



THE TRUMPETER

AUGUST 2023

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

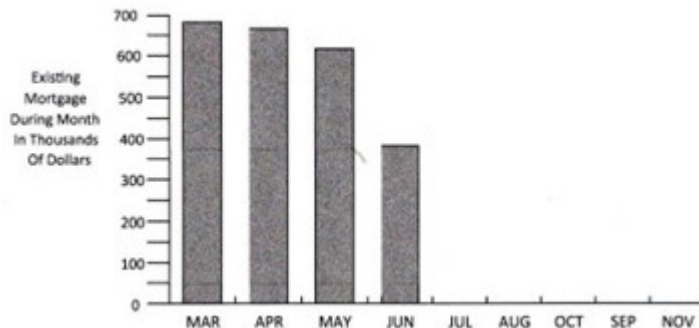
PRINCIPAL PAY-OFF CAMPAIGN (PPC)

St. Christopher's Principal Pay-off Campaign started in April, is now in full swing, and will finish by the end of November. If you have been attending church services recently you have seen the PPC "Thermometer" in the narthex announcing our progress as we approach our goal of paying off our \$500,000 mortgage. You have also been able to watch our mortgage shrink by checking the Current Financial Standing at the bottom of each Sunday Service Bulletin. We are making all this information as accessible as possible to everyone because every one of us has an ownership stake in its success.

The tremendous importance of this campaign to our parish cannot be overstated. We are a modestly sized parish housed in a beautiful large facility burdened with a large mortgage. Our monthly mortgage payments essentially cover little more than the interest on the principal while accomplishing negligible reductions of the principal itself. It will take a few generations of congregations to significantly pay off our mortgage debt unless we reduce it now with our PPC.

Our mortgage outflow has been a sizeable factor in our annual budget, draining away each year more than \$62,000 which could otherwise be used to support those important programs and operations that fulfill our mission as a church and lead to growth.

The PPC has also been called the "Principal Pay-off Challenge", and it is exciting to see how actively we are stepping up to that challenge. By the end of June, three months into our eight-month campaign, we had received enough contributions to reduce our mortgage principal by about 44 percent of its March value, from \$535,700 down to



\$298,500. In effect, we have already captured about 40 percent of the interest money we have been losing each year. We can be rightfully proud and thankful for what we have accomplished so far, and we can confidently look forward to steady progress toward our eventual goal of a mortgage-free parish.

-PPC Team

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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(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*
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Jeffrey Walker, *Organist*
Jeffrey@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Angela Zinsli, *Administrative Assistant*
Angela@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Joel Stoeklin, *Sexton*
sexton@stchrisgrandblanc.org

VESTRY 2023

Ellen Safley, *Senior Warden*
SeniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Bill Hartley, *Junior Warden*
JuniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Steve Huber, *Clerk*

Jane Brewer, *Co-Treasurer*
Dale Rice, *Co-Treasurer*
Treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Myrtle Duck (2024) Flo Gjerstad (2024)
Linda Rathburn (2026) Colleen Shrank (2025)
Jane Brewer (2026) Bill Thewalt (2025)

UPCOMING LESSONS

August 6

Exodus 34:29-35
2 Peter 1:13-21
Luke 9:28-36
Psalm 99

August 13

1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-23
Psalm 85:8-13

August 20

Isaiah 56:1,6-8
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
Psalm 67

August 27

Isaiah 51:1-6
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20
Psalm 138

September 3

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28
Psalm 26:1-8

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



THE PRIEST'S DESK

Greetings in Christ!

Whew! Where has the summer gone? It's been a busy one.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who help to make St. Christopher's what it is.

There are a lot of people who spend a great amount of time behind the scenes.

- Those who volunteer as LEM's and Lector's
- Those who volunteer as Ushers and Greeters
- Those who volunteer to make schedules for the above
- Our wonderful Altar Guild who makes sure that everything is set up for worship
- Our musicians who provide such beautiful music that adds so much to our worship
- Our Coffee Hour Volunteers
- Those who donate for flowers for the altar
- Those who come in to help count the offerings
- Those who volunteer as Vestry members
 - o They work on the daily business of the parish
 - o They work on our finances along with our Treasurers
 - o They spend a lot of time in meetings
- Our Treasurers
- Those who work to make our grounds beautiful and fresh looking
- All of you who continue to support and pray for one another

We have so much to be thankful for!

Blessings,

Jerry+

FROM THE MUSIC ROOM...

Greetings from the Music Room!

As we only have one more month of Summer and our special guest soloists, I wanted to once again thank our most recent Dynamic Duo! Thank you, Father Jerry and his dear friend Christine Martin Beutner for gifting us with your beautiful singing this Sunday past. "Give Me Jesus" was so very moving and so very beautiful. Thank you for coming all the way up here from Texas, Christine, to share your beautiful voice and excellent flute playing with us.

As we have once again have Mr. Bat in-house, I have been traipsing about with a chlorox wipe in hand, trying to pick up after him hither and yon! This trail of bat travels led me over towards our well, our very valuable organ pipes--and then I thought, "Yikes, this can't be good"... Mr. Walker assured me that one little bat was not going to fell a pipe organ, but still, I had my doubts! I at this point, I started thinking, that perhaps, since we have invested so much love and sweat and funds into this great musical feature of our church, that it might be good for us to all learn a little bit about this Keates & Geisler Canadian import--- and since Jeff Walker spends so much time climbing around in there, trying to keep this instrument in tune, I have asked him to please share some of his thoughts about our pipe organ. Mr. Walker states:

"Nada has asked me to write an article about our organ and its music.

When I arrived, I dropped the terms prelude and postlude and started using the term voluntary, which is an instrumental piece presented in the context of a service. It is the preferred term in the Anglican Church of which we are a part.

The use of somewhat fuller sounds on the organ during the hymns and service music has certainly had the desired effect – congregational singing is greatly improved and is much stronger. I am always excited to lead an enthusiastic congregation in the hymns!

I play a wide variety of organ selections from different countries and historical periods as well as of varied character and mood. I have also tried to fully utilize the resources of our instrument both dynamically and in terms of tone color. The tonal palette of so large an instrument is very extensive.

Currently the tuning of the organ is quite good. In previous winters we have had temperature issues which have left the upper chests (particularly the one on the left – part of the swell division) significantly warmer than the lower ones, creating serious tuning discrepancies. Fortunately the instrument is large enough that I can afford to simply leave off certain stops to minimize the out of tuneness. This past winter the problem was less acute (I know not why). The various sections have pulled in tune nicely since we transitioned to air conditioning. There are still a number of mechanical problems which need my attention, but I have prioritized keeping everything that is working in good tune and slowly working away at the repair issues.

At some point I would like to do a 15 or 20 minute organ demonstration and explanation for you, perhaps after coffee hour some Sunday. The group of parishioners who helped me install the swell mixture some months ago were quite fascinated by the workings of the instrument.

Lastly, I so appreciate that most of you sit down to hear the closing voluntary, and your kind applause at the end!"

Thank you, Mr. Walker!

Just a gentle reminder: Please remember choir members, our first rehearsal will take place on September 6th, 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you all then!

In Christ, I am Yours,
Nada



Family Coat Closet

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Every Saturday!
October through December
10am - Noon



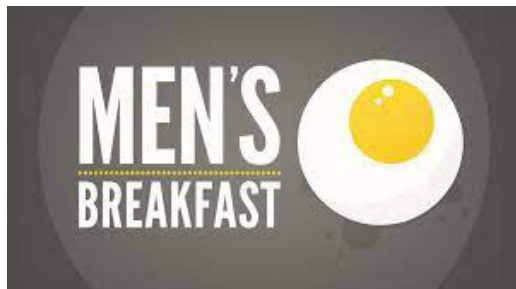
St. Christopher's
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 GRAND BLANC, MICHIGAN

Join us for Sunday Services!
 8:00am and 10:15am
 9020 S. Saginaw, Grand Blanc, MI (810) 694-3600



50/50 Raffle

Beginning every Sunday in the month of August, there will be 50/50 Raffle tickets available for sale after the 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services in the Gathering Area. Ticket Cost: 1 ticket/\$1.00; 7 tickets/\$5.00 or 20 tickets/\$10.00. On August 27th the drawing for the 50/50 Raffle winner will take place after the 10:15 a.m. service. Prizes: 1st Place Prize: ½ of the 50/50 proceeds; 2nd Place Prize: Microwave Bowl.



MEN'S GROUP

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 9 a.m. @ Sophia's Kitchen, 11395 S. Saginaw St., Grand Blanc. Please sign up on the Kiosk.

COFFEE Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in July: Bill Hartley, Rene, Rod Bytwerk, Cindy Donner, Shirley Showler, Chapin Cook and Janice Fly.

There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to host! You only have to make coffee/tea and perhaps provide a small snack or treat item if



The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, August 9th at 11:45 a.m. at Antonia's Coney Island, 5485 Fenton Rd., Flint. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the kiosk or contact Louise McAra at (810) 287-4334 no later than June 7th as we need to give a head count to the restaurant.



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR AUGUST 2023

	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOWERS
<u>AUGUST 6</u>						
8 am	Jane Brewer	Dave & Melissa Butler	-----	-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Ken Duck	Pual & Jerri Bassett		Jane Brewer	Ellen Safley	Bill Anderson
<u>AUGUST 13</u>						
8 am	Debbie Moses	Neuman & Jan Convis		-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Joyce Thewalt Rod Bytwerk (L)	Jane Yorks & Jan Taylor		Mary Van Duyne	Available	Jane Brewer
<u>AUGUST 20</u>						
8 am	Dave & Melissa Butler	Don & Nancy Wells	-----	-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Bob Luckey	Becky Stermer & Bill Anderson		Shirley Showler	Available	Available
<u>AUGUST 27</u>						
8 am	Kay Van Natta	Dale & Sharon Rice	-----	-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Linda Rathburn	Joyce Thewalt & Jane Yorks		Sharon Rice	Ally Challenge	Jane Brewer

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

August is upon us-where has the summer gone? It's flying by way too quickly!

It seems like summer is usually a quieter time around church, the program year is in hiatus, folks are traveling or on vacations, taking time to enjoy the beauty of nature and fun with family. But this summer season has been a particularly busy time for myself, Fr. Jerry, and Angela Zinsli buying and selling houses, tons of packing and unpacking to do, changing closing dates, hiring movers, etc. have made coming to the office a welcome respite from the busyness! And it has also been a summer of progress for St. Christopher's.

The focused progress priority for us is the Principle Payoff Challenge. We continue to work toward being free of our mortgage with Oxford Bank by the first Sunday of Advent. Our July principle payment should have us very close to 50% of our goal! This has been an ambitious undertaking, but we step out in faith daily and pray to have a future that looks at expanding our Christian presence in our community-not struggling to meet mortgage payments.

We have completed the first season and discussions of "The Chosen" with everyone who joined our group excited to begin Season 2 in the fall. There is talk of expanding our discussions to include a soup lunch. And we all know that there are some pretty good cooks among us! Join us!! We have been meeting in the conference room, but if our numbers outgrow the space, we will happily move to the Social Hall!

The Community Garage Sale was a success and contributed to the Principle Payoff Challenge. Some of the "left-overs" have been donated to thrift stores, The Little Red Hen, which donates their profits to area charities such as the Women's Shelter of Flint and Freedom Treasures, which hires disabled adults. Those participating in the sale have the added satisfaction of a little less clutter in their homes...

Bill Hartley and I have met on Tuesday mornings to tackle some (belated) spring cleaning and other projects in and around our building. There is much more to do and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us in keeping our church home beautiful.

This Sunday morning, please, check your August calendar and find the Ally Challenge sign up sheet in the gathering space. We will again be the designated parking area for caddies, media, VIPs, and some volunteers from Thursday August 24-Sunday August 27. Friday evening music fans will gather at the 17th hole for a concert and on Saturday evening the concert stage (near Saginaw St.) will have Miranda Lambert drawing a crowd. The tournament has graciously allowed us to open to the public for parking for both concerts which brings an added boost to our proceeds. My mom ALWAYS said that "many hands make light work" and this is certainly true during tournament week. But we have lots of good conversations, build stronger relationships with each other and meet friendly people from all around the country. We actually have a reputation-the Pro Caddies love us!

I want to close by thanking Fr. Jerry for sharing his friend, Christine, and their beautiful voices with us last Sunday. Their voices, combined with her talent on the flute and Nada's accompaniment made my spirit soar!

Blessings to all,
Ellen Safley

