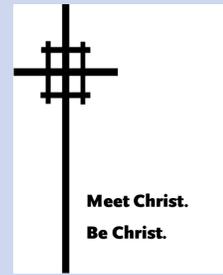


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

For the Beauty of the Earth *by Fr. Randy+*

The outside temperature was rising along with the humidity. It was time to gather my thoughts about writing the monthly eTraveler article, but my mind was in a bit of a funk. I closed my eyes and meditated on the recent happenings in my life, took a deep breath and exhaled slowly. As I opened my eyes once more I looked down at my hands at the keyboard of the computer. I was taken aback a bit—as I noted how my hands have become “older,” *you know*, more wrinkled and covered with “*freckles*,” or, *I mean age spots*. They ached. And, I noticed the fine lines of black dirt still crammed into the deep crevices and under my nails—*dirt which I had obviously unsuccessfully scrubbed away moments earlier in the sink!*

It was not only my hands that ached My entire body was *angry* with me--already strained and sore from the eight hours I had spent working in the yard; pulling weeds, cutting back shrubs, cutting down scrub trees along the perimeter of our wetland area, washing deck furniture, and the filling of flower boxes and planters. Oh, the things we do **For the Beauty of the Earth!**

Just a week ago, Kim and I were on vacation to Kansas City to see kids and grandkids. One of the favorite things we do together on this springtime visit is to plant their very large vegetable garden. This year we extended our efforts and did some landscape work—digging up perennials and replanting them in other areas of their yard. It is backbreaking work, but at the same time it is the

blessing of breaking the cycle of our everyday activities—to once more make an emotional and physical and intentional connection to the wonders of God's creation in this world. **For the Beauty of the Earth**, indeed!

As we traversed the great State of Iowa on our return home, we marveled in the scale and scope of enormous farms—watching the high-tech farming methods in play as ginormous eight-wheeled tractors plowed and pulled behind them seeding implements nearly 100 feet wide. We watched intently the livestock, birds, and wild creatures sharing the bounty of the biosphere—*each one amazing to behold*.

All of this pointed my heart and mind to the observation of Rogation Days in our church calendar. It is rarely celebrated beyond agrarian communities these days, and is traditionally observed on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. Anciently, the observance consisted of an outdoor procession which culminated in a special celebration of the Eucharist. Hymns, psalms, canticles, and anthems are sung during the procession, along with prayers and blessings **For the Beauty of the Earth**.

The following is a portion of the Rogation Procession celebration, found in The Book of Occasional Services (2003):

“For favorable weather, temperate rains, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all your creatures, we pray to you, O Lord.

For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needful for your people, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age, we pray to you, O Lord.

Almighty and everlasting God. Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon this world and grant that it may serve to your glory and the welfare of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

I believe the celebration of Rogation Days still has a significant and crucial place in the cycle of our shared lives together as children of God and followers of Jesus, and partakers of the bounty of creation.

My heartfelt hope and prayer for you, is that *this very day* you take a personal Rogation Day procession of your own through your neighborhood or park or garden. Witness the delightful abundance of all the wonders of nature we share. Be intentional in intimate prayers of thankfulness to God and with great joy lift up praise and blessing **For the Beauty of the Earth!**

We are blessed beyond measure. God love you.
Randy+

Music Notes



Karla Cole

**Director of Music
Ministries**

If you're like me, you're easily overwhelmed by the events of recent days. It's difficult to find a happy

medium between being an informed citizen and being completely freaked out on a regular basis. So, I will share the latest piece of driftwood that I'm clinging to as I bob up and down in the out-of-control-ness that has become life in these United States.

First, the background: Gabriel Fauré was a composer, pianist, organist, teacher whose long life bridged the Romantic style of Chopin to the 20th century style of Aaron Copland. Fauré was a master of French Art Song, wrote elegant, lyrical chamber and solo piano music, and penned glorious, timeless choral works. He was known as a kind and thoughtful man with a tendency to depression that sometimes interfered with his composing. For him, and here's the money quote, art and music existed "to elevate us as far as possible above everyday existence." I wish there was an elevator that would do that, but *en lieu* of the physical, I'll take the metaphorical. When I'm playing or singing, there is no pending civil war or global strife, no misery from a mass shooting or a natural catastrophe. All of that can wait until I come back to earth, armed with the solace that music gives me.

The choir knows as well as I do, the magnificent power of music to lift up and to heal. Sadly, we've had a rather abrupt end to our choir season as we became our own little super-spreader event this last week. As I write, seven of us have tested positive for COVID. Most have gotten off with minor symptoms, none seem to be getting seriously ill. We are a testament to the wisdom of being vaxxed and boosted – to my knowledge, we all have been fully jabbed. But we lost our last weeks and the opportunity to sing some of the loveliest music we've learned this year. It's a disappointment.

I have frequently written in these pages about the emotional and physical health benefits of music and music-making, particularly for the young and the aging. I won't reiterate all of that now. You can stop me at coffee hour if you're curious. But I would like to offer again, the opportunity to actually make music yourself this summer. Minnesota's fourth graders tootle on recorders every year. It's a mandatory part of the music curriculum. They get their plastic recorders in fun colors and start in immediately with BAG pieces – because the first three notes you learn are B, A and G. You haven't lived until you've heard a whole classroom of recorders playing Hot Cross Buns. For adults, beginning to play the recorder is less Mother Goose rhymes and more global folk songs, but just as much fun. If you read music, the early pages of the instruction book go pretty quickly. But if you don't read music, this will teach you, very simply and methodically, and not that much slower than for your friends who already read music. The financial investment is minimal, the time required is maybe 15 minutes a day, the satisfaction from learning something new and adding some beauty to your life is, wait for it, priceless!

If you're interested, send me an email or catch me at coffee hour. I would love to have a home-grown recorder consort at St. Christopher's. Lately, I've been coaching the recorder trio from St. Mary's. They've been playing off and on over the years since I was the music director there in the early 2000's. They'd like to be more on than off now, and so have started up regular rehearsals again. They're actually coming to play at St. Christopher's on June 19th, and you'll be able to hear what an adult recorder troop can do with a little persistence. Actually, what we could do if you want to come and persist with me!

In the meantime, there'll be musical offerings from various members over the summer – soloists, instrumentalists, bell-ringers, choir members. I hope even you 8:00-ers will enjoy having a little music in your lives!

Happy Summer!
Karla

Footprints June 2022 News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Director of
Children's Ministries**

We finished up the program year on Sunday, May 22nd, with a Sunday School lesson about the Holy Eucharist, and a service project. During the service we presented Erica Norton, our graduating senior, with her fleece blanket.





Sunday, June 5th – Family Worship

This is the day of Pentecost, so we have some special activities planned. Families of all ages, shapes, and sizes are welcome to join us at 4:00 pm!



Vacation Bible School 2022!

Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God
July 25-29 9am-noon

Invite your family and friends to join you!

I am getting VERY excited for Vacation Bible School in July. **Early Bird registration** (save \$5) ends on **June 5th**.

If you know any children age 3 – 5th grade who might be interested, please send them to our website www.stchristophers-mn.org/vbs for more information and a link to the registration form, or give them my email address and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Another Safe Emails Reminder

We have had a new round of scam emails. Please be aware that St. Christopher's wardens use their own emails, not one that seems to say "wardens."

Please always try to use cyber-security best practices of verifying the identity/addresses of persons on the internet. Make sure that the "reply" email you send is going to the person you intend, not a different address.

If you receive a scam email, the FBI has a scam reporting site online: www.usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds. It is easy to report there.

Summer Services

Please remember that we are in Summer hours; one service at 9:30 Am on Sundays.

June 5th is PENTECOST

Please wear red -any shade- to help represent the fire of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Amazing Grace!

Do you have a special grace that your family uses at mealtime? During our Food Truck Party VBS we will be talking about different graces, and I would LOVE to include your favorite! Please send your grace (more than one welcome) to me at marion@stchristophers-mn.org.

Do you use canned goods?

We are looking for clean soup (or other food) cans size 10-12 oz for a VBS craft project. If you have any of these cans, please wash them thoroughly and drop them off in the basket outside Marion's office. Bonus points if you remove the label!

Sunday, June 5th is Pentecost AND Family Worship!

Marion and Fr. Randy are making some special plans for this event. Families of **all** ages, shapes, and sizes are welcome! We meet at 4 PM.

ECMN Night at the MN Twins

There are 17 of us sitting together in the Family Section on Tuesday, June 21st. If you'd like to come along, contact Marion marion@stchristophers-mn.org

Sunday Ministries

We have so very many ways to serve at St. Christopher's on Sunday mornings, and this is a great time to jump in and start something new! Here are just a few of those opportunities:

- Ushers (Greet folks, pass out bulletins, etc)
- Lectors (read scripture)
- Crucifer (lead the procession, help set the table for Eucharist)
- Intercessor (read prayers of the people)

These opportunities are scheduled on a quarterly basis, and each person serves approximately once a month (less often in the summer with combined services). For more information, please reach out to Marion Hunner. She will be working on the new schedule (July, August, September) very soon.

Green Team:

The Green Team has been working in our newly expanded giving garden. Vegetables have been planted and now is the time to sign up to spend a week tending the garden. Volunteers are needed to water, weed, and then harvest the produce that will be donated to Keystone Community food shelf. Look for a Giving Garden sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall, or contact Jeff Jensen to sign up.

The Green Team has been reading the book Drawdown, edited by Paul Hawken, and discussing it at our monthly meetings. The book is a collection of short essays that identifies ways that collective action can help slow climate change. Consider checking it out!

After a chilly Spring, Summer is finally here. The Green Team is encouraging you to leave your car at home and bike to church on June 5th. Biking is a great way to get exercise and to reduce your carbon footprint.

Larry Jones
Green Team

Pulse of the Parish

Vestry meeting held on May 16, 2022

This brief report is to keep you, our faith family, informed about the work and actions taken by the Vestry on May 16.

Finance: Finances continue to be positive. There has been a discrepancy in heating costs compared to previous heating seasons that are being examined.

We received the news that as a result of the pandemic ECMN closed its fiscal year with a \$314,600 surplus which would be distributed equally among faith communities in the form of a one-time, \$2000 gift. Churches were asked if they would like to receive their share or deny it for distribution among those with greater needs. At the recommendation of the Finance team, the Vestry approved to deny our one-time gift. All agreed that St. Christopher's is blessed with a healthy budget, a reality that does not hold true for all parishes.

Children's Ministries: The weather wasn't very inviting but the kiddos delivered May Day "baskets" to our neighbors across the street.

Meanwhile, the Garden team is busy at work hauling compost, building trellises, and planting the garden. They have received feedback from Keystone regarding the best vegetables to grow for those who access Keystone's food shelf.

Green Team will be participating in their yearly Highway Clean-up today at 9:00 am between services. Each year they clean up along Hamline Ave. between County Rd B and C and on highway 36 on/off-ramp. They also discussed wanting to partake next year in "No Mow May". This program encourages limiting lawn mowing practices during the month of May in order to provide early season foraging resources for pollinators that emerge in the spring. The City of Roseville supports this endeavor.

After no use over the last 2 years, the kitchen team gave the kitchen some needed attention. Expired food was disposed of via organic composting and the kitchen and storage room were organized.

Lemonade on the Lawn will be starting on May 29th. Consideration and a plan were made for those needing accommodations. How to get assistance will be

announced.

The Vestry is underway planning for St. Christopher's Day on July 31. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

We are happy to announce that a contract with a new cleaning crew has been signed. The Green Team Crew will start next month. We expect a much greater level of service from this provider.

A big shout out to Jeff Jensen and all his hard labor in the garden!

Please feel free to contact any of our Vestry members if you have questions or comments. The meeting minutes will be available after they have been approved at the next Vestry meeting on June 20th. Thank you!

CALENDAR for JUNE

1 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church
3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM
6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

2 Thursday

3:34 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM
5:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 9 PM

3 Friday

3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

4 Saturday

5 Sunday – PENTECOST - Wear RED!

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church
10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn
4:00 PM Family Worship – Church

6 Monday

10:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library
3:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 8 PM
3:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM

7 Tuesday

10:00 AM O.A. - #218
2:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6 PM
7:00 PM Recorder Rehearsal – Church
7:00 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall, outdoors

8 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church
3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM
6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

9 Thursday

3:34 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM
5:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 9 PM

10 Friday

3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

11 Saturday

12 Sunday - TRINITY

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church

10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

13 Monday

10:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

3:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 8 PM

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

6:45 PM Finance Team – Parish Hall

14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

10:00 AM O.A. - #218

2:00 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

2:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6 PM

7:00 PM Recorder Rehearsal – Church

7:00 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall, outdoors

15 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

16 Thursday

10:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

3:34 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM

5:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 9 PM

17 Friday

3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

18 Saturday

19 Sunday – Pentecost 2, Proper 7C

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church

10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

20 Monday

3:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 8 PM

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

6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

21 Tuesday

10:00 AM O.A. - #218

2:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6 PM

7:00 PM Recorder Rehearsal – Church

7:00 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall, outdoors
7:00 PM – Meditation Group - #218/Chapel – to 8:30 PM

22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church
3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM
6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

23 Thursday

3:34 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM
5:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 9 PM

24 Friday

3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

25 Saturday

26 Sunday – Pentecost 3, Proper 8C

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church
10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

27 Monday - *e-Traveler* Deadline for July

3:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 8 PM
3:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM

28 Tuesday

10:00 AM O.A. - #218
2:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6 PM
7:00 PM Recorder Rehearsal – Church
7:00 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall, outdoors

29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church
3:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM
6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

30 Thursday

3:34 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7 PM
5:00 PM Cello Lessons – Music Room – to 9 PM

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

Last Words

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

We kick off June with Pentecost, and then as we move to Trinity, school will be out for the summer! Wow!



I hope you have all survived the recent storms with minimal damage to your homes. I do love a good thunderstorm, but the wind can be just too much.

We still have the Xcel project going on along Hamline Avenue, and it is interesting to see where they are working or digging each week. It has been pretty quiet in OUR parking lot, so far!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Chris Mayr, Sr. Warden; Karen Hartman, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman; Patrick Ahern; Cheryl Bailey;
Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican; Ann DePaolis-Jones;
Alexander Kun; Jeanna McLoughlin; Leslie Norton

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Summer Schedule:

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Sunday: 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Lemonade on the Lawn

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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STAY CONNECTED

