



# THE COURIER

The Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, River Hills, WI June 2011

THE RECTOR'S MUSINGS

It is a gentle irony that death makes Easter come to life.

Recently, as some of you know, my aunt died. Her name was Ruby. Her full name was Ruby Apple and she would frequently joke that her mother never would have named her "Ruby" if she had known that she would marry a man named Eugene Apple. But Ruby Apple she was for most of her life. I had the supreme honor of officiating at her funeral. It broke open my heart.

Ruby was my mother's older sister. She lived 95 years. My aunt was not a religious woman; not in the traditional sense. (She would have said, "Not in *any* sense, Debbie!"\*) But I believe my aunt was a holy woman and that she lived her life in the spirit of holiness. She was feisty, and directive, and clear-visioned, even as her eyesight began to fail a bit. She knew who she was. She knew what she wanted. (And usually we knew, too, because she would tell us!)

I went to the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday party a few months ago that my cousins threw for her. She and I had the opportunity for a lovely chat. I asked her what she was most proud of as she surveyed her life. She waved her hands impatiently at me (she hated those kinds of questions), but she said, gesturing around her living room filled with four generations of her family who seemed to all be talking at once, "This. This is what I am most proud of. I guess I have lived a pretty good life. I have no regrets."

Wow. How rare is it that at the end of a life of 95 years someone can say, "I have no regrets."?

I loved my aunt fiercely and I will miss her deeply. I will miss her honesty and her directness. I will miss the clarity of her love. I will miss hearing from her what everyone else in my family is doing down to the youngest great-grandchild. I will miss the way that God was made manifest for me so clearly in her love for me.

As I said to my gathered family as I preached at her funeral, her death marks the end of a generation for us. And it is now up to us to live out her legacy of loving truth. She always spoke the truth. But, as Holy Scripture suggests we do as Christians, she always did so in love.

I held it together pretty well as I officiated at the funeral of this woman I have loved for all of my life. But I could not hold back my tears at the end as I gently laid my hand on the casket covered with the white pall, which remembered her baptism, and said the words of the Commendation from The Book of Common Prayer:

*Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Ruby. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.*

Good-bye, dear Aunt Ruby. Give my love to my mother. Debra+

\*With the death of my aunt, the last person died who could legitimately call me "Debbie."

# Warden's Words

I don't know about you, but I am amazed that the calendar already says June! I find myself wanting to write May and not June when filling out forms or writing a check. My timing dilemma is perhaps caused by the wickedly poor spring we have had, the late date of Easter or perhaps just a tad bit of trepidation that school is almost out and I will be responsible for keeping my 13-year-old daughter on the go. My two college girls have been home for over a month and are just a bit stir crazy as their jobs at the pool are not quite in full swing and they are more than caught up on all of their television shows.

In true Wisconsin weather tradition it appears that we are headed straight towards summer while skipping over spring. Last week we had 45 degrees one day and almost 90 degrees the next. I am not really complaining as I would like to put my down coat away for once and for all until fall soccer games—something is really off if you grab your down coat as you head out to watch a late May soccer match!



This time of year always has a push-pull feeling for me. Everyone seems to be rushing around trying to get one last project or meeting accomplished before the proverbial bell rings. My highlighted calendar has multiple opportunities to be multiple places all at the same time. School awards ceremonies, school concerts, and recitals, sport practices, games, end of the year gatherings, committee meetings, graduation celebrations—so many ways to spend the precious time we have to spend.

And there is the anticipation and anxiety of planning how to spend the precious few months of summer ahead. Vacation time, camps, family outings, local festivals and activities. In the midst of all of this attempting to simply enjoy the warmth and sunshine that will soon be gone. A great book on a lazy afternoon, ice cream cones, cookouts in the backyard with friends, long walks or bike rides. A new rhythm that reminds us to slow down and take it all in.

St. Christopher's too has its own brand of "school's out for summer" craziness: the upcoming visit from Bishop Miller. Our end of the church school year celebration and farewell to Mary Heyn. Vestry meetings, Finance Subcommittee meetings, Baptisms, Memorial Services—all before the end of June and a much anticipated vacation (I am sure) for Debra and Gust.

And just as we schedule summer fun, so too will St. Christopher's. Please plan on attending Mass in the Grass starting on Wednesday nights in July. What a great way to gather, celebrate Christ and one another along with the hum of summer on our beautiful church lawn. Be on the look out for a movie in night in August. We may have one or two other tricks up our sleeves to help you slow down and enjoy the fruits of summer and St. Christopher's.

I look forward to welcoming the Bishop with you, saying "Good bye and good luck" to Mary Heyn, celebrating our children and kicking off the beginning of a wonderful summer together.

And now for that down coat...

Peace,

Debbie Roesner  
Senior Warden

# The Bishop's Visitation

On June 12 the Bishop is coming to St. Christopher's. Our Bishop visits every parish in the diocese once every other year. This year, June 12<sup>th</sup>, is our time for his visit. **We will have only one service on that day at 10 AM.**

It is also the feast of Pentecost (the birthday of the Church). Remember to wear red that day! Red is the color of the Holy Spirit who descended upon the disciples on the first Pentecost allowing them to understand one another in their various tongues and initiating the church, the body of Christ, after Jesus ascended to his Father.

The Bishop will receive John Diedrich into full membership in our church on that day and we will celebrate the end of the Sunday School year with a picnic and a barbeque.

Remember to bring a dish to pass and think about either coming early to help set up, or staying later to help clean up. MaryBeth and Harry Ansley are coordinating the picnic and they will need help in doing both.

There is lots happening here on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Come meet the Bishop, worship and celebrate with your church family!

## Children's Ministry

Our children have been celebrating a glorious Easter season during this merry month of May. We know that we have been called and chosen to bring God's love into our world. We even watched Jesus ascend into the clouds. (Some little eyes grew very big!) Then we prayed and watched as the Holy Spirit came as wind and fire at Pentecost. We also fashioned three-dimensional paper doves with paper flames to remind us. Finally, we made pinwheels that can be moved by an unseen breath. We asked the Holy Spirit to breathe on us.

As an example for us, we learned about Paul's missionary journeys, and all that this great saint suffered for Jesus. Even the youngest children can learn to be lovingly patient with family and friends to fill their world with Jesus' love. We, both young and old, are the Church and are members of the body of Christ, as Paul tells us. We walk together in the unity the Spirit gives us to be Christ's presence in our world today.



As this school year ends, it is with mixed feelings and a full heart that I say good-bye. Your prayers, kind support, and genuine fellowship have blessed me more than you could ever know. I do hope to come back to visit at times and share life with you. I really do leave a part of me with you, and you must know that I take you with me and hold you in my heart.

Mary Heyn

# Qs from the Pews

Dear Priest,

You know, it dawned on my one day that I don't understand some of the things we say in the prayers we use. Like, "He descended to the dead," from the Apostles' Creed.

But I am most curious right now about the Lord's Prayer. What are we saying when we say "And lead us not into temptation?" That sounds like we think that God leads us into temptation. I don't believe that. Why do we say that? Signed, Curious

Dear Curious,

What a great question!

Your theology is sounder than this part of the Lord's Prayer, though it has been recited with this phrasing by the "Catholic" part of the church since the sixteenth century. The translation we use was created by Henry VIII and imposed by him on all of the churches in England after the Act of Supremacy made Henry the head of the church. Even after Henry died, during the time of Elizabeth I, this was the translation that was continued in use by Roman Catholics and members of the Church of England.

Scripture scholars tell us that Henry and his clerical friends did accurately translate the Greek and the Latin forms. The mistake was made when the first *written* Greek Bible text did not perfectly translate the Aramaic language that our Lord spoke. Aramaic and Greek are very different languages.

The author of Matthew wrote down what the community had heard Jesus say, but he wrote it in Hebrew for which we have no text at all. We may never know what exact words Jesus used, but it is generally agreed now that Jesus would not have attributed temptation (in the sense of provocation to sin) to his Father.

Most translators now argue that Jesus said something like, "Bring us not into trial" or "Do not judge us." This makes good sense and follows naturally from the previous petition, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

The church does not change the words of the Our Father because most people know them by heart, and it helps public recitation to have everyone saying the same words. But, of course, scholars use the results of new knowledge in writing new versions of the Scriptures.

There are other inaccuracies in our form of the prayer: God is everywhere, not only "in heaven;" "daily bread" should be "bread for tomorrow" if you are to follow the Greek text, etc. There is no end to amending the Scriptures as scholars achieve new discoveries and understandings, but for most of us, it's better to proceed at a slower pace than the scholars.

Thanks for the question. Signed, the Priest

*Editor's Note: 'Qs from the Pews' are taken from questions that come up at Coffee Hour or in conversations with the Rector. If you have a Q to submit for this column, please email the Rector or the office.*

# A General Thanksgiving

I have spent virtually my entire professional life in a university setting – first at the University of Michigan and, for the past 26 years, at Marquette. One of the things I love about the university life is that there are definite seasons – there is orientation and the beginning of school, fall exams, spring break, spring exams and, finally, graduation. While in any given year, there may be things that are not anticipated, the ebb and flow is very consistent. So, when I get to this time of the year – when grades are recorded, graduates have graduated, and the Law School takes on its “summer feel” - I find myself being very grateful (not to mention a little relieved.)

As Episcopalians, part of our tradition is to give thanks. It is built into the liturgy of our Eucharist – from our response after the readings to our post-Communion prayer – and we are reminded often that giving thanks is part of what we are called to do as Christians.

Here is one of my favorite thanksgiving prayers, taken from The Book of Common Prayer:

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

*Bonnie M. Thomson*  
*Junior Warden*



**Easter Flower Memories**

## Summer Highlights

This summer we will be holding worship services outside on the four Wednesday evenings of July at 6 PM. We'll have an informal, outdoor Eucharist, followed by a light picnic with people bringing things to share, sort of like the *Loaves and the Fish* story. Whatever we have, we'll eat.

During July and August our Thursday morning 7 AM Eucharists will be on hold until the fall church schedule begins. Lots of folks are traveling, or playing tennis in the early mornings, and in July we'll have the Wednesday evening Eucharists and fellowship.

On August 3 we will show the movie, "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" at St. Christopher's. Each Sunday we say the Prayer of St. Francis at our worship but few of us know much about the saint for whom the prayer is attributed. "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" is a moving and lyrical depiction of the life of St. Francis; a feisty, eccentric, romantic, and devout Christian who helped to change the face of the church and spawned a movement that continues today in his name: Franciscanism. The movie is directed by Franco Zeffirelli, and the musical score is outstanding. Please plan now to take an evening with your parish community and come and see "Brother Sun, Sister Moon." Bring your friends.

## A Tale of Two Boys

Once upon a time, there were two second grade boys who were participating in a church Christmas pageant. One was cast as the innkeeper, while the other played Joseph. Some enterprising director suggested that the two boys pantomime an argument, to highlight the "no room in the inn" issue. Suffice it to say, the two boys enthusiastically embraced their respective roles – in fact, I doubt that either really paid much attention to the star, the wise men, or even the baby Jesus – but they certainly made the innkeeper and Joseph memorable!

While it hardly seems possible, the innkeeper and Joseph have progressed through a variety of roles (including the caterpillar and the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*), and have now added "college graduate" to the list of accomplishments.

Zachary Martin, the innkeeper of old, graduated from the University of Michigan *magna cum laude* with honors in history and a second major in political science. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa honor society. Zach will be participating in Teach for America for the next two years. TFA's mission is to address educational inequality in low-income communities by providing new, well-trained college graduates from all fields to teach and lead in the schools serving those communities. Zach will be teaching high school Spanish in Philadelphia. Zach is the son of parishioners Susan and Brent Martin.



Brian Jones, the youthful Joseph, graduated from the University of Dayton *cum laude*, majoring in economics and marketing. Brian will be starting on a master's in applied economics at Marquette next fall. He is the son of the erstwhile Junior Warden, Bonnie Thomson.

We wish Zach, Brian, and all our spring graduates the very best as they move forward.

# How Our Assessment is Determined

There is some confusion in the parish about how our assessment to the diocese is determined. Some folks believe that our assessment is determined by the number of baptized members of the parish. This is not true. Others believe that our assessment is determined by our average Sunday attendance. This is also not true.

Our diocesan assessment, that money that we give to the diocese to help to support the mission and work of the diocese, is determined based solely upon *our income*. A formula is applied to our income and that determines our assessment. The Financial page of the diocesan website says that the current formula is:

<b>Income</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
0 - \$25,000	10.5%
\$25,001-\$115,000	\$2,625 + 12.7% of Income Over \$25,000
\$115,001-\$205,000	\$14,055 + 16.8% of Income Over \$115,000
\$205,001-\$300,000	\$29,175 + 23.4% of Income Over \$205,000
Over \$300,000	\$51,405 + 17.1% of Income Over \$300,000

For the 2010 assessments, the assessment calculated using the above formula was reduced by 3%

Our current assessment falls into the last category of “over \$300,000.” A significant chunk of that “income” comes from either interest from the Endowment (We are assessed for money that we draw from the Endowment that is not used for either outreach endeavors or capital expenses. Those are excluded by the diocese as “assessable.”), or our Memorial Fund. The rest is pledge income.

Each year St. Christopher’s and all churches in the diocese put together a document called “The Parochial Report.” The Parochial Report tells the diocese in detail about our financial situation and our current membership status. All of it is also reported to the national church.

In reference to membership statistics, while “baptized membership” is an interesting category (and usually over inflated in most churches), the statistics that speaks to either the health or non-health of a parish is average Sunday attendance. All congregational specialists know that the more people worship together, the healthier is the parish community. We track closely on that statistic.

Baptized membership, as a number, is far less important because it includes people who worship infrequently but want a church to call “theirs” even though we rarely see them. We count them as members but it is not a reliable statistic from which to derive much meaning.

So, the two “facts” about us that are important: Our income because it relates to our assessment and our average Sunday attendance. Please talk to either Debra or one of the Wardens, Debbie Roesner or Bonnie Thomson if you need or want more information about how our church works.

# Events Near and Far

## TOUR DE DIOMIL

Gary Manning, the rector of Trinity Church has been busily preparing for his sabbatical after seven years of service in this Diocese. The centerpiece of his sabbatical planning is a project to ride his bicycle around the “perimeter” of our Diocese beginning on **Tuesday, August 30** and concluding on **Friday, September 9**. The “Tour de DioMil” has two important goals (beyond the personal, physical challenge represents for Gary):

1. To raise awareness of the faithful parishes in this Diocese which go about their ministries in a myriad of ways – serving Christ in word and deed in their respective communities. Manning hopes that in hearing and sharing the stories of these parishes, we will all, in some way, be drawn closer together as a diocesan community.
2. To raise a total of \$50,000 for three important ministries – the Haiti Project of the Diocese of Milwaukee (\$20K); the clean water initiatives of Episcopal Relief and Development (\$15K) and the bike-building efforts of World Bicycle Relief (\$15K).

You may read more about the tour (including the schedule of stops and parishes to be visited along the way) at the Tour’s website: <http://tourdediomil.weebly.com>

The fund-raising goal is aggressive, but the needs are many. Gary covets everyone’s help to make this project a success! No gift is too large or too small! Contributions may be made via the website, or, if folks prefer, checks may be written to **“Trinity Episcopal Church – Circle Tour”**. Please send your checks to **Trinity Episcopal Church, 1717 Church Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213**. The contribution is tax deductible.

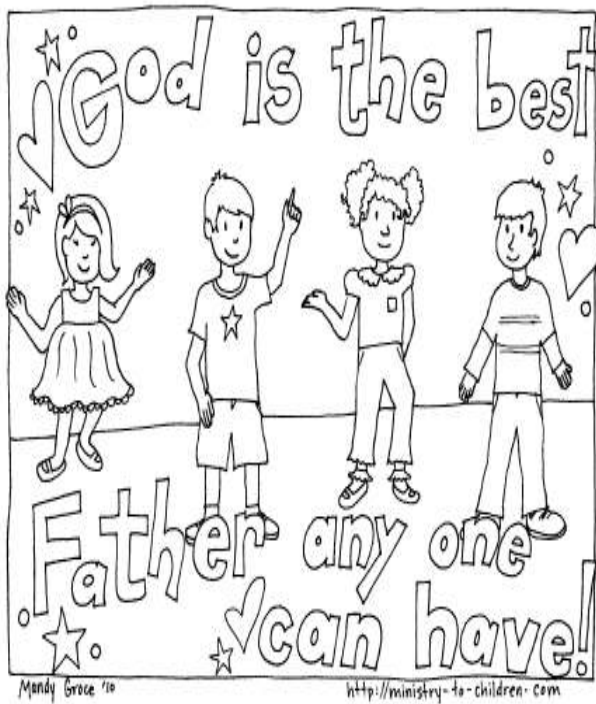
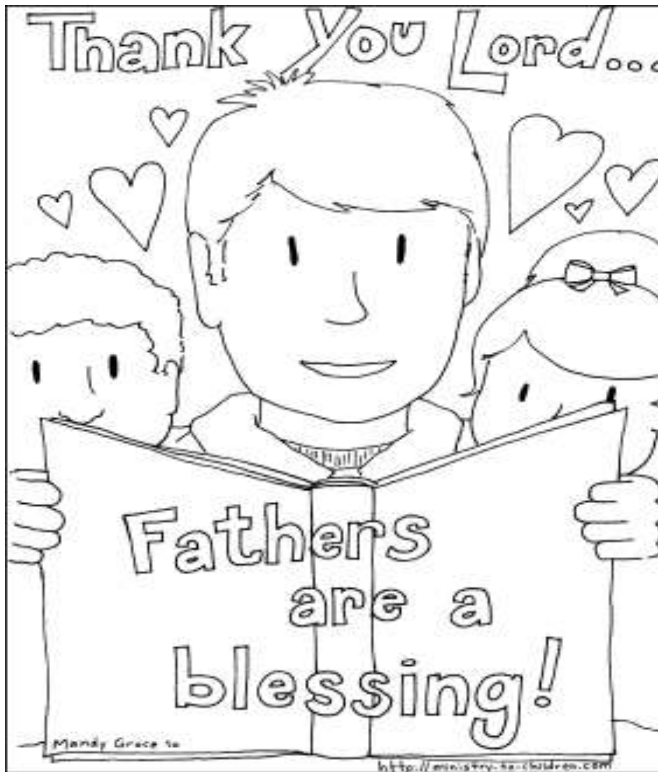
Riders age 16 and over can join Gary for a “leg” of the Tour or the entire ride! Details about registration are on the website. In some cases, the Tour will pass within proximity to parish churches that aren’t official stops. Gary welcomes any parish involvement to assist in making this Tour a success. To find out how your parish could be involved, please contact our logistics coordinator, Mr. Michael Hagon at [MHagonTFE@wi.rr.com](mailto:MHagonTFE@wi.rr.com)

## NEW SELF AND TRUE LIFE: RE-IMAGINING OUR SELVES AND LIVES IN THE MYSTICISM OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Saturday, July 16, 2011; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Holy Wisdom Monastery, Madison, Wisconsin

This one day retreat will explore the mysticism of Julian of Norwich. Participants will be invited to reflect on their lives in the context of Julian’s Revelations with the aim of recognizing what the Christian mystical tradition might mean for how they experience themselves, practice their faith, and engage with others. Facilitator, Robert Gregory Fruewirth, is an Episcopal priest who lived for twenty years in The Order of Julian of Norwich, a contemplative monastic community in the Episcopal Church. Registration forms are available at [www.benedictinewomen.org](http://www.benedictinewomen.org) or contact Jerrienne at 608-831-9306.

# Coloring Page for Kids



# May Baptisms & June First Communion



## June MILESTONES

### BIRTHDAYS

1	Robert Peterson
3	Julie Gerrits
5	Darrell Fischer
7	Jackson Marlin Nick Gerrits
9	Katherine Gerrits
11	Mary Martha Kipcak
12	Owen Gardner
13	Wendy Gebhardt Margy Stratton Blake Wigdale
16	Lisa Lindsay
17	Brett Gardner Allen Higgins Ally Thurow
18	Anne Bedore Addison Darrow Meghan Roesner
20	Zach Chase Ian Greaves Ellie Wigdale
21	Mike Grehn
24	Alice Gardner Sue Wernecke
25	Daryl Perry Katherine Schmidt
26	Bryan House
27	Jimmy Weseman
29	Avery Weigel
30	Evan Davis

### ANNIVERSARIES

1	Lydia Bishop & Don Hands Julie & David Uihlein
7	Anne & Roy LaBudde
8	Beth & David Sande
10	Jenny & John Mahoney Patti Brose & Mark Ziskind
13	Polly & Henry Uihlein Sally & Steve Stevens
14	Terry & Dirk Hausmann
17	Laura & Jason Thurow Nancy & William Warner
20	Carol & Dick Wythes
23	Janet & David Lopez
25	Polly & Bo Beal
26	Polly & Bill Van Dyke Sue & Bill Wernecke Susan & Dick Hackl
27	Wendy & Mark Peterson
30	Roz & Charlie Krause Lilias & Jackson Bruce

## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Children's Ministry: children@stchristopherswi.org  
Youth Group: youth@stchristopherswi.org  
Caring Ministry: caring@stchristopherswi.org  
Website: www.stchristopherswi.org

### Parish Office

Open Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Staff

The Rev. Debra Trakel, *Rector*  
Gust Olson III, *Parish Administrator*  
John Beardsley, *Music Director*  
Mary Heyn, *Christian Formation Coordinator*  
Gloria Bond, *Housekeeper*  
Michael Schneider, *Building & Grounds Supervisor*

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

Debbie Roesner and Bonnie Thomson, *Wardens*  
Florence Parnegg and Susan Hackl, *Clerks*  
(2012) - MaryBeth Ansley, Jeni Piper  
(2013) - Ginger Browne, Diane Eisen,  
Judy Scharfenberger  
(2014) - Diane Andersen, Darrell Fischer

### Committee and Ministry Contacts

**Altar Flowers:** Roz Krause  
**Altar Guild:** Roz Krause, Mary Jane Perry  
**Acolytes:** MaryBeth Ansley  
**Building & Grounds:** Diane Andersen  
**Caring Ministry:** Mary Jane Perry, Helen Sheen  
**Endowment:** Erik Andersen  
**Finance Subcommittee:** Charlie Krause  
**Flower Guild:** Hattie Purtell, Helen Sheen  
**Labyrinth:** Catherine Davidson  
**Memorial Garden:** Helen Sheen  
**Outreach:** Steve Petrie  
**Prayer Chain:** Chilly Braun, Kathy Housiaux

# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Dated material

This issue was mailed on June 9th, 2011

## 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. Debra Trakel, *Rector*



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