



**March - April 2019
Newsletter**

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

Visit our website for updates: stchristophersnorthportmi.org

CALENDAR

March 2019

- March 6 - Ash Wednesday, Service at 12 noon
- March 10 - Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 13 - Vestry Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- March 14 - Soup Supper, 6 pm @ St. Christopher's
(followed by a Service at 7 pm)
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 - 1st day of Spring

April 2019

- April 10 - Vestry Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- April 14 - Palm Sunday
- April 16 - Way of the Cross, 12 noon (TBD)
- April 18 - Maundy Thursday, 12 noon (TBD)
- April 19 - Good Friday, Service at 12 noon
- April 21 - Easter Sunday
- April 22 - Earth Day

BIRTHDAYS

March 2019

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

April 2019

- April 01 - Mike Fleishman
- April 04 - Janie Neuharth
- April 05 - Jill Ebeling
- April 25 - Jenny Danaher
- April 28 - Jill Foerster

ANNIVERSARIES

March 2019

None

April 2019

None

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

LENT

The Lenten season is upon us, and our dedicated clergy and the Litany of Penitence remind us of renewed dedication in prayer, introspection, meditation, reading, reaffirmed commitment, and shared fellowship. Please consider the weekly Lenten Soup Suppers at Northport churches (dates and locations to be announced). Possible additional 12 noon services during Holy Week, i.e. Way of the Cross and Maundy Thursday services, will be confirmed by Fr. Tom Guback. Please be alert for announcements.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. TOM

This is an amazing parish. With small numbers, and everyone responding to their calls to various ministries, you have brought great life to who we are. I'm sure this is because you are open to God's call to each of us, open to letting God intervene in our lives, and being willing to take extra steps and extra care with everything you do. Each of you hears. Each of you responds. The parish is vibrant, and you can feel it. Great faith is palpable.

I appreciate as well all the support you have given to me over these last many months, when my life has been one of mourning, when it has been filled with stress and often overload of one sort or another. You have made it clear that we are a family and that we share who we are, what we have, and what we do. You have helped me cope with great tension and, at moments, emptiness. Thanks to you, and thanks to your blessings, my life has been strengthened, and these challenging times made less painful. Your compassion is great. You show what it means to be the body of Christ in the world.

Bless you! May God make his face to shine upon you always.

Thomas +

ONGOING CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Vestry Clerk – We are seeking a volunteer to attend vestry meetings and to prepare vestry meeting minutes.

Search Committee - We are seeking volunteers to fill three open positions on the Rector Search Committee. We have lost two members through relocations and one member who is currently Co-Senior Warden. We will need your help in this critical matter when the next candidate is identified.

Please contact Marilyn Zimmerman and/or Carol Isphording if you are interested in serving St. Christopher's.

SUMMARY OF VESTRY MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order immediately following St. Christopher's Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing Senior and Junior Wardens. After discussing the possible options for those positions, the attending Vestry members moved to elect Marilyn Zimmerman and Carol Isphording, Co-Senior Wardens, for a one-year term, and Chuck Dickerson, Junior Warden, for a one-year term.

Without a quorum, the three absent Vestry members were contacted via email and asked to respond with their votes. All replies were affirmative. The motion carried.

Other Business: Chuck Dickerson reviewed the process for snow removal and salt application and said that the church sidewalk and entry had been cleared by St. Gertrude's parishioners prior to the 9:00 AM service that morning. Chuck recommended that electing St. Christopher's delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention held in November 2019 be delayed until spring when a larger congregation is present.

There was no further business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

The February Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 13 February 2019, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Isphording
Co-Senior Warden

SUMMARY OF VESTRY MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Co-Senior Warden Carol Isphording at 10:00 AM. Chuck Dickerson updated the Vestry on the continued need for snow and ice removal. Carol stated that St. Christopher's Soup

Supper is scheduled on March 14, 2019. The complete schedule of participating churches is not yet available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

March Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 13 March 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Isphording
Co-Senior Warden

MESSAGE FOR LECTORS

Rev. Dr. Thomas Guback

Your calling to be Lectors is among the important roles in worship. It has a long history. You might recall that Jesus read scripture in the synagogue. Luke 4:16-20 tells us: "When [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me....'"

What should Lectors do? They should familiarize themselves with the texts they are to read so that punctuation and emphasis are respected. They should have a feeling for what the text is saying. And they should locate these texts in the Lectionary book that is on the lectern. The appointed Psalm, or part of the Psalm, can be read from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Finally, the Lector should follow the guidelines in our *Book of Common Prayer*, page 406. "It is desirable that the Lessons and Gospel should be read from a book or books of appropriate size and dignity." In other words, do not read the lessons from the bulletin insert. The bulletin insert is for the convenience of the congregation. The Lector reads from the Lectionary book, which incidentally has larger type than the bulletin insert, and so it is easier to see.

You have more to read each Sunday than the celebrant, who only reads the Gospel. Blessings on your ministry!

PRAYER LIST/PROCEDURE

Please keep in mind, and prayer, the following parishioners: Ed; Tom; Jerry; Ellen; Kate; Jenny; and also the following friends and family: Rose Mary; Sandy; Don; Christy; Jeff; David; Capt. Mark Folchi; Bob; Doug; Wesley; Royce; Dave; Chris; Jim; Molly; Gwen; Tom; Bill; Sandy; Karol; and Jo.

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; ph. 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.

On that point, consideration is being given to further identify those on the Prayer List, perhaps by a surname initial. Please contact Joy with your thoughts on such a clarification.

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.

PASSAGES

The past months have marked the deaths of Mike Danaher, Cheryl Houston, Harold Mason, Carolyn (Dickerson) Marbach, Marjorie Bennison, and JoAnne McCallum. We acknowledge and honor their lives among us; we remember their families in our prayers.

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved on stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." Pericles

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).

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). Please arrive early to make certain that coffee is made. Also, please bring paper plates and napkins, along with 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. These brief social gatherings help keep us connected. And whomever wields the coffee pot wields the power of hello.

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; email 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 SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Unless otherwise noted, all Newsletter content is written by Mary Ruffley, Editor. Jill Foerster prepares the attached Service Schedule. Due to Jill's winter travel schedule, however, the Service Schedule for the months of March and April, 2019, is complete to every extent possible. Thank you Jill!

THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY/JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 18, 2019.

Winter travels mean that the scheduler, Jill Foerster, the church secretary, Dorothy Schobel, and Newsletter editor, Mary Ruffley, will be away for varying periods during the winter months. Never fear! The Newsletter will still be published on its usual schedule during the winter months. As always, the powers of communication and e-mail will be at work.

PIECEMAKERS

The Piecemakers meet on Monday from 1:00-3:30 P.M. at St. Christopher's Fellowship Hall. However, due to hall usage or inclement weather, a regular session can be cancelled. Regular attendees from St. Christopher's are Joy H., Janet D., Ronnie A., Rea K., Mary R., and Susan H. Please contact one of them to confirm any Monday session. The group breaks for tea at 2:00 PM, so please feel free to come in any time, join us, 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. Quilting expertise is not required! Anyone can learn, and help. Also, this is a true "reading" bunch as well, and many recommendations for various books can add to your reading list. Please join us!

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. Anglican Dioceses in several nations in Africa have assisted the medical community by educating their congregations in the fight against malaria, which kills thousands and thousands of people every year. As noted in the very informative article (pages 4-5, The Living Church, 11/4/18), these efforts show "science and faith standing shoulder to shoulder in the anti-malaria enterprise".

2. Martin Luther's Alias. At one point, Martin Luther (1483 - 1546) was kidnapped and imprisoned by Frederick III, for purposes of Luther's protection. Luther was held for ten months in Wartburg Castle, where he grew a beard, adopted the name Junker Jora, and continued to write. [Christian History, Issue 125, pgs. 6-9].

3. Screened in, or out? A new book edited by S. Bucklow, R. Marks, and L.W. Boydell, entitled The Art and Science of Church Screens in Medieval Europe, (as reviewed by Ayla Lepine) cites that the purpose of rood and choir screens was not to block, separate, segregate, or protect anyone, but rather to focus the worshipper on the liturgy, free from the sight of the choir or other possible distractions. It was intended that on entry to the sanctuary, a pause would occur, a moment of focus and anticipated occasion, to "encourage and amplify devotion". (The Living Church, 2/10/19, pg. 18.)

4. Holy Week. In the early church, Ash Wednesday began as a penitential discipline applied only to the most egregious and notorious sinners whose actions had caused scandal in the community. Those individuals were excommunicated, but after a time period of public penitence (including sackcloth and

ashes), fasting, prayer, and intercessions of the faithful, they were eventually reinstated. Over the centuries, the penance requirement was deemed applicable to everyone. The imposition of ashes, the sign of mortality and penitence, remains an option to Episcopalians.

By the end of the fourth century, Maundy Thursday was established as a Eucharist held during Holy Week, under the name "Cena Domini" (the Supper of the Lord). St. Paul's accounts, and the Gospel of John telling of the Lord's washing the feet of the disciples (John 13: 1-15) developed into a ceremonial re-enactment in some places. It is called Maundy Thursday from the Latin "mandatum", or commandment, from Christ's commandment to us, to love one another. (Commentary on the American Prayer Book, Marion J. Hatchett, Harper Collins, 1995, pgs. 218-231)

Services held on Palm Sunday evening, and Monday and Tuesday evenings of Holy Week used to be know as "Bridegroom Services", in preparation for Christ's arrival. (The Living Church, 2/14/19, a book review article by reviewer Hannah Bowman, pgs. 22-23)

AN ONGOING CALL FOR FLOWERS

If you wish to use Forget-Me-Not Florists, they can arrange delivery of the flowers on Friday afternoon. Or you can bring them yourself early Sunday morning, placing them on the stand(s) behind the Altar prior to the service. (Urn Liners are in the vesting room.) Flowers remain in place for St. Gertrude's Sunday service; you can pick them up on Monday afternoon when the Piecemakers are at the church. At pick-up, please return the urn liners to the shelf in the vesting room and also place the brass urns back in the box.

Please sign-up for flowers on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up far in advance, at any time. HOWEVER, if you wish to sign up for the immediate next month, you MUST sign-up by the end of the current month. This avoids "gaps" and last-minute scrambling. Contact Margie Beers, Marilyn Zimmerman, or Carol Isphording by the Monday BEFORE your scheduled flower donation to insure that your special occasion or memorialization is

properly included in the Sunday bulletin. Thank you to each and all.

A PRAYER FOR A RECTOR

(Prayer for the Election of a Bishop or Other Minister from the Book of Common Prayer, page 818)

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#37)

The Advent hymn "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" (The Hymnal 1982, page 640) was written by an Englishman John Bowring (1792 - 1872), who led a very interesting life. He was a scholar, linguist, and politician who served as a British governor in Hong Kong later in his life. The Book of Isaiah, and its reference to the watchman likely inspired the lyrics to this hymn, as Bowring writes of the expectation of Christ's coming, awaiting the morning star and the coming of the day. Bowring also wrote "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (The Hymnal 1982, pgs. 441-442). [The Complete Book of Hymns, pages 254-255; William J. Petersen & Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#38)

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (The Hymnal 1982, page 474) was written by Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748), such a prolific hymn writer that he is called "The Father of English Hymnody". If he needed a hymn to accompany or enhance a service or sermon, he would write a hymn, eventually writing more than six hundred hymns. Due to their words, their gravity, the depiction of Calvary and the meaning of Christ's sacrifice for us, some consider this "the finest hymn in the English language". [The Complete Book of Hymns, pages 143 - 144, William J. Petersen and

Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

AROUND THE PARISH

1. New Easter Clothes. For many of us in years past, the approach of Easter Sunday meant shopping for a new Easter dress, often the only new purchase of "Sunday clothes" for an entire year. (Girls and women wore hats, then, as well!) This tradition may be founded on an old Welsh custom to give away clothes to the poor and needy; and, at Easter, that meant new clothes for those who could afford them.

2. Lenten Soup Suppers Update. At the deadline for this Newsletter, the Lenten Soup Supper sponsored by St. Christopher's is scheduled for Thursday, March 14. Details for the other soup suppers sponsored by other Northport churches are not yet available. Janet Baumburger of Trinity Church leads the scheduling and coordination efforts. Stay tuned!

3. Gratitude and thanks to: those who shovel snow from walkways; those who plow driveways and parking lots; the handlers of keys in frozen fingers to open church doors; the wearers of coats in a (possibly?) too-cold sanctuary and fellowship hall; those who risk icy walkways; the brewers of hot coffee; those who contribute flowers; those who energize the first-alert phone trees when needed; the stalwarts who have kept St. Christopher's open, welcoming, peopled, and available whenever possible during the winter of 2018-2019. May spring come extra early to each and all of you.

SEA MONSTERS

Wander through any museum anywhere, and the chances are very good that you will find maps, of some sort, displayed on its walls. Even in an art museum, you will have a floor-plan map which sets forth the exhibit halls for each level, plus the location of the all-important bathrooms. There may be bird's-eye view maps, physical contour maps, "famous trail" maps, all of which catch our eye. We can marvel at the skills of

early mapmakers who envisioned a geography that had not yet been seen, or even explored: their proportions may be off, but their general overviews were fairly accurate. And, of course, the largest-sized land masses are amazingly similar to the portions "claimed" by the mapmaker's country of origin. Those maps remind us of those humorous "world-view" maps drawn by New Yorkers, whose depiction of their city takes up most of the continental U.S. map, reducing the entire Midwest to a mere sliver.

Maps address the desire we have to understand where we are in relation to our surroundings; it is as human as our earliest ancestors' first grunts, arm-wavings, and finger-pointings to lead the way for their newly bipedal family members. We've come a long way from those early dawns, to today's illustrated maps. Maps are front and center in history museums, where you can view the handiwork of early explorers who sought new worlds and crossed trackless oceans. Many of us recall the thrills of Thor Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki and Aku Aku, showcasing the incredible navigation skills of early Polynesians across thousands of miles of ocean, who memorized 'maps' of the stars, and read the shape and direction of waves.

There is nothing like opening a brand new map on a road trip. (However, be warned about a Texas map: unfold it fully, and it engulfs driver, dashboard, and passenger). Of course, the in-car convenience of on-screen maps, displays, and voice directions are terrific for many purposes. But a longer road trip requires a real map. As a passenger with the large crackling map in your lap, you are master of your immediate portion of the world, and you can even predict the future of your travels. Once you are on the road with map in hand, however, you may become the object of pity, amusement, or even contempt by the occupants of passing cars: "just look at those people who are unable to use an on-screen display!" But those folks do not realize that the joke may be on them if they ever lose their on-screen image and do not have (or cannot read) a map. Sadly, there are true stories of people who do not know that "North" is always at the top of a printed map. In future years, they will be joined by others who cannot tell time on an analog clock face.

The ability to read a map is accompanied by the real pleasure in doing so. Figuring out the miles to the next

destination, marveling at the names of towns (Bugtussle, Oklahoma anyone?), spotting "historic sites" (Chillicothe, Missouri, home of the first bread slicing machine) are just part of the experience.

In a small museum in Monroe, Michigan, there is a wondrous map on display. It is very old (1700's), very plain, and very small: it is the very first map drawn (in some type of very durable ink) to mark the trail broken by the very earliest explorers into Michigan Territory, who came up through Ohio along the wilderness rivers, through Native American lands to eventually arrive at a tiny dot called Detroit, the village named by the French as "the strait". It is a thrill to see the marks of that long-ago mapmaker. No doubt he viewed his task as strictly utilitarian; but the end result is a simple but wonderful historical depiction of a part of the world that we know ... because he drew.

Part of the fascination of maps may be the personal satisfaction we feel in looking down on the landscape from above, and holding the world in our hands: we are in control; all-seeing; in charge of our destination. Against the vast array of circumstances in each of our lives, maps remain clear, true, available, and useful. But, as always, complications arise. Ancient mapmakers warned of probable travel and sailing dangers by drawing fearsome creatures in the middle of oceans just before the edge of the world dropped to nothingness. Even our modern sensibilities cannot entirely refute the message in those ancient mapmaker warnings: "There be dragons".

By: Mary Ruffley

Service Schedule for March - April 2019

Date	Day	Lector	LEM 1	Clergy	Altar Set Up	Altar Clear	Greeter	Coffee	
March 3	Last Sunday after the Epiphany	M. Fleishman	C. Isphording	Rev. Guback	M. Beers	S. Husken	C. Dickerson	I. Nelson	
March 10	First Sunday in Lent	D. Nelson	S. Husken	Rev. Guback	J. Neuharth	M. Beers	C. Dickerson	TBD	
March 17	Second Sunday in Lent	R. Bombaugh	C. Isphording	Rev. Guback	S. Husken	J. Neuharth	C. Dickerson	TBD	
March 24	Third Sunday in Lent	M. Fleishman	S. Husken	Rev. Guback	J. Neuharth	M. Beers	C. Dickerson	TBD	
March 31	Fourth Sunday in Lent	D. Nelson	TBD	Rev. Guback	S. Husken	All Clear	C. Dickerson	TBD	
April 7	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Jim Ham	Joy Ham	Rev. Guback	J. Neuharth	All Clear	P. Deal	M. Fleishman	
April 14	Palm Sunday	M. Fleishman	TBD	Rev. Guback	Joy Ham	S. Husken	C. Dickerson	B. Marsh	
April 21	Easter Sunday	M. Ruffley	Joy Ham	Rev. Guback	Jill Foerster	M Zimmerman	M. Zimmerman	J. Crane	
April 28	Second Sunday of Easter	M. Zimmerman	J. Foerster	Rev. Guback	M. Zimmerman	J. Foerster	J. Foerster	M. Ruffley	

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