

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



Meet Christ.
Be Christ.

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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 SUMMER Schedule *ends* September 9th!

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

Our REGULAR Schedule *begins* September 16th!

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

A Note from The Rev. Daniel Pearson



**The Rev.
Daniel V. Pearson**
Transition Priest

Taking the Next Step

As I understand St. Christopher's when it comes to money, the parish is fairly conservative; that is, you are careful and have a keen interest in being responsible—a disposition surely “natural” for a church! You tend to prefer to “pay as you go” and not go out on a limb. Lay people here are very involved in keeping expenses down as, for example, in shoveling snow off of sidewalks in winter and doing janitorial work to supplement the cleaning service all year around. The parish has an effective and active Finance Committee that reports to the Vestry on a monthly basis. When it comes to the Annual Budget and Stewardship Campaign, the orientation tends to be rather pragmatic: ask for pledges, see the result, construct the budget on what is known and make sure it balances.

This year, things are a little different because our circumstances are different: we are in transition and we are doing the work of calling a new rector. So far, the process of securing a new spiritual leader seems to be going quite well—the Discovery and Discernment Team has turned over its work to the Search Team which is now meeting regularly. Soon work on the website will be finished and the materials that include a “package” for a rector will be launched. At its August meeting, the vestry, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, took two important actions: 1) to instruct the Search Team to seek a full-time rector and 2) to combine the Annual Stewardship Campaign with a Capital Campaign.

Parishioners will remember the meeting we had on July 29th to discuss our finances relative to the calling of a rector. Because the anticipated expenses for a full-time rector calls for increased pledging by parish members, it has been of obvious import for church leaders to have a sense of the parish in going forward. The positive response received in conversations and the need to take action in order to move the process forward led to the vestry's action concerning the rector.

Now vestry action about the Capital Campaign is another story and indeed as wonderful one! For this story, please read the following article. Indeed, it is an exciting moment here at St. Christopher's and I am pleased to be a part of it. dvp

Fall Stewardship and Capital Campaign Update

The Stewardship Committee is busy with preparations for the Fall Stewardship Campaign, which will run from October 14 through early November, with In-gathering Sunday on November 11. The Campaign will reflect the high level of energy expressed by members this summer for a successful campaign to set us up for our future. We have clearly heard the will of the parish to call a full time rector and we are heartened by the high level of commitment for a successful fall campaign to raise the pledges this will require.

We are also very excited to announce that we are starting the preparatory stages for a Capital Campaign, to begin this fall! This three-year campaign will build on the currently ongoing campaign to erase the sewer repair debt, and the newly expanded campaign will also aim to eliminate the solar panel loan. We have received an extremely generous lead gift to kick off this next stage of the campaign. We are highly excited about a successful campaign, which will be a wonderful step toward securing the financial security of the parish. Look for more information in the weeks to come!

Scott, Cindy, Joel

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**
Deacon

Like most of you, I am subject to a number of things that arrive in my inbox on a regular schedule. Some come uninvited and others I have asked for their appearances. Earlier this week, I found an interesting article from the Episcopal News Service (one of the arrivals that I request) on a 30 Day Evangelism Challenge. 30 days of thought provoking/conversation-worthy posts appear as the basis of this endeavor. The 30 days are divided into three sub groups, centered on the following: Days 1-10: Looking In, Days 11-20: Looking Around and Days 21-30: Looking Out. So, for example, day one requires the participant to "Think about the last 24 hours. What has given you joy? Name it and give thanks." Moving to the second sub group, the post for day 14 invites us to "Make a plan to attend a community meeting. Tell someone you plan to attend. Go and listen." A challenge from the final 10 days includes, on day 24, to "Take time to pray for the people in your neighborhood."

I must admit I was intrigued. “The reason it’s 30 days is it takes 30 days to change a habit,” said the Rev. Becky Zartman, one of the creators of the challenge. Together with Patricia Lyons, she created the game-like exercise. What I found most refreshing was that this was Episcopal-style evangelism that called us, as members of a faith community, into a new way of being, in our own lives and in the lives of those who move just beyond our doors. There is much emphasis on being, on listening and on loving our neighbors. What it doesn’t pattern is what we (as Episcopalians) typically think of as Evangelism. You know, the word we refer to as the “E word,” the thing that we just sort of really don’t, well, what I am trying to say is “that just really isn’t us” word. The emphasis is not on bringing folks into our church, but rather on us going into the world to live out our promise to “Meet Christ, Be Christ.” Perhaps the strongest piece of this imitative is that, according to the Episcopal News Service, “The new habit formed by challenge participants is the practice of evangelism. The game-like series of daily prompts encourages reflection and action, harnessing the recent energy in the Episcopal Church around evangelism and seizing on the spirit of experimentation encouraged by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s *Way of Love* and its seven rule-of-life practices.”

The only thing that I found frustrating was that the news feed landed in my inbox on this last Tuesday, and they were already at day 27 of the challenge; and since this was an experiment or trial run, there does not seem to be readily accessible way to start at the beginning. Still I keep thinking that an evangelism challenge such as this could be just what the Spirit is calling us as St. Christopher’s into at this point on our journey. Anyone interested in helping figure out a way to make this happen for those interested? Just let me know!!

Amen, Deacon Janet

MUSIC NOTES



Karla Cole

**Director of
Music Ministries**

As we begin to look toward fall and coming back together again after our vacations and sojourns to the lake, I want to invite you to join us at **Flat Earth Brewing on Sunday, September 9th from 4-7pm**. Flat Earth is at 688 Minnehaha Ave East in St. Paul, in the old Hamm’s building. They are kid and dog-friendly, they have games and their own root beer and ginger ale. They have great parking and lots of space.

These spontaneous brewery gatherings are a result of wanting to foster “fun and fellowship” without anyone being burdened with set-up, clean-up and all day cooking. The contemporary beer hall is a *Cheers* kind of place, where you see all sorts of people, all ages, all walks of life gathered and socializing. There’s the ubiquitous hipster types settled in with a game of cribbage, the nerds have Warhammer going, there might be teens playing Risk while simultaneously texting 8 different friends. There’s a birthday party – it

could be pink balloons for a little girl whose parents want an excuse to get out, or it might be a 50th with black balloons and arm bands. We were at the Urban Growler one night where there were two birthday parties going on – one a 60th and one a 70th. It's not exactly the place where everyone knows your name – but everyone seems to know *somebody's* name. And if you come, *we'll* know your name. You should come!

* * *

Since this is technically the Music Notes column, I suppose I should say something musical. I'm presently up to my ears in choosing music and making plans for the year. And feeling very French. My dad wasn't musical at all – he sat in church with the hymnal, but it was resting on his knee. He never sang a note. Except a couple of “play party” tunes from his childhood in Texas and Arizona. But he had a fairly interesting LP collection for the time – Bach & Beethoven, Herb Alpert & Al Hirt, every Broadway musical soundtrack you'd want and the Singing Nun. Yup, *Dominique -nique -nique* – that Singing Nun. That little ~~tune~~ earworm was #1 for all of December 1963 on the Billboard Hot 100. And when I was old enough to use the record player, it was Hot 100 in my house, too. The whole album was pretty terrific, as I recall. All in French, just the nun and her guitar with occasional extra harmonizers, purely acoustic, intimate, and quite touching. I love her still. In that way that popular music has of anointing the least worthy, Dominique isn't the best song on the album. There are others with more interesting harmonies, more poignant melodies. And one of those has been rolling around in my head for most of the summer. I suppose that's why I'm on a French music kick.

The focus of Lessons and Carols will be, you guessed it, French carols. There are a lot of them and they are, much like all the English carols, widely varied in nature. So a whole hour of French carols will be a sampler of tunes with differing styles and temperaments. And if that isn't enough for you, come back in January for an all-French recital programme. Carol Gilkey is joining me for the Poulenc Flute Sonata, my son Henry is joining me for Poulenc's musical telling of Babar, the little elephant. And we're busy rounding up flute players for a transcription of the *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Fauré. I'm thinking maybe madeleines and éclairs for the reception, too. *Mais, oui!*

Karla Cole

Footprints JULY 2018 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**





School Supplies!

Deacon Janet and I (with the help of Janet's sister) filled backpacks with all of the supplies on the school lists for 17 children (K-12) who are part of the Ethiopian Anuak tribe. This is the group that has been meeting monthly in the parish hall with members of our faith community to share stories & coffee and string beads. The children are all new students in the Roseville Area Schools, and they are attending school for the first time in the United States. We filled their backpacks, and then took the remaining supplies to Roseville Area Schools' District Center for general distribution. Pictured: Martha Ongelli from the Ethiopian Anuak tribe, and Deacon Janet.

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 9, will be followed by a light brunch and Ministry Fair. Registration for Sunday School (age K – 5th grade) will begin then, and this is a great chance to learn about the many opportunities at St. Christopher's. Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 16th.

Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday, October 27th 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 beginning September 9th.**





Chad O'Leary

**Youth Ministries
Director**

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S YOUTH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2018-2019 PROGRAM YEAR

FOCUS OF THE YEAR

This year will focus on the enormous contribution that First Nations people have made to our identity as Episcopalians in Minnesota. And, in honoring this, seek to better understand how we can seek reconciliation for past conflict between First Nations and European people.

YOUTH GROUP

***Oct 3; Nov 7; Dec 19 (Christmas Par-tay!!); Jan 9; Feb 6; Mar 6; Apr 3; May 1
5:30-8:30 PM***

To honor the fact that St. Christopher's is a destination parish for most of our families, we will be having one longer youth gathering each month instead of several shorter ones. Our evenings will involve sharing a meal together; playing some games to get to know each other better; speakers and storytellers able to help us explore this year's focus (see above); and discuss, in meaningful ways, what it means to be a young person of faith in today's world. We will end in prayer using a restorative circle model first developed by our First Nations sisters and brothers. Also, we would also like to invite all of our community's young adults (college and/or 20-somethings) to join us this year!

COMMUNITY DINNER

***Oct 25; Nov 21 (Thanksgiving Meal!!); Jan 31; Feb 28; Mar 28; Apr 25
5:30 PM-7:00 PM (when clean-up is complete)***

As in previous years, we will continue to support our community's Community Dinner. Youth volunteers will help bus tables, visit with guests, and assist in event clean-up.

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Weekly, 9:30AM

Homemade cinnamon rolls served fresh second Sunday of the month!

This will continue to be a time to check-in and talk about some of the major themes that await us in the Sunday liturgy.

FIRST NATIONS KITCHEN

***Sept 30 & Dec 2; Dates in 2019 TBA
5:30-7:30 PM***

First Nations is a food ministry ran by, and coordinated, indigenous peoples in the Minneapolis area. We will gather to help prep and serve food at their weekly meal.

MN TEC #2 AGAPE MEAL

Oct 20

We will travel together down to Rochester for MN TEC #2 so that we can prepare/serve the event's Agape Dinner! Young adult and adult volunteers needed!

A PILGRIMAGE OF THE SACRED

Summer, 2019

We will travel by car to several sacred Native American sites in the American West to learn of their significance and and pay homage. The trip will be planned and coordinated by all interested participants starting in October.



September Calendar Highlights!

- 1 *State Fair Parking*
- 2 **9:30 AM Holy Eucharist** - Church
1:00 PM State Fair Parking begins
- 3 **LABOR DAY** – *Office Closed*
State Fair Parking
- 4 6:30 PM Search Team – Office, Chapel
- 5 **12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** – Chapel
- 9 **START UP SUNDAY**
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church
10:30 AM Light Brunch / Ministry Fair Parish Hall
- 10 **5:30 PM** Finance Committee
- 11 *Meals on Wheels – Offsite*
6:30 PM Search Team – Office, Chapel
- 12 **12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** – Chapel
7:00 PM Green Team – Parish Hall

- 7:15 PM** Parish Choir – Music Room
- 13 1:00 PM** Knitting into the Mystery – Library
- 14 1:00 PM** Couples Bridge – Parish Hall
- 16 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist** – Church
9:00 AM Fellowship – Parish Hall
9:30 AM Sunday School – Room 107
9:30 AM Youth Formation – Youth Room
9:30 AM Adult Forum – Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church
11:30 AM Fellowship – Parish Hall
- 17 6:45 PM** Vestry – Parish Hall
e-Traveler Deadline (EARLY!)
- 18 6:30 PM** Search Team – Office, Chapel
- 19 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** – Chapel
4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Office
7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room
- 21 10:30 AM** Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall
- 22 4:00 PM** Dinner with Anuak – Parish Hall
- 23 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist** – Church
9:00 AM Fellowship – Parish Hall
9:30 AM Sunday School – Room 107
9:30 AM Youth Formation – Youth Room
9:30 AM Adult Forum – Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church
11:30 AM Fellowship – Parish Hall
- 24** (*Office may be closed this week! Ruth on Vacation.*)
- 25 6:30 PM** Search Team – Office, Chapel
- 26 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** – Chapel
7:15 PM Parish Choir – Music Room
- 27 5:30 PM Community Dinner** – Parish Hall
- 30 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist** – Church
9:00 AM Fellowship – Parish Hall

9:30 AM Sunday School – Room 107
9:30 AM Youth Formation – Youth Room
9:30 AM Adult Forum – Parish Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church
11:30 AM Fellowship – Parish Hall

“Knitting into the Mystery”

Knitting resumes on September 13th, and continues every 2nd Thursday of each month through May 2019. We will meet in the Library, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.. All are welcome; looking forward to seeing you. Pamela, 651-633-5749.

Food Shelf News

July and August food collection amounted to 39 pounds. This is in addition to food collected during VBS. Thank you all!

Sunday Ministries

Have you ever wondered how to get more involved in our Sunday Ministries? Or maybe just how many ways people serve on Sunday mornings? We have created a board that describes all of the different opportunities to serve on a Sunday morning at St. Christopher's. You can find it next to the Children's Ministries table at Start-Up Sunday. Marion (Children's Ministries Director) can answer most questions or direct you to someone who can. Please take a look and consider how you might be able to use your gifts to serve our St. Christopher's community.

A Message from your SEARCH TEAM

The whole team found this very appropriate to this time of transition and waiting, and so we share it with you:

Patient Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,

let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.
—*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ*

Last Words



Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

I hope you have enjoyed the September *e-Traveler*! There surely is a lot to read this month.

September brings us to the last days of the State Fair, and Back-to-School, and back to **8 and 10:30 services** beginning on the **16th**, with lots of activity between the services.

And we look forward to cooler - dare we say Autumn? - weather, even while enjoying the heat of late Summer. Minnesota is the best place in the world to watch the change of seasons, and to praise God for them. (I MAY be a little biased toward Minnesota.) :)

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STAY CONNECTED



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