



The

MARCH 2018

# TRUMPETER

*St. Christopher's Episcopal Church*

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

*5:30 PM Wednesday Holy Eucharist*



## IN THIS ISSUE:

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*and so much more!*

## YOUTH FORMATION

Youth Formation continues to roll along to very positive reviews from our stellar group of teachers and parents! We meet every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the classroom and welcome kids of all ages! Classes will run into the first or second week of May and then break for the summer before restarting again in September.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff of teachers - all that have taught or continue to teach - for all their work this year and giving the kids of our congregation a positive experience at church each and every Sunday. To Angela Campbell, Tami Garleff, Noralynn Hassold, Jennifer Ireland, Kristin Keyes, Joan LePard, Stephanie Mackinder, Nadine Portela, Ellen Safley, Bill Thewalt and Joyce Thewalt, THANK YOU!!

If any adults are interested in coming on board as teachers, or if anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or see me in church!

Thank you!

Matt Mackinder  
Director of Christian Education  
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ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

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## SHOULD CONFIRMATION BE REQUIRED?

**NOTE:** *This article has been modified for publication here. The original article is available from the Episcopal News Service. This article was originally published August 28, 2012. [Episcopal News Service]*

When the Rev. Canon Lee Alison Crawford told vestry members church canons required they be confirmed, an anguished junior warden resigned.

“As the (former) rector of a congregation whose average Sunday attendance was under 50, which gave me a core group of maybe 30 people, I usually found out by accident that somebody hadn’t been confirmed,” recalled Crawford, during a recent telephone interview.

She refused his resignation. “I said to him, you are one of the most faithful people I know. You already have a leadership position. You understand the church. In a small congregation I would say confirmation for leadership is an ideal but in theory and practice it doesn’t always happen,” said Crawford, a General Convention deputy from Vermont.

“With the change in theology in the 1979 prayer book, with baptism the root of everything we do, confirmation is a rite looking for a theology,” she added.

The confirmation requirement for leadership was the subject of intense conversation but not much consensus at the 77th General Convention in Indianapolis, said Deborah Stokes, a lay deputy from the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

Ultimately, General Convention rejected or referred for further conversation several resolutions proposing removal (Ao42, Ao43) or review (Ao44) of confirmation as a requirement for church leadership.

“We felt very strongly this was just the beginning of the conversation,” said Stokes, co-chair of the legislative committee on education, which considered the resolutions. “I didn’t want to lose confirmation, and I think all of us feared losing it if it’s not a requirement for something.” Rather than eliminate it the proposed changes intended “to free confirmation to be a response to baptism, a

**continued on page 3...**

## Should Confirmation Be Required? ...continued from page 3...

pastoral response that might occur in various ways in people's lives," said the Rev. Ruth Meyers. The Hodges-Haynes Professor of Liturgics at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, she consulted with the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation, (SCLCF) which authored the resolutions.

She was surprised by the reaction to the proposed changes. "People had the sense that, by taking it out of the canons, we were wanting to do away with confirmation. That's absolutely not the case."



2017 Diocesan Confirmation

Rather, the canonical changes were intended to offer options. "We could just say that baptism, with some instruction in the history and governance of the church, is really what you need for leadership" allowing confirmation to follow "as a response to baptism at a time that makes sense to you."

Bishop Porter Taylor of Western North Carolina, SCLCF vice chair, said the changes would make the rite more a response to the movement of the Holy Spirit and less "a hoop that we have to jump through. We don't see confirmation as part of our governance."

"And this is not about saying I want to be a member of the Episcopal Church," he said during a recent telephone interview. "This is about saying that God has been doing something in my life and I want to mark that by standing up in the midst of the congregation and having the bishop lay hands on me in order to mark the movement of the Holy Spirit."

For Lillian Saucedo-Whitney, who was confirmed May 6 at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in San Juan Capistrano, California, confirmation felt like "I had finally found my home. It was like being baptized."

Bishop Stacy Sauls, chief operating officer of the Episcopal Church confirmed the 59-year-old preschool teacher and more than a dozen others on behalf of Bishop Jon Bruno of Los Angeles.

"I had tears of joy," Saucedo-Whitney recalled during an Aug. 23 telephone interview. "I really wanted to belong. I thought, it's time for me to stand up and say I am an Episcopalian. I thought the only way to do that would be to join the church."

Whether confirmation is required of church members in general and leaders in particular since it is no longer needed to receive communion, is a conversation that needs to happen organically, at all levels of the church, especially in the parish, said the Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton, a retired priest in the Diocese of Newark.

"It's about belonging," Kaeton said during a recent telephone interview. "I think we're still not clear in our society and that's reflected in our church, about what it means to belong. In the church we're trying to figure out what it means to be an Episcopalian. We're also struggling with what does it mean to have a public profession of faith."

Rather than being tied to a rite of passage or an age, confirmation should be linked to a process of Christian formation," she said. "It's an exciting conversation. We've stopped talking about sex and now we're

**continued on page 4...**

## **Should Confirmation Be Required? ...continued from page 4...**

talking about money and baptism and confirmation and marriage and these are important things.” Making confirmation a powerful and personal moment is of utmost importance for Bishop Dorsey Henderson, who retired from the Diocese of Upper South Carolina in 2009. He now assists on behalf of Bishop Gregory Brewer of Central Florida at confirmations.

Henderson confirmed about 18 people at St. Peter’s Church on May 17, including eighth grader Grant Williams, 13, who believes “confirmation is very necessary.

“It felt like I was coming closer to God, like I was getting to know him better and confirming my faith in him by showing that I truly believed in him and wanted to follow him,” he said.

Henderson said he adds the names of each confirmand to a personal notebook he has kept over 15 years of the episcopacy. “I assure them that I will pray for them regularly by name and I ask them for their prayers.”

While confirmation “is not essential to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion ... it provides a kind of spiritual boost” especially to those baptized as infants and those converting from other traditions, he said during a recent telephone interview.

Bishop Dan Martins of the Diocese of Springfield, said confirmation evolved the way it did because of practical necessity—because dioceses grew and “bishops could not multi-locate.”

What began as one service including baptism followed with laying on of hands by the bishop and a prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit over time “was separated and priests were authorized to celebrate at the water portion, with the understanding that at some point they would bring the newly baptized to the bishop for the laying on of hands. “Eventually it took on a life of its own as a separate event and acquired the name confirmation,” he said during a recent telephone interview.

The rite may evolve, but bishops remain a symbol “of the wider church, our organic connection to church through time and space,” he added. “The prayer may change, the name we use is in flux, but ... as the sacramental sign of ministry, then it’s important that everybody come under the hands of the bishop at some point in their public profession of Christian faith and discipleship.”

— The Rev. Pat McCaughan is a correspondent for the Episcopal News Service.

## **USHERS & GREETERS**

I would like to say thanks to Bill Thewalt who has done a wonderful job as coordinator of the Ushers/Greeters. I will be taking over that position for Bill.

I have a current list of ushers/greeters, but if there are others that would like to be included in the schedule, please notify me. We can always use more Ushers and Greeters! Call or text me at 810-210-6734. My e-mail address is fgjerstad@gmail.com, or you can see me at church.

I will be sending out an availability list next month for the summer schedule, and then send out an assignment schedule so you will know your assigned days.

-Flo Gjerstad

# HOUSE OF BISHOPS STATEMENT ON GUN VIOLENCE



**Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.”**

As taught by the Gospel and permitted by law, all Episcopal churches in Michigan prohibit the carry and use of firearms on church property.



The Episcopal Dioceses of  
Michigan,  
Western Michigan,  
Northern Michigan  
and Eastern Michigan



*“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.”*  
(Deuteronomy 30:19)

At this critical moment young people of the United States are inviting us to turn away from the nightmare of gun violence to the dream of choosing life. The young people of Parkland, Florida are calling for elected officials to:

- ban the sale of assault weapons
- prohibit the sale of high capacity magazines
- close loopholes in background checks

Others are seeking to:

- ban the sale of bump stocks
- raise the age to 21 years to purchase firearms

- challenge the National Rifle Association to support safe gun legislation.

We, the bishops of The Episcopal Church, wholeheartedly support and join with the youth in this call to action.

At the same time, we acknowledge that black and brown youth have continuously challenged the United States to address the gun violence that they and their communities are experiencing. We repent that, as bishops, we have failed to heed their call.

As bishops we commit to following the youth of the United States in their prophetic leadership. To that end we will observe a day of Lament and Action on March 14, one month to the day after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. We pledge ourselves, and we invite our dioceses, to participate in the “March for our Lives” on March 24 in Washington DC and in cities and towns across the United States. We recognize the urgency of this moment and we recommit to working for safe gun legislation as our church has called for in multiple General Convention resolutions. In addition, we pledge ourselves to bring the values of the gospel to bear on a society that increasingly glorifies violence and trivializes the sacredness of every human life.

We will walk with the youth of the United States today and into the future in choosing life.

*House of Bishops, Spring 2018*

We will NOT have Youth Formation  
Palm Sunday (March 25)  
or Easter Sunday (April 1).



On April 28, 2018, we will have an outing to the Aldon B. Dow home for a PRIVATE tour!  
**This home was voted one of the 25 Best Historic Homes in America.**  
We'll meet at the church at 9 am and Carpool to Midland for our private tour.

The tour will cost \$12 per person. Please sign up on the kiosk in the gathering space and drop a check in the offering plate or give to Jane Yorks. Checks should be made to St. Christopher's. Deadline to sign up/ pay is April 15.

Anyone over eight-years-old is welcome to tour so feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. Please do note that the home was built in the 1930's and is, therefore, not handicap accessible.

On our way home, we will be meeting in Frankenmuth where the Chef Z Cafe will have seats reserved so that we can lunch together.

For more information, please see Jane Yorks.



The Tigers are playing Spring Ball down in Florida. It's time to think of St. Christopher's Annual Outing to the Lansing Lugnuts. We will be attending the game Thursday, July 19. As usual it's a night featuring specials on beverages. No need to sign up yet, but please save the date, Thursday, July 19, 2018.

Incidentally in our first revival of the outing last year, we sold 34 tickets. Perhaps we can spread the fun to even more this year! An actual sign-up will be available in May. More details to follow...

- Bill Thewalt



FR. DON'S  
DOODLES...  
MY  
CONFIRMATION

As I remember it, being confirmed back in the 8th grade was about the most important thing that took place that year. I hold that picture in my hands and in my heart as I am extremely thankful to still be in contact with 12 of my classmates. The adults in the picture including Pastor Bob Secrest and one of my classmates are now enjoying life eternal. If you are wondering, I am the guy with hair just above the Pastor.

The Lutheran Church (LCA at the time) required three-years of study to be confirmed, along with approval by the church council.

The essence of Confirmation has not changed while its place in the lives of teenagers has. Confirmation is a response to baptism and a pastoral response at that. The beauty of the rite (or sacrament) is the freedom to choose to take upon oneself the vows made by parents when baptized, or to signify aloud a decision to be a part

of this corner of the Jesus Movement: The Episcopal Church.

The Right Reverend Catherine Waynick our Bishop Provisional will be at St. Christopher's on April 14, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. for the first of two Diocesan Confirmation services. The Bishop will preside and preach at the service which will include Confirmation and Reception (the welcoming of individuals confirmed in other denominations).



If you are interested in being confirmed or received, please contact me as soon as possible as the deadline for registration is quickly approaching.



**EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS ARE DUE  
BY MONDAY, MARCH 26!**

Envelopes for donations are available in the gathering space. Dedications will appear in both Easter Sunday bulletins on April 1st!

# NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Happy Easter!

**We have had a tremendous year, musically, at St. Christopher's.**

Our Bell Choir has a new member (Bill Hartley) and we even attended a Bell Clinic hosted by St. Charles and Helena church in Clio). Anne Naber, Marsha Kump, Jennifer Curts and I were able to attend! Our clinician was Dr. Joseph Daniels and we had a blast that SNOWY February day!

St. Christopher's Adult Choir has been holding our own, with twenty singers strong! I cannot say this enough, I just LOVE OUR CHOIR at St. Christopher's! It is an absolute joy and thrill getting to sing the great music of the Episcopal tradition with these fine musicians. I am so grateful that I am allowed to serve at St. Christopher's!

As some of you may have noticed, our organ is still undergoing some challenges, primarily, we are struggling with temperature fluxuations in the nave, and this does vex the organ at times, as it causes the pipes to play out of tune. Dr. Hassold has been doing his very best to work his magic, and make the instrument sound her best at any given time; but, she is a living, breathing instrument, and continues to need our tender, loving care!

Our Grand Blanc Community Good Friday service this year will be held at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church on Fenton Road at 7 pm; please attend, as this is an eccumenical service in which we have been participating for the past several years. It is a very moving experience.

Also, on April 14th, 2 pm St. Christopher will be hosting the Confirmation service for the Eastern Diocese of Michigan. Please, also, come to the church and be a part of this very wonderful moment of communion with God and church.

As summer approaches (I am so excited to get to write those words!) please start to think about what hymns you would like to have incorporated into our services! We will have a sign up sheet out in the narthex on the kiosk soon, so please take a moment and write down a few of your favorites!

If things work out for you to sing with the choir in this coming year, please, drop down to the choir room and let me know; or grab me at coffee hour, or send me an email. We rehearse Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, and Bell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 4:30. We are ALWAYS welcoming alternate (substitute) ringers! Please contact me!

In Christ, I am yours---Nada

## UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR B

### April 1 - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

### April 8 - Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

### April 15 - Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

### April 22 - Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

### April 29 - Easter 5

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:24-30  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

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

# FLIPPING FOR CAMP CHICK!



This coming Sunday (Palm Sunday) we will be having a pancake breakfast between the two services (beginning at 9 am). Free will offerings will be taken during breakfast and the proceeds will go toward sending our youth to the Diocesan Camp Chickagami!

We will also be selling "Footprints to Camp Chick" for \$5 each.

Please come and enjoy the pancakes (gluten free available) and support our youth who want to go to Camp this year!

## LOOKING AHEAD...

### THE CAMP CHICKAGAMI 2018 SCHEDULE

FAMILY CAMP | June 27-30 | All ages! | Starting at \$300

*A flexible, structured program with optional activities and free time.*

MIDDLE CAMP | July 8-14 | Grades 6-8 | \$350

*A classic summer camp experience for middle-school aged youth.*

INTERMEDIATE CAMP | July 15-21 | Grades 4-7 | \$350

*A classic summer camp experience for intermediate-aged youth.*

TRIP CAMP | July 15-21 | Grades 8-11 | \$350

*A week spent exploring Northern Michigan with days spent backpacking and canoeing.*

JUNIOR CAMP | July 22-28 | Grades 3-5 | \$350

*A classic summer camp experience for elementary school aged youth.*

COUNSELORS-in-TRAINING | July 22-28 | Grades 10-11 | \$350

*Campers participate in leadership training focused on camp counseling.*

SENIOR CAMP | July 29-August 4 | Grades 8-11 | \$350

*A classic summer camp experience for our oldest campers.*

For more information or to register for Camp, go to [www.campchickagami.org](http://www.campchickagami.org)

Please let the office know if your child(ren) or teen(s) would like to go to camp this year!

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service  
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!***

## HOUSE OF BISHOPS STATEMENT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, GENDER BIAS & INEQUALITY

This is the first time the House of Bishops has met as a body since the #MeToo movement began last fall, bringing to light the reality of sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and the cultural stronghold of gender bias and inequity. We continue our own work of reconciliation within our branch of God's Church, honoring what we have learned and accomplished, as well as acknowledging the distance we still must travel. Reconciliation is the long work of healing offered by the Spirit, made possible by grace, which requires our truth-telling and repentance.

Many of us have experienced sexual harassment and perhaps sexual violence. Bishops who are women know the "me-too" experience. Some bishops who are men know it as well. We live with different experiences of the cultural endowment of power. We know the Church has fallen short of our responsibility to listen and respond. In this time of heightened awareness it is with greater intention that we now invite the church to a deeper examination of what God intends for our relationships.

This work will take courage. As many women and men bravely come forward to speak the truth of their experience, courageous men and women will listen, where appropriate repent, and take an active role in repairing the brokenness, working to change the culture of our church.

We will offer a listening process in an open meeting at General Convention to hear more fully the stories of those who have been victims of sexual harassment and violence in the church. The date and time is July 4, 5:15 pm to 7:00 pm in the House of Bishops convention meeting space. The design of this process is being developed. Further details will be posted via social media and through Episcopal news outlets.

Together women and men can form partnerships for reconciliation. We seek a more faithful, just and holy life together. We welcome the Spirit's renewing work among us as we seek faithfully to walk in the way of Jesus.

The Wednesday Night Soup Supper will NOT be taking place Holy Week through the beginning of April. We will resume Wed., April 18th at 6 pm.

# NEW - PRAYER TEAM

The ultimate goal of this prayer team is to get every member of this congregation praying together at the same time for our congregation, our vestry, our priest in charge and those for whom we've been asked to pray. I have arbitrarily chosen 2:00 each afternoon as the time. This time is independent of service time preference and those unable to reach the building for any service are also encouraged to join in the prayer time. This time of prayer will NOT include physically coming together but should be done wherever you can find the peace and quiet necessary for communing with God.

Any who want to join the Prayer Team at any time by letting me know they want to join officially. They will be official members by providing their names and email addresses (or phone numbers, if necessary) so they can receive the lists of those for whom prayers have been requested as noted below.

Any who wish they could join but believe that they cannot at this time are still encouraged to participate. These "unofficial" members will not receive the list of names but are still very welcome to join the team in prayer at 2 p.m. each day. As noted above, we still have much to turn over to God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit is still very much needed in our midst.

The time set aside at 2 p.m. can be as short as the few moments needed to thoughtfully consider each name on the list or each person or group noted above or as long as you are in a prayerful or meditative place in your mind and heart. These specific prayers can be combined with people or concerns on your own hearts; with collects or other prayers found in our Book of Common Prayer; or with Psalms, hymns, or other songs that help enrich your time with God.



Prayer requests can be submitted beginning March 18 on slips of paper set aside for that purpose in the narthex or via email to [prayerrequest@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:prayerrequest@stchrisgrandblanc.org). Email requests should use the subject "Prayer Request" and the body of the message should be limited to one or more first names. No signature or other information is needed. All requests will be compiled into a list for the members of the team on Monday. Prayer requests MUST contain ONLY the first name of the person for whom prayers are requested. No last names or other details will be allowed - God knows the people for whom we pray and what they need. People for whom prayers are requested MUST have given their permission for that inclusion. Prayer requests to this team will NOT be also treated as requests for pastoral visits - none of the information required for such visits will be included in the request since each will consist only of a person's first name. Pastoral visits can be arranged through contact with the church office or with Fr. Don directly. Names will be maintained on the list for two weeks.

At the team's discretion, one or more meetings can be scheduled during the year to explore forms of praying. In the meantime the daily prayer can be simply a few moments of silence while thinking about the names on the list, the use of the Lord's Prayer or one or more of the prayers included in the Book of Common Prayer with the names on the list, or part of a longer period of prayers or meditation. Any such meeting will be open to any who wish to attend.

If you have any questions please let me know. I look forward to working with you.

Linda Rathburn, Prayer Team Chair

# HOLY WEEK

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MARCH 25 - APRIL 1, 2018

**PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 25**

8 am - Holy Eucharist (spoken)  
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist (with music)

**HOLY MONDAY - MARCH 26**

Noon - Holy Eucharist (spoken)

**HOLY TUESDAY - MARCH 27**

7:30 am - Holy Eucharist (spoken)

**HOLY WEDNESDAY - MARCH 28**

5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist (spoken)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY - MARCH 29**

7 pm - Holy Eucharist (with music)

**GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 30**

Noon - Good Friday Liturgy  
7 pm - Grand Blanc Community Good Friday  
Service @ Holy Spirit Lutheran

**HOLY SATURDAY - MARCH 31**

7 pm - Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 1**

8 am - Holy Eucharist (spoken)  
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist (with music)