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APRIL 2016

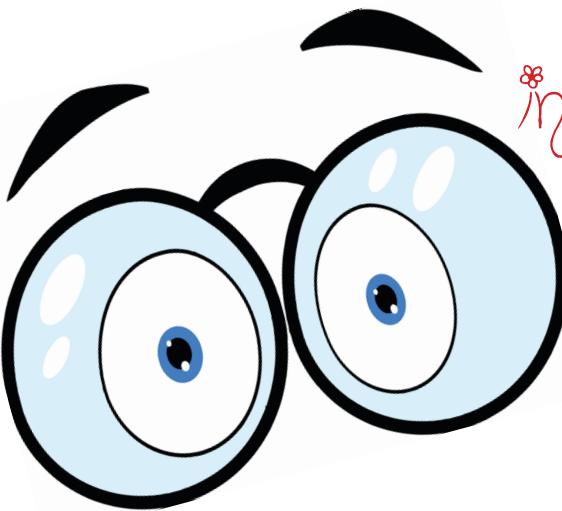
THE TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services

9:00 AM Sunday Christian Formation

Coffee Hour following 10:15 Service



Inside This Issue

Formation Fun
A Pastoral Message
Camp Chickagami
From the Music Room
Upcoming Events
New Club/Group Info
and Much More!

church dinner group



Do you like to cook? Do you like to volunteer? Do you like to help others? Well if you said 'yes' to any of those questions then we have an opportunity for you! We are currently forming a Church Dinner Group and need people who are wanting to join. The group will prepare and serve meals for special events at the church. This includes events such as special coffee hour days, funerals, dinners throughout the year, among other opportunities.

Please contact Colleen Shrank if you are interested in being part of the group. Colleen can be reached via phone at 810-694-5647 or via email at r.shrank@sbcglobal.net.

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 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*
nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Dr. Greg Hassold
Parish Organist
greg@stchrisgrandblanc.org

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

Stephanie Finn, *Sexton*
Stephanie@stchrisgrandblanc.org

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www.strchrisgrandblanc.org



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St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church



I have a new whatnot on the Rector's desk that says: "If you change nothing, nothing will be changed." While this is true, even those who dislike all forms of change, change. We age, develop new likes and dislikes, learn how to tie our shoes, become unable to reach our shoes...

Years ago it was not that unusual for a person to be baptized at the same church where their burial service would be held many years later. Families would have baptisms, confirmations, graduations, marriages, (and sometimes more marriages) anniversaries, and of course burials in the same church. That almost never happens these days. Something like 80% of attending Episcopalians began their spiritual journey in other churches.

While some of our sister and brother denominations are very clear about who is and who is not a member, we tend to be quite Anglican. A friend of mine once told me that if a person drives by the church more than once a day and waves, they must be a member. Well...not really. In order to maintain a good understanding of our membership, we are in the process of taking a membership audit. In a little while, you will receive in the mail a form for each person that our records indicate is living in your home.

Please help us by completing the form. If you have trouble writing, just call the church and we can take the information over the phone. If you would rather type your responses, please feel free to e-mail our Administrative Assistant at elizabeth@stchrisgrandblanc.org.

Of course, our first question will be if you consider yourself a member of St. Christopher's? We will need to know if our records match your records about your date of birth, baptism, confirmation and marriage(s) dates. We would like to know your e-mail address and you may also indicate if there is any area of the church where you would be interested in serving.

You will have an opportunity to clearly state what, if any, information you would allow in a church directory. If you have a family picture and would like to share it, please send it back. Of course, birth dates and such would not be shared in a directory. In fact all of the information you share will be kept in our database and with extremely limited access.

send that too (and let us know if you would like it back). Of course, birth dates and such would not be shared in a directory. In fact all of the information you share will be kept in our database and with extremely limited access.

After everyone has completed their forms and returned them by mail, e-mail, fax or by relaying the information over the phone, we will have a much better idea of our total membership. This process is part of an overall effort during this transition to get the parish ready for the arrival of a new Rector in just a little over two-years from now. In addition we are working on vestry and parish structure, financial transparency and continuing audits, building maintenance (new boiler), and overall parish mission with all generations.

Please continue to pray for this work, and for the good people of St. Christopher's which can make it happen.

See you in church,

Don+



sacred Exultet for our Great Easter Vigil Service. On Easter Day, our Bell Choir rang, under the very competent direction of Kris Miley; and adding an element of joy, on Easter Day as well, was a thrilling brass quartet heralding bright, exciting accompaniments for our hymns. Thank you, everyone, who donated your time and talent in this very moving week of worship!

For those of you in the congregation who may have known our dear, dear Bell Choir director, Steve Gjerstad, I would like to take a moment to share a few thoughts about him; I first met Steve the evening I came to audition for the Director of Music position at St. Christopher's. Steve Gjerstad was one of the tenors in the choir who sang that evening. He IMMEDIATELY let me know that he was a singer in the New Century Chorale. (This is something about which I could tell he was very proud!) And, also, that very night, he said to me, "You know, if we like you, and if we decide to keep you, you ARE going to have to start our bell choir back up!"

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR C

April 17 - Easter 4

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

April 24 - Easter 5

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

May 1 - Easter 6

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

or John 5:1-9

May 8 - Easter 7

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

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

continued on page 4

"Music Room "continued..."

Well, I thought to myself, *Bell Choir?* Father Don didn't mention anything about a bell choir! So, as very good fortune would have it, St. Christopher's did invite me to become the new Director of Music, and again, after our first rehearsal, Steve, in a very disarming way said to me, "So, you thought I was just kidding about that bell choir didn't you?" I said, "No, I didn't KNOW that you guys had a bell choir, please tell me more about it".

Which he did. So, for those of you who didn't know this, Steve Gjerstad LOVED the bell choir. He told me that at one time the bell choir at St. Christopher was actually 'pretty good', and that he believed that the bell choir could get to that point once again. And so, this time, I struck a deal with him! I said, "Steve, if you want us to have a bell choir again, how about this? YOU DIRECT it, and I will come to every rehearsal and help, I'll even ring, but let's have you direct."

He didn't miss a beat, he said, "Deal!"

So, we dragged out the tables, the tablecloths, the foam pads, the wooden music stands and the bell cases, and we began. We started to prepare for Easter. We pondered which piece we should do; we went back and forth about a few things, and then we both settled on "Jesus Christ is Risen Today". Steve had great fun each Thursday afternoon, preparing for 'Bells'. He would always be at the church before I got there, around 4:30. And you know, he would ask me, in the most kind terms, 'Do we know who will be coming today?'. I couldn't always tell him 'who' would be there, but I did promise that if someone had to miss, I would fill in! ---and just to make certain we had enough ringers, Steve brought his son, Lowell, just the week before Palm Sunday. It was touching to observe father and son. We miss him terribly, all of us in bell choir, and all of us in choir. His charm and loving attitude made each rehearsal 'a little more fun,' each peal of laughter, a little more meaningful. Thank you, Gjerstad family, for sharing Steve with us.

Yours in Christ,
Nada



St. Christopher's will begin hosting a Knitting & Crochet Club the fourth Monday of every month from 12:30-2 PM. The first meeting will be Monday, April 25th. We will be working on the Prayer Shawl ministry, sharing patterns and ideas and fellowship. The group is intended to be laid-back so come and go as you please and don't feel bad if you miss a meeting. You are welcome to bring any project you're working on, or, if you're not a crocheter or knitter, to come and see what we are working on. We also desperately need yarn donations if you would like to help but not sure how. Come join us for some fun crafting, and fellowshiping together!



ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION

The service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Midland, MI on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 2:00 P.M. If you would like to be confirmed, or if you have been confirmed in another denomination (other than ELCA Lutheran or Moravian) you may be received by the Bishop into the Episcopal Church. To be confirmed you must be at least 15 years old and have been baptized. If you were baptized as an adult, that is made your own baptismal vows, then being confirmed is your choice. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Don at 810-694-3600 during business hours or via e-mail at frdon@stchrisgrandblanc.org.

formation fun

CAMP CHICKAGAMI

We raised over \$1200 in scholarship money for Camp Chickagami this past month by selling footprints and hosting a pancake breakfast. Thank you to everyone who made donations! Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Also, thank you to everyone who helped sell footprints and flipped pancakes! We couldn't have been successful without you!



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

Family Camp

July 6 - 10 | All ages | Base rate: \$325 per family

Trip Camp

July 6 - 10 | Grades 7-11 | \$325

Pioneer Adventure Camp

July 10 - 16 | Grades 5-8 | \$325

Esau Explorers Camp

July 17 - 23 | Grades 5-8 | \$325

Bell Bay Camp

July 24 - 30
Grades 3-7 | \$325



SODA CAN TABS & SOUP LABELS WANTED...

We are still collecting soda can tabs and soup labels. All of the money raised from the soda can tabs and soup points benefit the children and youth of St. Christopher's. We use this money for events such as family game day, formation classes, etc. You can drop these items in the box under the table in the Narthex or give them to Ashley.

Upcoming Events

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Friday, April 15th from 6-9 pm

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.

FAMILY GAME DAY

Saturday, April 23rd from 10 am-Noon

Please join us for a morning of games for all ages, snacks and fellowship. Please contact Ashley (Ashley@stchrisgrandblanc.org) with any questions.

This event is open to the community.





A pastoral message TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I have made the decision to discontinue our Children's Corner in the south-east area of the nave. The corner was a way to welcome and accommodate our children, and new children visiting our parish. I dreamed that the corner would help us as a community to recognize how important children are, and how we as a community join in loving them as they grow and mature.

A combination of things including the amazing acoustics of our worship space made it quite obvious to me that this good intention was not going to be a reality.

I will be working with Ashley, our Director of Family Ministry, and others to find new ways of offering an area for children that is safe, visible and fun. I know St. Christopher's to be a place where children are welcome, and I hope children will feel they are loved and secure and that church is a place where they are happy.

I thank all those who have been supportive of this effort and I am sorry if this decision has disappointed you. Earlier today I wrote the parents of our young children asking for their understanding. Transitions are a time of trying new things, learning and self-growth and such is the case with this good intention.

May God continue to bless us as we love and care for each other.

Yours in Christ,
Don+



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

Worship Servers Schedule: April 17 – May 15 2016

		Lector/LEMs	Ushers/Greeters	Acolytes	Coffee Hour
April 17	8 am	Judy Miller	Dean & Olive Bedford	-----	-----
	10:15 am	Angela Campbell (Lector) & Kathy Curtis	Allison & Jeff Natzke/ Joyce & Bill Thewalt	Tosin Aluko (C), Jack & Abby Keyes (T), Daniel Keyes (B)	Safleys
April 24	8 am	Tim Weston	Louise McAra & Jane Brewer	-----	-----
	10:15 am	Marsha Kump (Lector) & Linda Rathburn	Jerri & Paul Bassett Mary VanDuyne & Bill White	Tosin Aluko (C), Dotun Aluko & Gabby Ireland (T), Finley Wise (B)	
May 1	8 am	Judy Miller	Jackie & Jim Beal	-----	-----
	10:15 am	Marsha Kump (Lector) & Angela Campbell	Joyce & Bill Thewalt/Frank Burger & Mike Latesky		
May 8	8 am	Tom Dyke	Judy Miller & Lou Alarie	-----	-----
	10:15 am	Linda Rathburn (Lector) & ?	Wise Family/Max & Steve Huber		Mileys
May 15	8 am	Ron Shrank	Avis Christie & Kay Van Natta	-----	-----
	10:15 am	Kathy Curtis (Lector) & Linda Rathburn	Helen Lackey & Bill White/ Joyce & Bill Thewalt		

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 Children's Choir Rehearses following late service Coffee Hour follows late service in Parish Hall 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 Finance 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	19 5:30 PM Vestry Eat and Chat 6:30 PM Vestry Regular Meeting	20	21 5:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	22	23 10:00 AM Family Game Day 12:00 PM Defensive Driving Class
24 Children's Choir Rehearses following late service Coffee Hour follows late service in Parish Hall 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist	25 Office Closed 7:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	26 Fr. Don at Clergy Retreat	27 Fr. Don at Clergy Retreat	28 Fr. Don at Clergy Retreat 5:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	29	30 Los Gatos Craft Day, Fellowship Hall 10:00 AM New Century Chorale Dress Rehearsal

OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

WHITHER INSTITUTE & COPPAGE-GORDON:
EPIPHANIES SPEAKER SERIES
World renowned speakers heading to Michigan

The Epiphany Speaker series features world-renowned leaders to speak and present on topics essential for the future of the Church, to "broaden our minds and deepen our faith." Each will facilitate a day-long conference on their topic of expertise.



September 28, 2016 **The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers**

All Saints, East Lansing

Bringing expertise in evangelism, reconciliation, and emerging church contexts with special emphasis on leadership and mission.

February 15, 2017 **Dr. Cynthia Crysdale**

St. Paul's, Brighton

Bringing expertise in ethics, with special emphasis on emerging Atonement Theologies, Theology of Creation, and Redemption.

May 24, 2017 **Dr. Diana Butler Bass**

All Saints, East Lansing

Bringing expertise in Contemporary Ecclesiology, with special emphasis on assessing what's next for American Religion.

Each conference is \$75 or \$200 for all three. Seating is limited so register early to ensure you have a seat. To register go to: <http://epiphaniespeakers.wix.com/epiphanies>

A free 7pm worship service will be held on the evening before each conference with the featured speaker as guest preacher. A reception and book signing will follow.

