



The SEPTEMBER 2019 TRUMPETER

*St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services*

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 !



St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church



Website:
www.stchrisgrandblanc.org



StChrisGB



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Grand Blanc
FISH Update

and so much more!

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,
Priest in Residence
FrMike@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,
Associate Emeritus

The Reverend Canon Michael Spencer,
Curate
Michael@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
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Director of Christian Education
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Joel Stoeklin, *Sexton*
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A SLOWER PACE

One cannot go into the operating room, have their sternum cut open, have three by-passes and come out of the operation the same person as the one who entered. I woke up to see the lovely smile of my wife, nurse and best friend looking at me and I asked her if it was time to go for the operation. She politely, quietly informed me that the surgery happened three days ago. I don't know what happened as I did not feel, thank God, a thing. But something did happen. It is hard to explain. I feel, see, hear, sense all of God's creation in a different way...

I am finding out, more so in recovery, that there is an art and science to my new way of life – slow living. These remaining days of summer I am trying to learn both.

In music you can measure this. The tempo called Largo-Italiano for slow and broad- and clocks in at 40 to 60 beats per minute. Allegro doubles that pace while Presto races up to 200 beats per minute. Largo as art comes after much practice, once the metronome is turned off and you begin to play what you really love (Puccini anyone?).

Oftentimes the pace of living is mind-blowing for me: how fast it is to make a purchase online, how fast it is delivered to the house, how quickly we can avoid human contact, how fast we become addicted to our cell phones, iPads, and computers. This post-op time is showing me another way, my discovering little invitations and card wishes to slow down. One came by way of a phone call several weeks ago. I have not heard from this friend for a good number of years. He heard of my operation and wanted to share his own experiences of several he endured. The call was simple and newsy: new trips, death of his spouse, grandkids new and old. The call surprised me and transported me to another time and place. What we did in grade school, high school and seminary.

In our busy modern world, to sit down and write (as many of you did to me) a note is a powerful affirmation of that person's dignity. I felt as though each pen stroke, each thought, came from your hearts and I am grateful.

These days I take my time doing things and do not worry about being on a schedule or saying yes to every invitation that comes along. I rest when I feel the need to do so and enjoy the bird songs and the blue sky and the wind whistling in the trees.

...continued on page 7...



SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS NEXT MONTH!!!

As our children head back to school for another exciting year, that also means that Sunday School/Youth

Formation is ready to kickstart into high gear for another year at St. Christopher's.

Our school year will begin on Sunday, Oct. 6 and will wrap up in mid-May.

The format will not change from the 2018-19 school year, a year that I consider a real success.

Children of any age up through fifth grade will meet in the classroom (which looks substantially bigger and cleaner, thanks to our own Bill Anderson!) with two teachers each Sunday from 10 a.m. until the Peace.

The older kids (middle school on up) will stay in church and take notes on the Gospel and the Sermon and then meet with the two teachers during Coffee Hour to discuss that day's lesson.

Weekly lessons for our curriculum can be found at www.sermons4kids.com.

Our teachers this year will include Bill Anderson, Noralynn Hassold, Matt Mackinder, Stephanie Mackinder, Nadine Portela and Joyce Thewalt. We already have the year's schedule complete and Joyce and Noralynn will teach the month of October.

Each set of two teachers will teach a month before giving way to the next duo. This lends to continuity and after doing it this way last year, made for a more conducive learning environment.

We are all really looking forward to continuing this endeavor!

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please email me at matt@stchrisgrandblanc.org, call/text (248) 890-3944 or see me in church.

Matt Mackinder

Director of Christian Education

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR C

Sept. 8 - Pentecost 13

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Sept. 15 - Pentecost 14

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Sept. 22 - Pentecost 15

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Sept. 29 - Pentecost 16

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Oct. 6 - Pentecost 17

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

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

Please bring your
pet(s) in a
carrier or on a leash



Everyone (and their Pets)
are welcome to
St. Christopher's

Annual Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6
12:30 pm



You're also welcome to
The Blessing of the Mid-Michigan
Therapy Dogs
Saturday, October 5, 11 am





INREACH POTLUCK!

THURSDAY SEPT. 19 @ 6 PM

Celebrate the artistic creativity of St. Christopher's parishioners!

Parishioners may bring objects they have created. That would include art work, needlecraft, woodwork, counter finishes or jewelry.

This is a chance to display the creations of your talents and begin a new year at church.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Grand Blanc, Michigan



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Wow--- didn't that fly by fast? What was that you ask? Summer.

It seems as though we sang the last few notes of our anthem in June, and here we are, ready to start rehearsing again, this coming Wednesday, September 4th; 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir and 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir.

But, truth be told, I am so looking forward to our reassembling and making wonderful music together again.

Thank you, every one of you who gives of your musical gifts to both our Adult Choir (now that we have a new roof upon our church, we will have to be careful about blowing it off) and the pieces we will be playing with our fun loving Ding-a-lings!

Sunday, September 8th, one of our newest musician church members, Ken Duck, will be playing from the Faure' Requiem the heart-rendingly beautiful "Pie Jesus" during communion on the clarinet. We rehearsed several days ago, and it is truly moving. I hope that we all can find a moment to say hello to Ken and his lovely wife, Myrtle at the coffee hour after service. They hail from the D.C. area.

Thank you Victor Galea, Bobbie Goergen, Doris Williams, Elizabeth Sailus, Brief Harmony, Jeff Walker, The Flint Master Singers and Tom Fortier for guesting with us over the summer. It was wonderful of you to share your talents with our congregation. We are so very blessed!

Please mark your calendars everyone, as November 24th will be the 32nd Annual Community Messiah Sing. Downbeat happens at 4 p.m. (rehearsal go like this: Nov. 2, 9 & 16, 10-12. Please be certain to attend two of these three rehearsals. Dress rehearsal is November 23rd, 10-12:30 all here at St. Christopher, as well as the performance.)

Please make note that our September 15th Service will be held on the Saturday evening prior, September 14th, at 6:30 p.m. This is because of the Ally Challenge and the need for our parking lot! And yes, we will still be holding all rehearsals on September 11th, at our respective times.

If there are members of our congregation who might like to sing with our choir or ring a hand bell, please drop down to our music room, or leave a post-it on the door, or a note in my mailbox, or shoot me an email (nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org) or let Father Don or Deacon Michael or the inestimable Mrs. Sailus know, and they will let me know!

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada
Director of Music



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear St. Christopher's Faithful Congregation,

The weather is definitely turning cooler as September gets into full swing. With this transition we look forward to what is in store for St. Christopher's.

The Ally Challenge is coming and the volunteer board is almost full...check to see what time slots need to be met and consider what would work best for you. Ellen Safley's hard work is paying off. Thank you Ellen!

Convention is coming in October but now is the time to let Ellen, Colleen Shrunk, Linda Rathburn or Bobbie Walton (our delegates) know any concerns you may have.

Financially, we are steady but still not solid. Please keep your generosity in the forefront of your prayers as we head into our Stewardship season. WE are welcoming any volunteers for this important project-the Stewardship Committee. Please let Fr. Don or myself know if you are interested in serving on the committee.

As school has started, so has the return of our Christian Education program for all our church youth. Keep this special ministry in the forefront of your thoughts and let's continue to grow our future.

Blessings to you 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.



FR. DON'S DOODLES... WHAT IF CHURCH WAS CONVENIENT?

**What if church was convenient?
(Tongue placed firmly in cheek.)**

I know that coming to church can be truly inconvenient. I have no doubt about that. Sometimes the services are too early or too late in the morning, and of course the weather can be too hot or too cold. Sometimes people get to bed too late on Saturday which has an effect on the time of services. While most professional sporting events do not begin until later in

the afternoon, there is the American liturgical tradition of tailgating which needs careful preparation. There is after all only one Sunday morning a week so one must make a decision carefully about that sacred time.

For these and many more reasons, I have some ideas on how we might make church more convenient starting with putting in a church drive-in window. If McDonald's and some funeral homes can do it, why not us? It would need to be a two-window set-up. At the first window one would receive a card with the gospel on one side and a list of church events on the other; then at the second window one would receive a small wine soaked consecrated wafer in a earth sensitive baggie with a video blessing by the priest. People could tune-in on their car radio for church music while in the parking lot. The acolytes could run a coffee and donuts concession.

Another possibility would be confession by email. Just write-down your confession for the week and email it to the priest and within seconds you will receive your personalized email absolution.

The sharing of the peace could also be done electronically. One person could send the "peace" to another and then they to another and another until by the end of the week everyone has received hundreds of "peace" texts or emails.

The big idea is moving Sunday. Since it seems that there are no end of other things to do on Sunday morning, maybe we need to move Sunday to what was Wednesday. I suppose this would be upsetting to all the calendar makers and maybe upset the formula for finding Easter as published in our Book of Common Prayer, but Wednesday morning does not seem as crowded and the new Friday Saturday Wednesday weekend might be truly helpful.

There are many folks who would love to come to church but cannot due to situations beyond their control. This silly article was not about them, it was silly and was meant to be silly. Let me switch to a serious thought. Sunday is still the day that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Sunday morning is a time to give thanks for life and the grace of Christ. How we spend each day is a gift of free-will given to us by the God who loves us unconditionally. The decision to come to church is yours and yours alone.





of Grand Blanc

"WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS"

Summer has literally flown by and hopefully everyone enjoyed a restful and relaxing time. For several St. Christopher parishioners, this summer was a rewarding one as they participated in the Kids Summer Food Program with FISH of Grand Blanc. Some were up and at the church setting up for the distribution of foods that provided 3 meals per day, per child, for one week. Others met at the High School to load the truck at 8:15 and others were at

the church at 9:45 to help unload and pass out the foods. Their efforts helped provide over 8,500 meals at the two July and two August distributions! Over 100 very grateful families participated in the program and expressed their sincere gratitude for the kindness and support to the volunteers.

Autumn begins a very busy schedule for FISH as we prepare to continue our Food Rescue/Distribution on Monday, September 16th and submission of Christmas basket applications in October and November as well as Feed the Bus on Saturday, November 23rd. Basket deliveries will be December 13th.

Needless to say, these projects assist many Grand Blanc seniors, veterans, children, and adults. In fact, many more people than most of us think reside in our community. FISH would like to reach out to you and ask St. Christopher's to again partner with us and our efforts. St. Christopher's usually provides volunteers for the Food Rescue on the 3rd Mondays: October 21, November 18, December 16, January 21 (Tuesday), February 18 (Tuesday), March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15th. We will place a sign-up sheet on the office door for all volunteer opportunities.

A reminder that FISH is an all-volunteer organization and to be eligible for FISH programs, recipients must live within the Grand Blanc School District. All donations to FISH remain in Grand Blanc.

For more information, concerns, comments, please contact FISH by calling: 810.866.4409 or emailing: fishofgrandblancmi@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Barb Smith
Chairman, FISH of Grand Blanc

..."A Slower Pace", continued from page 2...

I am trying to live in Largo. I am letting my life waltz. The Italian word for Largo, it turns out, is from the Latin word, largus, meaning abundant. Yep, there is indeed an abundance to be found in slow living...living in largo time.

Fr. Michael +
Priest in Residence





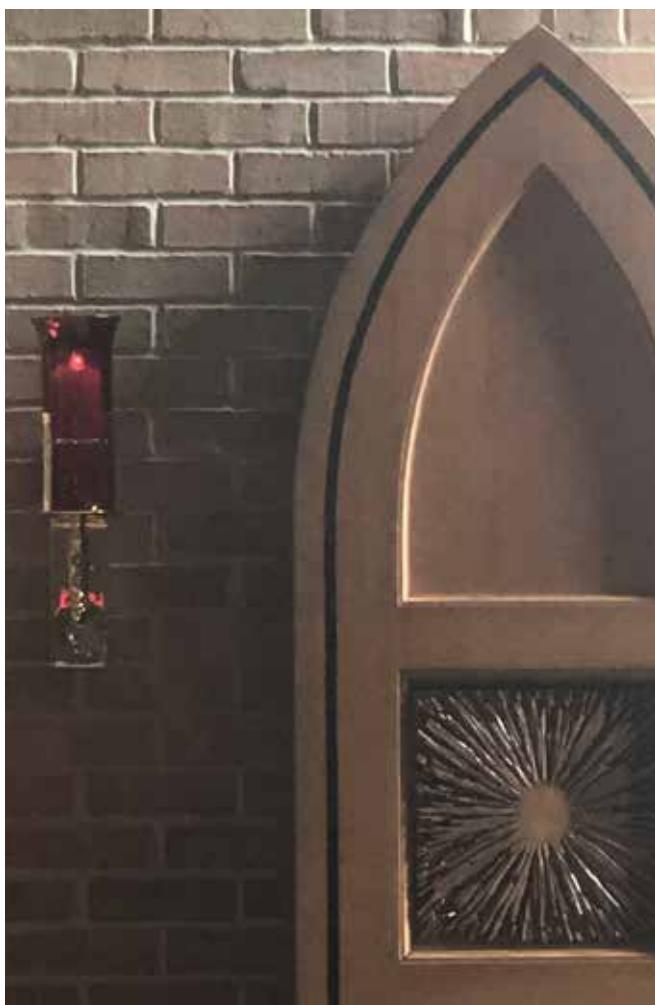
THANK YOU!!

Thank you to our August Coffee Hour Hosts!

Shirley Dove, Bobbie Walton, Joyce Thewalt, Ellen Safley & Sharon Escue

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 - store bought or homemade baked goods 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

ALLY GOLF CHALLENGE

Monday, September 9 - Sunday, September 15

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE

Saturday, September 14 @ 6:30 pm
NO SUNDAY SERVICE 9/15

CANON SPENCER AWAY

Monday, Sept. 16 - Thursday, Sept. 19

FR. DON ON VACATION

Monday, Sept. 16 - Thursday, Sept. 26

FOOD DISTRIBUTION WITH FISH

Monday, September 16

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 18 @ 3 pm

INREACH POTLUCK

Thursday, September 19 @ 6 pm

VESTRY

Tuesday, September 24 @ 6:30 pm

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, September 25 @ 1:30 pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES RESUME

Evening Prayer, Wednesday, September 25 @ 5:30 pm