



The TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services

9:00 AM Sunday Christian Formation

Coffee Hour following 10:15 Service

**JANUARY
2016**

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at 10:15 A.M. beginning with the Holy Eucharist. During the service Don will present his Annual Address in place of the sermon and in addition to the Rector's report.

Following the final hymn there will be a 10-minute break for coffee (you are welcome to keep with you) and the rest of the meeting will be conducted in the nave.

Reports for the meeting are being posted on-line and will continue to be posted. The deadline for all reports is January 25, 2016. The biographies of candidates is also posted on our Annual Meeting website. The proposed by-laws are posted on-line and a few copies (for those who do not have an Internet connection) are available in the gathering space.

To get to the Annual Meeting website, follow the link on our website at www.stchrisgrandblanc.org

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600
Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org
Office Hous: Tues - Thurs, 9 am - 4 pm

STAFF

The Right Reverend Todd Ousley,
Bishop of Eastern Michigan

The Reverend Donald F. Davidson,
Priest in Charge
frdon@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,
Associate Emeritus

Ashley Sweers, *Director of Family Ministry*
Ashley@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Dr. Greg Hassold
Parish Organist
greg@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Elizabeth Sauvie, *Administrative Assistant*
Elizabeth@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Stephanie Finn, *Sexton*
Stephanie@stchrisgrandblanc.org

YOUR VESTRY

Christopher Sleath, *Senior Warden*
seniorwarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Rick Lutgens, *Junior Warden*
juniorwarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Heidi McAra, *Clerk*

Grant Finn, *Treasurer*
treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Olanrewaju Aluko • Karl Haiser
Maxine Huber • Charlie Safley
Ron Shrank

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Here at St. Christopher's we have a unique outreach opportunity. We will be working with Family Promise of Genesee County as a support congregation to Holly Calvary United Methodist Church. Family Promise of Genesee County helps families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless get back on their feet and provide a stable lifestyle for their children. The main goal of Family Promise is to get families back into permanent and sustainable housing and employment as quickly as possible. Family Promise utilizes community resources to keep families together and provide job search resources. You can find more information about Family Promise at www.familypromiseofgc.org

The support that St. Christopher's provide might be cooking and serving a meal, assisting with set up/clean up, staying over night at Holly Calvary United Methodist with guests, assisting with Saturday programming among other things. The first week of support is February 14, 2016. This is an outreach opportunity for people of all ages! If you are interested in helping please email Ashley at Ashley@stchrisgrandblanc.org and she can share more information about becoming involved!

If you have gently used twin sheet sets, twin blankets or twin comforters and you would like to donate them to Family Promise please bring them to the church.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

In my report this month, I really only have one point of note, which is to personally invite as many of you as possible to attend our Annual Meeting this month.

I know many of you have questions about what has transpired both from a leadership and financial perspective this year. I want to assure all of you that the best way to get all of your answers is to come along and get the opportunity to ask us. We will all do our best to give you an open, honest answer from what we know right now.

Rumor can be a very destructive thing.
I look forward to seeing everybody at the meeting.

Best Wishes,

Chris
Senior Warden

REACHING OUT

“nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.” Matthew 5



Our beautiful church building sits near the top of a big hill. We are most fortunate to worship in such a wonderful place and I am honored to celebrate and preach here almost every Sunday. I want you to imagine that our building has arms and not just any arms but the arms of a Mom or Grandmother. Maybe the Arms of a loving Dad or Grandfather but think of loving arms reaching out from this hill in welcome, in love and with the grace of Christ. I truly believe that our mission is to make this building a beacon for ministry in the love of our Lord.

We have taken our first tentative steps in creating the St. Christopher's Day School. An advanced pre-school, our Day School will remind us of the admonition of Jesus “and forbid them not for such is the reign of God.” We begin this mission project with licensing, inspections, and some minor changes necessary to prepare for children. The children or rather students that attend our school will not be taught about being an Episcopalian, rather they will see and know what it means to be Christ to each other. Our staff will be beyond competent. If you visit the church office after our school is opened you may just hear the sounds of children playing and laughing, learning and maybe taking a little nap. The school has the potential of providing our parish finances a needed boost...but that, dear ones, is not the point. The point is we are the hands of Christ in our world reaching out into our community.

The Vestry has approved the first steps toward making our building shine as a beacon with the school and.... With Family Promise as we partner with Holly United Methodist Church in providing meals to the homeless for one week for times a year. A few families (normally 5) will be housed at Holly Methodist and we will be asked to provide a few meals and people to spend the night at the church. How about helping us to be those big arms? With our new food pantry so that members of our church and those who come to our door hungry are not turned away with nothing. In the next few Sundays look for information on how you can donate food or funds we can use to buy food. This is not a huge operation, but one needed in this time. How about helping us to be those big arms?

These steps into mission may be transformative, may use our beautiful building to help people know and love Jesus. These steps may help us to express what has always been in our hearts that God is love.

Join me in welcoming a new day, a new year and a new way of following Christ.



Yours brother on the way,

Don+



USHERS NEEDED

The Usher Schedule for February and March for the 10:15 service is being made and will be completed January 24. There is a need for ushers and greeters for nearly all services but especially for Easter, March 27. To become an usher contact Bill Thewalt by phone at 810. 938.7098 or email fwtithe@gmail.com. Thanks!

PARISH WISHLIST....

We all have dreams, and your church has dreams too. There are the big dreams that every member will bring a new member every year...wow wouldn't that be fantastic? A parish wishlist is a way to put ideas and dreams in front of you all and see if anyone at anytime might want to shepherd an idea into reality.

The wishlist is not things like keeping the boiler running or fixing the roof as those things have to be done. The items on the wishlist are items that we can "live without" but that would make our parish better.

The wishlist will be used when an individual or family wishes to make a special gift to the church. A number of items have already been added to the wishlist and then taken off when that dream has come true. For example, the parish needed a new snow blower as the old one was almost impossible to start and actually did not work. We now have a new snow blower.

Items are added to the list by the Vestry so that if the funds become available they can be purchased.

Please take a look at our list and if you have questions, please contact Fr. Don or the Senior Warden.

Thank you so very much!
Don +

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Parish Wishlist 01-10-16

ITEM	FOR	APPROX COST
Door for Coat/Storage Rooms	Storage	TBD
Sponsor an edition of the Trumpeter	Parish Wide	\$275.00
New Office Seating for secretary	Office	\$386.00
Seats/Table for new Conference Room	Create Parish Conference Room	\$2,500.00
Replace seating in Fellowship Hall	150 Chairs Fellowship Hall	\$6,000.00
New Columbarium Wall*	Vestry	\$17,000.00
Laptop Computer	Music Office	\$750.00
Update and Network Parish Database System	Office	\$780 Annual Subscription

* \$9000.00 of this was approved by the Vestry, but not yet installed due to funding shortages.

WORDS FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

These three months that I have had the great pleasure of making music with the choir here at St. Christopher has been a source of tremendous joy! So much so, that I would like to let folks know, that if they would like to join in and partake of this merry-making, do come and drop by some Thursday evening (7:00 p.m.) and see if you like our rehearsal process. Even if you are a snowbird, or have a cooking class on Thursday evenings, or haven't sung for a while and are 'nervous' about dusting off your vocal cords, please, please---just send me an email or phone call, come to a rehearsal, and if things work out with your schedule, you, too, could be making beautiful music with this fine ensemble!

Too, if you have a child or a grandchild or are the god-parents of a child who might have shown signs of musical ability, we are planning on inviting our soon-to-be children's choir to sing on Palm Sunday (March 20th) at the 10:15 service.

Ashley Sweers and I will be working with the children following services on Sundays for a few minutes (15 or so) just to get things started, and we do have every confidence that after a few rehearsals, these young brave souls will have the tools and courage to sing that popular Palm Sunday favorite, "Bring Palm Branches"! There are a number of talented children in this church body---it would be sooo cool if we could pull our energies together and offer our gifts and talents to God though the medium of song! Hope to see your little ones after service on Sunday during Lent.

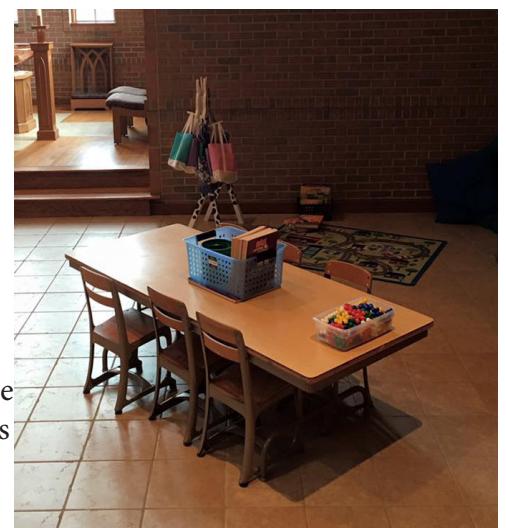
In Christ,
Nada



FORMATION FUN CHILDREN'S CORNER

Welcoming children into our Nave is a little like inviting them to the dinner table. Their manners may be far from polished but, given time and exposure they will become comfortable

and participate in Sunday services. Children are part of our church family and they belong here with us. Children often giggle, squirm and poke. So, we have created a children's corner near the front of the Nave. This area is designed for children ages 3-8, is not staffed and has a cozy space for reading, coloring activities to keep their hands busy and a few small toys. We have included the "story Bible" we use during formation class. By creating the children's corner, we are transitioning the church nursery to support families with children birth to 3. It is our hope that children are welcomed during worship by everyone.



VESTRY NOMINEES



KRISTIN KEYES

My husband Brian and I began attending St. Christopher's in 2003 after moving to Grand Blanc. Since then we have welcomed and baptized our three children, Jack, Abigail and Daniel. St Christopher's has been a place of worship for our family and a place for our children to learn and grow in our faith.

1. Why do you want to serve as a member of the vestry?

I feel that becoming a vestry member will allow me to give back to St. Christopher's and to be a vital part in the future of our parish.

2. How would you like the wider community to know St. Christopher's?

I hope that our community would see us as a church that serves and gives back to our community by providing consistent outreach programs.

3. If elected to the vestry, on which ministry team would you be willing to serve?

I am happy to help where my talents are most needed, but I have an interest in the outreach ministry or family life ministry.

4. What are your hopes and dreams for St. Christopher's?

As stated above, I would love for our congregation to be a leader in providing consistent outreach programs for the wider community.



LINDA RATHBURN

I grew up in the First Christian Church in Iowa. My husband and I joined St. Christopher's after being discharged from the Air Force, graduating from Ferris, and moving to Flint. I've been involved in this congregation in a variety of ways (including Church School teacher, choir member, Eucharistic Minister, ECW, Delegate to Diocesan Convention, Vestry, the previous search committee and the recent By-laws Review Committee) and in this diocese (including Commission on Ministry and the Constitution and Canons Committee).

1. Why do you want to serve as a member of the vestry?

I want to serve as a member of the vestry because I have been a member of this congregation for a long time and so I bring knowledge of history that may inform some of the vestry's decisions. Also, I often have a different way of looking at information than most people and may be able to present an alternate view of the situation under consideration.

2. How would you like the wider community to know St. Christopher's?

I wish the wider community can know St. Christopher's as a welcoming and caring place with warm, loving people.

3. If elected to the vestry, on which ministry team would you be willing to serve?

If elected to the vestry, I would prefer to help with worship or liturgy planning since I have a diocesan Worship Leader license and am a member of the choir and a Eucharistic Minister.

I am, however, willing to serve as needed wherever my skills and talents seem appropriate.

(Linda Continued...)

4. What are your hopes and dreams for St. Christopher's?

I'm not much for dreams of the future but I do hope that more families and individuals discover a home at St. Christopher's.

5. Are there any other thoughts you would like to express?

There are so many people in this congregation that I consider to be friends (if not extended family) that I seldom arrive in the building without seeing someone who makes me smile. Most of them are also willing to share a hug to our mutual benefit. I want to share that warm, comforting feeling of welcome and friendship with others who want to join such a community.



KARL HAISER, JR.

I was born and raised in Detroit. As a teenager, my parents moved to Royal Oak. I was blessed to have both parents for many adult years. I served in the United States Marine Corp. for five years. I served in Vietnam and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant. I married Linda Haiser and we have three lovely boys: Bryan, Eric, and Justin along with two grandchildren; Jackson and Ava May. Linda and I currently reside in Grand Blanc Township.

I elected to open a CPA practice in Grand Blanc, Michigan in 1985. Services include: Bookkeeping, Tax Services, Trustee Services, and Criminal Fraud Investigation. I serve on the Grand Blanc Fire Commission, American Legion Post 413, and Flint Odyssey House Board of Directors.

1. Why do you want to serve as a member of the vestry?

I am ready and able to serve on the Vestry for the three year term of office. I am able to bring financial expertise and strategies to the vestry. My financial credentials include practicing as a Certified Public Accountant and as a Certified Fraud Examiner; my office is located on Grand Blanc Road in the city of Grand Blanc. I have been a pledging member for over ten years.

2. How would you like the wider community to know St. Christopher's?

The current St. Christopher's annual internal and outreach community programs are great. My vision includes a new outreach Saturday morning radio program on AM 600 Victory radio station in Grand Blanc. This would reach out to new members about St. Christopher's events and welcome new visitors to our church.

3. If elected to the vestry, on which ministry team would you be willing to serve?

If elected, I would be willing to serve on any of the four committees. My preferences in order would be: 1) Stewardship team, 2) Financial team, 3) Executive committee, 4) By-laws committee – if required.

4. What are your hopes and dreams for St. Christopher's?

My hope and dream for St. Christopher's is for the church to be financially stable by 2017. I would strive for St. Christopher's to be fiscally transparent in its financial reporting. I would also strive for existing church programs to be self-sufficient and in the approved annual budget.

5. Are there any other thoughts you would like to express?

The 2015 St. Christopher's rector transition process and by-laws update was required by law. A new vestry team will spiritually guide St. Christopher's and the parish to greater understanding of our mission, service, spread the "good news", and within financial budgets.



COLLEEN SHRANK

I've been a member of St. Christopher's for approximately 40 years, coming from Christ Episcopal Church (which is now Christ Enrichment Center) in Flint. I'm married to Ron and we have one son, Christopher who is married and lives in the Washington, D.C. area. I'm also the proud grandmother of two.

I'm a long time member of the Altar Guild and for the past two years have served as a delegate to the diocesan convention. I co-chaired the fund raiser which sent 3 children of St. Christopher's to Camp Chick in the summer of 2015. I was a member of the Events Planning Committee for several years. I served on the Project 99 Committee which was the building and design committee for the building St. Christopher's is presently in. I'm retired from the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office. I enjoy traveling and spending time aboard our sailboat we keep on Lake Huron.

1. Why do you want to serve as a member of the vestry?

I'm aware of how important the decisions made in the next 3 years will be to the immediate and long term future of St. Christopher's. I know that this will require a huge commitment from each vestry member. Being retired, I feel I have the time to commit to being a valuable member of the vestry. Having been a member of St. Christopher's for 40 plus years I'm committed to seeing St. Christopher's grow and become a successful parish.

2. How would you like the wider community to know St. Christopher's?

I want people in the community to think of St. Christopher's as an active, friendly, welcoming church. I want St. Christopher's to be known in, and be an active part of the local community.

3. If elected to the vestry, on which ministry team would you be willing to serve?

I'm not opposed to serving on any of the ministry teams here at St. Christopher's, but the one I would most like to serve on would be the search committee.

4. What are your hopes and dreams for St. Christopher's?

I want St. Christopher's to be where children receive a strong Christian education that will be the foundation that supports them throughout their lives. I want St. Christopher's to be the church that appeals to all and have programs that administer to the spiritual needs of everyone, regardless of age.

5. Are there any other thoughts you would like to express?

Being a long time member of St. Christopher's, I have seen the parish go through good times and trying times. Currently St. Christopher's is going through transition once again and I look at this time as a chance for us to learn who we are, and (as a young child would say) what we want to be when we grow up. I'm committed to St. Christopher's and I want to see us succeed and grow.

2016 FLOWER DONATIONS

A new Flower Chart has been posted in the gathering space. The chart allows folks to make a donation for our flowers for each week of the year (not including Lent or Advent). The cost of flowers is \$50.00 per week for the two arrangements. Please write on the chart how you wish your donation to be stated in our bulletin. It could be in memory, honor, or in celebration of a major event in your life. After the 10:15 service, you may take the flowers with you, leave them in the sanctuary for the week or ask that they be taken to a local elderly care center.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

Parents Night Out, Saturday, Jan 23rd from 5-8pm

The cost for the event is as follows; \$15 for the first child, \$10 for the second child and a \$30 max for families with more than two children. We will provide dinner, games and activities for the children. Please speak with Ashley to register for the event. Advance registration is necessary for planning and staffing purposes.

Intergeneration Valentine's Outreach Project

Sunday, Jan 24th during Coffee Hour

Please join us in making Valentine cards! Bring your creativity and we will supply the rest! If you know of someone who would like to receive a Valentine's card or if you have a college student in your life please email their address to Ashley@stchrisgrand-blanc.org

Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan 31st

This year's annual meeting will be held as part of the 10:15 am Worship Service. Please plan to attend this important meeting!

Ash Wednesday Service, Feb 10th at 7 pm

Childcare will be provided with activities and snacks.



UPCOMING SUNDAY LESSONS

RCL YEAR C

January 17

The Second Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 24

The Third Sunday After Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

January 31

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

February 7

The Last Sunday After Epiphany

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]

February 10

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 103

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

**Find readings online at
www.lectionarypage.net**

Worship Servers Schedule: Jan. 17th – Feb. 14th 2016

		Lector/LEMs	Ushers/Greeters	Acolytes	Coffee Hour
Jan 17th	8 am	Ron Shrank	Kay Van Natta & Judy Miller	-----	-----
	10:15 am	Marsha Kump & Laura Hassold	The Aluko Family	Dotun Aluko (C), Jack & Abby Keyes (T), Daniel Keyes (B)	Safleys
Jan 24th	8 am	Dean Bedford	Jane Brewer & Avis Christie	-----	-----
	10:15 am	Angela Campbell & Debora Mier	Joyce & Bill Thewalt/Frnak Burger & Mike Latesky	Jacob Stuart (C), Lauren & Gabby Ireland (T), Partick Ireland (B)	Whites & Van Duyne
Jan 31st	8 am	Tim Weston	Dean & Olive Bedford	-----	-----
	10:15 am	Linda Rathburn & Steve Gjerstad	Sandy & Bill White/Maxine & Steve Huber	Tosin Aluko (C), Dotun Aluko (T), Jacob Stuart (T), Finley Wise (B)	Annual Meeting
Feb 7th	8 am	Ron Shrank		-----	-----
	10:15 am	Marsha Kump & Joyce Thewalt		Dotun Aluko (C), Jack & Abby Keyes (T), Daniel Keyes (B)	
Feb 10th Ash Wednesday	Noon	Ron Shrank		-----	-----
	7pm	Tim Weston & Frank Burger		Jacob Stuart	-----
Feb 14th	8 am	Tom Dyke		-----	-----
	10:15 am	Emily Brown (Lec), Kathy Curtis & Angela Campbell		Tosin Aluko (C), Dotun Aluko (T), Jacob Stuart (T), Finley Wise (B)	Huber

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Christmas I Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall FrDon vacation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist ONLY ONE SERVICE TODAY	28 FrDon vacation Office Closed	29 FrDon vacation	30 FrDon vacation	31 5:30 PM New Year's Eve Service	1	2
3 Christmas II (Epiphany Sunday) Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist ONLY ONE SERVICE TODAY	4 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	5 7:15 AM Executive Committee Panera's	6  5:30 PM Holy Eucharist Columbarium Chapel	7 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal	8 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	9 3:00 PM Wedding
10 Baptism of our Lord Sunday Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist and Baptism	11 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	12	13 10:00 AM Altar Guild Meeting 6:30 PM New Century Chorale Board 6:30 PM Worship Team –Rector's Office	14 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 Coffee Hour, follows the Annual Meeting 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist	18 Office Closed 6:00 PM Bridge Club 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	19 6:30 PM Vestry meets with Bishop	20	21 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal	22	23 12:00 PM Defensive Driving Class 5:00 PM Parent's Night Out
24 Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 11:15 AM Intergenerational Valentine's Outreach Project	25 ALL REPORTS DUE FOR ANNUAL MEETING Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	26	27	28 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist and Annual Meeting	1 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	2	3	4 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal	5	6

