

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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The Myth of Arrival



The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson

Rector

“For All the Saints...”

A couple of weeks ago, I had the incredible experience of being party to the Celebration of New Ministry service at St. Christopher’s, and being installed as the rector of this most amazing faith family. I was deeply humbled and honored to be supported by the great gathering of family and friends, both old and new. As the liturgy progressed, I could not help but feel the presence of not only the people physically present in this sacred space, but also the sense that a greater heavenly presence was in this place--palpable and very real.

“...we are surrounded by so great cloud of witnesses...” Hebrews 12:1

This Great Cloud of Witnesses are sometimes referred to as saints...Christians who have inspired other Christians in different times and places. In the Episcopal tradition, we have a reference source that informs us on the wide array of possible commemorations of saints for individuals and congregations to observe. In *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*, we find a metaphoric “family history” of these Christians who have by their witness been examples of how to live a life in faith. “The saints encourage us; they pray for us; they strengthen us.” (*A Great Cloud of Witnesses*; p. VIII)

Our Catechism provides us an additional definition of a saint; “The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love

and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.” (BCP p. 862)

This definition is a catechetical tool to educate us, the faithful, about the breadth of the witness to the transforming work of God in Christ Jesus. Holiness and faithful witness are celebrated...as individuals are so honored as they shine forth Christ in the world.

On All Saints Sunday (November 3), we will have the privilege to be witnesses of our children’s program kiddos taking on the identity of some of the saints they have learned about this past month. They will be costumed as they share the story of saints of old. It will be an uplifting and inspiring occasion.

The Great Cloud of Witnesses is all around us. My mother gifted me my father’s well-worn and marked up bible following the Celebration of New Ministry service. I carefully turn the fragile pages and read the detailed notes and commentary written in his own hand. In doing so, I can once more experience in a most intimate way, the presence of my beloved father. I am reminded again, that we are in the presence of The Great Cloud of Witnesses.

“For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O, Jesus, be forever blessed,
Alleluia, alleluia!” (The Hymnal 1982, *For All the Saints*; #287)

Randy+

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

We have a responsibility to be bearers of the light—a responsibility to those who are still to come. We have a torch to carry for a while, and then we pass it on.

—Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE.

I will openly confess that as I sit here on the morning of October 31st, that I am the last of the staff to turn in my *Traveler* piece. I will also confess that I have been deep into the planning and execution of the “What Would Whipple Do?” kickoff that occurred on a wonderful, sun-filled, albeit cold, morning this past Tuesday the 29th of October. After I warmed up from the morning’s activities and reflected with a mixture of pride and gratitude on St. Christopher’s representation, including the presence of our banner (thank you Jean Crow and Jane Suilman!), I opened up

my email to find the quote up above. It struck me as a mixture of All Saints and the standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, and our responsibility to those who are to come; and how that pertained to our efforts last Tuesday and efforts yet to come, and how we are called to use insights like this to help us discern where we have been called.

One of the most meaningful parts of our efforts of last Tuesday came about the night before, at the Cathedral of Our Merciful Savior in Faribault. Faribault was the original site of the cathedral for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, as well as being the first building built for the sole purpose of being a cathedral. There are cathedrals that came before but they started out as churches; this cathedral started out as a cathedral. I turned to my friend Daniel Romero and welcomed him to “Whippleland.” We went into the cathedral itself for Evensong, and as I sat in the choir and looked across the chancel I saw the ninth Bishop of Minnesota, Bishop Prior, seated in the chair once occupied by the first bishop, Whipple, and saw in place before the chair the first bishop’s Crosier. In his brief homily that evening, and referring not only to Bishop Whipple, but the other seven bishops who had come before him, Bishop Prior reminded us that from its beginnings, the Episcopal Church in Minnesota has always stood on the side of the marginalized. I will admit my eyes filled with tears, and in a very real way I felt the weight of the torch that had been passed to me, to all of us, and the responsibility to continue to stand with the marginalized.

And let me be clear about one thing, that while this particular issue is at the forefront of my energies, there are many ways we as Christians have taken the torch from those who have come before us, with the calling to act to make this world a better place for those to whom we will pass on the torch. Allison has given us much food for thought where our climate crisis is concerned, and for ways to, with renewed energy, care not only for creation but for those we love who will inherit our earth. These are callings that draw us out of our comfort zone, out of the doors of our church and into the world to not only love our neighbors but engage with them face to face, step by step, story by story.

Where else might you hear a calling, where else might you discern the meaning of the torch that has been passed to you, and what it might mean for you to be the bearer of that light; and what do you hope it will represent when you pass it on to the next generation?

***Yours in Christ,
Deacon Janet***

Music Notes

Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries



In 1929, only two years after the cinematic Royal Visit to the fictional folk of Downton Abbey, a very real Lesbia Scott (now there's an English name if ever there was one) published a small volume of **Everyday Hymns For Little Children**. She was the wife of an Anglican priest and the mother of small children, and had written the hymns especially for them. *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* was contained therein, and as often happens with these things, ninety years later, the English don't even know the song anymore. But the text found it's way to America and it

became married to a tune by John Henry Hopkins (an Episcopal priest whose grandfather of the same name wrote *We Three Kings*) and it was popular enough that it was included in the **Hymnal 1940** and sung and loved by generations of tea-drinking Episcopalians. The Great and Mighty Hymnal Committee for the **Hymnal 1982** (our blue one) found it "lacked profundity" and moved to strike it from the list. But there was a furious hew and cry from those tea-drinking Episcopalians and their children and their grandchildren, and thus it was included in our current hymnal. The website Anglicans Online has a page devoted to the top twenty "desert island hymns" – if you could have only one hymn, what would it be? *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* is number fourteen on that list.

I must confess, upon first seeing the hymn, I snickered. You'll have to cut me some slack, as the **Hymnal 1982** was one of my freshman music theory textbooks and I was a very serious music major in those days. By the time I was Organist and Choir Master (yup, that was my title on the back of the bulletin) at my first Episcopal post, I still found it kind of funny, but quickly realized that the congregation took the song verrrry seriously. It was always sung on All Saints, of course, but also at every baptism and any other time children were mentioned in the lectionary. Even when that most horrific Psalm 137 comes along and the last verse says "Happy shall he be who takes your little ones, and dashes them against the rock!" Jeepers. You'd think that after a couple of millennia, some theologian somewhere would have summoned up the decency to remove that verse from scripture. But it does mention the little ones, so out comes *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*. I think most of them had it completely memorized.

The text of the hymn refers to several specific saints. In the first verse, there's a **doctor** – that one's easy. It's Saint Luke, the physician. **A queen** – a little tougher. It's Saint Margaret of Scotland. She was the very devout sister of Henry VIII (who lopped off all the heads) and the mother of James I, who ultimately succeeded Elizabeth I on the throne of England. And **the shepherdess on the green** was Joan of Arc, the young French girl who heard voices, saw visions and became a zealous soldier fighting for France's freedom from the filthy English during the Hundred Years' War. She was captured by English sympathizers and they held a sham trial and had her burned at the stake. You'll find that martyrdom is a fast track to sainthood.

In the second verse, Martin of Tours is **the soldier**. He was a Roman soldier in the 4th century who couldn't justify his profession with his faith and became the very first Conscientious Objector. And later, a priest and a Bishop. In early Christian times, being a priest also seemed to put you on the fast track to sainthood. Another case in point, **the priest** in verse two was John Donne, ultimately the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. He was a prolific writer of

prose and poetry, causing no little grief for high school English students even now. The verse ends with the saint *who was slain by a fierce, wild beast*, Ignatius of Antioch, who was a traveling evangelist throughout Asia Minor and Greece in the early 2nd century. He became, you've guessed it, the beloved Bishop of Antioch and even lived into his seventies. But the lives of the saints are often peppered with ghastly, gruesome endings. Just as you think this saint lived a long and beatific life, you find out that he was fed to the lions.

So after sharing all of those stories with her little children, Lesbia must have thought she needed something to counteract all the gory details. Consequently, the final verse wraps and ties with a big bow. Saints are just ordinary people doing extraordinary things, inspired by love. And as she says, "you can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just folk like me" That imagery does take us back to Downton Abbey, but it doesn't require much imagination to get what she's driving at. Joan Chittister says saints are role models of greatness that show us "the possibilities of greatness in ourselves." In answer to the question of what makes a saint, Barbara Brown Taylor replies, "Extravagance. Excessive love, flagrant mercy, radical affection, exorbitant charity, immoderate faith, intemperate hope, inordinate love." Wow. I guess that's why she's Barbara Brown Taylor and I'm just me. I should have started with that and saved myself a page and a half. I think I'll just go put the kettle on.

Karla Cole

Footprints NOVEMBER 2019 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



November 3rd – Children's Chapel at 10:30. There is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY.

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 dressed in Saints costumes at the Peace.

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. 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 17. 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, November 3rd.



Community Dinner – Thanksgiving Meal on Wednesday, November 27th
Please consider joining the Community Dinner as a guest or 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 or Al Reedstrom.



Chad O'Leary

**Youth Ministries
Director**

Flipping the Script

This year, it is my goal to make it to events in which our youth are involved. This is to better meet them where they are at. Youth ministry can't, doesn't, and shouldn't, look the same as it has for past generations. **So, we're flipping the script!** Sundays at 9:30AM will remain dedicated to traditional formation when there is critical mass for us to have conversations about matters of faith. But, sometimes it isn't possible to make it to the building, and we still want our young people to feel connected to Church, and we know that "Church" is so much bigger than a brick-and-mortar building. As they continue to build their village throughout their middle and high school years I want St. Christopher's to be a present and supportive part of their journey. Therefore, I am asking all families to please share with me any schedules that they may have or activities that I should be looking out for in the future. These events can be academic, athletic or extra-curricular in nature (such as musical gigs, plays, etc.). **I'd love to get them on my calendar, show up, and root them on** -- and maybe even highlight them here each month so that our community can celebrate the diverse talents and interests of our young people.

This month we will also be preparing for two cool initiatives. The first will be preparing small care packages to send our former active youth group members, who are now young adults at college preparing for finals, taking a gap year, or doing whatever they need to be doing right now in order to prepare for their future. We will be asking our parish family to be part of this project by writing short notes that we will put in the packages. Look for baskets set up in the parish hall soon, along with stationery, for you to drop them a note. There will also be information so that you can learn more about what our young adults are up to these days!

Our second initiative this month will be working to support our new friends at Messiah Episcopal Church in Wounded Knee, South Dakota. This summer, the Rev. Harold Eagle Bull and members of his community offered to meet and walk with us on our listening pilgrimage. He told us the story of his people but, in doing so, spoke just as much about the present as he did about the past. Many of the social justice struggles of 1870 are still being waged. They are working for social change on many fronts, from combating racist policies/laws to finding creative new ways to bring industry and jobs to their isolated reservation. He spoke of how difficult it can be continue this work during the Christmas season. Most years, he shared, their discretionary funds at the church dry up in order to help families stay warm, and that becomes a source of anxiety and distraction from their justice initiatives. In speaking with our pilgrimage team and the parish staff, we will be working to raise some funds to send to Fr. Harold to share with his faith community in their times of need. Thank you, in advance, for your open ears and hearts as we share more about this initiative in the weeks ahead.

Green Team

Plant-Based Diets

A popular buzz term recently has been “plant-based diets”. It consists of eating a diet rich in plant-based foods such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds. Nutrition professionals for years have talked about the health benefits of eating mostly plant-based foods but did you know that adopting an eating pattern made of mostly plant-based foods is also good for the environment? It is one of the most impactful things you can do as an individual to cut your carbon footprint and reduce global warming. The Green Team at St. Christopher’s is reading the book *Drawdown*, which lists the 100 most impactful changes to reduce global warming. *Drawdown* lists plant-rich diets as number four, behind things such as wind turbines and reducing food waste.

Here's an easy and tasty recipe to get you started.

Grilled Vegetables with Saffron Rice

For the spice mixture:

- 2 t kosher salt
- 2 t ground turmeric
- 1 t crushed red pepper
- ½ t ground cumin
- ½ t ground coriander
- ½ t powdered ginger
- ½ t garlic powder
- ½ t freshly ground pepper

1. In a small bowl, mix all the ingredients together
2. Cut up vegetables (cauliflower, brussel sprouts, carrots, peppers, asparagus), brush with olive oil and sprinkle spice mixture over the top and toss.
3. Grill vegetables or roast in a 400° oven for 25-40 minutes, stirring often.

Saffron-Cardamom Rice

- 1 C basmati rice
- ¼ t saffron threads
- ¼ t cardamom
- 1 ½ C water

1. Combine above ingredients and cook rice as directed on package.
2. Put cooked rice in a bowl and add vegetables
3. Can be topped with goat cheese

SILENT AUCTION and FALL DINNER

Saturday, November 9th (5 to 7 pm), and

Tickets for the Fall Dinner are on sale! Come for a festive and hearty home cooked meal, great fellowship, raffles and bidding galore! Tickets are just \$15 each and free for kids 10 and under. Please see us in the upper narthex after both services on November 3rd.

Please plan to drop off your silent auction donations (baskets, etc.) in the parish hall on Saturday November 2nd from 10 am -12 pm, or on Sunday November 3rd after each service.

Pulse of the Parish

The Pulse of the Parish is a brief update to keep everyone informed of the actions taken by the Vestry at their meeting on Monday, October 21st, 2019.

- The meeting opened with scripture and prayer.
- The monthly financial reports were reviewed. The September 2019 income and expenses are generally staying within the budget.
- First Nations' Kitchen: Discussed strengths and difficulties in continuing organized support for the outreach. It was decided St. Christopher's organized relationship with the group will end for the time being. Anyone interested in participating in First Nations' Kitchen is encouraged to contact the outreach directly.
- Building and Grounds: A Fall Fiesta Maple Tree has been planted to replace the Linden Tree. The damaged cement by the parking lot door has been repaired.
- St Christopher's Bylaws: Bylaws are in the process of being updated. Revisions to the bylaws were discussed and voted on.
- Stewardship Drive: Speakers highlighting The Power of Yes at Sunday services. Commitment Sunday is set for November 3rd.
- Silent Auction: Is set for the weekend of November 9th. Mark your calendars.
- Adult Education: classes/discussions/events have been scheduled for the 9:30 am. Check the scheduled topics on the church website.
- Shout Outs: Thank You to all those involved in Altar guild, Funeral Hospitality and Fr Randy's installation service. Karen Hanna, Darlene Cross and Cheryl Warkentien were standouts in these efforts. Also a big thanks to Fr. Randy and Kim for opening their house and hosting parish dinners. And to the nursery spacklers and painters. Take a moment to look at the new paint job in our nursery. A big THANK YOU! to all of you for all the hard work.

Please be aware that the minutes of the October meeting will not be available to read online or in the library until after they have been approved at the Vestry's November meeting. Vestry members will be available after the service for any questions you may have.



NOVEMBER Calendar Highlights!

Saturday 2

10 AM Silent Auction Donation Drop Off – Parish Hall

Sunday 3 – All Saints' Sunday

Pledge Sunday

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Adult and Youth Formation

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Children's Chapel

Tuesday 5 – Election Day

Meals on Wheels - Offsite

7 AM Voting in the Parish Hall – to 8 PM

Wednesday 6

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting – Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Friday 8

1:30 PM Keystone Mobile Food Shelf – West Lot

Saturday 9

5 PM Silent Auction Opens! - Parish Hall

5:30 PM Fall Dinner - Parish Hall

Sunday 10

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Formation for All Ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

12 PM Silent Auction Closes!

Monday 11 – Veteran's Day

5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall

Wednesday 13

11:30 AM P P P & S – Parish Hall

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting – Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

7 PM Green Team – Parish Hall

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Thursday 14

1 PM Knitting – Library

Saturday 16

12 PM Peg Barker Visitation – Chapel

1 PM Peg Barker Funeral – Church

Reception follows

Sunday 17

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Formation for All Ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 18

6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

Wednesday 20

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting – Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Thursday 21

10:30 AM Hearts & Hands – Parish Hall

Sunday 24 – Christ the King Sunday

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Formation for All Ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 25

e-Traveler Deadline

Tuesday 26

Meals on Wheels – Offsite

Wednesday 27

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting – Office

5:30 PM Thanksgiving Community Dinner – Parish Hall

Thursday 28 – Thanksgiving Day

10 AM Holy Eucharist

Friday 29 – Office Closed

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!** When I started working on this edition, I thought, "November? That can't be right!" But, sure enough, November was right after all.

What are you thankful for this season? I am thankful for all of you, who I have walked with for 20 years (the last 12 at full-time). You can't imagine how wonderful it is to have people say, "we need you here." It is good to be needed!

Can you believe this tree? Thanks to the Brown family, who gave this tree near the office in memory of Jim Brown, we can really enjoy this bright color!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Joel Norton, Sr. Warden; Kathy Ackerman, Jr. Warden
Sue Triebenbach, Clerk; Suzanne Hitchcock, 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. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Regular Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM Fellowship

9:30-10:20 AM Children's Education-Room 107
(*NO First Sunday*)

9:30-10:15 AM Youth Education-Youth Room

9:30-10:15 AM Adult Education-Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Children's Chapel (*First Sunday ONLY*)

11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

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

