



The

FEBRUARY 2017

# TRUMPETER

*St. Christopher's Episcopal Church*

*8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services*

*Coffee Hour following 10:15 Service*

*Wednesday Night FaNtASTiC*

*beginning with a soup supper at 6 pm*



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*and so much more!*

## KITCHEN CORNER

I have had a request for an orientation to the dishwasher in our church kitchen. I have scheduled one for March 3, 2017 at 2 pm. Please let the office or myself know if you are planning to attend. I do not anticipate repeating this orientation unless I am requested to do so.

I also need to remind all of those who use our kitchen that the final steps in cleaning up after your event are taking home all used towels, aprons, etc. to launder them and turning off all of the lights and appliances. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Louise Desgranges

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

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Episcopal Church

## VESTRY REPORT

Michael Spencer, the Canon to the Ordinary of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan led the vestry retreat on February 11, 2017. The retreat was scheduled for one day this year at beautiful YMCA Camp Copneconic in southern Genesee County.

Spencer led the vestry through several exercises on how important team development and management is to the overall success of the vestry. He also walked the vestry through the somewhat daunting process of calling, not hiring, a new Rector. He believes that the process will begin near the end of 2017 once the parish has had a good year and another successful stewardship campaign. The expected time frame is to call a new priest in late 2018 or early 2019. This is slightly delayed from estimates before the transition began in 2015. The foremost goal on the vestry's common mind was to make sure that we had a parish that would attract the best candidates.

To do that the vestry will need your help. First, this is a time when everyone needs to be involved. We need lay leadership and activity in every aspect of our parish life. We need our team and committees (all of them, and some we have yet to create) to be up and running. Second, we will work to manage our parish within the means with which we have been entrusted. As Fr. Don said, our goal is to "Reduce the Deficit and Increase the Compassion" for 2017. Finally, we will be working with Fr. Don and the Diocese on planning and visioning for the future.

There is a place at the table at St. Christopher's for everyone. If you were unsure and have held back from being involved, please consider your church again and return. The door will always be open. If you have left because you were angry, please consider forgiveness especially during Lent as we need you, and we need your voice among us. If you are staying home watching television on Sunday morning, please think about how much you are missing and how much you are missed. Finally, if you are new or considering our community of faith, now is the time to step-out and in and become a

part of a loving and fun bunch of people.

The future of St. Christopher's is bright, with your help and involvement it can be even brighter.

Linda Rathburn, Senior Warden  
Angela Campbell, Junior Warden  
and the Vestry of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

# CONFESSION: I DO NOT WORRY ABOUT FASHION

Years ago I was faced with a huge problem from the top critic of worship in the parish. This person was very aware of anything and everything to do with worship from the position of each candle, to the mispronunciation of words by each lector. The Rector, a kindhearted man who seemingly never became ruffled by anyone or anything, but he was seldom to be found when the critic came calling. More than once I was invited into a meeting as a notepad was found and a long list of “suggestions” were read.

The Rector would later say “we were not amused” after the critic had left the building, sometimes to the sound of applause from those in close proximity and hearing. For whatever reason the critic had a particular interest in what people wore, specifically on their feet. It is at this point I will make a major confession, I do not worry about fashion. Much to Marcie’s consternation, I do not regularly notice if she is wearing something new and I surely am not interested in her shoes. The critic, unlike me, was very interested in style and appropriate footwear. No member of the liturgical leadership escaped a review and sometimes it was anything but constructive.



As a seminarian, I was in charge of the acolytes. I believe that they did learn a little from our acolyte activities and we had a lot of fun. Some of our kids were from the mansions that hug the shoreline of Lake Michigan north of Chicago. Some were from further inland. One teen I remember was almost 6 feet in height before becoming a freshman in high school. He wore a shoe size of outlandish proportions and, as you might expect, he would advance to the next size prior to the wear-out date of the shoes. His Mom and Dad figured that they would get him a good pair of every day sneakers and a good pair for sports (yes, he was a basketball player, but sadly he was also a real klutz). When the critic saw his large white sneakers sticking out beyond his cassock I knew there would be a new entry on the list, and so there was.

The critic asked to see me and I took quite a lecture about how as an up-and-coming priest I needed to pay attention to proper Episcopal church attire. The critic was quite doubtful I would attain the position because I allowed MY acolytes to come to church wearing of all things, sport shoes. Thankfully the Rector stood up for me and with me and the young man with big feet never knew.

There are many things that change through the years and many that stay the same. I am very proud of our acolytes and I am not worried about their shoes.

We all need to pay attention to what we are wearing on the inside more than our sense of style on the outside. I do not believe that God is at all interested if we shop at Saks, K-Mart or Good Will. God is very worried about how we clothe our souls. Are we wearing or condoning hate? Have we allowed the creeping red of anger to mix with the colors of happiness? Do we allow our own comfort and pleasure-seeking to wipe out God’s presence in our hearts? Have we outgrown love?

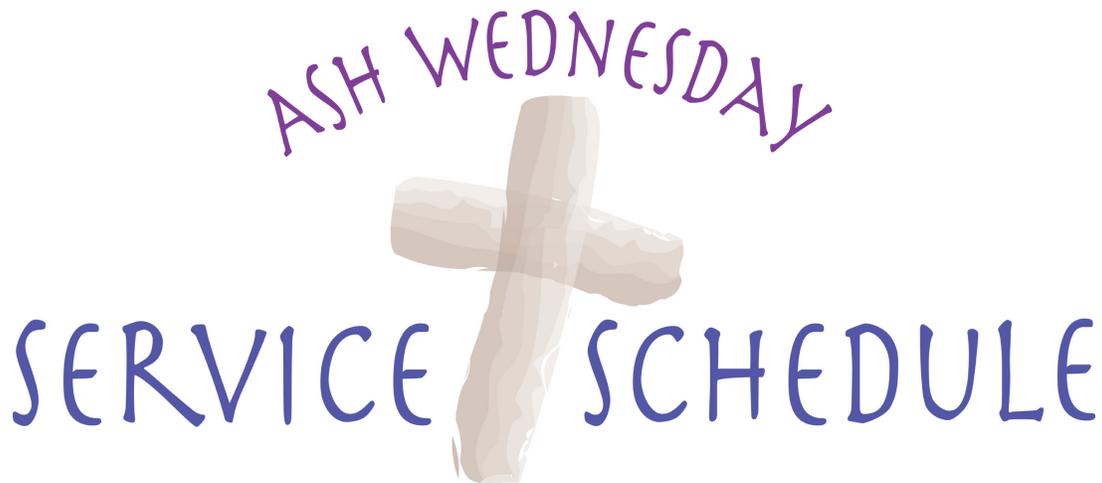
When we gather for Ash Wednesday, we all begin a 40 day examination of our own souls, our intentions and desires and our willingness to “cast away the works of darkness?” This amazing season of Lent helps us to focus on what is truly important: what is it that helps our faith to grow and what does not.

*continued on page 4...*

## ***Confession (continued from page 3)...***

If you are reading this, I pray that you will join us on Ash Wednesday and throughout the season of Lent. I hope you will consider making your confession, and meeting our Lord with an open heart. I have no doubt that your life will be better with a little internal housecleaning, and I promise I am not the least bit concerned about your shoes.

Don+



**ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 1ST, 2017**

**Noon - Spoken Service**

**7:00 pm - Service with Music**

## **THE SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

At the Vestry meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting I was elected to continue as Senior Warden. Please let me know if you have any questions or think I can help you in any way. I really appreciate all the support you gave me last year and hope you will continue this year.

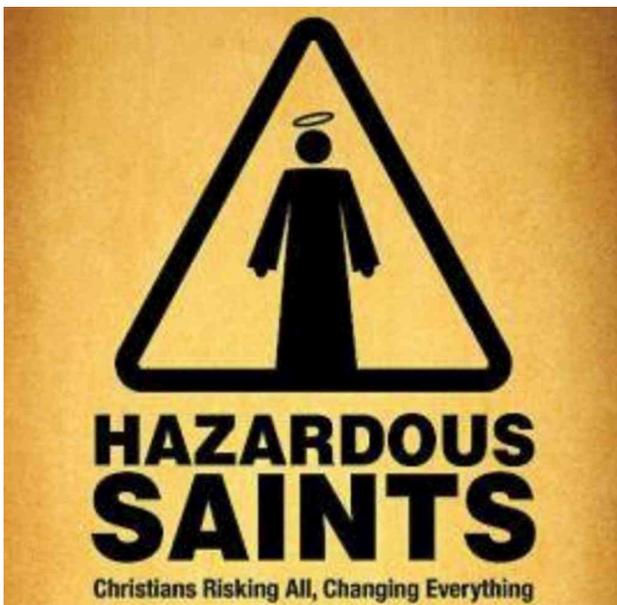
**Reminder:** This month the Vestry will meet with Michael Spencer, the Canon to the Ordinary, and learn what has to happen to find a new Rector. In addition we'll have some time in retreat to get to know each other better, have our February meeting, and prepare for this year. Your prayers and your comments and questions will help us do our best for our congregation.

The annual meeting went well. I hope you were there to participate. Several had questions about this year's budget (as was expected) but no dissention. If you have questions, please feel free to ask either me or Fr. Don. Our amazing Junior Warden, Angela Campbell (also re-elected for this year), can answer questions about our building. Annual Meeting reports and information can still be found at: [jacob.stchrisgrandblanc.org/am2017](http://jacob.stchrisgrandblanc.org/am2017)

Thank you to all who attended and helped to make the meeting a memorable event.

Interviews are about to begin for the new part-time position of coordinator for our Wednesday night program. Please pray for the candidates and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to find the best person.

Linda Rathburn, Senior Warden



They risked it all for the sake of the gospel: Barnabas, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Cranmer, Sojourner Truth, Dorothy Day, and Oscar Romero. In this six-week study suitable for adults and young adults, you'll explore the lives of these six "saints" who, like Jesus, were change agents in their times.

Hazardous Saints will be presented on Wednesday evenings during the Season of Lent beginning March 8, 2017. A soup supper will be held each Wednesday evening, part of our Wednesday Night FaNtASTic program. Hazardous Saints will begin at 7:00 P.M. Please consider putting the DVR on record so you do not miss a minute of television, and come on over to the church for a special evening during Lent.

## AND SPEAKING OF SAINTS...

### *The Sainly Smackdown Returns!*

Are you looking for something fun to focus on? Are you longing for inspiration and joy? For the eighth year running, people of faith are gearing up for Lent Madness, the "sainly smackdown" in which thirty-two saints do battle to win the coveted Golden Halo during the season of Lent.

With its unique blend of competition, learning, and humor, Lent Madness allows participants to be inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saintly souls across generations and cultures. This year's competition begins on "Ash Thursday," March 2.



Here's how to participate: On the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org) about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Sainly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo.

If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?



## OPEN YOUR DOOR TO THE WORLD:

### *Host an exchange student!*

Something extraordinary happens when you share your home and family with a high school student from another country.

That's why 13,000 families worldwide host students through AFS every year. You can help build bridges of intercultural understanding and enrich your life in many ways by sharing your home and daily life with an AFS high school exchange student.

AFS has led high school student exchange for more than 65 years. Families of all kinds are needed to host high school students as well as teachers from around the world. AFS Volunteers support families and students during their stay. Host families provide a bed, meals, and guidance.

The Hassold family has hosted many students over the years. While exchange students can't be required to attend religious services, many of ours have chosen to. You may remember Helene or Fernanda participating in the Epiphany pageant, or Ivana serving as acolyte. Hosting has made a world of difference to our family.

*There's no place like your home.*

Contact Greg or Noralynn Hassold (ghassold@kettering.edu, h: (810) 659-6614) to learn more about becoming an AFS Host Family or Volunteer

## UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR A

### **Feb 19 - Epiphany 7**

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18

Psalms 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

### **Feb 26 - Last Epiphany**

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

### **March 1 - Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

or Isaiah 58:1-12

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Psalms 103 or 103:8-14

### **March 5 - Lent 1**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

### **March 12 - Lent 2**

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

**Find the readings every  
week on the church  
website or at  
[lectionarypage.net](http://lectionarypage.net)**

# SOCIAL JUSTICE SERIES.

*“Where there is no love, let us put love: and so, by your power, draw love out.”*

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry invite you to join together to build skills, get resources, and prepare for the work of the church by participating in our upcoming Social Justice Series.

Over the course of 2017, we are hosting four workshops focused on the varying aspects of the work of sacred activism hosted by ministry leaders from our local communities, wider church, and beyond.

The Social Justice Series will take place at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in downtown Flint.

## **COMMUNITY ORGANIZING – MARCH 4**

### ***Sister Cheryl Liske, Gamaliel Network and the New Ezekiel Project***

Using the knowledge and experience from her life as a professional organizer and her resources through the Gamaliel Network of Michigan, Sister Cheryl Liske will lead us through an introduction to the tools of community organizing through the lens of our Gospel call to dismantle structural racism and cycles of poverty. The workshop will look at how to transform communities from the bottom up through examinations of power and perspective, one-on-one relationship building, and more.

## **ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – JUNE 10**

### ***The Rev. Dan Scheid, the Rev. Ken Hitch, Katie Forsyth***

Go beyond the food pantry. Asset Based Community Development (or ABCD) is a model for developing mutual and missional relationships between church and community. This workshop will delve into the theory of ABCD and will give participants some hands-on practice into how to implement an ABCD-style approach to outreach programs and community relationships.

## **ADVOCACY & MEDIA ENGAGEMENT – SEPTEMBER 23**

### ***Jim Naughton & Rebecca Wilson, Canticle Communications***

How do we get and keep the attention of our legislators to advocate for the issues we’re called to address as a people of faith? Our friends at Canticle Communications will share their experience and give us some tools for advocacy through contact with legislators, engagement with the media, and more.

## **THE THEOLOGY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE – TELLING THE STORY – DECEMBER 9**

### ***Dr. Courtney Cowart, The Beecken Center and Sewanee School of Theology***

As Christians struggle against institutions and societal norms that perpetuate violence, structural inequities, and ambivalence, the Church must become a contrasting space of non-violence, peace, voice, and sacred activism. Dr. Courtney Cowart will share her expertise in justice theology and how our core beliefs shape the stories of our lives and of our ministries.

**REGISTER NOW!** (go to [eastmich.org/social-justice-series/](http://eastmich.org/social-justice-series/))

The cost to attend is \$40 per workshop. Scholarship assistance is available. Each workshop is from 9:30-3:30pm with registration opening at 9:00am. Lunch will be provided.