

St. Christopher's

## e-Traveler



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### Re-Entry...*it's more than just a splashdown!*



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

It was August of the year 1969, and my father had just returned from a national school principal's conference in Houston, Texas. I was excited for his return and to hear about the conference, but mostly I wanted to hear about his trip to the nearby NASA Houston Space Center. Only a couple of weeks before, I had listened to the Apollo crew as they landed the lunar module upon the moon's surface and made the statement about "...One giant leap for mankind." I anxiously opened a gift box from my dad to find a silver tie bar that featured a carved image of the Apollo capsule. I still wear this tie bar to this day...

What was incredible to my mind about the Apollo moon mission was not only the tremendous accomplishment of putting a person on the moon, but the awesome feat of engineering a safe return to earth for the three astronauts...a safe return to home and loved ones and family. A *Re-entry* to the arms of loving friends and family.

This is the same feeling I hold in my heart today as I anticipate the safe return of our faith family members to St. Christopher's, following a long summer season...a season that hopefully provided a Sabbath time for all...a time of relaxation and refreshment. It is now time for us to reconnect with our faith family as we step boldly into the church program year and the opportunities for new and exciting ministries. A *Re-entry* to the arms of loving friends and family.

On Sunday, September 8, St. Christopher's will have our final single worship service for the summer season. Following the 9:30 AM service, we will have an

all-parish photo and picnic to celebrate the start of the new program year. Everyone is welcome to the parish picnic, which will be open to all at no cost... you may sign up in the narthex to share a dish if you wish! We will also have a bounce house for the "littles", outdoor lawn games, and information tables which will highlight many of the St. Christopher's ministry groups. I encourage you to visit with these ministry leaders and discern where you may share your gifts, talents, and interests with our faith community. A true *Re-entry* to fellowship at St. Christopher's...to the arms of loving friends and family.

In the Christmas Cycle, we share together a song text which reminds me of the vastness of God's creation in space...and reminds me of the experience of the Apollo moon exploration:

*By his word was all created.  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun.  
Evermore and evermore.*

*Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, be faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring.  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering.  
Evermore and evermore.*

Randy+

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## The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.  
Janet MacNally**  
**Deacon**

Earlier this summer (July 21<sup>st</sup> to be exact), my name came up on the preaching rota. I was delighted to find that it was for one of my favorite Gospel passages, the familiar story of the sisters Mary and Martha. I think that I have always loved that passage because as the older of two sisters, I found themes that I could identify with, most notably the irritation of one sister because her sister was nowhere to be found during the meal preparation for Jesus and those who were traveling with him. I could so identify with Martha, or so I always seemed to remember, and will admit that I always lost some enthusiasm for the passage

when I reached the part where Jesus seemingly takes Mary's side in the dispute. It wasn't until I grew up and apart from the family life of my childhood, that I began to see these two different sisters in a new and interesting light.

There were two instances that led to my new found revelation. One was a post on Episcopal Café that pointed out that the sisters seemed to be two equal halves of the same whole. They are always either together or in close proximity, the blog pointed out, and that if one were to evaluate the settings in which we find the sisters we would find that both sisters and the gifts they have are necessary. The second instance is much the same; it was a friend's sharing that there was a saying hanging over her kitchen sink that read "I have a Mary heart and Martha hands." These two occurrences allowed me to re-evaluate the reading, letting go of the "make my sister help me" cry I heard as a girl, and embracing the truth that it takes both quiet listening and spirited action to bring about the Kingdom of God. And that, shall we say more adult view, of the Gospel was the foundation of my sermon that morning.

It was also the day that we welcomed our Youth and their Chaperones and their leader, Chad, back from their pilgrimage to Native American sacred sites. They all gathered at the altar for the group picture after the service and, I was told, began to have a conversation about the fact the pilgrimage had been spent listening and learning, heartfelt activity. Chad told me that the next thing one of them offered up was that it was time for them to grow some Martha hands! Imagine how thrilled I was to hear those words, not the least of which was the fact that they had listened to my sermon! But that aside, the truly wonderful part of that exchange was the realization that we all need to be both Mary and Martha if we are to fully answer our call to be Christ's hands and feet on this earth.

There are many ways to accomplish this. The first task at hand is to go into the neighborhood, and much like Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, we need to walk with our neighbors and listen to their needs, hopes, and dreams. We need to accept that we don't have all the answers, that we are not called to solve the problem, but we are called and can leverage the situation. And we need to spend time evaluating our own gifts and talents, and discern where those gifts and talents may be leading us.

Our youth have been discerning those very gifts, and are embarking on a path that will help them develop their skills as people who advocate for our neighbors, bringing issues to light through letter writing, conversations with elected officials, or conversations with others who may hold the same passion (Mary's heart) to make a change (Martha's hands). And here is the good news about all of this: advocacy is not limited to the Youth Group; we can and should all be invested in ways to be both Mary and Martha in the world.

Interested? Find me after church at coffee hour, or meet me for coffee outside of church during the week. I will be happy to share with any and all what ways your gifts and talents can take you from the passion of Mary's heart to the action of Martha's hands!

***Amen,  
Deacon Janet***

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**Music Notes**



**Karla Cole**

**Director of Music  
Ministries**

As I often do in these pages, I would again invite you to think about singing in the choir, joining the handbell choir, or becoming involved in our instrumental projects. There are many reasons to take up such an endeavor. Current research shows that playing an instrument or singing in a choir stimulates brain activity and causes the release of “feel good” endorphins. These results benefit everyone, from the littlest Suzuki string player to the elderly musician who’s been making music for years.

Being part of a choir or an ensemble not only gives you all those lovely physical benefits, but also offers you the opportunity to be part of a community of music-makers, who can help cheer you up when your day was a little rough, celebrate with you when it was a great day, and miss you when you’re not there. So there are emotional benefits, too.

Worried about making mistakes? Don’t. Many mistakes are made on the way to learning a new piece of music. And we learn to shrug them off, laugh at ourselves and try not to miss it next time. I always figure I’m making progress if my mistakes aren’t the same ones each time, but are just floating around unpredictably. Then all you gotta do (famous last words) is keep those mistakes from happening to achieve your goal! Johann Sebastian Bach simplified it a little further by saying that playing was easy, all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument plays itself.

Well, I’ve always found it to be just a little more complicated than that! But should you want to take on a new challenge this year with a built-in, supportive friend group, see me at coffee hour and we’ll talk. If you’re willing, there’s a place in St. Christopher’s music ministry for you.

And speaking of being part of the community, there’s another Brewery outing coming up! **September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 7:00 at BlackStack Brewing**, 755 Prior Ave in St. Paul. BlackStack has recently opened up a coffee bar so you can perform experiments on yourself - rev yourself up with a latte, and then slow yourself down with a pint, or vice versa. Blue Fire Pizza’s food truck is there most Sundays with a happy hour pizza deal. And we’ll be there with some treats and our usual brand of happy banter. Don’t like beer? Can’t drink coffee after noon? Come anyway. Some folks have been known to drink nothing more than a glass of water while partaking in the happy banter. You should join us!

Karla Cole

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**Marion Hunner**

**Children's Ministries  
Director**



## **Wow! That's a lot of School Supplies!**

Thank you everyone for your generosity! Deacon Janet and I will fill backpacks with all of the supplies on the school lists for children who are part of the Ethiopian Anuak tribe. This relationship began with monthly meetings in the parish hall with members of our faith community to share stories & coffee and string beads. Most of the children are new students in the Roseville Area Schools who are attending school for the first time in the United States. Any remaining supplies will be taken to Roseville Area Schools' District Center for general distribution.



## **Start-Up Sunday**

As we approach the beginning of a new school year, please note that our final Together at 9:30 service on Sunday, Sept 8, will be followed by a festive celebration. There will be games and a bounce house for the children, live music, barbecue burgers and hot dogs, and lots of potluck items to enjoy. Registration for Sunday School (age 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will begin then, and this is a great chance to learn about the many opportunities at St. Christopher's.

**Sunday School begins at 9:30am on September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Mark Your Calendars – the hayride is early this year!**

Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> is the annual All Parish Hayride at Bunker Hills Stables in Andover. Meet at the stables at 4pm. The wagons leave at 4:30, and we will have a potluck dinner & bonfire following the hayride. **Sign-up will be available on Sundays September 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>.** You can also sign up

here: <https://forms.gle/nzHHqvm68EsH2sE37>



## Youth News



**Chad O'Leary**

**Youth Ministries  
Director**

Rooted in the Word,  
Shaped by tradition,  
Informed by experience,  
Called to action.

It was the Sunday that our youth returned from our pilgrimage through Minnesota and the Dakotas when Deacon Janet spoke of our call to have *Mary hearts and Martha hands*, while reflecting on that Gospel story. It was then and there that the Spirit made herself known: ever so gently, yet resoundingly clear. After two pilgrimages of deep listening (filling our “Mary hearts”) on racial inequities that face our nation it is now time to advocate for the change that we know is necessary. Or, in other words, put gloves on our “Martha hands” and *get to work*.

The “action piece” will start here by learning strategies to help engage elected officials in important legislative matters. I am working with Deacon Janet to develop a Lenten series where all members of our faith community will be invited to sharpen their civic engagement skills. All of this work will culminate in the form of a trip to Washington, DC, where our young people will have a chance to meet with members of our national delegation to share the experiences that have informed our view of social systems found in our society and present solutions for change.

Of course, our advocacy must always be rooted in our Christian-Episcopal tradition. Therefore, our Sunday Forums will be geared toward exploring the

themes that help make us who we are. We will be using the *Echo: The Story* curriculum, which is a 12-week story-based study of main themes found in Scripture. These themes are: creation, disruption, the promise, exodus, commands, judges & kings, exile, God-with-us, miracles, God's kingdom, death-to-life, and the Church. The curriculum has an accompanying youth journal. Each young person will be given a journal. Each lesson uses a video on DVD and an extra copy of this DVD will be placed in the library for those weekends when someone isn't able to be present for Youth Forum. I will be sure to put copies of the curriculum materials at our table for Start Up Sunday for anyone interested in looking through the exciting journey that awaits our youth group.

Looking for another very exciting program year. Blessings on a beautiful September!

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Much Peace on the Journey,  
Chad O'Leary

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## Parish Picnic September 8th!

**September 8th** is the final day we will be together for one service at 9:30. Please join us at 10:30 for a Parish Picnic! More info to come. Want to help? Call Karen Hartman at 651-503-1775, or Randy in the office.

SIGN UP to bring a dish to pass, if you are able. All are welcome, whether you bring food or not. There will be games and a bounce house for the kids! Also, a chance to visit a few tables with info about what our various ministries have been up to.

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## SHORT NOTES

### Silent Auction and Fall Dinner -- Save the Date

Plans are underway for our annual Silent Auction and festive Fall Dinner, to be held on **Saturday, November 9th, and Sunday, November 10th**. Please start thinking creatively about your potential auction donations for social events, gift baskets, homemade crafts, and personal services. Further details coming soon. Thanks! Cindy Lee

**Knitting** resumes **Thursday, September 12th**, meeting in the Library from 1 to 2.30pm. Hope to see YOU there. Questions: 651-633-5749 Pamela

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## 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, August 19th, 2019.

- The meeting opened with scripture and prayer.
- The monthly financial reports were reviewed. The July 2019 income and

expenses are generally staying within the budget.

- Kick Off Sunday: Scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>. Will be outside weather permitting.
- Capital Campaign update: We have had an outstanding response! Campaign balance is at \$388,000. Our goal was \$300,000. The campaign is still open for any additional donations.
- Building and Grounds: Discussed parking lot maintenance and funding. Linden tree near kitchen door has a large crack in it and will have to be removed. Vestry approved \$1500 for this project. Vestry also approved the replacement of the office security system.
- Fund raising/Grant proposals: Fund raising for Silent Auction was approved. Mission opportunity grant of \$1500 for Community Dinners was approved.
- Safe Churches: 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 adults. Additional information will be made available over the coming months.
- St Christopher's Bylaws: Bylaws are in the process of being updated. Revisions will be presented to vestry as soon as possible.
- 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.
- Leadership for First Nations Kitchen and future commitment options were discussed. Anyone interested in this role, please contact any member of the vestry.
- Shout Outs: Thank You to all VBS volunteers! Also to Mark Brilowski, Don Shiek, and Bruce Warkentien for many projects done on building and grounds. Also to Jean Hammer, helping with senior transportation to church. A big THANK YOU! to all of you, for all the hard work.
- Announced that next Vestry meeting will be moved back one week to September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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



## SEPTEMBER Calendar Highlights!

Sunday 1

**9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**  
**1 PM State Fair Parking Opens**

**Monday 2 – Labor Day**  
**State Fair Parking**  
*Office Closed*

**Tuesday 3**  
*Meals on Wheels – Offsite*

**Wednesday 4**  
**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**

**Sunday 8 - START UP SUNDAY**  
**9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**  
**10:30 AM Parish Picnic!!!**

**Monday 9**  
**5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall**

**Wednesday 11**  
**11:30 AM P P P & S – Parish Hall**  
**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**  
**7 PM Green Team – Library**  
**7:15 PM Parish Choir**

**Thursday 12**  
**1 PM Knitting – Library**

**Sunday 15**  
**8 AM Holy Eucharist**  
**9:30 AM Education**  
**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**Wednesday 18**  
**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**  
**6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony**  
**7:15 PM Parish Choir**

**Thursday 19**  
**10:30 AM Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall**

**Sunday 22**  
**8 AM Holy Eucharist**  
**9:30 AM Education**  
**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**Monday 23**  
***e-Traveler Deadline!***  
**6:45 PM Vestry (Please note changed date!)**

**Wednesday 25**  
**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Chapel**  
**6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony**

7:15 PM Parish Choir

**Thursday 26**

**5:30 PM Community Dinner** – Parish Hall

**Sunday 29**

**8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**9:30 AM Education**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

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.

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## Last Words



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

I've been enjoying the cooler nights recently. It's nice to curl up under my quilt, with the window open! I'm in no hurry for cold weather, though. Summer weather can stay until at least October 1st, right?

Ruth Thillen  
Parish Administrator

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## 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 SUMMER Sunday Schedule through September 8**

**Sunday: 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**  
10:30 AM Fellowship

**Our REGULAR Sunday Schedule begins September 15th**

**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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville, MN 55113  
651-633-4589 | Fax 651-633-7361 | [www.stchristophers-mn.org](http://www.stchristophers-mn.org)

STAY CONNECTED

