

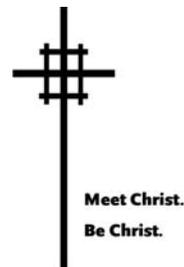
Ruth Thillen

From: St. Christopher's Episcopal Church <office@stchristophers-mn.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 1, 2018 11:11 AM
To: office@stchristophers-mn.org
Subject: November e-Traveler

Issue #72 | NOVEMBER 2018

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Cindy Lee, Sr. Warden; Joel Norton, Jr. Warden
Sue Triebenbach, Clerk; Darlene Cross, Treasurer

Mark Brilowski; Jan Fillmore; Karen Hartman; Barbara Hovey; Chris Huntley;
Tom Linder; Becky Lucas; Mike Sirany; 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

Pledgetide Update

29 October

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12) This quote from Jesus talking with his disciples was front and center in my homily at a wedding in California this past week-end. As I noted then and is perhaps germane to my task at the moment, the word “commandment” seems a little out of place. Typically, weddings—especially the destination sort—focus and flourish on free-flowing romantic love and jubilant delight. “Commanding love,” seems too filled with restraint, serious demeanor and even sacrifice to have a place in the celebration. Maybe so, but every married person knows that “there comes a time” when vows and obligations help encourage us to work through narrow places that lead to a deepened love.

Making a pledge to the church is a helpful thing for those who administer budgets and manage the effort of having a well-run, healthy institution. But making a pledge can be more: it can be a spiritual practice that encourages a commitment that is intended to deepen our love for Christ and the Church. It’s a way of saying, “I want to join in and help make happen what I alone cannot do.” This sentiment and intention stands behind the ritual we at St. Christopher’s will perform on Sunday, November 11 as we are invited to come forward with our pledge cards and place them on the altar. Like the couple being married must freely declare their intent, so in this country where we have freedom of religion do we freely make our commitment and our offering.

A number of years ago the essayist and poet Wendell Berry wrote a piece—if I remember correctly—entitled “The poetry of marriage.” In it, he presents the image of a stream, perhaps informed by a stream running through his farm in Kentucky. And, here’s the phrase especially worth remembering for both the married couple and the committed parishioner: “only the impeded stream sings.” What a wonderful way to conjoin commitment with vitality, beauty and delight!

dvp

Capital Fund Feasibility Study

Please respond promptly to your invitation to participate in the study.

Thank you,
Scott, Cindy, and Joel

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

I am not sure where the month of October has gone. I must admit, I needed a gentle reminder from Ruth that my contribution to the *The Traveler* was missing. It seems as though there too many things happening around me, and not enough time to settle in and concentrate on even just some of things demanding my attention. One of the benefits of writing this piece, though, is that it does make me stop and think and ponder over what I write each month. I am grateful for these moments.

So where do we find ourselves as we head into November? In some cases it has already begun to “look a lot like Christmas!” Being ushered to my table at a restaurant just a day or two ago, I was somewhat dismayed at the beautiful, yet very Christmas-like floral arrangement over one of the doorways. “Really?”, I thought to myself, “It isn’t even Halloween!” And then there are the ads that invite us to turn to the radio stations that have begun to play, with limited commercial interruption, all of our favorite Christmas music. And I’m thinking that it is still Pentecost, and we have Advent to work through before we get to Christmas music time. And then I stop and remember that for better or not, this is the way that the commercial world welcomes the celebration of the Christ Child. What I can do combat the forces of commercialism, is to concentrate not on the far off goal, but rather focus on what is directly in front of my feet.

There is much to be found there. We are continuing to work with our Aunuak neighbors, to walk with them and deeply listen to their stories. We will have one more meeting before the end of the year where we all gather and share our stories of Christmas traditions both here and in Ethiopia. Martha and I are still working on a date, but look for it to be on Saturday afternoon in the Parish Hall.

I was fortunate to attend a conference, “Love God, Love Neighbor,” put on by Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Advocacy branch of the Episcopal Public Policy Network. Three packed days listening, discussing, and planning that culminated in a Eucharist where we were commissioned as Refugee Advocates.

What was stressed a great deal in those three days was the difference between refugees and immigrants. Refugees come to this country after applying for refugee status and spending several years being vetted by multiple Federal Agencies. They are then placed in the queue to come to the United States, where upon arrival they receive Temporary Resident Status which allows them to work. They are eligible to receive a Green Card in one year and have a well laid out path to citizenship. Our friends from the Annuak tribe are all here with refugee status.

Much of what is being developed as new program for Episcopal Migration Ministries takes a turn from their current work as partners with local agencies in refugee resettlement, and focuses on relationships that form with local faith communities and individuals, to form what they are calling "Partners in Welcome." I am excited to work with Episcopal Migration Ministries as they develop this new type of ministry with our neighbors, who just happen to be refugees.

As I close, the other item that is looming large in front of my feet is the upcoming election. A few Sundays ago, Fr. Grant Abbott said he wanted us all to vote, no matter how we vote. Vote so that Minnesota will lead the nation in voter turnout! Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, adds the following: "Voting and participation in our government is a way of participating in our common life and that is a Christian obligation. However you vote, go and vote. And do that as followers of Jesus." Amen!

Amen, Deacon Janet

A Note from Mary Rowe



**The Rev.
Mary Rowe**
Assisting Priest

While in church this morning, I was overwhelmed by the awareness of community. In such troubled and unsettling times, the faithfulness of God's presence within the church family is such a sacred gift.

Wherever we are on life's journey, the time and space we share in support of one another, and in the empowering of one another, to go home and into the world as witnesses of Christ's love is a monumental gift of God's spirit.

'Neither life nor death ... can separate us from the love of God.' Romans 8

'Peace I leave with you.... let not your hearts be troubled nor be afraid.' John 14:27

Pensioners Praying, Partying, and Sharing (PPP&S) has started gathering for the calendar year. Our next luncheon is scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday in November (14th) at 11:30. Bill MacNally will talk to us about his work with MS. I hope you can come and will let the office know!

MUSIC NOTES



Karla Cole

**Director of Music
Ministries**



So the First World War was supposed to be the “war to end all wars”. H. G. Wells, he of *The War of the Worlds* fame, was maybe a little too idealistic in coining that phrase. A hundred years on, in the midst of the war in the Middle East that will not end, we recognize that idealism for what it was, and wish that we could summon up a little idealism of our own just now. But, the United States has been at war for 225 of the 242 years of our existence. Gosh, no wonder we’re so jaded about war. It hardly touches most of us anymore. I dare say that a lot of us go many weeks at a time without even thinking about the war we’re fighting a world away. Veterans Days come and go, and they are simply a day that we don’t get the mail.

Veterans Day is on Sunday, November 11th this year. It is also known as Remembrance Day or Armistice Day, as Woodrow Wilson proclaimed it in 1919. Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Armistice Day a national holiday in 1926 and Congress amended the name of the holiday to Veterans Day, to honor all veterans, living and dead. And so it lost a bit of the original poignancy connoting the end of the “war to end all wars”.

The American Guild of Handbell Ringers is actively recruiting handbell choirs to participate, and bell ringers and handbell directors all over the country are looking for thoughtful ways to toll their bells. Never content to do something simple when something more complicated will do, your music director has begun looking at famous chords throughout music history. A beautiful chord can stay in the mind’s ear long after the notes have faded away and there are many such chords that have made their mark in the classical music canon.

I haven’t settled on just the right one yet, but the list is full of beautiful, plaintive, arresting, even strident and jarring chords used to great emotional effect by the great masters. At the moment, the contenders include a chord from a fugue of Bach; the opening of a Chopin Ballade, a chord from Schuman’s *Kinderszenen*, the “Mystic chord” of Scriabin, the Tristan chord from Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*, a chord with nine separate pitches from Mahler’s 10th Symphony and several heart-rending chords from his *Kindertotenlieder*, written after his daughter died from scarlet fever.

This year, on the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I, the US World War I Centennial Commission is sponsoring a nation-wide event they've titled *Bells For Peace*, and asking folks to participate in a moment of remembrance. Not a moment of silence, but of bells tolling all over the nation in honor and remembrance and in peace. 21 bells, in the manner of a 21 gun salute, at 11:00 AM on November 11th. And we will observe this at St. Christopher's even though it falls right in the middle of our 10:30 service. It may interrupt the sermon; it may interrupt the prayers. But we will stop and remember:

that 4.7 million American families sent their sons to war on foreign shores

that 116, 516 young men lost their lives and more than 200,000 were wounded on foreign shores

that we are grateful for their service and sacrifice, and for the service and sacrifices of all of our veterans

that we are grateful for the peace that we enjoy here on our shores, purchased with the blood of service men and women in foreign wars

By definition, a chord is more than one pitch sounding simultaneously, and chords have a purpose, or a function within a piece of music. Some are going somewhere else, some are the end of something and some derive their meaning from the notes and chords around them. Even though there are only 12 notes in language of music, the supply of chords is almost endless and I only have a week and a half to choose just one!

* * *

I think we have now established that Jesus would drink beer. But I think he would also make a little room for some other choices as well. So the next St. Christopher's Brewery Outing will also be on **November 11th, from 4 to 7PM at the Sociable Cider Werks in NE Minneapolis**. The actual address is 1500 Fillmore Street NE. They have cider (the alcoholic kind, not the stuff you get at the grocery) and cider brewed with spices, hops and grains, oh, and beer – they have a couple of beers on tap as well. They are kid and dog friendly and they have a Succulent Bar Make and Take event scheduled that day – that's like little plants and cacti and things you put in little pots. Might be fun! You should come!

Karla Cole

Footprints NOVEMBER 2018 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



November 4th – Children's Chapel at 10:30. Children are invited to join us in the small chapel at 10:25 where we will sing, pray, and explore the Gospel

reading for today. We will join the congregation in the pews at the peace. There is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY.

Christmas Card Contest –This happens every year – I am a die-hard “no Christmas stuff till after Thanksgiving” gal (just ask my kids!). But, due to time constraints, I’m talking Christmas now.

Each year, we invite the children to submit artwork for our Christmas Card – and this year we are opening it up to all YOUTH and CHILDREN. One drawing will be chosen to adorn the front of the St. Christopher’s Christmas Card, which is mailed to all families in our faith community. The card is mailed at the beginning of Advent, and it tells families about all of the services during Advent and Christmas. Since the card is mailed so early, the entries for the contest are due on Sunday, November 11. We ask the children to *reflect on the meaning of Christmas and Advent*, and then to draw a picture to represent this very special time. We encourage LOTS of color! You can use crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc. Forms will be available in the classrooms and the Family Space in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, October 28.



Community Dinner – Thanksgiving Meal on Wednesday, November 21st
Please consider joining the Community Dinner as a helper - many of our “regulars” are out of town, and this is the largest Community Dinner of the year. Children can help with greeting, serving, and bussing tables alongside their parents. We cater to those hungry for both food and community. Guests should make a reservation with the office, and helpers should contact Connie Hendrick.

Got Legos? If you have any Legos taking up space in your home that you would be willing to part with, the Sunday School kids would love to have a supply of Legos (any size) to use as they ponder their response to our Bible stories. Many things that we read about in the Bible can be built with Legos! Please leave Legos outside Marion’s office.





Chad O'Leary

**Youth Ministries
Director**

YOUTH GROUP

November 7, 5:30-8:30PM

Did you know that our Christian faith tradition consists of many ideas that have been developed, carefully nurtured, and re-imagined for centuries? And it now belongs to you -- so what are you going to do with it? Together, we will explore many of these big ideas and you will consider which of them most resonate and inspire YOU as a young member of The Way in 2018. Our time together will also involve a meal (Pizza Luce, anyone?), a game or two, and assembling final exam care packages for our friends currently in college. Bring a friend!

CARDS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The youth will be sending care packages to our college students who were active in youth ministry activities. We would like to invite the parish to be part of the surprise! On November 11, come down for coffee hour and write a card/short note to one or more of our college kids, which will be included as part of the care package. You can also write them at home and put it in Chad's mailbox by November 15.

Looking Ahead...

Our December Youth Group/Christmas Party will be held on December 16, 5:30-8:30PM. Get your White Elephant gifts ready. Current college students are welcome back to take part in our festivities.

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

First Nations Kitchen

Sunday, December 2, 2018, will be our last date for this year for volunteering at First Nation's Kitchen. First Nation's Kitchen is a weekly dinner at All Saints Episcopal Mission in Minneapolis, and they are celebrating their 10th anniversary this November.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church has been involved in volunteering for this program since it's early days, and I am only the second volunteer coordinator for our work with this feeding ministry. Our first coordinator was Robert Williams, who served in the position for 8 years. At present we only serve as volunteers on 4 or 5 dates during a year, and we have a partner, St. James Episcopal Church, who serves with us on those dates.

When I first came to St. Christopher's 10 years ago, St. Christopher's was furnishing enough volunteers to fully staff all the volunteer positions for a dinner and we were serving

much more frequently than we do now. Many of those volunteers have now aged out of this work, and we are in need of a new crop of volunteers to help with this worthwhile ministry. I would encourage you to give it a try. It isn't necessary to commit to every date in order to do this, but we could certainly use your help. Currently, members of St. Christopher's Youth Group are providing some of our volunteers through this school year, but not all our needs for volunteers are met by the group.

We fill various job needs, starting at 1:30 on Sunday afternoon with prep work for the dishes prepared by the "chef" of the day, on through setting tables, serving the plates in the kitchen, on to floor servers, bussers, dishwashers, and clean up helpers who sweep and mop dining room floors, clean tables, and put away chairs. Generally the last work is done by 7:30 pm. Generally the volunteer time is not more than 2 to 2 ½ hours per meal, and you can volunteer for a particular job. This isn't a commitment to work for the entire time.

I encourage you to think about this volunteer opportunity and to give it a try. I find it very worthwhile and an opportunity to meet a variety of new people, other volunteers and guests. The last time St. Christopher's filled our volunteer slot in September, I met a young man from Germany who was visiting the United States, and had volunteered for that evening. We had an interesting conversation before our work started. Please come and give this ministry a try.

Mary Pendergrass



November Calendar Highlights!

3 5 PM Silent Auction begins! - Parish Hall
5:30 PM Fall Dinner begins—Parish Hall

4 *Daylight Saving Time ENDS!* Turn clocks back one hour.
8 AM Holy Eucharist
8 AM Silent Auction re-opens—closes at Noon
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

6 GENERAL ELECTION DAY
7 AM—8 PM Voting in Parish Hall

7 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist—Chapel
5:30 PM Youth Group—Parish Hall

6:30 PM Bell Choir—Balcony
7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room

8 1 PM Knitting—Library

9 1 PM Couples Bridge—Parish Hall

10 7:30 PM Concert: **The WolfGang**—Church

11 Veteran's Day
Pledge Sunday
8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

12 5:30 PM Finance Committee—Parish Hall

13 Meals on Wheels—Offsite
6:30 PM Search Committee—Chapel, Office

14 8 AM—8 PM Feasibility Study—Room 107
11:30 AM—P P P & S—Parish Hall
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist—Chapel
4 PM Staff Meeting—Office
6:30 PM Bell Choir—Balcony
7 PM Green Team—Library
7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room

15 8 AM—8 PM Feasibility Study—Room 107
10:30 AM Hearts and Hands—Parish Hall

18 8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

19 6:45 PM Vestry—Parish Hall

21 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist—Chapel
5:30 PM Community Thanksgiving Dinner—Parish Hall

22 Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed
10 AM Holy Eucharist—Church

23 Office Closed

25 8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

26 e-Traveler Deadline

28 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist—Chapel
4 PM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Bell Choir—Balcony
7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room

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 November **e-Traveler!**

We have lots of joy-filled activities on our calendar this month, including a musical visit on November 10th at 7:30 PM by The WolfGang! (Suggested donation \$15 at the door, and worth

every penny!)

Don't forget to come for our Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 21st - just call the office and let us know how many are attending, so we are sure to have enough turkey and pie!

Bring on the Turkey! I love gathering the family for a feast every year.

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator



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