



The

JUNE & JULY 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!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 14 – 18, 2017

5:30 – 8:30PM

This year, we are teaming up with Holy Spirit Lutheran Church (7234 Fenton Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439) for our VBS program.

At Holy Spirit, kids will go on awesome adventures alongside

some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God. VBS Hero Central uses epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories to help kids discover their strength in God!



To register your child, or to sign up to volunteer:

2017.cokesburyvbs.com/HSLC48439/

(you can also find the link on our website)

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*
Stephanie@stchrisgrandblanc.org

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www.stchrisgrandblanc.org



Like us on facebook:
St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church

FR. DON'S
DOODLES...

“When a variety of categories of leaders are called to serve the body of Christ, the incarnate variety of humanity can begin to recognize that it, too, is created in the image of God.”

- The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori,
former Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church

This is part two of my thoughts concerning the position of Rector and Priest-in-Charge and the combined decision by your Vestry, our Bishop and me in sticking around for a few more years.

There are many positions and titles in the church. Dioceses have customs that are unique to them on what different positions are called and how that position contributes to the mission of the church.

There is no practical difference between the title Rector or Priest-in-Charge. When a rector is called by the Vestry, approved by the Bishop and then instituted/installed, they serve until they leave, die or turn 72 years of age. A Priest-in-Charge is appointed by the Bishop usually with the consent of the Vestry for a specific period. Although not the best of analogies, a Priest-in-Charge has an expiration date. In our agreement, I am permitted to use the title Rector as it is more easily understood. The truth is, however, that the next person to be called Rector will be the second person to hold that position.

That is the technical stuff and while interesting (to some maybe) it is not the foundation upon which the parish is built. That foundation is Jesus Christ who calls all of us into a relationship with him and with each other. All of us are, by the gifts we have been given by God, followers of Christ.

Every member of the parish (and by “member” I mean

every person who understands themselves to be a part of this baptismal community) shares in the mission of this parish. We all have positions, there is much work to be done, and we all have been given the gifts to do that work. As Bishop Jim Krotz (retired Bishop of Nebraska) said “every parish has everything it needs for salvation.” The hope is that the people will hear God’s call and get to work.

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NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Happy Summer Everyone!

What a thrill yesterday morning rendered, when I dropped by the church, ran into Linda Rathburn, the bat guys AND organ builder extraordinaire, Brain Fowler, sitting on the organ bench! At that point, I knew it was going to be a great July!

Our beautiful and, tragically, long silent organ was being voiced by the master himself, Mr. Fowler. In case any of you may have wondered about this instrument, it is made by a company known as Keast and Geissler. This organ company got its start in London, Ontario, in 1945. The founder was Mr. B Keates. A few years later, the Keates company

absorbed the Woodstock organ company, and then, in 1969, the JC Hallman organ company joined the group. The team of organ technicians who are bringing our beautiful pipe organ back to its former glory are all employees of the Fowler Organ Company (Lansing, MI).

They are very close to completing the third phase this project. As a congregation, I know everyone has been extremely patient and I am certain that, when the project is completed, we all will be so pleased with the fabulous sound this organ will produce. It has been a very long process and St. Christopher has been a strong, understanding congregation throughout!

Thank you, everyone, for your contributions to our 'MY FAVORITE HYMN' list! We had 14 submissions, and all but one, an Easter hymn, have been incorporated into our summer services! Keep 'em coming, everyone! This is the fun part of being a music director! In 2016 you submitted 16 hymn suggestions. Let's see what we can come up with for 2018!

Adult Choir rehearsals will begin again in September. The 13th will be our official return rehearsal date. If you are interested in singing in the Adult Choir, please, just drop me a note or show up on Wednesday, September 13th, 7 p.m.

I still would like for us to develop a children's choir, a children's bell choir, and NoraLynn Hassold and Ellen Safley have been talking about our presenting an Advent pageant this year. Both of these women did a terrific job in pulling together our Maundy Thursday service of "The Living Last Supper". So, I have every confidence that an Advent pageant of their concept will also be terrific! Too, this year we are planning to hold a special Veterans Day service in November. (Veterans Day falls on Saturday, November 11th, this year.) We will be preparing special music for this important day.

Hopefully, if many of you are in town over the month of August, you will be able to attend the really interesting services Father Don has planned. We will be covering the many aspects of the Episcopal service, and how it has evolved over the past several hundred years in America. Each of the services in August will focus on an interesting aspect of our service(s). These Sundays promise a newness, an element of history and a touch of what the future may hold with regard to the music that may be incorporated. I am hoping to see you at church!

In Christ, I am yours,
Nada

HAVE YOU CALLED YOUR PLUMBER?

Mr. and Mrs. Evidentson live in a lovely home on a tree-lined street here in town. They are comfortable in their home where they have resided these last 40 years. They try their best to be good neighbors and through the years they have watched as people come and go. They love the neighborhood children and it grieves them that the children no longer feel comfortable even speaking to them as they take their evening strolls. "We are not monsters" Fred says to Arlene as they walk along, "why don't they speak to us?"

A few months ago, Arlene noticed that the toilet was not working well in their bathroom. Most homes had more than one bathroom, but Fred could not see spending the money to put in a second bathroom with just two people living in the home. Arlene was... well...embarrassed and did not like speaking about such things as toilets, so she figured that maybe, in time, it would get better. Fred also noticed that their toilet was not working well. One flush was just not getting the job done.



Fred and Arlene knew their plumber well. He was an older man who ushered at their church. Everyone liked Paul. He had taken over the plumbing business from his Dad and had made a good living for himself and family. His slogan "If it don't flush, call us" is known all over town.

Arlene and Fred knew that if they called Paul, he could fix their toilet quickly and not drain their check-book.

Soon the toilet became worse, hardly any water was flowing and the sound it was making reminded Fred of artillery duty. Then late one evening, almost bedtime, Arlene had to run to the neighbors as there was no other solution.

The neighbors opened their house to Fred and Arlene and after a few days just left the back door unlocked. Doris and Charles had been good neighbors for years, although Fred and Arlene did not always appreciate their hyperactive dog Penelope.

After a few days, even the hypervigilant Penelope did not move
continued on page 6...

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR A, TRACK 1
AFTER PENTECOST

July 16 - Pentecost 10

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalms 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23 - Proper 11

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139: 1-11, 22-23

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30 - Proper 12

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b or 128

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6 - Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Peter 1:13-21

Luke 9:28-36

August 13 - Proper 14

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

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



Fr. Don's Doodles (continued from page 2)...

Can you imagine a church with everyone doing their part?

I would suggest that we not worry about position and title and letters behind names; rather we need to open our ears, hearts and minds to the love of God, to the call of God, to the needs of God's church. The truth is we need you, each of you, and we need you now.

Don+

THE SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Our celebration of Pentecost included a small opinion poll about formation. Results were available at the Formation Forum that followed the 10:15 service and now here below.

Thirteen people were interested in Adult Formation on the following days and times:

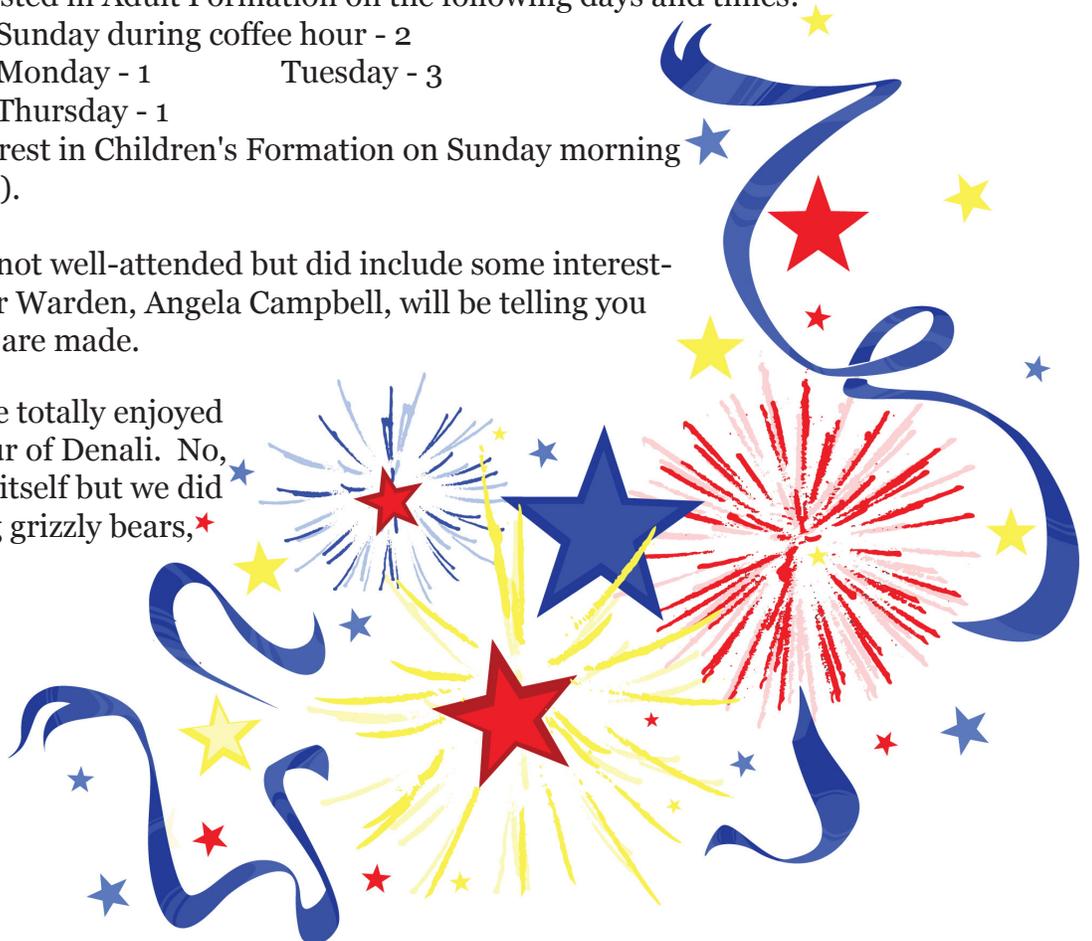
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday at 9 am - 6 | Sunday during coffee hour - 2 |
| Any Weeknight - 1 | Monday - 1 Tuesday - 3 |
| Wednesday - 1 | Thursday - 1 |

Seven people indicated interest in Children's Formation on Sunday morning (3) and Wednesday night (1).

The Formation Forum was not well-attended but did include some interesting suggestions. Our Junior Warden, Angela Campbell, will be telling you about specific plans as they are made.

On a personal note - Yes, we totally enjoyed our cruise to Alaska and tour of Denali. No, we didn't see the mountain itself but we did see many animals including grizzly bears, moose with two calves, and a wolf. Yes, we would do it again but not immediately. Thanks to the many people who asked and shared their own experiences with a similar trip.

- Linda Rathburn,
Senior Warden



Plumber continued (from page 4)...

when Fred or Arlene went in or out to use the bathroom.

Fred and Arlene loved Paul, and they knew that Paul would do a great job fixing their toilet.

After about 10 days, Charles asked Fred when he might be getting his toilet fixed. “Oh” Fred said, “Any day now, Paul will come by and take care of that.”



“Did you get an appointment?” Charles asked.

“Nah” said Fred, “Paul is a great guy, we have known him for years and even knew his father when he was in the business. We are sure that Paul will take care of that toilet.”

This did not make a lot of sense to Charles. His neighbors were going in and out all hours of the day and night using his toilet, they had a good plumber who was willing to come and fix their toilet but they expected the plumber to “just know?”

Two days later, Charles was sitting in the breakfast nook enjoying a morning cup of coffee and reading the newspaper when Fred walks through after a trip to the bathroom. “Hey Fred” Charles says, “do you think it might be time to ask Paul to come out and take care of your toilet?”

“Oh Charles” responded the slightly miffed Fred “you do not understand, I know Paul, knew his Dad, he is a good guy and a first-rate plumber. Well, just last week I was chatting with him when we came into church. I don’t need to call him, I know Paul.”

Pardon the poor writing but please consider replacing the non-working toilet with an illness, personal or spiritual matter and the plumber with your priest. The same folks who would never expect their plumber to know that their toilet does not work properly would fully expect their priest to know they are sick, or just need to chat. Sometimes people are truly hurt because the priest does not visit them in the hospital or other facility or in their homes when they have not told the priest. Clergy spend long hours working on graduate degrees and some may be able to speak and read in other languages, yet few, if any, can read a mind. Please do not expect anyone, including the hospital, to tell the priest you wish a visit. Most hospitals and all rehabilitation and nursing centers do not notify churches. One hospital in this area does notification if requested, but often by the time the information is received, the patient has been discharged. The priest wants to visit you, it is what he/she is called to do, if only you make that call. Thank you!

ATTENTION: ADULT ACOLYTE “WANT-TO-BEES”

During the school year, our acolytes are generally not available on week days to serve at funerals. In September, I am planning to train a few adults to serve at these services. If you would like to participate and are generally available on week days, please let me know or call the church office. While the training will not take long, the service is an important ministry.

- Louise Desgranges, *Acolyte Lead*



CARRIE WARNER
CLASS OF 2017!

Carrie graduated from Swartz Creek and will be going to Grand Valley State University!

CAMP CHICKAGAMI SUMMER SCHEDULE

TRIP CAMP | JULY 09 - 15 | Grades 8-11

Trip camp starts at Camp Chick for canoe and safety training, teambuilding and fellowship and then heads to the Manistee River near Grayling for several days of camping, canoeing, outdoor education, and time with God. We return to Camp Chick on Saturday.



BELL BAY CAMP | JULY 16 - 22 | Grades 3-5

An outdoor extravaganza in a welcoming, intentionally Christian setting that features swimming, singing, crafts, archery, and - of course - DODGEBALL!

HURON CAMP | JULY 23 - 29 | Grades 8-11

Join our oldest campers as they learn how to be leaders in their community through teamwork and a service project.

FAMILY CAMP | SEPT 1 - 4 | The Whole Family!

You'll experience all of the great things that Camp Chick offers our youth campers with

plenty of optional activities, great food, time for relaxation and of course, camp fires!

WOMEN'S RETREAT | AUG 18 - 20

Come and spend a relaxing few days at Camp Chickagami in the prime of the summer with optional activities focused on spirituality and connection. Take intentional time to get in tune with yourself again and enjoy the beauty of (almost) Northern Michigan. We will even do the cooking!



UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

Sunday, July 16 11:15 am - Financial Forum
Thursday, July 27 7:00 pm - Lansing Lugnuts Trip
Tuesday, August 22 6:30 pm - Vestry
Sunday, August 27 11:15 am - Ministry Fair

*Please note that Wed., July 26 & Thurs., July 27
our administrative assistant will be off and
Fr. Don will be moving. Please contact Fr. Don
on his cell for any pastoral emergencies.



ARE YOU SEEING PURPLE?

If you have not seen the purple cinctures on some of our crucifers yet, you probably will soon. Tosin and Dotun Aluko recently were recognized as captains. The purple cinctures are by captains. These young men were selected because of the length and quality of their service here and because of their willingness to make themselves available to serve at both regular and special services (weddings and funerals). Perhaps you would like to congratulate and thank them when you see them next?

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

AN UPDATE ON THE BISHOP TRANSITION...

July 10, 2017

Hello friends,

The first of July marked our first day as a diocese without a bishop in place since the early days of our existence.

I greet you with the warm regard of our Standing Committee, who have been working diligently in the months leading up to Bishop Ousley's departure and now as we officially take on the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. It is a responsibility we take very seriously and we are honored to have been elected to this office.

While no final decisions have yet been made, we are exploring the following options for the interim episcopal (bishop) authority of our diocese.

- **Standing Committee retains all authority and responsibility** - the committee would retain all duties of a bishop except those which require a bishop (confirmation, ordination, etc.)
- **Contract an Assisting Bishop** - The Standing Committee would retain the ecclesiastical authority and assign very specific tasks to a bishop, usually retired or in a nearby diocese for a very specific period of time.
- **Elect a Bishop Provisional** - The Standing Committee would interview and nominate one candidate to the diocesan convention, which votes yes or no. The elected bishop would assume the ecclesiastical authority for a specific period of time.

Our Standing Committee is looking at all of these options and I have been in contact with Bishop Clay Matthews of the Office for Pastoral Development to identify potential candidates should we move toward an Assisting or Provisional Bishop. I hope to be able to give you a more detailed update on our progress soon.

Once our interim episcopal authority is secured, our diocese will be able to take on the hard important work of study - Who are we as a diocese? What is our mission in this place? What does the future look like for Episcopalians in Eastern Michigan?

The Standing Committee appreciates your prayers. If you have any questions or immediate concerns, please email standingcommittee@eastmich.org.

Peace,

The Rev. Dan Scheid
President, The Standing Committee
The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

**For more information on the Bishop Transition, go to:
<http://eastmich.org/bishop-transition/>**