



The

MARCH 2019

# TRUMPETER

*St. Christopher's Episcopal Church*

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

*5:30 PM Wednesday Holy Eucharist*

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service

9 am - Adult Formation

10 am - Children & Youth Formation

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service

*Coffee Hour following 10:15 am Eucharist*

STAY UP  
TO DATE!



Website:  
[www.stchrisgrandblanc.org](http://www.stchrisgrandblanc.org)



St. Christopher's  
Episcopal Church



StChrisGB



# LENT

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Fr. Don's Doodles

Notes from the Music Room

Children & Youth Update

Senior Warden's Report

Curate's Corner

*and so much more!*

## SNOW

We have had a most interesting winter so far. I doubt I needed to tell you that, but I look at this from a slightly different point of observation.

Whenever we receive more than 2" or snow or a good coating of ice, our snow removal service goes to work on our parking lot. This happens no matter if there is anything going on in our building or not. The rule is that snow that sticks around - sticks around making it almost impossible to push or plow after thawing and a new storm comes along. The best way to make our parking lot available is to plow the lot as often as we receive that two inches. **At the end of January, we were already very close to surpassing our snow removal budget for 2019.**

If you have it in your heart to help out your church, please consider an extra donation this month and next to give us a boost. Thank you!

*Don+*

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
(810) 694-3600

*Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 am - 4 pm  
Thursday 9 am - 12 pm  
Thursday Afternoons & Saturdays  
by appointment

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## SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Not much has happened during this frozen February here at St. Christopher's – except repairs to the heating system, snow plowing, smaller than usual Sunday attendance and many trials affecting our congregation. Overcoming these obstacles has been a combination of our strengths and God's help. As we enter into our Lenten season, we should all remember what it leads to, how we can support our church and each other on the road to Easter.

Blessings to you all,

*Jane Brewer*  
Senior Warden

## CHILDREN & YOUTH FORMATION

Hard to believe, but we are coming up on the home stretch of the Sunday School year.

This continues to be an extremely rewarding experience for all involved. That simply cannot be stated enough.

Our dedicated group of teachers have given our congregation's kids so much in terms of the weekly lessons and having them apply these lessons to everyday life. I recently sat in on a coffee hour discussion with two of our teachers and two of our older kids and the conversation was very, very intriguing. It lasted upwards of 20-25 minutes.

This is working. And it is a benefit for kids to be part of this and to be a regular part of this – not just on Sundays when they acolyte.

I realize – and our family is in this boat – that life happens and we can't be in church every Sunday. But in the case of Sunday School, it can certainly be about quality over quantity. The kids that we see on a regular basis have said they want to be part of Sunday School, not because they have to.

*...continued on page 3...*

*“Children & Youth Formation”...continued from page 3...*

The second year of our revamped Sunday School program has been very enjoyable and I’m definitely looking forward to what these next couple months bring.

As always, please let me know if you would like to be a teacher or if you’d like more information on what we offer.

*Matt Mackinder*

Director of Christian Education



## SHROVE TUESDAY

**March 5, 2019 5 - 7 PM**

Fellowship Hall @ St. Christopher’s

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday. It was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast, and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

Come join us on March 5  
for Fun, Food, and Fellowship  
Try your hand at “flipping pancakes”.

No, you don’t have to make your own pancakes! You’ll see!  
There will be a free will offering.

**Bring your friends and family.**  
It will be a fun evening!

## UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR C

### **March 10- Lent 1**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

### **March 17- Lent 2**

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

### **March 24- Lent 3**

Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

### **March 31- Lent 4**

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### **April 7- Lent 5**

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

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

## THE CURATE'S CORNER

Many reading this are aware that I recently took a trip to the United Kingdom. Seems an odd thing, to take a vacation just after starting a new job, yes? What you might not know is that the original purpose of the trip was to take an intensive course as part of the requirements for my Master of Divinity degree, the basic degree most clergy in the Episcopal Church are required to obtain. My seminary program features



intensive short courses in January between the regular fall and spring semesters. I have completed intensive courses in such subjects as the Confessions of St. Augustine, maintaining good boundaries in ministry, and liturgical chant. This course was not unlike the others: a fair bit of advanced reading and discussion in online forums, and then a week of long days examining the course material in detail. The unusual bit about this course was that it was an exploration of the church growth that is being experienced in England's Diocese of London, and so, in order to get first-hand data, the in-person part of the course was conducted in England. I felt that I couldn't let this opportunity pass by, so I tacked on two weeks' vacation as well. I won't take up any space with vacation stories, but feel free to ask me about it; I can go on for days!

In broad terms, the course focused on new church plants and revitalized congregations. The Diocese of London is mid-way through a seven year project to start 100 new worshiping communities. They've planted just under 50 at this point, so they're on track to reach that goal. We visited churches of all shapes and sizes, and one of the important takeaways for me was a broader definition of what constitutes 'church'. There are some important academic definitions of that word, but 'church' doesn't have to have Eucharist every week, doesn't have to own a building, doesn't have to gather in the same space every time, doesn't have to have more than 12 people gathered, and doesn't have to have a lot of the 'have tos' that we might expect. I might have been able to agree with any of these ideas in principle, but to see it in action helps to solidify and expand the reality that the church has lots of shapes and sizes, and that no shape or size is the right or best size. Growth, however, was evident in every church we saw.

Growth comes in a variety of forms, and one of the guiding lights for this process of numeric growth is a two-fold emphasis on formation and evangelism. Those are very churchy words that pretty much mean "possessing knowledge of and being passionate about one's faith in Jesus Christ" and "having the capacity and the will to talk to non-Christians about one's faith." Our siblings in London have worked hard to make sure their people know the tenets of their faith and have the skills to share what they know with others. These two areas, formation and evangelism, are usually at the top of the list of things that Episcopalians haven't excelled at recently. We're pretty busy people, so finding time for a bible study, a book group, or a workshop on prayer is no easy thing. If you're just trying to make ends meet, most everything else gets ignored, and that is understandable. You can start small, however, and over time build up your store of knowledge and your ability to talk about your faith. There are so many resources that we can explore together if you're feeling called to gain more mastery of the teachings of the faith and a more profound sense of God's presence in your day-to-day life. I for one do not like to feel unprepared for difficult conversations, and let's face it: talking to an avowed atheist about your belief in God is difficult! So let's find a way to help you get prepared. It doesn't happen in one 45-minute class; it's a long-term commitment. But aren't most of the things worth having?

*Rev. Canon Michael Spencer*  
Deacon



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Superstar cellist, Yo-Yo Ma, came to Flint Thursday, February 28 and performed at the historic Berston Field House. Our own tenor, Aaron McCoy-Jacobs was invited to be a part of the program that Ma presented in a strategy session about cultural collaboration for social change. (Ma, even performed the first piece of music he learned at age 4.) His visit to Flint is part of a two-year journey upon which he has embarked, to perform the Bach Six Suites for Solo Cello in 36 locations around the world, which are a part of the 'conversation Ma is establishing to open our minds about the role culture plays in our society. Thank you, Aaron for donating your time and talents to this very worthwhile event!

March is upon us! Which, happily means that the **Festival of Choirs event will be taking place here at St. Christopher's on March 17th at 4 pm.** Please mark your calendars! The Mawby Chorale has very kindly invited our St. Christopher's Adult Choir to participate in this wonderful afternoon of music-making. We will have somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 vocalists filling our nave, singing the glorious music of Beethoven, Hassler, Burleigh, Forrester and several other choral gems! Also participating in this program will be the choirs of First Presbyterian Church of Fenton, Dr. Bruce Nieuwenhuis, director; and Court Street Methodist Church, David Lindsey, director. Dr. Ryan Beeken, Director of Choral Studies from Indiana University (Indiana PA) will be the guest clinician. Dr. Beeken holds his DMA and MM from MSU; his undergraduate degrees in vocal performance and music education were earned at Drake University in Iowa.

If this concert inspires you to want to just inundate yourself in fabulous choral works, then, too, please mark your calendars for the **Flint Symphony Chorus' debut choral concert at St. Christopher's on April 7th, also 4 pm. start time.** The Flint Symphony Orchestra, the newly refurbished St. Christopher's Keates and Geissler Organ, Jeff Walker, co-director and yours truly will be helping to bring this wonderful concert to life! Many members of our St. Christopher's Adult Choir: Ellen Safley, Cynthia Butcher, Audrey Ditri, Rosa Wang, Judy Conyers, Miranda Armfield, Victor Galea, Pat Lewis, Tristram Shayna, Linda Rathburn (emeritis) do or have sung in the Flint Symphony Chorus; also, tenor, Tim Weston (8 o'clock service) and the music director from St. Jude's in Fenton, the ever fabulous Marlene Weston!

THE Carolyn Mawby Chorale PRESENTS THE  
17TH ANNUAL FLINT  
**Festival**  
OF CHOIRS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 4 PM  
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Grand Blanc  
\$10 Suggested Donation  
810-687-2854 | carolynmawbychorale.org  
Printing Supported By  
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Carolyn Mawby CHORALE

...continued on page 6...

*“Notes from the Music Room”...continued from page 6...*

Please help us welcome our newest ringers in the St. Christopher’s Bell Choir: Pat Lewis and Sue Corless. Pat offered to fill in at a few rehearsals, and found that she was kind of having fun and then Sue talked to Victor Galea about perhaps giving a rehearsal a try, and has been bringing her fun sense of humor and fine musicianship to our bell ensemble for several weeks now. We are having a blast! Welcome Pat and Sue! Too, Sue has joined our adult choir. We are so pleased to count Sue in our alto section.

With this, I encourage any of you who would like to learn to play bells or might be inclined to dust off your vocal chords to please drop by the choir room (which a certain church angel has been making improvements to right and left! ---thank you Bill!) and see me. I am here on Wednesdays from a.m. to p.m. Or catch me after a church service on Sunday, and let’s talk!

In Christ, I am yours,

*Nada*

Director of Music



# LENTEN STUDY MATERIALS

*Looking for a ways to go spiritually deeper during the season of Lent?*  
**Try one of these Lenten stuides and disciplines!**

I forward to your attention, this recent letter signed by our Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, the Rev. Jim Wallis, and several other faith leaders, calling the church to "Reclaim Jesus" through prayer, fasting, and action.

[To find this letter, go to [www.episcopalchurch.org/public-affairs](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/public-affairs), "Browse Archives" and find release from February 14, 2019 - "Presiding Bishop Curry, the Rev. Jim Wallis join with faith leaders to issue letter of Reclaiming Jesus: A Call to Prayer, Fasting and Action".]

I intend to take on the discipline of fasting during this Lenten season, eating one meal per day and donating the money I would otherwise spend on food to feeding programs within the diocese.

I invite you - the people of the diocese - to consider joining me in this fasting and prayer for all who suffer chronic hunger, violence, and racism.

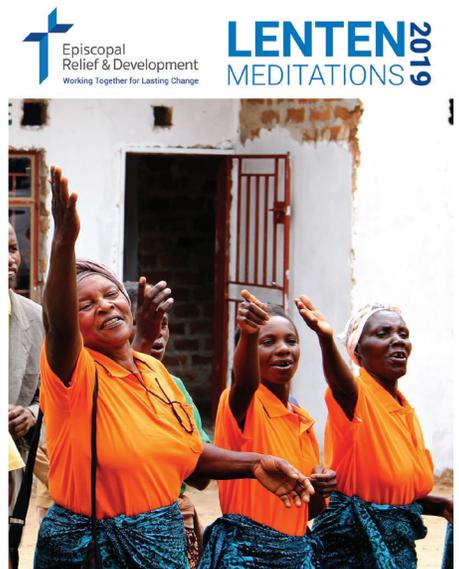
Peace,

+ *Cate*

**The Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick**  
Bishop Provisional  
The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

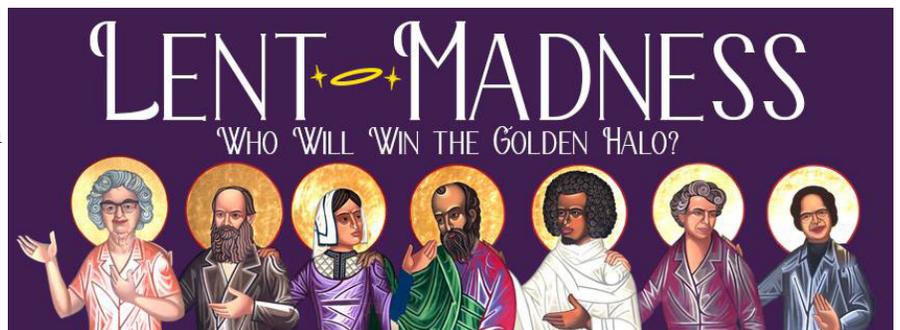
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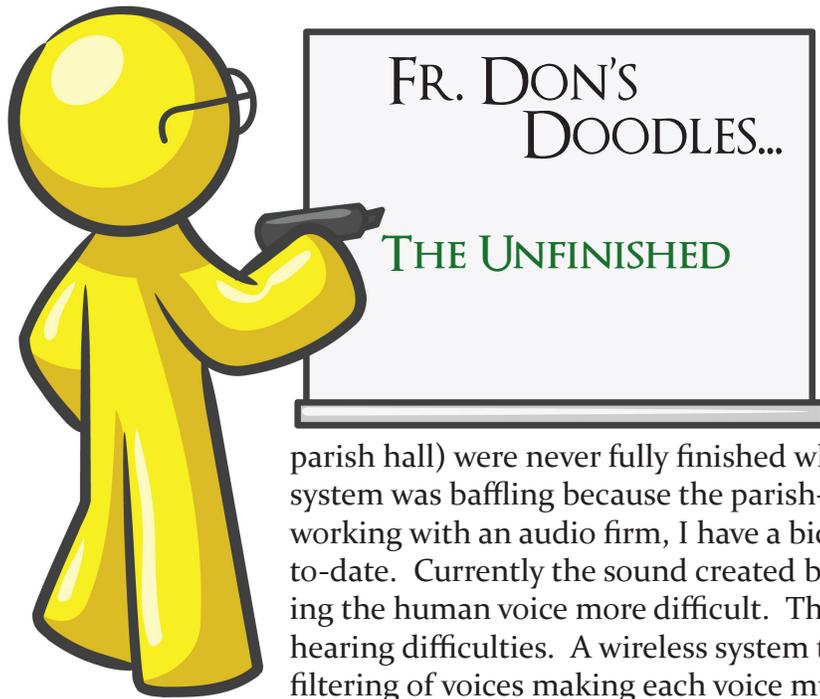
**The Episcopal Relief & Development Organization** releases a small Lenten studies booklet with daily lessons. We have several books available for you to take home in the gathering space.



If you are looking for a more light-hearted Lenten study, we will be posting the bracket for the annual Lent Madness...madness!? Every day during Lent, there is a choice between two saints. You can go online and vote for your favorite - if they win, they go on to the next round. Only one saint will win the Golden Halo!

To vote you can go to [LentMadness.org](http://LentMadness.org) or follow Lent Madness on Facebook.





In every church, or at least every church building in my experience there are always things that are unfinished. Great ideas that get started and never completed, wonderful projects that unlike the little engine that could, are the ideas that didn't.

Allow me to bring to your attention two among the category of the "not yet." The Public Address systems (nave and

parish hall) were never fully finished when the building was completed. The PA system was baffling because the parish-owned equipment could not be used. In working with an audio firm, I have a bid to bring the PA system in the nave up-to-date. Currently the sound created by system makes hearing and understanding the human voice more difficult. This is particularly true for people who have hearing difficulties. A wireless system that can be operated on a tablet would allow filtering of voices making each voice much easier to understand without making the sound unreasonably loud. To complete this work would cost us \$8000.00.

Our HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) system has been a saga all its own. During our recent boiler inspection, our backup boiler was "redlined." Both of our old boilers are now unable to be repaired because the parts are no longer available. If for any reason our big boiler would go on the fritz, we have no backup. A backup boiler would cost us \$23,000.00. Ouch! To get back in graces with the Boiler Inspector (State of Michigan), we will need to either remove our non-working back-up boiler and hope, or remove our old boiler and replace.

In the Annual Meeting booklet was a copy of our parish wishlist. The wishlist is just that, the needs that, at present, we cannot afford. Like the two things above, we always have things that need to be done. Now a concluding thought. If your church building looks pristine and beautiful and everything works, it may be that the church building is not used much. If in your church building the things that move are falling apart and things that do not move are wearing out, then your church is doing ministry for the glory of God.

Let's be a busy place.

In Christ's love,

*Don+*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 5 @ 5 pm

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 6

Spoken Eucharist Service @ Noon  
Eucharist Service with Music @ 7 pm



### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 14 @ 2:30 pm

### ELIZABETH TIME OFF FOR WEDDING & HONEYMOON

Thursday, March 14 - Tuesday, March 19

Saturday, March 30 - Saturday, April 6

### CAROLYN MAWBY CHORALE CONCERT

Sunday, March 17 @ 1:30 pm

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION WITH FISH

Monday, March 18

Food Pick-Up at Food Bank of Eastern Michigan @ 10:30 am

Set-Up at St. Christopher's @ 11 am

Food Distribution at St. Christopher's @ 2:30 pm

*See Bill Anderson for more information or to find out how to help.*

### WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, March 20 @ 1:30 pm

### PRAYER TEAM MEETING

Sunday, March 24 @ 9 am

### VESTRY

Tuesday, March 26

Eat & Chat @ 5:30 pm

Meeting @ 6:30 pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are SEVERAL Outside Groups using our building during March & April.  
Please refer to our online calendar that can be found on our website  
for more information on these dates & times.