



THE

MAY 2022

TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service (In-Person)
9:15 am - Adult Study
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service
(In-Person & Livestreamed via Facebook Live)

WEDNESDAYS

7 pm - Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

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



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 Provisional

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'S REPORT

Well, here we are in the season of Easter. So much has happened over the last two years that affected each one of us. As I write this report, I'm reflecting on the last two years of our life together at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. We went from worshipping in person in January of 2020 to having to completely online in March of 2020 to finally being able to come back together in the church building in April of 2021.

I'm so grateful that we can come back together to our church building and worship together, but let's not lose sight of the fact that many of us have been personally affected by this Pandemic. I lost a very dear friend to COVID back in 2021 and I still wish I could pick up the phone and call that friend.

I look forward to the next several months together as we work together as a Vestry to build our church and make our footprint in the Great Grand Blanc Community.

I'm pleased to report to that I have agreed to take over as Technology Captain for the church since Michael has left. I have spoken with Father Jerry about some changes that we can do to enhance our online worship. The first of these is to start recording every service using the Zoom platform. We will then create a YouTube Channel that we can then upload each recording to and share our YouTube Channel widely. We will also be able to link these videos to our current church website. By recording each service, we will also be able to video edit each of these cut out small portions of the service such as the sermon to share on YouTube and our Facebook page.

I would also like to bring to your attention a recent vote that was taken by the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church. This vote truly shows what we are all about as Episcopalians and how we must live up to our Baptismal Covenant.

Continued on page 3



Office of Public Affairs

“Resolution adopted by the House of Bishops

March 19, 2022

In light of the baptismal covenant’s promise to see Christ in all persons, and the recent and any actions by elected officials in Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, New Hampshire, Michigan, Missouri, Florida, Arkansas, Ohio, North Dakota, Mississippi, South Dakota, Nebraska, Indiana, South Carolina, and school districts targeting transgender children and their families, we, the Bishops of the Episcopal Church gathered at Camp Allen, Texas, in March 2022, voice our love and

continued support for all person who identify as transgender or non-binary and their families. We decry legislative initiatives and governmental actions targeting trans children and their families. We urge all in our Church to create safe spaces and shield all people from harassment based on gender identity.”

We will be celebrating Pride Sunday again this year at St. Christopher’s in June. Father Jerry and I have been in conversation about what this event will look like this year. Our plan is to make it even bigger and better than that last year’s event. This is a great way for us to reach out to our community and welcome in people who would normally not be welcome in a church home and let them know that they have a home here at St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank A. Burger

Senior Warden

A Prayer for Vestry:

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given the gifts of leadership and service to those in your Church who guide the care and keeping of our parish. Be present with those who serve on our Vestry, that their committed hearts may be fixed upon you. Grant them wisdom to notice the cares and concerns of this community, trust to follow your guidance when answers are not easy, and the knowledge and love of you to be ever-present in their discussions and decisions. Through Christ our Lord we offer our prayers to you. Amen.

VESTRY PERSPECTIVES...

UPCOMING LESSONS

May 8 - Easter 4

Acts 9:36-43
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30
Psalm 23

May 15 - Easter 5

Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35
Psalm 148

May 22 - Easter 6

Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29
or John 5:1-9
Psalm 67

May 29 - Easter 7

Acts 16:16-34
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26
Psalm 97

June 5 - Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17, (25-27)
Psalm 104:25-35, 37

**Find the readings every
week at
lectionarypage.net**

Let me start by saying that I completely agree with the comments made in the April Trumpeter by Bill Thewalt and Ellen Safley. When considering to serve on the Vestry, one always asks the question, "Why Me?" I asked that same question. The response should be, we all have unique talents and skills to give for the Glory of God plus, it is a way to give back in appreciation for all the blessings we have received in life. Moreover, our church and congregation benefits from having periodic turnover of Vestry members because each new member brings a fresh set of ideas on how to sustain and grow our membership, and to broaden St. Christopher's footprint as the Hands and Feet of Christ in the Grand Blanc community.

For me personally, it is in my DNA. I was raised in the United Methodist Church and I'm from a family, where serving in church leadership roles was demonstrated and encouraged by our elders. Both my parents served as members of administrative boards (Vestry equivalent), both were Sunday School teachers, involved with vacation Bible school, my Dad was his church's Lay Leader, and chaired the board of trustees, and my uncle was a United Methodist pastor. This demonstration of church service, responsibility, and leadership was instilled in us as children. As a result of this encouragement, I have served both the Episcopal and United Methodist churches in many capacities as an adult in places we have lived. I am currently a Lay Eucharistic Minister as well as a Vestry member at St Christopher's, and my brother is a Baptist pastor in Virginia.

When Myrtle and I moved to Grand Blanc a little over three years ago and visited St. Christopher's, we received the friendliest and warmest reception that we had ever received from any church that we had visited after relocating. I have to give a hearty thank you to Flo Gjerstad, Jane Yorks, Bobbie Walton, Joyce Thewalt, Bill Anderson, and Nada Radokovich for their efforts in making us feel a part of the St. Christopher's on our first visit. This warm reception made us want to be a part of the St. Christopher's family and heavily influenced me to say yes when approached about being nominated for the Vestry.

I can't think of a better way to end this piece than to quote Ellen Safley's well said remarks from the April Trumpeter. This says it all, namely: *"So, pray for your Vestry members, talk to them, and express your desires, ideas, hopes and fears. Remember, while some of us currently carry the title of Vestry Member, we are ALL part of the team. We all need to contribute our time and talents in hopes that one day our Savior will say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"*

Ken Duck

COAT CLOSET NEWS

The kickoff dinner for St. Christophers newest Ministry was a great success and a lovely evening.

Your generosity got our closet started with coats, scarves, gloves and monetary donations.

Many have mentioned that they want to help with this endeavor and today we'll share some ways each of you can show your support.

Choose which volunteer opportunities work for you then sign up at the office:

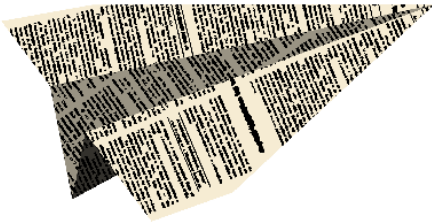
1. Mention our coat closet to all of your family and friends, ask if they have coats that they would like to donate and offer to pick them up. Bring the donations to the closet location and leave them in the receptacles you'll find in the Narthex. (Once the closet opens in the fall, we'll need to restock weekly. Coats will ALWAYS be needed)
2. Check out garage sales, anywhere you can find a bargain.
3. Pick up donations from organizations offering to help.
4. Mid-week restocking will need two volunteers each week. Your commitment here is approximately 1 hr.
5. Be a greeter to our guests who come to the closet. Direct them, make them feel comfortable and welcomed as they wait their turn to choose a coat. Commitment time 2 hours on a Saturday morning.
6. Share your talents by being a part of the advertising angels. Help develop our logo and design our advertising.



If you haven't already, please take a moment and check out the coats in the closet near the church library. Help us prepare for our September opening. We'll keep you posted.

**Pictures
are from
our April
23 Kick-Off
Event!**





FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

Wow! It's May already! That's hard for me to believe.

There has been so much activity going on, and that's a great thing! We had a glorious Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Our attendance was fantastic. Once again, we were able to be with our sisters and brothers from other faith communities for the Good Friday service. It was very meaningful.

Another exciting event was the kickoff for our new Outreach Ministry, the Coat Closet! We will begin to distribute coats to the community this Fall. We had an amazing spaghetti dinner, joyful live music, wonderful prizes, and absolutely fantastic fellowship. A tremendous thank you to all who worked so hard to make it such a success and to all who brought in coats and scarves for those in need. We will continue to collect coats from now on. Also, thank you to those who donated items for the door prizes! We have some mighty talented folks in our parish!

We are still collecting items for the homeless folks

who receive love and care through the ministry of St. Andrew's. We collect t-shirts, socks, and underwear!

This month, we have Mother's Day and Graduation Sunday. Isn't it exciting to see our parish becoming so active? YES! In June, we will celebrate Pentecost, my 30th Ordination Anniversary (followed by a potluck), and Pride Sunday (followed by another potluck).

Our Vestry is working on a Capital Campaign project in order to pay for the roof repairs, the HVAC system and the parking lot. More information on that to come soon.

Finally, if you know of anyone that is homebound and would like to receive a visit, please let us know! We are currently trying to update our records so that we can remain connected to everyone!

Many blessings,

Jerry+



**The 17th Annual St. Christopher's Outing to the Lugnuts game will be
Thursday, July 7, 2022.**

The Lugnuts are a minor league baseball team whose home field is a modern stadium in Lansing, Michigan. The Lugnuts are holding a block of tickets for us. The ticket price is \$11.00 (cheap). To reserve tickets, you need to sign up using the sheet on the clipboard on the table in the narthex OR contact Bill Thewalt at 810.938.7098 or email him at fwithe@gmail.com. Please don't try to give him the money now as he prefers to collect when the tickets are delivered. Transportation is by carpool. It is our custom to meet for dinner across the street from the stadium at The Nut House at 5:00 p.m. to make the game at 7:00 p.m. See you at the game!



When I first started at St. Christopher's as Director of Music, there was someone who helped me learn how to best serve this church, musically. This was Dr. Greg Hassold. He always had a moment for me whenever I would become overwhelmed or flustered---he would gently make a suggestion and say, "You know, Nada, you could maybe try this or that, might this help?" And, too, Dr. Hassold always had my back at every rehearsal---he was gently

there, always ready to help out, offering to play piano if I was going through a bout of tendonitis, or if my eyes were blown up with an infection---(these are things a person doesn't forget!). He ALWAYS offered to be helpful, in any way he could.

Greg also is a very fine singer. His excellent sight-reading skills and lovely bass/baritone voice truly helped make our choir a better sounding ensemble. He and Noralynn both brought us a better sounding choir, always ready to embrace a challenge (i.e., Anglican Chant) and helped us become a lean mean chanting machine!

Please let me take a moment to again say 'thank you' to you both! Several years ago, when we were running low on choir robes, Noralynn and Greg made a financial donation to help us acquire 6 new robes and cottas. And, too, I would be quite remiss if I didn't mention how tirelessly Noralynn would help maintain our choir robes. She also would help any one of us or any guest who was joining the choir find the exact right robe and make certain they were singing in style! She was always right there, helping us look our best. Too, seldom did Noralynn miss choir rehearsal. She always came prepared, ready to sing and ready with a fun joke or some witty twist on something, helping maintain a lightheartedness during rehearsal time. It is just going to break my heart to look over in our soprano section and not see you there, Noralynn.

As our parish organist, Greg possesses the kindness and humility and sense of humor it takes to handle playing for a church. He is always prepared, he is always investigating interesting musical choices and delivering with a high level of professionalism. Greg, your unwavering faith and service to St. Christopher brings great meaning to each note you play. You have blessed us for these many years with your precious gift of sacred music. We all love and appreciate you so much, Greg. So constant, so kind, so humble.

I must mention the way Greg stepped up during the pandemic and led us with music from his piano in his living room--- and Noralynn (and cat) would help with song-leading---thank you! Those were very challenging times and you both made them tolerable. Again, just pointing out your dedication and love for the parish of St. Christopher's.

Thank you, thank you both, Noralynn and Greg for your tremendous contributions to so much of what is 'good' at St. Christopher's. You will be sorely missed.

In Christ, I am yours,
Nada Radakovich
Director of Music

Greg's last Sunday as our parish
organist will be
Sunday, May 22.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR MAY 2022

	LECTOR / LEM	GREETER(S)	TECH	ALTAR GUILD
<u>May 8</u>				
8 am	Dave & Melissa Butler	Dave & Melissa Butler	-----	-----
10:15 am	Flo Gjerstad	Jerri & Paul Bassett	Tristram Shayna	Sharon Rice
<u>May 15</u>				
8 am	Nancy Wells	Neuman & Jan Convis	-----	
10:15 am	Bob Luckey	Becky Stermer Bobbie Walton	Tristram Shayna	Colleen Shrank
<u>May 22</u>				
8 am	Jane Brewer	Sharon & Dale Rice	-----	-----
10:15 am	Ken Duck	Jan Taylor Flo Gjerstad	Bill White	Jane Brewer
<u>May 29</u>				
8 am	Kay Van Natta	Jane Brewer & Lou Alarie	-----	-----
10:15 am	Bob Luckey	Jerri & Paul Bassett	Frank Burger	Anne Naber
<u>June 5 – Pentecost Sunday</u>				
8 am	Jane Brewer	Jane Brewer & Lou Alarie	-----	-----
10:15 am	Joyce Thewalt	Jan Taylor Shirley Showler	Audrey D’itri	Sharon Rice
<u>June 12</u>				
8 am	Nancy Wells	Sharon & Dale Rice	-----	-----
10:15 am	Frank Burger	Flo Gjerstad Mike Latesky	Frank Burger	Shirley Showler