



The

MAY 2017

# TRUMPETER

*St. Christopher's Episcopal Church*

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

*Coffee Hour following 10:15 Service*



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and so much more!



Not too long ago St. Christopher's had a 16-year tradition of attending a Lansing Lugnuts (minor league) baseball game. It died for lack of interest some four years ago. I think its time to renew that tradition.

This is an invitation to all those who like a baseball game in a well-maintained park, with inexpensive tickets and reasonable food and drink, to join us for an evening. Tickets are \$11.00 and refreshments are fairly priced - especially if we go on a Thursday. I'll take care of the ticket orders. We will be going on Thursday, July 27 (vs. Dayton). Please turn in your monney for tickets to me by July 3.

There will probably be a group that has dinner together before the game at Clara's. It's a block away from the park and they let us park there for free. Look for my sign-up reservation form on the table in the narthex.

- Bill Thewalt

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
(810) 694-3600  
[Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Dr. Greg Hassold, *Parish Organist*  
[greg@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:greg@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Elizabeth Sauvie, *Administrative Assistant*  
[Elizabeth@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:Elizabeth@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Stephanie Finn, *Sexton*  
[Stephanie@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:Stephanie@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

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St. Christopher's  
Episcopal Church

# WHAT HAPPENED?

## INFORMATIONAL LETTERS FROM THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE PART I

Back at Rio Grande College in the late 1970s our theatre professor Ed Roark decided that we needed to attempt the musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with music by Stephen Sondheim and the book by Bury Shevelove and Larry Gelbart of *M\*A\*S\*H* fame. I doubt this musical is on your top ten, and although it is a little edgy on content, it is quite funny with all kinds of physical and turn-of-phrase humor. The characters all disguise themselves as each other with lots of silliness. Amazingly, the musical won a bunch of Tony Awards following its 1962 Broadway run, and a slightly toned-down version (with more fully clothed actors no doubt) has been staged at any number of colleges and high schools.

Although we rehearsed and rehearsed, and learned our lines and songs...the musical at Rio Grande never happened. Instead, the building was torn down and our group of would be thespians were tossed out.

The idea, I think, behind the play was an oft used vaudeville



line "A funny thing happened on my way here tonight." That line was horribly overused, a bit like "the lawyer, the rabbi and the priest walked into a bar"; which indeed happened to me many times.

I begin this series of informational letters with the thought that tomorrow is a mystery. While we may have plans and expectations of what the future may bring, only God knows. Two years ago this month when I accepted the position of Interim Rector of St. Christopher's I did so with very little information about the parish, its status, membership or anything. The relationship between the Diocese and the parish was not what it could

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Dear People of St. Christopher's,

With the permission of the Right Reverend Todd Ousley, the Vestry voted unanimously at our April 25, 2017, meeting to retain the Rev. Don Davidson as our priest until September 30, 2022. During such time Fr. Davidson will serve as our Rector.

Lively discussion including consideration of both positive and negative possibilities of this plan preceded the vote.

This agreement extends benefits both to Fr. Don and Marcie and to our congregation. Fr. Don and Marcie will be able to consider purchasing a home and thus having a more stable residency. Fr. Don has also considered retiring here in the Grand Blanc area following his time at St. Christopher's. He has expressed interest in becoming a much needed supply priest in our area. This agreement also allows Fr. Don to transfer his canonical residency (request his letters dimissory) from the Diocese of Kansas to our Eastern Michigan Diocese thus allowing him to fully participate in the life of our Diocese as a member rather than as a visitor.

The agreement extends to St. Christopher's financial savings when Fr. Don's military pension benefits begin in October. These savings will allow St. Christopher's to put money aside to properly conduct a search for a new Rector. The savings will be used for on-site visits and moving the new rector to our area. Some search activities can begin any time but the formal search process, which will include some assistance from the Diocesan office, will not begin for three to four years.

The greatest benefit will be Fr. Don's continuing the great work that we have done and will continue to do here at St. Christopher's. Our new timeline would be to move forward with strategic planning, reducing our deficit, increasing our service and lay leadership and becoming a place of Christian transformation.

Let us all join together in prayer for Fr. Don and Marcie, for our Vestry and other lay leadership and for all the wonderful people of St. Christopher's.

Linda Rathburn  
Senior Warden

Angela Campbell  
Junior Warden

A time of fellowship and celebrating of Fr. Don's new status will be held at a date and time to be determined.



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Greetings from the Music Room!

What a wonderful musical season our Adult Choir, and St. Christopher Bell Choir has worked hard to present and share during these past weeks of Lent and Easter. Every musician in our Adult Choir has been so incredibly dedicated and has worked so hard to attend rehearsals and present the beautifully moving, Ruth Elaine Schram's *The Living Last Supper* on Maundy Thursday. Also participating in this piece were the youth of our congregation, one little lamb and several adults! Thank you, everyone, who gave of their time and ability to

*continued on page 5*



## SEND - OFF CELEBRATION EUCHARIST W/BISHOP OUSLEY

*Last month, Bishop Ousley announced that he has accepted a call to serve as the Bishop for Pastoral Development on the Presiding Bishop's Staff. He has served the Diocese of Eastern Michigan for almost sixteen years, on diocesan staff as Missioner for Congregational Development and as Bishop. Todd's last day as Bishop of Eastern Michigan is June 30th. Learn more about the transition on our website.*

Join us at 4 pm on June 4th, the Feast of Pentecost, to celebrate almost sixteen years of ministry with the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Second Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

We will join together at St. John's Episcopal Church (405 N Saginaw Road, Midland, MI 48640) as a diocese to share in the Eucharist and send him off liturgically into his next phase of ministry on the Presiding Bishop's staff. Our guest preacher will be the Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and Chair of the House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development. A simple reception will follow the Eucharist service including words from Bishop Ousley.

### - - -OTHER DETAILS- - -

#### **Calling all singers!**

Make a joyful noise and join with singers from across the diocese to offer an anthem during the Send-Off Eucharist service.

The choir will rehearse at 2:45pm before the send-off service. Choir members will not robe. Singers will sit with their families and church members and will gather at the Offertory to sing the combined anthem. There is no RSVP required - just arrive to practice together at 2:45.

#### **GIFTS IN HONOR and OFFERTORY COLLECTION -**

Bishop Ousley, Ann, Ian, Dae, and Josh have asked for no tangible gifts. If so moved, they have requested that any gifts in honor of his years of ministry be given to Camp Chickagami to support its ministry with current and future leaders of the Church. Gifts can be made online here, by mail to the Diocesan Office, or at the collection during the service.

## COLUMBARIUM CHAPEL: WHAT'S NEXT?

To paraphrase a line from the Nativity story- there is no room in the Inn. All of the niches in our Columbarium are either occupied or reserved. Fr. Don has contacted Armento (the company who did the original wall in the chapel) and has received the sketches and estimate for an additional column of niches. The next step is learning how many of our members would have an interest in the Columbarium as their final resting place and if those folks would like to pre-purchase niches to help defray the cost.

Death, funerals, burial and inurnment are rarely comfortable topics for dinnertime (or anytime) discussion. But for all of us, at some point, the discussion becomes a necessity. Help us help you.

If you have questions, concerns or want to talk about "reserving your niche," please speak to Fr. Don or myself.

Thanks!

-Ellen Safley

*Notes from the Music Room, continued from page 3*

help bring this moving work to life! Thank you Ethan and Alex Kocheril! Thank you Eva, Kassidy, Precious, Dotun, Jacob, Jeff and Ann! Thank you Greg (Go Zealots!) and Angela! Thank you Peter Ireland for portraying Jesus, and Gabby and your little sister, Emily, stepping in so expertly at the last minute, and thank you, Ellen Safley and Noralynn Hassold for so beautifully creating the table and managing our service. Thank you!

The very next day, Good Friday, most of our Adult Choir then participated in the ecumenical service we have been sharing with other area congregations, which this year was held at The First Congregational Church of Grand Blanc.

On Easter Sunday we celebrated our Risen Lord, through the medium of music as well. The brass ensemble that played for us that morning also put their instruments down and joined our choir to sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Haendel's *Messiah*. I am certain that the angels in heaven heard every note!

Happily, too, our bell choir has grown to the point that we are about to add a third octave to our ensemble! Thank you newest members, Gabby and Lauren Ireland! Bell Choir---you guys are just awesome!

As some of you may have noticed, the "Please-let-us-know-your-favorite-hymn" sign up sheet is out in the narthex, on the kiosk! Please take a moment to write down your favorite hymn so we can schedule them during the summer months! Last year we received 36 recommendations! Keep 'em coming, everyone!

June 4th will be our last Sunday with full choir. (We will resume rehearsals then, in the fall. If you are interested in singing in our choir or ringing in the bell choir, please drop

me an email or leave a note in my box in the office. We are always happy to add a new voice or a ringer to our ensembles!)

June 11th, the bell choir from The First Presbyterian Church of Linden, under the direction of Dr. Ed Arter will be our guest musicians. Please do come to church that day to help welcome this wonderful troupe of ringers!

In Christ, I am yours,  
Nada



## UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR A

### May 21 - Easter 6

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

### May 28 - Easter 7

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

### June 4 - Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

### June 11 - Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

### June 18 - Pentecost 2

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)

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

*What Happened?, continued from page 2*

have been. My understanding was that I was to serve for a three-year or “long” interim during which the parish would ready itself for the calling of a new Rector. From that time I have learned much, grown into a fuller understanding of this amazing place, and I still have much to learn.

The canonical term is “Priest-in-charge” which normally does not include a reference to being allowed to apply to be a Rector. The term “Interim Rector” is not canonical but it used extensively by many Bishops and Dioceses and normally includes a statement that the individual’s service may not be extended nor is the person allowed to seek any position of employment in that parish. The position of Rector is where a priest, with the Bishop’s approval is elected by the Vestry then called and, later, installed by the Bishop. A priest-in-charge has an “end date” written in his/her letter of agreement with the Bishop and Vestry. A Rector does not, other than the mandatory retirement age which is true of all ordained people.

From a legal view, the Bishop has permitted St. Christopher’s to extend my service here until September 30, 2022. By our letter of agreement, I continue to be the Priest-in-charge as I have an end date. The Bishop is permitting, for the sake of general understanding, my use of the term Rector if I so choose.

Marcie and I have truly enjoyed getting to know the people of St. Christopher’s over the last 22 months. This is a very special parish family with a strong will to move forward and grow. This parish has enjoyed strong, capable leadership in the past, and I commit myself to providing that kind of stability as we move forward.

A serious thought before I conclude Part 1 of this series: I recognize that it is impossible for any human being, any leader, priest or bishop, to do everything that everyone wants all the time. I wish I could promise each of you that I would always make you happy with every decision, or say the right thing exactly as you wish, or fulfill every expectation. I cannot make such a promise. What I can promise is that I will love you as best I can in the name of Christ. That I will try to introduce you to the love and grace I have found in my relationship with Christ and that following the traditions and laws of this church, I will seek (with help) to move us forward with care so that St. Christopher’s becomes stronger and stronger. That is my promise.

**Stay tuned for part 2...**

Yours in Christ,  
Don+

**CHORAL Pearls**  
**of WISDOM**

*Celebrating* THE  
CAROLYN MAWBY CHORALE'S  
**30th** YEAR

PRESENTED BY THE  
CAROLYN MAWBY CHORALE  
Mary Nieuwenhuis,  
Artistic Director, Conductor  
Dr. Matthew Thompson,  
Pianist, Associate Conductor

**SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017, 4 PM**  
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church,  
Grand Blanc  
Admission: \$15 general, \$5 student

**Carolyn Mawby**  
CHORALE

# FE FY FO FORUMS

## FRIENDLY FORMATION FORUMS ON THE FOURTH

On June 4, Angela Campbell our Junior Warden and Fr. Don will present a forum on formation for children, youth and adults. This is an opportunity for you to tell us what you want in the way of educational opportunities. For example:

- Should we have a Sunday Morning program for children? Youth ? Adults?
- Should we continue with our Wednesday evening program?
- All about VBS and how you can help.

There might be some highly enticing energy floating about to bring-up or “vent” about what has happened, what did not happen or what should or should not have happened. To focus on this kind of energy would be to focus on the past and that would not help us to move forward.

Our children and youth should have a vibrant formation program. We cannot expect that sports or schools will teach morals and apply Christian teaching with Anglican heritage. Even with a plethora of options, it does not mean our responsibility as leaders and parents lessens.

We cannot continue to see a “dumbing-down” of Christian Education and ethical teaching. We all need to continually learn and grow in what it means to be a Christian, a servant and a church.

**Join us Sunday, June 4 following the service in the Nave.**



### -----UPCOMING FORUMS-----

- July 15, Financial Forum (a mid-year update)  
August 27, The Ministry of the Church (it is much more than you might think)



## SHOP WITH SCRIP PROGRAM

A reminder that, the FIRST and THIRD Sundays are our Scrip Order Days. Now, through St. Christopher’s, you can order the same gift cards for your favorite stores and restaurants that you can buy at stores. BUT St. Christopher’s gets a 3 - 15% rebate for each card you buy when you get them through us. Some cash and carry cards are also available. See the Scrip table on Sundays or ask our junior warden, Angela Campbell, if you have any questions.

## OUTDOOR WORK DAY

If you will be around Memorial Day weekend, please consider coming to the church on Saturday, May 27th from 9 am - Noon for an outdoor gardening and work day. Please come with your gardening tools and gloves to help clear, plant and clean up the outdoor areas around St. Chris! Thank you!



Dear Friends,

We are so excited about our upcoming Women's Retreat at Camp Chick. This will be our first ever and we can't wait to see where the Spirit takes us.

**The Retreat will take place Friday, August 18th through Sunday, the 20th.**

Our retreat facilitator will be Tracy Teich, a Lutheran spiritual director specializing in Ignation Spirituality. She sees herself

as a pilgrim on a journey, delighting in meeting and sharing with her fellow pilgrims along the way.

Our retreat will focus on inviting a deeper relationship with God. With a balance of time spent together and alone, we will explore prayer practices and activities that open us up to new ways of listening for the Spirit. The cost to attend the retreat is \$200, which includes housing, meals, and all materials. Participants register online at [www.campchickagami.org](http://www.campchickagami.org).

This retreat is just one more way that our diocese can fully embrace and support our little haven in the woods in Presque Isle, Michigan.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have. Call Camp Chick at 989-272-2672.

Peace,  
McKenzie Bade  
Executive Director, Camp Chickagami

A poster for Camp Chickagami Women's Retreat. The background is a scenic view of a lake at sunset. The text "CAMP CHICKAGAMI" is in white, bold, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, "Women's Retreat" is written in a large, white, cursive font. At the bottom, there are three white boxes with black text, each containing a theme and a description. A small circular logo is in the bottom right corner of the poster.

**CAMP CHICKAGAMI**  
*Women's Retreat*

*community*  
Spending intentional time together in worship, fellowship, and prayer.

*spirituality*  
Becoming more aware of God's presence and action in our lives.

*restoration*  
Taking time away from the hustle and bustle to restore and realign with God.



### PLEASE BE ADVISED...

The **office will be closed** Friday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day! Everyone have a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend!

Father Don will be on vacation Thursday, May 18 - Saturday, May 27. Please contact the church office if you have a need during this time.

### MASTER CALENDAR

The Master Calendar of the church is kept on our website. The calendar is available for your viewing 24-hours a day at <http://www.stchrisgrandblanc.org> or the direct link would be <http://www.stchrisgrandblanc.org/cal>. Our church building continues to be in high use throughout the summer, please take a look at our calendar if you are planning meetings or events in our building. Contact the church office with questions or if you need to reserve space. Thank you!