



THE COURIER

The Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, River Hills, WI

April 2009

HOLY WEEK and EASTER at St. Christopher's

PALM SUNDAY - April 5

Eucharists at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
*REACT Gospel reading and musical
meditation*

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 9

Agape Meal and Eucharist
begins at 6:00 p.m.

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All-Night Watch

8:00 p.m. Thursday - 8:00 a.m. Friday

GOOD FRIDAY - April 10

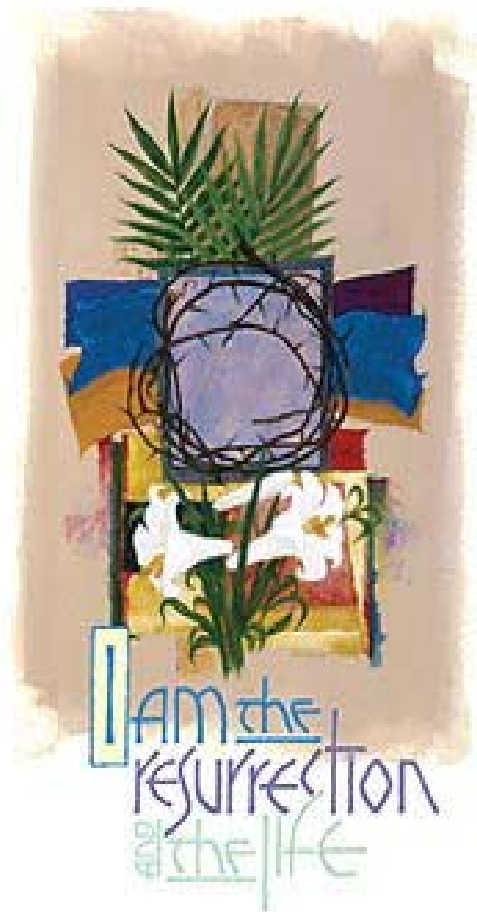
The Way of the Cross - 12:00 noon
Liturgy - 7:00 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL - Saturday, April 11

Vigil service and Eucharist - 7:00 p.m.

EASTER MORNING - Sunday, April 12

Eucharists - 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.



Alleluia! Christ has Risen!

Dear friends,

I hope that all of you will join us for our celebration of Easter beginning on Holy Thursday and continuing on Good Friday, the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening and continuing on the Day of Resurrection. St. Christopher's has a wonderful tradition for these four days and you will want to be a part of all of it.

In a note to his parish in New York City, my friend Bill Tully writes about "still point" moments as described by T. S. Eliot in "Burnt Norton" (one of his Four Quartets.):

*At the still point of the turning world.
Neither flesh nor fleshless;
Neither from nor towards;
at the still point, there the dance is . . .*

At that still point it was as if the burdens were lighter, the racket silenced. That we may with free hearts become what God intends us to be and accomplish what God wants us to do is a promise, not a pipe dream. A free heart can do wondrous things.

Last Sunday as our youth came into the church from their classes, one of many danced down the aisle to the tune of our offertory anthem. I told him afterwards that I felt like joining him in the dance. He said I should have joined him.

The tradition of Lent is that some level of self-examination can break through our own busyness and cause us to take a look at some of our burdens, including the self-imposed ones in a new way. Despite tough times ahead the promise of a free heart sounds like a good Lenten outcome. In fact, it sounds like Easter.

Blessings! Charlie+



Warden's Words

Hokey-Pokey Redo

Your Vestry is hard at work keeping the machinery of St. Christopher's ticking. We have met more in the past 3 months than is typical but these are unusual times for us as a congregation. The Search Committee is up and running but we still have a looming budget issue.

Now, I'd like to take us back about 3 years. There was some guy here who talked about the Hokey-Pokey which I think is really appropriate now. Take a read:

"Every one of us can look back over our lives and see that those experiences that were most rewarding and most enriching were those where we gave our whole



"...an important part of our spiritual life is discerning where and when God is calling us to give completely of ourselves, every ordinary day."

selves. These major life experiences don't come along very often. Yet an important part of our spiritual life is discerning where and when God is calling us to give completely of ourselves, every ordinary day. And then we need to pray that we have the courage to do what we are being asked."

Our deficit requires all of us to put our whole selves in. It requires us to have the courage and trust that things will work. How much of you is in this game right now? Waiting to see what happens next and if the game is any fun?

We asked you last November that we would manage your budget based on your donations. We, as a Vestry, can't believe that budget you have given us is the church you want. This is why we continue the discussion about pledging.

Let's be really clear here. The six-figure deficit cannot be made up with just returning to one rector, it would help but certainly would not cure it. The cuts we need to make to manage this deficit would touch all of our programming. That is everything we do at St. Christopher's including Outreach and Sunday school.

If you aren't sure who St. Christopher's is right now after Scott's departure, look around. Look in the pew next to you. That is who St. Christopher's is and always will be. We are where we are today because of the hard work and commitment from all of you. Pulling back now is the last thing we need to be doing. Don't wait to see if you like the way it turns out; put your whole self into St. Christopher's

Last quote:

"...one final lesson from the Hokey Pokey: I can't ever imagine someone doing the Hokey Pokey by themselves. What fun would that be? It is by definition a communal song and game. And so is the process of putting our whole selves in. It is never done alone."

I've loved doing the Hokey-Pokey with you. Hope you did too. Things may need to change around here. That's OK. We are a great bunch of humans. I also know that there will still be a warm chair for anyone who comes through our door. That's who we are and that will never change.

Tom Napper
Senior Warden

St. Christopher's Search Committee

Your Search Committee is responsible for actively listening to the voice of the parish. Please seek us out and share your experiences, hopes and concerns. Our goal is to make sure all voices are heard.



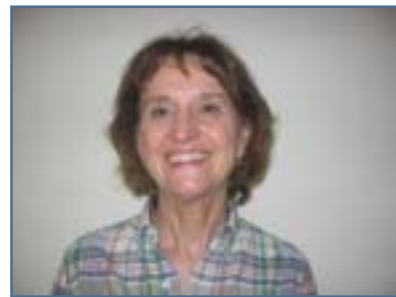
Susan Hackl
Co- Chair



Laura Gough
Co- Chair



Molly Allen



Nancy Barton



Nick Geimer



John Hosterman

St. Christopher's Search Committee



Meredith Petrie



Nance Schmid



Helen Sheen



Bob Slater



Rick Thickens



Andy Whitcroft

Generously assisted by:

Deacon Tom Binder, Chaplain

Bonnie Thomson, Parish Profile Coordinator

There's No Place Like Home

A Parish Family Profile

If you are the parent of an eight-year-old boy, how do you know you're home? In the Vincent house, the answer is simple. He runs into the house, throws down his jacket, and takes off running to the place that he is most comfortable. We had just that experience this past Sunday when we arrived at St. Christopher's. Our son, Will, walked into church, opened the closet, threw in his coat, and took off running for ROOTS. At first it seemed a bit appalling, but then my husband cleared it up by pointing out that it's just like at home.

Will and the ROOTS program are truly the reason we found our way to St. Christopher's. Will's good friends attend the church, and spoke of how "cool" and "fun" the ROOTS program was. Week after week, Will would ask us when we would be going to St. Christopher's, and the weeks just kept passing by. Speaking for myself, I was a little scared of trying something new, not quite sure how I would fit in. However, after Will's persistence, I felt pressured enough to at least try it.

We had been "religion shopping" for quite some time, but nothing ever felt quite right for us. And then we found St. Christopher's. From the moment we walked in the door, we felt welcome. Sally showed the boys where they should be, and Jan and Charlie gave my husband and I thoughts to ponder during the week. Now, going to church is not just something that we do, it is something that we all WANT to do. All three of my sons look forward to Sundays. Little Henry adores the Slater's in the ARK, Jack enjoys his ROOTS activities, and we all know Will loves it here. It may have a little something to do with the coffee hour we partake in each week, but I'm not complaining at all. We have found a place for religion in our lives, not just a religion that fits us as a family. We won't be throwing our coats in the closet or anything, but we finally have found home.

The Vincent Family - Mitch, Tami, Will, Jack & Henry

St. Christopher's at the Movies!!!!

Nicholas and Kit Geimer hosted our first film discussion films of Oscar fame, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *The Reader*, and *Doubt*. Each film had its fans for best picture and there were plenty of opinions to go around regarding important moral, religious, and political implications of each film.

On Saturday, May 2nd at 5:30PM, we will gather again at the Geimer's for a shared meal and discussion of four films, three of which will be about Che Guevara, or simply Che, who was an Argentine revolutionary, politician, author, physician, and guerrilla leader. He has been venerated and reviled in a multitude of biographies, memoirs, books, essays, documentaries, songs, and films, and *Time* magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century. The first film is the *Motorcycle Diaries* (2004) about the young Che's 1952 journey across South America by Guevara and a friend. The trip may have begun as a lark but it changes as they encounter increasing poverty and injustice on their trek across the continent. In Steven Soderbergh's epic biography "Che" I & II (2008) we see him in the process of overthrowing the Batista regime in Cuba and then failing to repeat his success in Bolivia. Both parts are based on his writings, including a diary in Bolivia written in the field, day to day.

Our second revolutionary for the evening is Harvey Milk as portrayed in the Oscar winning film *Milk* (2008). He too becomes a martyr for a different struggle in this country, one for the civil rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual, and transgendered. Please contact the Geimer's if you are coming and bring a dish to pass. All four films should spark a good discussion of "liberation" theology.



CHILDREN'S *and* YOUTH Ministries

ROOTS

The children in ROOTS are exploring the miracles that Jesus performed before He entered the Garden of Gethsemane. When asked "What is a miracle?" the answers were as typical as you might imagine from a group of children. Among the favorites were; "when you wake up in the morning and the grade on your test paper has changed from a 'C' to an 'A', and "when you get what you asked for on your birthday". Currently, we are studying the miracle of Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. There are a couple of noteworthy parts to the story so we are breaking them down in both the Drama and the Art workshops. In the Art room, the children are painting a visual reminder for prayer onto rocks (desert rocks, if you will) and are remembering that Mary and Martha prayed for Jesus to return to Bethany to help them with their dying brother Lazarus. Their prayers went unanswered as Jesus was busy and his disciples were afraid to let him go back to Bethany. After Lazarus died, it still took Jesus four days before he got to Lazarus' tomb. Mary and Martha had already given up hope and were discouraged, but there He was on the road to their home! What a miracle! We learned from this that Jesus doesn't always answer our prayers when we want Him to, but more often when He needs to, and when we need Him to. While the painting of the rocks and the ensuing chaos happens, the children are hearing the story of Jesus' earlier visit to the home of his friends in Bethany. Mary listens to Jesus while Martha busies herself. We asked the children who the busiest person in their house is and they exclaimed with a resounding "Mom".

Warning! Should they find that their Mom is too busy being a "Martha", they may ask her to stop and listen to them!

Sally Walters
Director of Children's Ministries

The Ark

Greetings from the Ark where each week we share the Word with the youngest members of St. Christopher's church school. This year we have been learning through our friends at Veggie Tales how to connect with God. Our friends, Bob & Larry (tomato & cucumber) communicate in a day-to-day way with Bible verses, songs, puppet shows, games and art projects. This month we have learned, through Jesus' love for us, how to love God and each other. Each week the children leave knowing our Lord a little bit better and having a lot of fun along the way. We look forward to the next month when we will examine the theme of trust through the life of Joseph who learned that his trust in God was able to sustain him through very hard times. Each of the stories, projects and games we engage in will not only be fun for the children but will also show them creative ways to discover what it means to have an active friendship with God, who is worthy of their trust.

Thank you for entrusting your children to us each Sunday!

Chip and Robyn Slater
The Ark Shepherds



REAC+
GREEN COFFEE HOUR
Sunday, April 19th
after the 10 a.m. service

Little Lambs Day

The Caring Ministry and the Clergy will be hosting a special blessing of all the newly baptized babies of 2008 on April 26th at the 10:00 o'clock service, followed by a special coffee hour hosted by the Caring Ministry. The purposes are to bring all the families together with their children to receive a blessing, to bond with the other new parents, to further the entire family's spiritual growth and to strengthen the bond to St. Christopher's.

This Sunday is called "Little Lambs Day."

Families with new babies should look for special invitations for this memorable day.



Easter Flowers

Names for *Easter Flower memorials or thanksgivings* need to be in the office by *Wednesday* (April 8) of Holy Week.

There are flower envelopes in the pews and in the *Courier*. Please be generous! Any funds left over will enable us to have flowers on the altar on open Sundays.



Easter Offering

In addition to your pledge this year, we hope that you consider an additional gift during the Easter Season.

Easter offering envelopes are included in *The Courier*. Please place a notation in the lower left corner of your check: ***Easter Offering***.

Please do not use the Easter envelopes for flowers or your pledge.



From the Associate Rector

Easter and
Awe-filled disciples
Spread the
Timeless truth...the tomb is
Empy! He is
Risen!

Bursting and bursting forth, blazing with
Life anew!
Earth and eternity
Shout and
Sing
In
New and
Grace-filled
Songs!

Lately, I've taken more to reflection and allowing myself to sit with the Gospel and with God. And as you know, sitting still is not my forte. As I reflected on the season of Easter, I realize again the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ, Light, Hope, Life and Joy is more important than ever. God is indeed good and with us. May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all this Easter Season and each day.

Jan

SINGING A SONG OF APPRECIATION

Recently, I was working with the kids in ROOTS to teach them some songs for the Easter Season and Mother's Day.

I was once again reminded how lucky we are to have our kids enjoying this terrific program each week.

The Easter season is a time of renewal for all of us. It's also a great opportunity to thank the people who work hard all year round to provide this terrific program. Sally Walters, Jan and Charlie who nurture and care for our little ones, Robyn and Chip Slater the dedicated volunteers in the ARK, and all the volunteers who teach the kids each week deserve our gratitude for what is definitely "not your father or mother's Sunday school!"

So, when the kids sing a song in the upcoming months, it will be for all the people that shape their lives: parents, teachers and the good people of St. Christopher's.

~Anne Davis



Sticky Notes

It has been just over two months since my mentor and our former office administrator, Loraine Garner, left St. Christopher's. These past two months have been filled with change, challenge and learning. As part of my new position as your director of communications, I am now responsible for updating St. Christopher's website and for *the Courier*, in addition to my regular duties. Loraine did a great job of training me before she left but I know I have big shoes to fill.

Dorota Pruski has been an excellent addition to the parish office. Always cheerful and calm and composed, she has learned quickly on the job without the benefit of a long training period. You could say that we are both doing some on-the-job training. Each day we learn something new, laugh through the rough patches and keep things moving forward.

As our parish continues through this transition period Dorota and I are also going through our own transition. For me personally, it has been an exciting time of learning new things that I have always been interested in and now I have the chance to use these new skills here at St. Christopher's. It has also been a time of challenge and I miss working with Loraine, but with the support of those in the office and you in the parish working at St. Christopher's continues to be a gift in my life.

Robyn Slater
Director of Communications

Notice Board

BIRTHS

Alexander Glenn Scharfenberger
Wednesday, March 25 at 10:29 a.m.
6 lbs 15 oz.
to
Judy & Kevin Scharfenberger



Robyn Slater and Dorota Pruski

APRIL MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

2	Mike Winters
3	Penny Enroth
5	Kathie Eilers Kathleen Mahoney
6	Cissie Darien Christine Murphy
7	Jack Vincent
8	Cameron Lindsay Susan Martin Emma Smith
9	James Scott
10	Michael Belcher Jackson Bruce Scott Weigel
11	Willy Brumder Grace Piper Hope Piper
12	Brett Christiansen
13	Mary Thickens
14	Anthony Neils
15	John Roethle
16	Jim Peck
17	Greg Norman
18	Fred Hansen Joyce Reinhold
19	Olivia Scharfenberger
20	Roz Krause
21	Diane Andersen Chase Ferrer
23	Robert Coburn M.C.F. Lindert Kelly Peterson
24	Lynne Belcher LeAnne Drives Wendy Peterson
25	Jayne Heffron Austin Schmidt

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7845 N. River Road River Hills WI 53217
Phone: 414 352-0380 Fax: 414 352-0381

Email: office@stchristopherswi.org
Interim Rector's Email: charlesccaskey@aol.com
Associate Rector's Email: jjkjoy55@gmail.com
Children's Ministry: children@stchristopherswi.org
Youth Group: youth@stchristopherswi.org
Caring Ministry: caring@stchristopherswi.org
Website: www.stchristopherswi.org

Parish Office

Open Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

Staff

The Rev. Charles C. Caskey, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski, *Associate Rector*
Dorota Pruski, *Director of Administration*
Robyn Slater, *Director of Communications*
Sally Walters, *Director of Children's Ministries*
John Beardsley, *Music Director*
Anne Davis, *Youth Choir Director*
Gloria Bond, *Housekeeper*
Michael Schneider, *Building & Grounds Supervisor*

Vestry – Meets 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Tom Napper and Jayne Heffron, *Wardens*
Hannah Pillsbury, *Treasurer* Robyn Slater, *Clerk*
(2010) - Florence Parnegg, Helen Sheen,
Kathleen Stokes, John Wolf
(2011) - MaryBeth Ansley, Kip Jacobs,
Rick Taylor
(2012) - Nick Geimer, Jeni Piper, Deb Roesner,
John (Chip) Slater, MaryBeth Ansley

Committee and Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild: Roz Krause, Mary Jane Perry
Acolytes: Dee Hodnett
Building & Grounds: Kip Jacobs
Building Use: Susan Martin
Caring Ministry: Lauralee Uihlein
Coffee Hour: Cordelia Gelly, Lyn Slater
Endowment: Bonnie Thomson
Events / Newcomers: Sally Walters
Finance: Hannah Pillsbury
Flower Guild: Roz Krause, Helen Sheen
Gifts Committee: Edith Braeger
Labyrinth: Catherine Davidson
Memorial Garden: Jeanne Tanner
Mexico Service Trip: Tom Napper
Outreach: Mark Heffron, Steve Petrie
Personnel: Kathleen Stokes
Prayer Chain: Chilly Braun, Kathy Housiaux

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7845 North River Road
River Hills, Wisconsin 53217-3025
Phone: (414) 352-0380 Fax: (414) 352-0381

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Milwaukee WI

Address Service Requested

Email: office@stchristopherswi.org
Interim Rector's Email: charlescacaskey@aol.com
Associate Rector's Email: jjkjoy55@gmail.com
Web Page: www.stchristopherswi.org

Dated material

This issue was mailed on April 2, 2009

THE COURIER

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

The Holy Eucharist

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Thursday 7:00 a.m.

Outdoor Labyrinth - open to the public, weather permitting

The Rev. Charles C. Caskey, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski, *Associate Rector*



Christianity is not just a religion...it's a way of life.