



# THE COURIER

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

September 2011

## THE RECTOR'S MUSINGS

“How do you solve a problem like Maria? How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?”

Some of you probably recognize these words from the movie/musical *The Sound of Music*. It's my all time favorite movie and like many people I can sing every word of every song. This particular song speaks to me personally because, like Maria, when I was in the convent I was always in trouble for something.

I am not a morning person (as the Thursday morning Eucharist folks will kindly tell you!) so being on time for morning Lauds was always a challenge for me. Most mornings you could see me running down the center aisle of the large chapel in the Motherhouse, slamming my veil haphazardly on my head as I ran, trying to beat the opening bells. It was my worst luck that the novices were required to sit in the first two rows. I'd breathlessly slide in next to my novice compatriots who were then expected to stifle their laughter at my late arrival and my panting during the opening words of Lauds, “Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may proclaim your praise!” Occasionally a snicker would escape one of my friends who would then get into her own trouble.

As novices cloistered in the Motherhouse we had chores assigned to us. Some nun was asleep at the wheel when I was assigned the job of dusting the books in the novitiate library. I was always getting caught holding my dust cloth as I read on and on in some book that had caught my attention as I dusted. This was a sin against obedience which, as you might imagine, was my ultimate Waterloo. I could deal with poverty (well fed, clothed, housed... what poverty?). And I could even deal with celibacy (don't think I can't hear you laughing at that!). But it was obedience to what I perceived to be unjust authority that finally got to my heart and prompted me to leave a life that I otherwise loved.

I loved to pray. I loved to read Holy Scripture. I loved to read, study, and talk about theology with other smart people who also liked to read, study and talk about theology. I loved to center my day in what I thought was God's will for me. I loved community living. I loved having a community who were equally fierce about prayer. But alas, the vow of obedience got me.

But I was in love with God. And I still am.

I did not leave God when I left the convent and God surely did not leave me. I had some hard years trying to figure out God's will for me. I prayed and waited, and prayed and waited. Each day I put one foot in front of the other. I finished my Master's degree in social work and worked steadily in my new career. And I loved that, too. I continued to pray, and worship knowing that God would lead me where I needed to go. And God did.

God led me to the priesthood. And now God has led me to St. Christopher's.

Well, I am still not a morning person. I try real hard with the 7 AM Thursday group and every Sunday with the faithful 8:00 clockers. You just have to love people who make the effort to get up that early to worship the Lord. I recognize kindred spirits, after I have awakened enough to see them!

(Continued on p. 2)

(Continued from p. 1)

And I am still reactive to unjust authority. Make my day if you try and misuse your power and authority against one of my lambs.

Most importantly, however, forty years after entering the convent, I am still in love with God. And I give thanks each and every day for the love that God has placed in my heart for God, and for all of you.

Thanks be to God. Debra+

## Our Sunday School Program

Our Sunday School program at St. Christopher's is built upon several strong precepts:

- \*That our children need to know the stories of our faith as Christians.
- \*That our children need to know what makes them Episcopalians.
- \*That our children should be able to begin to explore moral issues of right or wrong, and be developing some Christian guideposts for making moral decisions.
- \*That Sunday School should be a fun place that our children want to go to.
- \*That, at a bare minimum, our children should be safe while they are in Sunday School.
- \*That our parents should, for the most part, be able to spend their time in church themselves also hearing the stories of our faith and hearing in sermons how that might affect their life as a Christian.

To those ends we have a program that is developed by the Episcopal Church called Weaving God's Promises. It is based on the Christian year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost) and uses Holy Scripture to acquaint our children with the ancient stories of our faith (the story of Creation, Noah and the Flood, Moses and the Ten Commandments, etc.) alongside helping them to understand the use of the *Book of Common Prayer* as Christians who worship as Episcopalians. It is an ambitious program whose choice came out of listening to what parents wanted for their children in last summer's listening sessions.

We have a Coordinator, Katie Madlung, who works with the teachers to decide how each week of the program will be presented to our children. Our teachers are paid to preview the program, work with Katie, and then teach in each of our classrooms. Our parents are essential to the program so that at all times there are two adults in each classroom, but they do not have to spend time doing classroom preparation. Experience has shown that our busy parents, in general, do not have the time to do the kind of classroom preparation necessary each week to be able to teach comfortably. But we cannot run the program without parental involvement.

Weaving God's Promises is now in its second year at St. Christopher's. I hope that all of our parents ask their children what they have learned in Sunday School as they leave church after worship. You may be surprised, over the year, at what they say...

# Warden's Words

Well, it's official. Summer is over.

I don't mean to fast forward but it seems as if I was just writing about the lazy days of summer. From my point of view, while things were relaxed a bit these past few months, there has been lots and lots of work going on around St. C's. Our building's upkeep has seen lots of loving care courtesy of Diane Andersen and Mike Schneider. We have a wonderful new Director of Christian Formation. Your Vestry has been meeting dutifully over the summer along with our other committees: Outreach, Finance and Altar Guild to name a few. We've had weddings, baptisms and memorial services. We'd have been lost without Gust and of course our loving Rector.



We are all looking forward to Kick-Off Sunday, September 18, 2011 when the halls of St. C's will hold the delightful sound of our children continuing their journey in faith. As the children return, so do their parents and the other adult members of our Parish. What an exciting time as we continue forward on our parish journey, defining who we are now and who we want to be.

I just began a new position at my daughter's middle school. During the in-service days, prior to the open of school, our principal read a list of seven questions that all children ask as they return to school: Where am I supposed to go? Who is my teacher? What are we going to learn this year? What is expected of me? Will I be accepted? Will I make new friends? Will I be safe?

If you think about it, these are questions we ALL ask ourselves as we "begin a new year." Simple questions with simple responses—maybe or maybe not. We all want or need different answers, but my prayer is that you find those answers for yourself here at St. C's.

See you when the bells ring on September 18<sup>th</sup> if not before.

Peace,

Debbie Roesner,  
Senior Warden

# Qs from the Pews

Dear Priest,

Why does the Lord's Prayer end with the words, "For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.?" I don't find it in the Bible. Signed, confused.

Dear confused,

The Lord's Prayer, also called the Our Father, appears in two forms in the Bible. In the Gospel of Matthew, it appears as part of the Sermon on the Mount, and in the Gospel of Luke, it appears as one of the disciples approaches Jesus to "teach them how to pray." It is not the same version in the two Gospels.

The prayer concludes with "deliver us from evil" in Matthew, and with "lead us not into temptation" in Luke. In general, the traditional prayer from The Book of Common Prayer is the version from Matthew. And most Protestants (including those of us Anglicans who sit between Protestant and Roman Catholics) conclude the prayer with a doxology, an addendum, which appears in some of the early manuscripts of Matthew. You may remember that the Bible was originally shared in the oral tradition and when it was eventually written down, it was written in various different manuscripts, the mysteries of which Scripture scholars are still trying to unravel.

The doxology is not contained in Luke's version of the prayer nor is it present in the earliest manuscripts of Matthew. It is absent in the oldest and best manuscripts of Matthew and most modern Bible scholars do not consider it part of the original text of Matthew and include it only in Bible footnotes. That's why you don't find it in your Bible. But look in the footnotes in Matthew's version, you'll likely find it there.

And if you look in The Book of Common Prayer, you will sometimes see the prayer with the doxology added, and sometimes not.

The Bible is a living, breathing, set of books. I think that questions about what got into the Bible, when and why, are fascinating. 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 First Sermon – with a little help from the BCP

As some of you know, I had the opportunity to preach my first sermon on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. The text for that particular Sunday was from Matthew, and is the one in which Jesus calls Peter to be the head of the church. (The fact that Jesus, in the following week's lesson, looks at Peter and says, "Get behind me, Satan" I will leave for a more experienced theologian☺) At any rate, the focus of my sermon was on the two questions that Jesus asks of his disciples at the beginning of the Gospel: Who do the people say I am? and Who do you say I am? I don't mean to rehash the sermon, but as I was writing it, I kept coming back to the General Thanksgiving from Morning Prayer, Rite One. Perhaps it is because, as a kid, Morning Prayer was a part of our monthly routine—Communion happened on the odd Sundays of the month, and Morning Prayer happened on the even Sundays—so the prayers are both familiar and comforting. But I think what Jesus asked of his disciples—and what he asks of us—is answered simply and beautifully in the General Thanksgiving:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.  
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be feignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

*Book of Common Prayer, Page 58*

Bonnie Thomson,  
Junior Warden

## Building & Grounds Update from your Vestry...

A couple of months ago we gave an update on some of the building maintenance projects that are taking place and are happy to report that several of the items have been completed. The new gate has been installed in the Community Room staircase; the paint job on the west side of the building was completed; and the roof railings that were rotted (uncured wood was used during construction) have been replaced with much sturdier material that will withstand the elements.

After much research, we approved the work of gutter replacement and addition of snow guards on the building. If you recall, the gutters installed on the addition were undersized from the start and have caused significant water and ice problems. The current gutters are simply not large enough to handle the volume of rain and snow that comes off the roof. Some of the gutters on the existing building will need to be re-pitched and have gutter hangers repaired. Snow guards will be placed in all remaining areas. In short, a repair or replacement will be done based on what makes long-term sense for each area.

To help with the expense of the project, we are going to take advantage of the contractor's winter discount and complete it over several months, starting this Fall and finishing in Spring 2012. This allows them to keep their people working over the winter months and affords us a nice discount. The most vulnerable and unsafe spot on the roof, the north entrance outside the Rector's office, will be addressed first. The contractor is aware of our concern about safety in this area and has agreed to make it a top priority. They will make every effort to have it completed by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Please be aware that you will see their equipment on the property over the next few months. In certain areas, namely the southwest corner of the building, some scaffolding will be erected to work on hard-to-reach areas. This equipment will not be in our way, but is necessary to properly and efficiently execute the project and protect the slate roof.

We have hired a company that is local and has a very good reputation. They also have a significant history at St. Christopher's with other work they have performed and are cost competitive for this type of work.

By the way, we are still looking for a cost effective way to cover the window wells on the south end of the church. If you have any past experience with a project like this, we welcome your input!

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with me or the Wardens, Debbie Roesner or Bonnie Thomson.

Diane Andersen,  
Building & Grounds Chairperson

# Greetings from Boston

Hello from Boston (or East Arlington for those familiar with the Boston area). We made it out safely in late August, with a stop in Niagara Falls. We are settling in nicely into our apartment, which is nestled into a compact neighborhood. We have the boys' school, pizzerias, bakeries, coffee and even a movie theater all within a few blocks. Our neighbors are delightful. Robert Claud and Daniel have made fast friends and games of kick-the-can have become a ritual at dusk on the block. Even Pocus (our dog) has found a friend on the block.

With Boston's nutty traffic, we are learning the beauty of mass transit. Raquel's fellowship at Harvard has started and through it we have made connections with delightful families from around the U.S. and the world. Classes at Harvard have started for us (the parents). The other day we ate lunch on Harvard Yard as it bustled with students on the first day of classes. Quite a scene. We have gone to a church in Cambridge where Debra knows the priest, a beautiful old space with a very diverse congregation. We are enjoying our adventure while also missing all of our friends and family in Milwaukee. We will send periodic updates as our adventure in Boston continues.

Love, Raquel, John, Robert Claud and Daniel

## 101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian - Part 4

Eight more reasons to be an Episcopalian, taken from the little book entitled *101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian*. It's put out by Morehouse Publishing and is a compilation of reasons from folks in dioceses across the church.

25. Where faith is God's gift to us, not our gift to God. (Louie Crew, Diocese of Newark.)

26. Like Catholic and Orthodox Christians, Episcopalians are in touch with the ancient voices and aesthetic and spiritual practices of the Christian tradition. We are united by a common liturgy and by the Book of Common Prayer. And so long as we do the liturgy right, we are orthodox, and thus permitted a broad range of theological opinions. With its riches of liturgy, prayer, and music, it is for me a sacrament of the sacred, and it feels like home. (Marcus J. Borg, Diocese of Oregon.)

27. No matter where in the world I attend an Episcopal/Anglican church, I am always home. (Joan Carr, Diocese of British Columbia.)

28. We have the liturgical beauty of the Catholics combined with the local authority of the Southern Baptists. (Cynthia McLeod, Diocese of East Tennessee.)

29. The signs that say "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" mean it. (Nick Humez, Diocese of Newark.)

30. The Episcopal Church is a place where bishops are people too, and some of them know it. Many even have spouses to remind them. (Linda M. Maloney, Diocese of Minnesota.)

31. The Book of Common Prayer allows a degree of uniformity in prayer while leaving room for the diversity of cultures, languages and liturgical styles (the Very Rev. David G. Bollinger, Diocese of Central New York.)

31. The Episcopal Church taught me that Jesus came to challenge, not just comfort; to overturn, not maintain; to love, not judge; to include, not cast aside. (The Rev. Canon Elizabeth R. Geitz, Diocese of New Jersey.)

# Upcoming Events

September 11—10 AM worship service—September 11 Remembrance  
Final registration for Sunday School after worship.

September 12—9 AM Caring Ministry

September 13—7 PM Visioning meeting regarding adult formation at St. Christopher's.

September 15—7 AM Holy Eucharist group begins again. (It's a great group of people. Try it if you have not!)

September 18—beginning of the Sunday School year. Register children in class if necessary. Potluck and Kickball game after the 10 AM service. Two services this year.

September 25—3 PM Mary Dykema Memorial service.

October 2—Blessing of the Animals.

October 5—6 PM Second Showing of Brother Sun/Sister Moon.

October 14-15—Diocesan Convention, Racine.

October 30—Emma Holbrook Baptism.

November 6—All Saints Sunday (remembering our departed loved ones)

November 12—9:45 AM - 1:15 PM: St. Christopher's at The Gathering  
5 PM, Wedding of Liza Uihlein and David Sadoff.

November 27—First Sunday of Advent (Christmas pageant season begins!)

December 3—9AM-3PM Advent Ministry retreat (for those involved in a ministry or contemplating becoming involved in a new ministry.) Prayer time, worship, faith sharing, quiet time, lunch.

# Sunday School Kick off

We begin our Sunday School year on September 18<sup>th</sup>. It promises to be another good year with good kids, good staff and a good curriculum. Following the first day of class we will have a potluck and a kickball game to "kick off" the new year. **Please bring something to share** along with your kickin' shoes for the kickball game!

# Remembering September 11th

September 11, 2011: This year commemorates the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States of 9/11/01. Our worship service on this coming Sunday will reflect that fact. Ten years ago our nation came together, and many came to church, to grieve and mourn and try to make sense of what had happened to us. It's now ten years later, Osama bin Laden, is recently dead, we continue to be at war, most of us can't remember when there was not a Department of Homeland Security, and we still need to come together as a nation to worship God and to figure out what it all means for us.

I hope that all of you will be in church on Sunday, September 11, 2011 to join in our worship service. It is not necessary, but would be appropriate, for people to wear the colors of our nation on that day. Separation of church and state does not mean that we do not bring our nation's issues and concerns into our church. The phrase "separation of church and state" came from Thomas Jefferson as our country was trying to live into our Constitution early in our history.

The First Amendment to the Constitution reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ....". And Article VI specifies that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." That's where "separation of church and state" comes from.

But all of us are citizens of this country as well as citizens of the Kingdom of God. It is well and good that we bring the issues of our country, in a non-partisan manner, to our God in common worship. We will do this next Sunday.

## Anthony, Thomas and Andrew

On Thursday, September 1, we said "God speed" and goodbye to Anthony, Thomas and Andrew. There were nine of us there. It was a hot noon-tide in the sun, but with a strong breeze, it was pleasant enough in the shade. The ground was dry, and the grass was getting brown.

We hadn't met Anthony, Thomas or Andrew before. They had died recently, probably, with no one to claim them. No relatives were at the gravesite, or friends. Just the nine of us, and the mortuary staff and cemetery workers who later lowered the cardboard caskets into the ground.

Sometimes there are only two or three of us at the gravesite. Occasionally, the group counts up to fifteen — but the burials usually take place during the week at noon, and not everyone can get away. We've been doing this since 2004, and have said "God speed" and goodbye to about 120 men and women since then. Once, we stood around a casket about the size of a shoe box: a still-born child, whose mother was still in the hospital and unable to be present. We mourned especially deeply that noon. For the child and its mother.

We come from St. James' in Milwaukee and Trinity in Wauwatosa, and from no church in particular. We read the committal service from The Book of Common Prayer, and have heard it so often that the words resonate strongly. We conclude with these words, no matter what time of year it is: "Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia."

Anthony, Thomas and Andrew may have no relatives or friends to bid them "God speed" and goodbye, but we are there to witness to our conviction that they are now in the loving arms of their Lord and Father, where "light perpetual" will shine upon them.

Gust Olson

# Coloring Page for Children



## September MILESTONES

### BIRTHDAYS

2	Ettore Barbatelli
3	Julie Carpenter
4	Allie Richards
7	Burt Bartlett Caroline Bay Daniel Diedrich
8	Hannah Pillsbury Barbara Schmidt
9	Kristen Gebhardt Raymond Juranitch Jeni Piper
12	Mike Darrow Jennifer Fischer
13	Charlie Darrow Joey Darrow Sally Stevens Bill Wernecke
15	Chuck La Bahn
16	Barb Aik Lauren Deuser Chloe McCabe Debbie Roesner
17	Spencer Miller
22	Margot Ferrer Charlie Housiaux
23	Rosemary Fritz
24	Jeanne Christiansen Dirk Hausmann Alexandra Nomikos
25	Zachary Martin Jay Wigdale
26	Ted Bolles
27	Teddy Brunner John Carpenter Josh Ferrer Jim Heller
28	Ricky Lindemann
30	Trish Juranitch
ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Kathy & Dick Rostad
4	Donna & Dave Belfus
6	Margy Stratton & Greg Norman Peggy & Bob Schuemann
13	Wendy & Hunt Eldridge
18	Nancy & Joseph Danas
20	Kathleen Stokes & Bill Greaves
24	Joan & Allen Higgins Amy Clark & Tom Napper
26	Chase & Josh Ferrer

## 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. - 5:00 p.m.

### Staff

The Rev. Debra Trakel, *Rector*

Gust Olson III, *Parish Administrator*

John Beardsley, *Music Director*

Katie Madlung, *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

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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.*