



The

JANUARY 2017

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services

Coffee Hour following 10:15 Service

New Family Night Activities

Wednesday Night FaNtASTiC

beginning with a soup supper at 6 pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Meet Your Vestry Nominees

Notes from the Music Room

Senior Warden's Report

Kitchen Corner

Outreach

Fr. Don's Doodles

and so much more!

COUNTERS NEEDED

We are still in need of a few Sunday and Tuesday morning counters. Sunday morning counters work in pairs to count and record the number of envelopes, loose checks and cash collected on Sunday before locking it up to be counted/deposited on Tuesday.

Tuesday morning counters come into the office on Tuesday mornings after 9 am to re-check Sunday's count with Liz, our administrative assistant, before she records the gifts in the database and deposits the money.

Both jobs take minutes - You do not have to add ALL of the money, only give a count of how many envelopes, checks, and cash was received - and it truly helps us make sure our books are in order and that your giving is secure.

Over the past months, many people have stepped up to volunteer in several different areas of the church that needed assistance. Thank you to everyone who serves St. Christopher's faithfully by volunteering their time and expertise!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600

Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 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

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*
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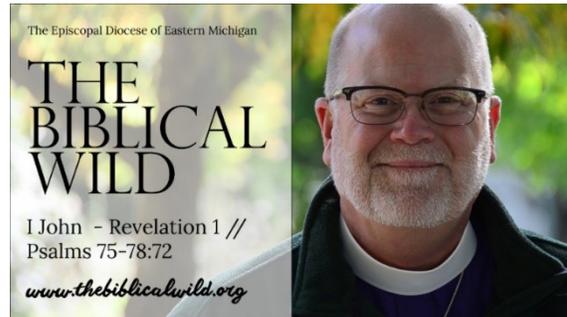
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www.stchrisgrandblanc.org



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St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church

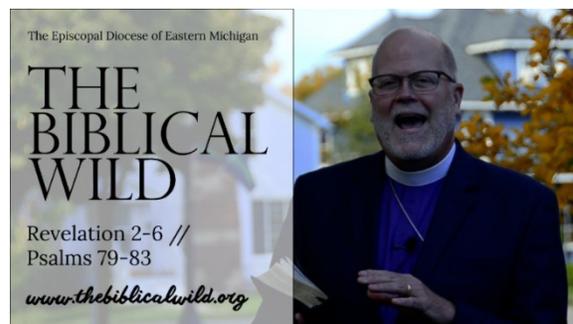
THE BIBLICAL WILD

The Biblical Wild is a weekly bible series hosted by Bishop Ousley. Each week we take on a portion of scripture and reflect on it through five-minute long online videos. In 2015, we covered the entirety of the Old Testament. In 2016, we move to the New Testament. Catch up from the beginning at www.thebiblicalwild.org. Here are this year's first two topics.



"The More Things Change"

Weekly reading: I John-Revelation 1, Psalms 75-78:72



"Revelation as a Roadmap"

Weekly reading: Revelation 2-6, Psalms 79-83



WEDNESDAY NIGHT COORDINATOR

Thanks be to God!! We have received a wonderful gift that will allow us to hire a Wednesday Night Coordinator.

This person will be responsible to the Rector for the Wednesday Night Fantastic including the schedule, coordination of the various components and leaders, as the implementation of the youth formation part of the evening. The individual will need to be familiar with Christian Education, complete a background check and complete Safeguarding God's Children and Safeguarding God's People courses. A job description should be available by the end of the month. Those interested are asked to contact the office by e-mail (office@stcgb.org)

MEET YOUR VESTRY NOMINEES!

ELLEN SAFLEY



Hi! My name is Ellen Safley and I have been a member of St. Christopher's since 1995. I have watched and been part of so many changes in our congregation over the past 20+ years. Many of them have been amazingly good and have strengthened my faith and my commitment to being an active member of our congregation. Other events have tested that same commitment and caused me to draw back and become (a little) less active. The past year has been an emotional one for me. Losing Charlie is, without a doubt, the hardest, saddest, most difficult time of my life, but I am forever thankful for the support, love and encouragement that my St. Christopher's family has shared with me. It has reminded me that we ARE a strong community, that we CARE about each other and that, with GOD, all things are possible.

I am a member of the Choir, ring with the Bell Choir, volunteer as an Office Angel, help with the Wednesday Night FaNtaSTiC (Family Night at St. Christopher's-in case you didn't know!), serve as a Sunday Counter, help with Christmas decorating and look for any other ways to strengthen and grow our church family. Do I want to be a member of the Vestry? I have served in the past as Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Vestry Member and so I say-NO! But, I am beginning to understand that Vestry actually can (and should) be the Board of Directors for a congregation; not just a "rubber stamp for the Rector." Our congregation has faced continuing changes over the past several years and it is how we cope and respond to these changes and challenges that will determine our future. Do we walk away, do we become complacent pew sitters? If we do, our future is limited. That isn't part of my dream for St. Christopher's and so I say-YES! I will join the Vestry if elected. We have a LOT of work to do...I'm willing, are You?

COLLEEN SHRANK



I've been a member of St. Christopher's for a little over 40 years, and attend the 8 o'clock service with my husband, Ron. We have one son who is married and lives in the Washington D. C. area with his wife and our two grandchildren. We came to St. Christopher's because of their Christian education program and I feel strongly that St. Christopher's needs to make Christian education a priority today.

I am a long time member of the altar guild, co-chair the Camp Chick fundraising, serve on the Executive Committee, served as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention for the last three years, chair the Dinner Committee, coordinated the Giving Tree in 2016, and have served on the Stewardship Committee.

This past year I served on the Vestry, completing the term left vacant by a former member. This was my first chance to

continued on page 4

serve on the Vestry. I've found the experience very rewarding and informative, and would very much like to continue serving on the Vestry. St. Christopher's has experienced many changes recently and the next few years will also bring changes. My experience serving on the Vestry this past year will help in making the important decisions that will need to be made in the future.

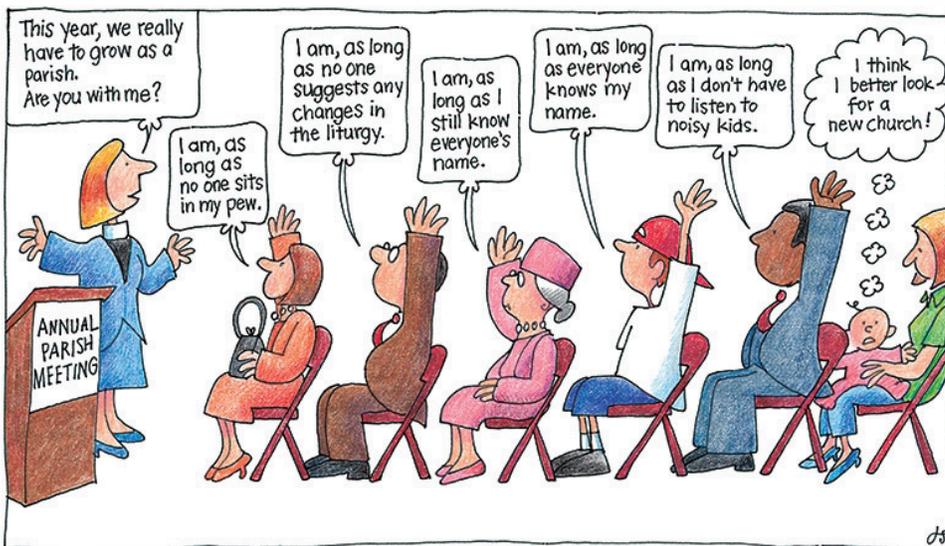
MARILYN BROWN



Friends,

I am a Cincinnati native, baptized and confirmed at Christ Church years before it became the Episcopal Cathedral for the district of Southern Ohio. It was the very church where my grandparents were married in 1895. I was educated in Ohio first at Western College for Women, now a part of Miami of Ohio, and the University of Cincinnati, and since then have lived in the Flint area, but for 3 years in Burlington, VT (when Bernie was mayor!). I loved my long career at Genesee District Library managing the Clio and Fenton branches and, for the last 5 years before retiring, planning adult programs for the system. My dozen or so years spent as part of the St. Christopher's family have been so rewarding for me and, if elected to serve on its Vestry, my pledge is to help it remain the welcoming and responsible church it has always been.

FR DON'S DOODLES...



There is a great deal of commonality between the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. The reason behind the structural similarities is, to some degree, obvious and some of the same people wrote both documents.

The structure of the National Church, Diocese and, on some level, the parish all conform to a set of checks and balances whereby each part of the whole

is interdependent on the other parts. At the parish level the Rector, Vestry and Congregation all have specific roles. Each must do their part in order for the structure to work. Please note the word "interdependent" as it indicates that one without the other is incomplete and unable to fulfil the mission of God's call.

continued on page 7



FISH of Grand Blanc

PO Box 367

Grand Blanc, MI 48480

PH: 810.695.1880

Email: fishofgrandblancmi@gmail.com

January 10, 2017

St Christopher's Church (Families # 2,32,43,79,95)
9020 S. Saginaw St.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Attn: Colleen Shank

Dear Members of St. Chris,

On behalf of FISH of Grand Blanc, I would like to personally express our sincere thanks for your continued support of the Christmas Basket Program. Through your combined efforts with the Grand Blanc Community Schools, Churches, Businesses, Civic Groups and Individuals, 176 baskets were distributed to make Christmas better for 398 children and 261 adults. Your generosity and kindness represents an approximate cost of \$85,000 to fill these baskets.

Assisting in our efforts again this year, was the Flint Elks Lodge #222 who prepared and delivered individual pre-cooked meals containing ham, turkey, potatoes, gravy, vegetable, stuffing, dinner roll, salad and a desert to 502 of our neighbors! (I'm told by several recipients how tasty and delectable it is). For our seniors and shut-ins who have nowhere to go for holiday fixins, it is truly a blessing to them to be remembered.

Additionally, donations of coats, clothing, scarves, hats, mittens were collected for the baskets with the surplus placed in our Clothes Closet to be distributed at no cost to infant through high school children throughout the school year. Toys went to fill last minute requests with hygiene and cleaning products filling the additional baskets and helping to stock our Pantry. Had we had the capability of weighing the amount of donated and purchased foods that went into the baskets and Pantry, I can guarantee you they would have totaled several tons! These additional items will aid in our continuing efforts to reach out to our neighbors. However, as demand continues to rise, this surplus will only last for 4-6 weeks as need does not follow a holiday calendar.

You are invited to share your suggestions and comments about our process and your experience with your family (ies) to help us maintain and improve our program.

Please contact me at any time to speak to your business or organization about FISH and how you may become more involved throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Barb Smith
Basket Chair

NOTES FROM
THE
MUSIC
ROOM

All of us who participate musically at St. Christopher's, hope that everyone who was able to attend our Feast of Epiphany offering of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* enjoyed the work. All who sang and acted in this lovely piece of music did so with love and care. A very special "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, kindly" to our special little sheep, Kassidy Campbell and Victoria Price! What are shepherds and shepherdesses without their sheep, after all? Thank you, too, Lauren and Gabby Ireland for performing in this magical work. It would not have been the same without you! Ellen Safely, Greg Hassold and Angela Campbell, too, offered their talents, in combination with our guest performers! Thank you, everyone, for making this possible.

If you happened to have noticed a THIRD organ in the Nave, please do not be concerned. We borrowed the Allen Organ from the FIM for Friday night. It was returned this week!

During these next months, the remainder of Epiphany and then throughout Lent, we hope to see more of you at our Wednesday Evening activity nights! Please do come! The aroma from the kitchen on Wednesday is just heavenly! The soup is fabulous! Bell choir rehearsal is at 4:30-5:30, and the Ringers and Singers from 6:30-7:00, then crafts at 7 for youth, and of course, Adult Choir rehearsal from 7 p.m. until 8:30. It's not too late to join any of these groups! Please come by!

Yours, in Christ, Nada

THE KITCHEN CORNER

Let's learn about our kitchen. Additional kitchen orientations have been scheduled for Wednesday, January 18 at 2 pm and Friday, February 3 at 2 pm. These are small group experiences to allow for questions. We will talk about how cooking in a commercial kitchen differs from cooking in your home kitchen and will also show you where to find the things you may need. Please call the office and register for the date that fits best in your schedule. Group size will be limited to 8.

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR A

Jan 15 - Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-12
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Jan 22 - Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 5-13
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Jan 29 - Epiphany 4

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Feb 5 - Epiphany 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalm 112:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

Feb 12 - Epiphany 6

Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Find the readings every week on the church website or at lectionarypage.net

FR DON'S DOODLES...CONT. (FROM PAGE 4)

All of this theory comes into focus once a year when the entire parish gathers for the Annual Meeting. The Rector (or in my case the Priest-in-Charge), the Vestry and the people listen, respond, discuss and act for the wellbeing and future of the parish. Each has their role and each role is interdependent on the other. A lovely, albeit imperfect, analogy is the symphony where, only when all the instruments play the same music at the same rhythm, is the music made.

On Sunday, January 22, 2017 we will begin our Annual Meeting (as a church should) with worship. We praise God; for only with God's help can anything ever be attained. I will give an address, not a



sermon or homily, but an address about the year past and the year to come. We will gather at the table and receive the sacrament of the grace of Christ in the Eucharist and then hear reports, elect new vestry members and delegates, modify the by-laws and finally receive the blessing and charge out with the dismissal....” our worship is done, let our work begin.”

Of course, I cannot “tell” anyone that they must be present, but I do think that your presence

would be helpful. Your interest is encouraging and your prayers provide inspiration as we gather for this important meeting. In the Episcopal Church, everyone has a role, every person is important and we all need each other in the work Christ has given all of us and each of us.

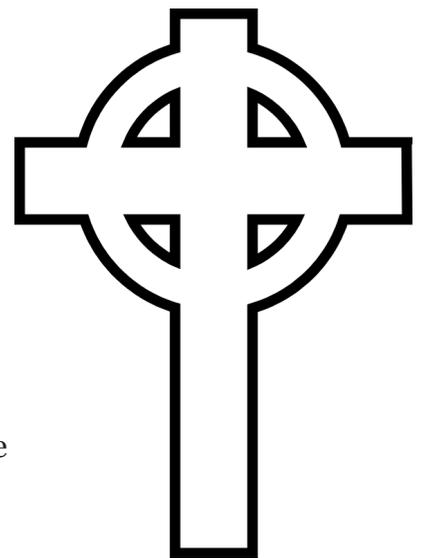
In the words (slightly modified) of our beloved Book of Common Prayer: “May the Lord who has given us the will to do these things give us the grace and power to perform them.”

Don+

THE CHRISMON TREE

A chrismon, a combination of the words “Christ” and “monogram,” is a symbol that represents Jesus. The very first chrismon was the Chi Rho, a combination of the first two Greek letters of “Cristos,” or Christ.

A Chrismon Tree is a tree decorated with such common chrismons as crosses, stars, angels, doves, fish (“ichthus”), and triangles representing the Holy Trinity. Chrismon ornaments can be made from any type of material, whether paper, cloth, Styrofoam. The chrismons are often white and gold--white to represent Jesus' purity, gold to represent his sovereignty.



The ornaments on this tree were hand-made by the members of St. Christopher' Episcopal Church. The tree and the ornaments were placed in the sanctuary during the Christmas Season, when the church was located on S. Saginaw St. in Burton, MI.

THE SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Looking forward to this new year, we'll be discussing in the annual meeting both the budget for this year and changing our legal name. We'll be electing (as we do every year) three Vestry members.

In March a new session of the Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI) will begin. As noted in the article in our last Trumpeter, this is a 2-year program of leadership development consisting of 8 Friday/Saturday meetings entirely paid by the diocese. They prefer to work with small groups from within a congregation rather than individuals. Please let me know if you're interested in improving your leadership ability. More information is available on the diocesan website (eastmich.org) or from Michael Spencer, Canon to the Ordinary, at [mspencer@eastmich.org](mailto:m Spencer@eastmich.org).

Our heating/cooling system has been overhauled and is working much better than in the past. A few tweaks are still needed. I'm sure there will be more about this subject in the annual meeting and, perhaps, elsewhere in this Trumpeter.

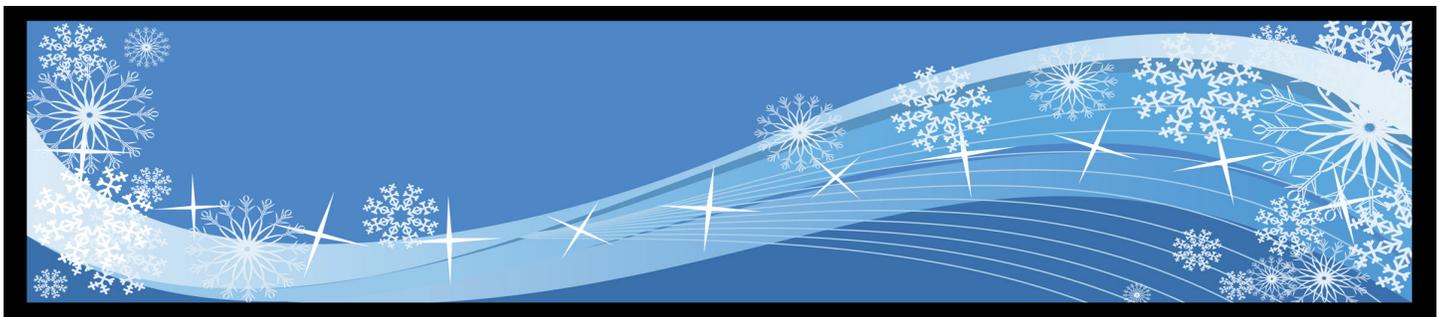
Thank you to all who contributed to the various trees in the Narthex. I've heard many compliments from people visiting on Christmas Eve and on Epiphany at *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

As I write this, we've just begun audits for 2014 and 2015. More about that will have to wait until we get the reports. Audits of church finances on a regular basis, as for businesses, are absolutely normal. When they're done, they'll provide suggestions for better documentation and procedures for better keeping our accounts in order.

We continue to make progress both financially and in terms of volunteers stepping up to support our ministry with their time and talents. Financially, we continue to work on cutting expenses. In terms of volunteers, I can't list people because I'll leave someone out but I can give one example. Fr. Don planned a work session after the 10:15 service Jan. 8 to clear out the extra stuff in the Food Pantry. When he looked in before the service he found the room had already been cleared and already contained only some food and lots of empty shelves. To whoever did the work, Thank You.

If you have an idea for something that should be done, please let us know so everyone's on the same page. All of your ideas are very much appreciated. "We" can only do so much without all of "You" helping.

Linda Rathburn, Senior Warden



ALTAR FLOWERS 2017

A sign-up for Altar Flowers for 2017 is on the kiosk in the gathering space. Please sign up for the dates you would like and remember to fill out a slip and turn in with your donation (\$50) to the office or in the offering plate on Sunday. You can sign up for any Sunday (excluding Lent and Advent) throughout the year. It is your choice if you would like to turn in a slip and gift now or later - we will keep a record in the office if you have already paid/turned in a message for the Sunday bulletins. Thank you!