



**March-April 2020
Newsletter**

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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

Visit our website for updates: stchristophersnorthportmi.org

CALENDAR

March 2020

- March 8 - Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 - Vestry Meeting
- March 21 - First day of Spring

April 2020

- April 5 - Palm Sunday
- April 8 - Way of the Cross, 12 noon
- April 9 - Maundy Thursday, 5:00 p.m.
- April 10 - Good Friday Service 12 noon
- April 11 - Great Vigil of Easter, 5:00 p.m.
- April 12 - Easter Sunday
- April 21 - Holocaust Remembrance Day
- April 22 - Vestry Meeting
- April 22 - Earth Day

Note: Please remain alert to dates, sites and times for Lenten Soup Suppers (Feb. 26 April 1)

ANNIVERSARIES None

BIRTHDAYS

March 2020

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

April 2020

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

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). The Holy Week services and times will be confirmed by Fr. Tom Guback. Please be alert for announcements.

WELCOME REVEREND TIMM!

(reprinted from our website, written by Marilyn Zimmerman)
St. Christopher's welcomes the Reverend Doctor Christine Ann Timm as our new rector. Beginning February 1, 2020, Reverend Timm (Chrysanne), an ordained E.L.C.A. minister, will be sharing her time between St. Christopher's and Bethany Lutheran Church in Northport. Initially, Pastor Timm will celebrate one Sunday Eucharist Service per month at St. Christopher's and be responsible for our ministries of Pastoral Care, Outreach and Growth, and Adult Education. In the months to come, the number of Sunday Eucharist Services Reverend Timm celebrates at St. Christopher's will increase.

The Reverend Doctor Thomas Guback, who has served us so valiantly and generously as St. Christopher's Supply Priest-in-Charge during our search for a new minister, will continue to celebrate Sunday Eucharist and Holy Week Services for us as requested and as scheduled by our Vestry.

We are grateful and blessed to have Reverend Timm join us and continue to be grateful to Father Guback for his service to our parish.

A WORD FROM OUR RECTOR

It is an honor and privilege to write to you as your new rector! I have been thinking about what you might want to hear from me, and have decided to offer a bit of background, especially as it relates to my faith journey.

I was born into a family with deep Roman Catholic roots at a time when Catholics in the United States were beginning to wrestle with their faith and the authority of the Pope. For several years, as my mother was working through her own questions, she and I attended Mass nearly every morning. I grew to love liturgy and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. But one particular question began to nag at me: why was there no encouragement to read the Bible? The knowledge that my friends in other traditions were being encouraged to read it regularly led me to request my own copy of the Living Bible when I was 13. I read it from Genesis to Revelation.

My first encounter with Lutherans was with a missionary couple I met while I was an exchange student in Japan. Then in college, a friend and I visited the Lutheran Campus Ministry. The continuous weaving of Word and Sacrament there assured me that this tradition would be my spiritual home. It was there that a sense of call to full-time Christian counseling was transformed into a call to ordained ministry.

Significant moments in seminary included a ten-week pastoral care practicum at Pine Rest Christian Hospital in Grand Rapids, part-time employment as a hospital chaplain, and a 3-week study tour in the Middle East which made scripture come alive for me.

I have served as a solo pastor, associate pastor, head of staff and interim pastor in urban, suburban and small-town settings for over 35 years. I am a trained church consultant and have studied church renewal in the Anglican Church in London, Manchester and Sheffield, England. I earned my Doctor of Ministry degree with research on best means of supporting first-call pastors. Most recently, I served as an assistant to the Bishop in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

I have been asked if the call I now hold as pastor and rector to two lovely small-town congregations feels anti-climactic at this point in my ministry. My answer: anything but! While I confess to being unsure of what our Heavenly Father was doing in my life over the last year, the two weeks I spent walking a portion of the Camino de Santiago de Compostella in Spain provided perspective and revelation. I embarked claiming the Latin phrase, *Solvitur Ambulando* – “it is solved by walking.” I planned to think through my circumstances and pray along the way as well. But I came to the realization that the Camino called for and, at times, demanded my full focus. With each day, increasing clarity emerged about the path forward – not in terms of where I would work, but that the answer was to give myself fully to whatever and wherever I was called to serve. For God loves the people I will be called to serve, and God calls me to love them too.

It is with this firm conviction and renewed clarity about what it means to be a spiritual leader that I joyfully come alongside you as rector of St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church of Northport, Michigan.

Pastor Chrysanne Timm

VESTRY AND ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Vestry Meeting and Annual Meeting minutes will be posted when available on our website at 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.

PRAYER LIST/NEW PROCEDURE

Please keep in mind, and prayer, the following parishioners: Bill; Tom; Ellie; John and Rea; Ethel; and Margie. Also keep in mind, and prayer, the following friends and family, noting that the names in parentheses are the requestors: Sandy, Don (McLeans); Capt. Mark Folchi, Brent (Isphordings); Tom (Kate M. and Mary Lee M.); Richard, Rich (Fleishmans); Anna, Debi, Marty (Marilyn Z.); Laura (Jill F.); Eric, Christina (Neuharths); Wesley, Royce, Christy, Jeff (M. Beers); Anne, Pat (Joy H.).

The prayer needs of the parishioners, family, and friends constantly change. In order to better address these circumstances, beginning December 1, 2019, Joy Ham started a new Prayer List. Please advise Joy as to those you wish to be listed. Those on the Prayer List will be listed for three months unless Joy is notified otherwise. If inclusion on the Prayer List is requested for an additional three months, then please contact JOY HAM to request a continuation on the list. Joy's contact information is in the St. Christopher's Directory. 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.

"And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity." BCP pg. 329.

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 and those who contribute materials. Treasures await at our library. Please avail yourselves of this wonderful resource! The library is open before and after (until 10:30 a.m.) Sunday services, and on Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The St. Christopher's Website is maintained by our website whiz Marilyn Zimmerman. Please check it out at (www.stchristophersnorthportmi.org).

NEWSLETTER AND MONTHLY SCHEDULE INFORMATION

For any comments, suggestions, corrections, etc. as to the Newsletter: please contact Mary Ruffley. Mary's contact information is in the St. Christopher's Directory.

For information as to the Monthly Schedule: Please contact Jill Foerster. Jill's contact information is in the St. Christopher's Directory. 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, the Service Schedule for the months of March and April, 2020 will be completed to every extent possible. Thank you, Jill!

THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY - JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 17, 2020.

Winter travels mean that the scheduler, Jill Foerster, the church secretary, Dorothy Schobel, and the Newsletter editor, Mary Ruffley will be away for varying periods 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., Susan H., and Lisa D. 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 expect to expand 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. Piecemakers are also committed readers, volunteers in many organizations, and have many varied interests. 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.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S BOOK CLUB

Kate Mason notes another book by Brian McLaren (author of The Great Spiritual Migration, which was a book club selection this past fall). His new book is titled We Make the Road by Walking. This is a scriptural exploration, following liturgical cycles, which could encompass 52 weeks, averaging 15-30 minutes per week. Kate's 11/29/19 email to book club members details one approach, but a reading procedure is not rigid; a reader could begin at Advent, or anywhere along the way, and set the pace of personal study. Kate further notes the many positive reviews for this book.

Although Book Club members are scattered across the U. S. this winter, they are nonetheless continuing their readings in anticipation of Book Club get-togethers this coming spring and summer. Kate Mason has provided reading suggestions, as have others. Please know that the Book Club is open to all: if you have not yet attended, no worries! Just be on the alert for its re-convening in the coming months, and contact Kate Mason via email anytime to become current.

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

1. Art and History. The New Mexico Museum of Art held an exhibition (The Birth, Death and Resurrection of Christ: from Michelangelo to Tiepolo) in January, 2020. This exhibit highlighted fifty-three works on loan from the British Museum, many of which were studies and "practice pieces". Among the treasures available for viewing was Michelangelo's incomplete painting/study of the crucifixion, titled "The Three Crosses". The two thieves crucified with Christ are named: Dismas, the penitent thief,

and Gestas, the impenitent (unrepentant) thief; those actual names are not often heard.

2. Language and History. Various forms of the plague had riven Europe and England time and again over the centuries: fetid, foul, crowded, populated London was especially affected. The early Church in England sometimes took the position that plague victims were struck by "a destroying angel", since the very word "plague" came from the Latin word "plaga" meaning stroke. (God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible, by Adam Nicholson, Harper Collins 2003, Page 30)

3. Keep Those Bells Ringing. In Britain, the Loughborough Foundry, the nation's only remaining bell foundry, is facing closure unless almost five million pounds can be raised to save it. The foundry was started in the 14th century and the current factory in Leicestershire was built in 1859. Over 25,000 bells have been cast, including Britain's largest bell, "Great Paul", in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The carillon bells in many U.S. universities, and in the Washington National Cathedral, were cast at Loughborough Foundry. A Trust was put in place in 2016 to protect and preserve the foundry, and efforts to obtain funding continue.

4. Reading Between the Lines. In medieval times, monks labored over the translations, writings, and preservations of sacred texts. The vellum (sheepskin) on which the words appeared had often been scraped, written over, re-scraped, and written on again in efforts to finalize the translations. Thus, "reading between the lines" actually meant just that, and was an important aspect of reading old manuscripts. (from The Swerve, by Stephen Greenblatt, pg. 43: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011).

ONGOING CALL FOR FLOWERS *CHANGE IN PROCEDURE*

1. Forget-Me-Not Florists in Suttons Bay has moved around the corner from its previous location, and is now at 100 Adams Street, a short side street. It shares a common door (pale green) with other retailers, i.e., The Roost and Plum Blossom Tea Co. Forget-Me-Not Florists is open 11-5 Tuesday through Friday; 11-2 on Saturday; closed on Sunday and Monday. If you are in Traverse City to purchase flowers, an excellent choice is The Flower Station at 342 West Front Street, open on weekdays and on Saturday until 3:00 p.m. Please note that wherever you get flowers, you must arrange to bring your flowers to the church sufficiently early on Sunday to prepare and install your arrangements.

Usually, someone is at the church on Monday afternoon for flower retrieval.

2. BUT WAIT! The flower sign-up procedure has changed, as well. The entire 2020 Altar Flowers sign-up sheet is currently a clean slate. You are welcome to sign up for any date in 2020, but you should especially do so if you have a particular date in mind for a birthday, an anniversary, a memorial, or other special remembrance. For those who are away for the winter, you may wish to contact a "year-rounder" and relay your special sign-up date for insertion on the Altar Flowers Sign-up Sheet.

A PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS (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

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#50)

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (The Hymnal 1982, page 692) was written by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), a Scotsman who worked out his ideas during his country walks and train rides. He was famous for writing more than 600 hymns, and was called "The Prince of Scottish Hymnwriters". Bonar worked with the children in his church and often wrote hymns with them in mind, with simplicity containing a profound message of God's love. [The Complete Book of Hymns, pages 301-302; William J. Petersen & Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#51)

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" (The Hymnal, 1982, page 518) is taken from John Neale's (1818-1866) translations and adaptations of 7th century Latin meditations. Neale was the warden/caretaker of Sackville College, which was actually a senior citizen nursing home. In translating medieval hymns, he made a different, and lasting contribution to Christian church music. [The Complete Book of Hymns, pages 95-96, William J. Petersen and Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

AROUND THE PARISH

1. Thank you, Lisa DeGroot, for filling the long-vacant position of Vestry Clerk. St. Christopher's looks forward to your return and your assistance.

2. Lenten Soup Suppers Update. As of the deadline for this newsletter, all of the dates and sites for Lenten Soup Suppers, sponsored by St. Christopher's and other Northport Churches, were not yet finalized. Please remain alert for announcements regarding the schedule and locations. Thank you.

3. Frozen III. Some parishioners are enjoying sunny skies and warmer temperatures for a portion of the winter. Others keep the Leelanau winter at bay, and: assure the parking lot snow clearance; hack away at the icy sidewalk; get the coffee pot brewing; and provide flowers, greetings, and their abiding presence at St. Christopher's. All of us express gratitude and thanks for all your efforts.

4. St. Christopher's Parishioners express their gratitude for the dedication and hard work of all the members of the Rector Search Committee.

5. Assistance during Holy Week. Please check with Father Tom for any help needed during Holy Week services.

A GARDEN, ONCE AGAIN

Within the next weeks, we will see the wonder and beauty of Spring return to northern Michigan. It is not just for us, of course, as the earth's axis' tilt and its closer orbit to the sun bring lengthening sunlit days to the northern hemisphere. But it is so easy for us to feel "special". From earliest human history, this cycle has been greeted with joy, new hope, and reverence. It is easy to understand the happiness of the ancient Greeks when Persephone, a daughter of Zeus and Demeter (the goddess of agriculture) was temporarily released from the underworld by Pluto, so that Spring could walk the earth once more.

No doubt, real gardeners have been perusing seed catalogs and planning, planning, for some time. And yes, there will be rain ...hopefully just the right amount...that will help those gardens grow. In northern Michigan, we do not have to worry much about dry spells, such as in the Southwest: there, a curtain of rain (virga) seen in the distance dissipates in the dry air before it even hits the ground. Rain hereabouts, however, is accompanied by all the senses. A walk along garden rows, or even a roadway, will produce specific

events, as described by Tristan Gooley in his book, How to Read Water: a puddle is called "bordered" water; a certain type of raindrop splash is a "Worthington splash". The smell that you experience after a rainfall on dry ground is a "petrichor", the result of the mixture of plant oils and bacteria in the soil, released into the atmosphere. How nice to attach a specific name to that heady smell: watch out for giddy gardeners!

The Denver Botanic Garden includes both traditional Chinese and Japanese gardens, and its signs explain the concepts. Chinese gardens employ the idea of "Ting", both a small structure and a related concept of "pause" to truly enjoy the garden's beauty, as opposed to European gardens which use straight paths for walking. A traditional Japanese garden uses stepping stones that meander, purposefully slowing you down; garden doors are small and short, so you bend, a reminder of humility in a place of earth's beauty. Author Amy Merrick's book On Flowers (summarized in the October 27, 2019 article, page D6, Wall Street Journal) recalls the Japanese reverence for cherry blossoms, and a summary of some of the Japanese terms for experiencing that beauty, from "hanafubuki" (a blizzard of swirling blossoms), to "hanaakari" (pale glow of a cherry tree in the dark), to "hanaikada" (cherry petals drifting on black water). And even in northern Michigan we can all (soon!) experience "hanazukara" ("the exhaustion one feels after a day outdoors appreciating cherry blossoms").

While cultures around the world plant, enjoy, and appreciate gardens and all that they produce, gardens have a very, very special place in Christianity. Sermons, hymns, lessons, and literature trace the Biblical connection from the bright hope of the Garden of Eden to the dark terror of the Garden of Gethsemane, encompassing conclusion, beginning, and eternity with the glory and redemption of Easter. Even the most humble garden reminds us, every single Spring, of our connection to the earth: every single seed a New Hope.

by Mary Ruffley

SEVEN STANZAS AT EASTER

By John Updike

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His Flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that -----pierced-----died, withered, paused, and then
regathered out of enduring Might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair,
opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are
embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.

John Updike
1932-2009
Episcopalian Layman

Service Schedule for March-April 2020

Date	Day	Lector	LEM 1	Clergy	Altar Set Up	Altar Clear	Greeter	Coffee	
March 1	The First Sunday in Lent	M Fleishman	S. Husken	Rev. Guback	J. Dickerson	All Clear	C. Dickerson	C. Isphording	
March 8	The Second Sunday in Lent	R. Bombaugh	C. Isphording	Rev. Guback	S. Husken	All Clear	C. Dickerson	TBD	
March 15	The Third Sunday in Lent	M. Fleishman	J. Dickerson	Rev. Timm	M. Beers	S. Husken	C. Dickerson	M. Beers	
March 22	The Fourth Sunday in Lent	J. Dickerson	C. Isphording	Rev. Guback	J. Neuharth	J. Dickerson	C. Dickerson	B. Marsh	
March 29	The Fifth Sunday in Lent	R. Bombaugh	S. Husken	Rev. Guback	J. Dickerson	S. Husken	C. Dickerson	TBD	
April 5	Palm Sunday The Sunday of Passion	M. Fleishman	J. Dickerson	Rev. Guback	M. Beers	Joy Ham	C. Dickerson	M. Beers	
April 12	EASTER SUNDAY Sunday of the Resurrection	Jim Ham	Joy Ham	Rev. Guback	J. Neuharth	S. Husken	C. Dickerson	J. Dickerson	
April 19	The Second Sunday of Easter	J. Dickerson	S. Husken	Rev. Timm	Joy Hamm	J. Neuharth	C. Dickerson	M. Fleishman	
April 26	The Third Sunday of Easter	M. Zimmerman	J. Dickerson	Rev. Guback	M. Zimmerman	Joy Ham	Peg Deal	M. Ruffley	

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