



THE

JUNE 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
6 pm - Bible Study via Zoom



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ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

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The Reverend Canon Michael Spencer,

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The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,

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Kay Van Natta, *Clerk*

Bobbie Walton, *Treasurer*

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Frank Burger (2023) Ken Duck (2023)

Flo Gjerstad (2024) Dawn Rutherford (2022)

Rebecca Stermer (2022)

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Dear All,

We are making our way toward a more open church and it is so nice seeing everyone who visits our in-person services. We pray for the time when more of us can join our services weekly.

This year and a half has been a trial for all of us. We can't forget our senior citizens who are struggling to make it to Sunday service. A card or call their way would be much appreciated, I'm sure.

Please accept our thanks for the many surveys returned and the number of great suggestions made. As we return to normal 2021, we can begin the activities that have been put on hold. We might even be able to improve on past projects!

Let's pray for all of us and those who are struggling. We miss you all and wish you well.

Peace and Blessings,

Jane Brewer

Senior Warden



SYNOPSIS OF THE SPRING SURVEY 2021

The Planning Committee received 30 responses to the Spring Survey which sought information for use as St. Christopher's charts a course for the future, post COVID-19. Thanks to those of you in the congregation who participated. Your responses have been reviewed and considered.

The Planning Committee is analyzing and considering implementing your suggestions and needs in three categories:

1. Those activities and events we have done in the past but have discontinued because of the COVID-19 crisis;
2. Those activities and events stretching our current resources and reaching into the community to grow our presence; and
3. Those ideas for future growth or spiritual development we can work toward, with God's help.

***Here is an overview of responses sent by our congregation,
organized around those categories.***

Requests that activities and events be restored:

- Social events for parishioners and guests—restore our Inreach activities and service projects
- Concerts, Choir and Bell Choir
- 8 a.m. service, after Diocese opens the church to full use and participation
- Restore food pantry and enlarge feeding program, to include garden produced from St. Christopher's garden which will be sent to a local Food Pantry
- Programs of formation for children, youth and adults
- Coffee hour and discussion groups
- Wednesday Eucharist or prayer service, Bible study

Activities and events reaching into the community to grow our presence:

- Volunteer to support existing community programs, e.g. bring Eucharist and music to nursing homes, serve in local food kitchen, etc.
- Focus on education, literacy, homework assistance and after school activities
- Use church for community group meetings, e.g. Scouts, AA, Alanon
- Rent our kitchen for a food service
- Partner with another church, e.g., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Flint in helping in the community

Future growth and spiritual development with God's help:

- Worship service to attract young families and broader community, e.g., Praise or contemporary service
- Music ministry with young people
- Latch-key program for after-school needs
- Blood Drive, Health Fair

St. Christopher's Planning Committee

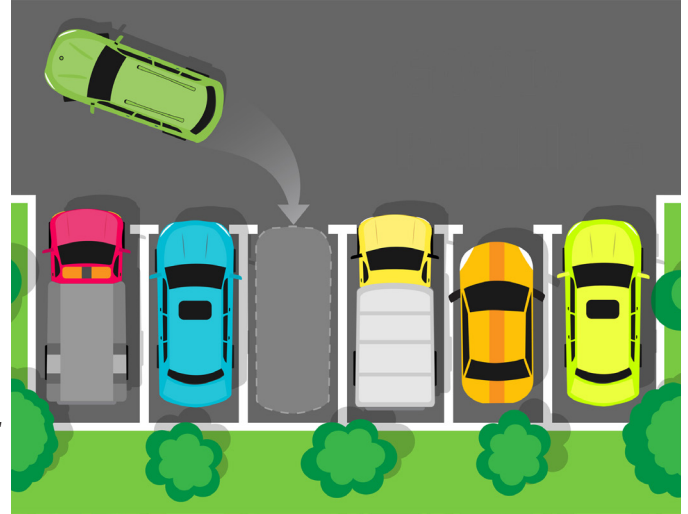
UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Ally Challenge Coming

Parking Volunteers will be needed...

The Ally Challenge will return to Warwick Hills in August and has again requested our partnership in providing parking for caddies, media and volunteers during tournament week.

The money raised through our participation helps significantly in meeting our budget goals. St. Christopher's has partnered with the Buick Open and the Ally Challenge for 24 years. Thinking back over those years, having cars parked on our land has brought in over \$400,000! The only requirement is our time and our smiles. Please mark your calendar for the **week of August 23-29** and plan to volunteer for one (or several) shifts. More info will be provided in the July Trumpeter and sign up will begin in mid July.



Any questions? Just ask,

Ellen Safley

Gardening Volunteers

We need your help watering and weeding the Good News Garden when the plants and seeds (given to us by Plainsong Farms) are growing and producing vegetables. As our previous request stated, you would only need to volunteer for one week (or more if you want!) and visit the garden 2-3 times a week depending on the weather and rain totals.

There will be everything you might need in a covered bucket located by the outside faucet by the garden. The weeds can go in the empty bucket and it will be dumped as needed.



Please feel free to call and leave a message on the office phone or use Sign up Genius to select your week (or two). We plan to donate the fruits of our labor to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan or Life Challenge. This is our first attempt at an Outreach project so let's make this a good one.

Jane Brewer
Senior Warden

Office Volunteers

As many of you have heard by now, Sean and I are going to have a baby (due date: August 31st). I will be taking 2 months of maternity leave once the baby is born. Many of you have stepped forward already to say that you would love to volunteer to do some of my duties while I am away - Thank you!

We are looking now for volunteers that may be able to handle some of the more computer - heavy pieces of my job. If you have any experience with the following programs and would be willing to volunteer your time, please let me know:

- MailChimp - or any website that deals with mass emailing - we need someone who can send out weekly emails
- WordPress - we use this to update our church website
- InDesign - we use this program to create the bulletins and our Monthly Trumpeter Newsletters

Or if you are fairly able to pick up on computer programs and feel you could learn how to do any of the above with some training, I'm very willing to train you!

If you can volunteer or have volunteered, I will be contacting you in the next couple of weeks to figure out how you can best help and to set up times to get training so that you should be well able to handle any volunteer duties long before I am on leave toward the end of the summer.

Thank you for helping to keep St. Christopher's office running while I take some time off!

Elizabeth Sailus

Administrative Assistant

Kitchen Volunteer(s)

We are currently without a "Kitchen Head". Though we are just now opening up for drinks only coffee hour, we hope that some day soon we can begin utilizing our kitchen space to the fullest again. With that in mind, we need to find a new "Kitchen Head" before this can happen. This person would need to go through serve-safe training. If you think this might be an area where your talents are needed, please contact Fr. Jerry.

If you would like to volunteer to host a modified coffee hour following the 10 am service on Sunday, please sign up by calling the church office or you can sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4dacac28a4ffcf8-coffee>

UPCOMING LESSONS

June 6 - Proper 5

Genesis 3:8-15

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

June 13 - Proper 6

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalms 92:1-4, 11-14

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, [11-13], 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

June 20 - Proper 7

Job 38:1-11

Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

June 27 - Proper 8

Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Lamentations 3:21-33

or Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

July 4 - Proper 9

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalms 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

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



Greetings from the Music Room!

What a joyous moment our church family and choir were able to share this Sunday past (May 30) as we all were together (masked) and allowed to sing. Tears of joy escaped my eyes, as we all proudly sang "I Bind Unto Myself"...Thank you, everyone, who sang from the bottom of their hearts and souls!

The choir has been longing to meet Father Jerry, and finally we were able to spend a service together. This was truly a blessing for all. Thank you, Ellen Safley, for pulling together our first coffee hour in 15 months, too! Although we were in the midst of crates of dry goods, Ellen and Colleen Shrank cleared a space for several tables and chairs, and it was so lovely to have had a place to share post-liturgical happiness with one another.

I also would like to take a moment to reach out and thank Bill Hartley for always bringing his lovely wife, Darlene to the many many choir rehearsals she refused to miss. Bill would come to bell rehearsal at 4 p.m., and Darlene would sit, patiently in the church while we were dinging and donging, smiling over at us until rehearsal finished. Then they more often than not would return for soup supper and so many times Darlene and Bill would bring a special soup and also, super rich dark chocolate brownies. And then, when adult choir would rehearse from 7-8:30-ish, Bill would stay, and wait for Darlene to finish choir rehearsal. This past month, the Lord called our Darlene to join His Heavenly Choir. Her lovely spirit, her kindness, her joy of singing, her helpfulness---will all be terribly missed by everyone in our choir family. Thank you for sharing your talent and love with us, Darlene.

This week, on Wednesday, June 2, at 4:00 p.m., bells will be rehearsing. Then, later, at 7:00 p.m., adult choir will be rehearsing. Please come to rehearsal masked. Our last bells/choir rehearsal before summer will be June 9th. Same times.

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada Radakovich
Director of Music



OUTING

Inquiry was made at our first post-Covid Coffee Hour about a LUGNUTS outing. Back in November in a fit of optimism, I asked them to reserve seats for us for THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021. I believe tickets are still \$11.00. If you would like to join St. Christopher's folks to attend the game, you need to let me know ASAP. Since the church is open on a limited basis, and we can't do sign-up there. You need to email me at fwithe@gmail.com to reserve your seats. No need for money now, I'll collect when I deliver the tickets. BTW, the Lugnuts advised me they are good to use full capacity and masks are not required, vaccination or no.

P.S. The Lugnuts are a professional minor league baseball team and their stadium is in Lansing, MI. Many St. Christopher's folks gather before the game for dinner at the Nut House, across from the stadium.

SIGN UP NOW WHILE IT'S ON YOUR MIND.

Bill Thewalt



FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

So much is happening! Your Vestry and Search Committee have been working hard. We received the surveys and are working on plans to implement some of the things that are suggested. As of now, we are still not open fully but we are gradually moving in the right direction. If you have not received your vaccine yet, please reconsider. It is the best solution for speeding up the wider opening that we all desire. I've had mine and have had no side effects!

Regardless, as we prepare to move forward, we are looking to having our building back so that we can have some exciting program offerings. You have some great ideas, and we are responding! In the meantime, please be patient. One special note is that once things are fully opened, we will very likely return to having two services. There is another addition to the June Trumpeter that will further address these things. Once we fully open, we are going to have some book discussions on various topics. The sessions will last three or four weeks each. The first topic we are going to tackle is racism. The topic will change every four weeks. Of course, we will circle back to some of the topics because they are so important to the healing of our community and nation.

Another bit of exciting news is that FISH has found a new home. They have found space in one of the Grand Blanc schools which is where they really want to be! We wish them well as they move forward in their new home. Their new space is being renovated as I write this.

Finally, I have been here five months! It doesn't seem possible. You have welcomed me with loving arms and I am very happy to be here. We have a lot of work to complete but we are planning and getting ready to make things happen. Our parish is a welcoming and loving community. We want to strengthen our commitment to being open, welcoming and inclusive to all God's people! One important decision that the Vestry has made is that

on the final Sunday in June will be a celebration to honor Gay Pride Month which takes place, nationally, every June. As a gay man, I know the struggles to accept oneself, to come out to family, friends and workplaces, and to find a place of worship that respects and loves me. You have welcomed me and accepted me with grace and love. Maybe you aren't entirely comfortable and maybe you are. One of the best solutions to getting over our fears is to actually meet someone that is different than us. We find that we are all human beings and all want to just live our lives with dignity, love and respect. So **Sunday, June 27th**, we will welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community to our worship. Further details are in the works. We may have a picnic on the lawn after the service so that we can get to know our visitors and let them know that they are welcomed, loved and respected in the Episcopal Church at large, and especially at St. Christopher's Episcopal church. Please come and plan on staying for any activities we have after the service!



I have already fallen in love with St. Christopher's! it's a great place to belong, believe and become the people that God intends us to be! Let's make that happen for all God's people. So many are struggling on their journey. If we can't help them along the way, we are failing in our Baptismal Covenant!

Blessings,

Jerry+

OUR FAMILY STORY SERIES

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.

Submit your story to the church office or Fr. Jerry

I was born and raised in Grand Blanc, graduating from GBHS in 1966. I attended Central Michigan University where I met my husband Ron. We married in 1970 and moved to Florida. There Ron taught shop classes, coached football and I substitute taught. We moved back to GB after 10 years to reopen our family hardware store, which used to be Day Brothers Hardware. We renamed it Grand Blanc Hardware and ran it for 13 years.

I became active as a volunteer in the school system for my two daughters who attended GB schools. Ron became a shop teacher/coach for GB Community Schools.

Our medical history became our new normal. I developed bacterial meningitis and had a slight stroke at the same time in 2004. Prayers later, I recovered in time to become a caregiver for Ron in 2007 as he was diagnosed with a disease which compromised all his major organs and resulted in his passing in 2013.

My adult life has been spent in service to others; a blessing inherited from my parents and grandparents. Besides teaching and working at the hardware store, I volunteered at school, spent time working at the Girl Scout Office in Flint, served 20 years on the GB Board of Education and GB Heritage Association Board. Presently, I work part time at Colony's Quality Meats and serve as Senior Warden of St. Christopher's Vestry.

My church experience is varied. I was baptized, confirmed and married at the Congregational United of Church Christ in Grand Blanc. We spent time as members of Limona Village Chapel, United Methodist Church in Brandon, Florida and have found my forever home at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church.

Submitted by Jane Brewer

