

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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The Myth of Arrival



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

As I sit at my desk today in the office of St. Christopher's, I cannot help but think, "Oh, how I would love to complete my work...just once in a while!" To have the sense of accomplishment of signing off on something that, by its nature, is really never finished—various meetings and visits, preparing sermons and liturgical planning, follow-up phone calls, and the like—the list goes on and on. Indeed, most of the things we do aren't things that get finished. Even when this *e-Traveler* article gets written, the deadline for the next one awaits me.

And yet, our culture perpetuates the Myth of Arrival. Like, if we really pulled it all together, we could be that polished, calm, energetic, accomplished individual that we see reflected in the stereotypes of our imagination.

Personally or professionally, this deception of arrival is insidious and dangerous. It lures us into believing that it's possible to be complete, inside or out. That if we worked a little bit longer, dug a little deeper, ate the right foods, or tried harder, somehow, we would cross a threshold into a land of contentment and peaceful completion.

The truth is, our work happens in the midst of interruptions, stopping and starting, losing the thread, starting over, and beginning again. It's often a process of feeling overwhelmed, getting your rhythm, then feeling overwhelmed again. This happens despite the best of intentions, it happens despite knowing better.

What I want to say is this: You are not alone. If you are living, then life, at a

minimum, is pretty unkempt most of the time, if not all-out messy. We are never intended to sail through it all without a speed bump or two to knock us back in our seat!

The truth is life happens in the margins, around the edges, and smack dab in the middle of everything.

Romans 8:28 states, “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”

For me, the path that steers me away from the slippery slope of imagined arrival is always, in some form or another, self-compassion and trust in God. Self-compassion for the part of me that is so ready to find fault in my incompleteness. And trust in God, remembering that as in Psalm 127, “It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.”

Whether the arrival myth has taken hold of you in a spiritual, psychological, or work situation, it is time to loosen your grip. Get done what you can authentically get done and celebrate that. Let the notion of ‘enough’ settle in you.

As the poet David Whyte says, “The cure for exhaustion is not rest, but whole-heartedness.”

You work hard, of that I am sure. What matters is showing up for it, Again and again. And with God’s help, that is all and enough. Be at peace.

Randy+

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

In 1969, a brand new Federal Building serving the people of the State of Minnesota was opened on land near Fort Snelling. At the time, the building was to be a Government services building housing things such as Veterans Affairs, Social Security, Medicare and so forth.

At that time, then Senator Walter Mondale submitted that the building be named for Bishop Henry Benjamin Whipple. Mondale held Bishop Whipple in high regard for the mercy he showed and the justice he sought for the marginalized in Minnesota, most notably the Native Americans.

Several decades later, the Government decided to move the Immigration Courts to the Whipple building; ICE headquarters eventually followed. Today, the building

that was built by the Government to serve all peoples has become the regional center for ICE activities in the Midwest, in addition to serving as a jail for those awaiting a hearing in Immigration Court, and the site from which deportations occur on a regular basis.

For the last 64 years, the Episcopal Church through General Convention has issued resolutions calling for the humane, compassionate treatment of those who have come to this country seeking a better life. The treatment that is received at the Whipple Building, however, is far from that for which the church has called. What happens at the Whipple Building today is not our theology, our belief or practice as Episcopalians. It is not practicing what our Presiding Bishop calls the "Way of Love, the Way of Jesus," nor is it what our current Bishop has called for in the creation of the Beloved Community.

On Tuesday morning, **October 29th**, Episcopalians from Minnesota along with The Right Reverend Brian Prior, our ninth and current bishop, along with representatives from the Interfaith Coalition on Migration and the Minnesota Council of Churches, along with others, will gather at **8:00 am** for a vigil of prayers and Eucharist and the request that the Government either remove Bishop Whipple's name from the building, or remove the ICE headquarters and deportations from the current building.

The invitation to join me that morning is open to all. If you can't make it to the vigil, please call (202) 224-3121 and ask to speak to our senators and your congressional representative and give your support.

Please prayerfully consider this. In Christ's Name,
Deacon Janet

Footprints OCTOBER 2019 - 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: Jean Darnell, Carol Duff, Chris Huntley, Cindy Lee.

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

In Sunday School we will be studying several saints. Each child will pick a saint to learn about this month and then dress up as their chosen saint for All Saints Day on November 3rd.

Saturday, October 5th – All Parish Hayride at 4pm at Bunker Hills Stables in Andover.

Sunday, October 6th is our first Children's Chapel experience for children age 3 – 5th 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.

Thursday, October 10th is Fr. Randy's Celebration of New Ministry. The service begins at 5:30, and we hope that ALL of our parishioners (yes, children, too!) will be present to celebrate this very special occasion! Even if you can't be there right at 5:30, we encourage you to come and join us when you can. The service will be followed by a festive Pot Luck reception. Please bring a dish to share!

Sunday, October 27th- Blessing of the Feet for Halloween during the 10:30 liturgy.

Youth News



Chad O'Leary

**Youth Ministries
Director**

Here's what's coming up!

10/6

Join us for Sunday Formation!

This year we are walking through all of the major themes found in Scripture, which provide the foundation for who we are as a People of Faith. Journals have been purchased for each of our middle & high school youth! Today's theme is **Disruption**. Next week's theme will be **The Promise** where we will look at the significance of covenant relationships. Sweet rolls for all who show up! If you can't join us, grab your journal and check out the accompanying DVD from the library.

10/13

Join us for Sunday Formation!

This year we are walking through all of the major themes found in Scripture, which provide the foundation for who we are as a People of Faith. Journals have been

purchased for each of our middle & high school youth! Today's theme is **The Promise**. Next week's theme will be **Exodus** where we will look at the significance of this story for both Jewish and Christian people. Sweet rolls for all who show up! If you can't join us, grab your journal and check out the accompanying DVD from the library.

10/20

Join us for Sunday Formation!

This year we are walking through all of the major themes found in Scripture, which provide the foundation for who we are as a People of Faith. Journals have been purchased for each of our middle & high school youth! Today's theme is **Exodus**. Next week and 10/27 we will work on a project that we will be leading, which is to assist our new friends at Pine Ridge with the resources that they need for the holiday season. Sweet rolls for all who show up! If you can't join us, grab your journal and check out the accompanying DVD from the library.

10/27

Join us for Sunday Formation!

Next week and 10/27 we will work on a project that we will be leading, which is to assist our new friends at Pine Ridge with the resources that they need for the holiday season. Sweet rolls for all who show up!

10/27

Join us for Sunday Formation!

This year we are walking through all of the major themes found in Scripture, which provide the foundation for who we are as a People of Faith. Journals have been purchased for each of our middle & high school youth! Next week's theme will be **Commands** where we will look at the laws that were adopted after leaving Egypt. Sweet rolls for all who show up! If you can't join us, grab your journal and check out the accompanying DVD from the library.

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Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

New Ministry Schedules are out!

New Sunday Ministry schedules came out via email the week of September 23rd. You should have received your Quarter 4 schedule(s) if you serve on any of these teams: Usher, Nursery, Lector, Intercessor, or LEM. If you did not receive them, please contact Marion.

Green Team

Cultivating more than 400 pounds of tomatoes, cucumbers, beets, chard, herbs, kale, green beans and zucchini (sometimes big enough to feed Paul Bunyan), our Giving Garden team delivered a lot of God's abundance and neighborly care to our hungry neighbors served by the Keystone food shelf.

Thanks to Jean Crow, Jane Suilman, Karen Hartman, Joel & Leslie Norton, Ann DePaolis Jones & Larry Jones, Becky Lucas & Robin Monahan, Tom Linder & Jennifer Wright, Karen & Bill Hanna, Mary & David Friend, Mary Pendergrass,

Kathy & Ross Ackerman, Bruce Warkentien, Don Sheik, Connie Hendrick, Jeffrey Jensen, and Allison & Jeff Jensen. (I hope I didn't miss anyone!)

The food shelf moved to Rice Street this summer, but please know that the Keystone Foodmobile will stop by our parking lot on second Fridays of the month, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., continuing to feed nearby folks in need.

First Nations' Kitchen

Our **last date** for this year for First Nations Kitchen is **October 27**, the last Sunday in October. I hope you will consider volunteering to work on that Sunday. I would love to have you there if you have done it before, or have never volunteered but have been thinking about it. It is rewarding work. I will need **5 to 7 volunteers** for the prep session from 1:30 - 4:00 pm. This entails prepping the fruits and vegetables the chef for the day will be using; setting the tables and otherwise preparing the dining room for dinner service; and some dish washing. I will also need **6 to 8 volunteers** for the dinner service from 5:00 - 7:30 pm. For this time slot, I need people to serve plates in the kitchen; serve the guests with their food; busers; and dish washers. Volunteers working during dinner are welcome to take a break and eat with guests once the initial rush is over, if they wish. If you want to volunteer please email me at marypendergrass41@gmail.com or call me, 651-336-2622.

If you have been considering, or would consider, taking over the position of Coordinator for St. Christopher's volunteers with First Nations Kitchen, now is the time to take that step. I have done this job for the past two years and am stepping down. We partner with St. James Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, and we schedule ourselves for 4 Sundays during the calendar year - once a quarter. The dates for 2020 need to be selected in coordination with St. James during November so that we are able get the dates we want. I'm willing to help you get started.

--Mary Pendergrass

SILENT AUCTION

Silent Auction and Fall Dinner

It's time to submit your donation slips! Collection boxes and donation slips are located in the parish hall, and on the shelf in the upper narthex. Please take a few moments to fire up your inner creativity and submit your donations for events, gatherings, services, gift baskets, homemade crafts and culinary delights.

Completed slips are due by October 14th. This year's auction is being held on **Saturday November 9th (5 to 7pm), and Sunday the 10th (8am to 12 noon).** Please plan to come to our festive **Fall Dinner (5:30 on the 9th)** for fellowship, our exciting wine/beer and gift card raffles, and early bidding. **Tickets** for the dinner will be on sale after Sunday services on **October 27 and November 3rd.**

All auction and dinner proceeds go to our Mission Opportunities Fund, so in

addition to all of the fun and fellowship, we are supporting all of St Christopher's missions throughout our community.

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, September 23rd, 2019.

- The meeting opened with scripture and prayer.
- The monthly financial reports were reviewed. The August 2019 income and expenses are generally staying within the budget.
- Safe Church: The ECMN Safe Church program is in the process of being revised. Annual training will be made available to all church members. Training will be required every 3 years for those working with youth and vulnerable people. Additional information will be made available over the coming months.
- Leadership for First Nations Kitchen and future commitment options were discussed. Anyone interested in this role, please contact any member of the vestry.
- Ministry Connections: Discussed having vestry members as a point person for active ministries within the church.
- Church Land Development: Discussed having an exploration team to identify and develop potential revenue streams from use of church land. Anyone interested in participating in this team should contact any member of the vestry.
- Building and Grounds: Discussed placement of a 5 mph speed limit sign in the parking lot. Linden tree near kitchen door has been removed. Discussed replacement with a Fall Fiesta Maple Tree.
- St Christopher's Bylaws: Bylaws are in the process of being updated. Revisions will be presented to vestry as soon as possible.
- Stewardship Drive: Leadership was selected. Commitment Sunday is set for November 3rd.
- Silent Auction: Is being organized and is set for the weekend of November 9th.
- Adult Education: Leadership has been identified and classes/discussions/events are being scheduled.
- Fr. Randy's Installation: Service and potluck are scheduled for Thursday October 10th at 5:30pm. Mark your calendars.
- Shout Outs: Thank You to Patrick Hunner and the Ember Island Band for their wonderful music on Startup Sunday. And to the grillmasters, Ross Ackerman and Todd Spiro. A big THANK YOU! to all of you for all the hard work.

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



OCTOBER Calendar Highlights!

Wednesday 2

- 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** – Chapel
- 3 PM Staff Meeting – Office
- 6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony
- 7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Saturday 5

- 4 PM Annual Hayride – *Offsite at Bunker Hills*

Sunday 6

- 8 AM Holy Eucharist**
- 9:30 AM Fellowship
 - Youth Formation
 - Adult Formation
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**
Children's Chapel – Chapel

Wednesday 9

- 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** – Chapel
- 3 PM Staff Meeting – Office
- 6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony
- 7 PM Green Team - Library
- 7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Thursday 10

- 1:00 PM Knitting – Library
- 5:30 PM Celebration of New Ministry**
Pot Luck Reception follows
Bring your favorite dish to share!

Friday 11

- 1:30 PM Keystone Mobile Food Shelf – West Lot

Saturday 12

8 AM Outdoor Weeding Work Day

Sunday 13

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Children's Education

Youth Formation

Adult Formation

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 14

5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall

Tuesday 15

Meals on Wheels – Offsite

Wednesday 16

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 17

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands

Sunday 20

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Children's Education

Youth Formation

Adult Formation

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 21

6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

Wednesday 23

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel

3 PM Staff Meeting – Office

6:15 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room

Sunday 27

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Children's Education

Youth Formation

Adult Formation

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday 28
e-Traveler Deadline

Wednesday 30

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 31 – Happy Halloween!

5:30 PM Community Dinner – Parish Hall

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 October ***e-Traveler!***

Sorry to be sending this on the 1st! Lots of things going on around here.

I hope to see you all on October 10th, at 5:30 PM, for the Celebration of New Ministry. A Pot Luck reception will follow. Bring your favorite dish! If you can't make 5:30 - come when you CAN! Join in the celebration!

Below are a couple of photos from the Fair Parking, and our own Mighty Mushroom (or is it a Leprechaun Condo?) that is growing near the office entry! There's always something new happening here!

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

