



May - June 2019 Newsletter

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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

Visit our website for updates: stchristophersnorthportmi.org

CALENDAR

May, 2019

May 2 - National Day of Prayer
May 2 - Holocaust Remembrance Day
May 12 - Mother's Day
May 22 - Vestry Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
May 27 - Memorial Day

June, 2019

June 12 - Vestry Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
June 14 - Flag Day
June 16 - Father's Day
June 21 - 1st day of summer

BIRTHDAYS

May, 2019

May 4 - Marilyn Zimmerman
May 10 - Clair Fox
May 13 - Bob Neuharth
May 16 - Mary Lee Miller
May 28 - Alan Kirby

June, 2019

June 24 - Peg Deal

ANNIVERSARIES

May, 2019

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

June, 2019

June 1 - Kate Mason & Mary Lee Miller
June 6 - Irene & David Nelson
June 19 - Mary & Ed Ruffley
June 26 - Denise & John McCallum
June 29 - June & Edson Sheppard
June 29 - Carol & Rich Ispording

"Glory be to God for dappled things ...
All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow, sweet, sour, adazzle, dim;
He fathers forth whose beauty is past change;
Praise Him."

Gerard Manley Hopkins, (1844 - 1887)

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

EMAIL SCAM: REMAIN ALERT!

Recently, at least two parishioners of St. Christopher's were contacted via fake emails (purportedly from Fr. Thomas Guback) requesting the purchase of iPhone music gift cards for "charitable" purposes. Fortunately, the suspicious nature of the emails revealed the fraudulent intent, and no funds were lost. Everyone should have received a follow-up email warning which was sent out immediately after the scam was discovered. It is certainly discouraging to learn that scammers are targeting churches and church members. However, the one positive aspect is that we are now, and once again, reminded to remain vigilant, and ALWAYS CHECK FIRST before taking any requested action regarding money by some third party, even if it appears legitimate.

ONGOING CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Delegates to the Western Michigan Diocesan Convention – Two delegates are sought to represent St. Christopher's at the November Convention in Grand Rapids.

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 MARCH 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. with the reading of a prayer.

There was no quorum because three Vestry members were absent. Absent members will be contacted via email for motions requiring a vote of members.

Senior Warden's Report-

- The Vestry discussed Tom Guback's ongoing service to the parish as a supply priest.
- The Junior warden will assume the duties of the Co-Senior Wardens' absences during the period March 23 through April 21.

Rescheduling of April & May Vestry Meetings-

Due to the travel of various vestry members, vestry meetings have been rescheduled to April 24 and May 22. The Co-Senior Warden will arrange for the availability of the building on those dates.

Holy Week Services -

The following Holy Week services are scheduled:
Way of the Cross on Wed., April 17 at noon;
Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist on Thursday, April 18 at 5 p.m.; Good Friday Service with Holy Communion on Friday, April 19 at noon.
The Co-Senior Warden will arrange for the availability of the building on those dates.

The Vestry moved to place advertising for the Holy Week services in the local newspaper. The motion was approved by vote of Vestry members in person or via email.

Leelanau Christian Neighbors Fundraiser- The Vestry discussed annual LCN fundraiser and LCN's capital campaign to house the Samaritan's Closet activities at LCN's Lake Leelanau site. Further discussion was tabled until the April Vestry meeting.

Junior Warden's Report-

The Junior Warden reported that St. Christopher's winter salt supply stored in the shed has disappeared. He will investigate.

Committee Reports-

Worship - Interactive reading parts for Palm Sunday will be assigned by Rev. Guback. The Co-Senior Warden will search for a supply priest for April 7. Janet Dickerson will lead a Morning Prayer service if a supply priest cannot be found. Jim Ham will be contacted regarding the inclusion of a patriotic hymn

for the Sunday services closest to Memorial Day, July 4th, and Veterans Day.

Building and Grounds - John Husken volunteered to assist Chuck Dickerson in his tireless work around the church. Thanks to John for volunteering and many thanks to Chuck for your tireless work in support of St. Christopher's.

Old Business-

The discussion of a St. Christopher's labyrinth has been tabled until the April meeting.

New Business-

It was noted that volunteers are needed to serve as delegates to the Western Michigan Diocesan Convention in November.

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for April 24. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

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: Tom; Ellie; Kate; Jenny; and John; and also the following friends and family: Sandy; Don; Capt. Mark Folchi; Bob; Doug; Wesley; Royce; Christy; Jeff; Wayne; Pete; Ed; Don; Chris; Dave & Renata; Gwen; Tom; Bill; Carol; Joe; Jim; and Sarah.

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 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.

PASSAGES

Rev. Frederick George Overdier died April 13, 2019. Visitation will be held at the Reynolds-Jonkoff Funeral Home in Traverse City from 6-8 p.m. on May 3, 2019, and at noon prior to the celebration of Fred's life at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City at 1 p.m. on May 4, 2019. So many people

remember the loving kindness of Fred's presence over the years, and all of his assistance to Bethany Lutheran Church. We remember Ruth, and their family, in our hearts and 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! 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. Janet Dickerson found A Treasury of Religious Quotations, a reference work which contains quotations from many authors, many religions, and many viewpoints. You may find the perfect summation of your beliefs, or a quotation which challenges those beliefs. Janet also found All the Women of the Bible (by Edith Deen), an alphabetical list of 316 entries from Abi to Zipporah. She notes that the Bible has always been a source of names for children and grandchildren, with the bonus of human stories attached to those names. Job is notable not only for his unshakeable faith, but also for his even-handedness in providing inheritances to his sons and his daughters. Happy hunting! Happy reading!

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. 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. Thank you, Jill!

THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER IS June 20, 2019.

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. Church "planting" (church "extension") in Victorian England. Victorian England was a time of tremendous church expansion, often intended to address the poverty, child labor, pollution, London slums, and the abysmal living conditions in both urban and rural areas. Rev. Arthur Osborne Montgomery Jay (1858 - 1945) became famous not only as a high churchman, but also for his church's social club (with a boxing ring) which attracted poor men to church engagement. The gym produced boxers: Jack the Bender; Lord Dunfunkus; and The Scrapper. (The Living Church, March 10, 2019, article: "Nothing New Under the Sun", pgs. 14-15)

2. Peace Donkeys. Caravan, the non-profit ministry affiliated with the Episcopal church, invited forty-five Middle Eastern artists to present their version of a life-size fiberglass Peace Donkey to exhibit, first in Cairo, and then at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The donkey was chosen because it symbolizes peace in both Christianity and Islam, appearing in both the

Bible and the Qur'an. There are plans to widen the exhibiting of the Peace Donkeys to the U.S.; the Muslim artists are very positive about displaying their work in major U.S. cathedrals. These shows have resulted in many interfaith friendships and priest-imam exchanges. (The Living Church, Feb. 10, 2019; pages 15-17)

3. From 416 Years Ago ... According to a February 22, 2019 Associated Press report, the Church of England's 1603 Canon Law requiring Morning and Evening Prayer, and Holy Communion services every Sunday in every church, has been altered to reflect the reality of falling church attendance and the lack of clergy to hold such services. It was reported that rural clergy are covering as many as twenty churches. For obvious reasons, the requirement of weekly services in each church will no longer be required.

4. ... To the Future. The March 30/31, 2019 issue of The Wall Street Journal ["The Future of Everything: Do Robots Have a Place in Religion?"] reports on the development of robots for use in religious and elder-care institutions. Universities in Japan and elsewhere compare this robotic technology to the invention of the printing press and churches' use of television in the early 1960's. A Protestant church in Germany uses a robot ("BlessU-2") built from a teller machine and outfitted with a touchscreen, arms, and a face. It can speak seven languages, and offers different types of prayers.

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 Fr. Tom Guback, 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 (#39)

"Rock of Ages" (The Hymnal 1982, page 685) was written by Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778) who converted to Methodism as a student at the University of Dublin. With a "feisty" reputation, Toplady had strong disagreements with the Wesley brothers, as set forth in tracts, sermons, and hymns: their verbal exchanges were often barbed. Toplady wrote "Rock of Ages" in recognition that humans could never hope to merit salvation, but God's mercy promises it anyway. One of Charles Wesley's hymns, and Toplady's "Rock of Ages", were printed side by side in a hymnal published in 1776. [The Complete Book of Hymns, pages 313-314; William J. Petersen & Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#40)

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" (The Hymnal 1982, pages 460-461) was written by William Dix (1837 - 1898), a Scot and a maritime insurance agent. The original title was "Redemption through the Precious Blood". He wrote the hymn for Ascension Sunday, six weeks after Easter, touching on the themes of Christ's ascension, his comforting words, and continuing

intercession and presence in our lives. [The Complete Book of Hymns, pages 12 - 13, William J. Petersen and Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

AROUND THE PARISH

1. Diocese of Michigan Announces Bishop Nominees. Four nominees for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan have been announced; Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards (from Columbus, GA); Rev. Canon Paula Clark (Diocese of Washington); Rev. Bonnie A. Perry (Chicago, IL); and Rev. Canon Ruth Woodliff-Stanley (Colorado). A special convention to elect the 11th Bishop will be held June 1, 2019.

2. The Celebration of the Life of JoAnne McCallum will be held at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City on Saturday morning, May 18, 2019; the exact time will be announced. A luncheon will follow at the Park Place Hotel on State Street.

3. A Memorial Service for Mike Danaher will be held on Friday, July 12; the time and details will be forthcoming.

4. Combating Racism. A three-part lecture series on combating racism was hosted by Trinity Church in Northport, with the final seminar held on April 23rd. We express our thanks to all those who attended.

5. The Invisibles in Leelanau County. Trinity Church hosted a six-member panel discussion in February on "The Invisibles" in Leelanau County - those Leelanau residents surviving below the poverty line in our vacation paradise. St. Christopher's was represented by eight parishioners in attendance. They learned that most of those who struggle financially are employed, often with two or three low-paying jobs. This remains an ongoing problem. Raising awareness and searching for solutions will be a continuing task. Please remain alert for additional meetings and information.

6. Gratitude Haiku

Cold winter Sundays

Service far from home

So many helping hands, hearts Thinking of St. Christopher's
Services still held And its stalwart band

Bad weather conspires Migration concludes
Rector trudging, key in hand So grateful for those who stay
Will the pews be warmed? And welcomed all home.

THE WALL IN THE ROCK

The desert landscape east of Las Vegas, Nevada, embraces one of the most marvelous structures ever built: Hoover Dam. It took four years (1931-1935) to complete this colossal work. From a design standpoint, it incorporates the Art Deco style, reflected everywhere in outbuildings, observation towers, elevator doors, and even the stylized numbers on the tower clocks. Today, there are larger dams around the world, engineering marvels in their own right. But Hoover Dam has a special significance in its construction: a message for space travelers.

There are many ways to consider Hoover Dam. For most people, it is a symbol of the great American spirit: we can build anything when hearts, minds, planning, and hard labor all work together. Perhaps for a few others, the dam might be seen as the ruination of a natural landscape for selfish purposes, costing human lives in the building process. For still others, the dam may be acknowledged as an engineering wonder, but one ultimately doomed to a demise of some sort, as are all human endeavors. But one person, the architect and designer of the Memorial Plaza at Hoover Dam, held still another viewpoint: he saw Hoover Dam as an opportunity for extra-terrestrial contact.

The Memorial Plaza itself is dedicated to the workers who died in the construction of the dam, not by fall, but victims of dehydration and heat exhaustion, despite the best efforts to prevent such tragedies. Almost like guardians, two gigantic bronze figures are seated side by side on the plaza, gazing serenely over Hoover Dam, its rocky walls, and its stupendous gorge. In the mid-1930's, these sentinels comprised the largest cast bronze statues in the world. Are they angels? Possibly; their enormous wings are quietly folded, but project thirty feet above their impassive faces. There is an other-worldly look in those expressions. The toes on their feet, the only part

reachable by visitors, are burnished to shiny golden bronze, the result of all those human hands touching those bare feet.

For the visiting tourists, the Memorial's dedication to the fallen workers is clear, appropriate, and poignant. But the Plaza's designer also had another set of visitors in mind: travelers from outer space. A plaque describes the designer's absolute belief in that scenario, and his certainty in their eventual arrival. A huge tiled mosaic embedded in the Plaza centerpiece delineates the sky on the exact day of Hoover Dam's dedication, including the location of major stars, earth's location, and related distances. Via this star map, visitors from outer space, landing at Hoover Dam, could figure out where we (and they) were located in the known universe, and, presumably, appreciate our efforts in building such a marvel as Hoover Dam.

The magnitude of this engineering accomplishment honors all of those involved in the "Boulder Canyon Project", as it was originally named. We can look east across the giant gorge. We can look north, over the dam wall, at massive, imprisoned Lake Mead, and consider the danger and the potential of all that water. We can look down the curving concrete wall to the scurrying human ants so far below. We can look out over the now-placid Colorado River, flowing in measured release, from the base of the dam. But the Memorial Plaza's designer, no doubt thinking that Hoover Dam was so much greater than the sum of its parts, looked even further. He looked up.

By: Mary Ruffley

Service Schedule for May-June 2019

Date	Day	Lector	LEM 1	Clergy	Altar Set Up	Altar Clear	Greeter	Coffee	
May 5	The Third Sunday of Easter	R. Bombaugh	Joy Ham	Rev. Guback	Jill Foerster	J. Dickerson	P. Deal	I. Nelson	
May 12	The Fourth Sunday of Easter	J. Foerster	S. Husken	Rev. Guback	J. Neuharth	Joy Ham	C. Dickerson	J. Foerster	
May 19	The Fifth Sunday of Easter	D. Nelson	C. Isphording	Rev. McLean	S. Husken	J. Foerster	J. Foerster	M. Zimmerman	
May 26	The Sixth Sunday of Easter	M. Ruffley	J. Dickerson	Rev. McLean	M. Beers	S. Husken	Joy Ham	M. Fleishman	
June 2	The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day	Jim Ham	J. Foerster	Rev. Guback	J. Dickerson	J. Neuharth	M. Zimmerman	B. Marsh	
June 9	The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday	M. Fleishman	C. Isphording	Rev. Guback	Joy Ham	S. Husken	C. Dickerson	J. Crane	
June 16	The First Sunday after Pentecost: TRINITY SUNDAY	M. Zimmerman	Joy Ham	Rev. Guback	J. Foerster	M. Zimmerman	P. Deal	J. Danaher	
June 23	The Second Sunday after Pentecost	J. Foerster	S. Husken	Rev. Guback	M. Zimmerman	J. Foerster	C. Dickerson	M. Ruffley	
June 30	The Third Sunday after Pentecost	M. Ruffley	J. Dickerson	Rev. Guback	J. Neuharth	Joy Ham	J. Foerster	C. Isphording	

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