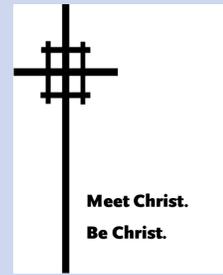


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**
Rector

Let There Be Light by Fr. Randy+

Light is an amazing phenomenon. It can be brilliant and overwhelming to our vision in its most intense and explosive form. But it can also be the tiniest of a flicker that stands out against the vast depth of dense and utter darkness.

My uncle Clark was a member of a specialized military training team during the Viet Nam conflict. The U.S. Army had developed a program in which small teams of trainers are embedded directly with Republic of Viet Nam army troops, in an effort to prepare them to fight the Viet Cong spilling into the country from the north. During starless night time patrol missions, they would look across the immense rice paddies, and in the far distance see the glint of tiny pen lights held by the Viet Cong soldiers as they advanced in a single-file column. In complete pitch-black darkness, the smallest of light brightly shines forth.

Watching these lights was a very powerful image.

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount exhortation in Matthew 5:13-16, he says to his followers, "*You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see....*" Jesus was commissioning those who would follow him to be the bearers of light, even to the ends of the earth. Jesus never promised that it would be easy: he spoke of times of great violence and persecution, when most people would prefer darkness to light. Yet, "*The light shines in the*

darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

But, what a risk: for God to entrust his precious light to humankind. What an extraordinary thing: for God to entrust his precious light to a young girl from Nazareth called Mary—to entrust his light to a motley group of disciples-- fishermen and tax collectors and ne'er-do-wells. *What a risk:* to entrust his light to you and to me.

What an extraordinary thing. *What a risk.* We are the light of the world. We carry the light within us. We carry that precious light of Christ within us: at baptism we were made Christ's and Christ dwells within us.

And as we think about the saints and sinners who came before us, it is humbling and challenging to examine just how faithfully I tend and nurture the gift of the light of Christ entrusted to me. Each one of us are entrusted as stewards to proclaim the Gospel for our few years of life on this earth—within the whole history of the Christian church. Our faithfulness will have an effect on future generations to come. So how we live our lives, our commitment to worship, to the practice of intentional prayer, to mission, is not just about us and our relationship with God. We have a responsibility to be bearers of the light—a *responsibility to those who are still to come.* We carry the lamp for a while, *and then we pass it on.*

When we think about the lives of the saints before us, it is wise to ask ourselves:

-How does my light shine before others?

-How does my life now make a difference to others?

-Who now needs the light I have been entrusted with?

-How can the light that is in me point others to him who is the light of the world, our Savior Jesus Christ?

Amen.

Randy+

Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

We made it through another month! Our worship is still in-person and the choir is singing every week. The Lessons and Carols music is in the folders and the countdown to Christmas has begun. But of course, there's plenty happening between now and then. For church-in-the-time- of-

COVID, we've got a lot going on here.

First off, please drop by our **Guy Fawkes Day celebration on Friday, November 5th about 5:30pm**. Guy Fawkes was an Englishman who thought he was a patriot and wanted an end to the state-sanctioned repression of the Catholic religion. England in 1606 was still in the shadow of decades of religious strife through the Bloody Mary years when Protestants were burned for heresy, and under Elizabeth I when Catholics were forbidden even the celebration of the mass. James I was newly on the throne and Catholics had lost all hope that he might champion their cause, since he had kicked all the priests out of the country and had begun to fine those who refused to attend Protestant services. There had already been some unsuccessful plots to overthrow James, so Guy and his friends decided to blow up the houses of parliament instead.

When the plot was discovered and the plotters captured, they faced a rather gruesome end and the English marked the anniversary ever thereafter with bonfires and fireworks. Fr. Randy tells me that some Episcopal churches in the Northeast celebrate Guy Fawkes day as well. So, we're in good company. We'll have a small bonfire in the outdoor fire pit, some sparklers, walking tacos and warming beverages. Dress warmly and bring a friend.

Then, same weekend, **Sunday afternoon, November 7th at 3:00pm**, join us for a Karla and Friends event. My violist friend, Rolf Krogstad, is part of an acoustic folk group called *The Eclectic Whirlwind*. They're coming to play original and folk music of Danish, Norwegian, British and American extraction. Additionally, Cheryl Bailey, Barb Hovey, Josh Kattelman and the choir section leaders, AJ, Tom, Katherine, and Carolyn will join me for some decidedly un-churchy music. Bring along a friend to hear me and my friends having some musical fun on an autumn afternoon!

There are several other events in November, the details of which I will leave to other folks. But, please put **Lessons and Carols** on your calendar for **December 19th at 4:00pm**. We're planning our usual presentation of beautiful carols old and new. This year, because everything is so different than what we thought it would be, I thought it might be a nice opportunity to take most of the lessons from British and American poetry. I found a lot of really thoughtful pieces that I am eager to share with you. We have all heard the traditional scripture, and while that is familiar and comforting, hearing things a different way is sometimes quite enlightening. I don't know about you, but this time last year, I thought we'd be back to normal by *this* Christmas. Of course, now we know that we're in the process of finding our way to a new normal that may not be quite like, or as easy as the "good old days." But Christmas comes again. Carols will be sung, wine will be mulled and cookies will be baked! Please join us!

Grace and peace,
Karla

Footprints NOVEMBER 2021
News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



Things are rockin' with the families of St. Christopher's!

Kids in the liturgy: If you attend the 10:30 service, you may have noticed some of our kids serving in new ways! We have three readers and five Junior Acolytes. We are so pleased to have them serving in these roles!

Sunday School: We meet weekly (except the 1st Sunday of the month) with our wonderful teachers, Jean Darnell and Carol Duff. Rev. Marilyn Baldwin is also helping with our yoga lessons!

Family Worship: We meet on the 1st Sunday of the month in person, where Fr. Randy leads us in interactive storytelling and engages the children in celebrating the Eucharist with him. Last month we celebrated St. Francis with a blessing of the animals! We meet at 4 pm, and all are welcome to join us.

Outreach: We have a couple of outreach projects coming. Thank you to everyone who donated plastic bottles – we have plenty! We are still hoping to get more t-shirts. They can have pictures or logos or be plain. We want Kid size Medium through Adult size Large. Anything smaller or bigger doesn't work as well with our project.

On the horizon: As we head into the holiday season, we are planning another Virtual Christmas Pageant! Watch for more details.

Pick Up, Clean Up, Shine Up Saturday!

We will be having an all-parish workday on **Saturday, November 13, 9 am to Noon**. Refreshments will be provided. We have lots of projects and cleaning in preparation for the Bishop's visit on November 21st. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

The Bishop is Coming!

"The Bishop is Coming!" Yes this is an exciting announcement for all of us in this faith community. The Rt. Rev. Craig W. Loya will be joining us for worship and visitation on Sunday, November 21, 2021. Bishop Loya will be presiding and preaching at both the 8:00 and 10:30 AM worship services. Additional opportunity for meeting and greeting the Bishop that Sunday are currently in the planning stages.

This will be the first time Bishop Loya has visited St. Christopher's since the initial ECMN Bishop Candidate Panel convened here, prior to the Bishop X election. We are thrilled to have Bishop Loya worship with us, and strongly encourage you and your friends join us in this special worship day!

During the visit by Bishop Loya, all persons who wish to be baptized or received into the Episcopal church will have the opportunity to do so at the 10:30 am service. Reception to the church is open to all persons who have been baptized in a different Christian tradition to formally join the Episcopal Church. Please contact the church office at office@stchristophers-mn.org or call Fr. Randy at 651-210-7008 if you have questions.

Green Team Update

Home Energy Tip: With winter around the corner, it's not too late to take steps to lower your energy use. Do you have weather stripping that you've been meaning to apply? Maybe you haven't changed the furnace filter for a while? These and other steps can lower your energy use, lower your energy bill, and make your house more comfortable. You could also schedule an energy audit through Xcel Energy and get expert assistance to make your home more energy efficient.

Giving Garden Update: So far this season, we have donated over 650 pounds of produce to Keystone Community Food Shelf. The final harvest will take place on Saturday, October 30, as we put the garden to bed for the winter. Stand by for the grand total of pounds donated.

- The Green Team

Pulse of the Parish

Vestry meeting held on October 19, 2021

The purpose of this report is to inform you about the work and actions from the October 19 Vestry meeting.

The Vestry meeting opened with readings from scripture and the Vestry Covenant, followed by approval of the August minutes.

Tom Linder from the Finance team reviewed highlights from the September Financial reports. We are at 75% of the budget year, and on track with 75.3% of income, but only 52% of expenses, so we are ahead for the year by a substantial amount. We received the State Fair payment for the volunteer hours, which combined with payment for use of the parking lot, totaling about \$5,100. (A big thank-you to all who volunteered to staff the parking lot during the fair!) Our offerings are ahead of what was budgeted, and building revenue, although lower than budgeted, is moving closer to anticipated monthly revenue. The one-time PPP loan, and our rector remaining part-time, also contributed to the budget surplus.

The Vestry was asked to review the Guidelines and Protocols for Endowment fund use.

The Vestry was updated on the current phone upgrade and internet rewiring effort, led by Jeff Jensen, who is waiting for a third bid from a contractor before proceeding with necessary upgrades to the system.

Vestry member Ross Ackerman will be testing the new camera for recording services; a stronger wi-fi signal in the sanctuary after the re-wiring is completed will be needed to fully utilize the camera's functioning.

Jr. Warden Chris Mayr reported that about a dozen parishioners have returned their stewardship pledges so far. It is hoped that most will return their pledges by the end of October so that an accurate 2022 budget can be prepared.

Vestry member Al Reedstrom reported that the Dellwood exploratory team is continuing to look at options and possibilities for the property.

Fr. Randy updated the vestry on the bishop's planned visit at our services November 21, with a question and answer session in-between the 8:00 and 10:30 services. He also reminded the Vestry about a number of upcoming events, including the Oct 31 service of remembrance, a Guy Fawkes Day bonfire, and a musical concert. A church clean up day is being organized by the building and grounds committee on November 13. (Details can be found in current and up-coming bulletin announcements.)

Vestry liaison reports included:

- a building and grounds walk-through of the building, producing a list of tasks and projects needed to be done;
- a hearts and hands project,
- Meals on Wheels,
- Pete Lee is now leading the Caring Card ministry team.
- The giving garden clean-up will occur on Oct 30, at 9am.

Special shout-outs to the Building and Grounds team, and our junior acolytes and readers!

The meeting ended with Compline.

Please feel free to visit with 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, Monday, October 18.

CALENDAR for NOVEMBER

1 Monday - *Office Closed until 2 PM.*

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

2 Tuesday - General Election Day

7 AM - 8 PM Voting - Parish Hall

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

10 AM - *OA Group - #218*

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

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

7 PM Exploratory Team - Gathering Room

3 Wednesday

10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

1:00 PM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

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

6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

4 Thursday

11 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

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

5 Friday - ECMN Convention - offsite

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

5:30 PM Remember Remember Bonfire event - Outdoors

6 Saturday - ECMN Convention - offsite

8 AM OA - Room 218

10 AM CLA - Room 218

11 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

7 Sunday - Pentecost 24

8 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

4 PM Family Worship - Outdoors

8 Monday

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

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

9 Tuesday

10 AM SG Peer Group - Gathering Room

10 AM - OA Group - #218

11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

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

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

10 Wednesday

9:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

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

6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

11 Thursday - Veterans Day

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

12 Friday

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

13 Saturday

8 AM OA - Room 218

9 AM - Noon Fall Building Clean Up Day

11 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

14 Sunday - Pentecost 25

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

15 Monday

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

6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall, in person

16 Tuesday

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

10 AM - OA Group - #218

1:30 PM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

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

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

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

6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

18 Thursday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

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

19 Friday

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

20 Saturday

8 AM OA - Room 218

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

10 AM CLA - Room 218

11 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

21 Sunday - Bishop Loya Visits! - Christ the King/Last Pentecost

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

22 Monday

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

23 Tuesday

10 AM - OA Group - #218

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

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

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

6:30 PM - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

25 Thursday - Thanksgiving Day - Closed

10 AM - Holy Eucharist

26 Friday - Closed

27 Saturday

8 AM OA - Room 218

11 AM Flute Lessons - Music Room

28 Sunday - ADVENT 1

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

29 Monday - e-Traveler Deadline for December

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

30 Tuesday

10 AM - OA Group - #218

11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

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

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

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

Last Words



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

THANK YOU for your cards, prayers and good wishes as I recover from my second hip replacement! I'm back in the office for November, although I am moving a bit slowly, still. It is good to be back in my chair and my routine! I've missed you all!

Thank you all for supporting me as I regain my mobility!

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. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Fall 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.
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STAY CONNECTED

