



The AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017 TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services
5:30 PM Wednesday Holy Eucharist (beginning Sept. 6)

NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

8 am - Eucharist
9 am - Coffee Hour
10 am - Christian Formation for
Children & Youth
10:15 am - Eucharist
11:30 am - Adult Formation

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GOING BAT-TY?

As I discussed during the July financial forum, we have bats. They are harmless, but they have been an area of concern for some. Eradication bids were obtained previously; however, they are very costly and offer zero guarantees. We did discuss this issue at this month's Vestry meeting, and I would like everyone to know that we have taken some precautions. There are latex free gloves, and antibacterial materials that will be used in clearing up of the guano. We have also looked into some other alternatives that are significantly more cost effective and do offer a guarantee. I will keep you posted and, as always, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Angela Campbell, Junior Warden

**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*
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Dr. Greg Hassold, *Parish Organist*
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St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church

5TH ANNUAL KSH MEMORIAL CONCERT

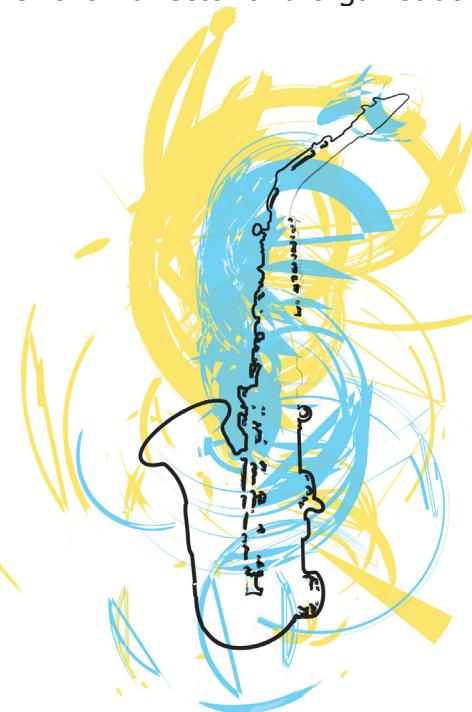
Fifth Annual Katherine Stickney Huber Memorial Concert Set for Sept. 16.

Lovers of the jazz and rhythm and blues – Americana at its finest: mark Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar for an unforgettable night of music.

Big Foot Bob & the Toe Tappers are coming to St. Christopher's as the featured performers in the fifth annual Katherine Stickney Huber Memorial Concert. The concert is free, courtesy of a generous grant from the Grand Blanc Community Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Mrs. Huber was a former choir director and organist at St. Christopher's and a long-time supporter of the arts in Genesee County. Her husband, the Rev. Dr. William G. Huber, was a psychologist and an Episcopal minister.

"Big Foot Bob" Schultz is a skilled pianist, sax man and vocalist who performs a wide array of jazz and R&B classics. He fronts a seven-piece band that will keep you on the edge of your seat and your toes a tappin' the whole night. David Huber is the featured tenor sax player in the band.



Bring your friends and enjoy a wonderful evening of jazz and blues!



FR. DON'S DOODLES... THE LIVING BUDGET

stories that the church may not want the world to hear. Let me attempt to explain what I mean.

A church budget tells the world what the church really values. The church budget expresses the major mission of the church and sometimes that mission is a long way from the imperatives of the gospel of Christ. As a candidate for positions over the past 30 years, I could always tell more about a parish by its budget than from its carefully worded profile.

Sometimes, as in our own case, the budget does not tell the whole story. Our budget indicates that about 45% of our expenses go for our mortgage and the expenses of our building while less than one-half of one percent go for Christian Education, Music Ministry, Outreach and Worship combined. This is shocking, and yet it is not the rest of the story. What is truly shocking about St. Christopher's is that we have a growing Outreach program including our own food pantry, participation in Family Promise and FISH. We will have a full youth and adult Christian formation program this fall; we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist three times each week and our choir will provide wonderful music. You might ask how can that happen when we have practically no funds for any of it? This is a particularly painful question when it becomes obvious that our parish has not been able to balance its budget for many years and suffers with a significant deficit.

The answer to the question posed above is part logical and part spiritual. The spiritual part is by far the most important: "we believe." We believe in the power and grace of Christ to help us do the good work we have been called to do. We believe that educating our children and giving them a Christian foundation for their lives is essential. We believe that we should not hoard the gifts we have been given but share them with those who are in need. We believe that the only arms and legs upon which Christ can depend are the arms and legs of His people. We believe that singing is praying twice, and we believe that gathering together in praise and worship is a way of keeping us grounded in what is truly important and that our lives are a gift from God.

The logical answer comes immediately after the word "because." Because "we believe" we must make it happen. We must pay our debts, keep our building in good repair and we must do what it means to be a church.

My prayer is that someday St. Christopher's will turn around its financial woes as so many households have done over the years. I pray that mission will rise above building, and that we will be looking for ways in which we can share. That prayer will become reality as we chart a course based upon our willingness to invite new members and radically welcome them, look outward more than inward, and

In August, I submitted a budget proposal to the parish Finance Committee. Along with the Stewardship Committee and members of the Vestry, a full draft will be presented to the vestry in December and adopted before the end of the year.

I have come to understand that church budgets are living entities, of a sort, in the most surprising of ways. Like young children, church budgets tell

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Formation Corner

YOUTH FORMATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We would like to return to a full Sunday School (Christian Education, Christian Formation) next month (September). We have children, we have a new curriculum, we have the space and we have the opportunity. We need someone to step-up and answer God's call so that our children can hear and receive this teaching. We need adults to take on at least one class, one hour for one Sunday a month. Beginning Sunday, September 10, Sunday school will begin at 10:00 am and last until the children rejoin their parents in the Nave during the sharing of the Peace.

If you feel called to be a part of the ministry, please contact Father Don. Please pray for our teachers and assistants and for the continuation of this important ministry at St. Christopher's.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: MATT MACKINDER

Matt Mackinder has accepted the position of Director of Christian Education here at St. Christopher's.

Matt and his family, which includes his beautiful wife of almost 13 years, Stephanie, and their children, Ethan, Wyatt and Maddie, joined St. Christopher's in April 2017 and have called Goodrich home since the summer of 2009.

The president of Mackinder Media, LLC, Matt is a sports writer, editor and publisher by trade, focusing mostly on hockey, and has been in the business since 1997.

A 2001 graduate of Wayne State University, Matt enjoys spending time with his family, which also includes three dogs and a cat, camping and simply enjoying life.



Fr. Don's Doodles...continued from page 3

be Biblically challenged and spiritually motivated to move forward. Budgets may indeed tell a story, but at St. Christopher's we will not stop until, like Paul Harvey, everyone knows the "rest of the story."

Don+



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Wednesday, September 13th!!

That is the date! Please mark it in your calendars! It will be our first Choir rehearsal after summer break at 7 p.m. I'm looking forward to having us all back together, hearing tales of Victor and Pat's trip out to Nebraska for some pretty intense star-gazing and many other fun adventures that our choir members might be willing to share!

If you are someone who happens to love to sing, have fun and put on your best 'snarky', please do come to rehearsal. We would love to meet you (if we don't already know you) and add your voice to our St. Christopher Choir.

Also, please mark in your calendars, **Saturday, September 16th**. The Huber Memorial Jazz Concert is at 12:00 noon. This is a pretty terrific jazz concert; one you won't want to have missed! There are some mighty fine jazz musicians who drop in to play. I know it knocked my socks off last year!

Bells, bells, bells! Fellow ding-a-lings, our third octave has arrived!!!! They are beautiful! I think that all of you will approve! Thank you to Father Don, the Vestry and the Safley Memorial Fund for making this dream for our bell choir a reality. A dedicatory bell concert is in the planning stages. Please, fellow ringers, be ready for our return to bell choir rehearsal to be held **Wednesday, September 13th** at 4:30 p.m. Hope to see you then!

Yours in Christ,
Nada

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR A, TRACK 1
AFTER PENTECOST

August 27 - Pentecost 12

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Sept. 3 - Pentecost 13

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Sept. 10 - Pentecost 14

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Sept. 17 - Pentecost 15

Exodus 14:19-31 or 15:1b-11,20-21

Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Sept. 24 - Pentecost 16

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SEMINARIAN: MICHAEL SPENCER



Since 2013 Michael has served as Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, assisting congregations and clergy with leadership transitions, leadership development, and processes of planned change. In addition, he serves as the bishop's senior deputy and counselor, and clergy discipline intake officer. In 2014 Michael began studies at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, a seminary of the Episcopal Church, in the Berkeley, CA institution's part-time low-residence Master of Divinity program. He is scheduled to finish his studies in December 2018 with a theological studies concentration.

In the wider church, Michael serves as a deputy to General Convention (and chairperson of the Eastern Michigan deputation) and as vice-chair of the Board for Transition Ministry.

Michael is a lifelong Episcopalian, having grown up at Christ Church, Owosso, and later as a member of the Episcopal campus ministry group at Michigan State University and an intern in the Episcopal Urban Intern Program in Los Angeles, CA (1997-1998). At Christ Church and in Los Angeles he has been an acolyte, Eucharistic minister and visitor, lector, worship leader, choir member, EfM mentor, and vestry member. He has staffed Happening, Vocare, Camp Chick, and EYE. Michael has a lay preaching license. He was graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Before working for the Diocese, Michael held various positions in the human resources department at MSU for almost ten years.

Michael resides in Owosso with his partner David Grondz, two dogs, and a very spoiled cat who wishes the dogs would disappear. In his free time he enjoys science fiction and fantasy novels, films, and television, and would very much like to visit London again.



Linda at the Camp Chick Women's Retreat (8/18-8/20)

THE SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

My theme this month is gratitude.

Many thanks to Jennifer Ireland for her efforts to supply our outreach family with school supplies and clothing and for promoting the FISH shoe project.

Many thanks to all those who stepped up to plan and organize our youth formation program this fall - and to Fr. Don for being willing to alter the Sunday schedule around our worship services to accommodate the program.

Stewardship planning is under way with another group of volunteers. We tend to think of money or treasure in connection with stewardship but we should also think of time and talent. If you wish we

were doing something; figure out how to do it, check with Fr. Don or a Vestry member to be sure no one else is already doing it, and then do it.

Linda Rathburn, Senior Warden

THE
LANSING LUGNUTS
GAME
JULY, 27, 2017



THE STANDING COMMITTEE OFFERS A MESSAGE IN RESPONSE TO CHARLOTTESVILLE.
August 14, 2017

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

- Galatians 5: 13-14

The Apostle Paul's exhortation was delivered to the Galatian Christians, a people struggling to understand the role of law in light of their experience of Christ, arguing amongst themselves about how the message of love in Christ could be reconciled to the framework they had been living under for generations, the law of the patriarchs.

The events of last weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia bring to mind these words from Paul. We are a country and a people and a Church still struggling with the legacy of the Civil War and the social order it upended. Our cultural landscape is marked with the very real monuments of the legacies of slavery and racism that our country was built upon - we see them memorialized in statues, coursing through the lead-poisoned veins of our children in Flint, and brought forth through the words and actions of the hate-filled.

As Christians, we know that the Lord's commandment to love our neighbor is always in the forefront of our identity, and that any actions to denigrate, debase, or otherwise diminish one another are not of God. White supremacists and other groups seeking to suppress others based on dubious classifications such as race have no claim on the Christian Gospel. Their message of segregation and subjugation must be refuted by those of us who call Jesus, Lord.

Our prayers are with those terrorized by the actions of white supremacy in Charlottesville and with people everywhere who are oppressed, endangered, or otherwise threatened by those who claim Christ in the midst of hatred. In their stead we claim hope and compassion for all.

Kyrie Eleison,

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan:

Beth Barkley, Secretary
Trinity, Lexington

The Rev. Dan Scheid, President
St. Paul's, Flint

Stephanie King, Vice President
St. Alban's, Bay City

The Rev. Lydia Speller
Grace, Port Huron

The Rev. Sue Rich
Trinity, Bay City

Bill Thewalt
St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc

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

TIME TO SHARPEN THOSE PENCILS

STOCK UP ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES WITH SCRIP



Pick up all the gear your favorite students need for the new school year and earn rebates at the same time!

Fill those new backpacks with pencils, pens, binders, and everything else they need to be successful students.

Amazon.com
American Eagle Outfitters
Barnes & Noble
Bed, Bath & Beyond
Best Buy
The Children's Place
JCPenny

Kids Foot Locker
Kohl's
L.L. Bean
Macy's
Marshalls
Nike
Office Depot

Old Navy
Sears
Staples
Target
T.J. Maxx
Walgreens
Walmart

How it works: You buy gift cards for your favorite places to shop and eat. St. Christopher's orders them and we get a small rebate for each gift card sold. You can shop and raise money for St. Christopher ministries at the same time!

We order after the first and third Sundays of the month (sometimes other weeks if there is a particularly large order). Your scrip cards will, therefore, be available for pick-up the second and fourth Sundays of the month. There are also Cash & Carry cards available to buy and take home immediately at the Scrip table.

To order - go to the Scrip table during coffee hour.

Please be considerate of those who organize and sell Scrip cards
by allowing them time to reflect and worship before and during the mornings' service(s).
Thank you!

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE...

Monday, September 4	Labor Day - Office Closed
Beginning Wed., Sept. 6	5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist in Columbarium Chapel (every Wed. night)
Thursday, September 7	4:00 pm - Acolyte Training
Saturday, September 9	11:00 am - Acolyte Training
Sunday, September 10	9 am Coffee Hour begins (so that we may all enjoy fellowship together) 10:00 am - Christian Formation for Children and Youth 11:30 am - Adult Formation
Wednesday, Sept. 13	1:30 pm Worship Team Meeting 4:30 pm - Bells 5:00 pm - Adult Choir
Thurs., Sept. 14	4:30 pm - Executive Committee