



THE

FEBRUARY 2021

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

ONLINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9 am - Sunday Morning Service
via Facebook Live & Zoom
Zoom Gathering following

WEDNESDAYS

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer via Facebook Live

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Ash Wednesday & Lent

and so much more!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

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STAFF

The Reverend Jerry Lasley
Rector

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The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,
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The Reverend Canon Michael Spencer,
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The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,
Associate Emeritus

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
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As I was driving from Ortonville after picking up a donation of piano music to bring to our church on Wednesday, I was thinking about what a beautiful day it had already been, and the rush of excitement I was feeling because, after turning onto Green Road, I would soon be at the church. I would get to spend a few hours in the choir room (with permission from Fr. Jerry Lasley)! Oh, how very happy I was feeling on this gloriously sunny day! Yay!

Soon I would be opening the door, turning on the choir room light, opening the laptop and would start to organize my thoughts about a few tasks I could complete, perhaps a few musical possibilities over these next few weeks; thoughts about Lent, thoughts about contacting some people to perhaps play solo pieces over the next few weeks---all kinds of things! So, as I pulled up to the church, I saw several cars in the parking lot, and, still happy and smiling in my heart, I walked up to the building and took my keys out of my jacket pocket. The south door of the church just sparkled in the bright sunlight; I couldn't wait to enter! I opened the door to the church and as my eyes adjusted, I saw that the choir room door was already open!

Huh???? I thought, I don't remember leaving the choir room open on Sunday following the service...

And then, as I peeked in and glanced around, the first thing I spotted was the ladder and then I noticed that the card tables had been moved; the tenor and bass section chairs pushed over to one side, and I thought, *Uh oh. Heating. Best to just turn around and go home.*

After putting down the boxes of piano music, I did. I am keeping my fingers crossed and hoping for a possible return next week, however!

Continued on page 3...

"Notes from the Music Room" continued...

As I got back in my car, and started to drive away, I could hear the strains of our choir in my mind and I thought, I can't believe we are rounding the corner on 11 full months of not singing or ringing. That is a long time!

Of course, it is completely understandable that we have had to adhere to safety measures put in place for our own protection (these are necessary), but despite this reality, I just wanted to take a moment to mention to you how much I really miss our music-making at St. Christopher's.

I always smile when I think back on some of the crazy fun times we have at bells, and the funny comments from Victor, while waving his hands at us, and the 'come-backs' from our newest and very bold ringer, Billy Bob! Too, something else I think about is how wonderfully dedicated everyone is; each and every ringer and each and every singer despite the occasional, "Oops! I overslept!" or "the weather was so awful, I just couldn't get there" explanation---things happen :)

But what really sticks out in my mind, and I really mean this, is how everyone brings their 'A game' to each rehearsal; how hard everyone works to use our rehearsal time to the best of our collective ability; how well we use each moment to learn and polish a beautiful piece of music which we then offer to our Father on Sunday mornings. Thank you, all musicians who participate at St. Christopher's. Thank you for your time; thank you for sharing your gifts! Thank you for the joyful sound you have helped create which we can still carry in our hearts! For this, I am so incredibly grateful. And I pray that very soon, we will be able to gather again in our space and fill the church with the sounds of beautiful music (and peals of joyous laughter).

Please everyone, continue to stay safe, stay well.

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada Radakovich
Director of Music

ANNUAL MEETING 2020

The Annual Meeting was held Sunday, January 31 via Zoom.

Annual Reports can be found on our website (in the update section of the home page under "Annual Meeting 2020").

If you would like a copy of the meeting minutes, please contact Elizabeth in the church office: (810) 694-3600 or office@stchristgrandblanc.org



STEADFAST
LOVE
LENT

DEVOTIONAL
AVAILABLE

As well as our normal Day By Day devotionals, we have an additional Lenten Devotional available upon request: "Steadfast Love".

You can request a copy if you drive thru to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday or contact the church office if you would like to arrange a different pick-up time.

A NOTE FROM THE “CURATE”

I have some news to share with you. You may recall that I have been serving a “curacy” at St. Christopher’s. The term is used to mean a ministry assignment one receives shortly after being ordained. As a newly minted priest, one must “cure,” gain experience, before being turned loose into the wider church. Think of it as a sort of apprenticeship that young priests serve under the tutelage of an experienced rector. I was blessed to serve my curacy with Fr. Don and Rev. Ann, two very gifted priests, in very different circumstances.

At the beginning of this journey together, the vestry and the diocese agreed to a sharing arrangement with regard to my time. I was to be 67% diocesan staff and 33% St. Christopher’s curate, and a letter of agreement along with financial arrangements were made. I was to remain on diocesan staff in a primary role, and serve St. Christopher’s as a part-time curate.

We made an agreement that my curacy would end at the time of the new rector’s call. This has turned out to be a wise choice, financially and realistically. A member of the diocesan staff retired late last year, and a decision was made not to replace her. As a consequence, I have more to do now than I used to, and the time has come for me to return to full-time status with the diocese. As of January 1, I am 100% on diocesan payroll, and the funds previously used by St. Christopher’s to support my position are back in its own coffers for use in other ways.

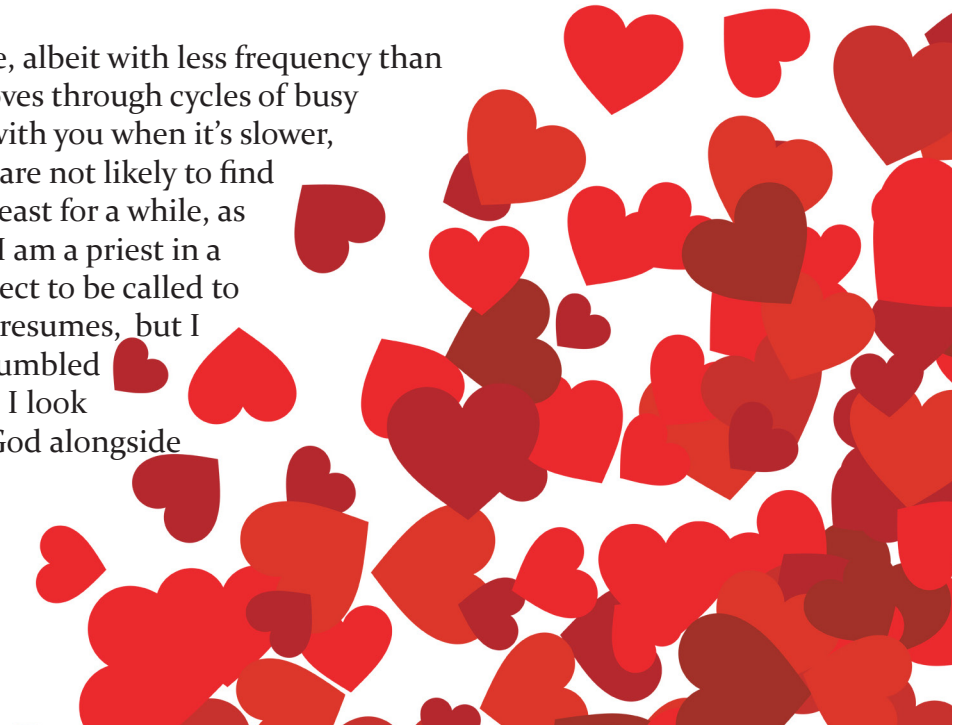
And, of even more significance, Fr. Jerry is present among us and beginning a new ministry. It is a good time for my ministry to decrease so that his can increase. Your new rector will serve the congregation well, of that I have no doubt, and I encourage you to take every effort to get to know him and to help him as he transitions into life among us.

However, I will not be completely disappearing. I have been blessed to be asked by Fr. Jerry to stay on in an honorary capacity. It is common in some dioceses for clergy on diocesan staff to have a ‘home congregation’ where they assist when their diocesan duties don’t require them to be elsewhere. Fr. Jerry recognized that I needed to be able to focus on my diocesan role, but he very kindly offered to let me stay here and hang up my stoles next to his. I was so grateful for his offer, and I gladly accepted.

So, expect to continue to see my face, albeit with less frequency than in the past. As life in the diocese moves through cycles of busy and slow times, I will be able to be with you when it’s slower, and not as much when it is not. We are not likely to find a regular or dependable pattern, at least for a while, as so much continues to be in flux. As I am a priest in a diocese with a clergy shortage, I expect to be called to all corners when in-person worship resumes, but I will be here as often as I can. I am humbled by the faith you have put in me, and I look forward to continuing to serve our God alongside you.

Grace and peace,

Michael+





Greetings My Sisters and Brothers,

It is difficult to believe that as I write this, I have been here a month already! It is impossible for me to convey just how deeply grateful I am for all of you. Beginning with food dropped off at the hotel, many phone calls with you, meeting a few of you in person and just the overall warmth and friendliness of everyone, I feel truly blessed to be here.

I can't begin to thank Elizabeth, Canon Michael, and Jane enough! You have all been extremely helpful in this transition period. Moving to a new parish and a new state brings a lot of excitement. Arriving during a pandemic is definitely quite different. Like you, I long for the day when we are able to gather together in our beautiful worship space. However, until things seem to calm down, worship online will need to continue. The Standing Committees of Eastern and Western Michigan have a difficult job and I don't envy them. They feel that safety must come first and I fully agree. I would much rather hold off for a while than become a news flash on television for being a hotspot. We want to be known in our community, but definitely not because of the pandemic! Patience and strong faith will see us through.

In meeting with our Vestry, I have discussed the need for in-depth planning. It would be in our favor if we created a three, five and ten year plan. When we create it, it must have specific goals that are measurable and realistic. For example, we can't just say that we want to grow our membership by 20% each year. We have to have a map on exactly how we want to get there and ways to check our progress along the way. The Vestry has agreed to form a sub committee to begin the work on these plans. Please pray for our Vestry members as we have some hard work to do. I am certain that they are up to the challenge! Don't be surprised if you get some phone calls to ask for input. (You can always talk to me as well!)

Finances are always difficult to talk about. We must be realistic about our future. This year, we currently are operating at a deficit. If you are able, we need to make up around \$70,000. If you can pitch in a few extra dollars here and there, it would be greatly appreciated! Please understand that even though we are not meeting in person, the expenses of our parish continue. Salaries, insurance, utilities must all be paid. So, if you haven't pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so. Our pledge is a commitment to God, not to a rector, not to a building.

In the coming months and years, it is going to take us all, working together and opening our minds and hearts to new possibilities. St. Paul gives us the beautiful image of the Body of Christ, reminding us that we absolutely need one another. Now is the time for us to arise from our sleep, pick up our mat and walk. Walk together as we figure out who God is calling us to be.

Blessings,

Fr. Jerry+



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

ASH WEDNESDAY

3 PM Virtual Service on Zoom &
Facebook Live

Drive Thru Ashes to Go following
(You will receive ashes that you apply
yourself)

ST CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Stewardship Still Important

Ways that you can continue your pledge:

- 1) Mail checks to 9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439
- 2) Go online and give: <https://onrealm.org/SaintChristopher/give/now>
*You can give a one-time gift or set up automatic giving
- 3) Text StChrisGB to 73256

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual meeting was well attended in my view. I want to thank the attendees for the wonderful support that made this meeting so meaningful. As this pandemic continues we find ourselves longing for each other face to face in our beautiful building. I'm very optimistic that the Diocese will soon bring us good news concerning the requirements and recommendations they have made for reentry. Hopefully, we will be able to hold out just a bit longer.

As Fr. Jerry continues his introduction to Saint Christopher's and gets into his condo soon, we can be assured that his leadership will continue to unfold and make our lives richer.

The "new" Vestry members are familiar faces and will contribute much to our moving forward. Steve Huber, Flo Gjerstad and Bobbie Walton were elected at our Annual Meeting January 31. Convention delegates include Bill and Joyce Thewalt, Linda Rathburn and Angela Campbell. They will be attending the Diocesan Convention in early fall. The outgoing members, Angela Campbell, Bill Anderson and Bill White were presented with parting gifts and certificates, through the mail, of course! Canon Fr. Michael Spencer will be supporting us when needed but returns to his many duties for the Eastern Michigan Diocese. The church donated to Canterbury House in East Lansing in Fr. Michael's honor.

As we slowly open our building to services, we need to plan ahead for activities that will bring us together as a congregation. When you have ideas about these activities please let me or any vestry member know your suggestions and we will plan for them when the time is right. We are headed for great things and need your support all the way.

Support comes in many forms; time, talents and treasure being our most important forms. We can make up this lost time and come out stronger on the other side. Before that happens, we can connect with each other through cards or phone calls saying "thinking of you, happy birthday, have a nice day" or whatever you wish. We need to make our parish whole again.

Until we are back together under one roof, stay strong, be healthy, get the vaccine, wash your hands, wear a mask and socially distance. We can do this!

In Christ's name,

Jane Brewer
Senior Warden

UPCOMING LESSONS

February 14 - Epiphany 6

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 17 - Ash Wed.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 103 or 103:8-14

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21 - Lent 1

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

February 28 - Lent 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:22-30

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

March 7 - Lent 3

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Psalms 19

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