The Trumpeter

November 2023

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service

Thursdays

3 pm - Evening Prayer on Facebook Live
3:30 pm - Bible Study on Facebook Live & Zoom

Rock of Ages Big Band Returns to St. Christopher's

On Sunday, December 10th at 3 pm, the Rock of Ages Big Band returns to St. Christopher's to play one of their six Christmas Concerts. This concert will be dedicated to the memory of the late Bill Thewalt who was a long-time member of the St. Christoper's congregation and a big fan of ROABB and their music. In fact, there was a concert in 2022 where Bill stood in the rain to listen to this band. Any offerings collected at this concert will be donated to the PCC activity to be applied to paying down the mortgage.

The Rock of Ages Big Band started in 2004 planning on playing a more religious type of music. Since there were not many opportunities to play, they transitioned into more traditional swing music and started the evolution to where they are today.

The band still has some of its original players in leader/saxophonist Steve Figgins and saxophonist Tom McEachern. Lead trumpeter Stan Visser joined after the group had been rehearsing a few months. Steve and Stan have each played on every gig except one which is amazing. Note that St.Christopher's own Ken Duck plays saxophone and clarinet with the group.

The band continues to evolve and you'll hear and see the full band as well as some of the breakout ensembles playing both secular and sacred selections.

Rock of Ages Big Band December 2022

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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

Staff

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

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

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) Rod Bytwerk (2025)

Upcoming Lessons

November 5
Micah 3:5-12
Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

November 12
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 26
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:17-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

December 3
Isaiah 64:1-
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

December 10
Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Find the readings every week at lectionarypage.net

THE PRIEST'S DESK

Psalm 95

1 O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

3 For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

We are quickly entering the holiday season. Our lives will be pulled in many directions, and we will wonder how we will get it all done. Holiday parties, family and work gatherings, shopping for groceries, trying to find that perfect gift. It's hard for us to keep up with everything.

The holidays can be very challenging. For some, it can be a very difficult time. Maybe they have lost a loved one, or have lost a job, or their living situation has changed. There are some who are extreme introverts, and this season of many gatherings can be a time of dread. Maybe it's because we have lost our focus. We have lost the ability to see what is truly important about this holiday season. Thanksgiving is a time of just that. Giving thanks. God continues to bless us more than we could ever imagine. Life may not be perfect, but there is always something, someone, to be thankful for.

We have a wonderful community of faith. Our worship together is what we do best. This is followed by our ability to gather afterwards for coffee hour. People sit and chat and grab a cup of coffee and maybe a bite to eat. This is when we really get to know one another on a deeper, more intimate level. We also gather throughout the year for other outings. The annual Lugnuts game. Going to the movies. And now, our Foyer groups! (It's not too late to join!) We work together at our yard sale, our Ally Challenge parking. We work together to keep our building in good shape, to keep it clean. Our Altar Guild works hard to make sure that everything is ready for worship. Our choir practices every week to provide beautiful music that adds to our worship.

So don't let this season get the best of you. Maybe this year, we worry less about the details and focus on the people gathered around our table. That is what is important. Sometimes, the simple things are the best.

St. Christopher's is a community of love. We care about one another, and we love one another. We are a community of faith. May we all realize just how fortunate we are to have one another. I am so thankful for each and every one of you. May this season fill us with gratitude.

Blessings,
Jerry+

FROM THE MUSIC ROOM...

Greetings from the Music Room!

Da da da DAAAAA---we have sound! Thanks to much hard work from sound technician Jeff Briggs, our very own Andrew Wilson, Ken Duck and the persistence of Father Jerry, we have unlocked the secret! Our online streaming service will now be able to include the glorious sounds of our pipe organ as well as our congregational singing and that from our choir! Yay!! I know you might not believe this, but it is true (check it out!).

As the skies seem to be getting dark a little bit sooner than we were back in September, the church choir has moved our rehearsal time from Wednesday evenings to Sunday a.m., at 9:15, (and then we will be rehearsing again for a bit following the 10:15 service). If this scheduling shift will allow you to now sing with the choir, please do let me know and I will have music ready for you!

It's that special time of year again-- the Fall...(probably my favorite season)...this also means our ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be taking place very soon. Please do join us on November 16th at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 7234 Fenton Road, Grand Blanc, MI, for a 7:00 p.m. service and pie to follow! We will be singing beautiful hymns which will reflect gratitude and thanksgiving. Choirs from Kirkridge Presbyterian, Grand Blanc Methodist Church, Halsey Methodist Church, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and St. Christopher Episcopal Church will be participating. Please come--it is a lovely way to celebrate Thanksgiving. Speaking of food combined with singing, I have it on good authority that there will be a chili night on November 17th in the parish hall, and that a certain Moe Bandy fan will be bringing his karaoke equipment! Who knows what madness may ensue? So, grab your cowboy hats, dust off your vocal cords and come to the church for what promises to be a fun, relaxed evening of merrymaking and cornbread!

Also, do mark your calendars--The Grand Blanc Choral Society will be presenting Haendel's Messiah on November 19th at 4:00 p.m. in our nave! It is a great musical event and I am so pleased that we are able to host. Members of the Flint Symphony Orchestra, our own Jeff Walker (conductor/harpsichord) and members of our choir, Audrey Ditiri, Andrew Wilson, Jasmine Turman, Jeff Fisk, Angel Langford, Judith Conyers and yours truly will all be participating in this wonderful musical masterpiece. Local soloists, Bob Nickora, Jeff Straley, Eden Thorpe, Anne-Marie Atanga will also be singing. A charming after-glow in our parish hall will follow. Hope to see you there!

In Christ, I am You
Nada

Coat Closet Continues...

The St. Christopher's Coat Closet will remain open January through March 2024 under the leadership of Myrtle & Ken Duck. This is the time of year that many people need coats. We will be seeking volunteers to help staff this important ministry. Please contact Myrtle Duck at (571) 284-8929 or myrtle.duck@comcast.net to volunteer.

Men's Group

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 9 a.m. @ Sophia's Kitchen, 11395 S. Saginaw St., Grand Blanc. Please sign up on the Kiosk.

Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in October:
Flo Gjerstad, Jerry Lasley, Ellen Safley, Jane Yorks, Cindy Donner & Rod Bytwerk.

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 desired.

The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 8th at 11:45 a.m. at Antonio's Coney Island, 5485 Fenton Road, Flint. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the kiosk or contact Louise McAra at (810) 287-4334 no later than November 5th as we need to give a head count to the restaurant.

Worship Leaders for November 2023

	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOWERS
NOVEMBER 5						
8 am	Jane Brewer/ Debbie Moses (LEM)	Dave & Melissa Butler	---------	---------	---------	---------
10:15 am	Ken Duck	Paul & Jerri Bassett		Colleen Shrank	Janice Fly	Cindy Donner & Rod Bytwerk
NOVEMBER 12						
8 am	Dave & Melissa Butler	Jane Brewer & Debbie Moses		---------	---------	---------
10:15 am	Rod Bytwerk	Jane Yorks & Mary VanDuyne		Cindy Donner	Ken & Myrtle Duck	Ken Fawcett
NOVEMBER 19						
8 am	Debbie Moses	Dave & Melissa Butler	---------	---------	---------	---------
10:15 am	Linda Rathburn Steve Huber (L)	Bill Anderson & Jan Taylor		Dawn Rutherford	Shirley Showler	Jim & Jackie Beal
NOVEMBER 26						
8 am	Kay VanNatta	Dale & Sharon Rice	---------	----------	---------	---------
10:15 am	Joyce Thewalt	Flo Gjerstad & Becky Stermer		Mary VanDuyne	Available	Available

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

I'm shaking my head-it's really November already? This year has flown by so quickly that I really feel a need to look back a bit and reflect. Our worship life has been given more opportunities and varieties with Stations of the Cross, The Chosen, Thursday Bible Study, First Friday Healing Service. We continue to make improvements in the sound quality of both the spoken word and (soon!) music during our Sunday Mass to enhanced the worship experience for our internet community. The creativity and energy of a steadfast group of women will bring a new look, and a bit of nostalgia, to our Christmas decor with more than 150 Chrismons decorating our trees this year. The Community Coat Closet is open on Saturday mornings to serve those in need of a warm coat hug. Men's Breakfast and Women's Luncheon welcome everyone to meet and become closer as a Church family. Fr. Jerry is a true blessing to those in care facilities, making visits as far as Metamora and Durand! The invitation is out for a Chili Dinner/ Kareoke event on November 19th. Foyer Groups have been reestablished and welcome others to join- perhaps a Foyer Brunch Bunch?

With the realization that our mortgage would be revised in January, 2024 and considering the rise in interest rates over the past few months, we have stepped out in faith with the Principal Payoff Challenge. In a little more than 6 months we have paid more than 300K on the PRINCIPAL. EVERY donation, large or small, is a giant step toward having our bank mortgage completed. What a celebration that will be!

Given those thoughts to ponder and many more that I haven't mentioned, I encourage you to use the suggestion box in the Narthex. What's next? What do YOU think? Where do we go from here? How do we continue to grow in Faith and Service to each other and our wider community? Not every idea is an immediate success, but if your wants, thoughts and ideas stay hidden under that proverbial bushel basket, they have no chance to flourish! Together we are proving what being a community can accomplish. You are a blessing, individually and collectively!

Peace to all,
Ellen

FOYERS UPDATE

In the past, St. Christopher's had active Foyer groups and they have now been restarted. Eighteen persons have indicated an interest in participating and three groups have been established that has a mix of couples and singles as well as a mix by service attended. Note there is room for each group to expand and it's not too late to join up.

So, you ask, what are Foyer Groups? They are small groups of 3-8 persons sharing simple meals and fellowship, usually at the home of one of the members, though sometimes the group may gather at a restaurant or other venue. The intention is to have fun and provide an opportunity for us to meet each other and/or to become better acquainted. Each group typically meets monthly for a simple meal and relaxed conversation in the homes of members or other chosen meeting place. The meetings will typically last two to two and one-half hours. Groups are formed yearly beginning in August with sign up with the first meeting held in October. Foyer Groups are not intended to do anything, but simply to be what Christians are: groups of people who gather together and "love one another." Foyer Groups provide time to be with one another so that friendship may grow. The uniqueness of the Foyer Group is its lack of formal structure, its openness of communication, and its free access given to the Spirit.

If you are interested in participating in a Foyer Group, please contact Ken Duck at ken.ducksr@icloud.com or by phone at (571) 232-1827.

Standing Up for the Dignity of Every Person

(Diocesan Convention 2023 Workshop presented by the Rev. Jared Cramer of St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven)

This workshop was based on Rev. Cramer's experiences with local government actions in Ottawa County, Michigan. After a far-right takeover of county government, the commissioners eliminated the Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and changed the county motto from "Where you belong" to "Where freedom rings." When his congregation at St. John's helped put on the first-ever Pride Festival in Grand Haven, the festival and its participants were attacked by board including charges that a Pride Festival was "grooming children." These notes were provided by Rev. Cramer in notes about the workshop which laid out the congregation's plan for responding to the situation in Ottawa County.

He presented five steps:

1. What we believe – All Christian advocacy flows from our core beliefs and values as stated in Gen. 1:26-27 and Deut. 10:17-19 (among others).
2. Claim implications – Vestry discernment and parish commitment are required for action.
3. Pay attention – Take note of what is happening in the area to people at risk. Stay current with local news and government agency meetings. Rev. Cramer noted that a commitment to LGBTQ+ support cannot be limited to flying a flag during Pride events. He found that the local school board was considering banning books featuring Gay and Lesbian main characters.
4. Be true to God's call – Be present at festivals and events. Don't limit yourselves to just one particular issue.
5. Follow through – Expect pushback. Don't back down. Respond with love and firm resolve. Continue to show up at government meetings. Raise funds to help. Form or join coalitions to act.

The congregation at St. John's were particularly concerned with the issues of how LGBTQ+ people were treated and how gun violence was being addressed. (This summary is based on my notes from when I attended this workshop.)

~Linda Rathburn – Delegate to the 2023 Diocesan Convention for Eastern Michigan

Building Bridges: A Focus on our Stewardship of Resources Subteam

A series of reflections focused on the work of our sub-teams

Over the last few years, the Building Bridges Steering Committee -- the group charged with facilitating our discernment around our bi-diocesan relationship -- has worked hard in several areas, listening to the leaders of our dioceses, researching conversations and ministries in other dioceses, documenting history, looking at our financial and other resources, and much more. Over the next several issues of The Feast Online, we will highlight our sub-teams' progress.
We invite faith communities to share this content in their local newsletters and social media, a s part of our charge to communicate broadly with our members.

The Stewardship of Resources Team has been examining the financial aspects involved w ith a potential juncture (the churchy-word for merger), including whether there would be any restrictions related to our endowment funds and the oversight of those funds, the impact of a common apportionment model, and other issues related to the financial and property assets of the dioceses. A preliminary report from this team will be included in the BBSC report to the October convention in preparation of more detailed reporting and feedback in the months leading up to a Special Convention in March. The team members are: the Rev. Brian Chace (retired priest, EM Treasurer); the Rev. Jared Cramer, D. Min (St. John's, Grand Haven; WM Treasurer); Gary Grinn (St. Paul's, Gladwin); and Sara Philo (bi-diocesan CFO).

SAVE THE DATE... (Register on the Diocesan Website @ eastmich.org)

*November 4 - Celebrating 50 Years of Change: Women in Ministry -- the 2023 Joint Gathering of the DOK and ECW at St. John's, Mount Pleasant from 10-2pm.
*November 10-12 - Charge: A Youth Event for 6-9th graders.
*November 11 - Bi-diocesan confirmation service at St. Timothy's, Richland. 2:30pm rehearsal, 4:00 service. Register candidates.
*December 1-3 - Advent Retreat Weekend for Children, Youth, and Families.
*December 8-10 - Discernment Weekend.
*March 6-10 - Order of Naucratius Hog Camp in Clinton, Louisiana.
*May 11 - Save the date! Leadership Day Workshops hosted in the Southern Collaborative.
*May 18 - Save the date! Leadership Day Workshops hosted at St. John's, Midland.
*June 15 - Save the date! Leadership Day Workshops hosted at Emmanuel, Petoskey.

THE FEAST MAGAZINE, WINTER 2024: CALLING EPISCOPAL ARTISTS, POETS!

The Feast, our bi-diocesan print magazine, will release its next issue early in 2024 (a schedule shift!!). Our theme this year reflects our emerging mission and vision and our convention theme, "Collaborative, Innovative, Courageous Discipleship." We invite artists and poets from across the dioceses to submit their work for consideration.

Please email submissions to kforsyth@eastmich.org by November 15th

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 **8:00am In-Person Communion Service** **10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook**	30	31 10:00am - 12:00pm Chrismon Ornament Crafting	1	2 10:00am - 11:00am The Chosen Study **3:00pm - 3:30pm Evening Prayer Service via FB Live/Zoom** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	3 Angela, Administrative Assistant - Out of the Office 12:00pm - 1:00pm Healing Service	4 10:30am - 12:00pm Rehearsal for The Messiah
5 **8:00am In-Person Communion Service** **10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook**	6	7 10:00am - 12:00pm Chrismon Ornament Crafting	8 11:45am - 12:45pm Ladies Luncheon	9 10:00am - 11:00am The Chosen Study **3:00pm - 3:30pm Evening Prayer Service via FB Live/Zoom** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	10 11:00am - 12:00pm Celebration of Life for Avis Christie	11 10:30am - 12:00pm The Messiah Rehearsal
12 **8:00am In-Person Communion Service** **10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook**	13	14 10:00am - 12:00pm Chrismon Ornament Crafting	15 Angela, Administrative Assistant - Out of the Office 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Team Meeting	16 10:00am - 11:00am The Chosen Study **3:00pm - 3:30pm Evening Prayer Service via FB Live/Zoom** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm - 8:00pm Community Thanksgiving Service	17 5:00pm - 10:00pm Inreach Event: Fall Reverse Raffle	18 9:00am - 1:30pm The Messiah Rehearsal
19 Vestry following 10:15 am Service **8:00am In-Person Communion Service** **10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook** 2:00pm - 6:00pm The Messiah Performance	20	21 10:00am - 12:00pm Chrismon Ornament Crafting	22	23 10:00am - 11:00am The Chosen Study **3:00pm - 3:30pm Evening Prayer Service via FB Live/Zoom** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	24	25
26 **8:00am In-Person Communion Service** **10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook**	27	28 10:00am - 12:00pm Chrismon Ornament Crafting	29	30 10:00am - 11:00am The Chosen Study **3:00pm - 3:30pm Evening Prayer Service via FB Live/Zoom** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	1 12:00pm - 1:00pm Healing Service	2 9:00am - 12:00pm Greening of the Church

In-Reach Event....Chili Oke
Nov. 17th @ 5 PM

Friends of St Christopher, old and new. Please join us for a fundraising event centered around enjoying each other and having a fun evening.

Dale Rice will greet you with your choice of drink options. Stroll and visit with your friends while you check out the Silent Auction table where you'll find many donated gift certificates, items and services to bid on. (IE: dinner for 4 or 5 prepared by Fr. Jerry)

Free will donation dinner and drinks:

Think "chili bar on steroids"
*Dave Miller will make his famous Smoked Pork Chili
*Fr Jerry is making his traditional Ground Beef Chili
*Flo Gjerstad will prepare her White Chicken Chili recipe
*Ellen Safley is donating her Vegetarian Chili
*Karen Miller is including yummy Mac and Cheese, Homemade Cornbread and Apple Crisp to round out our meal.

Dust off your vocal chords, karaoke fun will be happening with our very own Junior Warden Bill Hartley at the helm.

Rod Bytwerk and Jan Taylor will be selling raffle tickets throughout the evening.

After dinner you'll have a little extra time to check the bid sheets on our auction items before the cutoff bid time at 7:30

Additional raffle and silent auction items are welcomed. Let Colleen Shrank know if you can donate any new items or services.

St. Christopher's Delegation to Convention
Rev. Jerry Lasley, Joyce Thewalt, Linda Rathburn, Jane Brewer & Rod Bytwerk