



The

JANUARY 2017

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services

5:30 PM Wednesday Holy Eucharist



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Annual Meeting Information
Meet your Vestry Candidates
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and so much more!

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service

9 am - Adult Formation

10 am - Christian Formation for Children & Youth

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service

Coffee Hour following 10:15 am Eucharist

***Every first Sunday of the month
there will be a Parish-Wide Potluck Brunch at 9 am!***



COOKIE WALK

The Christmas cookie walk on Sunday, December 10th was a huge success! We raised over \$400 for St. Christopher's! A special thanks to Ellen Safley for running and all of our helpers and cookie bakers (and buyers) for making this year's fundraiser such a great success!

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 Catherine Waynick,
Bishop Provisional, Diocese of Eastern MI

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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Episcopal Church

THE SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

I'm glad to report that Bishop Cate Waynick visited St. Christopher's (December 10). Between her sermon during the services and her comments during the Vestry conversation with her after the later service, I believe that Bishop Cate will be very good for our diocese and our congregation.

Once again I give thanks for Ellen Safley and the many times she steps in to fill a gap. She headed the Stewardship campaign, the Cookie Walk, and the greening of the nave for Advent and Christmas. Thank you also to those who pitched in to bake the cookies (and buy them, of course), setup/tear down for the sale and carry and climb ladders for the greening.

Our guest preacher, the Venerable Linda Crane (Archdeacon of our diocese) delivered a great sermon on the reading from 1 Thessalonians 5. Whatever is going on in our lives, Linda asked that we be joyful, prayerful, and thankful. I know her slightly from a variety of diocesan events.

As winter goes on, please be very careful as you go out and about with your various errands, visits and attendance at our services.

Linda Rathburn, Senior Warden

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

January 28, 2018 9:30 A.M.

The meeting will take place during the service, only one service on this date.

Vestry Nominees (see article on page 6)
William Anderson
Angela Campbell*
William White

Complete report of our Finances and the 2018 adopted budget
Annual Address by Fr. Don
By-laws proposed Amendments

Other reports:
Priest-in-Charge
Wardens
Stewardship Committee
Kitchen Team
Worship Team

Most reports will be available on-line prior to the meeting. To read the reports go to our parish website www.stchrisgrandblanc.org and follow the Annual Meeting links.

***Proposed Amendments to the St. Christopher's By-Laws
Presented by the Vestry for Congregational Approval***

#1

Add the following paragraph at the conclusion of Article III section 2:

If by the Annual Meeting a currently serving elected member of the vestry has not met the qualifications for service as stated above, the vestry, at their meeting following the annual meeting and with 2/3rds (6 members) in agreement, may declare the position vacant and proceed to appoint a replacement member as per Article III, Section 4.



attend vestry meetings.

#2

Modify Article III section 2 as follows:

Currently:

“No person shall be elected who is not a voting member of this Congregation, and who has made a commitment of time, talent and treasurer. No full term...”

Proposed:

“No person shall be elected who is not a voting member of this Congregation, and who has not made a commitment of time, talent and who does not regularly make financial contributions as shown in the Treasurer’s books. No full term...”

Rationale: As it currently stands a person who makes regular contributions but who does not complete a pledge card is ineligible for vestry service. This amendment would allow those who make regular contributions to serve if elected.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

'Tis the season!

Advent IV at 9:30 am, we enjoyed the gorgeous voices of Bobbie Goergen and Miranda Armfield in a lovely duet from Haendel's Messiah, "He Shall Feed his Flock/Come unto Him".

Too, this Advent IV morning, we have our younger ringers playing "Away in a Manger", led by Abby, Jack and David Keyes, Kassidy Campbell, Nikki and Bella Partela and Wyatt McKinder.

I hope that everyone who has had a moment to read these few words, perhaps, too, did catch the Flint Symphony Orchestra "Holiday Pops" performance (whether live at the Whiting Auditorium or via television broadcast). MANY singers from our St. Christopher Adult Choir participated in this fun holiday event! Victor Galea, Tristram Shayna, Patricia Lewis, Audrey D'itri, Cynthia Butcher, Rosa Wang, Nancy Lee Fawcett and Tim Weston (8 o'clock service attendee) all sang in these performances. I would like to mention too, how much we appreciated it that Marcie Davidson was attending rehearsals to sing in the Pops until illness struck, just as was Ellen Safley, until a family health emergency pulled her, as well, from the performance(s). I am so proud and honored that our choir came out to support our local symphony orchestra by lending their time and talent. Thank you, each one of you! Way to go, ST. CHRISTOPHER ADULT CHOIR!!! YAY! (AND Tim Weston!)

Also, for the grand opening of the newly restored Capitol Theater in downtown Flint, on December 8th, the 6th Annual "A Classy Brassy Christmas and More" television broadcast hosted and produced by local broadcast celebrity, Bill Harris, was performed, LIVE! It was a sold-out event, and a very exciting evening for all who were in attendance. From our talent-pool at St. Christopher, our own Elizabeth Sauvie, Tristram Shayna, Victor Galea and Seth Cunningham (a very fine alto we had singing with us last year) all performed with the Flint Symphony Chamber Choir. They sang the David Willcocks' elegant "Five Christmas Carols", and the Mark Hayes arrangement of "Let There be Peace on Earth". This vocal ensemble was quite excellent. (I'm kind of braggin' on you all!)

The Grand Blanc "Messiah Sing", (which St. Christopher will be hosting next year, November 2018), highlighted our own Aaron McCoy Jacobs, tenor soloist. He was terrific! (I was there---I heard him with my own ears!) Bobbie Goergen also helped keep the soprano section in top form!

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR B

Jan. 8 - Epiphany 2

1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Jan. 21 - Epiphany 3

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:6-14
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 28 - Epiphany 4

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 4 - Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 11 - Last Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

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

And, too, I just have to say 'HAT'S OFF' to Noralynn and Greg Hassold, Audrey D'itri and Miranda Armfield for your sensational performance of the fun Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, "Princess Ida" in Ann Arbor Dec. 7-10. You guys were great! Many fellow choir member made the trek out to Lydia Mendelssohn to see you guys! Thanks for a great show!

This past Sunday, we enjoyed the bells choir ringing the Communion music "Resonant in Laudibus" (Joseph, Dearest, Joseph Mine!) and "We Three Kings" during offertory with Father Don, Michael Spencer and Victor Galea acting as our resident wise men.

Thank you, each one of you, who gives of your musical gifts to this wonderful church. We are, truly, so very blessed!

In Christ, I am yours,
Nada



At the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018 (9:30 AM) the congregation will be asked to elect three people to three-year terms on the Vestry. The Vestry is the parish council that has principal authority over the fiscal health (funds) and physical needs (building) of the parish. The Vestry also calls, with the approval of the Bishop, a priest to serve as the Rector of the parish when the position is vacant and is responsible for the care and nourishment of the Rector when the position is occupied.

While basically an old English term, it is easy to remember that the members are "vested" with the trust of the parish to carry out their duties with the best interests of the whole parish in mind.

Maxine Huber will complete three-years on the Vestry, and Marsha Kump will complete an unexpired term. We thank them both for their service and will honor them at the meeting. Although eligible, Marsha chose not to seek election to her own term.

The Vestry Nominations Committee has proposed the following three candidates for your consideration:



ANGELA CAMPBELL Angela is currently serving as Junior Warden having completed an unexpired term she is eligible to be elected to serve her own term. Angela received a BA from Alma College.

In addition to the duties of Junior Warden (in charge of buildings and grounds), Angela has served as the interim Director of Religious Education with special interest in the Wednesday evening program. She also founded the SCRIP program which brought in over \$1200.00 of unexpected income to the parish. She also was a member of our parish by-laws revision committee, serves as a LEM on Sundays and is a member

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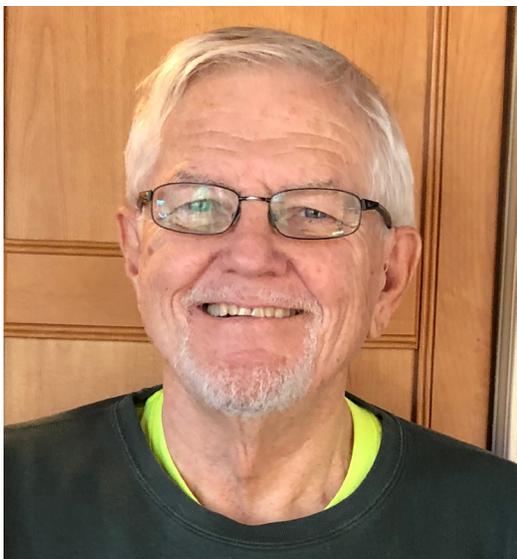
Vestry Candidates (continued from page 5)

of our bell choir. She is currently participating in her second year of DCDI training.

She is married to Eric and they have one daughter Kassidy who is an active in our Sunday School program and an acolyte.

WILLIAM ANDERSON has been a communicant at St. Christopher's since 2015. He is a longtime educator, conference presenter, and author. He has served on many boards and committees in the education field and in other venues dedicated to the common good.

Bill's roots in the Episcopal church span several generations. St. Dunstan's, St. Paul's and now St. Christopher's have been church homes for him throughout the years. He has served as lector, vestry member, outreach committee chairman, supplemental food giveaway project planner, and in other church administrative capacities through the years. His vision for St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is an increase in membership and communicants, an increased profile in the community, and a sound fiscal standing.



WILLIAM WHITE JR. was born and raised in California. He served seven years in the USNR. Bill has a BSEE and a MSEM degree, and was a registered Professional Engineer.

Bill has retired from a 40-year career as a Systems Engineer in the Defense Industry. During his career Bill taught Master's level System Engineering and Program Management courses at University of Phoenix for eight years. Bill had a short stint as a Management Consultant in the Auto Industry, which is why, Bill is now living in Michigan these past 20 plus years.

Bill was raised in the Methodist Church but married into the Episcopal Church when he met his wife Sandra. Bill and Sandra have two children and three grandchildren. The children and grandchildren have all been baptized in the Episcopal Church. Bill and Sandra have attended St. Christopher's for over 15 years.

Bill has served on a vestry before when he and Sandra lived in Corona, Ca.

WHY?

Why is the Annual Meeting enveloped in the Sunday service?

Why is there only one service?

Why 9:30 AM?

The idea of conducting the Annual Meeting during the service is a way of practicing what we profess. Unlike other churches, the Episcopal Church is not confessional in that we do not proscribe to a given

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Why (continued from page 6)

statement of dogma such as the Augsburg Confession, or the Westminster Confession. The ancient creeds of the church (Apostles, Nicene and Asthanaius) along with the Book of Common Prayer provide all the doctrine Anglicans believe is necessary. As often said, we believe as we pray and we pray as we believe. The church does not allow innovations or re-writing of the Book of Common Prayer on a local or Diocesan level. Any changes in the BCP must pass both houses of the General Convention.

St. Christopher's is not a business. Although we intentionally practice good business practices including financial transparency and bookkeeping, we are not about profit margins, indeed our product is the grace and love of Christ Jesus and that is given away free.

Our current year will be challenging for our church leadership and all of our people. For many years St. Christopher's has been living off of our savings. We anticipate that those funds will be running very low by the end of the year. While no decisions about our situation will be made at the meeting, it is my hope that everyone will be fully informed.

Only one service will be held to maximize the attendance for the meeting. 9:30 is a good time for everyone as it is 90 minutes later than our first service and 45 minutes earlier than our second service.

You are more than welcome to ask questions of vestry members and leadership anytime you wish. The best way is via e-mail as each vestry member has a church e-mail address with their first name followed by @stchrisgrandblanc.org.



FR. DON'S
DOODLES...

HOLIDAYS
&
HOLY DAYS

At the risk of a commentary on a rather silly cultural debate (taking Christ out of Christmas) allow me to share with you why saying Happy Holidays or more correctly "Happy Holy Days" is not only appropriate but accurate during the 12 days of Christmas.

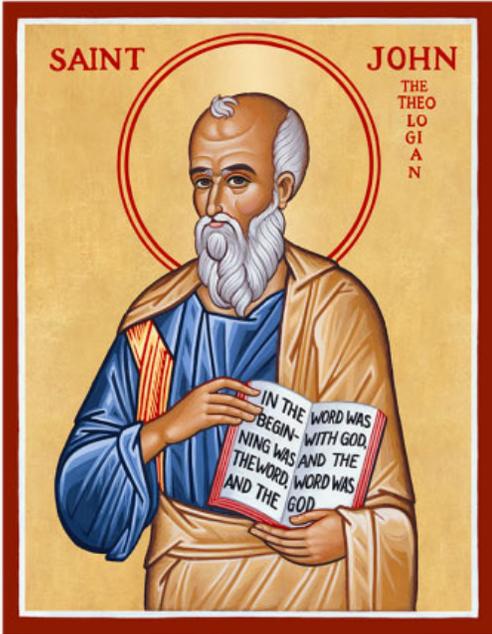
First, the whole idea that there is some kind of power on earth that is strong enough or that the Almighty God is subject to culture is truly absurd. There is no force that could possibly remove Christ from any Mass, not alone the feast honoring the Incarnation, the Word that came and dwelt among us known by us as Jesus. The whole debate needs to be placed where the sun does not shine as it distorts the relationship of the finite and in the infinite, humanity and the reality of the divine.

Second, in addition to Christmas there are many other Holy Days during the season. Christmas Day is the first day of the Christmas season which lasts 12 days and ends on the 12th night or the eve of Epiphany, the day that the magi arrived to visit the Holy Family at the "house" most likely in Egypt quite a long time following the birth.

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Fr. Don's Doodles (continued from page 7)

During the season we celebrate both major and minor feast days. A feast day (once called a “Red Letter Day” honors a person or persons who gave of themselves in amazing ways to the church. In some cases, they were martyrs, while in others they spent their entire lives engaged in the ministry of the gospel. The second day of Christmas we honor the first deacon and martyr St. Stephen who was stoned to death. He is the model for the order of Deacons as he was faithful unto his death.



On the third day of Christmas we honor St. John the Evangelist (not the Baptist). We attribute the fourth gospel to him, and he is sometimes called the “Beloved Disciple.”

On the fourth day of Christmas we honor the Holy Innocents. These are the children whom King Herod (the Great) who ordered that all of Bethlehem’s first-born sons (under two-years old) be murdered so that Jesus was not a threat. Outside the Church of the Nativity just off the portico is the Cave of the Holy Innocents where the all the children were buried following Herod’s ruthless act.

On the fifth day of Christmas we honor Archbishop Thomas Becket who was murdered inside Canterbury Cathedral on orders from King Henry VIII.

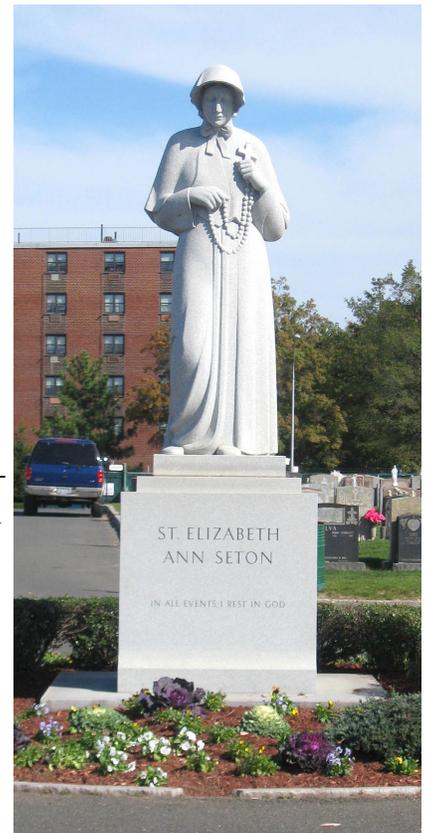
On the eighth day of Christmas we honor the day that Jesus was presented in the temple and from which event we received the ancient song the Nunc Dimittis on the Song of Simeon: “For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior whom you have prepared for all the world to see; a Light to enlighten the nations and the Glory of your people Israel.”

There are many minor feasts that I am not mentioning, yet you may have heard of Elizabeth Seton who is honored on the eleventh day of Christmas. Seton was an American born in New York City in 1774 who founded the Sisters of Charity. She grew up an Episcopalian who after becoming a widow at a young age with a large family turned to the Roman Catholic Church while living in Italy. It was there that she made profession and became “Mother Seton” to a small order of women. The order later operated orphanages in Philadelphia and New York. Mother Seton died on January 4, 1821.

Whether you say Merry Christmas which really means: May the Mass of Christ bring blessings to you or Happy Holidays which means: May Holy Days bring you happiness; they are quite appropriate now and almost any time during the year.

Christmas Blessings to one and all,

Don+





Spread the word! Congregational leaders working to create thriving churches for God's mission are invited to attend this one-day event with a full slate of workshops geared at building up skills for effective congregational ministry.

This event is for the whole vestry, office staff, educators, volunteers, clergy, and everyone in between. We will offer workshops aimed at equipping leaders with the tools, resources, and connections for the building of thriving churches living out God's mission. We'll cover topics such as leadership, formation, parish management, evangelism, and more.

Saturday, February 24th from 10am to 4pm. Doors open at 9:30am. This event is FREE and open to all congregational leaders. Lunch will be provided. A free will offering will be collected to help cover the cost of food.

Please register online at eastmich.org (or let the church office know that you are planning to attend and we will register you). Thank you!

Workshops being offered (many will be offered more than once, you will have time for 4 throughout the day):

Deepening Your Faith

The Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick, Provisional Bishop

Suggested audience: Everyone, Educators, Clergy

Grant Writing for Congregations

Chuk Kleber, St. John's Endowment Committee

Suggested audience: Vestry, Clergy, Everyone

Introduction to Church Insurance

Jeff Lyngaas, VP of Client Services for Church Insurance

Suggested audience: Wardens, Vestry Members

So You've Been Elected to the Vestry...

Michael Spencer, Canon to the Ordinary

Suggested audience: Newly elected Vestry members

Growing Young

McKenzie Bade, Facilitator of Youth & Young Adult Net

Suggested audience: Communications volunteers & staff, Clergy, Everyone

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Leadership Day (continued from page 9)

Medical Trust & The Church Pension Group

Representative from CPG

Suggested audience: Those in charge of hiring/benefit administration

All About Parochial Reports & Office Practices

Katharine Rose, Financial Officer

Suggested audience: Wardens, Clerks, Vestry, Office Staff

Digital Tools for Evangelism

Katie Forsyth, Director of Comm. & Public Engagement

Suggested audience: Communications volunteers and staff, Everyone

Hiring and Taxes for Clergy & Lay Employees

Molly Girard, Diocesan Administrator Katharine Rose, Finance Officer

Suggested audience: Wardens, Treasurers, Office Staff

The Diocesan Church Development Institute

Michael Spencer, Canon to the Ordinary

Suggested audience: Everyone

Experiencing Prayer

McKenzie Bade, Facilitator of Youth & Young Adult Networks

Suggested audience: Youth & Adult Formation, Everyone

Financial Statements 101

Michael Spencer, Canon to the Ordinary

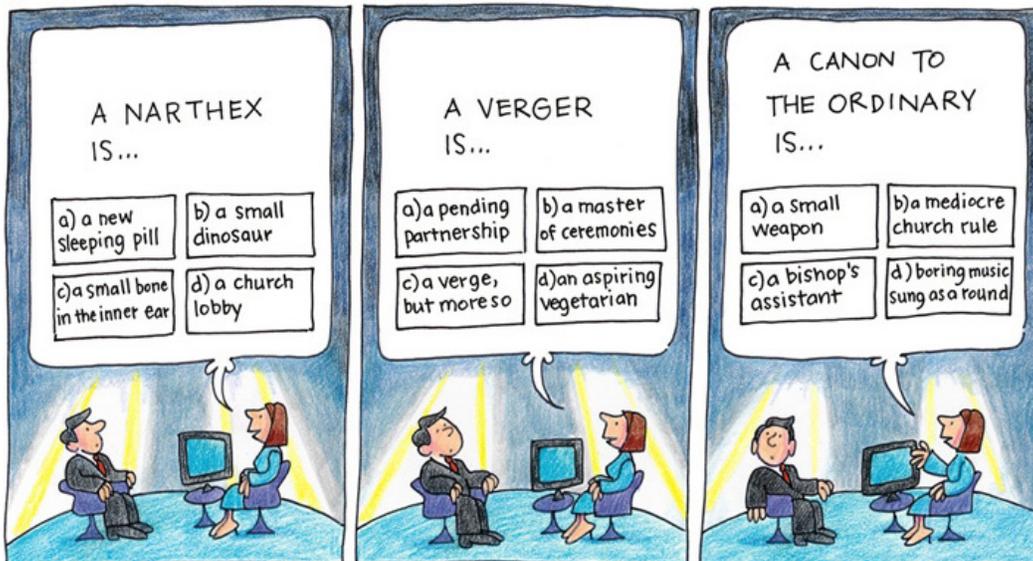
Suggested audience: Newly elected Vestry members

Evangelism & Growth: Get Strategic

Katie Forsyth, Director of Comm. & Public Engagement

Suggested audience: Communications volunteers and staff, Clergy, Everyone

SO YOU WANT TO BE AN EPISCOPALIAN



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Opportunity

Estimated Time Commitment

Help a group to streamline the storage area

3 hours

Answer the office phone on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday of the month in the morning (9-Noon)

3 hours (per month)

Become a ringer in the bell choir

Wednesdays 4:30 pm
1 hour - Sundays at 10:15 am when ringers play (about 1x a month)

Let the office know if you are interested in helping with any of these projects. We will pass your information along to whoever is charge of these ministry areas. Thank you for the treasure of your talent and time here at St. Christopher's!

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

Saturday, January 13

11 am - LEM Training

Monday, January 15 - MLK Day

6 pm - Bridge Club

6 pm - NCC Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 16

7 pm - LEM/Lector Meeting

Monday, January 22

12:30 pm - Knitting & Crochet Group

Saturday, January 27

10 am - 2 pm - Diocesan Self-Study Gathering at St. Paul's in Flint

Sunday, January 28

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist & Annual Meeting

11 am - Vestry Meeting (following annual meeting)

Monday, January 29

6 pm - NCC Rehearsal

Saturday, February 3

Staff & Vestry Work Day @ Camp Copneconic

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Thank you for your continued support!

