



The

JULY 2019

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services

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

STAY UP
TO DATE!



Website:
www.stchrisgrandblanc.org



St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church



StChrisGB

IN THIS ISSUE:

Fr. Don's Doodles

Welcoming

FISH Report

Notes from the
Music Room

Foyers

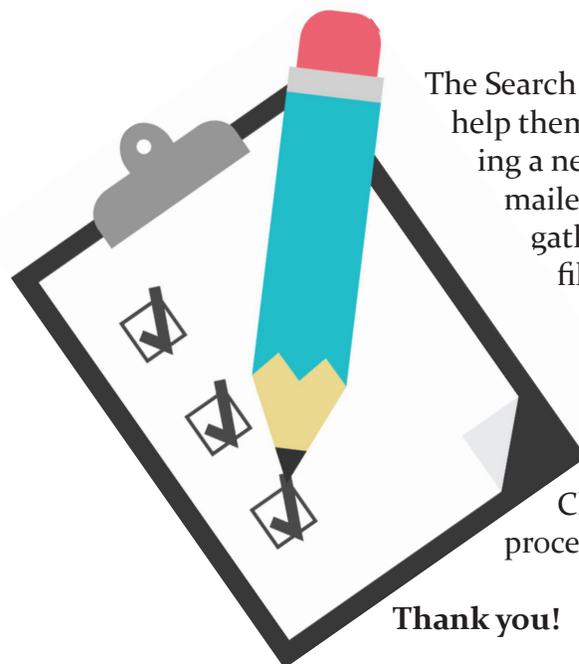
and so much more!

SEARCH COMMITTEE SURVEY

The Search Committee sent out a survey to help them as they begin the process of finding a new priest. If you didn't receive your mailed copy, there are extra copies in the gathering space. Please pick one up and fill out and return by mail or in the offering plate.

They need to hear from YOU as they begin the process of putting together a profile for St. Christopher's and begin the search process for a new priest.

Thank you!



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

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,
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WELCOMING TEAM

At the request of Fr. Don, a welcoming team has been formed. This group will lead the efforts of our church to welcome people who appear to be first-timers to St. Christopher's. The welcoming team has a supply of jars of Michigan Cherry jam to be given to these new guests. If you encounter a newcomer, be sure to let a member of the team know. We are also in the process of preparing informational pieces to be placed in the pews.

The Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan recently sponsored a seminar at St. John's Midland entitled "Invite, Welcome, Connect." This seminar stressed that the process of Inviting, Welcoming and Connecting people to St. Christopher's is NOT the job of a Welcoming Team. It is, instead, the job of the entire congregation. Each of us has a role in this process. Inviting is really Evangelism. We are not simply welcoming people to St. Christopher's but we are Inviting them into a relationship with you and others into a relationship with Christ.

We have learned from many people who joined St. Christopher's that they did so because they felt welcomed in their first visits to our church. We need to continue this tradition of hospitality in order to grow our congregation in the future.

We also have learned that many of us our reluctant to greet people we do not know for fear of offending a long-time parishioner whose face is not recognized. One way to avoid this embarrassment and remain hospitable is to greet these people with, "I'm sorry, but I don't know your name." From there it is easy to invite them to coffee hour and, perhaps, introduce them to others.

Over the next months the Welcoming Team will be providing additional resources that St. Christopher's can use to aid all of us in putting our best face forward to newcomers. It is our hope that all of us can become ambassadors for St. Christopher's.

The team members are Bill Anderson, Flo Gjerstad, and Jane Yorks.

Bill Thewalt

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear St. Christopher's Wonderful Members!

Your Vestry and Search Committee are working hard to keep the continuity of our congregation moving forward. The participation of our church members in the activities of the church has been very reassuring. The Lugnuts excursion, FISH Food Distributions, and all the supportive Ministry Teams are small examples of how we are growing and loving each other.

We are patiently waiting as our turn for the new roof comes up. Should be soon.

The upcoming Ally Challenge will again afford us the opportunity to volunteer, get outdoors and show the greater community what St. Christopher's is made of. Watch for more announcements soon.

As always, you are the foundation and strength of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Blessings to us all!

Jane Brewer

Senior Warden



A PRAYER FOR TRANSITION

Your Vestry asks that you pray daily for the search process. We ask that you use the following prayer:

Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. Christopher's Church. Be with us and lead us as we seek a priest for our church.

We ask your direction and guidance for all those who choose our new spiritual leader that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Grant us perception, faithfulness, and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations.

Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR C

July 14 - Pentecost 5

Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 21 - Pentecost 6

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 28 - Pentecost 7

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

August 4 - Pentecost 8

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 11 - Pentecost 9

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

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

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Greetings all lovers of great music and fellow Ding-a-Lings!

Thank you ALL, once again, for a wonderful year of music making! Ringers, Jane Yorks, Caroline James, Sue Corless, Ellen Safley, Audrey Ditri, Flo Gjerstadt, Pat Lewis, Joyce Thewalt, NancyLee Fawcett, Billy-Bob Hartley, Rev. Michael Spencer, and our fearless leader, Victor Galea--- Gosh you guys really put in the time and effort throughout the year to make bells a blast! Thank

you, so very much! I am hoping that we might be able to find a time in August to have a little 'Ding-a-ling' gathering....please let me know if any of you may have a conflict in during those weeks.

Speaking of August, the planning coordinator for the Flint Master Singers', NancyLee Fawcett, has arranged to have this fine ensemble sing at St. Christopher's on August 25th at the 10:15 service.



Tom Fortier will be conducting as well as playing the organ on this date. (Please be sure to be here!)

I have a special thanks I would like to include in this note for the very beautiful reception which Ellen Safley very generously planned and prepared for the opera workshop performance we held on June 2nd. at St. Christopher's. It was so very elegant; it so perfectly fit the occasion. Thank you, Ellen--- everyone who sang that day has told me how much they appreciated (how pampered they felt) this beautiful repast. Thank you!

News on the side of very cool: There were 21 Favorite Hymn suggestions that were submitted!!! Way to be, you guys!! Thank you!!! I will do my best to program all 21 of these pieces over the next 7 weeks. Thank you, EVERY ONE who took the time to write down what you would like to hear.--- !!! I am looking forward to matching these hymns with our weekly liturgy as best as I am able. Also, please pay special attention to the Postlude that Dr. Hassold will be playing every Sunday over the weeks of the summer...he is incorporating a 'mystery' hymn each Sunday in the Postlude....it is our job to try and figure out which tune we are hearing. Isn't that fun?

The summer is just zipping by....I can hardly believe we are already in the middle of July! Well, please try to remember that Adult Choir will resume rehearsals on September 4th (7 p.m.) , and that will mean also, that bells will be rehearsing on that Wednesday as well, 4:30. Soup supper, I am sure will start back up at some point in September.

Thank you Noralynn Hassold for working on the choir folders and the





choir robes and getting all of that organized and in great shape! Thank you, both Drs Hassold for the generous donation towards choir robes for our Adult Choir. You both do so very much for this beautiful place. Thank you, from everyone in the choir!

Until then, I remain, in Christ, yours,

Nada

Director of Music

Pictures from "An Afternoon at the Opera" on June 2, 2019.

ALLY CHALLENGE RETURNS!

Even though the arrival of summer was a challenge in itself, before we know it September will be upon us. The Ally Challenge will return to Warwick Hills the week of **September 9th through the 15th**.

St. Christopher's has been contracted by the tournament directors to become an "official parking lot." We will be parking caddies, media, staff, VIPs (notice I didn't list caddies as VIPs!) and volunteers. To some, this may not seem like a big change, but for St. Chris, there are several benefits:

- 1) It will require fewer people to "staff" the lot.
- 2) No payments will be collected at the entrance. This will eliminate many trips to the bank for change, daily counting by 2 people of the income and trips to the bank to deposit monies.
- 3) All signage will be provided by the tournament. They will set everything up and take everything down!
- 4) The income from the parking lot is a confirmed amount-\$20,000. We are not dependent on the size of the crowd or the weather.

The Sign Up Board will be posted early in August. Please mark your calendars to have fun, raise funds and support St. Christopher's and the Ally Challenge! Watch the Pew Pulse for additional info as it becomes available and (possibly) a couple of surprises!

Ellen Safley



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

To the Members and Friends of St. Christopher's Church:

FISH of Grand Blanc and the recipients of the Food Rescue Genesee County Project would like to express gratitude and appreciation for your partnership in this endeavor. It simply would not have been possible without your allowing us to use the Fellowship Hall!

As you may know, FISH partnered with the Grand Blanc Community Schools to “rescue” foods that were not sold in the cafeteria on any given day. All foods that were freezable were placed into containers and collected on the first and third Mondays of the month. Items ranged from cheeseburgers, hot dogs, pizza, chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, gravy, meat sauces, veggies and more. On the day of distribution, volunteers went to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan where (when available), they picked up fresh produce, dairy and bakery items. Additionally, they also purchased “reclaimed” items to supplement the frozen items as well as ordered some items such as pasta and spaghetti sauce, cereals and various meal items. Some days, over 2,000 lbs. was brought back to distribute!

To keep the foods frozen, they were placed in commercial Styrofoam coolers which were categorized by entrees, potatoes, breakfast items, meats, etc. and placed on the round tables.

To be eligible to receive the items, recipients simply had to reside within the Grand Blanc School District. For those who did not live here, we did not send them away empty handed, they did receive a grace package of items according to their family size. While we would like to help all in need, given the size of our community and the need, we simply do not have the resources to assist more than we do at this time.

Many thanks to all who volunteered from October 1st to June 17th to assist in this rewarding effort along with FISH and community members. Together you served 5,662 lbs. of rescued frozen foods, loaded, unloaded and sorted 31,265 lbs. of foods from the Food Bank. That's a Grand Total of 36,927 lbs. or 18.5 tons of food!!!! Those 18.5 tons helped provide about 110 lbs. per person to over 2,050 people!!!!

It goes without saying, this project exceeded our expectations that again, without your partnership would not have been possible. What a tremendously warm feeling to know that together, we have reached out to so many of our struggling neighbors and help them !

However, our work is not done and while waiting to resume the Food Rescue on September 16th we will be embarking on the Kids Summer Food Program. This program is providing enough foods to prepare 3 meals per day per child for one week. The dates are July 15, August 5 and 19. Our goal is to assist 200 children at each of these dates. We need volunteers and helpers for 2 shifts – 8:15-45 to load the truck and 8:45-11:15 ish to unload the truck and distribute the foods. For the most part, most items will weigh less than 15 lbs. Items will be left in the cases and volunteers will monitor the recipients as they pick up the items and open new cases as needed. To volunteer, please email us at fishofgrandblancmi@gmail.com or call 810.866.4409 and leave your contact information.

Sincerely,

Barb Smith

FISH of Grand Blanc Chairperson



FR. DON'S DOODLES...

INSERT FOOT
HERE

There are times I can be sensitive and other times when I am less than diplomatic. Most of us have moments when the thirty-second “think before speaking” timer does not work as well as it should, and we spout off words that when once spoken cannot be unheard. There are so many times that I have said the wrong thing to the wrong person at the wrong time, or putting it another way, I have managed to stick my foot in my mouth so far that I was enjoying sole food.

Last week and for the first time in our marriage, Marcie and I hosted dear friends from Southeastern Ohio. Tim was my college roommate for three years at Rio Grande College (pronounced Rye-o, and now the University of Rio Grande) in Rio Grande Ohio. Liz and Tim met at a Lutheran Church camp at age 14 and have now been married 35 years. They have been and with God’s help will continue to be “family” as we all grow older.

With all the memories and the crazy things of our college days we do not share political leanings. No need here to go into who likes whom or what, suffice it to say there are differences. Having to keep my own thoughts quiet in our home was a new and thoughtful enterprise. At first, I felt I should try to convert them to my way of thinking because of course I am “correct.” I quickly thought better of that as I could see the manifestations of such a silly attitude.

With full knowledge of the situation, I still found myself uttering my own sentiments at inopportune moments. “No no” I said to myself, and yet like a thunderstorm sweeping in off the western plains, out the words came, words which would not be well received by my very dear houseguests.

Although it is way too early in my estimation, our election cycle has begun, or did it ever really end. At no time have our various allegiances been so polarized and sadly brothers and sisters, families, friends, businesses and churches have seen less than civil squabbling about who and when and where and what. Finding common ground has become more and more difficult leading people to feel angry if not persecuted from one side or the other.

From my heart to yours, we need to pray about this. We should pray for those who wish to serve our nation, state and local governments. We should pray that they who wish to run for the office are more interested in serving the people than with credit, popularity, ego and titles. We should pray that all people practice a new kind of due diligence where they do not take the word of biased talking-heads but work carefully in learning as much as possible about each candidate. The letters I,D, or R should not be where our diligence ends, it should be where our diligence begins.

The days of the church being apolitical have either ended or are in significant remission. Some churches and denominations spend more on political work than they do social work, others seem to ignore their lofty Christian principles when it comes to a few specific issues.

Here are a few thoughts as we attempt to live through another round of political unrest:

- 1) Love does not mean we all have to agree, but it should mean we accept that other perspectives exist and that compromise is the only true way to regain harmony and move forward.

...continued on page 8...

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

- 2) Words hurt. We all have a right to say what we truly think and believe, but we do not need to intentionally cause pain in the doing.
- 3) Worship should be a "politics time-out" zone. Remember when receiving communion that God's call is not to be politically one way or another, but to be faithful to the teachings and ministry of Jesus our Lord.
- 4) Always look for the truth. There is a reason for the 10 commandments. There are no good reasons that one person should ever lie to another.
- 5) Love one Another. I am convinced that Jesus was right (I hope that is not a big surprise) when he called us to do that first. When we see each other as a child of God and a person that needs love, we just might be able to find that common ground.

Be assured my brothers and sisters in Christ of God's love, of the presence of Christ in our lives and of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Please pray that all our leaders may feel that love, become aware of that presence and follow that guidance.

Don+

Priest in Charge

**WHAT A GREAT GROUP!
TURKEYVILLE OUTING JUNE 27, 2019**



FOYERS

WHAT ARE FOYER'S?

“Foyers, “Foyer Groups”, or “Foyer Dinners” are a fun and easy way for parishioners to gather together on a regular but informal basis for purely social reasons – to enjoy one another’s company, to strengthen bonds of community, to meet new members and just to get to know other people who share the St. Christopher’s community. Foyer Dinners provide a means to develop new friendships and deepen old ones and are a way to make our congregation feel warmer.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Foyer groups are open to the entire community of St. Christopher’s. Newcomers are especially invited to join one of the groups at any time. Groups are made up of singles, couples, young people, retired folks, etc., in other words a cross section of the parish.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THEY HELD?

Foyer dinners are usually held Friday or Saturday evenings, Sunday brunch or dinner, each month in the homes (or restaurants) of volunteer Foyer hosts. Each month the group can decide who the next Foyer host will be. When meeting in the homes, the group can make it a potluck dinner. Groups are kept small with 9 to 11 in each.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Contact Joyce Thewalt at joycethewalt@gmail.com and/or cell 810-238-0278. I will be starting a list of people who are interested.

Please indicate if you are able to participate in your homes or prefer restaurants. Some of you leave the cold weather to go south in the winter, but you are also included. Please indicate the time you will not be available so that I can arrange groups accordingly. We will start in October and end this year’s Foyer Groups in May.

Our Foyer kickoff potluck dinner will be on September 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm. At that time you will be able to meet with your Foyer Group to start off this event.



Joyce Thewalt

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan



SATURDAY SERIES 2019-2020 ACADEMY TO OFFER CLASSES IN HOLY SCRIPTURE, THEOLOGY & ETHICS, AND PREACHING

Dear Friends in Christ,

In conjunction with the Academy for Vocational Leadership, the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry offers the opportunity for all people - lay and clergy - to participate in academic classes.

In the 2019-2020 school year, the Academy will offer the Year of the Bible and Theology and Ethics. These classes include both in-class lectures and at-home readings and preparation.

Those seeking a license to preach are required to take the entirety of the Year of the Bible and Homiletics. These courses may be completed in the same year, or in sequence beginning with Bible in the first year and Homiletics in the second. Licensure also requires practice preaching, both in the Academy and in your congregation.

Please contact me with any questions about the Academy, our offered courses, or preaching licensure.

Join us!

Val

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo
Director, Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry
The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan
vfargo@eastmich.org | 989-708-7460

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER GO TO
EASTMICH.ORG/MINISTRIES/COPPAGE-GORDON-SCHOOL-FOR-MINISTRY/SATURDAYSERIES/



UPCOMING EVENTS

LUGNUTS OUTING

Thursday, July 18

ELIZABETH, ADMIN. ASSISTANT, OUT OF OFFICE

Wednesday, July 17 - Friday, July 19

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, July 19 @ 8:30 am

FAMILY PROMISE DINNER HOSTS

Sunday, July 21 & Thursday, July 25

VESTRY ON CALL

Tuesday, July 23 @ 6:30 pm

FR. DON, PRIEST, OUT OF OFFICE

Thursday, July 25 - Monday, July 29

ALLY GOLF CHALLENGE

SAVE THE DATES!

Monday, September 9 - Sunday, September 15

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