



THE

MAY 2021

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

ONLINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

10 am - Sunday In-Person Eucharist Service
or Live-Streamed via Zoom & Facebook Live

THURSDAYS

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer via Facebook Live

HAPPY NEWS

**Elizabeth and Sean
Sailus are expecting
a baby!**



Elizabeth (our administrative assistant) plans to continue working until the baby comes at which time, she will be taking a couple months of maternity leave. We will need some volunteers to perform some of the day-to-day office tasks while she is away. We may contact you to ask if you are interested in helping out. Or, if you would like to volunteer, please contact Jerry or Elizabeth to let us know and we can find a way to use your talents!

BABY DUE

AUGUST 31, 2021!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600
Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

STAFF

The Reverend Jerry Lasley
Rector

Rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,
Priest in Residence

FrMike@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Canon Michael Spencer,
Priest Associate

Michael@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,
Associate Emeritus

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*

Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Dr. Greg Hassold, *Parish Organist*

Greg@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Elizabeth Sailus, *Administrative Assistant*

Elizabeth@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Joel Stoeklin, *Sexton*

sexton@stchrisgrandblanc.org

VESTRY

Jane Brewer, *Senior Warden*
SeniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Steve Huber, *Junior Warden*
JuniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Kay Van Natta, *Clerk*

Bobbie Walton, *Treasurer*
Treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Frank Burger (2023) Ken Duck (2023)
Flo Gjerstad (2024) Dawn Rutherford (2022)
Rebecca Stermer (2022)

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Dear All,

Spring is coming and rain is falling to help the flowers grow. Hopefully, the temperatures will come along and warm us up.

Church is moving forward inside. We are thankful for ALL God's blessings and pray for continued in-person gatherings. Thanks to all who venture in on Sunday mornings and for those who faithfully pray on-line!

The Good News Garden, or Community Garden, is in the planning stages and work should begin soon. Help will be needed to construct the plot and hopefully we can get your time and talents to participate. Notice will be given soon, through the cyber newsletter on Tuesday, to let you know when and where to gather and donate your help. Worker bees and muscle are always welcome!

We are thankful and glad to welcome Frank Burger to the Vestry to fill a partial term. Thank him in person when you see him!

Peace and blessings to you all,

Jane Brewer

Senior Warden

VESTRY MEETINGS

A reminder that any member of St. Christopher's Church has the right to attend/speak at Vestry meetings if desired. Generally, Vestry meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. If you wish to attend a Vestry meeting (they are currently being held via Zoom), please let Fr. Jerry or Elizabeth in the church office know so they can send you a link to join the meeting.

OUR FAMILY

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

Families know a lot about one another. Yet, as a church family we might not know as much as we would like about one another. Getting to know one another on a deeper level helps us to engage more and to understand one another. It helps to create authentic community. **We would love it if you would share some information with us so we can celebrate with you:**

1. The Birthdate of everyone in your household.
2. Your Anniversary.

This is just the beginning! **In our monthly newsletter, we would like people to tell us their story.** Each month we will publish someone's story. What makes you get up in the morning? Are you a lifelong Episcopalian? If not, how did you decide that the Episcopal church is right for you? What makes St. Christopher's the place where you choose to worship? We would like to know about your life (what you are willing to share) and your faith life.

I for one, have always enjoyed reading about the lives of other people. I am often inspired by their life journey. How they overcame trials. What got them through. How they live out their faith. It doesn't have to be a novel! LOL In order for us to continue to create a strong, meaningful and lifegiving community, we need to know one another. Tell us about you! Please?!

Blessings,

Jerry+

To submit birthdays, anniversaries or stories:

You can submit to Elizabeth or Fr. Jerry

- by phone: (810) 694-3600
- by email: elizabeth@stchrisgrandblanc.org or rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org
- by snail mail: 9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439

ALTAR FLOWERS

We have returned to having altar flowers for our services on Sundays.

We rely on people signing up each Sunday to provide flowers (the suggested donation is \$50). You can email or call and leave a message with the church office to sign up for a day or you can sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10coc4dacac28a4ffcf8-altar>

UPCOMING LESSONS

May 9 - Easter 6

Acts 10:44-48

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Psalm 98

May 16 - Easter 7

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Psalm 1

May 23 - Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

or Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:22-27

or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

May 30 - Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Psalm 29

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



FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

We are moving carefully in our reopening plan. Safety is of utmost concern since COVID numbers continue to be high. Our services indoors have been fantastic. I certainly want to say a huge thank you to all who have helped make it happen and to all who have joined us either physically or virtually! They say it takes a village to raise a child. I would like to add, it takes a village to be a church. We could not survive without the many folks who work behind the scenes and never get any credit. Without their generosity in time, talent and treasure, our services would not run as smoothly!

Your Vestry is working diligently in creating a path forward. One of our important tasks is the survey! If you have not filled one out, please do so. If you need a paper copy, please call the office and leave a message. (We ask that all surveys be returned by May 15th!) This is an opportunity for every single voice to be heard! You are important! There is absolutely no point in creating plans and events if no one is interested in them.

I've said it before and I will continue to say it again. Wouldn't you love for our building to be a hub of meaningful and helpful activities? A place where we are fed physically, spiritually and emotionally. A place that is just as active during the week as it is on weekends. What types of activities we have is really up to you. It is important to plan NOW for the time when we are finally able to open our doors fully. Our hope is to have things in place and ready to go.

Our finances continue to be a concern. We really need the help of everyone. Our budget exceeds our income for the year. Please help if you can. Every little bit helps. Of course, I would love nothing more than for us to burn our mortgage. I know, I know. You are probably saying, "dream on, Jerry!" Well, nothing happens without a dream. Wouldn't

it be amazing if we could put the money we are currently paying on our mortgage to better use in serving our community? I think so! Let's get that mortgage down!

It has been difficult for all of us during this pandemic. Having not been able to fully open our doors has made us feel a bit disconnected. Yet there are some ways that you can remain connected, even if you are not yet comfortable being here in person. Our worship is currently online. Fr. Michael has been working very hard to get our sound system fixed. It has improved immensely and we are grateful for Fr. Michael being so generous in his time to work with our sound system provider. Now we are working on getting a much stronger internet signal in the nave. As many of you are aware, it goes in and out and one never knows what is going to happen. Elizabeth is working very hard on getting this accomplished, so please be patient! (Did you know she's going to have a baby boy this fall?! CONGRATULATIONS!)

Please continue to pray for one another. When we are a part of a church community, we become a family. The power of prayer is amazing. I can't tell you how much it has meant to me over the years when people let me know that they are praying for me! It does change things. So whenever someone comes to mind, say a prayer for them. We are called to love and I can't imagine a love so noble that it calls us to prayer for one another. Keep up the good work, keep the faith and know that you remain in my prayers always!

Many blessings,

Jerry+

OUR FAMILY STORY SERIES

On page 3, Fr. Jerry sent out a request to get to know our St. Christopher's family better. Below is the first in the "Our Family Story" Series.

Racism Is A Personal Story



When I think about how I started learning about racism and racial prejudice as a personal experience, and how they have caused many to live in pain and fear, I think back to something that happened to me and three friends many years ago. We were in danger because one of us was a black man, a passenger in my car. Had we been four white people, I am sure what happened would not have happened.

It was the summer of 1969 in Western Indiana. I was with three friends when we were attacked by young, white men who were using their car to try to force my car off the road in the early morning hours on a highway in Indiana. We had just left an all-night diner outside Fort Wayne, where we had eaten breakfast. I was driving us back to the Chicago Boys' Club Camp on Winona Lake, where we were all working for the summer.

As we left the diner these young men were in the parking lot, jeering at us. I didn't expect what happened next because I had lived a rather sheltered life in my suburban home outside Chicago. While I had grown up in Chicago and had gone to school with many friends of color and from different cultures, that summer in Indiana taught me a lot about racism and the failure of law enforcement to protect people of color. I had no idea what to expect.

As the young men caught up with us in their car, the driver was swerving toward my car, trying to force me onto the shoulder. During the attack bottles of beer and rocks were thrown onto the windshield of my car. I knew we were in danger if they succeeded in forcing me to stop, so I drove on,

keeping the car on the road until we reached town, refusing to give in to any fear I felt.

When we escaped, I drove immediately to the sheriff's office to report the details of the attack. The results of this incident and the treatment by local law enforcement brought me up short and taught me the danger and pain suffered by people of color. They are often mistreated by a public system that is threaded through with racism.

We were from Chicago, workers at a local Boy's Club camp, and one of us was black. In spite of the details we reported, the license plate number make and model of the car, the details about the number of people attacking us, I could tell we may as well have written the details in a note we had placed in a bottle and thrown in the lake. The results would be the same.

When a week had gone by, I called the Sheriff's office to see what they had done about my complaint. I was told, "Well, you know this investigation may take us some time. You will be returning to Chicago in a couple of weeks so I doubt if we will have anything to report before you leave." I was furious, I felt disrespected, I felt helpless. I had no idea what I could do next to get justice. And, of course, there was nothing. I was experiencing what people of color experience every day.

This was the beginning of my education about racism and the system that fails to "respect the dignity of every human being." I am still outraged.

Submitted by Bobbie Walton