



May-June 2018 Newsletter

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

Visit our website for updates: stchristophersnorthportmi.org

CALENDAR

May 2018

- May 3 - National Day of Prayer
- May 9 - Vestry Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- May 13 - Mother's Day
- May 28 - Memorial Day

June 2018

- June 13 - Vestry meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 17 - Father's Day
- June 21 - 1st day of Summer

ANNIVERSARIES

May 2018

- May 3 - Ruth & Charles Bombaugh
- May 7 - Ellen & Jim McLean
- May 18 - Marilyn & Dave Zimmerman
- May 20 - Joy & Jim Ham

June 2018

- June 1 - Kate Mason & Mary Lee Miller
- June 6 - Irene & David Nelson
- June 11 - Jenny & Mike Danaher
- June 18 - Sylvia Linde Guback & Tom Guback
- June 19 - Mary & Ed Ruffley
- June 29 - June & Edson Sheppard
- June 29 - Carol & Rich Ispording

BIRTHDAYS

May 2018

- May 3 - Mike Danaher
- May 4 - Marilyn Zimmerman
- May 10 - Claire Fox
- May 13 - Bob Neuharth
- May 16 - Mary Lee Miller
- May 28 - Alan Kirby

June 2018

- June 24 - Peg Deal

NOTICE

Our church proposes ... that nobody dozes: that Sundays need roses, assiduously. We're not just singin' in the rain about the **urgent** need for altar flower sign-ups; and not just roses, of course: any type of flowers/floral arrangements is welcome. The altar flower procedure is set forth in every Newsletter. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board; and remember that ... flower composes such fragrance for noses, such beauty it poses, miraculously. Let's fill that sign-up sheet! Thanks to all altar flower donors.

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

AROUND THE PARISH

A Fond Farewell - The many friends and parishioners send their very best wishes along to Moonyeen and Roger Fitch as they move to join family in Arizona. Their years of friendship and dedicated service to St. Christopher's and to fellow parishioners make this transition so difficult. If heartfelt thanks and love could defy gravity, they would not need an airplane to reach their new home. We will publish their new address when it becomes available. A dinner for the Fitches at the Leland Lodge is scheduled for Monday, April 30, 5:30 p.m., giving everyone the opportunity to convey their good wishes to Moonyeen and Roger; Godspeed.

A Limerick of Gratitude –

On returning from points south and west
Those parishioners' thanks now profess
Church held together
In winter weather
Thanks to stalwarts with whom we're so blessed.

The Good Book Club continues through May 21; please see the article later in this Newsletter.

Heartfelt thanks to the anonymous St. Gertrude's member who donated the beautiful grand piano to St. Gertrude's, and therefore for St. Christopher's use as well.

Baccalaureate Service – The baccalaureate service for the Northport High School Class of 2018 will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Church, 103 N. Warren, Northport. Everyone is welcome. St. Christopher's extends congratulations, prayers, and best wishes to the graduates as they begin the next phase of their lives.

On the Horizon. Diocesan-sponsored racial reconciliation seminar; information available soon.

A Great Cloud of Witnesses: a Calendar of Commemorations. Father Guback consecrated this new book on April 8. This book details the important figures in church history and notes commemorations for individuals and congregations to observe. The book is kept in the sacristy.

LCN Diaper Drive - The annual Diaper Drive is underway. All sizes of disposable diapers (especially sizes 4 and 5) are needed. This drive is the major source of diapers for LCN distribution during the year. Diapers can be dropped off at the collection box near the coat rack in the vestibule. Monday, May 14 is the last day of the Diaper Drive.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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.

We are seeking a candidate to fill an open position on the vestry. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Zimmerman and/or Carol Ispording if you are interested in serving on the vestry or if you can help in some other way.

THE VESTRY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2018 WAS CANCELLED DUE TO THE TRAVEL OF VESTRY MEMBERS

SUMMARY OF VESTY MEETING HELD ON MARCH 14, 2018

The meeting was preceded by the reading of several prayers from the Book of Common Prayer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM by Co-Senior Warden Carol Ispording. Vestry Members present: Carol Ispording, Margie Beers, and Chuck Dickerson. A quorum was not present; therefore, motions to approve material expenditures and to accept reports for Diocesan release require approval of absent

vestry members via email. Mike Fleishman, Treasurer, was also present.

Minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Rector Search: No candidate has currently been presented for consideration. Carol suggested our checking into co-op interns as a possible bridge until a permanent rector can be found. She mentioned Nashotah House's Master of Divinity program that requires a student to intern for two terms of mentored ministry in a parish, under the supervision of a seminary-approved priest/mentor. This idea was tabled until a full complement of Vestry members is present. Basically, everyone agreed that it might be time to think outside the box to find a rector.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Mike Fleishman, presented the financial statements as of February 28, 2018. He stated that St. Christopher's remains in sound fiscal condition. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Senior Warden's Business:

Plans for the Lenten Soup Supper were discussed. Carol I. and Janet D. will attend The Bishop's Workshop for the Northern Region on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City. Parts will be assigned for the Congregation's participation in reading the Palm Sunday Gospel according to Mark. St. Gertrude's Church will order and purchase the Easter Pascal Candle this year.

Other Business:

Chuck Dickerson brought to our attention the Bishop's online training program for "Safeguarding our Parish".

Margie Beers presented thoughts on the Church's visibility in the community and surrounding neighborhoods. She also asked that the Vestry consider supporting other agencies in addition to LCN.

No other business came before the vestry.

The next Vestry meeting will be on April 18, 2018. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

PRAYER LIST PROCEDURE

Please keep in mind, and prayer, the following parishioners: Ethel; Ed; Sylvia; Jerry; Roger; Ellie ; and also the following friends and family: Joanne; Rose Mary; Sandy; Don; Christy; Jeff; David; Wayne; Lt. Mark Folchi; Bob; Doug; Wesley; Mindy; Royce; Sharon; Pete; Ed; Dave; Donna; Dorothy.

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.

PIECEMAKERS

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

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.

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 (so far) 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, Marilyn Zimmerman, or Dorothy Schobel should be contacted if you wish to note or mark a special occasion or memorialization regarding your flower donation.

THE GOOD BOOK CLUB

Marilyn Zimmerman writes: 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. A schedule of daily readings runs through May 21. *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 (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.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

By Janet Dickerson

At St. Christopher's we do not use plastic or Styrofoam cups, or plastic stirrers or spoons, all of which would otherwise remain in landfills long after we are gone. Instead, standard coffee cups and metal spoons are used every week, to be washed and returned for service. In all circumstances, paper straws can be used in place of plastic straws. Such usage was the subject of a 9/25/17 "Forum" article in The Traverse City Record Eagle. Plastic straws contribute to roadway and beach litter and pose hazards for fish, turtles, birds, and other wildlife. Please consider the reduction of plastics use, such as "no straw" instructions and use of your own take-home containers at restaurants, and re-usable water bottles. Paper straws are available at Nifty Things in Suttons Bay. Every small step is important. We can act to prevent that plastic floating island in the Pacific Ocean (now twice the size of Texas) from enlarging.

COFFEE (HALF!) HOUR

Coffee hosting is helpful and fun, and available to all. Hosts may present 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. This brief social gathering helps keep us connected. And whomever wields the coffee pot wields the power of hello.

ALTAR GUILD, BOOKS & WEBSITE THANKS

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 the books) out!

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

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#29)

Have you ever been confused by the titles of two hymns, i.e. "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" (page 207, The Hymnal, 1982) and "Christ the Lord is Risen Today", listed in The Hymnal, 1982 under "Love's Redeeming Work is Done", pages 188-189)? There is reason for confusion, as both hymns are similar in many ways, and both hymns reflect Methodist Charles Wesley's contribution. "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" was written by Charles Wesley a year after his conversion to Methodism, and it was first sung in an abandoned iron

foundry building in London, which became known as the Foundry Meeting House. Charles Wesley's brother, John, collected Charles' hymns for a Methodist hymnal, but omitted this hymn. Another editor, fifty years later included it, and it is now considered one of the greatest of Charles Wesley's hymns. "Jesus Christ is Risen Today", however, is based on a 14th century medieval Latin text; Charles Wesley contributed the lyrics for the fourth stanza. [The Complete Book of Hymns, page 597; page 602; William J Petersen & Ardythe Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

NEWSLETTER AND MONTHLY SCHEDULE INFORMATION

For any comments, suggestions, corrections, etc. as to the Newsletter: please contact Mary Ruffley (cell 248-202-5363; or e-mail me at 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 DEADLINE

Unless otherwise noted, all Newsletter content is written by Editor Mary Ruffley. Jill Foerster prepared the May-June schedule, which is attached. Thank you Jill!
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE UPCOMING JULY/AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 16, 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

1. Retirement. The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., bishop of Michigan since November 2000 announced his plans to retire as of December 31, 2019, as reported in The Living Church, February 11, 2018, page 9.

2. Medieval Calendars, and the general concepts used in the Middle Ages to track time, mark feasts, specify saints' days, and hallmark noteworthy events are currently on exhibit at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City. These calendars also depict death, judgment, heaven, and hell, then known as "the last four things". Each month's two "unlucky" days were called "Egyptian Days". The complete article can be found in the April 22, 2018 issue of The Living Church,

3. New Translation for the New Testament. In October, 2017, the Yale University Press published The New Testament: A Translation, by scholar and theologian David Bentley Hart. This new translation is reviewed by James Parker in the January/February 2018 issue of The Atlantic (page 32). If this new translation is anything like a phrase the reviewer used to describe it ("mind-bending"), it will make for very interesting reading.

4. A Devil's Advocate. In the 17th century, the Roman Catholic Church established an office that was known as "advocatus diaboli", specifically for the person who was charged with prosecuting the case against the canonization of a new saint. It required the examination of every report of any miracle, witnessed actions, and every cited virtue, because such scrutiny was necessary to test the veracity of the claims and character of the proposed saint. Thus the examiner had the role of "the devil's advocate". [From The New York Times magazine, April 8, 2018, page 11.]

5. Thou, Thee; and We. Marian J. Hatchett, author of Commentary on the American Prayer Book (Harper San Francisco Publishers, 1995) explains on page 29: “In the sixteenth century ‘thou’ in English was equivalent to ‘tu’ in French or ‘du’ in German – the familiar second person singular form used to address one person, intimates, children, servants, and God. It was appropriately used by those who know themselves to be children in intimate relation to God rather than slaves of God. The use of ‘you’ as a form of address in the rites and collects in contemporary language is the modern expression of intimacy, linguistically equivalent to the usage of ‘thou’ in earlier editions of the Book of Common Prayer.”

There is comfort in knowing that these familiar terms are interchangeable. There is further comfort in knowing that the use of ‘thou’ was not a pronoun used to distance others, but just the opposite; a pronoun of intimacy and inclusion.

7. Rev. Meredith Hunt has sent further information that the monetary needs of the congregational church pastor and his family in Zimbabwe remain. Contact Janet Dickerson for further specifics. (Monetary gifts should not be made through St. Christopher’s.)

8. To Change or Not to change? The ongoing discussions about possible revisions to the Book of Common Prayer continue in every issue of The Living Church. The contributors’ opinions range from “no change” to “yes change” and every possible permutation in between. You can follow the arguments by reading the column “Necessary or Expedient?” in the issues.

9. Palm Sunday in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It has been a Santa Fe tradition for several years that the three downtown churches closest to the Plaza meet for a brief pre-service gathering prior to their respective Palm Sunday services. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the usual Sunday tourist crowd milled about the Plaza. The crowd swelled as the parishioners of the Presbyterian Church, the Church of the Holy Faith (Episcopal) and the Roman Catholic Cathedral gathered in front of the Plaza band shell. Then, one by one, the three processions entered the Plaza. The Presbyterian clergy wore brilliant green vestments with Native American motifs and were accompanied by a bagpiper. The Episcopalian clergy (including the Bishop) entered from another direction wearing brilliant red vestments, and accompanied by acolytes waving 10 ft. high red and yellow streamers. The Roman Catholics entered from a

third direction wearing brilliant red vestments accompanied by others in brilliant Hispanic dress. All met together at the center of the Plaza. A children’s choir sang sweetly and all of the clergy spoke in English and Spanish. The ceremony concluded with each group proceeding once around the Plaza (with the bagpiper playing “Amazing Grace”) and then heading to their respective churches for Palm Sunday services. The crowd was very respectful; the ceremony was lovely; the procession was stirring; and Palm Sunday, profound.

10. Appointment of New Canon Missioners in our Diocese. Bishop Hougland has announced the appointment of three Canon Missioners to serve the three newly-created regions (southern, central and northern) in the Diocese of Western Michigan. The Bishop stated that Canon Missioners work with people and congregations within the diocese “in the development of vital mission oriented, and collaborative faith communities”. The Rev. C. Anne Hallmark has been appointed Canon Missioner in the northern region, which includes Northport and Traverse City. The Bishop noted that Rev. Hallmark has more than thirty years of experience with congregations within the Dioceses of Virginia and Chicago. Rev. Hallmark and her husband, Steve, are relocating from Springfield, VA to Traverse City.

DIALING THE SUN

Among some faraway foothills, at a hiking trailhead, there stands an analemma, a special type of symbol that is used in a special type of sundial. Fortunately for the hiker, there is also a large sign which explains this sundial’s operation. Atop an extended pole there are two rings, one small ring attached inside the other: this is the sundial’s gnomon. On a clear sunny day, a circular shadow appears as a dot on the cement below. In that cement is embedded a large figure eight, with months marked. If the hiker is there at the right time, the sun’s shadow through the rings marks high noon. Of course, a glance at a watch (no cellphone service in these hills) would get you the quick answer regarding the time. But when you have the chance to read an analemma, who needs a watch?

Fascination with the sun, its risings and settings, its beauty, warmth, and power, has hallmarked our attention

since humans first looked skyward. In our current age, we know so much about this star, but that scientific knowledge does not, in any way, diminish the sun in myth or in poetry. The god of the sun, Helios, drove the chariot and those fiery horses across the sky daily, which made sense to the ancient Greeks, and thrills us, still. The recitation in Psalms about the “pavilion of the sun” names a place we all would like to experience.

Back here on earth, the hiker is grateful for those who decided to place an analemma in the distant foothills. On many desk globes, you can see an analemma, the figure eight shape placed with its center on the equator. And, locally, we are lucky enough to experience a sundial moment. On the grounds of the Traverse Area District Library on Woodmere, there is a large sundial. You can place yourself such that your body acts as the gnomon, and your shadow tells the time. Of course, it must be a sunny day, and, finally, a few of those days are beginning to reappear. That wintery fist which has gripped the seasons’ clock for so long and kept it at its “winter” setting has finally unclenched. Those frozen fingers have peeled away and freed the mechanism: the wires trip; the coils unleash; the tick tocks, the alarm sings for spring; and off we go.

By Mary Ruffley

Service Schedule for May-June 2018

Date	Day	Lector	LEM 1	Clergy	Altar Set Up	Altar Clear	Greeter	Coffee	
May 6	6 th Sunday of Easter	J. Foerster	Joy Ham	T. Guback	M. Zimmerman	J. Foerster	C. Dickerson	S. Husken	
May 13	7 th Sunday of Easter	R. Bombaugh	J. Dickerson	J. McLean	J. Foerster	Joy Ham	P. Deal		
May 20	Day of Pentecost	M. Ruffley	Joy Ham	T. Guback	J. Neuharth	M. Zimmerman	C. Dickerson	M. Ruffley	
May 27	Trinity Sunday	Jim Ham	C. Isphording	T. Guback	M. Beers	J. Neuharth	J. Foerster	J. Crane	
June 3	2 nd Sunday after Pentecost	D. Nelson	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	J. Foerster	Joy Ham	M. Zimmerman	I. Nelson	
June 10	3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	J. Foerster	C. Isphording	T. Guback	M. Zimmerman	J. Foerster	C. Dickerson	M. Fleishman	
June 17	4 th Sunday after Pentecost	M. Zimmerman	Joy Ham	T. Guback	M. Beers	M. Zimmerman	P. Deal	C. Isphording	
June 24	5 th Sunday after Pentecost	M. Fleishman	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	J. Neuharth	J. Foerster	Joy Ham	J. Danaher	

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

