



The TRUMPETER

DECEMBER 2019

*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 am - Children Formation
- 10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service
- 11:30 am - Youth Sermon Discussion
- Coffee Hour following 10:15 am Eucharist*

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

- 4:30 pm - Bells Rehearsal
- 5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist in Columbarium Chapel
- 6 pm - Soup Supper
- 6 pm - Wednesdays with Jesus
- 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal

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St. Christopher's Awarded Grant Money

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

STAFF

The Right Reverend Whayne Hougland Jr,
Bishop Provisional
of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern MI

The Reverend Dr. Donald F. Davidson,
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SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

First and foremost, Merry Christmas to everyone!

Our youth Sunday School program continues to move right along for the 2019-20 school year.

While it's no secret that St. Christopher's doesn't have many children, I believe that those families that choose to partake in our Youth Formation on Sunday mornings take something away each Sunday.

The six volunteers that we have this year – Bill Anderson, Noralynn Hassold, Nadine Portela, Joyce Thewalt, Stephanie Mackinder and Matt Mackinder – truly enjoy their time with the kids, whether we have one child or six.

As a reminder, all kids up through fifth grade go to the classroom during church and until the Peace, while all the older kids stay in church and take notes on the Gospel and Sermon, meeting with the teachers after church during Coffee Hour.

This is truly a rewarding experience for all involved. If any members of the congregation wish to sit in on a Sunday class or Coffee Hour discussion, by all means, please do!

Our lessons are all online at www.sermons4kids.com.

Also, there will be no Youth Formation on Dec. 22 and Dec. 29. We will resume on Jan. 5.

Once again, Merry Christmas and see everyone in 2020!



Matt Mackinder
Director of
Christian Education

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear Faithful Family of St. Christopher's,

Advent has begun and we are grateful. The season of preparation allows us to prepare for the coming of our Savior, the baby Jesus. Advent celebrated at home is a great way for us to experience this wonderful season.

A recap of our many November activities is as follows:

- The majestic ordination of the Reverend Michael P. Spencer followed by the wonderful reception organized by Ellen Safley was memorable.
- The Stewardship Appreciation Brunch was a huge success enjoying the amazing culinary skills of Cassaundra White.
- The Stewardship Campaign is continuing into December in order to reach our financial goal.

Please look for the December flower envelopes at the front table. The church will look even more festive with the addition of our poinsettias. Thanks to Louise McAra and her helpers for the greening of our "home".

Blessings to All this wonderful season!

Jane Brewer

A PRAYER FOR TRANSITION

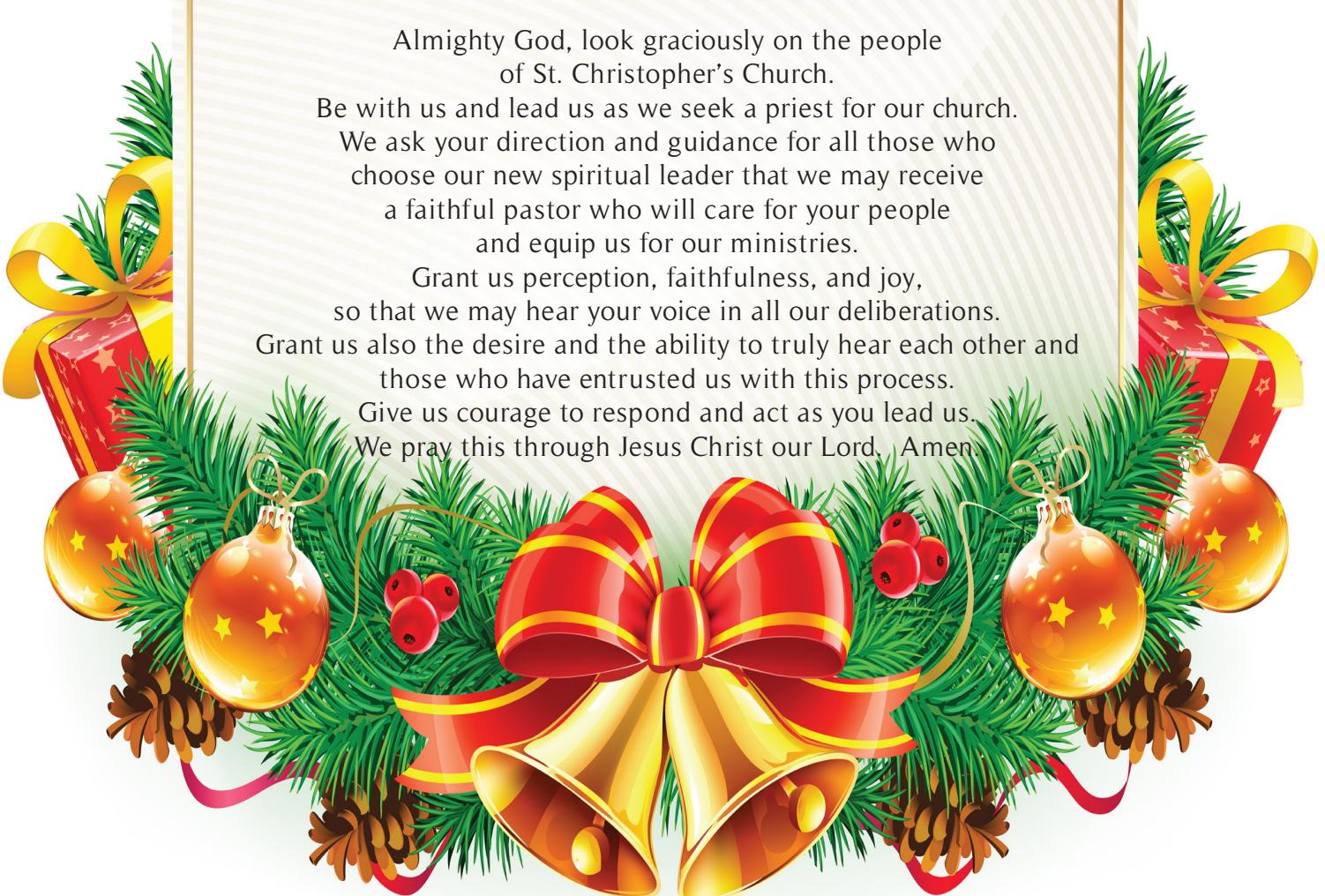
Almighty God, look graciously on the people
of St. Christopher's Church.

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.





NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Well, the month of December is here, and our bell choir is ringing ringing ringing! Thank you, each one of you in our St. Christopher's Bell Choir for doing your best, and bringing joy each time we gather! Thank you, Bill Hartley for your constant running dialogue about how the rest of the bell choir could not hold things together without your low C! And it has been just wonderful having you back at the bell table, Nancy Lee! Thank you, Victor, for all of your hard work with us!

You make us sound better even at times when each one

of us wonders, "Was that right?" Thank you, each ringer, who has attended faithfully, rehearsals every Wednesday--thank you Sue Corless, Caroline James, Jane Yorks, Ellen Safley, Audrey Ditri, Flo Gjerstadt, Pat Lewis, Joyce Thewalt, Gabby Ireland, Nancy Lee Fawcett and Bill Hartley. You guys are such a blast!

Ken Duck, you were spotted playing at the Flint Farmers Market December 7th!

Pat Lewis, Victor Galea, Greg Hassold, you guys were spotted at Lydia Mendelssohn Theater in Ann Arbor Yeomanning your Guard! Live-streamed no less!

Thank you, EVERYONE from St. Christopher who helped bring the 2019 Grand Blanc Messiah Performance to fruition. It was truly a thrilling afternoon, musically! And see that, Bill Thewalt? It does pay off, attending this musical event for 32 years running!~ You went home with the big prize! Father Don, your support of this work, this performance kept the team of us who were working on it, inspired and motivated. Thank you! Thanks for singing Noralynn Hassold, Bob Van Duyne, Darlene Hartley, Audrey Ditri, Cynthia Butcher, Judith Conyers and Victor Galea, for playing cello in the orchestra.

Just to let everyone know who sings and rings at St. Christopher, rehearsals will resume after the New Year, January 8th. Please, Choir, be at our service on the 5th of January.

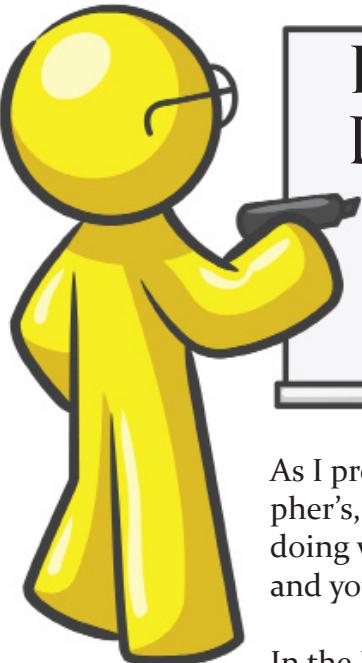
Any questions, please drop down to the music room or nab me at soup supper!

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada

Director of Music





FR. DON'S DOODLES...

TAKING LEAVE FAITHFULLY

As I prepare to step away from St. Christopher's, I want to do this faithfully and in so doing we (Marcie and I) ask for your prayers and your understanding.

In the Episcopal Church there are guidelines for every priest that leaves their "cure." The word "cure" is a lovely word that is not used as much as it was once. It comes from the Latin *cura animarum* and can be translated care of souls. A priest has to his/her charge a "cure" which is more than just a building, operation or staff, it is the whole concept of a full baptismal community that have found a home, and worship together in one place.

Once a priest has found recognition as the priest (pastor) of a given cure, a relationship develops. "I am your priest." In a sense, I belong to you, I have a role within the security and bounds of our/your connection, relationship with the church. When I leave, I am no longer your priest as God is calling someone else to be your priest.

As a child I remember well when Pastor Jerry Schmalenberger left First Lutheran Church and Pastor Bob Secrest became our new Pastor. I did not understand. I loved Pastor Jerry, he was caring and loving and funny. As a child he was my pastor and I looked up to him. When he left it hurt. He went on to an amazing ministry and served thousands of people. As it turned-out, Pastor Secrest was a fantastic guy, ham radio operator and pilot and I loved him too.

The 1960-1970s were easier in some respects. There were no cell phones. One disconnected the phone in one place and connected it up with a different number in another. There were no email addresses that follow you anywhere or social media that forces us, in some ways, to stay connected. The pastor simply stopped being the pastor in one place and took up the position in another.

Today, it is much harder. My mother faithfully sent a Christmas card to the Schmalenberger family for years but after a while he and his family were but a happy memory. Pastor Jerry, Pastor Bob, you were

...continued on page 6...

UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR C & YEAR A

December 15 - Advent 3

Isaiah 35:1-10
Canticle 15, Magnificat
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 22 - Advent 4

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 29 - Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

January 5 - Christmas 2

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 2:1-12

January 12 - Epiphany 1

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

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

..."Fr. Don's Doodles", continued from page 5...

both wonderful pastors and mentors to a young boy many years ago.

In some respects, leave-taking is a matter of hospitality. You truly cannot greet, love and welcome a new priest when you are still holding on to the last priest. We all want to honor the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing a new, exciting and creative leader to St. Christopher's, and not get in the way.

Practically, after my departure I will no longer officiate at weddings, funerals or services of St. Christopher's Church. I would appreciate it if you did not ask me, as my gift would be to say to you that I am honored by your invitation, however "Father? or Mother? is now your priest. This is not mean, nor does it mean that I do not care, it establishes a boundary. I intend to give that gift to you and to the priest(s) who follow my time here.

Allow me to add, on a personal note, that it is quite natural to think that "We'll be the exception to the rule, that we will be social friends, that somehow we will finagle a way for..." I want you to know that I will abide by the guidelines of the diocese and the pastoral direction of my Bishop. To do so is a part of my discipline and my vows as a priest of the church.

If you see Marcie and I at a restaurant or in the grocery store, or run into us at a Diocesan function, please say hi. We would love to say hello to you.

The following is a snippet from the guidelines for clergy leave-taking:

- "Continued contact between the cleric and congregation confuses boundaries. It is hard for the new cleric to build relationships within the congregation when the former cleric is still present in their lives, physically, emotionally or otherwise.
- Rule of thumb [for clergy]: don't initiate contact. Respond politely, avoiding conversation about the congregation, church, new clergy, interim leadership etc. In social media, do not enter into private direct message conversations with former parishioners or clergy.
- Friendships: while it's normal for friendly relationships to develop between cleric and congregants, it's crucial to remember that clergy status means that the pastoral relationship is primary...
- For how long? Indefinitely."

Truly this is a natural, healthy part of being church and respecting roles. I look forward to watching, from a distance, the wonderful future of St. Christopher's. Marcie and I will forever treasure our time with you, and you all will be in our hearts and prayers all our remaining years.

Don⁺

Priest in Charge



S t . C h r i s t o p h e r ' s
E p i s c o p a l C h u r c h

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE 2019

C h r i s t m a s E v e

T u e s d a y , D e c e m b e r 2 4

5 p m - S e r v i c e

1 0 p m - C a r o l i n g

1 0 : 3 0 p m - S e r v i c e

C h r i s t m a s D a y

W e d n e s d a y , D e c e m b e r 2 5

9 : 3 0 a m - H o l y E u c h a r i s t

S u n d a y , D e c e m b e r 2 9

8 & 1 0 : 1 5 a m - H o l y E u c h a r i s t

N e w Y e a r ' s E v e

T u e s d a y , D e c e m b e r 3 1

5 : 3 0 p m - S e r v i c e w i t h
R e a f f i r m a t i o n o f V o w s

ST. CHRISTOPHER RECEIVES GRANT

On November 18, 2019 the Diocese of Eastern Michigan announced \$102,580 was granted to nine parishes throughout the diocese for ministry grants. The Social Service and Ministry Network Grants Team reviews applications each year. **This year St. Christopher's was awarded \$9,500 to partner with other community ministries in our area to provide social services, food, clothing and utility aid.** Plans are being made to expand services to include senior services as well as career, financial, nutritional, education and counseling.

The other grants given in our diocese were:

Crossover Ministries, St. Paul's, Flint - \$14,250
Helping Hands, St. Mark's, Atlanta - \$1,500
MovingMarket4Life, Grace, Port Huron - \$6,080
G.R.A.C.E. Center, St. Francis, Grayling - \$19,000
Soup Kitchen, St. Andrew's, Flint - \$19,000
Family Promise, St. Paul's, Flint - \$14,250
Community Assistance Program, St. Jude's, Fenton - \$14,250
Food Bank, St. Bartholomew's, Mio - \$4,750

A stylized illustration of a white coffee cup with a brown saucer. The cup is filled with coffee, indicated by a dark brown swirl at the top. A thick, dark brown steam or smoke line rises from the top of the cup, curving upwards. The entire illustration is set against a white background within a blue-bordered box.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to our November Coffee Hour Hosts!
The Fawcetts, the Lepards, the Whites and our Search Committee.

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 a 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!

SEARCH UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Search Committee's small group discussions after the services November 24. We'll be using your responses with the demographic survey results and the historical information put together for the latest directory and for our recent Diocesan Convention when we write our profile starting this month. We'll share the profile as we can and the finished profile will be on our website as well as in the national transition process. If you have any questions or suggestions, please place them in the box in the gathering space and we'll address them as best we can or you can talk to any of the Search Committee members.



UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

NEW CENTURY CHORALE CONCERTS

Saturday, December 14
& Sunday, December 15

FOOD DISTRIBUTION WITH FISH

Monday, December 16

SINGLE LADIES' LUNCH

Monday, Decmeber 16 @ Noon

Little Joe's, S. Saginaw in Grand Blanc

VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, December 17 @ 6:30 pm

STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday, December 18 @ 11:30 am

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, December 18 @ 1:30 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24
5 pm, 10:30 pm (caroling at 10 pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Wednesday, December 25 @ 9:30 am

FR. DON OFF

Thursday, December 26 -

Monday, December 30

CANON SPENCER OFF

Tuesday, December 31 -
Sunday, January 12

NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE WITH REAFFIRMATION OF VOWS

Tuesday, December 31 @ 5:30 pm

NEW YEARS' DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, January 1

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Sunday, January 5

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.