

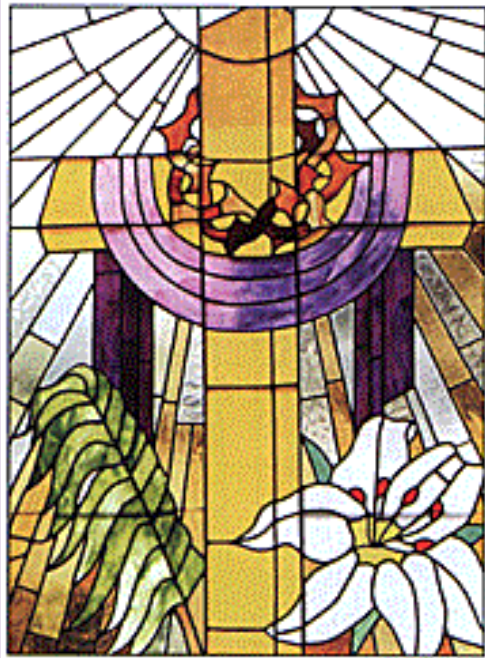


THE COURIER

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

March 2010

HOLY WEEK and EASTER at St. Christopher's



PALM SUNDAY - March 28

Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
*Passion Gospel reading
and Blessing of Palms*

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 1

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 2

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

EASTER VIGIL - Saturday, April 3

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

EASTER MORNING - Sunday, April 4

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

Search Committee

MORE ABOUT OUR NEW RECTOR A Series of Articles from the Search Committee

For some, calling a new rector can be a frightening or unnerving process. For others, the prospect can be joyful and full of anticipation. Your Search Committee has received a lot of very positive feedback about our new rector, Debra Trakel. As we prepare to welcome Debra, we're hoping you will share in this growing excitement! We thought it might help if you got to know a little more about her. Below, different members of your Search Committee have shared their enthusiasm and thoughts about Debra. We invite you to embrace our passion and share the buzz!

As I got to know Debra, I was struck by her ability to really listen. We asked all sorts of questions during the interview process and one of her responses sticks with me..."I will spend the first year listening." She wants to get to know us and learn our stories. I encourage all of you- make a point of introducing yourself to Debra. Share your stories and your hopes and dreams for St. Christopher's.

- Molly Allen

1. It strikes me Debra's a strong, experienced leader who knows how to run a church without having to look to the bishop regarding day to day matters but will confer with him on issues.

2. Debra's first measure of success will be the well being of the current congregation of St Christopher's and, secondarily, increasing our numbers. If the first takes place, the second will follow-as night follows day.

- Bob Slater

Her touching sermons, honesty and humility. She wants to do the right thing for St. Christopher's and will not let anything or anybody intrude on her caring for us. I was also impressed with how dedicated she has been in whatever she does.

So Parishioners, let Debra be "our way of life" as we say, "Christianity is not just a religion, it's a way of life."

- Nance Schmid

The entire Search selection process was not only time-consuming but at times laborious, humorous, occasionally boring, disappointing, encouraging; also, hopeful that the next candidate would be the "right one." We poured over the many applications, the resumes and references, the enlightening written and oral responses to our numerous questions. Slowly, there came a feeling that a much higher power than our human deliberations was guiding us step-by-step into coming together to fuse our faith with the faith of Debra Trakel. This revelation of strength left nothing more to be questioned.

Thank God from whom all blessings flow.

- Helen Sheen

Warden's Words

The other day I heard a news report from a small town in Haiti, Petit Goave. They had been hit hard by the first quake but were the epicenter for the aftershock a week later. The reporter interviewed a man in the town who said "Pray for all of us. We are waiting. What we are waiting for we aren't sure, but we are waiting."

It is hard to imagine not knowing what you are waiting for when your house has been leveled. But I think that is a very honest, honest thing to say. There are times when there is just so much that we want or need or the need is so deep that it is hard to articulate where to start.

I think that we all can feel a bit like this man in Petit Goave. We wait for something, we are anxious for its arrival but not knowing exactly what it is that we are waiting for means that when it arrives we may not see it.



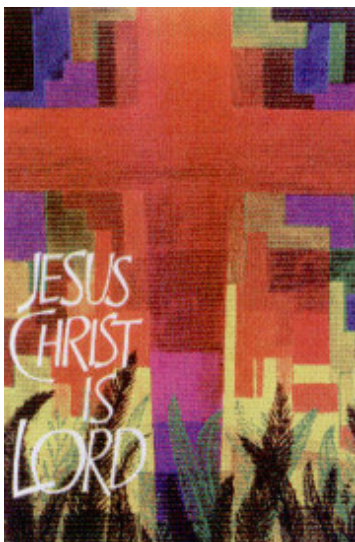
"It is allowing our hearts to be open to what is presented to us that switches on the light in the room."

This past year the Vestry have been very focused maintaining and strengthening our church. We worked hard on creating a solid foundation for the arrival of our new rector. What did this mean? What were we hoping for? The goals and hopes for the year started out very concrete as there were "things to do" with the EMC income lagging far behind projected expenses but as the year rolled on there were things that needed work that required us leading with our hearts. And that is the key to knowing what it is we wanted.

As Jayne Heffron pointed out so intelligently to me the other day, it isn't that just knowing with our heads what it is we want that makes the difference. It is allowing our hearts to be open to what is presented to us that switches on the light in the room. Our heads are the great makers of checklists, of qualifications and barriers. Opening our hearts up to the possibilities quells the checklists and the barriers because that spirit allows us to see forward.

As we greet our new rector we hope that you keep your hearts open to the gifts that she brings to us. Our year has ended on such a positive note with 33 new members, a budget shortfall of less than \$3,000 from last year, and a new rector. There is much that we have been given. Open your hearts to the possibilities and promises that those things bring. Godspeed.

Tom Napper, **Senior Warden**



Sunday, April 11, 2010
St. Christopher's will welcome our new rector,
The Rev. Debra Trakel

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Eucharist

Mardis Gras!

On Tuesday, February 16th St. Christopher's celebrated our 4th annual New Orleans style MARDI GRAS! Parishioners joined together to celebrate good times and good food together. The potluck featured an array of Cajun inspired salads, main dishes, breads and King Cakes. Central to the event was the always delicious Gumbo Challenge. The evening was complete with the cutting of the King Cakes and Cajun music.

Award Winners Include: Mary Beth Ansley: Best Roots Gumbo; Mrs. Tami L. Vincent: Best New Almost Dream Job Gumbo; Laura Gough: Best Thank God it's Over Search Co-Chair Gumbo; Jayne Heffron: Wardens' Challenge: Best Almost Senior Warden Gumbo; Judy Scharfenberger: Best Thank God it's Over Search Choir Gumbo; Tom Napper: Warden's Challenge: Best Thank God it's REALLY almost over Chicken Etouffee; Martha Davis Kipcak: Best Spicy Etouffee; MJ & Owen Perry; Best Drink in Your Hand and Smile on Their Face Hospitality Award.

NOT OFFICIALLY AWARDED: Wendy Sopkovich, Florence Parnegg and Dick Hackl: Best Last Minute Mardi Gras Set-up Award. Parishioners of St. Christopher's: Best Yummy—turnovers, rice and beans, salads, breads, cakes, cookies and spirit Award. Many Thanks to All for Kitchen Klean-up!



PREPARATIONS FOR EASTER



As each Lenten Season begins, I seem to reflect on what was done the year before. Did I learn something new? Did I repeat the same patterns? I often reflect on the weather, on the church members that attended the various services, and those friends and family members who have died since last year's Easter.

The purpose of this writing is to invite all the members of St Christopher's to participate this year in the many services and events leading to Easter. Last Sunday, I learned about the Easter Triduum being one continuous service; beginning on Maundy Thursday and ending with the Easter Vigil. For those who have experienced any or all of the services at St Christopher's you know there are many opportunities to participate individually and communally in worship and preparation, beginning with Palm Sunday (*making palm crosses ... processing with palm fronds into the church*) to Maundy

Thursday's Agape Dinner & Service (*food needs, table arrangements, readings, foot washing, chapel preparation, night watch volunteer*) and Night Watch to the Good Friday services of the midday Stations of the Cross and Evening Music Service (*readers, acolytes*). Easter Saturday becomes a day of preparation (*sanctuary cleaning, flower arranging, silver polishing, food preparation, ushering, reading, greeting*) for the Great Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services when the starkness of the sanctuary is beautifully filled with flowers, polished silver, cleaned linens and a true renewing / rebirthing of us and all that surrounds us.

Mary Beth Ansley and I coordinate the volunteers for all of these services and events and we welcome everyone's help in the small and big needs but most importantly to join us in the Easter Triduum. Please look for sign-up sheets or contact one of us if you have questions or wish to assist with specific service.

Catherine Davidson
414-303-9389 or 262-242-9389

MaryBeth Ansley
414-540-9992

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Sundays, 9:15a.m. - 9:45 p.m. - Williamsburg Room

All welcome ... feel free to bring inspirational Lenten literature to share with the group.

February 21 and 28, March 7, 14, 21

LENTEN REFLECTION GROUP

One hour contemplative reading/sharing/quiet group

Five week commitment requested - 5:30 - 6:30p.m. on Monday afternoons
beginning February 22 - March 22.

Questions on both of these groups may be directed to Catherine Davidson at 414-303-9389

Notice Board

BAPTISMS

Stephan & Norah Young
February 6, 2010

BIRTHS

William Marshall Koenig
February 19, 2010
9lbs 22 inches
Parents:
Eliza Hamner Koenig and Jeremy Koenig



Little Lambs Day

The Caring Ministry and the Clergy will be hosting a special blessing of all the newly baptized children on Sunday, April 25 at the 10:00 o'clock service, followed by a special coffee hour hosted by the Caring Ministry. Families will be brought together with their children to receive a blessing and

bond with the other new parents furthering the entire family's spiritual growth and bond to St. Christopher's.

This Sunday is called "Little Lambs Day." Families with new babies should look for special invitations for this memorial event.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Could you, would you, will you help?
Lots of chances for men and women:

ROOTS and ARK always welcomes teachers or even one-time helpers. Please talk to Mary Beth Ansley. You could just try out a placement and then decide.

Building & Grounds would welcome you on the committee as a periodic worker for time-limited projects. Kip Jacobs is the one to email.

Kitchen Keepers have a one month assignment of one time a week for an hour. Isn't that easy? See the bulletin board or email Lyn Slater

Coffee Hour hosts are needed each week as you well know. Be sure you check the bulletin board before you take another sip or bite.

Committees: lots of opportunities in this category. Check your directory, ask your pew neighbor, mention your interest to a Vestry person. Don't wait to be asked..do the asking!

(Watch this space for other options each month.)

Easter Flowers

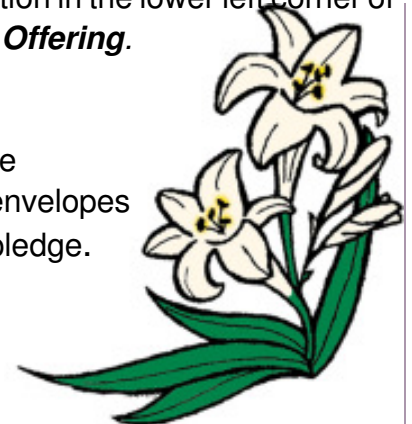
Names for *Easter Flower memorials or thanksgivings* need to be in the office by *noon, Wednesday* (March 31) of Holy Week. There are flower envelopes in the pews.

Easter Offering

In addition to your pledge this year, we hope that you consider an additional gift during the Easter Season. Easter offering envelopes can be found in the pews.

Please place a notation in the lower left corner of your check: ***Easter Offering.***

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



MARCH MILESTONES	
BIRTHDAYS	
1	Polly Beal
2	Jackie Greeley Grace Latterell Nicholas Wese man
3	Carla Bartlett Deanna Braeger Michael Koroscik Jenny Mahoney Henry Vincent
4	Dick Rostad
5	Bill Minahan
6	Brittany Lopez
7	Carter House
10	John Mahoney Steve Stevens
11	MaryBeth Ansley
13	Brianna Lopez
14	Mike White
15	T.J. Gebhardt Olivia Reeve
16	Rebecca House
17	John Roethle
19	Kathryn Peterson
20	Reagan Schmidt
21	Brian Jones
22	Nicholas Holmes
23	Jena Breckon
24	Natalie Evans
25	Alex Scharfenberger Fred Stratton
26	Edith Braeger
27	Dottie Aring Liza Perry
28	David Etheridge Billy Schmidt Tami Vincent
29	Betsey Dunleavy
30	Susie Kasten James Klas Kevin Scharfenberger AJ Sklenar
31	Mark Koenig Mary Lou Roozen
ANNIVERSARIES	
3	Brian & Rebecca House
4	Chip & Robyn Slater
6	David & Edith Braeger
20	David & Nikki Etheridge

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Youth Group: youth@stchristopherswi.org

Caring Ministry: caring@stchristopherswi.org

Website: www.stchristopherswi.org

Parish Office

Open Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Staff

Dorota Pruski, *Director of Administration*

Robyn Slater, *Director of Communications*

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*

(2011) - Diane Andersen, Kip Jacobs,

Darrell Fischer

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

John (Chip) Slater, MaryBeth Ansley

(2013) - Ginger Browne, Diane Eisen,

Judy Scharfenberger

Committee and Ministry Contacts

Altar Flowers: Roz Krause

Altar Flowers: Roz Krause, Mary Jane Perry

Acolytes: Dee Hodnett

Building & Grounds: Kip Jacobs

Caring Ministry: Lauralee Uihlein

Endowment: Erik Andersen

Finance: Hannah Pillsbury

Flower Guild: Hattie Purtell, Helen Sheen

Gifts Committee: Lyn Slater

Labyrinth: Catherine Davidson

Memorial Garden: Jeanne Tanner

Newcomers: Debbie 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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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



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