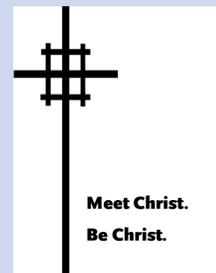


St. Christopher's

# e-Traveler



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## From the Rector



**The Rev.  
Randy W. Johnson**

**Rector**

### **For Those Who Seek the Truth** *by Fr. Randy+*

If your home is anything like ours, I am certain you have been watching in horror the attack upon the free people of Ukraine by military forces under the command of Russia's President Putin. Prayers are raised, as well as sheer outrage, at this barbaric attempt to subjugate this proud people once again as a Russian Imperial State. Kim has been especially affected by this tragedy, as she has a significant connection to the people of Ukraine.

Several years ago, she was a member of a dental surgery mission for The Shepherd's Foundation, completing three international missions with this faith-based health ministry. Their work was concentrated in the region of the Chernobyl nuclear generating plant- which was the cause of such devastation and misery for this country and people. The team concentrated upon doing a significant amount of dental care for children abandoned to the orphanages in the surrounding area. There was nearly an insatiable need for health care for these forgotten ones, many with multiple significant medical needs not being met in their dire situation. Kim has good friends from the Ukrainian health care community still living in the region, and is greatly in fear for their safety.

With the rapidly changing information landscape of the terror in Ukraine, we are spending much time listening to the reports by the BBC and DW German Public Media. Both of these media outlets are doing their best to provide timely and insightful information regarding this aggression by Russia on Ukraine. And let's be clear, violent acts such as this upon your neighbor also directly impacts

you—you who live in the house right next door.

Which begs the question; **Where Do We Seek the Truth?**

Misinformation, falsehoods, and bald-faced lies seems to be the matter of course in these times. People seem to “*cherry pick*” the truth that is most appealing or acceptable to their taste or world view- *whether it is factually true or not seems to not matter a dither!*

Writer Michael Card, in his book, *A Violent Grace: Meeting Christ At The Cross*, has insightful words for us as we navigate this landscape **Seeking the Truth.**

*“It’s easy for us to say we love the truth more than everything. We try to teach our children to speak it. We require it of our governments and our bank statements. We chisel the word into the granite of our courthouses. We swear to tell the whole of it and nothing but it before a judge.”*

*“But let’s admit it: Truth can cause a lot of trouble when it collides with beliefs or behaviors that are wrong, but which we cherish. Then we must choose. Will we stand for the truth whatever the cost? Or will we deny it for the sake of convenience?”*

The teachings of Jesus--*the Nazarene carpenter-rabbi*—turned the world upside-down for a lot of people. And, most of them were good people. His words and actions shook them out of their comfortable ignorance. He would tell them things that were hard to understand—even *things they really did not want to hear!*

Perhaps his most challenging word is that he would simply present Himself as the answer—**The Truth.**

In John 14:6, Jesus shares the most incendiary truth-telling of all: an itinerant preacher from an insignificant Jewish town declares, **“I am the Truth.”**

The Incarnation changes everything—*everything!* The Way is not just a collection of wisdom sayings—*it is a living, breathing, in-the-flesh person.* It is no longer just the practice of strictly following correct doctrine—*it is a person!*

Above all else—Jesus is love Incarnate. The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, continually reminds us, *“If it’s not about love, it’s not about God.”*

**God in Jesus is Truth and Love. Seek Truth—Seek God.**

The Book of Common Prayer, Form VI, Prayers of the People states:

For this community, the nation, and the world;

*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and **all who seek the Truth.***

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ; Pray for the people of Ukraine, those who

seek to comfort and care for them, for the world community desperately seeking truth and peace, and we pray also for those who are doing violent harm upon our neighbors—that they, too, will be among **Those Who Seek the Truth** in Christ Jesus.

Randy+

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## Music Notes



**Karla Cole**

**Director of Music  
Ministries**

My husband's parents were planning to move back to England when his mother was pregnant with him. To hear his mother tell it, she was feeling "broody" (like a mother hen) and when the landlord kicked them out of their apartment because his German girlfriend was coming, they bought a house in suburban Toronto. They became Canadians. When Matt was ten, his family and a gaggle of English ex-pats moved to Des Moines, Iowa as Massey Ferguson re-located its headquarters to the heart of farming country. And now they were Americans.

When I was recently out of graduate school in Des Moines, I wanted to move home to Texas. But at the time, an oil shock was on and as I drove south on my job hunting trip, there were heavily loaded trucks, vans and U-hauls going north. And there weren't any jobs for idealistic musicians who wanted to move home. Back in Des Moines, I had four little jobs that kept the smallest wolves from the door, so Des Moines, it was. I also had a friend who had a friend who had run a personal ad in the *Des Moines Register and Tribune*, found a fabulous, successful man and was getting married. Not that I was desperate to get married, mind you, but all of my men friends were gay musicians, so there weren't any prospects there. My friend and I looked at one another and said, "I will if you will." Now she was gainfully employed, so her ad in the personals was very specific: Christian, non-smoker, educated, etc. But you had to pay by the letter, so I was on the budget plan: "SWF, 26, likes classical music and football." She got 12 responses, I got 72.

Yes, Matt was one of the 72. He and a friend of his were planning a cold weather camping trip to the Missouri River flyway to see the birds on the same weekend my ad was in the paper. They had cancelled their trip because the weather was supposed to be horrible. So Matt was home to read the paper and while he had never responded to other personal ads, for some reason, he responded to mine.

A few years and two children later, Matt worked for a small company that was

busy going belly-up. Consequently, we were unemployed that Thanksgiving and my cousin sent Matt the job ads from the *Star Tribune*. One of those led to the job that brought us to Minnesota and here we are. Hand of God? Fate? Plain old dumb luck? It's hard to say that all of the incremental steps that brought the two of us together and then to Minnesota were delicately orchestrated by the hand of God. And then, how can things just be so random? Does God really get involved in the minutia of our little lives? "And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." *Matthew 10:30*

In between the time that I started to write this piece and the time that I sat down to finish it, the world has turned upside down. While we were in church this morning, the Russian President Putin put his nuclear forces on high alert and there seemed to be a global shudder of apprehension. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian President Zelensky has vowed to stay in Kyiv and fight for his country's sovereignty. He's called on all Ukrainians to take up arms – they're putting how-to videos on tv for people to make their own Molotov cocktails and giving out automatic rifles and bullets to all able-bodied citizens. Do these little people really stand a chance against the might of the Russian army? If God is so powerful, then why is this happening?

Today I read about four brothers. Three of them were murdered by the Nazis. The great-grandson of the one who lived grew up to attain a law degree, but found that he had an aptitude for acting and comedy. He played the role of the President of Ukraine in a television series, and like Jesse Ventura and Donald Trump, parlayed that fame into public office. And thus, Volodymyr Zelensky, Jewish great-grandson of a Holocaust survivor played a president on tv and now is the President of Ukraine, leading the charge with his people in the fight of their lives. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." *Jeremiah 1:5*

I also read a piece by Anne Lamott today. She's as flummoxed by this turn of events as we all are in this "dark night of the collective soul." She reminisces about the wisdom of parents, tall fathers who can always "figure it out" and loving mothers who always "knew things." But there are some things even fathers and mothers can't fix. You have to be familiar with Lamott's quirky, conversational writing style to understand all of it, but she poses my eternal question: "Why would God allow such evil in this poor world? ...God knew that God could draw good out of evil, good which wouldn't happen if evil didn't happen in the first place." Okay, that's about the best answer I've ever gotten for my question. "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." *Romans 8:28*

I guess that means there'll be some good to come out of this mess, and we just have to have enough faith and fortitude to wait it out and see.

Blessings and peace,  
Karla





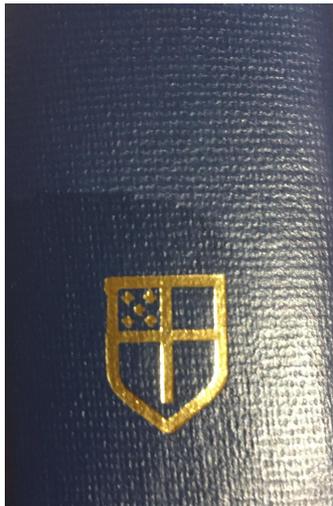
**Marion Hunner**

**Director of  
Children's Ministries**

**Sunday School:** We have been on hiatus as the COVID numbers spiked, and March is Spring Break month. We hope to return soon.

**Family Worship:** Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, is the first Sunday in Lent as well as the first Sunday of the month. When we gather for Family Worship, we will have a special ceremony with ashes, put away Alleluias, and create a Lenten Practice project to take home. Families of all ages, shapes, and sizes are welcome!

**Crosses, Crosses, Everywhere Crosses!** At our February Family Worship, we searched the sanctuary for crosses. We didn't count duplicates, and we started with crosses visible from the pews (anywhere in the pews). Before we met, I had found 11, but once the kids got started, they found an additional 6! Then we marched right up around the altar and into the sacristy and found 14 more. THEN, when we set the table for Eucharist, we found 5 more! It was lots of fun. How many crosses can you find? Here are a few . . .



**Mark your calendars for 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!

**Participants** are age 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Youth Volunteers** have completed 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Adult Volunteers** are . . . well, older than that!



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**ASH WEDNESDAY is MARCH 2nd**

Please join us for Ash Wednesday services at

12:15 PM or 7 PM. We will have imposition of Ashes and Eucharist.

During Lent, we will have **The Way of the Cross** every Wednesday evening at **6 PM**, in the church.



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## Lenten Retreat: Conversations with the Prodigal Son

**Saturday, March 19, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM** at St. Christopher's.  
Facilitated by poet Victor Klimoski.  
Cost: \$30 (includes refreshments).

Writers have been fascinated by the parable of the prodigal son for centuries. It touches something deep inside of us about God's compassion and our longing to be reconciled – within ourselves, with others, and across societal divisions. This retreat enters into the imaginations of writers and poets using short pieces selected to enter into a fresh conversation about and with the parable. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/prodigal-son> (No registration through St. Christopher's office.)

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## Green Team: Caring for God's Creation this Lenten Season

Dear friends,

We am assured, when we look around our St. Christopher's parking lot — with the array of older vehicles (keeping stuff out of landfills, yay!), Priuses (or are they Priui, like fungus and fungi?), Teslas, and other smaller, fuel efficient cars — that we are either a frugal parish, an Earth-loving parish, or a bit of both. Whatever moves us to use less fossil fuels, the results are good!

When we look around at our faces, even masked, when we sing a song like hymn 370, which begins "I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity. . . ," we see us joined by joy in God's creation and in each other.

For this Lent, which begins March 2, we on the Green Team offer you this prayer. Please consider praying it with us: Maybe once, maybe daily during Lent, whatever fits into your prayer practice.

You are above me O God  
You are beneath  
You are in air  
You are in earth  
You are beside me  
You are within.  
O God of heaven,  
you have made your home on earth  
In the broken body of Creation . . .  
Kindle within me  
a love for you in all things.

With love for God’s Creation and for each of you,  
Your St. Christopher’s Green Team

P.S. You are invited to join us at 7 p.m., the first Wednesday of the month, often on Zoom, which is super easy (as long as you have a computer, that is). Please contact Joel Norton at [joel.leslie23@gmail.com](mailto:joel.leslie23@gmail.com) to get on the email list to receive info and meeting agendas.

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## MEDITATION LOFT

For Prayer, Reflection or Reading

The Meditation loft, which is at the top of the stairs leading to the balcony, is restocked with candles for your personal time to reflect, pray or just read.

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## Pulse of the Parish

Vestry meeting held on February 19, 2022

This brief report is to inform you about the work and actions from the February 19th Vestry meeting.

Following a spiritually uplifting retreat conducted by Wood and Water Retreats, the Vestry meeting opened with Vestry Covenant reading. Senior Warden reviewed Vestry notebook inserts and urged Vestry to review Safe Church policies and sign up for Diocesan instruction.

For Finance, we’re looking good with our budget in month two of the first quarter. As for the Excel Energy use and acquisition of a Hamline Avenue easement, our faith family member attorney Chris Bowman is shepherding the endeavor through with the Bishop and Diocesan Standing Committee.

Junior Warden Karen Hartman led a discussion about continuing to have each Vestry member serve as a liaison to faith family teams for the year. She also led discussion about whether to call all faith family members like last year, or explore other endeavors to reach out in a caring way to our faith family. Goal is to have liaisons assigned by, and caring outreach activities addressed, at the March meeting.

New business: Vestry members discussed the 2021 Parochial Report, appreciating the work of Parish Administrator Ruth Thillen for completing it and providing detailed notes to help the Vestry understand information submitted. Having already been approved by the Finance Team, the Vestry approved the report for submission.

Fr. Randy gave us the latest on where we stand with respect to our operations and COVID19 policies and procedures. The Vestry affirmed that he will continue to provide our faith family with appropriate guidance with respect to safely conducting programs. With Lent almost upon us, and our desire to get back to some semblance of normal programming, starting on Ash Wednesday, March 2, Rev. Marilyn Baldwin will be leading a Lenten study called “Shepherd

Me, O God," on Zoom. Also plans are for the Stations of the Cross to be available to our faith family online.

Special shoutouts to:

the Hartmans for helping us get an odor remediation service; to Jeff Jensen, Bruce Warkentien, and Mark Brilowski for their help with that service as we try to resolve the sacristy smell;

to our faith family barrister Chris Bowman for his and his firm's continued help with the Excel energy easement opportunity;

and to Allison Jensen and Ann DePaolis Jones for providing food for the Vestry Retreat.

The meeting ended with Compline.

Please feel free to visit with any of our Vestry members after today's service if you have questions or comments. The minutes of the meeting will be available after they have been approved at the next Vestry meeting, Monday, March 21st. Thank you!

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### **It's Still Winter...**

Please sign up to shovel our sidewalks for a week this season. A sign up board is in the narthex - *completely open through March and the first week of April!* Any snowfall over 2 inches, our plow service shovels the walks, but, we need you for lighter snowfalls in between, or during the day as snow accumulates, because of course the plows come at night. Thank you!

Many, many thanks to those who have cleared sidewalks, whether it was "your week" or not!

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## **CALENDAR for MARCH**



### **1 Tuesday**

**8:30 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction - Gathering Room - to 5 PM*

**2 PM to 6 PM** - *Cello Lessons - #218/219*

**2 PM** *Private Spiritual Direction - Library*

**6 PM** *Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall*

### **2 Wednesday - ASH WEDNESDAY**

**10:45 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction - Library*

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

**1 PM** *Private Spiritual Direction - Library*

**3 PM to 7 PM** - *Cello Lessons - #218/219*

**6:30 PM** *Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room*

**7 PM Holy Eucharist** - Church

### **3 Thursday**

**10:00 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction - Library*

**3:45 PM to 7 PM** - *Cello Lessons - #218/219*

**4 Friday**

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

**5 Saturday**

**8:30 AM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library

**9 AM** Flute Lessons - Music Room

**6 Sunday - LENT 1**

**8 AM** Holy Eucharist

**10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist

**4 PM** Family Worship

**7 Monday**

**10:00 AM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library

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

**8 Tuesday**

**8:45 AM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library - to Noon

**1 PM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library

**2 PM to 6 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219

**6 PM** Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

**9 Wednesday**

**11 AM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library

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

**3 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219

**6 PM** Way of the Cross - Church

**6:30 PM** Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

**10 Thursday**

**2 PM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library

**3:45 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219

**11 Friday**

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

**12 Saturday**

**9 AM** Flute Lessons - Music Room

**SPRING AHEAD - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!**

**13 Sunday - LENT 2**

**8 AM** Holy Eucharist

**10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist

**14 Monday**

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

**15 Tuesday**

**8:30 AM** Private Spiritual Direction - Gathering Room - to 5 PM

**11:30 AM** Meals on Wheels - Offsite

**1 PM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library

**6 PM** Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

**16 Wednesday**

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

**6 PM Way of the Cross** - Church

**6:30 PM** - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

**17 Thursday**

**10:00 AM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library

**18 Friday**

**19 Saturday**

**9 AM** Prodigal Son Lenten Retreat - Parish Hall

**9 AM** Flute Lessons - Music Room

**20 Sunday - LENT 3**

**8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**21 Monday**

**6:45 PM** Vestry - Parish Hall

**22 Tuesday**

**2 PM to 6 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219

**6 PM** Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

**23 Wednesday**

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

**3 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219

**6 PM Way of the Cross** - Church

**6:30 PM** - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

**24 Thursday**

**3:45 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219

**25 Friday**

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

**26 Saturday**

**9 AM** Private Spiritual Direction - Library

**11 AM** Flute Lessons - Music Room

**27 Sunday - LENT 4**

**8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**28 Monday - e-Traveler Deadline!**

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

**29 Tuesday**

**2 PM to 6 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219

**6 PM** Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Parish Hall

**30 Wednesday**

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

**3 PM to 7 PM** - Cello Lessons - #218/219

**6 PM Way of the Cross - Church**

**6:30 PM - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room**

**31 Thursday**

**3:45 PM to 7 PM - Cello Lessons - #218/219**

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

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## Last Words



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

We now have a sign-up form on the front page of our website, so that any friends and family can opt-in to our e-Traveler and Parish Mail! A newcomer has already signed up, so I know the form works (whew!).

Have a peace-full Lent, and soon Spring will arrive and thaw us out. Keep your eyes out for our weekly Parish Mail emails, so you don't miss a thing!

Ruth Thillen  
Parish Administrator

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## St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

### **VESTRY:**

Chris Mayr, Sr. Warden; Karen Hartman, Jr. Warden  
Allison Jensen, 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 Regular Schedule:**

*Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.*

**Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist** in the Sanctuary  
9:30 AM Sunday School (Not on First Sundays)

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary**

**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  
651-633-4589 | Fax 651-633-7361 | [www.stchristophers-mn.org](http://www.stchristophers-mn.org)

STAY CONNECTED

