



The

AUGUST 2018

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services

5:30 PM Wednesday Holy Eucharist

SUMMER SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service

9 am - Adult Formation

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service

Coffee Hour following 10:15 am Eucharist



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and so much more!

COTTAGE GATHERING

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Cottage Gatherings. A special thank you to the 10 families which hosted the gatherings. Attendance at each of the gatherings was excellent and I am very pleased that so many of our people were able to hear about our financial situations and what efforts the Vestry is making toward a reasonable solution. Once we have information to share with you in the form of an update, we will share. A reminder, all Vestry meetings are open meetings and anyone is welcome to attend. Only elected members of the Vestry have the right to voice and vote, but, if you have something to say, just let the person presiding (normally the Priest) know.

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 Dr. 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

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Stephanie@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Michael Spencer, *Seminarian*

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www.stchrisgrandblanc.org



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St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS WANTED

After a very successful first year of our revamped Youth Formation/Sunday School, we are looking to continue that growth into the 2018-19 school year.

With a very solid core of teachers already committed, we would like to add a couple more. All we ask is that you can commit to one calendar month for next school year, which will start in October.

We will also be utilizing a new format that will see both the younger kids and older kids benefit alike.

The younger kids (up to age 10) will meet at 10 a.m. each Sunday in the classroom we used this past year. The older kids will stay in church, paying close attention to the sermon and taking notes, answering a 2-3 question questionnaire we will provide. The older kids (10 and older) will then meet for 10-15 minutes in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour after the 10:15 a.m. service to discuss and go over the lesson for that day with one or both of the teachers.

Interested in coming aboard? Feel free to contact Matt Mackinder at matt@stchrisgrandblanc.org or (248) 890-3944 for more information.

Thank you!

Matt Mackinder

Director of Christian Education
matt@stchrisgrandblanc.org



Youth Formation & Music Kick = Off Fair

**Wednesday, September 5
5 - 8 pm**

Calling all Sunday School
Teachers, Children and Families!

Calling all Choir, Bell Choir
Members or people interested in
joining!

Hamburgers &
Hotdogs Provided
Bring a dish to pass.

Games &
Activites

Here at
St. Christopher's Church

Bounce House
Bocce Ball

Grills & Grillers Needed!
Contact Matt Mackinder or
Nada to see how you can help!

ALLY GOLF CHALLENGE

September will be here all too soon-bringing the Ally Challenge to Warwick Hills and many visitors to our parking lot! Preparations for the Ally Challenge are progressing well. The volunteer sign up is nearly filled-but there is always room for extra help-especially over the weekend.

This tournament will be structured somewhat differently than the Buick Open. Throughout the week, we will be accommodating caddies, sponsors and other tournament officials with 150 contracted and reserved parking spots. The organization in charge of the event, Tournaments for Charities, has been wonderful to work with and very responsive to questions and requests! The fellowship hall will be in use Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings as their tournament volunteers attend orientation sessions. They will also be using the hall on September 14th and 15th as a sign in and staging site area for the 5K run, which takes place through Warwick Hills subdivision on Saturday morning. All of this combines to create a new event, a new challenge and I ask your help and patience as we prepare to welcome our guests to St. Christopher's and our neighbor, Warwick Hills.



Monday and Tuesday are arrival and practice days, the course will not be open to the public and (I am guessing) will be the slowest days of the week. Wednesday and Thursday are both ProAm days. We should see an increase in our traffic, but maybe not up to full volume, until the actual start of the tournament play, on Friday. An addition to Friday's schedule is the BIG AND RICH concert in the evening. I have added an evening shift to accommodate concert goers. Saturday morning will start with a 5K run through Warwick Hills Subdivision.

Saturday evening we will have an Evening Eucharist at 7 pm.

****NO SERVICES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 16th****

The tournament should end Sunday at approximately 5:30 pm.

If you worked the Buick Open, you know how much fun it is, if you are new to parking, don't miss out! You will be amazed at the number of people we welcome to our grounds, surprised at the number who have visited us before and enriched by the fellowship you will share with members of our congregation whom you may never have met before!

See you in the Parking Lot!

Ellen Safley

Golf Parking Fundraiser Coordinator



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

September 5th!! Mark your calendars!

It's that time of year again, folks--Wednesday September 5th, we will begin our musical fall church schedule in grandiose style!

Nothing says "come to bell choir rehearsal" like a bounce house and grilled hot dogs, right? --- but that is what we are going to do! So, **ringers, please be ready to rehearse 9/5/18 (our usual time, 4:30-5:30)** and then, simultaneously, from 5 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on September 5th, we will gather on

the North Lawn of the church for a little picnicking fun.

Then, around 7 (in a relaxed way), choir members, please gather in the choir room to start our Adult Choir rehearsal season! We will be singing some terrific works this year....so, please, shake the dust off of your vocal chords, bring your sharpened pencils and I will see you guys down in the choir room!

If you are some one who happens to be reading this and you are interested in singing in our choir or ringing with our bell choir, please drop by or drop me an email (nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org).

Welcome back, everyone and hope to see you all on September 5th.

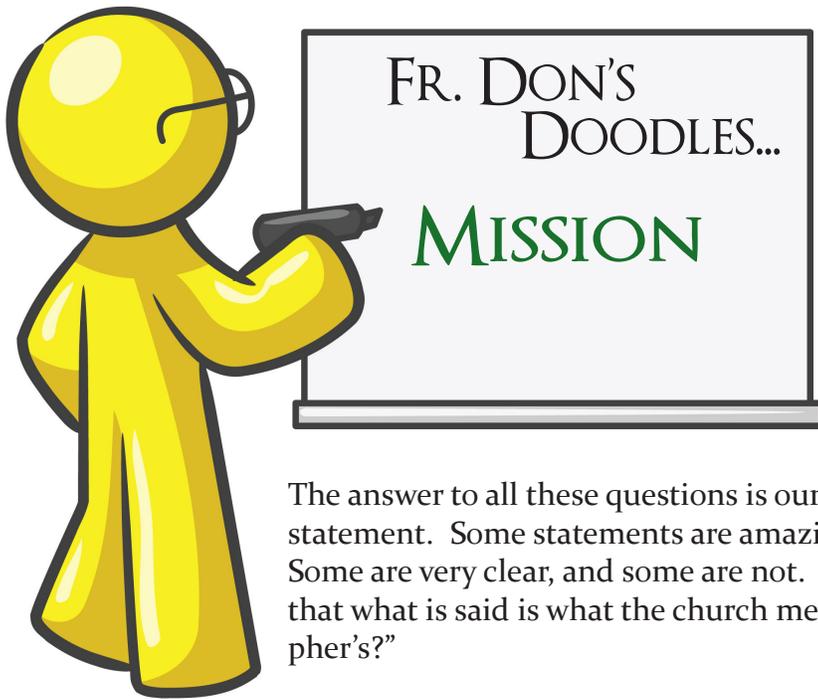
In Christ, I am yours,

Nada

GENERAL CONVENTION - AN OVERVIEW

Attending my first General Convention of The Episcopal Church was an amazing experience. It was also overwhelming and fascinating and incredible. I was glad I found the room that would hold all the deputies for legislative sessions before it filled up with people. The room was huge - I think it consisted of three or four exhibition halls in the Convention Center in Austin. It was actually large enough both in area and height that I was not overwhelmed by all the conversational noise when everyone was gathered but not yet called to order. When everyone was present, the room held more than a thousand people. In the end, we reviewed and voted on some 502 resolutions. Many were passed as they were received from legislative committee hearings and review but some were amended on the floor. Those that were passed by both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops become Acts of Convention. Some resolutions were rejected by one house or the other; some were considered to be finished and in need of no further action (such as confirming possible sites for future General Conventions); and some were passed to an interim body for further consideration or say.

...continued on page 9



“What do you want to do when you grow up?” is a question often asked of young people. The responses can be humorous. The same question can and does apply to churches, albeit slightly modified “What is your mission?” Honestly, the two questions are very closely related. What are we, the baptismal community known as St. Christopher’s, about? What is our purpose? What makes us unique in doing the work of Christ in this place? What would attract people to us?

The answer to all these questions is our mission and more specifically our mission statement. Some statements are amazingly short and others interminably long. Some are very clear, and some are not. The point is not so much what is said but that what is said is what the church means when someone asks, “Why St. Christopher’s?”

Here are a three of my favorites through the years: they all begin with “The mission of -----Church is..”

- * to Love
- * to make disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples of Jesus Christ
- * an open community, welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journey
- * We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and to care for others with love, justice, and compassion.

Some mission statements are coordinated with Vision Statements which indicate what the church does and wants to do more than the brief mission identity statement.

Mission statements are discovered through a process usually by the clergy and Vestry working together. In some cases, this work commences as soon as one priest leaves and the search process begins.

So, what is it that makes St. Chris so very special to all of us? What would we like everyone to know about us and what makes us who we are? Would you be interested in working with the Vestry in this work? If so, please contact me or Angela Campbell, our Senior Warden.



Don+
Priest-in-Charge

There's been lots of outings and gatherings for St. Christopher's in July & August!
Can you spot some familiar faces?





.."General Convention Overview", continued from page 5...

Worship was a part of every day - usually in the evening. Each service had a different type of music for gathering and different hymns. Convention was paperless so service bulletins were available on the iPads issued to every deputy or on personal smart phones or tablets. They're still available at generalconvention.org in the Worship section. Lessons and Gospel readings were also included in the bulletins in English, Spanish or French. At least one lesson was read at each service in a language other than English so it was great to have the lessons available in the bulletins. Languages included Chinese and a Native American language in addition to the more standard English, Spanish, and French.

One special service was organized by the Bishops as a solemn, prayerful response to the current #MeToo movement. Stories of sexual abuse and/or harassment were solicited ahead of time and read during the service by a bishop with another bishop standing on either side in support. A variety of resolutions also addressed this problem in our church.

Bishops Against Gun Violence also held short prayer services in the hallway between the rooms where each house met before the first legislative session each day. Each day had a different theme because gun violence falls into a variety of categories such as accidents, mass shootings, and criminal activities. Each service consisted of a relevant passage of Scripture, a short description of a shooting, and a time of prayer. Ninety-three small wooden crosses were handed out each day as a reminder that about 93 people die each day in the US because of gun violence. The bishops also held one morning prayer service in a park across the street from the convention center. One related resolution called gun violence a public health issue.

After the bishops' morning prayer service, some 19 buses and a dozen or so cars carried convention attendees to the Hutto Detention Center in Taylor, TX, for a prayer service in support of the immigrants interred there. In all, probably about a thousand people were there and we were assured that women in the center were aware of and appreciated our presence. Again, resolutions were passed to further address this issue.

Resolutions can be found online at vbinder.net listed either numerically or by topic. Historical records of how previous General Conventions handled various topics can be found at episcopalarchives.net. Of course, I'll gladly answer any questions I can.

Linda Rathburn

Lay Deputy to General Convention 2018

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR B
TRACK 1

August 26 - Proper 16

1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84 or 84:1-6
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Sept. 2 - Proper 17

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sept. 9 - Proper 18

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10, 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Sept. 16 - Proper 19

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Sept. 23 - Proper 20

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

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

NEVER TOO LATE...

Although some may shy away from the conversation, pre-funeral planning is a good idea. You may wish to visit with a trusted Funeral Director about the plans available. You also may wish to make an appointment with your priest and discuss what you want in the event of your death. The planning process includes your favorite hymns and scripture readings and the people you would like to have involved in the liturgy. One of the best things about doing this is that it is all ready when it is needed. Your children or whomever you have entrusted with decision making will not have to deal with those details. They may, of course, review them with the priest at the time and make modifications to suit the day, but your intentions, your desires are made known and those will be followed. A file with your information will be kept at the church in a locked location until the need arises.

A second note along the same lines: please consider the church when discussing your trust or will. A gift from an estate can be one of the best ways to keep a church healthy. Many churches have large financial savings called endowments which allow them to use a small portion of the interest each year for operational needs. Some estate gifts are for specific reasons, and still others come in the form of real property or paid-up insurance policies where the church is the beneficiary. I remember hearing one priest call a gift from his estate a way to keep his pledge going long after his death.

I am available to talk with you about any of the critical decisions of our lives, just give me a call and let me know how I can be of help to you.

Don+
Priest-in-Charge



Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Michigan

Thank you to those that joined us in June - both in person and online, those that submitted a transition reflection survey, those that have gathered groups within the congregation for discernment around the transition scenarios, and to those that have taken the time to speak one-on-one with members of our Standing Committee.

We have heard from many members of our community and we are grateful for your engagement and discernment as we look to the future. If you haven't already taken the Transition Reflection Survey, please consider doing so.

(Survey is located at: https://theepiscopaldioceseofeasternmichigan.formstack.com/forms/transition_next_steps_reflection)

As we head into October's Diocesan Convention, we want to share what you can expect to be presented from your Standing Committee and invite you to further conversation ahead of the legislative gathering on Sunday, September 16th. That information is below. *(For more information about Diocesan Convention, head to <http://eastmich.org/convention/>)*

...continued on page 11

.."Episcopal Dicoese of Eastern Michigan", continued from page 10...

As much as is possible, please participate and invite others in your congregation to participate in these discussions and gatherings, whether in person or online. We truly feel God's presence in these conversations across the diocese and as we listen for what God is calling us to be. Your voice is important as our diocesan community continues to listen and act.

Peace,

The Standing Committee & Diocesan Council

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

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

The Rev. Sue Rich*
Trinity, Bay City

Ms. Beth Barkley*
Trinity, Lexington

The Rev. Phil Seitz*
St. Mark's, Atlanta

Mr. Bill Thewalt*
St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc

The Rev. Barb Cavin
Trinity, Flushing

Ms. Amy Ellis
Christ Church, East Tawas

The Rev. Elizabeth Chace
St. Francis, Grayling

Mr. Jerry Rucker
St. Jude's, Fenton

The Rev. Ken Hitch
St. John's, Midland

Ms. Audrey Stephens
St. Paul's, Flint

**Denotes Standing Committee*

SEPTEMBER 16TH - TRANSITION GATHERING

Please join us on Sunday, September 16th from 3-6PM at St. John's, Midland for additional conversation around the three transition scenarios. We invite all members of the diocese to join us, especially those that will be voting at the diocesan convention.

The Standing Committee will present a report including the responses from the Transition Reflection Survey - a summary of participant responses and votes, some answers to frequently asked questions, and more.

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe will be with us to discuss and answer questions about the discernment process underway in the Dioceses of Northwest Pennsylvania and Western New York, where, respectively, Bishop Rowe serves as Bishop Diocesan and is nominated to serve as Bishop Provisional. Their process, termed "Rust Belt Episcopal", is comparable to our Transition Scenario #3. *(For all previous communications/information about the transition, please visit: <http://eastmich.org/bishop-transition/>)*

Please RSVP to help us plan for space and snacks. There is no cost to attend.

This gathering will be live-streamed on our diocesan Facebook Page and archived on the transition section of our website for those unable to attend in-person.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LABOR DAY

Monday, September 3 - Office Closed

FORMATION & MUSIC KICK-OFF FAIR

Wednesday, September 5, 5-8 pm

PARKING FOR ALLY GOLF CHALLENGE

Monday, September 10 - Sunday, September 16

NO SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES SEPT. 16

Saturday Evening Eucharist on Sept. 15 at 7 pm

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, September 14, 8:30 am @ Panera Bread

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, September 19, 1 pm

VESTRY

Tuesday, September 25, 6:30 pm

BLESSING OF THE MID-MICHIGAN THERAPY DOGS

Saturday, September 29, 11 am

SOCIAL MEDIA SUNDAY

Sunday, September 30 is Social Media Sunday!

Social Media Sunday was created by the Episcopal Church in 2013 as a way for congregations to share their lives of faith over social media. It has now grown into an ecumenical event celebrated the last Sunday of September every year.

Here at St. Christopher's, we are going to be celebrating by having a "selfie station" for you to take pictures with your family and friends to post on social media. You can check in on Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, or whatever social media platform you prefer.

Selfies not your style? No problem! I'll be standing by ready to take your picture with our digital camera if you still want to join in the fun!

With your permission, photos that are taken will be used in our online database accessible only to staff and some members of the Vestry and leadership staff.

So come prepared to take a picture and check in on social media Sunday, September 30!

Elizabeth Sawie

Administrative Assistant



**LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS, USHERS and GREETERS SCHEDULE
FALL 2018**

Date	8:00 am		
	LECTOR	LEM	USHER / GREETER
9-2		J. Miller	J. Beal / J. Beal
9-9		C. McDonald	A. Christie / J Brewer
9-15	7 pm		
9-23	K. Van Natta	T. Dyke	J. Miller / L. Alerie
9-30		N. Wells	L. McAra / T. Dyke
10-7		J. Miller	J. Beal / J. Beal
10-14		T. Dyke	J. Brewer / A. Christie
10-21		R. Shrank	S. Rice / D. Rice
10-28	K. Van Natta	T. Weston	J. Miller / L. Alerie

10:15am			
LECTOR	LEM 1	LEM 2	USHER / GREETER
M. Davidson	J. Thewalt	K. Curtis	U - . Bassett / J. LePard G-S. Huber / M. Huber
F. Burger	F. Burger	M. Spencer	U - B. Carter / H. Lackey G- The Wise Family
R. Shrank	R. Shrank	B. Luckey	U - J. LaPard / L. Alerie G- J. Taylor / M. Alerie
F. Gjerstad	M. Spencer	M. Kump	U - B. White / R. Rathburn G- B. Hartley / C. James
M. Kump	M. Kump	J. Thewalt	U - B. Hartley / F. Gjerstad G- H. Lackey / B. Walton
K. Curtis	K. Curtis	L. Rathburn	U - M. Latesky / F. Burger G- The Wise Family
G. Hassold	F. Burger	M. Spencer	U - F. Kump / B. White G- F. Gjerstad / M. Latesky
L. Rathburn	L. Rathburn	M. Kump	U - C. James / J. LePard G- The Wise Family
B. Thewalt	K. Curtis	J. Thewalt	U - . Bassett / B. Walton G- B. Thewalt / J. Thewalt