
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 28, No. 4

April 2022

The wind is howling around the eaves and windows as I write this. I was just getting ready for spring when West Texas jerked me right back to winter. Even though I know to expect this, it surprises me every year.

Not unlike Lent.

I expect it every year. I know the general path that the season takes and the general expectations that I have for myself. And every year I'm surprised by how it goes. This year has been no exception.

What have you been surprised by in this season of self-reflection?

This year I have been bewildered by how truly terrible I am at the spiritual practice I chose to concentrate on in Lent. Astonished and a little appalled. I'm not just a little lax, or somewhat inept. I am downright bad at it.

Finally, in the past few days, I've started to get past a surface level engagement with what is going on and beginning to understand more about the walls I've erected. These walls are preventing me from experiencing God as I'd hoped through this practice. I'm learning from my failure, perhaps much more than I would have learned from a success.

I hope your Lenten practices, whatever they are, are teaching you new lessons this year. And if, like me, you are truly terrible at what you're doing, keep the faith. There are valuable things to be learned from failure.

Mtr. Rachel+

The Christ Bearer

A monthly publication of
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

As members of St. Christopher's, we seek to act as a part of the body of Christ in response to God's love and grace by:

- praising God together in Christ-centered worship
- providing opportunities for education and spiritual growth for all
- loving and supporting each other in our life together, and
- reaching out to our community and larger world in love and service.

Weekly Services

2807 42nd Street

Lubbock, TX 79413
(806) 799-8208

Email: stchristophers@suddenlinkmail.com

Website: <https://stchristophers.org>

Sunday – 8:00, 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Bishop

The Rev. Rachel Petty, Rector

The Rev. Melissa Wafer-Cross, Deacon

The Rev. Alvin Stofel, Deacon



Income & Expenses Through February 28, 2022

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,568.50
Pledge	\$ 29,386.70	\$ 29,525.00
Draw Ed. Jones	\$ 7,000 .00	\$ 0.00
Total Income	\$ 38,886.70	\$ 34,093.50
Total Expense	\$ 38,886.70	\$ 30,536.50
Balance: Inc-Exp.	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,557.00



* Congratulations to Brandi Copeland-Lewsader on the birth of her first grandchild. Sadie Ray Robinson was born March 14th in San Antonio. Sadie's parents are Tanner and Maribel Robinson. Great grandmother Suzanne Copeland is smiling in heaven.

*Congratulations also to Judi Kokojan on the birth of a new great granddaughter, Aura Dawn Arcisz. Aura Dawn was born to John and Dixie Arcisz in Greencastle, Indiana on January 19th.



Women's Book Study

The Tuesday Morning Book Study meets in the Nelson Room on Tuesday Mornings, from 11:15 to 12:15. The group will begin a study of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer on April 5th. This book can be purchased from your favorite bookseller. All women are welcome to come and participate – whether you've read the book, or not.



Food Pantry Suggestion

Canned tuna fish

Thank you for your generosity to the Food Pantry. If you know of anyone who needs food, please contact Susie Broome. There are no qualifications for people to receive our food boxes.

St. Clare's Workshop

A group of folks meet at the church each Monday from 3:00 – 5:00 pm to work on various handcrafts – knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and various other projects. Anyone is welcome to come. Even if you aren't a crafty person, you are welcome to come, sit, and visit about anything that's on your mind.

The Breakfast Club

The Saturday Morning Breakfast Club meets on Saturday mornings at 9:00 in Haney Hall. All are welcome. Check with Marty Robinson, Karl Morris, or Susan Matchett to see if you can help with breakfast.



Daughters of the King

The St. Catherine of Siena chapter of Daughters of the King will meet on April 3rd following the 10:00 am service in Haney Hall. Please try to be present, so we can update the prayer list.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies' Night Out will meet on April 5th, at Kings Street Pub, 81st and Indiana. (The third try will be a winner!) Karen Hodges will be taking the names of those who plan to attend and will make the reservations at the restaurant. Please let Karen know no later than Sunday, April 3rd if you plan to attend. Karen's phone number is 806-535-6736 and her email is k3204@aol.com.

Address Change

Jane Ann Wilson
2455 Overlook Drive
Broomfield, CO 80020

Thursday Men's Bible Study

A group of men meets in the upstairs kitchen at 7:00 am every Thursday to study the lessons for the next Sunday, and they would love to have other guys join them. Contact Karl Morris for more information.

Easter Eggs Needed

Plastic Easter Eggs, filled with candy, stickers, etc. are needed for the Easter Egg hunt. Please bring them to the church office or put them in the Nelson Room on the table.



Deacon's Corner

Lent sometimes feels like a time fraught with choices: Do I give something up? Do I add something? Maybe I should choose something to read... Perhaps I should try to do more in the community, give more to charity... The paralysis of decision sets in.

Given the current state of the state, the states, the world, I chose a book from my shelf *called Prayers from the Darkness: The Difficult Psalms* by Lyn Fraser. The morning before I knew this might be the right book for Lent, I walked to the Garden and Arts Center to see if anything was blooming. Surely, I could find some light in the darkness in a garden; well, there were a few pitiful jonquils and snowdrops, half frozen and scoured by the wind. When I returned home, it seemed a good time to look at Fraser's exploration of the *difficult psalms*.

Just a few pages in, she points out that even in the most painful psalms there is a turn; the psalmist pours out troubles, and God hears. Psalm 6: 6-7 *I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with weeping.* Yet by verse 8, we read *The Lord has heard the sound of my weeping...The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer.* Fraser writes that the laments in the psalms can be the voice of communal prayer. They can be the voice struggling with famine, disaster, fear, war, grief in our lives and in our world.

In a workshop on grief, Fraser led a discussion using Psalm 3; the psalmist asks God for vindication against enemies: *Deliver me...strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.* When she asked for a response from the participants, one woman spoke to the imprecations (striking the cheek & breaking teeth): "It is powerfully freeing just to know I can say those things to God, that I don't have to hide them anywhere!" Even Psalm 3's turn reveals that God listens: *You are a shield around me, my glory, the one who lifts my head...I cry aloud, and God answers me...*

Sunday morning after my garden walk while still juggling the light and darkness conundrum, our psalm that morning, Psalm 27, began: *The Lord is my light and salvation; whom then should I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life: of whom then should I be afraid?* As we pray, He listens.

Melissa

Donations Welcome to Designated Funds

If you ever analyze St. Christopher's financial report, you will find a list of several "Designated Funds." Each of these funds was set up at some point to take care of some need around the church or community. No money is put into them unless specifically designated by the person making the donation. Some of the funds have large amounts, but some do not and could use some loving contributions. Some of the funds that would benefit from donations include: the Flower Fund (for altar flowers), the Camp for Kids Fund, the Music Fund (for music and choir robes), the Rector's and Deacon's Discretionary Funds (for use by the clergy when they may be asked by people for assistance), the Memorial Gardens Fund, the Lay Readers Robes Fund, and the Parish Outreach Fund. If you have questions about any of these funds, ask the Rector, the Treasurer, Podi Stofel, or a member of the Vestry.

Eucharista

By Carole Wolf

Let's remember that eucharist is thanksgiving, and let's celebrate the thanksgivings we have to offer each other. They are part of loving each other. Here are some thank yours for this month's—not all—but some. In the future, please offer the thanks you know about for the newsletter each month, and let's show each other that we notice and appreciate the gifts we share with one another.

- Bishop Scott Mayer and clergy and friends from across the diocese who helped us celebrate the life of Sue Veal
- Mtr. Rachel Petty for her continual growth as our rector and for her wonderful sermons
- Drs. Richard Meek and Mike Stoune who joined Dr. Jane Ann Wilson in playing the prelude and postlude for her final Sunday as our organist
- Jordan Langehennig for becoming our new organist and sharing his multiple musical gifts with us
- Dr. Tom Hughes for helping to rehearse the choir and for singing with us for years
- Jenny Way for her commitment in her new role of Senior Warden
- John Edwards for his continued work in taking care of everything from getting the microphone for the altar changed out to dusting the rafters
- Jane Barnes for continuing to serve as the Vestry's Clerk as well as being the Communicator—a big job
- Podi Stofel for being our “perpetual” Treasurer—so many years of keeping us on track financially
- Terry Kireilis and John Wolf for their service as Auditors for so many years
- Jo Edwards and Susan Matchett for assuming the role of Auditors now
- Becky and Dom DelHotal for continuing to serve as our sextons who keep our building clean
- Dom DelHotal for initiating the Lenten Meditative Walk which we will resume this year
- Becky for her dedication as Christian Education Director teaching our children
- Carolyn Jones for assisting Becky in the classroom as well as reading Compline online each Sunday evening
- Daniel Simpson and Edie Rische for facilitating the online services
- Altar Guild for always having the elements prepared
- John Wolf for changing the banners and altar hanging, especially during times when they are changed back and forth for special seasons and services
- Ann Adcock for being the organist for the memorial service for Suzanne Aker
- The dedicated work of the ECW and Vestry Special Events Committee for arranging for and pitching in for Suzanne Aker's service and Sue Veal's service
- Susan Matchett for collecting children's books for donations to local schools
- Jo Edwards, Carole Wolf, Daniel Simpson, and Jane Barnes who have been making prayer shawls, hats, and scarves for those in need of comfort, warmth, and a sense of God's presence

Easter Celebration Coffee

On Easter Sunday, there will be coffee, juice and “goodies” in Haney Hall between the two services. Missy Ratcliff and Paula Purkeypile are in charge of of this event, so let them know if you want to help.

Easter Lilies

You may designate an Easter Lily in memory or honor of someone you love, and it will be placed around the altar. Enclose a check for any amount in an envelope marked “Easter Lilies” and the name of the person you are honoring and put it in the offering plate or drop it my the church office.

Vestry Highlights

January 20th, 2022

- Our parish's finances are right where they should be. Thanks to all who contribute regularly.
- The new A-V system seems to be working well. The number of those watching online has doubled in the first weeks of using the new system. The only concern was the microphone on the altar, with wires dangling down behind and taped to the carpet. John Edwards will contact the A-V company to see if they will change out this mic for one that hangs from the ceiling.
- Mtr. Rachel had five people participate in her Confirmation Classes in preparation for Confirmation when the Bishop can fit us into his schedule.
- Mtr. Rachel will attend the Fresh Start Conference March 28-30 and the Diocesan Presbyters' Conference April 25-28.
- We will sponsor a Lenten Meditative Walk on April 9, bringing back the concept begun before the pandemic. People from the other churches will be invited to participate, as well. The Good Friday service will be held at St. Paul's on Good Friday, April 15th.
- There's no action on renting Miller Hall, though there was apparently some recent interest.
- Those agreeing to stand for election to the Vestry are Janis Haney, Karen Hodges, Becky Killgore, and Clay Lawson. The election will be at the Annual Meeting on February 20th. Reports are prepared for the meeting. The new Vestry needs to meet briefly following the meeting to elect officers and set the weekly Vestry-in-Charge schedule.
- The redesigned yard sign is up with new LED lights. Scott White has had the plumbing system checked out and urged the running of water through the pipes regularly to help reduce odors.
- Since the ECW is now reactivated, there is no need for the Vestry Special Events Committee. One member of the Vestry will serve as liaison to the appropriate ECW committees.
- Mtr. Rachel, Carole, and Podi presented the Annual Parochial Report, which was then approved by the Vestry.



Recycling at St. C's

Aluminum Cans – Jenny Way has taken over the collection of aluminum cans from Jane Ann Wilson. You may bring your aluminum cans in bags that are tied shut (but not too tightly) and give them to Jenny on Sundays. Jenny drives a white Toyota Highlander Hybrid, and there is a Spade Ranch brand on her front car doors.

Other Recyclable materials – There is a large blue recycle bag in the upstairs kitchen in a stand. Please put plastics #1-#7, aluminum, metal cans, clean styrofoam, glass, cardboard, plastic and paper grocery bags in this container rather than putting these things in the trash. All items put in the recycle bag should be CLEAN. Paper recycling should be put in the office in the shredder container or in baskets/boxes in the Narthex, the vesting room, or the choir room. Paper should be kept dry and must be bagged separately. Thanks to Mtr. Rachel for providing this service for items we use at the church.



Schedule of Services

*Saturday, April 9 - 9:00 am - Meditative Walk from St. Christopher's to
Canterbury Center*

*Palm Sunday, April 10 - 8:00 am - Regular Holy Eucharistic Service
10:00 am - Passion Narrative & Holy Eucharist*

*Wednesday, April 13 - 5:30 pm - Regular service of Eucharist & Healing,
followed by supper*

*Maundy Thursday, April 14 - 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service, with
Foot washing & Holy Eucharist
for offering, bring new packets of socks*

*Good Friday, April 15 - Noon - City-wide Good Friday service at St. Paul's
5:30 pm - Stations of the Cross, St. Christopher's*

*Easter Sunday, April 17th - 8:00 am - Easter Eucharist, Rite 1
9:00 am - Easter Celebration Coffee
10:00 am - Easter Eucharist, Rite 2, with Flowering
Of the Cross
After 10:00 service - Easter Egg Hunt*

A Prayer to Begin the Day

[Your editor begins most weekdays with a service of Morning Prayer streamed from the website of the National Cathedral. The services I like most are led by the Dean of the Cathedral, The Very Rev. Randy Hollerith. He often closes with the following prayer, by The Rev. Alan Houghton from his book, A Book of Uncommon Prayer.]

"Lord, help me this day to shut up, listen up, open up and lighten up. You have a lot more to show and tell me than I have to show and tell you. Please be patient with me – allow me a glimpse, give me a hint of what is really going on around me as I walk and watch and wonder and work throughout this unfolding day. I know I need to worry a lot less – I need to stop overreacting – to be calmer and not to insist on being special or right. The world does not revolve around me nor am I its or anyone else's savior. I must learn to look up and out, not just in. I must try harder to be wiser, nicer, less grouchy, a more sensitive human being. Please help me pray my life and live my prayers."



April Birthdays

Tom Hicks	April 3	Susie Broome	April 15
LaGina Fairbetter	April 3	Sophia Crawford	April 16
Claire Randolph	April 5	Jeff May	April 18
Daniel Simpson	April 6	Jo Edwards	April 21
Sally Hooker	April 13	Tim Tippit	April 24
Scott Stofel	April 14	Elsa Pena	April 25
Kendra Schneider	April 14	Valerie Pankratz	April 30

Wedding Anniversaries

John & Jo Edwards April 14

Easter Moonlight

Douglas Raymond Rose

Member Academy of American Poets

White moonlight slanting down
 Women muse with fragrant spices
 The fresh grave is empty.
Daylight skirts the clouds
 Calm hides under a glass of wonder
 White-throated lilies chant "He Lives."
Pansies breathe with passionate breath
 Graveyards glow as souls emerge
 Christ Arose – just as He said.
From womb to tomb
 Crowned by the sweat of His brow
 Dead Yesterday – He's alive today!
Robins singing in the rain
 Christ arose, the living flame
 He lives, Let's praise His Name.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Bishop
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The Rev. Alvin Stofel, Deacon

Sharon Mitchum, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca DelHotal, Sexton
Jane Barnes, Parish Communicator
Rachel Petty, Webmaster
Jordan Langehennig, Music Director

The Vestry
Jenny Way, Senior Warden
John Edwards, Junior Warden
Jane Barnes, Clerk
Luanne "Podi" Stofel, Treasurer

Janis Haney
Clay Lawson

Karen Hodges
Mandy Wilbur

Becky Killgore
Carole Wolf
