



THE TRUMPETER

DECEMBER 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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1	Healing and Eucharist Service - Noon
December 2	Greening of the Church - 9 am
December 17	Lessons and Carols - 9:30 am
December 24	Holy Eucharist - 9 am
December 24	Eve Services 4 pm & 7 pm with Potluck in between services
December 25-30	Closed

9020 S. Saginaw Road

Grand Blanc, MI 48439

www.facebook.com/stchrisgb

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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(810) 694-3600
Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

STAFF

Bishop Provisional
The Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan

The Reverend Jerry Lasley
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VESTRY 2023

Ellen Safley, *Senior Warden*
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Bill Hartley, *Junior Warden*
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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

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

December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28
Psalm 126

December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38
Canticle 3

December 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7
John 1:1-18
Psalm 147

Find the readings every week at
lectionarypage.net



THE PRIEST'S DESK

May the blessings of this holy season come upon each of you and remain with you always. We continue with a great sense of gratitude. The year is quickly ending, (of course the Church year has just begun). There are so many things to be thankful for.

The theme of our Advent season this year is Expectation. What do we expect from this poor little baby, born in a lowly manger? The Jewish people expected the Messiah to be like David. A warrior king who would restore Israel and get it back on the right track. What about us? What do we expect from the Messiah? What do we hope that Jesus will accomplish for us and for our world?

There is another important question we should be asking. What does the Messiah expect of us? We are in a relationship with the Messiah, with God the Creator and God the Holy Spirit. This relationship is intimate. A closeness that cannot be broken. There must be a sense of mutuality in this relationship. One should not always be on the giving side of the relationship only.

This makes me wonder. What does God expect of us? Each of us must answer that question for ourselves. But as followers of Jesus, we must also ask that of our community of faith. What does God need us to do in this world? We are called to heal the sick, take care of the broken hearted, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, help the prisoner, give shelter to the homeless. These are just a few ways we can and must respond to the invitation our relationship with God expects.

God gives us so much. What does God expect from us? What does God expect from you?

May God bring us all peace, love and joy this season and always.

With love and gratitude for you all,

Jerry



FROM THE MUSIC ROOM...

Greetings from the Music Room!

What a beautiful season! The snow is gently falling outside of St. Christopher's---I can see the flakes reflecting in the lights around the building (thank you Bill, thank you Ellen!) and I find myself thinking about how very blessed we all are! ---How fun it was when Ellen's granddaughter's, Eva and Tori picked up the microphones from the Bill Hartley Karaoke Station (at that lovely Chili Night Karen Miller so magnificently planned and presented)--and those two girls up there, arm in arm, just singing their hearts out---, I don't know, it just made me so happy, listening to them; enjoying the ambience and the many different chilis and apple crumble---just such a beautiful evening of community. Fittingly, the night before we celebrated Thanksgiving at our shared Ecumenical service, at Holy Spirit.Lutheran Church---and here we are, now, about to start the greening of our church this Saturday morning, Can you feel it? I know I do! I don't know if it is Coco greeting me with her sweet smile, or if it's because our heating system is working, or if it is because we now have SOUND for our live feed---but, I do sense there is special feeling we all are carrying right now...perhaps it is because we have had a moment to reflect on how very lucky we all are; how lucky we are to be living where we live-- in our country, living in peace.

As this season of Advent unfolds, welcoming the celebration of the birth of our Lord, please take a moment to listen to the words/the text of the meaningful hymns we will be singing; listen to the words of our psalms--our Liturgy... it is all there---the expectation of the birth of Jesus, the celebration of his arrival, and the ensuing joy his life brings to all of us!

Venite adoremus, Dominum!

(A gentle reminder, please join us for Lessons and Carols, December 17th, 9:30 a.m.!)

In Christ, I am Yours,
Nada



Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in November: Janice Fly, Dave & Karen Miller, Flo Gjerstad and Chapin Cook.

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.

“CHRISMON TREE”

What is a Chrismon?

The word Chrismon is a combination of the word “Christ” and “Monogram”. The word “Chrismon” has been adopted to mean “special ornaments that have been developed to display symbols of Christ”.

Take time to look at the symbols on the trees on the altar, and in the narthex during this Advent/Christmas season. (The beaded Chrismons on the tree in the narthex were made several years ago by the Davidson family.

Explanations of these “symbols” can be found on the shelf on the “lectern” that is in the altar area. These explanations will help you to better understand the meaning of each symbol.

The following ladies came together each Tuesday morning in October and November to use their talents and lovingly make each of these symbols. They did an amazing job! Please take a minute to thank them for their hard work.

Thank you to: Jan Convis, Myrtle Duck, Flo Gjerstad, Louise McCara, Karen Miller, Linda Rathburn, Sharon Rice, Ellen Safley, Colleen Shrank and Jan Taylor.

~Flo Gjerstad



MEN'S GROUP

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



Ladies LUNCHEON

The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 18th 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 McCara at (810) 287-4334 no later than November 5th as we need to give a head count

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.

Family Coat Closet

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Every Saturday!
October through December
10am - Noon



Join us for Sunday Services!
8:00am and 10:15am

9020 S. Saginaw, Grand Blanc, MI (810) 694-3600



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER 2023

	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOWERS
<u>DECEMBER 3</u>						
8 am	Jane Brewer	Dave & Melissa Butler	-----	-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Bob Luckey	Jane Yorks & Flo Gjerstad		Sharon Rice	Jan Taylor & Flo Gjerstad	
<u>DECEMBER 10</u>						
8 am	Debbie Moses	Dale & Sharon Rice		-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Rod Bytwerk	Paul & Jerri Bassett		Jane Brewer	Available	
<u>DECEMBER 17</u>						
8 am	Dave & Melissa Butler	Neuman & Jan Convis	-----	-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Ken Duck	Joyce Thewalt Jane Yorks		Cindy Donner	Jane Yorks	-----
<u>DECEMBER 24</u>						
8 am	Nancy Wells	Jane Brewer & Debbie Moses	-----	-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Linda Rathburn	Jan Taylor & Flo Gjerstad		Shirley Showler	Christmas Eve	-----
<u>DECEMBER 31</u>						
8 am	Kay Van Natta	Dave & Melissa Butler	-----	-----	-----	-----

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

The holiday season is alive with its hustle and bustle of preparation and celebration. So too is the season upon us at St. Christopher's as Advent begins on Sunday. OUR hustle and bustle begins on Saturday morning at 9am as we gather to Green the Church. Please join in and have a personal preview of the Chrismons created for our trees!

And, speaking of "greening", 8 months ago we embarked on another type of greening-the generous offering of some of our own green toward the Principle Payoff Challenge. It is nothing short of a miracle to walk into the Narthex and see how far the thermometer has risen toward our goal. The November transfer to the principle will be made tomorrow and we will see the temperature will rise again! Chili-oke was a terrific evening of food, fun and fellowship. With its "tip jars," raffle and silent auction a total of \$3001 was raised toward the PPC! Such a good time-an event we definitely should repeat!! Don't forget to attend the Rock of Ages Concert on Dec. 10th, as this wonderful group entertains us, as well as donating the proceeds of the concert to our PPC. Our faith, our love of God and each other, our generosity has carried us a long way toward the goal of erasing our bank mortgage. Thanks be to God!

As the Vestry discussed our annual Giving Tree at the November meeting, the suggestion was made that we use the tree to support our Coat Closet. We agreed that it was a great idea! Last year, through your generosity, more than 80 people were provided with warm winter coats, hats, scarves, and gloves. The Coat Closet is open once again and, last Saturday alone, 15 people were blessed with winter warmth. So, rather than looking for tags and trying to buy gifts for unknown young people (and trying to figure out what kids like "these days"), please shop for hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and, of course, coats! -Children's sizes are especially needed. No wrapping involved-just hang smaller items on the tree and baskets will be under the tree for larger items. Fr. Jerry will share a special blessing with us at Christmas for the gifts that have been given.

Wishing all a Blessed and Peaceful Advent, Christmas and New Year,

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.



In-Reach Event: Chili-Oke Update

What a magical evening! The mood was set with fall colors, dried centerpieces, pumpkins and Indian corn. Bistro lights strung from the ceiling and candlelight on the tables warmed the atmosphere as Yanni accompanied conversation and fellowship. Guests perused prizes for the raffle and hoped their bids would be enough to win the items of their choice in the silent auction. Dinner followed with a delicious variety of chili, soup, cornbread, macaroni and cheese, apple crisp, apple pie and pumpkin cheese-cake. Beer and wine flowed as the stage was set for Karaoke. We sang along and danced to Motown, Boot Scootin' Boogie, Engelbert Humperdink (which made my mom cry), Adele and of course, Mo Bandy.

Many hands make light work and I would like to thank everyone who helped plan, set up, cook, bake, serve and clean up afterwards. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the raffle and silent auction and a special thank you to donors from outside our community. Georgia Inskeep, Father Jerry's sister, sent stockings and table runners all the way from North Carolina. Please patronize Colony Market, Dr. Christine Kidwell, chiropractor, Angela Zinsli from Roseberry Restored, Italia Gardens for their Italian cuisine, The 411 Pub in Goodrich which specializes in smoked meats, Shadrach, Meshach and ABeanToGo, also in Goodrich, which roasts and flavors it's own amazing coffee (Look up those names in the Bible.) and KareTher Massage in Grand Blanc, Karen Sweger, massage therapist and my best friend.

Every penny that was donated goes to the Principle Payoff Challenge and together we raised \$3,001.00!!! As I said, it was a magical evening!

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Miller



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. Christopher'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.



NEW... STATIONS OF THE CROSS SERVICES

Please join us on December 8th, December 15th, and December 22nd for our Stations of the Cross Services at Noon. Hope to see you there!



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

- *December 8-10 - Discernment Weekend.
- *March 6-10 - Order of Naucratus 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.

Principal Payoff Challenge (PPC)

Oxford Bank Mortgage Balance
(as of March 2023)

\$ 535,701.05

Donations:

Through June 30 th	\$229,318.30
July & August	\$ 22,750.00
September	\$ 8,708.00
October	\$ 62,732.65
<u>November</u>	<u>\$ 17,801.00</u>
TOTAL	\$341,309.95

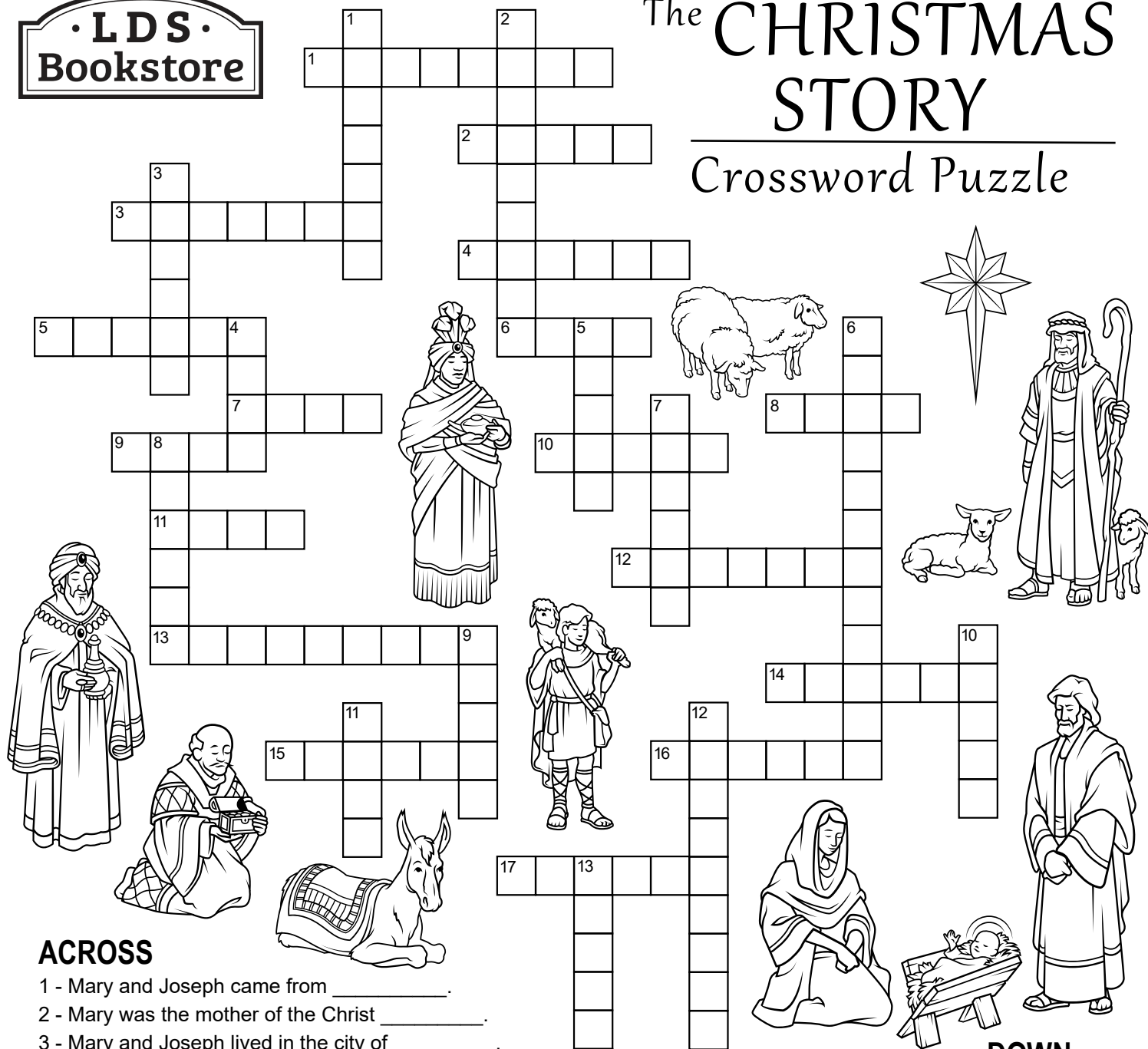
**Mortgage Balance
(as of November 29th)
\$173,751.00**

Includes the regular monthly mortgage payment plus the PPC donations



The CHRISTMAS STORY

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 - Mary and Joseph came from _____.
- 2 - Mary was the mother of the Christ _____.
- 3 - Mary and Joseph lived in the city of _____.
- 4 - Jesus _____ is the Son of God.
- 5 - An angel also visited _____.
- 6 - _____ was the cousin of Elizabeth.
- 7 - Jesus would be know as the _____ of God.
- 8 - A new _____ was a sign of Christ's birth.
- 9 - The King of Kings came to Earth as a _____.
- 10 - Jesus was a descendant of Kind _____.
- 11 - A precious gift given by the wisemen.
- 12 - These men followed a star to find Jesus.
- 13 - _____ saw angels outside the city.
- 14 - Mary rode a _____ to Bethlehem.
- 15 - The only place Joseph could find for Mary.
- 16 - At the _____ Simeon met the Christ child.
- 17 - The wisemen travelled on _____.

DOWN

- 1 - The angel _____ revealed Christ's birth.
- 2 - Christ was born in _____.
- 3 - Away in a _____, no crib from a bed...
- 4 - The _____ One of Israel.
- 5 - Bethlehem was _____ David's city.
- 6 - _____ was one of the wisemen's gifts.
- 7 - The Christ child would be born to a _____.
- 8 - _____ appeared to the shepherds.
- 9 - A shepherds job is to care for his _____.
- 10 - Jesus was a descendant of Kind _____.
- 11 - Another gift from the three wisemen.
- 12 - _____ was the capital city.
- 13 - The House of Israel awaited their _____.