entire year. Overall, pledge offerings are higher than projected budget for the year. (Thank you to all who have and continue to give so generously!)

New business:

- We are waiting for a date from Bituminous to schedule our parking lot re-surfacing. We requested a Friday, because the parking lot cannot be used for 24 hours after work is completed.
- A recommendation from Finance to approve the request from the giving garden team for \$1371 to expand the size of the garden was approved.
- A toilet overflowed in the Day care area, and the cost of clean-up and carpet

replacement will be covered by our insurance, which will include a reimbursement of the hours of work by our church members.

- A list of proposed tasks and staging for an exploratory team was presented to the Vestry. The team will explore options for converting the Dellwood property and surrounding land into an income generating source for St. Christopher's, consistent with our mission of service and presence of Christ in the community. It is anticipated that team selection will begin soon.

- Vestry liaisons shared updates on the various groups throughout St. Christopher's with which they work.

- The Vestry approved the suspension of the Adult forum/Zoom coffee hour for the summer, beginning June 6 when we return to one Sunday service at 9:30. Adding an in-person coffee hour after that service is under consideration, after review of the new ECMN guidelines for re-gathering just issued.

- Fr. Randy has been in discussion with Anna Doherty, Rector of Christ church in Woodbury, about sharing resources and working together with our youth programs.

- We are creating and placing visitor cards in the pews so that people new to our church will have the option to let us know who they are and can be contacted if they desire; they will replace the envelopes that combined contact information with an implied gift-giving obligation!

The meeting ended with Compline.

Please feel free to contact any of our Vestry members if you have questions or comments. The minutes of the meeting will be available after they have been approved at the next Vestry meeting, June 21.

Cultivating Giving Garden hands

We have planted the Giving Garden and now seek helping hands. We hope some of you will volunteer in the garden for a week or two (or more), as all the produce goes to our hungry neighbors served by the food shelf on Rice Street.

Please sign up using this [online Google document](#) or, if that is not feasible or convenient, by contacting Allison Jensen (allisoncampbelljensen@gmail.com; 651-492-5931) with your preferred week(s). We need folks at the start to weed and water; after 20 days or so, we can start harvesting radishes.

Please join us as we pray for a bountiful harvest.

Some gardeners are members of the Green Team, so we remind you that eating a diet light on meat and heavy on vegetables is better for you and better for the earth



In-Person Worship

We ask that all persons attending worship services continue registering on-line at the church website. This will help us better prepare for the number of persons attending.

Sunday service will move to ONE service at 9:30 AM for the Summer, indoors or out.

Wednesday 12:15 pm services, will be in the church, not the chapel (no sign-up needed at this time).

We are using Sign Up Genius because this program simplifies the process on our end, so as not to create a lot of extra work for the office. It helps us ensure that we don't get too many people, and it creates a list to identify who is present. Please go to this link to register using Sign Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADA92EA2F9C25-church>

If signing up online is difficult, you may call the office to be registered on Sign Up Genius.

The Circle of Life:

Greetings Fellow Faith Family,

Back in February, you may recall reading or hearing the Vestry Pulse of the Parish from Senior Warden Mike Sirany and yours truly. We shared a focus for our parish in the years ahead:

It's Not About Me! It's About We! It's All About Us!

Revival: Energizing Our Faith Community through Involvement and Stewardship

It is based on 2018 St. Christopher's Congregational Survey Top Three priorities:

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3. Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.

Since then I have been sharing a presentation entitled, **The Circle of Life: The Lifeblood of our Faith Community** to members of our St. Christopher's teams via Zoom. Perhaps some of you have participated in it already by virtue

of you serving on one of the parish teams I presented to in March and April?

I would be honored to have you participate in this 20-30 minute Zoom interactive presentation on one of the following days in early June. Please copy the link to the day and time that works for you and put on your calendar.

Topic: Circle of Life #5

Time: **Jun 1, 2021 04:00 PM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082140349?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082140349?pwd=R295QUg0bDVDSGF1aE5ESWQwcmh3dz09)

[pwd=R295QUg0bDVDSGF1aE5ESWQwcmh3dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082140349?pwd=R295QUg0bDVDSGF1aE5ESWQwcmh3dz09)

Meeting ID: 880 8214 0349

Passcode: 044235

Topic: Circle of Life #6

Time: **Jun 2, 2021 06:30 PM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82794554687?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82794554687?pwd=WWd0YXFYb0tEd3Y0aXY4TFJoajFqQT09)

[pwd=WWd0YXFYb0tEd3Y0aXY4TFJoajFqQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82794554687?pwd=WWd0YXFYb0tEd3Y0aXY4TFJoajFqQT09)

Meeting ID: 827 9455 4687

Passcode: 019013

Topic: Circle of Life #7

Time: **Jun 3, 2021 09:30 AM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88322983289?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88322983289?pwd=ZkFPa3ZHVGlPStdleEpNM1MxUlpUOT09)

[pwd=ZkFPa3ZHVGlPStdleEpNM1MxUlpUOT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88322983289?pwd=ZkFPa3ZHVGlPStdleEpNM1MxUlpUOT09)

Meeting ID: 883 2298 3289

Passcode: 551177

If none of these dates/times work for you, please let me know. I am willing to do personal presentations to folks too! Thanks for all you do for our faith family!
Chris Mayr

CALENDAR for JUNE

2 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6 Sunday - Pentecost 2

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

9 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

11 Friday

11 AM - Keystone Mobile Food Shelf - West parking lot

13 Sunday - Pentecost 3

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

14 Monday

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

15 Tuesday

11:30 AM *Meals on Wheels - Offsite*

16 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

20 Sunday - Pentecost 4 - Father's Day

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

21 Monday - 1st Day of Summer!

6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall, in person

23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

24 Thursday

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands - Parish Hall

27 Sunday - Pentecost 5

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

28 Monday - e-Traveler Deadline for July

30 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

Please note that some of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building or on the grounds. Those groups are not on this calendar. Always check with the church office before scheduling a meeting.

Last Words

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

I am enjoying hearing people in the building again!
Children in the Day Care - sometimes in English, and
sometimes in Chinese. The laughter is universal!

I am also enjoying seeing parish members, when they
are here for Wednesday worship, or working in the
building or in the gardens.

Ruth Thillen



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. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Current Schedule

Recorded Services for each Sunday are on our website and on Facebook

Sunday: 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist - by Sign Up!

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Current Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.
Roseville, MN 55113
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STAY CONNECTED

