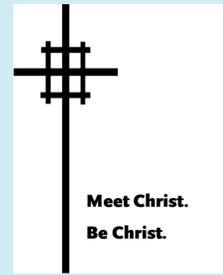


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

Home *by Fr. Randy*

Ephesians 2:11-22:

"You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are members of God's household."

Paul's proclamation of the Good News in his letter to the saints who are in Ephesus and the faithful in Jesus Christ has enormous impact on how we, as followers of Jesus, view the world. It's the good news of the Gospel that we, who were once strangers, have now come to live in God's home. This did not happen by the will of humankind, but only through the gift of Christ's dying for us on the Cross. Paul reminds us once more that the Cross is the most wondrous expression of God's generous love for us, and the most radical and extraordinary expression of God's hospitality.

This past week, our daughter Sarah and four year old granddaughter Vivian came for a short visit from Kansas. After a seven-hour drive, Vivian burst at warp speed into the house—jumping into the waiting arms of Grammie. Her brilliantly ice-blue eyes locked onto Grammie's as she squeezed a full-body embrace—wanting to never let go. *"I'm home, Grammie!"* she exclaimed. And Grammie said to her in a voice tone only a grandmother can, *"Yes--you know this is your house--always."*

And Paul is telling us in this letter that God's generosity is that of overflowing,

that he longs for each one of us, whoever we are, whether we feel like a stranger, or even carrying the burden of feeling unworthy. God continues to long for us to *'come home'*, to come and live with God forever. One could say that the entire Gospel is about God inviting and welcoming each one of us with the gracious word of *'welcome home.'*

John's Gospel in the 14th chapter has Jesus saying to his disciples, *'In my father's house there are many rooms. I am going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come and take you there, so that where I am you may be also.'* Again, a promise of God's extraordinary hospitality. And the greatest joy is that he invites us all; tax collectors, sinners and outcasts, people of all sorts and stripes—even people like you and me. *'Let them all come in. There's room for everyone in my house.'*

Many of us have deeply felt the distance placed between us during the trauma and separation inflicted by COVID and racial/social unrest, along with personal losses and isolation. Some of the things we have missed most is being able to gather together in answer to an invitation to share a meal. When we offer hospitality, we share in and reflect the very nature of God, and we receive blessings abundant in return.

It gives me pause to take stock of my own life and remember all those who have shown me hospitality; those who have invited me into their lives and homes, those who have been there for me when I felt alone, abandoned, forgotten, or in trouble. I am certain I do not speak for myself alone, as all of us have had persons share radical hospitality in our lives. We give thanks to God for them.

We now have an opportunity to imagine how we might show radical hospitality today—to others all around us. Inviting others to worship with us and take part in the mission and ministry of St. Christopher's. To share Holy Eucharist around our faith family table. To give someone a call or write a note or letter. To share a smile and a kind word—especially when it is unexpected. Who do you know who might be alone or anxious at this moment in time? Show them that you care and are thinking of them. Take them into your hear and your prayers. This is hospitality, too. And always remember in your heart those moments in your walk in faith when you heard God speak, loud and clear, those gracious words; *'My house is your house.'*

'Welcome home.' Randy+

Music Notes



Director of Music Ministries

In my senior year of college, I had finished all the course work and student teaching, and so with just my senior piano recital to go, I moved home to save some money. My dad had recently retired and was, as we were to realize later, about to spiral into a depression – airline pilots had to retire at 60 and he, though having known this all along, was nowhere near ready to retire. And he was probably not helped one bit by his darling daughter hammering away on the piano all day long. He loved the requisite Beethoven sonata on the program, and a Bach suite – an example of Bach writing in the 18th century

French style; and a piece by Maurice Ravel, imitating American jazz in his own idiom. But the capper was a set of *Danzas Argentinas* by Alberto Ginastera, at that time, a living composer. The first dance was bitonal (two different key schemes at once), the left hand playing only black keys while the right hand played only white keys. You can imagine that the biting dissonance might have been a bit much for my poor dad. Then there was a slow dance – with a gentle and piquant melody, accent on the piquancy. The final movement was the “Dance of the Outlaw Cowboy”, with some seriously gratuitous dissonance and instructions for the performer that encouraged one to play “furiously”, “violently” and “wildly”. I have found that there are many modern works that are much like puzzles – the learning process is multi-faceted and no matter how dissonant or disjointed, the construction of it becomes totally engaging for the performer. Alas, not so much for the listener, who likely doesn’t know the piece very well, if at all. And pity the poor dad, who had to hear four months of the stuff. I’ve set this scene for two purposes – one, so that you can appropriately appreciate my long-suffering dad. I was pretty oblivious to the chaos I was causing in his already stressful daily life – and he never complained. He was a real peach. You’d have liked him. And my second point will take me a bit.

A few weeks ago, I found myself part of a discussion centered around music ministry at St. David’s as they are looking for a new music director. The Bishop had given them my name (?!) as someone who likes to stretch the boundaries of what is possible within worship. So here I am preaching my gospel of anything is possible, as long as it’s done with respect and respectful preparation, yada, yada. But then one of the other people brought up *cultural appropriation*, the latest Human Resources jargon for abusing someone else’s culture and thereby not being understanding and tolerant of diversity. And then the conversation became more and more about what we can’t do because it isn’t “ours” and less and less about what was possible. I finally added a sarcastic, “well, it looks like German chorales for me for the rest of my career then,” and clammed up. As you might imagine, they were unable to come to a definitive conclusion in that meeting.

But as you’ll see, that part of the conversation has stuck with me like a little pebble in my shoe. I began mulling over what I’d said, what else had been said, and looked up what musicians, church and otherwise, have had to say on the subject. There is a lot of argument about it in the popular music world because of copyright issues and costuming and so forth. And then, there’s the ugly fact that a lot of the culture that’s being appropriated is often white culture absorbing that of minorities or poorer countries. But surely I don’t have to boil it down to the fact that my mother’s family was German, so I’m safe with Beethoven, Bach and Brahms. And my father’s family came from England in

the 1620s, so I think I'm good for Anglican music and I'm an American, so American music, right? But what is American music if not an amalgamation of everything that's been melted into the big pot? And a huge part of that American music comes from Black culture – jazz, blues, soul, funk, reggae, hip-hop, and don't forget Gospel. Do I have to give up my jazzy hymn tunes because I'm not black? Was Elvis wrong to sing in a rhythm and blues style because he was white? Should we have eschewed the Beatles because they weren't American rock'n'rollers? And here's another take on it, should Marian Anderson or Leontyne Price or Paul Robeson have stuck to singing spirituals instead of grand opera because they were descended from slaves, and not Italian or German?

This cultural borrowing thing has been going on for centuries. Take my senior recital program, for example. Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer writing in what was considered the French style of the day. Maurice Ravel was a French composer who made clever use of the rhythms and harmonies of the early 20th century American jazz players (one of them was George Gershwin and many of them were African Americans) who found more appreciation for their art in Europe than at home. And the Argentine dances? Well, other than living in a place that also had a cowboy culture, I had very little in common with Sr. Ginastera. But once exposed to his music, I was completely taken with the Latin sensibilities and driving rhythms. Musicians have always played, studied and shared their music. That's how they learn – from one another. For hundreds of years, the simple act of copying the master composer's music on the page was a way to learn from it. Writing variations on a theme of so-and-so was a perfectly respectable way of approaching a composition. You can hear composers' and cultural influences in music that reflects the place or the time in which they were written. And choosing repertoire for a recital or a concert, or even a church service should, in my music educator's mind, offer differing, contrasting time periods and styles. In the sacred realm, composers have been writing music to the glory of God for 2000 years and I firmly believe that all of it can be used in worship. It all has a purpose and maybe a lesson to teach us. And it has been gifted to us by virtue of our place in 21st century Christian history.

So why then, after all these centuries of borrowing has cultural appropriation now become such a fraught topic? Perhaps a big reason that we're hearing a lot about it is because of the national dialogue that has developed as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement. And perhaps because the determination of what is offensive is always going to be somewhat subjective and up for debate. We can't always go round asking if what we'd like to create or perform is going to appropriate some other person's culture, and if they're going to be offended by it. We just have to make some of those determinations for ourselves, I guess, and take the risk of someone thinking that we've put a foot wrong in that delicate dance. I think it all comes down to respect, of both the music and the people it comes from. Dr. Anton Armstrong, director of the St. Olaf Choir, has spoken at length on this topic and doesn't agree with the "sentiment that singers and choirs should not perform music outside of their culture." He underscores that it takes work to prepare the music with dignity and respect and that the universal message of the music and fostering understanding between people should be the focus. These remarks come from a *Choral Journal* article entitled "Is all music for everyone?" The answer, from this journal of the American Choral Directors Association, is a resounding yes, with that caveat of respect.

My musical life would have been poor indeed, had cultural appropriation deprived me of the opportunities to experience first-hand the music of other languages and cultures. As a young singer in a children's choir that traveled the world, we always prepared folk songs or music of composers from the countries we visited. The audiences always seemed thrilled that we had attempted their music and their languages. Music is the universal language, after all, and it speaks from heart to heart.

Karla Cole

Footprints MAY 2021 News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



On Sunday, April 24th the families gathered for an Earth Day event. We painted flowerpots, talked about the creation story and ways to care for the Earth, and Fr. Randy used Eucharistic Prayer C - the one with the "vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, sun, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home" – for our family worship.

In May we will gather to tie fleece blankets for our four graduating seniors: Ben Ackerman, Katherine Brilowski, Ruth Darnell, and Jackson Humes. We will also plant flowers in our pots that were painted in April. Those who were unable to join us in April may paint their pots and take home a flower to plant.



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>



Chad O'Leary
Director of Youth Ministries

Having spent so much of my Easter season recovering from surgery (I'll be fine!) it has allowed me to truly stop and appreciate the contributions -- those in word, in physical donations (540 lbs of food/toiletries!) but all in prayer -- that so many of you made toward our communal pilgrimage to Easter this year. THANK YOU!

As a member of staff, it was very humbling (and exciting) to see and help assemble the talents found in every corner of our faith community. A VERY special thank you to Bruce Warkentien and Don Shiek for transporting our donations to Keystone. (Pictures below.)

Just one more month left of this wacky school year. Please keep all young people, their educators, and families in your prayers!

Chad



Pulse of the Parish

Vestry meeting held on April 19, 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 March meeting minutes, Finance Team member Tom Linder presented a brief summary of the financials as discussed at the April Finance Team meeting, including that income offerings are up \$10,000 over budget, due in part to faith family members pre-paying their pledges. Though we wish it would continue, is unlikely to last through to the end of the year.

He shared that through the first quarter, our income is at 34 percent while

expenses are at 16 percent for the year. Thanks to the Paycheck Protection Program, \$12,000 of our loan was used for salaries, which covers some of our immediate expenses up until the loan is exhausted.

The Chinese day-care is slowly adding children, which will hopefully impact their rent payment in the future.

Under old business, a new contract was submitted to Bituminous Roadways, with a total cost of \$11,710, to reseal and stripe the parish parking lot. The vestry voted to approve Finance Team recommendations to provide an additional \$2,155 to complete the project. Those funds will be taken from Reserve for Repair Replacement, and Building Renewal Fund. We are waiting to hear about the project scheduling with the hope the work will probably be completed in late May or early June.

Jr. Warden Chris Mayr gave a brief up-date on status of his Circle of Life presentations. He shared that Cheryl Bailey, Mary Rowe, Tom Linder, and Marcia Rockwood, all representing various parish teams, along with Vestry Liaison Jeanna McLoughlin, comprise the growing *Come Follow Me* Team. His goal is to share the presentation to all teams and ultimately all faith family members by early June. This is our ongoing effort to grow our parish by identifying and involving potential new members, and inviting former members who might be interested in returning to St. Christopher's.

Under new business, the vestry entertained a proposal by a parishioner to waive user fees for an outside group to use our facilities. After discussion and review of our current room rental schedule (passed Jan 13, 2020), the Vestry reaffirmed the policy that outside groups may use our spaces according to the current St. Christopher's Room Rental Fee Schedule.

The vestry was informed of the intent to form an exploratory team to develop a long-term income source that harmonizes with St. Christopher's mission to be Christ in the world. It entails the possible redevelopment of the North and East side of our parish property including the old Dellwood house. While a mission statement for the exploratory team is being developed, vestry members were asked to suggest parish members who might be good candidates to serve on the team.

Sr. Warden Mike Sirany discussed plans for the formation of a parish communications team. Our own communications professional Allison Jensen has kindly agreed to lead the team. The ECMN communications missioner for has been contacted. She is willing to meet with the team to provide input for enhancing our web site and suggestions for improving other on-line methods of communication.

In vestry liaison reports, Building and Grounds liaison Chris Mayr reported on the work of the building and grounds team. The team is led by Jeff Jensen. Jeff has created an electronic Maintenance Schedule document to keep track of what has been done and needs to be done for all the parish operations throughout the year. In addition, a job log book is now in the office for capturing any handiwork done or needed around the parish by Buildings and Grounds team members.

Finally, Fr. Randy talked about the recent challenges involved in temporarily

dialing-back on our in-person church services, and the criteria used to make these difficult decisions as we deal with necessary Covid19 safety protocols for our faith family.

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, May 17.



In-Person Worship

Beginning with the Easter season, we began in-person worship services inside our sanctuary! THEN, we had a setback as COVID numbers rose again.

When the rate is greater than 5.00%, we are obliged to hold our worship service outdoors or exclusively by video or livestreaming. Indoor worship services are temporarily suspended until the rate once more dips below the 5.00% mark.

New rates are reported late in the week, so announcements regarding indoor or outdoor services are determined by early Saturday morning. We will send out an eBlast to the St. Christopher Faith Family on Saturday mornings so attendees may make their best decisions as to whether or not to attend, or have appropriate outerwear and chairs available for a drive-in worship service.

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 and keep us in the practice of re-gathering registration when we transition back indoors for worship.

Sunday services will continue to be at 8 AM and 10:30 AM, indoors or out.

Wednesday 12:15 pm services, when indoors, 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 (limit 70 per service), 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.

Junk Mail?

Staff emails from St. Christopher's - those @stchristophers-mn.org email addresses - seem to be ending up in "Spam" or "Junk" folders more often lately, and in some cases, in "Trash" folders. If you don't seem to be getting all of the emails from St. Christopher's that you are expecting - or if someone tells you they are not getting them, PLEASE check those Spam/Junk folders.

There are plenty of "scam" emails around, too. If you get an email from someone you know asking for money or gift cards, please call that person to see if they really sent the email. Please don't buy anything or send money without actually speaking to someone first.

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 late May and early June. Please copy the link to the day and time that works for you and put on your calendar.

Topic: Circle of Life #1

Time: **May 24, 2021 04:00 PM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83502656170?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83502656170?pwd=TmgzVTJCeJjON2k3cmtWMUp5SIFwUT09)

[pwd=TmgzVTJCeJjON2k3cmtWMUp5SIFwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83502656170?pwd=TmgzVTJCeJjON2k3cmtWMUp5SIFwUT09)

Meeting ID: 835 0265 6170

Passcode: 629895

Topic: Circle of Life #2

Time: **May 25, 2021 07:00 PM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81307555773?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81307555773?pwd=R1dyVDVGT2NScWZWNIzWGgxZTJXZz09)

[pwd=R1dyVDVGT2NScWZWNIzWGgxZTJXZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81307555773?pwd=R1dyVDVGT2NScWZWNIzWGgxZTJXZz09)

Meeting ID: 813 0755 5773

Passcode: 746892

Topic: Circle of Life #3

Time: **May 26, 2021 06:00 PM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89808209493?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89808209493?pwd=dkRicGlXeSsyUzIpeXBvNFpzdVgwQT09)

[pwd=dkRicGlXeSsyUzIpeXBvNFpzdVgwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89808209493?pwd=dkRicGlXeSsyUzIpeXBvNFpzdVgwQT09)

Meeting ID: 898 0820 9493

Passcode: 132322

Topic: Circle of Life #4

Time: **May 27, 2021 09:00 AM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85460188063?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85460188063?pwd=Uzd0MUVPYTA4VG96VEJ4NXpSMVJQZz09)

[pwd=Uzd0MUVPYTA4VG96VEJ4NXpSMVJQZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85460188063?pwd=Uzd0MUVPYTA4VG96VEJ4NXpSMVJQZz09)

Meeting ID: 854 6018 8063

Passcode: 343480

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=ZkFPa3ZHVGlzSldleEpNM1MxUlplUQT09)

[pwd=ZkFPa3ZHVGlzSldleEpNM1MxUlplUQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88322983289?pwd=ZkFPa3ZHVGlzSldleEpNM1MxUlplUQT09)

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 MAY

2 Sunday - Easter 5
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 Tuesday
11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

5 Wednesday
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

9 Sunday - Easter 6 - Mother's Day
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Baptism

10 Monday
6:45 PM Finance Team

12 Wednesday
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

14 Friday
11 AM - Keystone Mobile Food Shelf - West parking lot

16 Sunday - Easter 7
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

17 Monday
6:45 PM Vestry

19 Wednesday
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

23 Sunday - Pentecost
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

24 Monday - e-Traveler Deadline for June

25 Tuesday
11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

26 Wednesday
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

30 Sunday - Trinity
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

31 Monday - Memorial Day - Office Closed

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 May *e-Traveler*!

It has been quite lovely *hearing* Spring arrive here at St. Christopher's. When it is raining, the pitter-patter on the roof is a sweet sound, reminding me that no one has to shovel this precipitation! The birds are singing away in the bush outside the office window, and the geese returning to our area honk over my head when I go out for the mail. And the sunshine is lovely!!

The grounds of the church are greening up nicely, and it won't be long before I see folks working on the giving garden. Welcome, spring!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

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: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - by Sign Up!

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - by Sign Up!

Please look for parish emails confirming indoors or outdoors.

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Current Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 4 PM

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Roseville, MN 55113
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STAY CONNECTED

