

## Ruth Thillen

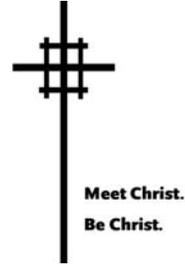
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**From:** St. Christopher's Episcopal Church <office@stchristophers-mn.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2018 3:40 PM  
**To:** office@stchristophers-mn.org  
**Subject:** October e-Traveler

Issue #71 | OCTOBER 2018

St. Christopher's

# *e-Traveler*



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## St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

### **VESTRY:**

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 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

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### A Note from The Rev. Daniel Pearson



**The Rev.  
Daniel V. Pearson**

**Transition Priest**

### A Convention Report....

The ECMN (Episcopal Church in Minnesota) Convention is many things. I tend to look at the experience through the lens of church theology (ecclesiology). As I have mentioned in my work with the Discovery and Discernment Team, there are three primary ways to look at the church: as a *historic institution*, as the *community of the Holy Spirit* and as a *missional enterprise*. Interestingly, all these “notes” are played as we Episcopalians from across the state of Minnesota gather in convention—this year on September 14 and 15 in Mankato. In brief, the “business” of the church involves action and experience in each of these aspects of church life.

The institutional part involves rules of order to conduct business fairly and efficiently, and on this note, it was quite wonderful to have The Rev. Mark Kelm, former Rector of our neighboring parish of St. John’s in the Wilderness act as parliamentarian. Having had to retire with early onset Parkinson’s disease, he was able to be present and to help us conduct our institutional business of elections, budgets and resolutions. Besides this business, the convention affords people with various interests to have a booth in a display area. Worthy of mention in this regard was a booth associated with fellow parishioners Becky Lucas and Robin Monahan —their promotion of Move to Amend. Additionally, the “bead women” associated with Ethiopia, whom we are getting to know at St. Christopher’s, had a booth to sell their artistic work.

For me, both the experience of worship and the opportunities for fellowship bring forth my awareness of the activity of the Holy Spirit. Generally, the worship was informal and spirited as people participated in the usual singing of hymns and songs, and an unusual Eucharist presented in the format of a simple agape, fellowship meal. Quite wonderfully, our own Deacon Janet

performed the gospel story of the feeding of the five thousand in dramatic fashion. As the convention seems a bit, at times, like a family reunion, the Holy Spirit as the go-between God makes our exchange of Christ's peace both in liturgy and in the hallways salutary.

For a number of years, our Bishop, Brian Prior, and the ECMN leadership have been encouraging all parishes to be in the missional conversation and to take missional initiatives. In brief, we Episcopalians are encouraged to participate in God's mission arising from the divine fellowship of the Holy Trinity, wherein God's desire is not to hold love within God's self but to have it expressed through Christ's body, the church and through the Holy Spirit's activity in the world. At convention, one of the poignant signs of this missional movement taking place in the church was in the presence and activity of so many young people who were in attendance. They were mission and they talked mission—God's love being expressed in their obvious affection for one another and in their commitment talk about their spiritual experience.

All in all it was a good convention and St. Christopher's can be glad for the participation of our delegates—Jeff and Allison Jensen and Kathy Ackerman in the lay order, and Janet MacNally and Daniel Pearson in the clerical order—as well as other participants from our parish—Becky and Robin and Bill MacNally.

dvp

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### The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.  
Janet MacNally**

**Deacon**

One of the better take-aways I had from this year's annual convention was the following statement:

*Those closest to the problem are those closest to the solution.*

The theme for this year's gathering was "Responding to the Spirit's Invitation: Engaging God's Mission of the Beloved Community." We have spent the past few years in an arc that uses the vision of Dr. King's Beloved Community as the starting place and continues to unfold in multiple ways as we who are the ECMN follow the Holy Spirit out into our neighborhoods seeking to create "a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of one's fellow human beings." And what you might ask does any of this have to

do with being a Missional Church? Well actually more than you might at first think.

Being a missional church requires that we enter into relationships with our neighbors that are transformational rather than transactional. So let's explore the difference between the two types of relationships. Rabbi Aryeh Weinstein in his blog "*beginningwith*" writes the following:

- "Let's talk about transactional relationships. I looked up the meaning of the word transaction and found there are two definitions. One has to do with buying or selling. It is a business deal we're all familiar with, an exchange of some sort. Another is an exchange or interaction between two people. Many relationships are transactional in nature. Did you ever notice that the quickest way to get what we want from our spouse or children is to make a deal? If you do this, then I will do that. Well, I always do this for you, so why don't you do it for me? We're creating a market with an exchange rate, where one acts only if something is received in return."

Perhaps the most important indication of a transactional relationship is that it often requires no actual relationship with the person or persons on the other side of the table. We do for others without having, or even in some cases, intending, to enter into any sort of partnership with them. We do good things, without a doubt, but we miss the piece that the Holy Spirit is calling us into; we miss the piece where Jesus, instructing his disciples on entering into the world, tells them to enter a house, extend peace, and if that peace is returned, to settle there. Eat with those folks, work alongside those folks, and engage in conversation with them. This was not a quick pass through a town, but rather a slow and deliberate visit designed to determine what it is that this community may be in need of. All of which instructs the disciples in transformational relationships.

Transformational relationships are, quite simply put, relationships that transform all parties involved. Therefore they consist of engaging with words such as we, not I; of leverage, not fix; of stand with, not help; and of serve, not lead. It requires that we first and foremost listen to our neighbors, allow them to share their stories, and above all move slowly.

And that, I think, is the most frustrating part of the missional church in general, and transformational relationships in particular. We live in a fast paced, instant gratification society where answers are gained in seconds on our smart phones and time is something that is measured in tweets. To slow down, pull back, and enter into relationships that build slowly over the course of weeks, months, or even years is a challenge to our 21<sup>st</sup> Century sensibilities. And yet that is what we are called to enter into. Looking back on our Baptismal Covenant and on Dr. King's vision for the Beloved Community, we find at the core the formation of relationships that transform all people involved. And if we are to engage in God's mission of the Beloved Community, does that not call us into creating a society that seeks excellence, equity, and justice? And if that is indeed our call, then does it not make sense to listen to our neighbors first, because those closest to the problem are closest to the solution?

We, as people of God, as Christ's hands and feet upon this earth, as those who have been joined with Christ in God's mission for the life of the world, are called into relationships that build and deepen with the gift of time, that move at the pace dictated by the Holy Spirit, and that give the gift of transformation to all involved.

*Amen, Deacon Janet*

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## Footprints JULY 2018 - News from Children's Ministries



**Marion Hunner**

**Children's Ministries  
Director**



Many thanks to the adults who have volunteered to walk with our Sunday School Children on their Faith Journey this year.

Kathy Ackerman Carol Duff  
Jean Darnell Chris Huntley

### **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.

Children's programs are off to a great start! Here's what we have to look forward to in October:

**Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** is our first Children's Chapel experience for children age 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Here we will sing, pray and read & respond to the Gospel. Then we will join our families at the Peace. We meet in the small chapel at 10:30, and there is no Sunday School on this day. We have Children's Chapel on the first Sunday of each month.

**Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** – All Parish Hayride at 4pm at Bunker Hills Stables in Andover. Sign up in the parish hall following Sunday Services or contact Marion. Sign up and payment deadline is Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. You can sign up online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/Thj6vEJz9AVvtzYD3> or find Marion in the parish hall on Sundays.

**Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**- Blessing of the Feet for Halloween.



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**Silent Auction and Fall Dinner**

Please plan to join us for the **Silent Auction** on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>** (5:00 pm) and **4<sup>th</sup>** (8:00 am - noon), and the festive **Fall Dinner** on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 5:30 pm.

This year's auction will include social events, parties, gift baskets, home-made goods, and services. We will also have our ever-popular gift card and beer & wine raffles. And please note we are also planning to bring back our Talent Table event on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, to feature the handwork of the many creative folks within our parish.

Auction donations are now being accepted! We encourage you to think creatively about offering fun gatherings and imaginative creations to support our Mission Opportunities fund. Donation cards are located in the upper Narthex and in the Parish Hall. Please return your completed donation cards in one of the colorful donation boxes no later than **October 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Your participation is what makes this event special!



## October Calendar Highlights!

**2** *Meals on Wheels—Offsite*

**6:30 PM** Search Team – Chapel, Office

**3 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**

**5:30 PM** Youth Group – Parish Hall

**7:15 PM** Parish Choir – Music Room

**7 8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**8 5:30 PM** Finance Committee – Parish Hall

**9 6:30 PM** Search Team – Chapel, Office

**10 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**

**4 PM** Staff Meeting – Office

**7 PM** Green Team – Parish Hall

**7:15 PM** Parish Choir – Music Room

**11 1 PM** Knitting – Library

**12 1 PM** Couples Bridge – Parish Hall

**14 8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**15 6:45 PM** Vestry – Parish Hall

**17 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**

**7:15 PM** Parish Choir – Music Room

**18 10:30 AM** Hearts and Hands- Parish Hall

**21 8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**23** *Meals on Wheels – Offsite*

**24 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**

**4 PM** Staff Meeting – Office

**7:15 PM** Parish Choir – Music Room

**25 5:30 PM Community Dinner**

**5:30 PM** Youth Gathering@Dinner

**27 4 PM HAYRIDE!** – Offsite at Bunker Hills Stables

**28 8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**29 e-Traveler** Deadline

**31 HALLOWEEN**

**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**

Please remember that our building has many groups from the community meeting and learning every day of the week. Please be sure to reserve your space well ahead of meetings or events. Thanks!

## Last Words



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

I've been on vacation the last week of September, so we put this Traveler "to bed" pretty early. I set it up to send to you automatically - I sure hope I did it right!

Ruth Thillen  
Parish Administrator

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