



**September-October 2017
Newsletter**

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
7th & Warren Streets
PO Box 98
Northport, Michigan 49670

Visit our website for updates: stchristophersnorthportmi.org

CALENDAR
<u>September 2017</u>
September 4 - Labor Day
September 13 - Vestry meeting 9:30 a.m.
September 17 - Post-coffee Fellowship hosted by Isphordings (10:45 am)
September 22 - First day of Autumn
<u>October 2017</u>
October 5 - LCN Fundraiser (details inside)
October 9 - Columbus Day
October 11 - Vestry meeting 9:30 am
October 15 - C.R.O.P. Walk

<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>
September 18 - Ethel Wills
September 19 - John Kutilek
October 5 - Ellen McLean
October 17 - Mary Ruffley
October 28 - David Nelson
<u>ANNIVERSARIES</u>
September 26 - Jill & Lee Foerster
October 5 - Mary & Mike Fleishman
October 27 - Brooke & John Dixon
October 28 - Janice & Bob Neuharth

**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

Looking Ahead

For the Gubacks, the weeks ahead will be hallmarked by uncertain schedules as they address various treatment options for Sylvia, therefore rendering Father Thomas Guback's Sunday availability uncertain. As always, Senior Warden Janet Dickerson is working very hard to arrange supply priests for upcoming Sundays. However, Janet notes that there will be instances when Morning Prayer is conducted when a supply priest is not available. And while Sunday services will alter somewhat by these circumstances, nonetheless the spirit, intent, and the prayers of those gathered in His Name never alter. See you on Sunday!

**SUMMARY OF JULY 12, 2017
VESTRY MEETING
By Ed Ruffley**

The treasurer forwarded a written report stating that the parish is in a sound financial position as of June 30.

The vestry discussed the concept of a "total ministry". Under this concept and in the absence of a full-time priest, the members of the parish perform many of the duties that are traditionally performed by a priest, including outreach.

The vestry discussed preparations for the joint service with Bethany Lutheran Church at Northport Marina Park.

Janet Dickerson discussed the details of Bishop Hougland's visit to St. Christopher's, which is scheduled for August 13.

The vestry discussed preliminary plans for a St. Nicholas dinner for the parish.

**SUMMARY OF AUGUST 9, 2017
VESTRY MEETING
By Ed Ruffley**

The treasurer reported that the parish continues to be in sound financial position as of July 31.

The vestry discussed feedback from Bishop Satterlee's visit to Bethany Lutheran Church and St. Christopher's interaction with the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan.

Final arrangements for Bishop Hougland's August 13 visit to St. Christopher's were discussed.

The vestry discussed the possibility of providing Sunday school classes for children in the parish.

The vestry discussed contingency plans in the event that a supply priest is not available on a given Sunday.

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

The rector search is ongoing. Several discussions were held with our Bethany Lutheran Church counterparts after their meeting with Lutheran Bishop Satterlee.

Members of the vestry who are also on the search committee discussed the status of our rector search and our relationship with Bethany Lutheran Church during Episcopal Bishop Hougland's visit to St. Christopher's on August 13.

On August 15, Marilyn Zimmerman and Ed Ruffley met with Canon William Spaid of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan. We discussed the shortage of priests in the Episcopal Church. We also discussed our ongoing efforts to find a new rector and we discussed possible new approaches to attracting rector candidates.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep in mind, and prayer, the following parishioners: Ethel; Ed; Sylvia; Jerry; Joanne; June; 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 there are any changes whatsoever, so that Joy and the Prayer List can remain current. 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 prepared the September/October schedule, which is attached. Thank you Jill!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 15, 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. Janie and the Altar Guild welcomed Kate Mason as a new member to the Altar Guild this summer.

JAN AND BOB HUNT LIBRARY UPDATE

Librarian Ronnie Alff reports that nine donated books have been added to the library, two of which are children's books. Ronnie notes, "there are not many, but two children's books recently added to the St. Christopher's library extend this area and are worthy of mention, and both center on St. Francis. Children's author Katherine Paterson based her book - Brother Son, Sister Moon - on the Canticle of the creatures, beautifully illustrated. An appropriate quotation for this season: "We praise you for our Sister Earth, who declares your mother love for us as she sustains our bodies with food and our souls with beauty". Brian Wildsmith's Saint Francis begins with: "I was born- thank you, God - over eight hundred years ago. And still I live in people's hearts. I loved my name - Francis. I loved my city - Assisi. And I loved my life." It was an extraordinary life and Wildsmith's illustrations are fascinating. Both books can be found at 271.3."

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.

Thanks to Janet Dickerson for the new cushion covers in the library.

PIECEMAKERS

The Piecemakers meet on Monday from 1:00-3:30 P.M. at St. Christopher's Fellowship Hall. However, due to various events or schedules, a regular session can be cancelled. Please contact Joy, Janet D., Rea, Ronnie, or Mary to confirm any Monday session. 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!

CLOUDY, WITH A CHANCE TO WORSHIP (TOGETHER!)

July 16, the Sunday of the Bethany/St. Christopher's joint worship service at Northport Marina Park, arrived cool, cloudy, overcast, and windy. But everyone donned their sweatshirts; the rain held off; and spirits were strong. Father Thomas Guback was the celebrant at this well-attended service. The picnic followed: tables groaned with the weight of wonderful food! It was a great time to meet new people and see old friends.

Senior Warden Janet Dickerson notes that the set-up committee began work at the park at 9:00 A.M., transporting tables to hold food and to serve as the altar, which was covered (and weighted down) in view of the strong winds. Bob Leece played guitar for the hymns. An estimated 61 people attended. Freshly-baked

rolls and sandwich fixings were provided by Chris Roehler. 61 degrees made it a cool Sunday in July, but everyone enjoyed both the service and the picnic.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#23)

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (page 376, The Hymnal, 1982) utilizes Beethoven's "Hymn to Joy" for its music, as the hymn's author, Henry Van Dyke specifically intended. Van Dyke (1852 - 1933) was a Presbyterian ministry, a best-selling author, a professor of literature at Princeton University, a World War I navy chaplain, and an ambassador to Holland and Luxembourg by appointment of President Woodrow Wilson. Van Dyke believed that scientific advancement was not at odds with faith, and that people of faith; "are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy their religion or that any revolution on earth will overthrow the kingdom of heaven". [The Complete Book of Hymns, page 43; William J Petersen and Ardythe Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 2006]

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#24)

"Now Than We All our God" (page 397, The Hymnal, 1982) is the second most widely sung hymn in Germany, having its beginning in the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). Martin Rinckart (1586-1649) was the sole pastor in Eilenberg, a walled city which was the refuge for many people during these war years. Eilenberg's walls were breached several times by Swedes and Austrians. The city's crowded conditions meant hunger and plagues. In 1637, Rinckart conducted 5,000 funerals, including that for his wife. Johann Kruger's music was first used with the hymn's lyrics in 1644. Despite the context of the times and the hardship and loss, a spirit of thanksgiving anchors this hymn. [The Complete Book of Hymns, page 659, William J. Petersen & Ardythe Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

**REPORT OF SENIOR WARDEN
JANET DICKERSON**

A. Bishop Wayne Houglan's Visit. Bishop Houglan and his wife, Dana, visited our parish, met with parishioners and vestry, and were able to spend a few days with us. We all enjoyed their visit and his message. Several members of Bethany Lutheran Church also attended the August 13th service. The vestry will look for other ways in which we can interact with our friends from Bethany. The Bishop is very happy with the health of St. Christopher's. Although he has fewer parishes looking for priests than three years ago, he still has very few candidates for positions. He praises us for not having a building to maintain so that we can dedicate more resources to missions. I know that many of you support various philanthropies on your own; the vestry has been charged to look for some mission, in addition to Leelanau Christian Neighbors, that will define us.

Bishop Houglan has ordained deacons in several parishes. He wants to fund an endowment to support scholarships to seminaries. The commitment in time and money to become a priest or deacon is considerable; it should not be an economic burden.

B. Visit to Bethany Lutheran Church. There was an opportunity to meet Lutheran Bishop Satterlee on Sunday, July 23rd. Rea and John Kutilek and Chuck and I attended the service and the post-service fellowship. An informative Question and Answer period provided information; we also confirmed Father Thomas Guback's month-to-month status, as St. Christopher's is still searching for a permanent rector.

C. Parishioners' Continuing Assistance. Carol Ispording is now trained as LSM and has begun such assistance at services. Kate Mason is training for the Altar Guild.

I thank you all for your support as we all continue through these uncertain times.

HERE AND THERE AND EVERYWHERE

A. Save the Date: LCN Fundraiser will be Magical. Leelanau Christian Neighbors' fundraiser will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017, at the Olde Arts Building in Leland. "Celebrating ... the Magic of Caring" will feature local craft beer, wine, light food pairings, silent and live auction items, and magician Ben Whiting. The festivities begin at 6:30 P.M. Ben Whiting will perform at approximately 8:00 P.M.. Tickets are \$35 per person. Mary Fleishman will have tickets for sale.

B. Save the Date II: St. Nicholas Dinner. Wednesday, December 6th, is the date under consideration for the St. Nicholas Dinner. It has been almost two years since the St. Nicholas brunch was held at Tucker's (thank you, Janet Crane!), so the possibility of a dinner evening with St. Christopher's parishioners is tantalizing. Watch for additional information.

C. Congratulations! Our own Janet and Chuck Dickerson have been named 2017 Volunteers of the Year by the Leelanau Conservancy in recognition of their tireless efforts and outstanding work in the preservation of the showy lady slipper orchid.

D. C.R.O.P. Walk: The annual C.R.O.P. Walk will take place in Omena (walking "the loop" of Omena Point Road) on Sunday, October 15, 2017. Watch for additional information.

E. Thanks Due. Thank you to Marilyn and Dave Zimmerman for hosting the Bishop, his wife, and our vestry members at their home for a lovely brunch following the August 13th service.

F. Post-Service Coffee. Carol and Richard Ispording will host a special post-service coffee at their home on September 17. The event will begin at 10:45 A.M. Please be alert for more details; similar events to promote continuing fellowship are planned.

5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 ... CONTACT

Updated information along with corrections and additions to the Parish Directory as follows:

Ethel Wills. Ethel reports: a) her email address shown in the current Parish Directory should be eliminated; b.) her telephone number (231-256-7223) should be added to the Parish Directory; and c.) her address is Effie's Place, P.O. Box 1028, Leland, Michigan 49654.

Alan Kirby. His new winter address is 851 W. 4th Street, Unit 18, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101. His new email address is atkirby2675@gmail.com.

Eddie Brown. Eddie is added to the mailing list. Her address is: 619 Washington Street, Traverse City, Michigan 49686.

Bob & Janie Neuharth. Their email address listed in the Parish Directory should be corrected to the following: 409leland@gmail.com.

Susan & John Husken. Their mailing address is 13449 Bernadette Court, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48313; cellphone : 586-846-0217.

Anne Treadwell. Omit listed home phone number 231-256-9955. Change winter address to 137 SW Riverway Blvd., Palm City, FL 34990.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASSES

By the time this newsletter is distributed, the Solar Eclipse will pass into history as one of the most watched, photographed, and memorialized events in this nation. The Path of Totality across America will be surpassed only by the millions of 'selfies' that will be snapped as everyone tries to transform the universal into the individual. Specialized viewers, telescopes, binoculars, and cameras of every possible persuasion were put to work to capture the moments: a collaboration of lenses trained on the heavens. All of which will remind each and all of us of our place in the

universe. All of which will remind each and all of us of the incalculable magnificence above us. All of which can leave us overwhelmed by a vastness that is difficult to truly comprehend.

But there is a cure for eclipse fever. When the Path of Totality has run its course, we look around and see: normal. We can choose to shift our focus from the Huge Incomprehensible to the Wondrous Ordinary. This will require a different sort of lens - - - a magnifying glass.

We stop by the side of the road, or perhaps our driveway, and examine a single stem of the beautiful wild carrot, also known as Queen Anne's Lace. We can see the single-spaced spiky leaves (so modern!) placed sparingly on the stem, topped by an umbrella-like burst of the tiniest of flowers. All of the flourish is saved, and spent, on the flower burst. If this mix of modern leaves and showy blossom had a decorator label, it could be called Contemporary Victorian.

On the single stem we have chosen, the flower (approximately four inches in diameter) contains 66 separate flower clusters. Each of these clusters has 45 separate flowers. Each separate flower has 6 petals, with each petal so tiny that your household junk drawer contains no instrument to measure such a miniature world. There are 17,820 petals on this one, single, floral stem of Queen Anne's Lace.

Our own eyes provide the initial lens that makes all of this viewing possible, whether looking skyward or down to earth. Additional looking glasses only enhance that experience, widen our understanding, and magnify our appreciation. Eclipses capture our attention like no other astronomical marvel. Once they pass, the incredible and marvelous can also be seen, each and every day, with a stop along the side of the road.

By Mary Ruffley

Service Schedule for September - October 2017

Date	Day	Lector	LEM 1	Clergy	Altar Set Up	Altar Clear	Greeter	Coffee	Pick Up Sarah S.
Sept. 3	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	R. Bombaugh	M. Harrison	J. McLean	J. Foerster	M.Zimmerman	P.Deal	J. Crane	
Sept. 10	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	K. Mason	C. Isphordig	TBA	M. Zimmerman	J. Neuharth	J. Foerster		
Sept. 17	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Ruffley	M. Harrison	J. McLean	J. Neuharth	J. Foerster	M. Zimmerman	Isphording's Home	
Sept. 24	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Harrison	C. Isphording	J. McLean	J. Foerster	J. Neuharth	C. Dickerson	M. Fleishman	
Oct. 1	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Jim Ham	J. Dickerson	TBA	J. Neuharth	J. Foerster	P. Deal	I. Nelson	
Oct. 8	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	J. Foerster	Joy Ham	J. McLean	M. Zimmerman	J. Foerster	C. Dickerson	M. Ruffley	
Oct. 15	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	E. Arnfield	J. Dickerson	TBA	Joy Ham	J. Foerster	J. Foerster	A. Kirby	
Oct. 22	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Zimmerman	Joy Ham	J. McLean	J. Foerster	Joy Ham	C. Dickerson	M. Zimmerman	
Oct. 29	Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost	M. Fleishman	C. Isphording	TBA	J. Neuharth	M. Zimmerman	Joy Ham	J. Foerster	

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

