



The

AUGUST 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](http://www.stchrisgrandblanc.org)



St. Christopher's  
Episcopal Church



StChrisGB

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*and so much more!*

big  
**THANKS!**

To Our St. Christopher's Family,

Thank you for all the calls, cards and prayers sent to Michael during his recent surgery and recovery. He is progressing well and slowly getting his strength back!

We are blessed to have you in our lives!

God's Peace,  
Michael & Karen Carr

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
(810) 694-3600  
[Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto: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*  
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The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,  
*Priest in Residence*  
[FrMike@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:FrMike@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,  
*Associate Emeritus*

The Reverend Canon Michael Spencer,  
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Jarod Willams, *Interim Sexton*  
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## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS WANTED!

**With the next Sunday School year set to begin in October, it's time to start planning.**

We'll be utilizing the [sermons4kids.com](http://sermons4kids.com) curriculum once again next school year.

The format will also remain the same with all kids up through fifth grade being in the classroom from 10:15 a.m. until the Peace and all the older kids staying in church and taking notes on the Gospel and Sermon to be discussed during coffee hour with that day's teachers.

If you'd like to continue as a teacher, or would like to learn more about joining our volunteer staff, **we will be having a meeting during coffee hour after the 10:15 a.m. service on August 25.**

Can't make the meeting or have any questions? No problem. See Matt Mackinder in church or contact him at [matt@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:matt@stchrisgrandblanc.org) or (248) 890-3944.

Thank you!

*Matt Mackinder*  
Director of Christian Education

## FOYERS

**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.

### 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.

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# SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear St. Christopher's Congregation,

Your Vestry is working very hard to do the business of your church. The summer is speeding away with more work to be accomplished before...the end of 2019!? Hard to believe but God is directing us so not to worry. Prayers have been answered as Fr. Don (with the Bishop's approval) has agreed to lead us until our new rector is hired. Greatest news EVER!

The Ally challenge is coming-see the information provided by the wonderful Ellen Safley.

The roof is completed so we are covered.

Take some time to reflect on how you can contribute your time, talents and treasure in service to St. Christopher's as we move forward.

Blessings to all of us,

*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

### August 18 - Pentecost 10

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-18

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

### August 25 - Pentecost 11

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

### Sept. 1 - Pentecost 12

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

### Sept. 8 - Pentecost 13

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalms 139:1-5, 12-17

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

### Sept. 15 - Pentecost 14

Jeremiah 11:1-12, 22-28

Psalms 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

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

“Foyers”...continued from page 2...

### 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](mailto:joycethewalt@gmail.com) and/or cell 810-238-0278. I will be starting a list of people who are inter-

ested. 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.

*Joyce Thewalt*



## THANK YOU!!

### Thank you to our July Coffee Hour Hosts!

Sharon Escue, Flo Gjerstad, Ellen Safley, Casaundra White, Jane Yorks

**Sign up for Coffee Hour is on the door of the kitchen. Please consider signing up for a Sunday to host by yourself or with a group following the 10:15 am service. It need not be elaborate - a baked good or tray that goes with coffee and water is enough. You can decorate or bring as much or as little food as you like. Have fun!**

# ALLY CHALLENGE RETURNS!

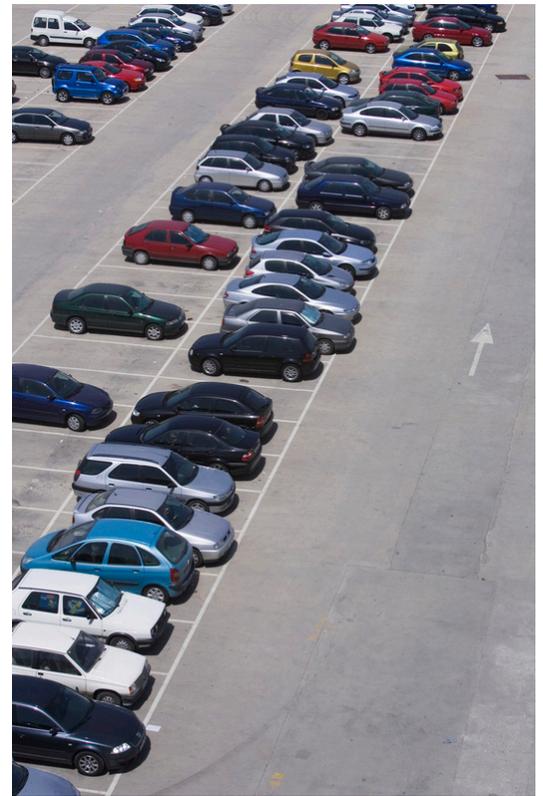
**Monday, September 9 - Sunday, September 15!!!**

**The Sign-up Board is posted in the gathering space. Please sign up and mark your calendars to have fun, raise funds and support St. Christopher's and the Ally Challenge!**

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.

There will not be a Sunday morning service Sunday, September 15. We may have a Saturday evening service TBA. Keep an eye on the Pew Pulse for further updates.



## CAMP CHICK RETREATS

Youth Camps might be done for the season but there are still a couple of adult retreats coming up in August! Go to [CampChickagami.org](http://CampChickagami.org) to register!

**WOMEN'S RETREAT AUGUST 16-18, 2019 \$200**

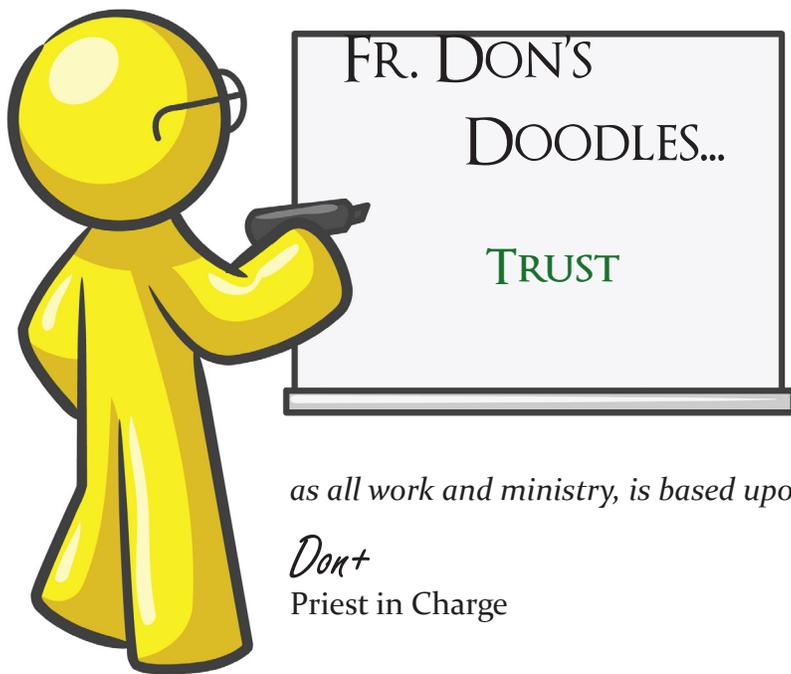
Our popular Women's Retreat returns once more. Join us for several days spent in community focused on building a closer relationship with God. Led by the Rev. Emily Olsen, Pastor of Christ the King ELCA in Gladwin, our retreat will focus on the stories of women in

the Bible - both seen and unseen. The schedule for our retreat is flexible - with time spent both alone and in group.

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 2, 2019 \$40**

Young Adults are invited to spend a long weekend at Camp Chick as we form deeper relationships with God. Our flexible program will include time alone and with the larger group with a special focus on our connection with food and community.

What's a young adult? We define it as someone college aged and older. If you feel like you're a "young" adult, you probably are. Retreat participants are welcome to bring their kids.



*The following is a paper I wrote for the June regular meeting of the Vestry. Over the past four-years together we have achieved much and I am deeply thankful to Almighty God, our parish lay leadership and our Episcopal Church. What made the work successful is not the outward achievements but personal trust and a willingness to move forward in faith. I am excited as we turn the page to a new chapter in the search for a new priest and in further developmental work. That work and ministry,*

*as all work and ministry, is based upon trust.*

*Don+*  
Priest in Charge

Over the past four years, as of July 1, there has been an intentional movement to engender trust at St. Christopher's. The trust of which I am speaking is reciprocal, meaning not just trust in the priest and/or vestry (the leadership) but that the priest and vestry have trust in the community and in each other. According to Ralph Waldo Emerson "Trust [people] and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great."

The engendering of trust within a baptismal community takes significant time. The work must be foundational, meaning one does not campaign for trust, but through intentional ministry, ensure and garner trust.

Through the years I have understood that trust is inseparable from faith or belief; that trust is shown through integrity and character, ensured through action and garnered through gentle and careful listening.

If trust is broken through unmet but promised expectations, lack of total transparency, boundary violations, illegitimate action or the lack of inner strength or personal character, the consequences can be significant. This breakdown of trust occurs when the community cannot (or perceives it cannot) trust the leadership or when the leadership feels it cannot trust the people ("is any one out there?").

I believe that the single major focus of my ministry here has been trust development.

Some helpful definitions: (Organizational Trust, Human Development and Leadership Division, ASQ, Milwaukee, WI)

**Basic trust** is the ability and willingness to meet people without inordinate suspicion, the ability to talk comfortably to and deal with strangers, and the willingness to enter intimate relationships. Basic trust provides the basis for one's entire personality and demeanor toward the world.

**Simple trust** is the utter absence of suspicion: it demands no reflection, no conscious choice, no scrutiny, and no justification. It may come about because no reason has ever arisen to question the other's trustworthiness, but it may also be that the one who trusts is simply naïve.

**Blind trust** has been exposed to violation and betrayal but refuses to believe it has occurred. After facts have shown that significant lies have been told, that a person has little or no character, blind trust is

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## “Fr. Don’s Doodles” ...continued from page 6...

difficult to change. Blind trust denies the possibility that leadership is anything but trustworthy. This is often found in a cult following, misplaced loyalty, passions turned sideways, or through a traumatic event(s).



**Authentic trust** is fully self-aware, cognizant of its own conditions and limitations, open to new and even unimagined possibilities, based on choice and responsible due diligence rather than the mechanical operations of predictability or a reliance on rigid rule following. Authentic trust is aware of the risks and willing to confront distrust and overcome it.

Authentic trust also means making the hard choices to do the right thing rather than falling into the trap of boundary violations, system comforts (“we have always done it that way before”), or persistent attitudinal seduction (“it won’t hurt, no one will mind”).

Authentic trust leads to productive parish relationships. An authentic trusting relationship doesn’t simply happen, nor can it be mandated or forced. Authentic relationships evolve over time starting with small acts and progressing to full strength based on individual experiences.

Some of my own discoveries over nearly 35 years of ordained ministry:

- There is something worse than distrust – and that is indifference.
- Always get the greatest number of people involved. The more people who feel ownership in a given event or work, the better.
- If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got. You never improve on something without change.
- Give people room to breathe.
- No one is ever indispensable. If they think they are, they may be part of the problem and not part of the solution. If they think they are, ask them to put their finger into a bowl of water and see the change when they pull it out.
- Fresh faces in leadership is not just a good idea it is essential.
- Raising money is not a value in itself; a value may be making sure we have heat and air conditioning. Keeping our building and investing in our future is a goal. Providing space for food for the hungry is doing the work of Christ.
- Our budget is not just a spreadsheet of numbers, it is a statement of what really matters to us. One of my mentors told me years ago: think about defending your parish budget, sitting on the witness stand with Jesus as the judge.
- If the vestry adopts a policy, the vestry should follow the policy. Exceptions can be a negative trust factor.
- The vestry is “vested” (trusted) to be the servants/stewards to the community.

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“Fr. Don’s Doodles” ...continued from page 7...

- Some folks are always going to be “EGR” (Extra Grace Required).
- Leadership must speak clearly. All goals must have a reasonable and compelling rationale.
- Don’t let the priest be the Vestry.
- Don’t let the Vestry be the priest.

Trust development can be a slog up a slippery hill. Sometimes it can be two steps forward and one step back. I believe, with all my heart, that without taking the time to intentionally engender trust and help people to believe in the goals and values designed and presented by the leadership, no project, no matter the goodness of its purpose will ultimately be successful. Trust comes first.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these thoughts tonight.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### VESTRY

Tuesday, August 27 @ 6:30 pm

### ALLY GOLF CHALLENGE

Monday, September 9 - Sunday, September 15

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION WITH FISH

Monday, September 16

### WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, September 18 @ 1:30 pm

### FOYER POTLUCK

Thursday, September 19 @ 6 pm

**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.

