



The Courier

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

June 2009



Mass on the Grass

Wednesday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Bring some meat or veggies to

grill and a dish to pass

Sodas will be provided

This summer we invite you to join us for Mass on the Grass. Services will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays beginning June 10.

This is a great opportunity to gather with fellow parishioners for an informal service and fellowship to follow. Mass on the Grass serves as a supplement or alternative to Sunday services during the busy summer months. As always, our worship is open to everyone, so bring a friend or a neighbor.

Don't forget to bring meat or veggies for your family to grill and bring a dish to pass. We will have sodas to share and you are welcome to bring other beverages if you desire. See you there!

Fr. Caskey will be away for vacation
from June 15 - June 22



The Interim Rector's Corner

In the world in which we live, there is so much information on the internet. I have reprinted below a recent article from the *The Episcopal Café*, one of my favorite sites.

This is a perfect title for the web site because it is complete with a menu of delicious offerings to choose from: a lead article, the daily Episcopalian, video and art offerings and Speaking to the Soul, a devotional piece on Scripture or the saint of the day.

If you wish to follow the news of General Convention click on *Episcope*. Eight preachers – ranging from the Presiding Officers and the Archbishop of Canterbury to a popular TV correspondent and an internationally-known activist – will be among the many voices at the daily worship services during General Convention 2009 of The Episcopal Church, July 8 – 17 at the Anaheim Convention Center in California (Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles). A theme has been designated for each daily Eucharist, with a bishop of The Episcopal Church as celebrant. Additionally, a different preacher will address the daily theme.

On Friday, July 10 the theme is Unity. The celebrant is our own Bishop Steven Miller of the Diocese of Milwaukee, co-celebrated by a member of the Moravian clergy. The preacher will be President of the House of Deputies, Bonnie Anderson. At this convention, God willing, we will celebrate our full communion with the Moravians as we have had for some time with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

During the less hectic pace of summer, I hope you will find time to go to the Adult Education portion of our web site. Your suggestions for additional sites are welcome. You will find the Bible, the Prayer Book and Sunday readings from the Lectionary, as well as cartoons (see front cover) and jokes, radio and video, music and art, and many spiritual journeys of folks like you and me. Let me know what you have found that interests you.

Please join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays for Mass on the Grass. I promise that you will have a great time. If you would like to help with the liturgy, etc., give the office a call. Help us save a tree and the cost of mailing your *Courier* by reading it online. The color photos and photographers are outstanding!

Charlie+

From the EpiscopalCafe.org Daily Reading for May 29

In a word, what the soul is to the body, Christians are to the world. The soul is dispersed through all the members of the body, and Christians throughout the cities of the world. The soul dwells in the body but is not of the body. Likewise, Christians dwell in the world but are not of the world. The soul, which is invisible, is confined in the body, which is visible. In the same way, Christians are recognized as being in the world, and yet their religion remains invisible. . . . The soul is enclosed in the body, but it holds the body together. And though Christians are detained in the world as if in a prison, they in fact hold the world together. The soul, which is immortal, lives in a mortal dwelling. In a similar way, Christians live as strangers amid perishable things, while waiting for the imperishable in heaven.

From the *Letter to Diognetus* 6, quoted in *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: New Testament IVb, John 11-21*, edited by Joel C. Elowsky (Downer's Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2007).

Junior Warden's Words

Recently, while visiting my mother in Michigan, I had an opportunity to stop into the church where my religious training began. As is so often the case as we grow older and visit places from our youth, this Presbyterian Church seemed so very small. The altar railing where we stood to perform as the Children's Choir barely reached my knees. Even the pews seemed Lilliputian in scale. Nonetheless, the significance of my first exposures to the Jesus stories, the experiences of making popsicle stick crosses and my first memories of hearing and eventually singing "Onward Christian Soldiers," was not lost on my now older self. With little effort while standing in the church last month, I could smell the Mucilage (You have to be older than 40 to get this!) and hear Mrs. Seymour gently reminding us that it was our charge to treat others the way we wanted to be treated.



This lesson and my interest in music carried me through a later transition to the Methodist Church where I led the Children's Choir. It stuck with me as I visited a Catholic Church with a friend and found magic in the Latin and chanted song of the Mass. Even there, the Golden Rule had relevance. As I have drifted into and out of organized religion through the years, music continues to bring me pleasure and to lift my spirit, and treating others with kindness has always been the right path to walk.

"God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home."

*~Joseph Roux,
Meditations of a
Parish Priest, 1886*

Memories made in faith at young ages help us know as we grow what is important in life. Mrs. Seymour really was right.

Coming to St. Christopher's felt like coming home. The service is familiar enough to be comforting while often being thought provoking. Music is everywhere. And, embedded into the very marrow of the church is the phrase, "Christianity is not a religion, it is a way of life." Living this faith means to me that faith and devotion and service are not just Sunday things to do. They are the ways I strive to live every day. More often than not, I fall short of the high standards I have for myself. Yet, when I look to my core I discover again and again that it is not meeting the goal that is the only measure of success. Rather, it is in the daily striving, remembering to give others the benefit of the doubt, and always treating others as I want to be treated, or even a bit better than I expect for myself that is the true measure of a life.

Light streaming in the windows at St. Christopher's, falling on to the cherubic faces of our youngest parishioners, only illuminates what is already there and inside each of us – an endless wellspring of love and kindness.

We have come through many changes over the last months and there will be more to come as we travel the road of calling a new Rector. Let's remember to give each other the benefit of the doubt and to give kindness freely as we keep our eyes and hearts open to those around us. When God visits us, let's be home.

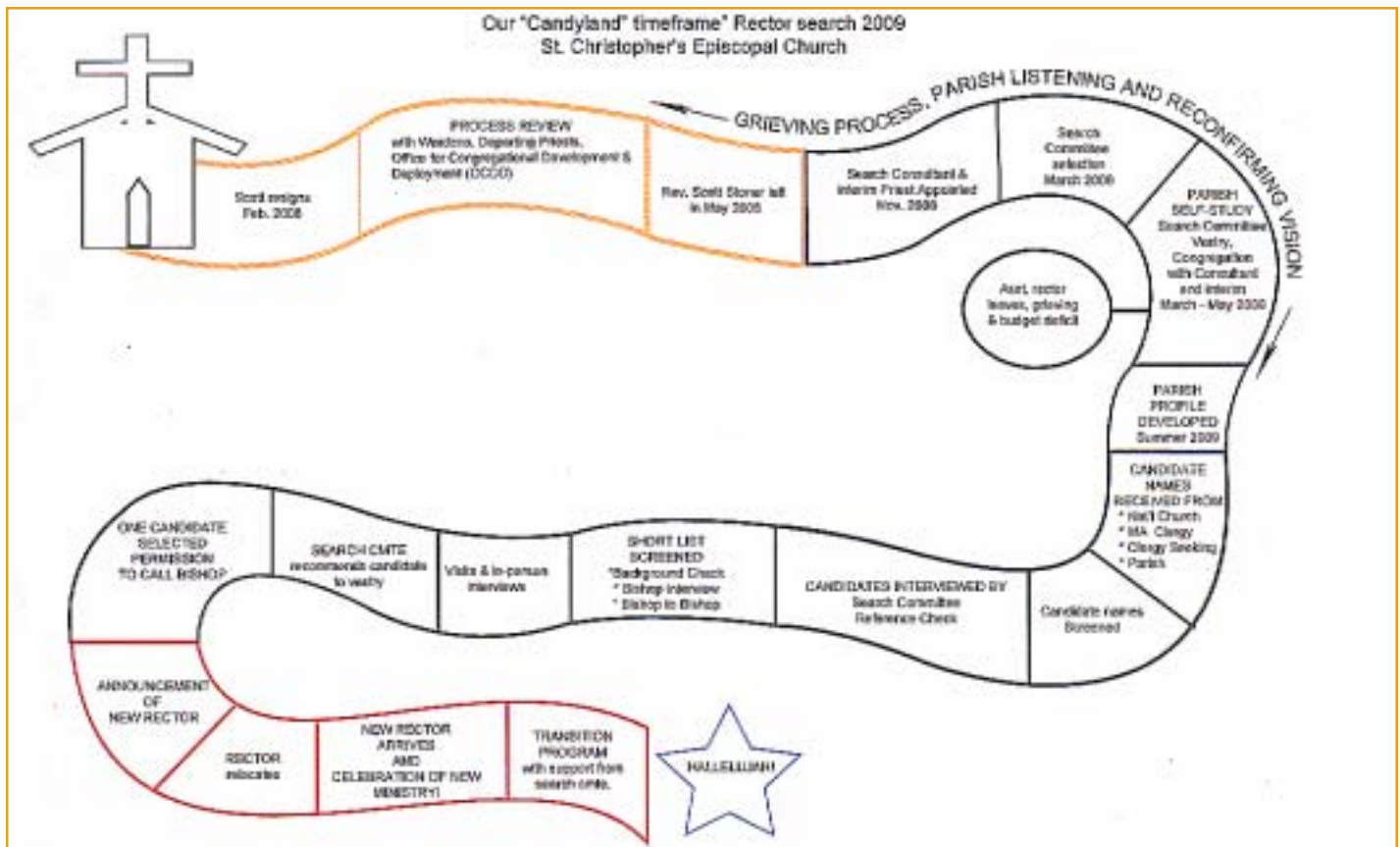
Jayne Heffron
Junior Warden

St. Christopher's Search Committee

Since being commissioned in March, your Search Committee has been hard at work. At the end of May, we are wrapping up our listening process and incorporating your thoughts and visions into our parish profile, which is the primary tool used to attract a Rector. Given the importance of the parish profile in explaining who we are, we want to make sure that it is top notch and really highlights the beauty and spirit of St. Christopher's. There are a lot of parish profiles out there. We want to make sure we set ourselves apart and get noticed by top candidates! Not an easy task. Our parish profile should be completed by the end of July and will be given to the Vestry for approval. Once approved, the profile will be shared with the parish for your thoughts and feedback. The profile will then be posted on our web-site. In August, concurrent with the posting of our profile, we will complete the Church Deployment Office (CDO) information, which will effectively post the position across the country. Our expectation is that we will begin to receive resumes in September. As a result, our goal is to begin the interview process this fall with the hope of finding the One before the end of the year.

This is an aggressive timeline, so we ask for your support and prayers throughout this process. Finding a new Rector is certainly a process, which we've summarized in the map below. We will post this map in the community room at St. Christopher's to keep you apprised of our progress. A successful call is dependent upon everyone in the parish. When potential candidates come to visit us, they will be looking for a vibrant, healthy and welcoming church. Please continue your support and involvement at St. Christopher's. Our future depends on it!

Laura Gough, Co-chair, Search Committee



All-Parish Picnic

Sunday, May 17



St. Christopher's All-Parish Picnic was held on Sunday, May 17 celebrating the end of the church school season and the ministry of the Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski.



Faces in the Pews

A Parish Family Profile

When you think of creativity, energy and enthusiasm, the Deuser family comes to mind. Ann, Rick and their children Lauren and Connor are thrilled to be returning members of St. Christopher's. You can see Ann on any given Sunday teaching Sunday school or all members of the Deuser family conducting a special craft for the children of St. Christopher's. They were all there at the church picnic on May 17th to help create beautiful and lasting stepping stones which will grace the church grounds.

The Deusers live in Bayside. Ann is immersed in running Art Trooper located in Mequon while Rick is a sixteen-year veteran of Metevante. Their 8th grader Lauren is active in the upcoming school musical, ready to graduate in a few weeks and has her eyes set on attending Nicolet High School. She has dreams of being a pharmacist. Connor will be a 6th grader at Bayside in the fall. You can find him busy playing the guitar or playing chess.



The Deusers are thrilled to be back at St. Christopher's. Ann shares that St. Christopher's provides a sense of peace for their family. In particular, it gives a sense of home for Rick. Rick's father is very involved in the Episcopal church, and attending St. Christopher helps him to feel connected with him. For Ann, St. Christopher gives her the gift of family and community. For the parish, the Deusers give us the gift of being an integral part of the community and family that is St. Christopher.

As told to Debbie Roesner per Ann Deuser

Newcomers Committee

The Faces of St. Christopher's

Are you a new face, a “been here for I don’t know how long face” or somewhere in between? You are the face that all members new and old meet every time the doors of St. Christopher’s are opened. My name is Debbie Roesner and as a member of the Vestry I am pleased to be chairing the Newcomers Committee. We have some exciting things in the works for parishioners new and old. Things like host families, name tags, a Faces in the Pew bulletin board, newcomers welcome packet, pot-luck activity events, and monthly spotlight articles in the Courier, a possible photo parish directory, and outreach opportunities. You name it, and we are going to try it. Our goal is to make every member that walks through our doors feel welcome and at home.

We have short and long term goals. We hope to have name tags rolled out beginning with the Vestry and Ushers early this summer with the goal of name tags for all of us by September. We will be asking for volunteers to be host families in the coming months. Being a host family to a new member or family would include phone calls to keep them up to date on events and happenings. Being available to answer any questions they might have and hopefully an opportunity to build wonderful new relationships. Please consider being a part of this!

Members of our committee include MaryBeth Ansley, Lyn Slater, Kathy Housiaux and YOU! You can remember what it was like to come through the doors of St. Christopher’s for the very first time. Let’s continue our wonderful traditions of welcome and community. We would love to hear what you would like to see for newcomers here at St. Christopher’s. Please send your suggestions to me at droesner@wi.rr.com.

Debbie Roesner
Chair, Newcomers Committee



Jan's Farewell



This has been a time of shared work, sorrows, adventures and joys. My life is forever changed for the time I have been privileged to share with all of you. It is a sacred privilege afforded to few, to be able to serve as priest and pastor. I am grateful.

One of the most joyful things I will remember is the sound of the joyful Alleluia's we shouted together at the closing of so many Sunday Eucharists. Sometimes we often shouted Alleluia out of "season" because the joy was so real.

That sense of joy bursting and going forth was a treasure for which I am thankful and will carry with me. It is what I hope for each of you and for St. Christopher's. With that I will say one last time:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jan



Building and Grounds Committee



On Saturday, May 30 the Building & Grounds Committee convened at St. Christopher's to prune the shrubs and trees and remove some others that did not make it through the harsh Wisconsin winter. Coffee and donuts were served and a great time was had by all in the early morning sun.

Many thanks to: Kip Jacobs, Lyn & Bob Slater, Allen Higgins, Chip, Robyn & Jack Slater and Twiga Marie Jr.



ROOTS WRAP UP!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Caring Ministry is always looking for volunteers to assist with card writing, visits, meals and memorial receptions.

Please email :
caring@stchristopherswi.org or
Call Lauralee Uihlein:
262-376-9110
for more information.

"If we pray we will believe
If we believe we will love
If we love we will serve"
Mother Teresa

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S WELCOMES

Ella Jordan Gotz
Born: May 14, 2009 at 11:33 a.m.
8lbs 1 oz, 19.5 inches
to parents
Allan & Michelle Gotz
and
sisters, Alexandra & Madeline

They say Cleanliness is next to Godliness.
Remember the St. James toiletries ministry
as you travel this summer, and please bring
any unused travel-sized toiletries to the
office for donation.

JUNE MILESTONES	
BIRTHDAYS	
1	Robert Peterson
3	Julie Gerrits
4	Charlotte Koroscik
5	Darrell Fischer
6	Dani Etheridge
7	Jack Etheridge Nick Gerrits Jackson Marlin
9	Katherine Gerrits George Woodland
11	David Braeger Mary Martha Kipcak
12	Owen Gardner
13	Wendy Gebhardt Margy Stratton Blake Wigdale
15	Sam Kendall
16	Lisa Lindsay
17	Brett Gardner Allen Higgins
18	Anne Bedore Addison Darrow Meghan Roesner
20	Ian Greaves Zach Chase Ellie Wigdale
21	Colleen Peck
24	Alice Gardner Sue Wernecke
25	Daryl Perry Katherine Schmidt
26	Samantha Christiansen Bryan House Jack Slater
27	Max Reeve
29	Avery Weigel
30	Evan Davis
ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Don & Lydia Hands Julia & David Uihlein
7	Roy & Ann LaBudde
8	David & Beth Sande
10	Andy & Cathie Whitcroft John & Jennifer Mahoney Mark & Pattie Ziskind
13	Henry & Polly Uihlein Mac & Tricia Moore Steve & Sally Stevens
14	Dirk & Terry Hausmann
17	William & Nancy Warner
19	James & Cordelia Gelly
20	Dick & Carol Wythes
23	David & Janet Lopez
25	Bo & Polly Beal
26	Bill & Polly VanDyke Bill & Sue Wernecke Susan & Richard Hackl
27	Mark & Wendy Peterson
30	Charlie & Roz Krause Jackson & Lilas Bruce

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Email: office@stchristopherswi.org

Interim Rector's Email: charlesccaskey@aol.com

Children's Ministry: children@stchristopherswi.org

Youth Group: youth@stchristopherswi.org

Caring Ministry: caring@stchristopherswi.org

Rector Search: search@stchristopherswi.org

Website: www.stchristopherswi.org

Parish Office

Open Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 3:00 p.m.

Staff

The Rev. Charles C. Caskey, *Interim 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

(2012) - Nick Geimer, Jeni Piper, Deb Roesner,

John (Chip) Slater, MaryBeth Ansley

Committee and Ministry Contacts

Altar Flowers: Helen Sheen

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

Finance: Hannah Pillsbury

Flower Guild: Roz Krause, Hattie Purtell

Gifts Committee: Edith Braeger

Labyrinth: Catherine Davidson

Memorial Garden: Jeanne Tanner

Newcomers: Deb Roesner

Outreach: Mark Heffron, Steve Petrie

Personnel: Kathleen Stokes

Prayer Chain: Chilly Braun, Kathy Housiaux

Search Committee: Laura Gough, Susan Hackl

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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THE COURIER

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

The Holy Eucharist

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, Mass on the Grass 5:30 p.m.
Thursday 7:00 a.m.

Outdoor Labyrinth - open to the public, weather permitting

The Rev. Charles C. Caskey, *Interim Rector*



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