



THE

FEBRUARY 2022

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)

WEDNESDAYS

4 pm - Bells Rehearsal
7 pm - Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Goodbye from The Rev. Canon Mike Spencer

Save the Dates!

2022 Senior Warden Report

A Note from 2021 Senior Warden

Pictures from the Bishop's Visit

...and so much more!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

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

STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh
Bishop Provisioner
The Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan

The Reverend Jerry Lasley
Rector
Rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,
Priest in Residence
FrMike@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 2022

Frank Burger, *Senior Warden*
SeniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

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

Bill Thewalt, *Clerk*

Bobbie Walton, *Treasurer*
Treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Ken Duck (2023) Flo Gjerstad (2024)
Ellen Safley (2025) Colleen Shrank (2025)
Kay Van Natta (2023)

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Well, here we are in the middle of winter and many of us are anxiously awaiting the beginning of Spring.

I'm honored to serve as your Senior Warden for 2022. I'd like to take this time to introduce myself.

I'm a lifelong Episcopalian. I have attended St. Christopher's since 2000. Before that I attended, St. Paul's, St. Andrews, and St. Dunstons. Over the past two years I was honored to serve as the Chair of the Search Committee and was proud to bring Father Jerry forward as our Rector. I'm proud to serve as an Lay Eucharistic Minister and Usher/Greeter, and Technology team member in the church.

I work Carman-Ainsworth High School, as a High School Biology and Physical Science teacher. I also serve as President of the Carman-Ainsworth Education Association. I've been married to my wonderful husband, Michael Latesky for 15 years.

As your Senior Warden, I look forward to working through the visioning process with Vestry and growing and embedding our footprint in the greater Grand Blanc Community. I look forward to growing our church through evangelism into our community and making us a strong and viable parish both financially and spiritually.

Frank Burger
Senior Warden

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us on Saturday,
April 23, 2022 for our
Coat Closet Kick-Off

This evening of food, fellowship, desserts and music will be the kickoff benefit for our newest outreach ministry St. Christopher's Coat Closet. Live entertainment will be provided by our own Ken Duck and admission will be new or gently used winter gear or a donation earmarked "coat closet"

Read Luke 3:10-11 then mark your calendar!



Musically, we have been closed down once again, as you may have noticed. (Although look for us to come back this month!) So, this being the case, I would consider perhaps listening to a few other fabulous outlets of our beautiful Episcopal Church Music by visiting via YouTube; a few places that come to mind are:

National Cathedral at www.cathedral.org

"The sixth-largest cathedral in the world, Washington National Cathedral is an architectural masterpiece, a national house of prayer for all people, and a gathering place for the nation in times of sorrow and in times of celebration. Construction began on this 20th-century gothic-style Cathedral in 1907, but it wasn't finished until 1990. It has been the site of presidential funerals, inaugural prayer services, and many historic moments, including the final Sunday sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Also, another place to observe and enjoy the fabulous musical traditions of **St. Bart's Church in NYC**. **Their website is: stbarts.org.**

"St. Bartholomew's Church has a long tradition of musical excellence and an uncommon influence on the musical life of America. Its history has included some of the most distinguished leaders in church music in the U.S. including Leopold Stokowski, David McK. Williams, Harold Friedell, Jack Ossewaarde, James Litton, and William K. Trafka."

And, perhaps, in our own backyard, **The Cathedral Church of St. Paul at detroitcathedral.org**, where, too, the music is glorious!

I would also like to mention that February 1st. begins our one month celebration of Black History. I do try throughout our musical year, to support and program works of African-American composers - two names you may recognize are Moses Hogan and David Hurd. Throughout our church year, we sing arrangements of Mr. Hogan (an Oberlin Conservatory and that little music conservatory in NYC -Juilliard-grad), he arranged/compiled the Oxford Book of Spirituals. And, perhaps some of you may have noticed that we often chant musical gems of David Hurd (also a grad of Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School). Both of these composers are esteemed and greatly respected musical giants.



In Christ, I am yours,

Nada Radakovich
Director of Music

UPCOMING LESSONS

February 13 - Epiphany 6

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Psalms 1

Luke 6:17-26

February 20 - Epiphany 7

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Psalms 37:1-12, 41-42

Luke 6:27-38

February 27 - Last Epiphany

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Psalms 99

Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]

March 6 - Lent 1

Romans 10:8b-13

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Luke 4:1-13

March 13 - Lent 2

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Psalms 27

Luke 13:31-35

March 20 - Lent 3

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Psalms 63:1-8

Luke 13:1-9

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

PAST SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Thanks to all! As of January, I have finished my term as your Senior Warden. Your support has been much appreciated these last three years. So much transpired—with Fr Don leaving, Rev Ann as interim and Fr Jerry being hired as Rector a year ago. I for one am grateful to the Search Committee for presenting Fr Jerry to us as a Vestry. The choice was absolutely the best one!

In spite of the pandemic, we have continued to resume activities that were interrupted. Financially you have continued to support us and we thank you. The Covid protocols from the Diocese haven't prevented resuming Wednesday services and soup suppers, Ally Challenge parking, choir participation on Sundays, coffee hour, Good News Garden, book and puzzle exchange, filming of services on Zoom and Facebook—and the list goes on.

The future is bright ahead and we pray the pandemic will subside as we do our part to contain it and GET VACCINATED!!

Prayer and Peace,

Jane Brewer
Senior Warden

A NOTE ON GOODBYES FROM THE REV. CANON MICHAEL SPENCER

Goodbyes are hard. Well, not all of them. I'm sure we are all looking forward to the day when we get to say goodbye to this pandemic. But when friends must take their leave, we often get a catch in the throat, as the emotion embodies in us and our feelings inform our physicality. Goodbyes take some doing. According to that expert of experts, the internet, there are at least nine stages of goodbye in the midwest:

1. "Welp"
2. Hugs
3. Walk to the door
4. Chat at the door

Continued on page 5

5. "We really should be going"
6. More hugs
7. Hand on the doorknob
8. A bit more chat
9. Wave through the window

I would just add a toot of the car horn so that those inside the house know that they can turn off the porch light. The smile dancing around your face is a recognition of the fact that we ritualize even the small parts of our lives. Certainly as faithful Christians we know the power of ritual, and we use it extensively in our worship, hopefully to glorious effect. We can't help but ritualize moments in our lives that have some kind of significance to us, even if it's just a recognition that from time to time we must part ways, and that even though we do, our connection and our relationship endures. So we go through the steps of goodbye, to help us acknowledge and enact the change of status, and prepare ourselves for what comes next. We do this again and again as the various actors in the play that is our lives move on and off the stage.

This note to you is another step in the ritual goodbye underway between me and the St. Christopher's community. It is a chance for me to say thank you for sharing your selves with me in these four or so years together. I couldn't have imagined what lay before us, at the beginning. I knew that there would be lots of learning, lots of challenges, and that did come to pass. Certainly some of the lessons for me were not of the kind I would have expected! But that's probably true for everyone starting out at something new, and it might be true for you as well. In any case, I am grateful to God for the ministry we have shared, and I remember you in my prayers of gratitude every day.

It's also a good time to say this: for my failings, mistakes, and poorer choices, I am sorry. To anyone who felt uncared for, ignored, or forgotten, I am sorry. If grace is real, then it must be real when forgiveness is offered to parting friends, for though



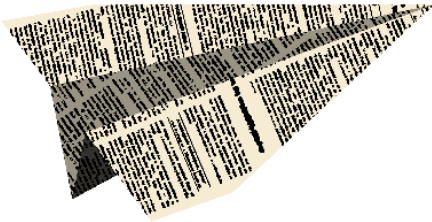
Christ justly calls on us to pray for our enemies, the hurt that comes from a friend is even harder to bear. I know that I will continue to carry you in my heart, albeit in a new way, and I hope you find space for me in yours.

The tradition is that when clergy and congregation part, they keep their distance. I know this to be good practice. I have seen the ill effects when these important boundaries are ignored. But that distance doesn't mean that affection and care are diminished. It just means that in doing so we make room for the new people in our midst; you here in Grand Blanc, and me in Southern Ohio. Will we see each other again? I certainly hope so, but if we don't that doesn't mean our connection doesn't last; it simply takes on a new characteristic, one of blessed memory.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Good bye, and God bless you!

The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer



FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Well, February is off to a grand start! A whole lot of snow, and some cold weather, have ushered in old man Winter. I'm a kid at heart so I must admit that I am enjoying the weather and the snow. It is so beautiful. Of course, I don't have to go out and work in it so others might have a very different opinion.

Of course, with all of this snow, we have had to pay for a lot of snow removal. Just for the month of January, it was over \$4,000. Now with the snow in February, we will likely have another hefty bill. Our Annual Meeting went well. We have new members of the Vestry, and we will soon be on our way, forging ahead with a new vision and plan for growth in worship, love, service, and evangelization. We are all called to be Christ to the world, and we must find new and creative ways to share our love of God with others outside of our church community.

We will have met with our new provisional bishop, Bishop Prince Singh by the time you get this. I have spoken at length with him, and I am very excited to be walking forward with his leadership and guidance. I truly believe he is just what we need to forge a new path.

It will be important for us to find out what the needs are in our community. Will it be a soup kitchen? A food/clothing giveaway? A meeting place for various groups? Tutoring in the schools? I don't have an answer just yet. But whatever we do, we must do it with faith and confidence that God will guide us.

We are about the business of God. We are called to live lives of service and love. We must look outside our walls if we are truly going to be doing God's work here on earth. I firmly believe that our future looks bright. I have faith in God, and I have faith in you!

Moving forward, we must be willing to share our time, talents and treasures generously and in faith that God will bless our work. The Kingdom of God is not just heaven. It is here and now. What are we doing to make that happen? What more can we do?

Let us continue to pray for one another. Let us build on the love we have for God and one another and create a world that reflects the love of God for all people.

Blessings,

Jerry+

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us on Sunday, March 13
at our 8 am & 10:15 am Services!

The Canon Katie Forsyth will be preaching at both services!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022



The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, our Bishop Provisioner paid us a visit!

We said goodbye to The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer!

We celebrated the new ministry of our Rector, The Rev. Jerry Lasley!

