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St. Christopher's *e-Traveler*

Issue #60

OCTOBER 2017

From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer
Rector

To My Beloved St. Christopher's:

I'm beginning my last e-Traveler article with two Celtic Prayers:

Till We Meet Again

May the road rise to meet you;
may the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rain fall softly on your fields.
Until we meet again
may God's hand
hold you fast.

My Prayer For You

May our God of life pour out grace upon you;
may you feel God's presence in everything you do
and be strengthened by that presence bringing you through
challenges:
this is my prayer for you.

May the Son of God be ruler in all your ways;
may Jesus shepherd you the length of all your days,
and in your heart may you sing Jesus' praise:
this is my prayer for you.

And despite how simple it may sound,
I pray that Jesus' grace will abound
and motivate everything you do;
and may the fullness of the love of Jesus
be shared through you.

May the Holy Spirit comfort you, and make you strong,
may She discipline you gently when you're wrong,
and in your heart may She give you a song:
this is my prayer for you.

May Jesus be with you in all your ways,
may Jesus shepherd you the length of all your days,
and in your heart may Jesus receive the praise:
this is my prayer for you, my prayer for you.

My heart sings with thankfulness and gratefulness for my time
serving as your rector. We have accomplished so many things,
small and big, together: growing and learning and aging.

Through our Renewal efforts, our facility is not only updated but
secure. Just a few of those projects we accomplished together are:
renewing our chancel and nave, new carpet, power assist doors,
removing the balcony, new seating, sound system and lighting in



Meet Christ
Be Christ

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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stchristophers-mn.org

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Jeff Jensen,
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Jr. Warden
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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
Rev. John F. Dwyer,
Rector

**Our
PROGRAM
YEAR
Schedule**

the church, creating a commercial kitchen and a renewed parish hall, waterproofing and installing new drain tiles around the exterior of the nave and in creating our new courtyard space, pointing the building and replacing over 5000 bricks, refurbishing the 2323 Dellwood property to rent to Fr. Toua, air conditioning the Gathering Room, class rooms and library, the music room, and the kitchen.

Our efforts to care for God's creation have renewed our space and missional activities, including: installation of our solar panels, changing over to LED lights, installing new and efficient windows in many areas of our building, having new recycle bins around our building, and composting.

Our efforts to reach out to those in the community that directly surrounds us has made us a known missional outpost here in Roseville. Those efforts have included: deepening our relationship with Keystone Community Food Shelf, expanding our community garden allowing us to deliver hundreds of pounds of fresh food to Keystone, establishing and developing our free monthly community dinner, making community statements through signage and attendance at local meetings representing our beliefs and actions regarding equality, discrimination, immigration, and helping to deepen relationships with communities of color that surround us.

And all of that wonderful work pales in comparison to my deep and abiding love for the people of this faith community. Walking with you in good times and challenging ones, being invited into your lives to share those times, has been the most rewarding and deeply moving of my experiences here. I thank you for that privilege and honor. Serving with the hard working and dedicated staff has been a true joy. They have enriched my life.

All of you will remain in my daily prayers. I will carry you on my heart and will not forget you. I also know that you will sustain, remain, and be faithful followers of Jesus.

My grateful and thankful heart is full to over-flowing.

God's Blessings and Peace,



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally,
Deacon

The world is rather a mess these days. I don't mean the metaphorical world, the one that encompasses our intellectual leanings or our views on world affairs, but the real world. The world that has been ravaged by earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and wild fires, the world that has been flashed across our TV screens daily for the past month or even longer; that is the world to which I am referring. I have had profound heartache as the hurricanes, each as powerful and deadly as the next, have crashed their way across Texas and surrounding states, or the Caribbean and then on to Florida or perhaps just taking a swing at parts of the world that their predecessor missed. It had been stunning to see the amount of damage that wind and rain and storm surge can inflict on coastal lands, and the amount of difficulty there is in getting aid to the people stranded on islands.

My family lived for a short time on Puerto Rico, and it has been difficult to see images of places that are familiar to me under water,

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
-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

VESTRY NEWS



Vestry News
The October Vestry Meeting has been moved to Monday, October 9, at 6:45 p.m. (following the Finance Meeting).

or worse, completely ripped apart. And we have friends on the island of St. Maarten devastated by Irma, and I worry for them, their families, their housing, and their businesses. And all of this brings me to the question of who do you help, where does the aid go first, who is the most deserving of those who have been affected. A lawyer listening to Jesus talk about the most important commandments was wrestling with the same questions and asked Jesus outright, "who is my neighbor?" Jesus, as He often did, answered the lawyer's question with one wrapped into a parable. He told of man traveling along the road and being attacked and beaten. As the man lay on the road, hurt and unable to move, several folks passed him by. Folks that should have known better, folks such as a judge or even priest should have known better, should have had some measure of compassion, but they passed on by. One of them even moved to the other side of the road. A Samaritan, an outsider, maybe an immigrant, definitely someone considered to be "the other" stopped. He tended to the man's wounds and left the man at an inn so that he could recover, after paying for the lodging and care. At the end of this story, Jesus asks the lawyer who was the neighbor, to which the lawyer replied the one who showed mercy. "Yes; go and do likewise."

The point of the parable for us in the middle of our messy and weather-torn world, is that we are all neighbors to one another. As the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, we are beginning to work on what it means to live into the dream of Dr. King's Beloved Community. A good place for us all to begin is the acceptance that we are all brothers and sisters, that each of us is a beloved child of God. And because we are all in this wonderful community together, it is up to each one of us to reach out with mercy to our neighbors (whoever and wherever they may be) when they are in need of our help. It truly doesn't matter if they are in the path of a hurricane on an island in the Caribbean, or the coastal waters of the United States, or on a fault line in Mexico, or have the misfortune to be in the path of a forest fire. And these are just a few of the natural disasters that are facing our world as I write. What does matter is that our reaction, our response, is to find ways to help, even if all we can do, much like the Samaritan, is to help in some small measure to pay for the care that these people need.

But first, let us pray, pray without ceasing for the neighbors who are near, and neighbors who are far away; pray that they may experience the healing power and strength of Christ as they strive to put their lives back together. And then let us work together to show mercy.

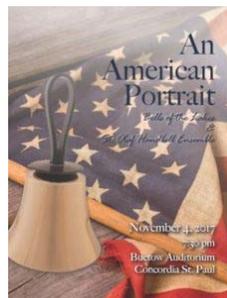
Amen, Deacon Janet

Music Notes



Karla Cole,
Music Ministries Director

The Handbell Choir is attending a concert of handbells and strings playing Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, and would like to invite you to join us. Written during the dark, early days of WWII and punctuated by the timeless prose of Abraham Lincoln, Copland's iconic work is as relevant today as it was in the 1940s or the 1860s. The local professional group Bells of the Lakes is joined by the handbell and string ensembles from St. Olaf College.



The concert is at 7:30 on Saturday night, November 4th at the Buetow Auditorium on the campus of Concordia University. (Hamline and 94 in St. Paul) Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors 60+, but with a group of 10 or more, we can

get \$15 tickets for everyone. Please let Karla Cole know of your interest as soon as possible. The deadline for getting your tickets through us is October 16th.

Karla Cole



Footprints OCTOBER 2017



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
Jean Darnell

Carol Duff
Chris Huntley

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



Sunday, October 1st is our first Children's Chapel experience for children age 3 - 5th grade. 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 28th - 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 8th

Sunday, October 29th- Blessing of the Feet for Halloween.

Youth News



Chad O'Leary

Youth Ministries Director

October is shaping up to be an exciting one for the youth of our faith community! Be sure to come this Sunday, October 1, to hear from our youth pilgrims about their journey this summer to the South. Plan to stay after for Coffee Hour, so you can get an even deeper look into the trip.

During this month, we will also amp up our partnership with Do

Good Roseville. On October 4, we will be joined by a group of black young adults who are looking forward to sharing their experience of being a minority in Minnesota. They will also answer any questions that our youth have and, together, we will talk about ways that we can be agents of Dr. King's Beloved Community in our neighborhood.

This month we will also be reaching out to Christ Temple Apostolic (just up the road!) to see if there are some ways that we can build bridges between our two faith communities. Please note that we will not be meeting the week of MEA, and, once again, we meet on Thursday during the last week of the month so that we can support our Community Dinner.

Sunday Formation Dates

October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Youth Group Dates

October 4, 11 & 26

(will not meet the week of MEA)

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Green Team



Today there is a lot of talk about "your carbon footprint".

What is your carbon footprint, and more importantly, how do you use your carbon footprint to improve the environment?

A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels by a particular person, group, etc.



As a congregation, we have taken many steps to lower our carbon footprint, such as switching to low-energy light bulbs, recycling whenever possible, and installing solar panels. We, as individuals, can also take steps to lower our individual carbon footprint. A quick google search of carbon footprint calculators will allow you to look at your own footprint. Did you know that the single largest source of emissions for the typical household is from driving (gasoline use)? Consider walking, biking or carpooling whenever possible. Recycle, minimize purchases of new products (especially those that are resource intensive or heavily packaged), and reduce your junk mail. Check out: <http://www.globalstewards.org/reduce-carbon-footprint.htm> for more easy ways to lower your environmental impact.

We cannot live without the Earth or apart from it, and something is shriveled in a man's heart when he turns away from it and concerns himself only with the affairs of men. - Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Thanks-
Karen Hartman

Next meeting October 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

OCTOBER Calendar Highlights

1 8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Formation for Youth

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Children's Chapel (Chapel)

- 4 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
- 8 8 AM Holy Eucharist**
9:30 AM Adult Forum
9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Baptism
5:30 PM First Nations' Kitchen - Offsite
- 9 4 PM Staff Meeting** - Office
5:30 PM Finance Committee - Parish Hall
6:45 PM Vestry Meeting (Please note change of day!)
- 10 Meals on Wheels** - Offsite
- 11 11:30 AM SWAT** - Parish Hall, Kitchen
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
- 12 1:00 PM Knitting** - Library
- 13 6:30 PM Couples Bridge** - Parish Hall
- 15 Fr. John's Last Sunday!**
8 AM Holy Eucharist
9 AM Reception
9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM Reception
- 18 6:15 PM Bell Choir** - Balcony
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room
- 22 8 AM Holy Eucharist**
9:30 AM Adult Forum
9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 25 6:15 PM Bell Choir** - Balcony
7:15 PM Parish Choir - Music Room
- 26 5:30 PM Community Dinner**
5:30 PM Youth Group at Dinner
- 27 7 PM Karla Cole Recital**-Church
- 28 4 PM Annual Hayride!** At Bunker Hills
- 29 8 AM Holy Eucharist with Healing**
9:30 AM Formation for Children & Youth
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Healing AND Foot Blessing!

30 e-Traveler Deadline!

31 Halloween!

Meals on Wheels - Offsite

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 October **e-Traveler**. A lot has happened since I e-mailed the September issue! We are all getting used to the truth of Fr. John and Lincoln heading West, and getting

ready to welcome a Transition Minister to the office.

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

So, here's one last shot of Lincoln:



Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

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