



THE

NOVEMBER 2021

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service (in church building)
9:15 am - Classes on the Episcopal Church
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service
(in church building & livestreamed on Facebook Live)
Coffee hour follows the 10:15 am service

TUESDAYS

10 am - Coffee Hour with Fr. Jerry

WEDNESDAYS

4 pm - Bells Rehearsal
5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist
6 pm - Soup Supper
7 pm - Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer on Facebook Live
6 pm - Bible Study on Facebook Live & Zoom

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Music Room

Update on the 27th Diocesan Convention

From the Priest's Desk

Stewardship 2022

How Can I Help My Church?

...and so much more!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

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STAFF

The Reverend Jerry Lasley

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The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,

Priest in Residence

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The Reverend Canon Michael Spencer,

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The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,

Associate Emeritus

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VESTRY

Jane Brewer, *Senior Warden*

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Steve Huber, *Junior Warden*

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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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The weather has turned colder but the warmth of St. Christopher's is very apparent. As the holidays draw near we can all work together to keep the warmth going.

Welcome back to our wonderful Elizabeth and her son Jimmy. We are grateful for your service to our congregation.

The Vestry will meet on November 16th, held earlier because of Thanksgiving week. Advent begins in November on the 28th. Watch for ways to help decorate our church. Envelopes will be made available for us to purchase poinsettias in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone or to the glory of God and Jesus Christ our Lord.

The notice which appeared in our Tuesday Cyber weekly Trumpeter newsletter referring to the Vestry's search for new members is not to be missed! Think and pray about your chance to serve on the governing body of St. Christopher's. Please let any Vestry member know of your desire to become a member as we go into 2022 and out of this pandemic. Your interest and ideas will help move us forward.

With the beautiful music at the 10:15 service and the faithful in attendance at 8:00 we will make this a great place to worship.

Peace and Blessings to you all,

Jane Brewer

Senior Warden

CLASSES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BEING EPISCOPALIAN

We have been holding classes for those adults in the church interested in learning more about being Episcopalian. Beginning this coming Sunday, November 14, the classes will be held at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings instead of on Tuesday evenings. Please feel free to join us if you are interested!



27TH CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

The convention was held jointly with the 147th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan at the Lansing Convention Center on Friday and Saturday, October 29 & 30, 2021. On Friday there were conversations about Building Bridges (between the Dioceses) and dismantling racism. On Saturday there was a joint Eucharist followed by separate business sessions for each diocese.

In our diocese, the following were elected to Diocesan Council: Dr. Elizabeth Jordan, St. Paul's, Flint, Rev. Pamela Lenartowicz, St. Andrews, Gaylord. Elected to the Standing Committee were: Jelecia Geraghty, St. Paul's, Flint and Rev. Donald Davidson, St. Paul's, Flint. Rev. Larry Parks, Grace, Lapeer and John Petipher, St. Jude's, Fenton were elected Trustees.

Our Diocese accepted a budget for 2022 that showed tithes of \$439,225, Unrestricted investment income of \$459,237, Restricted investment income of \$33,444. Total receipts were budgeted at \$1,768,875 and Total Disbursements at \$1,961,244 for a deficit of \$192,369. The budget includes funds for a Bishop search.

Convention amended the Canons to have ten youth delegates with voice and vote at convention. A Joint Resolution was also passed in support of ballot access.

Another important Joint Resolution was to elect Bishop Prince J. Singh to serve as Bishop Provisional for both dioceses. Bishop Singh has been Bishop of Rochester, NY and has plans to join us in Michigan in February, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Thewalt

Joyce Thewalt

St. Christopher's Delegates

UPCOMING LESSONS

November 14- Proper 28

Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18)
19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 21 - Proper 29

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 28 - Advent 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36
Psalm 25:1-9

December 5 - Advent 2

Baruch 5:1-9
or Malachi 3:1-4
Canticle 4 or 16
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 12 - Advent 3

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle 9
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

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



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

The annual greening of the church building will take place **Saturday, November 20 at 1 pm** (after the Messiah rehearsals). Please come and help us if you are able!

ITEMS FOR THE HOMELESS

We are collecting blankets, socks and underwear for the homeless. Items can be placed in the Narthex. See Fr. Jerry if you have questions.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHURCH?

Is service to the Altar Guild Ministry right for me?

The Altar Guild has been described as: A special ministry whose mission is to care for everything that relates to the Altar. It is our privilege to prepare the Altar for the services of the Eucharist as well as baptism, weddings, funerals, and special services. We also care for the copper, silver, linens, etc., that are used in the services. Our work is a devotional one, and is open to everyone who wishes to join.

If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild, please contact Louise McAra by text or cell at (810) 287-4334, or by mail at lsmcara1910@gmail.com.

Kitchen Person

We are currently without a "Kitchen Head". 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.

Vestry Members

As three Vestry members transition off the Vestry we are offering the opportunity for anyone interested in serving to let us know.

In accordance with the Bylaws of St. Christopher's, a Vestry member needs to be at least 16 years old, attend church regularly (in person or on Zoom), having had the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and has made a commitment of time, talent, and treasure. Anyone who has served in the past and has not served for a year is eligible to serve again.

The Vestry is the governing body of St. Christopher's and meets once a month to do the business of the church. After prayerful consideration, we hope you will be interested and can let us know of that interest soon. Please contact any Vestry member or Elizabeth in the office to express interest. This will allow us time to prepare a ballot to be voted on at our Annual Meeting in January 2022.

We appreciate your consideration.

Blessings to you,
The Vestry of St. Christopher's



What a wonderful moment it is for me when someone from our congregation comes up to me and tells me that their favorite part of the service is when our choir is chanting! This makes me very happy. And too, I do pass this lovely message on to our choir. Thank you for expressing your joy to us.

The other day, I was thinking that this might be the right time to just share a little information about the glorious tradition of Anglican chant! (There are inquiring minds who do want to know!) So, just in case you might have been wondering, Anglican chant grew out of the plainchant tradition during the English Reformation (Henry the VIII/16th Century England/breaking away for the Catholic Church/etc.). Anglican chant became well established by the 18th century; and did you happen to know that Anglican chant used to be in widespread use in most Anglican and Episcopal Churches? However, today, Anglican chant is sung primarily in Anglican Cathedrals, and parish churches which have retained a Choral Liturgical tradition. (like our church!) And I am sure that we also know that, of course, Anglican chant may be sung in Presbyterian, Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed churches. (In case you were wondering). This is such a beautiful part of the liturgy; I am very grateful we have such a talented choir who excel in this musical tradition. We are so blessed. One of my very favorite things to do while planning/preparing the pieces we sing for our church service is the part when I get to walk over to my desk and pick up the dark green, hard-bound Anglican Chant Psalter--because I just know that I will be lost for hours within its pages, playing the chants, figuring out which one will best fit the text we will be essaying musically, supporting the text of the Psalm.

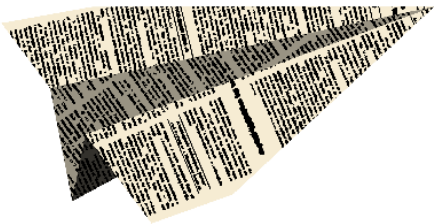
It feels very good to be able to say that the Anglican Chant tradition is alive and thriving at St. Christopher's! Viva la chant!

Please mark your calendars as Haendel's great choral masterpiece, the "Messiah" is coming! Soon! The Grand Blanc Choral Society will be presenting the Thirty-Fourth (think of that---34 years!) annual community Grand Blanc Messiah performance Sunday afternoon, November 21st, at 4:00, right here in the nave of St. Christopher's. Forty of your favorite choristers and a few folks from our own choir will be singing this wonderful work!

Aaron McCoy Jacobs, Judy Conyers, Audrey Ditri, Noralynn Hassold, Cynthia Butcher, Victor Galea, and Donald Kay will all be up there, faces masked, voices ready to make music... Jeff Walker will be conducting from the harpsichord.

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada Radakovich
Director of Music



FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

November is here and in full force. We've even had some chilly weather. As we head into the holiday season, let me put forth some ideas.

Gratitude. It is a time for us to be grateful. Grateful for all that God provides for us. First, let us thank God for giving us the gift of life and the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. This alone should fill our hearts with so much gratitude that our hearts burst!

Our families, those with whom we share a bloodline, and those that are so close to our hearts that they seem like family. I don't know of a family that is perfect. But in our imperfection and our shortcomings, we find that our families somewhat complete us. We often find strength to carry on. We share in the joys of birthdays, new life, anniversaries, and graduations. In these moments, it's not our imperfections that guide us. It's the love we have for one another that makes these moments memorable.

Our community of faith. In many ways, our community of faith is like family. We share in the joys and sorrows of one another. We pray for one another. Our lives are often intermeshed with one another and when one celebrates, we all celebrate. When one suffers, we all suffer. This is how the Body of Christ should be. The Letter to the Ephesians (4:16) tells us, "the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." We need one another. Gathering to worship is simply one way in which we live out our baptismal call, but it is essential to who we are. My prayer is that those who have not yet returned to in person worship, will do so very soon. You are missed, very much! Precautions are in place and we take every measure to keep everyone safe.

I am very grateful to all the folks that stepped up and took care of the running of our parish while

Elizabeth was out on maternity leave. You all did a fantastic job, and we are all very grateful for your leadership! And yes, I am very grateful that Elizabeth is back. We must never take for granted what everyone does to keep our parish running smoothly. From our Community Garden, to landscaping, the Altar Guild, our Choir and Bell Choir, Lectors, Prayer Team, Office Angels and so many more. There's always something to be done and many hands make the load light.

Our nation. Yes, there is turmoil. Many are concerned with the state of our country. We have seen difficult times before and I have faith that we will work through this period in our history just as we have before. Our veterans have fought hard to insure our freedoms. Freedom for every single person in this country. We don't have to always agree, but we do need to remember how to be civil to one another. To love one another, despite those differences.

As we head into this holiday season, let us be mindful of what this season is really about. Let's not get caught up in what "society" tells us. Thanksgiving is a time for families and friends to gather. To share a meal together and to love one another. I have so many fond memories of family gatherings and just about every one of them centered around mealtime. Gathering together is in our very nature. We are not meant to be alone. This is why we are called "The Body of Christ."

Let us also be grateful for those who have left us. Their love, their light, their joy, and their faith remain with us. There are days when we find it difficult. But they continue to be with us through the risen Christ. We miss them but let us be thankful for the gift of knowing them and having them walk with us, even for too brief a time.

My prayer is one of gratitude. I thank God for

Continued on page 7

each of you. You have added to my life and have made this past year one of renewal. You have graciously walked with me on my journey and have loved me and supported me every step of the way.

Finally, please remember that this season is a time of giving. Remember those less fortunate. We never know how they got there. Give where no one can give back. This is true charity. The Good Samaritan stopped to help the man along the road. He gave of his own with no expectation of anything in return. He did this because of his humanity, and the humanity of the one he helped.

Of course, we are in our pledge season. Please give generously to the parish. We will soon be creating a budget and would love to be in the black next year. We are short around \$70,000 for the current year.

I want to share with you a prayer that I often find meaningful and I hope you do too.

Solitude

*May you recognize in your life the presence,
Power and Light of your soul.*

*May you realize that you are never alone,
That your soul in its brightness and belonging
Connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.*

May you have respect for your individuality and difference.

*May you realize that your soul is unique,
That you have a special destiny here,
That behind the façade of your life
There is something beautiful and eternal happening.*

*May you learn to see your self
With the same delight,
Pride and expectation
With which God sees you in every moment.*

-Benedictus, John O'Donohue, p. 127

Blessings,

Jerry+