



The

FEBRUARY 2016

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Does Lent Make a
Difference?
Formation Fun
Camp Chickagami
From the Music Room
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and Much More!

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual Meeting 2015 is history! Thank you to everyone who came. The proposed by-laws were adopted, vestry members were elected and all of the reports are available online at :<http://jacob.stchrisgrandblanc.org/am2016>

The following new vestry members were elected:

Kristin Keyes

Karl Haiser

Linda Rathburn

Following the Annual Meeting, the Vestry met and took the following action: Colleen Shrank was elected to serve the remaining year on the term of Linda Stiebel who resigned due to a sudden health event. Chris Sleath as re-elected Senior Warden, Dr. Charles Safley was elected Junior Warden, Grant Finn was re-elected Treasurer and Linda Rathburn was elected Secretary/ Clerk. Heidi McAra was elected to serve as the Vestry Representative on the Executive Committee.

The vestry also approved the information presented at the Annual Meeting for the parochial report.

The Vestry will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except February) at 6:30 P.M.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

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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 Dr. Michael Carr,
Priest in Residence

The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,
Associate Emeritus

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

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
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Dr. Greg Hassold
Parish Organist
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Stephanie Finn, *Sexton*
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DOES LENT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

“Why does anyone care about Lent any more, isn’t it kind of old fashioned?” This question was posed to me in an adult class a few years ago. I remember staring at the person asking the question and the feeling of extreme emptiness crept up from my toes to the top of my head. At that moment, I had no answer. Inside my empty head I am yelling: “WHAT DO YOU MEAN OLD FASHIONED? IS THERE NO SIN? IS EVIL GONE?” Of course the yelling directed at the individual was inside my head and thankfully not heard. Meanwhile on the outside I was flummoxed, speechless, and I could feel myself falling out of my chair and through the floor to the abyss where only clergy who cannot answer questions live. Soon I would vaporize out of their sight, saved from answering that question and yet never to be seen again.

After a voiceless pause of at least two-hours, (maybe only 30 seconds), I fumbled a response with a veritable barrage of verbalized pauses and half completed thoughts somewhat similar to some political stump speeches. Today I would answer the question with clarity yet I suspect it would be lacking in social graces and diplomacy. “John,” I don’t remember his name, but a good name to use here, “an interesting question, what brings you to ask it?” Then, I would follow that with other questions leading to his, and the group’s understand of sin and the presence of evil.

During the conversation I would trudge out the history of Lent and why we practice such a dramatic shift during this time of year and how, in our half of the world, it sometimes matches the dreariness of the outside. That information is not altogether germane to his question, but it may form a good level place upon which to build

the argument that we need Lent now as much. if not more, than ever before.

People in the City of Flint were/are forced to use/pay for poisonous water because it was cheaper and, while leaders knew there could be problems, they made the decision anyway. Would this have happened if the majority of the population had been white and not African American? We need Lent.

A man was shot while walking to see a friend only a few miles from here. At this writing he is still alive. We need Lent.

Drive sixty miles to the south and there are areas where fire trucks and ambulances will not enter

without an armed police escort. This area is, some say, more dangerous than declared combat zones. We need Lent.

Politicians despise other politicians not because of any wrong but because they ideologically disagree and obstruction has become more important than doing the work they were elected to do. We need Lent.

A family is torn apart by alcohol and or drug abuse, children born addicted are forever paying the price of their parents' poor choices. People being radically insensitive to the lives of others thinking that they have the right to force their ideology or theology without the least inference of human caring or understanding. By all means we need Lent.

We need courage to move into the wilderness of our own consciousness and consider how we can build bridges. We need to pray to God not for our own wants but for the peace and security of those whose lives have been ripped open by the knives of injustice and the stabbing pain of promises not kept. We need the silence of Lent to hear the cries of those who are lonely, the children and families oppressed, the powerless and those whom the church has treated with grievous disrespect. We may not always appreciate the uncomfortable feeling of our liturgies, or the truth of the gospel; but Lent is a time when we best listen to the Spirit calling us to do our part.

Yes, John, we need Lent.
Don+

ORGAN UPDATES...

A significant amount of work has been done this week on our pipe organ. New chests for the pipes have been installed, and a new air (bellows) system has also been installed. Pictures below show technicians bringing in the new air system which consists of a large 650 pound blower. All of the chest work is done by hand, then the individual pipes will be mounted in the chests and connected by a complicated network of wires to each stop which is in turn connected to the keys and pedals of the console.



A great deal of work is left to be done, but we are moving along.

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS & PLEDGES

A quick note on your offerings and gifts: unless otherwise marked, all offerings go into the general fund. If you would like your gift to be credited toward a designated fund or toward the building fund, please mark the check or envelope or attach a note to specify. We hope to ensure that everyone's gift goes to support exactly what they intend. If you have any questions on your giving, please contact Elizabeth, the administrative assistant. Thank you for your faithful giving to St. Christopher's!

CAMP CHICKAGAMI



On Sunday, March 13th, McKenzie Bade, Executive Director of Camp Chickagami will be coming to speak during the 10:15 am service. Please join us on this Sunday to help welcome her! Even if you do not have children, you will be inspired by the wonderful work that is going on at camp with our kids and youth!

No child is turned away from Camp Chick because of an inability to pay. They need caring supporters to ensure that every child can experience the love and fellowship that going to church camp has to offer. Come, and learn more about how you can sponsor this important ministry.

Below is an article from the camp website demonstrating the infectious excitement McKenzie will be bringing to our worship service:

Summer can be a tremendously busy time for families and I know you and your children are faced with many choices for how to spend your time. This is the exact reason why the staff of Camp Chickagami spend all year (practically from the time camp gets out until the time it starts again) preparing and developing superb camp programming to pack into a single week of AWESOME summer camp!

As a former camper and counselor at Camp Chickagami, it truly is an understatement to tell you that camp has changed my life and developed me into the person I am today. Camp Chickagami offers the perfect combination of faith-driven formation, fun-filled games and breathtaking, indescribable property on it's very own lakeshore. Today, I get to share this remarkable place with my own kid sister. The opportunities she has to be loved, cared for and encouraged by cabin-mates, counselors and the community of Camp Chick is comparable to none.

I invite you to take the time to truly consider making the Camp experience a part of your summer. There are many opportunities for involvement and I would be elated to meet with you, your church, your church's youth group, your dog or even your neighbor's children's children twice removed to talk about how you can get involved.

McKenzie Bade, Executive Director of Camp Chickagami

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

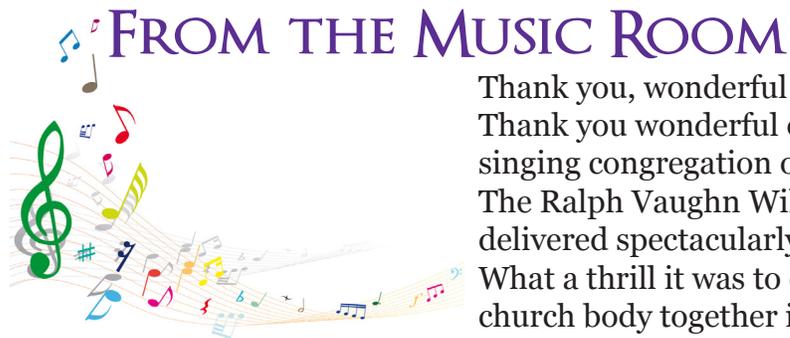
Following the 8 o'clock service on March 20th a Pancake Breakfast will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds of your free will donation for breakfast will provide "scholarships" for children who want to spend a week at camp this summer.

ROAD TO CAMP CHICK

Footprints for the "Road to Camp Chick" will be sold beginning on Sunday, March 13th. Footprints can be purchased for \$5 each then will be posted on the "Road to Camp Chick" poster located on the wall in the gathering space. Please buy footprints to help support children who would like to go to camp this summer.

Contact Ashley if your child is interested in going to camp this summer





FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Thank you, wonderful choir of St. Christopher Episcopal Church!
Thank you wonderful organist, Greg Hassold! Thank you wonderful singing congregation of St. Christopher Episcopal Church!
The Ralph Vaughn Williams' "O How Amiable is Thy Dwelling" was delivered spectacularly well by all of you! You gave me goose bumps! What a thrill it was to experience the glorious sounds of choir and church body together in this beautiful piece based on the hymn, "O God Our Help in Ages Past". Thank you!

Tonight, as I sit at the desk here in the choir room, I can hear the chiming of our newly reconvening bell choir. Tonight will be our second rehearsal. Steve Gjerstad is very generously giving of his time, rebuilding this once thriving element of music in our church. Thank you, everyone who has been wanting to play in the bell choir. It is not too late, you know, if you would still like to ring! Rehearsals are every Thursday at 5:30 in the sanctuary. Please join us!

Also, as a gentle reminder, the children's choir has met for a second time! Please, parents, god-parents, grandparents, sisters and brothers of children who sing (or pretend that they really don't want to sing---) bring your young ones down to the choir room following the 10:15 service for a short rehearsal. We are hoping to sing "Bring Palm Branches" on Palm Sunday. If you happen to know of a young one, say, between the ages of and including 5 years old up to, oh, somewhere in the neighborhood of about 12 years old, we could use your voice! Do, please participate. It's both fun and good for the soul!

Good Friday this year will be an Ecumenical Service, shared with the congregations of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Kirkridge Presbyterian Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ as of this printing. Our choirs will be combining to honor this solemn service with the hauntingly beautiful music of Hal Hopson in his work, "Tenebrae, a Service of Darkness". Please do make time to experience this elegant work.

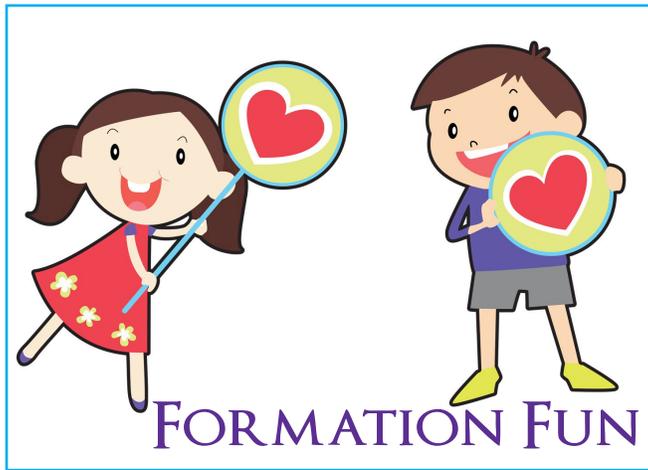
And again, if you are not able to attend choir rehearsals regularly, but would like to sing now and again, or if you are a snow-bird...please come down to the choir room and let's chat! If we are singing something that would work out with your schedule, I will give you music and if you can attend at least a few rehearsals, I'm sure we can use your voice!

In Christ, I am yours,
Nada

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- 3/19 - **Palm Saturday** from 10 am - 1 pm (Come & Go)
- 3/20 - **Palm Sunday**, 8 am & 10:15 am services
Pancake Breakfast following 8 am service
- 3/21 - **Holy Monday** Eucharist, Noon
- 3/22 - **Holy Tuesday** Eucharist, 7:30 am
- 3/23 - **Holy Wednesday** Eucharist, 5:30 pm
- 3/24 - **Maundy Thursday** Service, 7 pm
- 3/25 - **Good Friday** Community Tenebrae Service @ Holy Spirit Lutheran, 7 pm
- 3/26 - **Great Vigil of Easter**, 7 pm
- 3/27 - **Easter Sunday**, 8 am & 10:15 am services

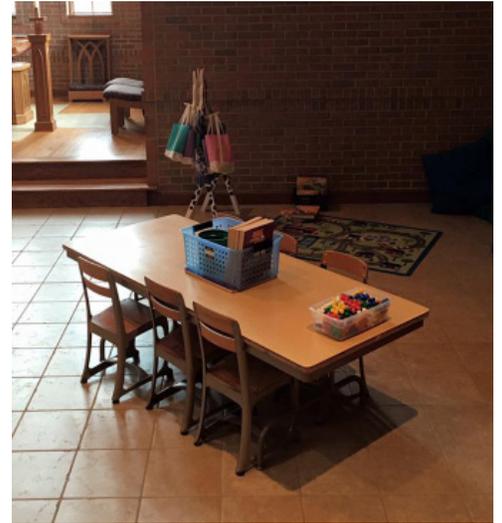




CHILDREN'S CORNER

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.



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

The next Parents' Night Out will be Friday, February 19th from 6-9pm. 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.

PALM SATURDAY

Palm Saturday will be March 19th from 1pm-3pm. We will be gathering to prepare for the Palm Sunday Procession, as we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. During this open house from 1pm-3pm we will be making banners for the children (and those of us that are children at heart) to carry during the Palm Sunday procession, and sharing in some fellowship time. We will have many activities and snacks! This event will be set up "open house style" so please feel free to come by any time!

YOUR VESTRY

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

Dr. Charles Safley, *Junior Warden*
juniorwarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Linda Rathburn, *Clerk*

Grant Finn, *Treasurer*
treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Dr. Olanreqaju Aluko • Colleen Shrank
 Heidi McAra • Maxine Huber • Karl Haiser
 Kristin Keyes



UPCOMING FORMATION ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

February & March 2016



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 6-9PM

Please pre-register for Parents' Night Out with Ashley (ashley@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

GUEST, MCKENZIE BADE

MARCH 13TH AT 10:15AM HOLY EUCHARIST

Join us in welcoming guest speaker, McKenzie Bade,
Executive Director of Camp Chickagami



PALM SATURDAY

MARCH 19TH, 1-3PM (COME & GO)

Young and young-at-heart are welcome to this open house event to prepare for the Palm Sunday Procession, as we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will be making banners to carry during the procession as well as sharing in snacks and many other activities. Come and fellowship with us!



PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOR CAMP CHICKAGAMI

MARCH 20TH AFTER 8AM SERVICE

Following the 8 o'clock service a Pancake Breakfast will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Footprints will be sold starting March 13th. Purchase a footprint for \$5.00 and post it on the "Road to Camp Chick". The proceeds of your free-will donation for breakfast and money raised from the footprint sales will provide "scholarships" for children who want to spend a week at camp this summer.



FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14  Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist	15 Office Closed 6:00 PM Bridge Club 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	16	17 5:30 PM Lenten Service in the Columbarium	18 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	19 Vestry Retreat in Clarkston 6:00 PM Parents Night Out	20 Vestry Retreat in Clarkston
21 Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist	22 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	23	24 5:30 PM Lenten Service in the Columbarium	25 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	26	27 12:00 PM Defensive Driving Class
28 Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM Evensong for the Season of Lent	29 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	1	2 5:30 PM Lenten Service in the Columbarium	3 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	4	5

MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM Evensong for the Season of Lent	29 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	1	2 5:30 PM Lenten Service in the Columbarium	3 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist	7 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	8 6:30 PM Carolyn Mawby Chorale Rehearsal	9 5:30 PM Lenten Service in the Columbarium 6:45 PM New Century Chorale Board	10 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	11	12 9:00 AM Carolyn Mawby Chorale Festival of Choirs Clinic
13 Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist - McKenzie Bade, Director of Camp Chick 1:00 PM Carolyn Mawby Chorale Call Time 4:00 PM Carolyn Mawby Chorale Festival of Choirs Concert	14 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	15 5:30 PM Vestry Eat and Chat 6:30 PM Vestry	16 5:30 PM Lenten Service in the Columbarium	17 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	18	19 1:00 PM Palm Saturday
20  Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM Pancake Breakfast to benefit Camp Chickagami Scholarships 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist	21  Holy Week 12:00 PM Holy Monday Eucharist 6:00 PM Bridge Club 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	22 7:30 AM Holy Tuesday Eucharist	23 5:30 PM Holy Wednesday Eucharist	24  7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	25  7:00 PM Community Tenebrae Service @ Holy Spirit Lutheran	26 12:00 PM Defensive Driving Class 7:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter
27  Coffee Hour, follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist	28 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	29	30	31 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	1 Staff Bermuda Holiday	2

UPCOMING
LESSONS
RCL YEAR C

February 21
 Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17-4:1
 Luke 13:31-35

February 28
 Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9

March 6
 Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 13
 Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8

March 20
Palm Sunday
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 19:28-40

Find readings online at
www.lectionarypage.net

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www.strchrisgrandblanc.org



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