



THE TRUMPETER

FEBRUARY 2024

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

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT...

It was encouraging to see so many in attendance at the Annual meeting last Sunday. Your presence continues to support my belief that we ARE taking ownership in our parish life and strengthening our faith community. We are a Faith Family and, in a world that has become so isolating, community is a treasure to cherish and build.

Please mark your calendars for March 9th as we prepare to welcome our fellow Episcopalians from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. The joint convention at St. Christopher's on March 16th will determine the future of both our dioceses and is an important step in continuing to strengthen and support each other. The cleaning day on March 9th certainly will help us to put our "best foot forward" and express to the Diocese of Eastern Michigan how truly blessed we have been by their support in helping us become mortgage free.

As we begin a new year, I look forward to continuing as Senior Warden. Working with our Vestry, we hope to identify and implement opportunities to strengthen our worship and prayer lives, find new and creative ways to open our space to other groups and strengthen the presence of St. Christopher's in our community. Please use the suggestion box in the Narthex and share, not only financial suggestions, but ideas of hopes and dreams to help us reach out to others.

See you on March 9th!

Ellen



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

STAFF

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Linda Rathburn, *Clerk*

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

Myrtle Duck (2027) Dave Miller (2027)
Janice Convis (2027) Bill Hartley (2026)
Linda Rathburn (2026) Colleen Shrank (2025)
Jane Brewer (2026) Rod Bytwerk (2025)
Ellen Safley (2025)

UPCOMING LESSONS

February 4

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

February 11

Last Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9
Psalm 50:1-6

February 18

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15
Psalm 25:1-9

February 25

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38
Psalm 22:22-30

March 3

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22
Psalm 19

Find the readings every week at
lectionarypage.net



THE PRIEST'S DESK

The peace of the Lord be with you all!

Thank you to all who attended our annual meeting on January 28th. I appreciate your participation, your support and love for others, and your involvement in the life of our parish. We are blessed with many folks who are willing and able to give so much time to our church.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th. In a way, I find that to be fitting and comforting. During the season of Lent, we become more focused on just what Jesus has done (and continues to do) for us. Jesus is the perfect definition of love. The love of God is unconditional. The love of God is faithful. The love of God is enduring. The love of God is merciful.

During Lent, we will continue to have a service of healing on the First Friday of the month at Noon. This is an opportunity for everyone to come and ask God to enter into our lives more deeply. You do not have to be physically ill in order to participate. We are all in some way or another in need of healing. Whether it be physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Come and let God enter into the darkest parts of your being. Consider this your invitation from God!

On all other Fridays during Lent, we will have the Stations of the Cross at Noon. Lent is a time for us to take a deeper look at our relationship with God. Find the areas that are broken and pray that God will help us heal. If our relationships with others, with God or even with ourselves are somehow in disarray, God desires to heal. God wants nothing more than to be one with us.

We have several opportunities to deepen our faith. Won't you consider joining us for any or all of these events? Let God in. Do not be afraid. Emanuel. God with us. Always and forever.

May you be blessed all the days of your life!

*Blessings,
Jerry+*

FROM THE MUSIC ROOM...



Greetings from the Music Room!

Today I am writing from my desk at my home; Charlie, my faithful friend is by my feet. (Dogs are just THE best!)

I wanted to spend a little time talking about some of the special folks who help make our music on Sundays such a special moment during worship. This month, as it will be

Black History Month, we will be highlighting a few special works/artists. I am sure that many of you know that one of the major composers we sing during normal Sunday morning services (i.e., our Agnus Dei, the Gloria, the Sanctus) are compositions of David Hurd. Dr. David Hurd was born in 1950; He is a composer, a concert organist, as well as a choral director and educator.

Dr. Hurd is very much 'in demand' and a highly respected director of music. Dr. Hurd was Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at the General Theological Seminary in Chelsea, New York City for 39 years. He was also the Music Director at the Church of the Holy Apostles, (also in Chelsea). He is presently the Director of Music at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Manhattan. Dr. Hurd is a graduate of both the Juilliard School and Oberlin College (our own Judy Conyers and Jeff Walker both completed their undergraduate degrees at Oberlin).

Dr. Hurd was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, and Church Divinity School of the Pacific (given in recognition of his contributions to sacred music). He received two first prizes in both Organ Performance and Organ Improvisation from the International Congress of Organists in 1977. He is the only person to ever win both prizes in the same year. Hurd is one of the world's most visible and successful classical organists who is African-American.

Last summer, Ken Duck suggested that perhaps a lovely piece we might try to include for one of our Sunday Services would be the brilliant song, "Come Sunday" by Duke Ellington. Bobbie Goegen agreed, and we will be presenting this piece on February 18th. This piece, "Come Sunday" is ultimately about the providence of God in all our lives. The refrain addresses God directly, "Lord, dear Lord above, God Almighty, God of love, please look down and see my people through." The stanzas point to hope and heaven, concluding that "With God's blessing we can make it through eternity." (source, Dr. Hawn, professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology). Ellington, who has written over one-thousand pieces, established a reputation for sacred jazz concerts. The Duke began playing piano at the age of seven. Some of Ellington's achievements include honorary doctorates from Yale and Harvard, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Interestingly, Ellington didn't like to be categorized. In fact, he considered the term 'jazz' too narrow a label for his style of music. He is quoted as having said, "I don't believe in categories of any kind, and when you speak of problems between blacks and whites in the USA, you are referring to categories again." Ellington was known to be a deeply religious musician; He never travelled without his rosary, his cross and his Bible. "Come Sunday" is a song derived from Ellington's instrumental jazz suite Black, Brown and Beige (1943), a musical history of African Americans that premiered at Carnegie Hall in 1944. In 1958, Ellington added text to this instrumental theme and the song became a standard of his sacred jazz concerts. (source Wikipedia).

But wait! You thought that you would only be hearing works of David Hurd and Duke Ellington---we have more! Andrew Lloyd Webber, English composer, has written a breath-takingly beautiful work, his Requiem Mass, which contains the sublimely beautiful duet, 'Pie Jesu'; Two soloists, from our choir, African-American sopranos Judith Conyers and Jasmine Turmine will be singing this gorgeous work on Sunday, February 4th. Please do take a moment to listen to these two ethereal voices in tandem. We are so very blessed here at St. Christopher's.

In Christ, I am Yours,
Nada



HEALING AND EUCHARIST SERVICE

The next Healing and Eucharist Service will be held Friday, February 2, 2024 at Noon. Please join us.



Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in January: Shirley Showler, Cindy Donner, Rod Bytwerk, Dave & Karen Miller

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.



Family Coat Closet

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Every Saturday!
October through March
10am - Noon

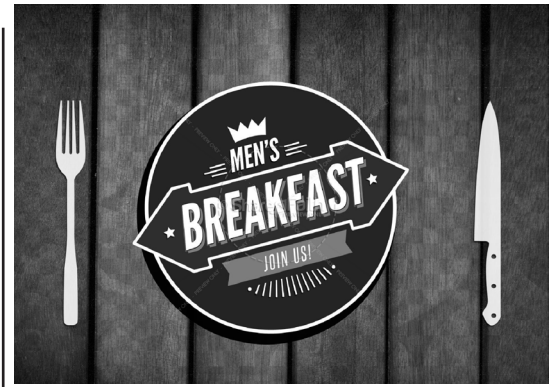
 **St. Christopher's**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GRAND BLANC, MICHIGAN

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



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, February 10 2024 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, February 7th 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.



We have several important upcoming events happening at St. Christopher's. Please mark your calendar.

Wednesday, February 14th	Ash Wednesday. Prayer Service with Ashes @ Noon. Eucharist Service with Ashes @ 7 pm
Friday, February 16th	Stations of the Cross @ Noon. Will be held every Friday during Lent
Sunday, February 18th	Vestry Meeting following 10:15 am Service
Saturday, March 9th @ 9 a.m.	Church Spring Cleaning - All hands on deck! We need to spruce up the church in preparation for the Special Convention
Saturday, March 16th	Special Diocesan Convention (all day event)

***Please note that Bible Study and Evening Prayer on Thursdays have been cancelled until after the Special Convention in March. ***

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

What are the Stations of the Cross?

A devotion to the Passion of Christ which recalls a series of events at the end of Jesus' life from his condemnation to his burial. The Way of the Cross imitates the practice of visiting the places of Jesus' Passion in the Holy Land by early Christian pilgrims. The first stations outside Palestine were built in Bologna in the fifth century. This devotion was encouraged by the Franciscans, and it became common in the fifteenth century. The number of stations for prayer and meditation in the Way of the Cross has varied, but it typically includes fourteen stations. Each station may have a cross and an artistic representation of the scene. The stations may be erected inside a church or outdoors. The BOS includes the following stations in the Way of the Cross: 1) Jesus is condemned to death; 2) Jesus takes up his cross; 3) Jesus falls the first time; 4) Jesus meets his afflicted mother; 5) the cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene; 6) a woman wipes the face of Jesus; 7) Jesus falls a second time; 8) Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem; 9) Jesus falls a third time; 10) Jesus is stripped of his garments; 11) Jesus is nailed to the cross; 12) Jesus dies on the cross; 13) the body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother; 14) Jesus is laid in the tomb. The BOS notes that eight of the stations are based on events that are recorded in the gospels. The remaining six (stations 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 13) are based on inferences from the gospels or pious legends. The BOS allows these six stations to be omitted from the Way of the Cross. The BOS provides opening devotions and the Lord's Prayer. There is a versicle and response, a reading, a prayer, and a collect for each of the fourteen stations. Concluding prayers before the altar follow the fourteenth station in the BOS service. The hymn Stabat Mater has been associated with the Way of the Cross. Verses of this hymn traditionally have been sung between each of the stations when the devotion is done by a congregation. The Stabat Mater appears as "At the cross her vigil keeping," Hymn 159 in The Hymnal 1982. The BOS suggests that verses of this hymn be sung as the ministers enter for the Way of the Cross and as they approach the first station. The BOS also suggests that the Trisagion be chanted as the procession goes from station to station. The Way of the Cross is a popular devotion that is often done on Fridays during Lent. However, it should not displace the Proper Liturgy for Good Friday. Some have questioned its disassociation of Jesus' death from his resurrection.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOWERS
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February 4

8 am	Dave Butler(LEM)/ Jane Brewer	Neuman & Jan Convis	-----	-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Frank Burger	Mike Latesky/ Jan Taylor		Jane Brewer	Available	Available

February 11

8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)	Dave & Melissa Butler		-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Linda Rathburn	Louise Des- granges/Joyce Thewalt		Shirley Showl- er	Available	Bill Anderson

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

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7 pm	Flo Gjerstad	Jan Taylor/ Becky Stermer			Available	

February 18

8 am	Dave Butler(LEM)/ Dave & Melissa Butler	Jane Brewer & Debbie Moses		-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Rod Bytwerk	Bill Anderson/ Mary Van Duyne		Louise McAra	Available	-----