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St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #61

A Note from Rev Mary Rowe



The Rev.
Mary Rowe
Assisting Priest

After waiting for what seemed like a very long time, the brilliant display of fall's vibrant colors seem to burst out of nowhere. I was driving down the road and had just made a turn, when an explosion of color and light blinded me for a second. I found myself surrounded by God's magnificent artistry!

Fall is a spectacular time of year, but there is a tension that comes with it. The leaves will fall quickly and the activities of winter, the cold and snow of winter, and the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas seasons will soon engulf our lives.

Like the change of seasons, change in our lives and change within our church are transforming. We move from one space into another. Wonder and hope are two great gifts of change. Whether we want to accept it or not, the future is out of our control, and that is good news.

Our God is always inviting us to move into new spaces in wonder and hope and to embrace each new chapter of life trusting that Our Lord's presence is always with us and preceding us.

Blessings,
Mary+

The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

As I sit here to write, things are unseasonably cold, and there was measureable snow on the ground at the end of last week. Now, my children are quick to point out that small bit of snow hardly qualified for a big fuss, because they after all had lived through the Halloween Blizzard of 1991! The one Halloween when it was not such a smart idea to let your child go out dressed as a ghost (that would be Elizabeth), or they proclaimed it was the best Halloween ever because no one was out and they got handfuls of candy, stayed on our street, and only spent an hour ringing door bells (that would be Andrew). I remember it as a really fast end to the lingering vestiges of fall. Suddenly it was winter; there was no

NOVEMBER 2017



Meet Christ
Be Christ

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Cindy Lee,
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Ann DePaolis-Jones,
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Suzanne Hitchcock,
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Mark Brilowski
Darlene Cross
Jan Fillmore
Elizabeth Grayden
Karen Hartman
Chris Huntley
Becky Lucas
Mike Sirany
Barbara Swanson

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen,
Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary
Youth Director
Marion Hunner,
Children's Ministries
Karla S. Cole,
Director of Music
Rev. Mary Rowe,
Assisting Priest
Rev. Janet MacNally,
Deacon

**Our
PROGRAM
YEAR
Schedule**

**Sunday:
8:00 AM**

turning back, no long gradual progression toward letting go of summer, let alone fall. It was hard that year not to have your thoughts jump over November and go straight into the frenzy that leads up to Christmas. And while I feel that, to agree with my children, this snowfall was not a major one for the record books, there still is really green grass below the melting white, still it was an abrupt reminder that fall is the season that helps us practice letting go on a yearly basis.

This fall season, more than before, for me this has been extremely evident. It seems that there have been a large number of things that either require my letting go and saying good bye; to my realizing that change, whether welcome or not, and whether positive or not, is almost always accompanied with moments of difficulty. We as a faith community family are facing that very reality as we move into our existence as a faith community in transition. Nothing has come to an abrupt stop, and that is as it should be. And our lives as a faith community worshipping, practicing stewardship both in our yearly pledges and taking care of our building (sewer project), to reaching out to our neighbors in familiar ways and exploring new ways as well. Yet, much like facing the beginning of winter and the uncertainty of how cold it will get and just how much snow will fall, we face some uncertainty in our faith community life as well. It is in moments like this that it is important to remember that no matter how cold the winter becomes or how much snow falls we will always come through in fine shape. We know to bundle up, we know (or at least we soon remember) how to navigate roads in the snow, and we hold fast to the promise of spring. In short, together as community, we survived.

As Christians, we experience that letting go and the emptiness and sadness that often accompanies such change, as we move through the liturgical year from Christmas and Epiphany through to Lent, Holy Week and then of course the triumph and joy of Easter. Easter, the ultimate sign that everything is all right. And that is the message that is most important for all of us here at St. Christopher's to remember as we travel through our own seasons of goodbyes, that we have faith in the sure and certain hope of resurrection and soon it will be Easter and spring once more.

Amen, Deacon Janet



Footprints NOVEMBER 2017



News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner
Children's Ministries Director

November 5th: Children's Chapel at 10:30. Children are invited to join us in the small chapel for a special presentation of the Liturgy of the Word. 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 (Pk - 5th grade) 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 19. 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

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
-Chapel
(2nd & 4th)
10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM
Fellowship

Wednesday:

12:15 PM
Holy Eucharist
-Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9 AM - 4 PM

October Pulse of the Parish



Good Morning. My name is (8 - Mike Sirany, 10:30 - Mark Brilowski) and I am on your Vestry.

Today I am offering the Pulse of the Parish. The purpose of this brief update is to keep you informed of the actions taken by the Vestry at their meeting on Monday, October 9th.

--The monthly financial reports were reviewed. Our income from offerings and building use are at there projected amounts for the month. Expenses were below those budgeted. We remain in the black for the year, and overall, our cash flow is in good shape.

--The Vestry approved the revised Endowment Guidelines to reflect that the funds are invested and managed as part of

encourage LOTS of color! You can use crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc. Forms will be available in the classrooms and the Upper Narthex beginning Sunday, November 5th.



Sunday, November 19th: Inter-generational Faith Formation
Children, Youth, and Adults will meet in the Parish Hall at 9:30. All are welcome! The youth are planning a display for our Gifts of Hope donation drive. They will bring their plan to the event and have all of us work together to prepare the display. Please come support both our youth and the Keystone Gifts of Hope program.

Gifts of Hope: With this program we "adopt" several families who are in need of help this holiday season. Our parishioners will then have an opportunity to purchase gifts for them. In the past there has been interest from some St. Christopher's families to "adopt" an entire family. If this interests you, please contact me by Wednesday, November 8th so that I can plan accordingly with Keystone Community Services.

Community Dinner:

Thanksgiving Meal on Wednesday, November 22nd

Please consider joining the Community Dinner as a helper - many of our "regulars" are out of town this year, and this is the largest Community Dinner of the year. We cater to those hungry for both food and community. Guests should make a reservation with the office, and helpers should contact Connie Hendrick.

Youth News



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

Hello Everyone! Please take a gander at the information below to see what we will be up to during this great month of November!

YOUTH GROUP

November 1: Gifts of Hope, a partnership with Keystone Services, is an important initiative that St. Christopher's has supported for several years. We will begin designing & assembling our display.

November 8: After ordering pizza, we will take turns sharing some of our favorite YouTube videos on the TV. A round or two of "What Do You Meme?" may immediately follow.

November 15: Movie Night! Come learn more about our fight for racial equality as we continue to mold ourselves into agents of change in our community. We will also carve out some time for our TEC participants to share a bit about their weekends!

November 22: COMMUNITY DINNER THANKSGIVING! We need all hands on deck to bus tables, wash dishes, and jump in wherever needed. Please plan to be at church as close to 5:30PM as possible!

November 29: We will begin preparing for Blue Christmas! Come ready to help make this liturgy extra special for our guests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our "Advent Pre-Christmas" party is just around the corner on December 8. A cornerstone of this night is our big White Elephant

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota's Pooled Investment Fund, a decision made four years ago.

--The Vestry reviewed a third bid for the sewer replacement project from Frerichs Construction. After thorough review the Vestry approved this company's scope of work and bid. The cost of the project as understood at this time is \$169,016. They are ready to begin the week of October 15th provided they can obtain a permit from Roseville by that time. They anticipate the project will take a total of three weeks, with the drainage and water systems will be shut down for only one day during the construction. The Vestry will report to the parish on a regular basis as the project continues.

--The Vestry approved fundraising requests for two events: a German Dinner and an Autumn Auction event. These events will happen on November 18th and 19th. The proceeds from these fundraisers will benefit the Mission Opportunity Grant Fund.

--The Vestry reviewed the Stewardship campaign timeline and tasks to be accomplished.

--The Vestry discussed creating a schedule of miscellaneous tasks that need to be taken care of during the Transition.

--The Vestry approved The Rev.

Gift Exchange. Start thinking about what you are going to bring (a gag gift; something funny laying around the house or something very low in cost). Don't be outdone!

TEC IS COMING!

Please keep the following young people in your prayers as they participate in TEC November 10-12: Katherine Brilowski, Patrick Hunner, Emma Friend, Ben Ackerman, Cora Lacher, and Julia Lacher.

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Green Team

The White-Breasted Nuthatch is a wee bird that searches for food in tree bark with its rump up in the air and "beeps" in place of a call. You may have seen or heard this charmer in your backyard or in the woods-but you may not as often in years to come, an Audubon study shows. From Alaskan seabirds dying of starvation because of warming Arctic waters (see the Star Tribune story on Oct. 11) to the prospect of dropping numbers among our beloved Common Loon, climate change threatens birds as it changes their habitats, their breeding ranges and their food sources.



To help our birds, let's consider how we can fight climate change. We can make changes in our own habits, by reducing our driving and other uses of fossil fuels, planting trees and switching to clean power. And we can advocate for change with our elected officials. Let's work to save what we love-our birds and God's creation.

--Allison Jensen

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 8th at 7 PM in the Parish Hall. Come one, come all!

NOVEMBER Calendar Highlights

1 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony
6:15 PM Youth Group - Youth Room
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ("Fall back")

2 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS!

5 8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Formation for Youth

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Children's Chapel (Chapel)

7 7 AM - 8 PM VOTING IN PARISH HALL

8 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony
6:15 PM Youth Group - Youth Room
7:00 PM Green Team - Parish Hall
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

9 1 PM Knitting - Library

10 6 PM Couples Bridge - Parish Hall

12 8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Adult Forum
9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

13 5:30 PM Finance Committee - Parish Hall

Mary Rowe to act in liturgical and pastoral capacities until a Transition Priest is called by the Vestry. Fr. John then departed the meeting and Karen Olsen, the Missioner for Ministry met with the Vestry to discuss in detail the transition steps necessary in the calling of a new Rector.

--The Vestry would like to recognize the following person in our "Shout-outs" for the work he has recently done for our parish: Many thanks to Mark Brilowski for his excellent work coordinating the sewer bidding process.

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. I will be at coffee hour after the service. Please feel free to ask me or any Vestry member questions you have about this meeting. Thank you for your attention.

15 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel
6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony
6:15 PM Youth Group - Youth Room
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

18 Fall Dinner and Autumn Auction

19 8 AM Holy Eucharist
9 AM Fellowship
9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM Fellowship
12 PM Autumn Auction bidding ENDS

20 6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall

21 *Meals on Wheels - Offsite*

22 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel
4 PM - Staff Meeting - Office
5:30 PM Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Parish Hall

23 Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
10 AM Holy Eucharist - Church

24 *(Office Closed)*

26 8 AM Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM Adult Forum
9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

27 ***e-Traveler Deadline!***

29 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Chapel
6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony
6:15 PM Youth Group - Youth Room
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room

Please note: Outside-group use of the building has **not** been listed here. We now have music lessons Monday through Saturday, and ongoing kitchen use. Please check the calendar in the office before scheduling a meeting or event; *please also check* that the kitchen is available to do prep work for an already scheduled event! Our weekly building-use calendar is quite busy!

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the November ***e-Traveler***.

Please be sure to keep the office updated with moves, new phone numbers and email addresses, etc. so we all remain connected.

One more time - Here's my last day with Lincoln before he left the office for the last time. He sure looks ready to be off on his new adventure!



Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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