



July-August 2017 Newsletter

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

7th & Warren Streets
PO Box 98
Northport, Michigan 49670

Visit our website for updates: stchristophersnorthportmi.org

CALENDAR

July 2017

July 4 - Independence Day
July 12 - Vestry meeting 9:30 a.m.
July 16 - Joint Service/Picnic, 10:00 a.m.

August 2017

Aug. 9 - Vestry meeting 9:30 am
Aug. 12-15 - Bishop Hougland's area visit
Aug. 13- Bishop Hougland conducts service

Prayer for a Birthday (from the Book of Common Prayer, Page 830)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor we pray, on your servant (_____) as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness in all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BIRTHDAYS

July 1 - Barbara Marsh
July 2 - June Sheppard
July 4 - Janet Crane
July 4 - Chuck Dickerson
July 8 - Karl Marsh
July 17 - Jim McLean
July 22 - Edson (Shep) Sheppard
July 26 - Joy Ham
July 28 - Moonyeen Fitch

Aug. 7 - Mary Fleishman
Aug. 17 - Dave Zimmerman
Aug. 17 - Ruth Bombaugh
Aug. 25 - Anne Treadwell

ANNIVERSARIES

July - No Anniversaries

Aug. 28 - Margie and Royce Beers

St. Christopher's/Bethany Joint Service and Picnic

On Sunday, July 16, St. Christopher's will host the annual Joint Summer Service with Bethany Lutheran Church at Northport Marina Park at 10:00 a.m., with a picnic to follow. Father Thomas Guback will conduct the service as Celebrant. Please bring your own table service, chair, and a dish to pass. Ants will be provided. In case of rain, the Service and subsequent picnic will be held in the Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!



**SUMMARY OF MAY 17, 2017
VESTRY MEETING
By Ed Ruffley**

The treasurer forwarded a written report stating that the parish continues to be in a sound financial position.

Ed Ruffley discussed the arrangements for a May 19 interview with the rector candidate.

Janet Dickerson announced the Parish Swap event for 2017. St. Christopher's representatives will visit St. Philip's in Beulah on June 11. Representatives from St. Philip's will visit St. Christopher's on June 25.

Janet Dickerson announced that Bishop Houglund will visit St. Christopher's on August 13.

Janet Dickerson announced that a joint service with Bethany Lutheran Church will be held on July 16 at the Northport Marina Park (weather permitting). It is St. Christopher's turn to make arrangements for this service.

The vestry also approved an increase in the hourly pay for the church secretary.

**SUMMARY OF JUNE 14, 2017
VESTRY MEETING
By Ed Ruffley**

The treasurer reported that the parish continues to be in sound financial position.

Ed Ruffley discussed post-interview communications with the rector candidate, our diocese and with representatives of Bethany Lutheran Church.

Arrangements for the St. Philip's visit to St. Christopher's on June 25 were discussed.

Arrangements for the July 16 joint service with Bethany at Northport Marina Park (weather permitting) were discussed.

Arrangements for the Bishop's visit on August 13 were discussed. The Bishop desired to stay at the Dickersons' cottage. The vestry voted to make a charitable contribution to the Inland Seas Education Association in memory of Dave Dickerson in lieu of compensating the Dickersons directly for the Bishop's stay at their cottage.

The vestry approved contributing \$5,000 to Leelanau Christian Neighbors for a sponsorship of their September fundraiser.

The vestry acknowledged and thanked Marilyn Zimmerman for her work to develop and maintain the St. Christopher's website.

The vestry approved the appointment of Rev. Thomas Guback to the temporary position of Priest in Charge, subject to the approval by the Diocese. The vestry also voted to increase Rev. Guback's weekly compensation, effective immediately.

The vestry discussed the possibility of providing youth education for the children attending services.

The vestry discussed including patriotic music in the July 2 service.

**REPORT OF RECTOR SEARCH
COMMITTEE
June, 2017
By Ed Ruffley**

The rector search is ongoing. The following email, sent to Canon Spaid at the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan on May 30, 2017, summarizes the current status of our rector search.

“On May 19, our search committee and our Bethany Lutheran counterparts held a joint interview with the rector candidate. In addition, the Bethany committee met with the candidate separately before the interview and the St. Christopher’s committee met separately with the candidate after the interview. Each member of the St. Christopher’s committee also viewed a DVD containing a sample sermon which was selected by the candidate.

After careful consideration, our search committee voted unanimously not to proceed with the candidate. Three other members of our congregation who were in attendance at the interview agreed with this decision. We have informed the Bethany search committee of our decision not to proceed.

We considered a number of factors in our evaluation of the candidate, including her theological approach, her leadership skills, her preaching style, and her overall communication skills.

This email states the conclusions of the St. Christopher’s committee. The Bethany committee will communicate its conclusions separately to its bishop.

We are disappointed that this did not work out with the candidate; however, we are committed to finding the right person for this critical position.”

PRAYER LIST

Please keep in mind, and prayer, the following parishioners: Ethel; Ed; Sylvia; Jeannie; Joanne; Ulrich; Mary; Moonyeen; Roger; and also the following friends and family: Sandy; Don; Les; Christy; Jeff; David; Wayne; Lt. Mark Folchi; John and Family; Harold; Steve; Bob; Doug; Robert R.; Rich B.; Georgia; and Glen. PLEASE CONTACT JOY HAM (231-386-7531) if you have anyone to add to the Prayer List. If you are seeking particular prayers from the BCP please see page 208, and pages 828-

831. Please remember all those serving our country in the military (BCP, page 823). And of course, nothing is more special than your own personal prayers. The prayers and thanksgivings in the BCP (Pages 814-841), include a marvelous array of prayers for so many circumstances, that reading one prayer may well lead the reader to another...and then another. Prayerful reading to all.

CHURCH WEBSITE: MARILYN’S MARVEL

Marilyn Zimmerman’s tireless work on the St. Christopher’s website results in frequent updates, news, photos, and site improvements. The website is a very useful source of service schedules, vestry meeting minutes, current newsletters, photos (you might be in one), and other newsworthy matters. Marilyn recently added transcripts of some of Father Thomas Guback’s sermons. If you have any photos or news which you think are of interest to the parish, please send them to Marilyn (at mjznorth@gmail.com) for her consideration. Please check out the website at www.stchristophersnorthportmi.org. We offer a special thanks to Marilyn for all of her hard work on the website, our window for the world.

VOLUNTEER CLERK NEEDED

The Vestry is looking for a volunteer to take minutes at the monthly Vestry meeting, held the second Wednesday of every month. The time involved is minimal, but the help is very much appreciated. Please contact Senior Warden Janet Dickerson if you are interested. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER AND MONTHLY SCHEDULE INFORMATION

For any comments, suggestions, corrections, etc. as to the Newsletter: please contact Mary Ruffley (cell 248-202-5363; e-mail mjr3ms@gmail.com)

For information as to the Monthly Schedule: Please contact Jill Foerster (phone 213-271-3023; e-mail: foerjill@gmail.com). PLEASE NOTE that any changes or substitutions as to the Monthly Schedule must be made directly by the listed parties, who are responsible for making those changes or finding substitutes if a problem arises....and then noting those changes on the Monthly Schedule posted on the bulletin board in the church fellowship hall. Thank you.

SPECIAL CALL FOR FLOWERS

There is always a need for flowers for the altar. Please check the sign-up sheets on the parish hall bulletin board. If you are new to the procedure of supplying flowers, it is easily accomplished with a little planning: 1. On the Sunday BEFORE you are scheduled to provide flowers, take two urn liners from the vesting room as you leave the church. 2. On the Sunday you are scheduled to provide flowers, come early and arrange your flowers in the urn liners, place the urn liners in the brass urns (box in the vesting room), and place the brass urns on the stands behind the altar. The flowers remain at the church until Monday, and can be picked up on Monday afternoons (1:00-3:00) when the Piece Makers are at the church, or via your arrangement with someone who has a key, or by your very early (following) Sunday morning removal, in order to make way for the new flowers on that Sunday. At that time, please return the urn liners to the shelf in the vesting room, and place the brass urns back in the box in the vesting room. If you wish to name those who are specifically honored or remembered by your flowers, please call the church office (386-7780)

by the Monday BEFORE your Sunday flowers and provide that information.

Flowers, including delivery, are available through Forget-Me-Not Florists in Suttons Bay, if you wish to use their services.

BUT WAIT! If you wish, you can bring your own flowers or plant(s), in your own containers, which you should label. All you then do is: 1. Sign up for your Sunday on the sheet on the bulletin board; 2. Come early enough to place your flowers; 3. Remove per the directions given earlier in this paragraph.

BULLETIN BOARD – HOUSEKEEPING

We are St. Gertrude's tenant: Altar Guild: Please remember to return the wood candle stands to the end of the altar, and place the candleholders on them. Everyone: Those using the church for any activities must check to see that all is restored and all items returned to original places. Thank you!. General information: Please check the Bulletin Board for the monthly schedule and other information. Flowers for the altar: ALWAYS needed! Please sign up on the Bulletin Board schedule.

COFFEE (HALF!) HOUR

Fellowship at Coffee (Half!) Hour is wonderful; however, as a tenant of St. Gertrude's we must all remember to conclude the Coffee (half) Hour by 10:30 sharp. Also, for Coffee Hosts, please remember to bring juice and milk, and a non-sugar food item choice, if possible. Tea is also available. Thanks to all Coffee Hosts!

CONTENT AUTHORSHIP/SUBMISSION ON DEADLINE

Unless otherwise noted, all Newsletter content is written by Editor Mary Ruffley. Jill Foerster (Thank you, Jill!) prepared the July/August Schedule, which is attached.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE
UPCOMING SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017
NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 16, 2017.

GRATITUDE FOR THE ALTAR GUILD--- AND HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED

The work of the Altar Guild is central to the order and solemnity of our Sunday service. The parishioners of St. Christopher's appreciate the dedication of each member of the Altar Guild: Janie Neuharth (Altar Guild Head), Margie Beers, Janet Dickerson, Moonyeen Fitch, Jill Foerster, Joy Ham, Ellen McLean, and Marilyn Zimmerman. Although this dedicated band is small but mighty, the Altar Guild can always use assistance, and welcomes new members to share in its important tasks. Please contact Janie Neuharth if you would like to help.

JAN AND BOB HUNT LIBRARY UPDATE

Please take a moment after the service to: a) check out the library's offerings; and, perhaps, b) check out some materials. As always, librarian Ronnie Alff continuously updates the library. Check-out cards are located on the bookshelf next to the wall which adjoins the sanctuary. Copies of the current issues of The Living Church magazine are also available. Happy hunting, and fascinating reading, to everyone.

NOTES FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Bishop Hougland and his wife will visit St. Christopher's on August 13. They will be in the area during the period August 12-15. Additional details on the Bishop's visit will be available shortly.

Janet and Chuck Dickerson (along with Mary Ruffley) attended the June 11th service at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Beulah as part of the "Parish Swap". Their full report is found elsewhere in this newsletter, with special note made here as to the warm welcome, lovely service, post-service lunch, and full tour of the beautiful church grounds.

PIECEMAKERS

The Piecemakers have changed the weekly meeting day from Thursday to Monday, beginning Monday, April 24. The meeting time (1:00 – 3:30 PM) remains the same. The group breaks for tea at 2:00 PM, so please feel free to come in any time and say hello. The Piecemakers will continue to make quilts as their ongoing centerpiece project, but they are expanding their work to make items (lap robes, pillow cases, baby quilts, etc.) for veterans, homeless shelters, and similar groups. Please join us!

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#21)

"This is my Father's World" (page 651 of The Hymnal, 1982) is a familiar hymn in many and various church services. The words were written by Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1858-1901), Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Lockport, New York. Pastor Babcock was an

athlete (baseball pitcher, swimmer, and runner). An eight-to-ten mile run was part of his daily regimen, and he would tell his staff that he was “going out to see my Father’s world”. In addition to his love of nature and athletics, he was also a musician who played organ, piano, and violin. [The Complete Book of Hymns, William J. Petersen & Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2006] For those who have attended services in various Protestant churches, you have likely heard this hymn. Only two verses appear in the Episcopal hymnal, but there are six in all, every one of which would be sung during a Presbyterian or Methodist church service.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#22)

The words to “Lead On, O King Eternal” (page 555 of The Hymnal, 1982) were penned by Ernst Warburton Shurtleff (1862 – 1917) on the event of his graduation from seminary in 1887. He was asked to write the class poem, but instead wrote the words to this hymn and asked the graduating class to sing it at the commencement ceremony. He noted the similar circumstances of graduation and of going forth in the world to do God’s work: “days of preparation”, and that the “day of march has come”. [The Complete Book of Hymns, William J. Petersen & Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006] Although the first stanza presents a more military theme, the second and third verses reflect the hopes for peace united by, and under, God.

HERE AND THERE AND EVERYWHERE

A. Cathedrals, Cash, and Crises in England: The May 28, 2017 issue of The Living Church, cites the maintenance expense problems confronting English cathedrals. Already strapped for operating funds, the probability of vastly reduced government funding adds additional concerns. While visitors to the cathedrals abound, not all cathedrals charge a

fee. “Core congregations” are small and are shrinking.

B. What is a “Schnorrer”?: Find out by reading the article, “My Schnorrer is Calling Again!”, by Rev. Steve Schlossberg (Rector of St. John’s Church in Troy, New York) which appears in the May 28, 2017 issue of The Living Church. The first paragraphs may give the reader pause: does this rector really mean what he says about his work with those suffering in poverty, alcoholism, and despair? But read further, and you will be greatly rewarded by his insight, his wry and honest appraisal of his own shortcomings, and acknowledgement of what it really takes to change and transform ourselves.

C. To Sing or Not to Sing?: The May 7, 2007 issue of The Living Church includes an article by Andrew-John Bethke about the historical role of congregational singing in Anglicanism. Earlier on, Martin Luther supported both professionally performed music and congregational participation. However, Swiss Protestant reformer (and musician) Ulrich Zwingli thought that music held the potential power to “distract the singer or listener from contemplating God”. Reformer John Calvin is placed in the middle between Luther and Zwingli regarding the role of music and congregational singing in the church service. This article includes comments on the role of Henry VIII and other historical figures and events in the development of music in the Anglican tradition.

D. Thank you from Rev. Phil Garrison: St. Christopher’s compensated Rev. Phil Garrison of Trinity United Church of Christ in Northport for his participation in the Lenten Soup Supper that was hosted by St. Christopher’s. Rev. Garrison sent a note of thanks which is posted on the bulletin board: “Thank you for your unexpected generosity by way of your gift related to the Lenten Soup Supper. It is my privilege to serve with you and among you. Blessings to you and all the folks of St. Christopher’s. Namaste, Phil.”

E. An Echo, A Hope, and a Plea: Independence Day celebrations will soon dot the Leelanau landscape. These festivities will include fireworks, bands, parades, and parties. Patriotic songs/marches will ring out. There is a particular song, echoing England's homage to its monarchs, but adapted by the American people into the hope for God's continuing presence in our nation: "My Country, 'tis of Thee". There are no rockets, no bombardments, no battles cited in this hymn. Instead, there is the recognition of God as the source of true liberty and freedom, and asks for God's continued protection, as set forth in that serene fourth stanza: "Our Father's God, to thee, author of Liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King." [Words: Samuel Francis Smith; Music: America, Thesaurus Musicus]

F. Save the Date: October 5, 2017, Thursday, Fundraiser for Leelanau Christian Neighbors. This year's theme is "Celebrating ... The Magic of Caring". The event will be held at the Old Art Building in Leland. It will feature local craft beer, wine, light food pairings, silent and live auction items, and renowned magician Ben Whiting. Please be alert for further details.

G. A Visit to St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Beulah, MI. On June 11, 2017, Janet Dickerson, Chuck Dickerson, and Mary Ruffley visited St. Philip's on a "Parish Swap Sunday". Janet reports as follows:

"June 11, Sunday: Chuck Dickerson drove Mary Ruffley and me to St. Philip's in Beulah for the Parish Swap. The approach to the beautiful building is a lush planting of fern and hostas. Inside, you feel a touch of modern Japanese architecture. At the communion rail is a four section kneeler of needle point depicting native flowers and birds, all different. There was no choir but the congregation sang lustily. There are plants inside the building. The building was originally a pie factory with additions. One of the members is a deacon who assists at communion and reads the gospel. We

were told it was a low attendance Sunday because they started a Saturday service for the summer and had a funeral the day before. We enjoyed a light lunch in the church hall. There was an office as I saw a sign. The building is all on one floor. I wish more of you had gone because we had such a good time."

Mary Ruffley adds: It is always interesting to participate in a different church service. There were some small differences in procedures (the clergy took communion after the congregation and bells were used during communion). Attendance appeared to be about 50-60 people, including several children. The welcome and warmth of the congregation were very apparent, and the church, its grounds, and the outdoor columbarium are lovely.

H. Directory Information Update: If you have a new address, phone number, or email address and you wish to advise parishioners, please contact Mary Ruffley (mjr3ms@gmail.com) and it will be included in the next Newsletter.

THE HOURGLASS OF SUMMER

Many ancient artistic representations of our world picture the sky above us as a gigantic dome, with the earth itself and all of its geography as a flat surface under that heavenly dome. In summertime northern Michigan, those quaint and refuted depictions of our earth and skies do not really seem that peculiar. After all, we can readily see that the blue waters roll clear to the horizon's edge, and the hills and trees give variance to the landscape. And there is also the basic tenet that what we see is surely what exists: level earth and arching sky.

Yet in contemplating Eden in Leelanau County, another image can come to mind: the hourglass that is summer. The salt of winter and the grit of spring have finally cleared passage through the funnel. Those grains have settled, and fill the

bottom of the hourglass as our summer earth. If we concentrate fully (or fantastically, depending on your point of view), we can imagine the scenes of summer playing out, in miniature, in this hourglass: swimming; biking; beach-walking; boating. We gaze into the hourglass at those captured moments, outside of ourselves and our lives. We may feel omniscient; time stands still.

Not for long. We know that this hourglass eventually and always turns; that the encased grains will flow into the next season; and that such a reversal is never accomplished by our hand. Summer certainly lasts more than sixty minutes, the timespan of a perfectly balanced hourglass. Yet the permanence of an hourglass in its settled state always exists together with the impermanence of the pending turnover. As much as we might wish for unending sandy summer days, we know better. Anticipation for something different rules the day. What is the first thing we do when we encounter an actual, and spent, hourglass? We reach out with our hand, and we turn it over.

During this hourglass summer, may you enjoy every captive moment.

By Mary Ruffley

Service Schedule for July - August 2017

Date	Day	Lector	LEM 1	Clergy	Altar Set Up	Altar Clear	Greeter	Coffee	Pick Up Sarah S.
July 2	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Zimmerman	M. Harrison	T. Guback	Joy Ham	M. Zimmerman	C. Dickerson	A. Kirby	
July 9	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Harrison	Joy Ham	T. Guback	M. Beers	J. Dickerson	P. Deal		
July 16	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Jim Ham	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	PICNIC		PICNIC	PICNIC	
July 23	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	K. Mason	M. Fitch	T. Guback	J. Foerster	Joy Ham	J. Foerster	J. Danaher	
July 30	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	E. Arnfield	M. Harrison	T. Guback	M. Zimmerman	K. Mason	J. Ham	M. Ruffley	
Aug. 6	The Transfiguration	R. Bombaugh	Joy Ham	T. Guback	J. Neuharth	M. Zimmerman	M. Zimmerman	M. Fleishman	
Aug. 13	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Ruffley	M. Fitch	Bishop Hougland	Joy Ham	J. Foerster	C. Dickerson	J. Crane	
Aug. 20	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	J. Foerster	M. Harrison	Rev. Hunt	J. Foerster	J. Neuharth	P. Deal	J. Danaher	
Aug. 27	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Harrison	M. Fitch	T. Guback	M. Zimmerman	M. Beers	J. Foerster	J. Foerster	

If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please arrange a trade and note it on the parish bulletin board

