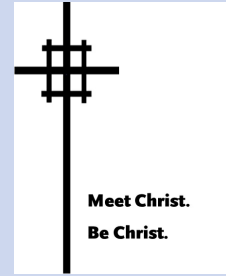


St. Christopher's

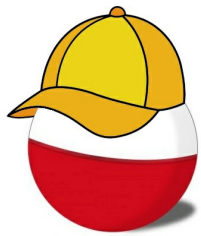
e-Traveler



Visit our Website

From the Editor: Hello, St. Christopher's! Please remember that our emails are now sent with the "from" address as "office@stchristophers-mn.ccsend.com." Please mark this address as "safe" or "not junk" or "not spam," depending on your email provider, so you are sure to receive all of our communications.

From the Rector



The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson
Rector



Enjoy the Halftime Show *by Fr. Randy+*

I can hardly believe it, can you? As you read this blog, we are knocking at the door of the Fourth of July, Independence Day Holiday! *Amazing...* Where has the time gone in this year which seems to be screaming by us at warp speed? The television news sports commentators have begun talking about the start of the Vikings football training camp. Didn't we just conclude the NHL season's Stanley Cup Finals? Heaven help us. Soon the television ads will begin featuring fall themed scenes and the annual reminder to get to Target and Kmart to pick up all of your back-to-school supplies.

I have a suggestion for all of us...let's just tap the brakes for a few moments. It is *Midsommer* after all. I have actually had a few precious moments of summer

enjoyment this year; watching grandkids play summer league sports and going to the White Bear Lake beach, going on several motorcycle rides along the St. Croix River Basin, watched robins build nests on our front porch to raise their tiny young chicks, have taken our grand-dogs for walks around the neighborhood, visited our beloved Como Zoo and Conservatory, and even enjoyed the incredible outdoor landscapes of the U of M Arboretum during the tulip festival. Each one of these activities gave me an opportunity to marvel in God's amazing creation, and also ponder the tremendous importance of being careful stewards and caretakers of all of God's handiwork—animals and natural resources.

Conversations about creation care typically center on the planet—the air, water, the land—and the protection of animals. And yet, at the heart of creation care sits a human rights issue, one we too often ignore. Creation care isn't about caring for the earth. It is about caring for one another. Human beings are also a part of God's beloved creation.

Nearly every human struggle comes back to the earth in some way. Wars have been, and still are, fought over land, oil, water, access to ports, or control of shipping routes and commerce. A lack of food and water leads to rebellion and strife for numerous countries. Infants die for the lack of clean sources of water. Whole tribes of people die over a drought or restricted food or water supply. We cannot care for our fellow human beings without caring for the earth. Even if we find no other case for creation care compelling, we ought to be changed by this one.

There is Biblical truth that human beings are created in the image of God. If we genuinely believe that God created humanity to carry that image, to live as God's people on the earth, then caring for one another becomes nonnegotiable. The connection that so many of us have yet to make, however, is that protecting the environment is a means of caring for our sisters and brothers around the world. Our sin and pride has distorted our view of clean water as a political bargaining chip rather than a life-and-death issue for huge portions of the world's population. Clean air is not code for reining in business; it is one of the keys to global health for all of God's creation. Reducing consumption means freeing up resources for poor nations. These are acts of justice and restoration. They are reflections of the work of our Creator whose image we bear.

This is the interdependence God intended for human beings—that we protect one another, care for one another, and love one another. When he asked which commandment was the most important, Jesus named two: *To love God and to love one another.* (Mark 12:29-31) We cannot do one without doing the other. The most meaningful connection within all creation is that connection between human beings. Created for relationship, we are nothing without one another. It is in our care for one another that we reflect God's care for us. Together, we are the image of God.

Friends, the marching band is on the field performing the summer halftime show. I encourage and implore you to take the time to explore and experience the unbridled joy of God's marvelous creation before the summer is gone. Eat fresh strawberries, along with veggies and grains. Watermelon seeds are great fun to spit! Watch the tiny speckled fawns teeter on spindly legs. Enjoy the newborn foals, lambs, calves, and giraffes kick up their heels in the lush

pasture grass. Swat a mosquito or three! Smell the fresh cut grass and listen to the rolling thunderstorm gathering in the west. Share a picnic meal and an ice-cold beverage. Marvel in the beauty of a flower and butterfly. Love God. Love your neighbor. *Randy+*



Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

The 21st of June was World Music Day. The American music teachers' associations didn't really glom on to it – perhaps because school's out. I had heard about it before but was pretty fuzzy about the details. Come to find out, it is an extension of the *Fêtes de la Musique* begun in Paris in the early 80s and now held all over France every year. Beginning in the afternoon and going all night long on the summer solstice, musicians, dancers and music-lovers revel in the streets. The Metro runs all night and there's a special hop on/hop off ticket. And don't you know the street food is amazing! By now, some 100 countries participate. The US calls it Make Music Day, they have a website and everything, with information on where all you can go to join in. They also have a project now for Make Music Winter at the winter solstice. Sounds nice, but maybe not terribly practical in Minnesota.

Do you remember during the pandemic when MPR sponsored their music on the porch events? They wanted people to go out at a specific time and play. And I think Cheryl Bailey's neighbors got together and played outside – she has fancy musician neighbors that play in the SPCO or symphony or something. I took my little recorder out on my front porch on one of the days and tootled into the void. We live on Larpenteur and the time was like 5pm. Even during the pandemic, there was some impatient rush hour traffic on our street. I'm sure that no one heard me, or even saw that I was valiantly trying to help fill the world with music. Oh well, I tried.

I've spent my whole life trying to fill the world with music, or at least my little

corner of it. In a fit of spring fever when I was an undergrad, some friends and I organized a Play-a-thon for a scholarship fund raiser. We got permission to roll the saddest sad piano in the music building out the front door and down the sidewalk as close as we could get to the quad. And we played something all day long. Don't remember that we raised all that much money, but it was fun. And all these years later, I'm still trying to fill St. Christopher's with music. We have the choir and the handbells, of course. And a couple of years ago, we started a recorder group. I think they'll all tell you that making music with friends is pretty sweet. In this day and age when practically everyone has abandoned their CD collection for the infinite variety of tunes available on Spotify or Pandora, we just don't make music anymore. And I would be the first to tell you that you don't know what you're missing.

For about \$30-60, you can get a nice beginning recorder and fingering chart and I think I still have a couple instruments to loan out. We're wanting to take a pause – not stop playing, exactly, but play easy, sight-readable things. So if you have anything like an inclination to find out what all the tootling is about – this would be a good time to investigate and join up. See me after church, or catch me at WWJD, or at coffee hour. I can easily get you all set up, and you, too can Make Music!

Karla Cole

Footprints JULY 2024

News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director

Vacation Bible School July 15-19!

I am getting VERY excited for our VBS program, *Hero Hotline*. This year we are collaborating with St. John in the Wilderness from White Bear Lake. You may be wondering . . .how can you help?



Many Hands Make Light Work –

- **On Sunday, July 14**, following the service, we need help transforming our sanctuary into a hotline call center! Please see me after the service to see how you can help!
- On Friday, July 19, we will need to tear everything down. If you are available to arrive a little after 12:00 we would appreciate your help.

- **Telephones** – Do you have an old telephone that we could borrow? The bigger and older the better! They will be used as decoration, so no one will be playing with them. Please contact Marion if you have one that we could use.
- **Pray for us** – This is a beautiful, Spirit-led, fun filled week! Please keep us in your prayers as we gather with friends young and old.
- **Celebrate** – Join us on Sunday, July 21, to learn about our week together and celebrate. The Fellowship Committed is making plans for that Sunday following the service.

Looking Ahead . . .

In August we will be supporting children in the Roseville School District with school supplies. If you start seeing sales, please go ahead and pick up anything in the school supply section.



Mark Your Calendar for Next Fall

Due to requests by many who missed his first talk, Robin Monahan has agreed to repeat his talk on Vietnam on Thursday, October 17, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

BOOK CLUB INVITATION

Greetings and Blessings Beloved Community,
We are interested in starting a book group here at St. Christopher's. Are you interested in participating in a book club?

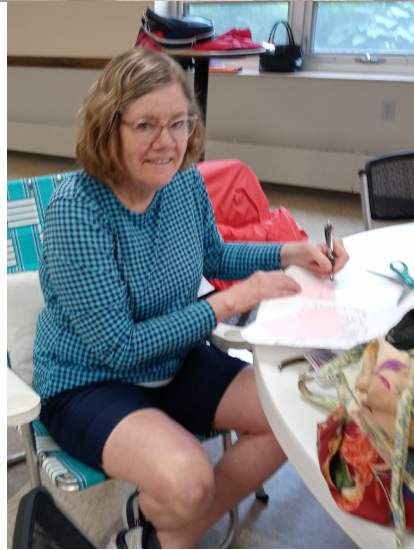
We'd like to try it out! ***Let's meet on Wednesday, July 24 at 5:30 at church*** (Parish Hall) and discuss "The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd. We'll also discuss when and where to meet in the future, and pick our next book(s). Feel free to bring a snack and a beverage.

Questions? Contact Angela Robinson, angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com or Marilyn+.

The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd ***"I am Ana. I was the wife of Jesus."***

Raised in a wealthy family in Sepphoris with ties to the ruler of Galilee, Ana is rebellious and ambitious, a relentless seeker with a brilliant, curious mind and a daring spirit. She yearns for a pursuit worthy of her life, but finds no outlet for her considerable talents. Defying the expectations placed on women, she engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes secret narratives about neglected and silenced women. When she meets the eighteen-year-old Jesus, each is drawn to and enriched by the other's spiritual and philosophical ideas. He becomes a floodgate for her intellect, but also the awakener of her heart.

The Hearts and Hands group met on June 20th to tie blankets for My Very Own Bed.



Green Team Update

The Giving Garden is in bloom and growing. There have already been about 24 lbs of produce delivered to food shelves! We could still use volunteers. Contact Jeff Jensen at 651 270 5947 or jjensen1@msn.com to find out how you can help.



Vestry Shorts

Notes from June Vestry meeting

Bruce Warkentien brought a bid to repair the parking lot. This includes fixing a hole, plus crack sealing. We put State Fair parking lot rental fees into a dedicated account for parking lot repair. Finance recommended, and the vestry approved the repair.

The recent rain caused roof leaks in the church offices. This roof has not been repaired for over 25 years. Ruth Thillen and Building & Grounds will get bids for the repair.

Madisen Crow presented a draft of a welcome book for new members.

The Giving Garden has started to yield produce.

The 75th Anniversary committee raised \$700 at the pancake breakfast. They continue working on plans for the celebration on October 6th.

Fellowship is planning another event fair later this year.

Vestry and Finance are not meeting in July.

Shout Outs -

Robin Monahan for sharing his experiences in Vietnam.

Pride Evensong: Shout out to the musicians, those who decorated the church, and those who provided the reception.

JULY Calendar

1 Monday

2:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 5 PM

2 Tuesday

8 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

10:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

12:30 PM Flute Lessons - Music Room - to 1:15 PM

2:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 5:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Outdoors or Parish Hall

3 Wednesday

10:45 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 12 PM

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

2:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 5 PM

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

4 Thursday – Independence Day

Office & Building Closed

5 Friday

2:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 4 PM

6 Saturday

7 Sunday – 7th Pentecost

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church

10:30 AM Fellowship

8 Monday

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6 PM

9 Tuesday

12:30 PM Flute Lessons - Music Room - to 1:15 PM

2 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 5:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Outdoors or Parish Hall

10 Wednesday

10:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 11 AM

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

1:15 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 2:30 PM

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

11 Thursday

4:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

12 Friday

2:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 4:30 PM

13 Saturday

14 Sunday – 8th Pentecost

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church

10:30 AM Fellowship

15 Monday

9 AM Vacation Bible School! (to 12 PM)

16 Tuesday

8 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

9 AM Vacation Bible School! (to 12 PM)

10:00 AM Tuesday OA - #218 – to 11:30 AM

12:30 PM Flute Lessons - Music Room - to 1:15 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Outdoors or Parish Hall

17 Wednesday

9 AM Vacation Bible School! (to 12 PM)

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

18 Thursday

9 AM Vacation Bible School! (to 12 PM)

19 Friday

9 AM Vacation Bible School! (to 12 PM)

10:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 11:30 AM

20 Saturday

21 Sunday – 9th Pentecost

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church

10:30 AM Fellowship & VBS Celebration

22 Monday

10:00 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 11 AM

2:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 5:30 PM

23 Tuesday

10 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

12:30 PM Flute Lessons - Music Room - to 1:15 PM

2:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Outdoors or Parish Hall

24 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

5:30 PM Book Club – Parish Hall

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

25 Thursday

4:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

26 Friday

2:00 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 4:30 PM

5 PM Parish Hall decorating for Saturday Grad Party

27 Saturday

1 PM Vang Family High School Graduation Party—Parish Hall

28 Sunday – 10th Pentecost

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Church

10:30 AM Fellowship

29 Monday

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6 PM

30 Tuesday

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10 AM

10:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 12 PM

12:30 PM Flute Lessons - Music Room - to 1:15 PM

2:15 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 5:30 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Outdoors or Parish Hall

31 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

Please note that most of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Those groups are now on this calendar (*in italics*) to avoid over-scheduling. **ALWAYS check** with the church office before scheduling a meeting.



Last Words

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

I am hoping to be off on vacation this month! It's not quite scheduled yet, so, please watch the Sunday bulletins and Thursday e-Blasts for more info.

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Barb Hovey, Sr. Warden; Josh Kattelman, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Bruce Warkentien, Treasurer

Kathy Ackerman; Cheryl Bailey;
Darlene Cross, Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican;
Rich Pieper; Ann Trapnell, Betsy Wesenberg

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Christopher Haack, Deacon
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Schedule:

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Sundays through September 8:

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.
Roseville, MN 55113

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