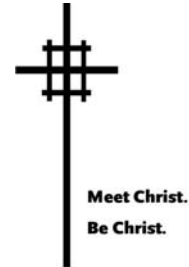


From: St. Christopher's Episcopal Church <office@stchristophers-mn.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 2:05 PM
To: office@stchristophers-mn.org
Subject: March 2019 e-Traveler

Issue #75 | FEBRUARY 2019

St. Christopher's
e-Traveler



[Visit our Website](#)

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Joel Norton, Sr. Warden; Kathy Ackerman, Jr. Warden
Sue Triebenbach, Clerk; Darlene Cross, Treasurer

Erin Bowman; Mark Brilowski; Karen Hartman; Barbara Hovey; Chris Huntley;
Josh Kattelman; Tom Linder; Al Reedstrom; 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 REGULAR Sunday Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM Fellowship
9:30-10:20 AM Children's Education-Room 107
9:30-10:15 AM Youth Education-Youth Room
9:30-10:15 AM Adult Education-Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:30 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

Dear Parishioners,

As I begin the process of saying good-bye to yet another congregation—the fate of the transitional priest—it now dawns on me why one of my favorite quotes comes from T.S.Eliot’s poem *East Coker*. Actually, there are two lines, the first line of the poem and the last line. To wit: “In my beginning is my end.” And then, “In my end is my beginning.” The space between beginnings and endings admits of various differences. With some of our occupations—entering into a car wash—the distance is very predictable and short. With others, like the work of interim ministry, there is the negotiated start date but the end date is a guess. What one is aware of in this occupation for both the leader and the congregation is that relatively speaking, the end will be in sight at the beginning.

When “things go well” as they have from my perspective here at St. Christopher’s, you rather forget about the end as you become lost in the work you are called to do. It’s bit like a good dinner party: at end of the night it’s hard to believe it went so quickly. It doesn’t seem long but short. So, with me as your transitional priest.

We’re just about at the end. As of this writing, March 17th isn’t far away. What blessing for me to have been called here to serve you. There have been welcome challenges and surprises along with the daily bread of being an interim. Thanks for being receptive, for listening, for sharing, for being who you are—a great congregation. Deo Gratias!

Fr. Daniel

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**
Deacon

As I write this, snow is gently falling outside my windows, as it seemingly has been for most of this past month. In fact, we have had three feet of snow fall this past February, and as I said, it is still snowing and therefore we are still counting! It is almost impossible to see around the corners of intersections, streets, parking lots, and sidewalks, and driveways are decidedly narrower than they were just a few short weeks ago. All of this brings to my mind the question “can there ever be too much of good thing?” The answer is YES! And then again . . .

While there are some, even many, things that can exceed the amount that constitutes a good thing, there are other things for which an abundance of never-ending limits is most welcome. Take Grace, for example, or Love, or Forgiveness. These all exist in our lives, in our interactions with others and in our interaction with God. And we often talk about one or two or even all three of these during the season of Lent. We are reminded of God’s Love for us, of the sacrifice that was made on our behalf, of the Love of God that is so deep and so unconditional that nothing can destroy it. And we are often, during the season of Lent, reminded that because God’s love is so deep and strong for us that we have been forgiven by God’s grace, for any transgressions that we may have committed. It is a time when we put ashes on our foreheads, fast and pray in remembrance of both God’s forgiveness and God’s love for us, God’s children.

And through it all, God’s grace surrounds us, supports us and comforts us. For it is by God’s grace that we are made aware of God’s love for us, and experience God’s forgiveness. And we know that there can never be too much of those three things in our lives. An abundance of love, forgiveness, and grace is something that can never be too great. For unlike the feet of snow that can clearly be defined as “abundance,” these open our view rather than obstruct it; lighten the way to follow Jesus rather than block our way. We do need, however, to shovel a bit, to make sure that the path we are following is clear. And by shoveling, I mean that there is more to Lent than just having ashes on your forehead, or giving up chocolate. A holy Lent, a productive Lent, takes a bit of action and effort on our parts to work.

Lenten discipline is often relegated to more passive, and certainly more private expressions of devotion and discipline. And while I understand that Matthew’s Gospel for Ash Wednesday reminds us to “do things in secret,” I think that perhaps more is required of us during this season of preparation and

devotion. We have, after all, in more than one lesson in the past few weeks, been reminded that we are to love one another as we have been loved, forgive one another as we have been forgiven, show grace to all as grace has been shown to us. Lent calls us into practicing the abundance of forgiveness, love, and grace that we have been given with all of our neighbors. Lent calls us to seek out the quiet to dwell on the word, to read, to pray. Lent calls into something much more transformative than giving up chocolate or soda or Caribou for forty days. Lent calls us into the ongoing transformation of ourselves to be God's love, forgiveness, and grace in the world.

Please don't misunderstand me. You should all be in church on Ash Wednesday (12:15 or 7:00 pm, your choice) as we enter into this most holy of all seasons. And there many ways to deepen your prayer and devotional lives to take advantage of as well. Prayerfully consider coming to the Way of the Cross on Wednesday nights at 7:00, or check out our wonderful library for devotional guides for the upcoming forty days. But then take what you have discerned in thought and prayer, and bring it into the neighborhood. There are ongoing activities here at St. Christopher's that you can take part in, or perhaps you have thought of other ways that we, as a faith community, could bring God's grace to our neighbors. If so, find me! I am always ready to listen to and help a new idea!

The snow keeps falling, but we are resilient folk here in Minnesota. I can hear shovels as I write, and I know that although the streets and sidewalks will be narrower, we as community have made the path a little easier for all of us. Perhaps the message in all of this, that the gift we have been given is to make sure that the abundance we have been given can, by our will, transform us into Christ's hands and feet on this earth. Let us all take the time this Lent to discern our path and follow it with "gladness and singleness of heart!"

Amen, Deacon Janet

Music Notes



Karla Cole

**Director of
Music Ministries**

Our last gasp before Lent is a lovely Choral Evensong for the Transfiguration. We revel in melody and harmony in the fading light of the Epiphany season. Come and join us for this short service of music, scripture, prayer, and a little

more music. And then stay for Afternoon Tea. It's a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon in late winter, or as we know it this year, The Endless Winter.

Choral Evensong is the service of Evening Prayer enhanced by the music of the choir. It was established in the Prayer Book of 1662 and is still sung in cathedrals on a more or less daily basis, and it holds a place in the traditions of many parish churches as well. The next time you're in England, do find a cathedral for an evensong. It is a lovely respite for the footsore tourist to sit in the choir stalls and read over the shoulders of the choristers in the candlelight.

Even in the earliest Christian era, the passing of time was marked by prayer. The monastic cycle of prayer had been established in the 4th century and by the time of the Reformation in the 16th century, the service of Vespers had become an elaborate musical celebration in the evening. In England, the prayer book writer, Thomas Cranmer distilled the Vesper tradition with the craving for liturgical simplicity into the services of Morning and Evening Prayer. A provision for adding music gave free reign to the likes of Thomas Tallis and others of his generation to lay the foundation of the Anglican choral tradition. Our service features music by living American composers, many of whom are women, who would never have written music in Tallis' day. Even in the 19th century, women composers would have had to publish under their husband's name or a pseudonym. Because the eTraveler deadline is technically past as I write this, I will restrain myself from wading into that subject at the moment.

In most of our Episcopal liturgies, the worshiper speaks with the lips and meditates with the heart. But at Choral Evensong, the worshiper is freed to focus on the latter, to be lifted up, consoled, inspired. And to allow the prayers and praises of the choir to speak for all. It's meditation. With music. And tea. It doesn't get better than that!

Karla Cole

Footprints MARCH 2019 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner
Children's Ministries
Director



Sunday, March 3rd – Join us for Children’s Chapel at 10:30. We will explore a kid-friendly version of the Liturgy of the Word and then join the congregation at the Peace. We will also be putting away the Alleluias at the end of today’s 10:30 liturgy. **THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THIS SUNDAY.**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. There are several options for family Lenten Disciplines on our website under ‘Resources.’ <http://www.stchristophers-mn.org/family.html> . There will also be some printed resources available during coffee hour on 3/3 and 3/10.

I do want to highlight two particular Lenten resources:

Make Room, A child’s Guide to Easter and Lent, by Laura Alary. This is a great book that helps families look at Lent as a time to Make Time, Make Space, and Make Room. The book is readily available online and in bookstores. Unfortunately, it is not available at Ramsey County Libraries.



An Illustrated Lent for Families. See Marion for a printed copy (or she can send you the PDF). The seven weeks of devotions are meant to be done together as a family once a week. Each devotion is just one page and includes a scripture, some questions (a few very accessible ones and some Going Deeper questions as well), a suggested activity/practice to focus on during the week, and a short prayer. There are additional resources included - you can use as much or as little of the devotion as you like.

Looking Ahead!

VBS 2019 has been set! Mark your calendars for July 22-26 from 9am-noon. This program is for age 3 – 5th grade. Those who have completed 6th grade or higher are encouraged to volunteer. Registration and more details will come after Easter. For information and pictures from previous programs, go to <https://www.stchristophers-mn.org/vbs.html> See many opportunities for children, families and youth: [2019 ECMN Camps & Retreats](#)



Youth News



Chad O'Leary
Youth Ministries
Director

Youth Group

Please join us on March 6 (5:30-8:00PM) in the youth room. We will share a meal together, discuss the meaning/history of the season of Lent, and then attend the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00PM. Please join us!

Native American Summer Pilgrimage Team Meeting Dates: April 14, April 28, May 12, June 2, June 16 & June 30

Meetings will start immediately following the 10:30 service (9:30 when summer schedule starts). Unless more time is warranted, our meetings will be approximately one hour in length. Light food & beverages will be provided!

St. Christopher's wishes safe travels to all families who will be voyaging to locations near and far during this Spring Break season!

P P P & S - Pensioners Partying, Praying and Sharing

P P P & S Meets MARCH 20th!

Join us at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall for a salad lunch, and Becky Lucas and her Vietnamese sisters will be talking about their experiences in having a Vietnamese family living with Becky's family when she was a child, and her Vietnamese sisters' experiences living with Becky & her family.

Green Team

Lent is right around the corner starting on March 6th. For this season of Lent, let's put our faith into action and renew our commitment to God, by focusing our Lenten fast on stewarding and preserving God's creation. "Researchers estimate that **more than 8.3 billion tons of plastic** has been produced since the early 1950's. About 60% of that plastic has ended up in either a landfill or the natural environment. For lent consider "giving up plastic"!

- Carry reusable shopping bags
- Give up bottled water, carry a water bottle
- Carry your own containers for take out food or leftovers
- Say no to drinking straws!!

- Use washable/reusable cloth bags for produce
- Buy from bulk bins (bring your own jars or reusable bags)
- Pick up any plastic you see when you are out walking

We all need to do our part to help preserve God's creation!



MARCH Calendar Highlights!

3 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 4:00 PM Evensong and Tea Reception

6 ASH WEDNESDAY

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes - Church
 5:30 PM Youth Group - Youth Room, Parish Hall
 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes - Church

7 6:30 PM Soup Supper and Green Team Presentation - Parish Hall

8 1:00 PM Couples Bridge - Parish Hall

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS! SPRING AHEAD!

10 LENT 1

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11 5:30 PM Finance Committee - Parish Hall

13 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office
 6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony
 7:00 PM Way of the Cross - Church
 7:00 PM Green Team - Library
 7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

14 1:00 PM Knitting - Library

17 LENT 2

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - followed by a celebration in honor of Fr. Daniel's 50th Ordination to the Priesthood!

18 6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall

19 *Meals on Wheels - Offsite*

20 11:30 AM P P P & S Luncheon - Parish Hall

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:00 PM Way of the Cross - Church

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

21 10:30 AM Hearts & Hands - Parish Hall

24 LENT 3

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

25 e-Traveler Deadline

27 11:30 AM Blues Buster BINGO Lunch - Parish Hall

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7:00 PM Way of the Cross - Church

7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

28 **5:30 PM Community Dinner** - Parish Hall

31 LENT 4

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Please note: These are the parish events occurring this month. Please remember that many outside groups use our building daily. If you need to use a building space, please check with the office to see that your time, date and space are available.

Last Words

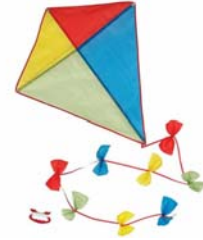


I hope you have enjoyed the March *e-Traveler*!

Finally Lent has begun; the days are getting longer a little at a time; the snow will fade into the ground soon, and the gardeners among us dream of getting our hands into the dirt.

See you all soon!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator



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