



**March-April 2018
Newsletter**

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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

CALENDAR

March 2018

- March 1 - Soup Supper, 6 pm at Northport Covenant Church
- March 8 - Soup Supper, 6 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church
- March 11 - Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 14 - Vestry Meeting at 9:30 am
- March 15 - Soup Supper, 6 pm at St. Gertrude's Catholic Church
- March 20 - First Day of Spring
- March 22 - Soup Supper, 6 pm at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
- March 25 - **Palm Sunday**
- March 30 - **Good Friday** Service at 12 noon

April 2018

- April 1 - **Easter Sunday**
- April 11 - Vestry meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- April 22 - Earth Day

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

- March 13 - John Dixon
- March 19 - Carol Isphording
- March 29 - Jerry Muir

- April 1 - Mike Fleishman
- April 4 - Janie Neuharth
- April 5 - Jill Ebeling
- April 25 - Jenny Danaher
- April 28 - Jill Foerster

ANNIVERSARIES

- March No anniversaries

- April No anniversaries

LENT

As the Litany of Penitence and our dedicated clergy remind us, more than any other time in the church calendar year Lent requires renewed dedication in prayer, introspection, meditation, reading, reaffirmed commitment, and shared fellowship. Please consider in your schedule: the Lenten Soup Suppers; the many texts available in the Jan and Bob Hunt Library; the suggested Lenten readings (Good Book Club) noted in this issue; and strive to include as many of these as possible in the weeks ahead.

THE GOOD BOOK CLUB

by Marilyn Zimmerman

(Note: This was written for inclusion in the weekly parish bulletin)

The Episcopal Church has joined with *Forward Movement*, the Episcopal ministry that publishes *Forward Day by Day*, to form **The Good Book Club**, an invitation to Episcopalians around the world to join in reading **the Gospel according to Luke** during Lent and **the Book of Acts** during Eastertide in 2018.

The Vestry of St. Christopher's is encouraging our members to "join" **The Good Book Club**. There is no cost and you need not leave the comfort of your own home to participate. Attached to this leaflet is a schedule of the daily readings, which begin on Sunday, February 11th and conclude on Saturday, May 21st. *Forward Day by Day*, available on our parish book cart, contains guides for your reflections on the readings. Other resources, should you choose to use them, are listed on the website for **The Good Book Club (goodbookclub.org)**.

People who read scripture with an open heart grow in faith through their encounter with the sacred stories of the Bible. Please join Episcopalians throughout the world and members of St. Christopher's as we participate in this important journey.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2018

By Mary Fleishman

Senior Warden Janet Dickerson called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. with an opening prayer for guidance and mission.

Mary Fleishman was appointed Secretary for the meeting.

Attendance was taken. The following people were present: Janet Dickerson, Charles Dickerson, Peg Deal, Thomas Guback, Janie Neuharth, Robert Neuharth, Rea Kutilek, John Kutilek, Joy Ham, James Ham, Irene Nelson, David Nelson, Denise McCallum, John

McCallum, Margie Beers, Michael Fleishman, Mary Fleishman.

Janet Dickerson reviewed the membership requirements for voting at the annual meeting from our parish bylaws.

Janie Neuharth moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Ham. Motion carried.

Janie Neuharth moved to approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting. Tom Guback and Joy Ham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mike Fleishman presented the Treasurer's Report and noted that St. Christopher's continues to have ample resources to operate during 2018, even though the parish gave a \$30,000 donation to Leelanau Christian Neighbors for its building fund, made possible by an earlier bequest from Jan Hunt. Other major gifts were the continued support of the LCN annual fundraiser and the Verdier Circle of Friends, in the amount of \$5,000 each. The 2018 budget reflects an increase in pledged income and includes hourly increases for supply clergy, secretarial services and the organist. The budget assumes we will continue to have supply clergy throughout 2018. Please refer to the 2017 Treasurer's Report for details.

Tom Guback moved to approve the budget, seconded by Jim Ham. Motion passed.

Nomination and Election of Vestry Members: There was a nomination from the floor to elect Chuck Dickerson to the Vestry. With Chuck's acceptance, he was unanimously elected to a three year term, ending in 2021. Janet Dickerson will leave the Vestry, having ended her term. Other members who will continue through 2018 are Carol Isphording and Marilyn Zimmerman. Margie Beers and Moonyeen Fitch will continue through 2020.

Janet Dickerson suggested we delay our nomination of delegates to the Diocesan Convention and Traverse Deanery until later this year.

Questions were raised regarding the search process and Janet Dickerson stated we would

continue to look for a permanent clergy person. That morning, both she and Rev. Tom Guback commended the congregation for their enthusiasm in keeping St. Christopher's alive and attracting new members.

Once again, Janet Dickerson was applauded for her work as Senior Warden.

Rev. Tom Guback closes with prayer and Janet Dickerson adjourned the meeting.

**SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 13, 2017
VESTRY MEETING
By Ed Ruffley**

A "Noonday Prayer Service", borrowed from the 2017 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, preceded the vestry meeting.

The vestry approved the minutes of the prior vestry meeting held on November 8, 2017.

The treasurer presented the financial statements as of November 30, 2017. He stated that St. Christopher's remains in sound fiscal condition. The vestry accepted the Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer presented a preliminary budget for 2018. Budgeted revenues generally equal budgeted expenses. Following a general discussion, the vestry approved the proposed budget for 2018.

The vestry discussed the ongoing rector search activities. Ed Ruffley discussed the details of an additional telephone conversation with Margie Trof of Bethany. No rector candidates are currently under consideration.

The vestry discussed the planning for the annual meeting.

Janet Dickerson proposed that St. Christopher's make a gift to our landlord, St. Gertrude's, in recognition for and in support of the improvements made to the church building. After discussion, the vestry approved a \$1,000 gift to St. Gertrude's.

**SUMMARY OF VESTRY MEETING
FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEETING
ON JANUARY 21, 2018**

Due to the travel schedules of various vestry members, a vestry meeting was not held following the annual meeting. The vestry subsequently voted in person, via proxy, or via email to elect Carol Ishphording and Marilyn Zimmerman, co-Senior Wardens for 2018. Margie Beers was elected Junior Warden. No additional business was addressed.

FEBRUARY 2018 VESTRY MEETING

Due to the travel schedules of various vestry members, the February 2018 meeting was cancelled. The vestry members remain in contact via email.

**RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE
February 2018
By Ed Ruffley**

The search for a new rector continues in a difficult environment. Few candidates are available and many rector positions are open. No new candidates are available at this time. Vestry and search committee members have discussed ways to improve the visibility and attractiveness of St. Christopher's.

**IN EVENT OF CANCELLATION OF
SUNDAY SERVICE**

In the event the Sunday Celebrant cannot get to church due to inclement weather or other reason, and, as a result the service is cancelled, then: (1) the Celebrant will call the Senior Warden; (2) the Senior Warden will call the first person on each page of the Parish Directory who is in town, and, in turn, that person will call all remaining people on that directory page who are in town. There is the option to attend the 10:30 a.m. service at Bethany or the 11:00 a.m. service at Trinity, assuming, of course, that inclement weather has not cancelled those services.

PRAYER LIST PROCEDURE

Please keep in mind, and prayer, the following parishioners: Ethel; Ed; Sylvia; Jerry; Joanne; June; 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; Glen; Wesley.

The prayer needs of the parishioners, family, and friends constantly change. In order to better address these circumstances, beginning in January 2018 (for both weekly Sunday services and the Newsletter) those on the Prayer List will be listed for three months. If inclusion on the Prayer List is requested for an additional three months, then please contact JOY HAM; phone 231-386-7531; email: hamjoy@gmail.com to request a continuation on the list. And, of course, Joy should always be advised of any other changes at any time. The intent is not to reduce prayers, but, rather, to make certain that the Prayer List is current to fulfill its best purposes of focus, clarity, and concentration.

Many prayers are included in the Book of Common Prayer: pages 208; 823; 828-831; 814-841. Personal prayers are always special; prayerful reading to all.

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 Piecemakers 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! IT CAN BE VERY SIMPLE! 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.

Margie Beers, Janet Dickerson, or Dorothy Schobel should be contacted if you wish to note or mark a special occasion or memorialization regarding your flower donation.

BOOKS, A GUILD, A WEBSITE: OH BOY!

The Altar Guild, that dedicated band, is headed by Janie Neuharth. New members are always welcome; please contact Janie if you would like to help.

The Jan and Bob Hunt Library is very well stocked and updated, thanks to Librarian Ronnie Alff. Please check it (and its materials) out!

The St. Christopher's Website is maintained by our website whiz Marilyn Zimmerman. Please check it out for current information, schedules, and photos (www.stchristophersnorthportmi.org).

COFFEE (HALF!) HOUR

Coffee hosting is helpful and fun, and available to all. Hosts may prepare the coffee however they wish; but remember that you can always K.I.S.S. (Keep It So Simple). Coffee is always already made; napkins, paper plates, cups are all provided on the premises. All you need to do is bring the edibles; suggestions include your choice of cookies, pastry, fruit, or cheese and crackers. Store-bought is just fine. If the church kitchen is unfamiliar, just ask, and several folks will help in an instant. What is most important is the opportunity to gather socially each week, if only for a brief time.

And whoever wields the coffee pot wields the power of hello.

INTINCTION

By the Reverend Dr. Thomas Guback

Intinction is a method of receiving holy communion in which the consecrated wafer is dipped in the consecrated wine before being consumed. This way of receiving the wine is preferred by communicants who do not wish to sip from a common chalice, or those who have a cold and do not want to potentially transfer any germs through the chalice.

Intinction sounds easy. But there are two ways of doing it correctly and in keeping with established sacramental practices.

First, the communicant gives the wafer to the Lay Eucharistic Minister who carefully dips the wafer in the wine, touches the wafer to the chalice side to eliminate a drip, and then pops the wafer into the communicant's mouth.

Second, the communicant, being extraordinarily careful not to put a fingertip in the wine, dips the wafer into the wine, touches the wafer to the chalice side to eliminate a drip, and then consumes the wafer.

If not removed on the inside of the chalice, the lingering drop of consecrated wine on the wafer can be a problem. It risks dropping on the communicant's chin, or worse, clothing. (Use

boiling water to remove a wine stain from fabric.) And it risks dropping on the floor, which is very serious indeed. Since the wine is consecrated, and therefore the blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it must be protected from being desecrated. When consecrated wine drops on the floor, it must be wiped up immediately with a purificator, which is cleansed afterward in a reverent fashion.

For communicants who do not wish to intinct and prefer to consume consecrated wine from the chalice, you should know that the Lay Eucharistic Minister cleanses the rim of the chalice with a purificator and rotates it a quarter turn before offering it to the next communicant.

PIECEMAKERS

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

REPEATED CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

By: Ed Ruffley, on behalf of the Vestry

In addition to our commitment of 'Treasure' to support St. Christopher's on Stewardship Sunday, the vestry is asking everyone to consider a commitment of your time and talents to support St. Christopher's. The number of our volunteers has declined over the years and is particularly acute during the winter months when many parishioners are traveling.

There are many tasks that are performed behind the scenes that make certain that our services proceed without a hitch. During the winter

months, fewer people perform more of these tasks out of necessity. We hope everyone can help, even in small ways, to insure that St. Christopher's remains a healthy church.

Please contact a member of the vestry if you are interested in serving on the vestry or if you can help in some other way.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#28)

Two versions of the hymn, "God of Grace and God of Glory" appear in The Hymnal, 1982, pages 594 and 595, respectively. One version (page 594) is set to the music "Cum Rhondda; the other (page 595) is set to "Mannheim". The author of the hymn, Harry Emerson Fosdick, was a leader in the liberal Protestant movement of the 1920's and 1930's, and was therefore frequently criticized by Protestant conservatives. The words in this hymn reflect the knowledge that we need God each day, and the prayerful request to "grant us wisdom, grant us courage" applies to all trials we face. [The Complete Book of Hymns, page 375; William J Petersen & Ardythe Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

REV. MEREDITH HUNT' REQUEST

Rev. Meredith Hunt contacted Janet Dickerson in late December and again relayed the critical need for monetary assistance to Congregational Church Pastor Methius Moyo, his family, and his church in Zimbabwe. You may recall Rev. Hunt's message this past summer regarding the dire conditions in Zimbabwe. The economic and political circumstances in that country have only worsened in the past months. Among other problems, Pastor Moyo's family home was destroyed in a hailstorm; the availability of funds to pay for the Moyo children's school fees is uncertain; and the Congregational Church cannot afford to pay him sufficiently. Rev. Hunt notes that there have been some bright spots over the past year for the Moyo family due to earlier contributions, but the urgent need remains. If you wish to make a gift in support of

Pastor Moyo, please contact Janet Dickerson for specific information as to how and where to send the gift. (Please note that gifts should not be made through St. Christopher's.)

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.

CONTENT AUTHORSHIP/SUBMISSION ON DEADLINE

Unless otherwise noted, all Newsletter content is written by Editor Mary Ruffley. Jill Foerster prepared the March-April schedule, which is attached. Thank you Jill!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE UPCOMING MAY/JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 19, 2018.

CHILDREN'S READ AND LEARN BASKET

Margie Beers and Marilyn Zimmerman have launched the Children's Read and Learn Basket, now located in the Fellowship Hall. Parishioners are asked to add to the Basket, and donate related items (children's table and chairs, appropriate books and materials) if possible. Perhaps a Children's Corner will result!

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

Across the Pond

In England, traditional services of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer are still used, and not just in cathedrals. Traditional Evensong use is increasing in popularity. The Prayer Book Society distributes free copies of the 1662 BCP to first-year theological students, and includes a glossary for defining and clarifying terms that have changed in meaning over the centuries. (The Living Church, October 22, 2017, page 10)

Art and History

The October 22, 2017 issue of The Living Church (all issues are available in the Jan and Bob Hunt Library) contains an interesting article ("The Theology of Landscape", pg. 18-19) about the relationship between Christian faith and the "Hudson River School" of American painters.

How about that Philtrum!

Ever wonder about the slight crease on everyone's upper lip? According to a legend from the Jewish tradition, a fetus in the womb has a light that shines above its head, capable of seeing all of the universe, which light includes "the unborn's own deep past and his ultimate destiny. Just before birth, however, the angel Lailah comes to the unborn babe and lightly strikes her finger on his upper lip." (citation credit below.) With this action, both the light and all memory disappear; it then becomes that person's life's purpose to seek and recover that light. So the reason we have that upper lip crease is due to the touch of an angel. [From the article "Prebirth", by Thomas Armstrong, Ph.D.; January/February 2008 edition of Spirituality & Health magazine] Although there is very likely a scientific explanation for the philtrum, this traditional and spiritual explanation certainly has a wonderful appeal.

FLYING HOME

In the coming weeks as the snow finally fades from the fields, those extraordinary long-distance fliers and stately walkers, the Sandhill Cranes, will once again wheel down from the sky and land among us. As true migrants

capable of flying at great heights, some of these cranes travel thousands of miles between the northern temperate zones and Mexico, New Mexico and Arizona. In February, if you are in the mountains of New Mexico, you first hear the cranes, up to three thousand feet above you; then eyes strain to finally see the tiny white dots in the impossibly blue sky, as they (or some of them, at least) take wing on their flight to Northport, Michigan.

This wintering flight is somewhat reminiscent of human behavior for those folks who also take flight in various ways, seeking warmer climates and glimpses of the sun. People, however, usually have a fixed notion of "home", and visits to warmer climates are often temporary. When people do return home, they do not: (a) gorge on food for long-distance travel; (b) rely on an extraordinary, almost magical, internal compass; (c) adjust per juxtaposition of sun angles; or (d) flap their arms.

But is this notion of "home" true for Sandhill Cranes? We are all familiar with Michigan's single homestead residency requirement for property taxes. But nature's other creatures are impervious to such a standard, and they do as they will, and as they must. So are Sandhill Cranes "home" when they are in Mexico and the southwest United States? Or are they "home" when they are in Michigan? Perhaps we impose our own notions of "home" when we think of them as a Michigan bird (since they are only temporarily away when migrating). Perhaps we apply our own residency standard: after all, Sandhill Cranes generally spend more time here than out-of-state: a calculated time amount, just like the IRS computation! Leave it to humans to impose standards and a logical explanation (which we prefer) to everything that we encounter.

Meanwhile, the Sandhill Cranes, oblivious to this over-analysis, fly above us and live among us for a while. We do not need to know if their distinctive rattling call means "Here I am at home", or "Here I am visiting for now". In either case, thank goodness for their graceful presence in our lives and landscapes.

by Mary Ruffley

Service Schedule for March – April 2018

Date	Day	Lector	LEM 1	Clergy	Altar Set Up	Altar Clear	Greeter	Coffee	
March 4	Third Sunday in Lent	J. Dickerson	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	M. Beers	All Clear	C. Dickerson	C. Isphording	
March 11	Fourth Sunday in Lent	D. Nelson	C. Isphording	T. Guback	J. Neuharth	All Clear	C. Dickerson		
March 18	Fifth Sunday in Lent	M. Fleishman	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	J. Dickerson	All Clear	C. Dickerson	M. Fleishman	
March 25	Palm Sunday	R. Bombaugh	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	J. Neuharth	All Clear	C. Dickerson	I. Nelson	
April 1	Easter Sunday	D. Nelson	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	J. Dickerson	All Clear	P. Deal	S. Husken	
April 8	Second Sunday of Easter	Jim Ham	Joy Ham	T. Guback	J. Neuharth	All Clear	C. Dickerson	J. Crane	
April 15	Third Sunday of Easter	M. Fleishman	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	Joy Ham	All Clear	P. Deal	B. Marsh	
April 22	Fourth Sunday of Easter	M. Ruffley	Joy Ham	T. Guback	M. Zimmerman	J. Neuharth	M. Zimmerman	TBA	
April 29	Fifth Sunday of Easter	M. Zimmerman	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	J. Foerster	M. Zimmerman	J. Foerster	M. Ruffley	

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

