



**September – October 2018
Newsletter**

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

Visit our website for updates: stchristophersnorthportmi.org

CALENDAR

September 2018

- September 3 - Labor Day
- September 12 - Vestry Meeting, 9:30 A.M.
- September 13 - LCN Fundraiser (see inside)
- September 15 - Sylvia Linde-Guback Requiem Mass
10:30 A.M.
- September 22 - Autumn Begins

October 2018

- October 8 - Columbus Day
- October 10 - Vestry Meeting, 9:30 A.M.
- October (TBA) – C.R.O.P. Walk

ANNIVERSARIES

October 2018

- September 23 - Susan & John Husken
- September 26 - Jill & Lee Foerster

October 2018

- October 5 - Mary & Mike Fleishman
- October 27 - Brooke & John Dixon
- October 28 - Janie & Bob Neuharth

BIRTHDAYS

September 2018

- September 3 - Susan Husken
- September 18 - Ethel Wills
- September 19 - John Kutilek
- September 27 - John Husken

October 2018

- October 5 - Ellen McLean
- October 17 - Mary Ruffley
- October 18 - Denise McCallum
- October 28 - David Nelson

THE NEXT ONE HUNDRED YEARS ...

Bethany Lutheran Church celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sunday, August 12th, and invited St. Christopher's parishioners to join in the celebration. Several folks from St. Christopher's attended the centennial church service at Bethany, joined by others for the picnic following the service. St. Christopher's presented a congratulatory card/poster to Bethany, with the good wishes of St. Christopher's congregation. The sun, the smiles, and the congratulations were all warm that morning. Best wishes to Bethany Lutheran Church on beginning its second century in Northport, Michigan.

**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

1. The Holy Baptism of Abigail Grace, daughter of Jennifer and Robert Harrison, took place on Sunday, July 29. Rev. Mary Frens was the celebrant and led the congregation in receiving Abigail Grace into the household of God. Abigail is the granddaughter of Denise and John McCallum, and the great-granddaughter of Joanne McCallum. Godparents are Melissa and Brian VanHowe. The Swedish hymn "Children of the Heavenly Father" was a part of this beautiful service.

2. The Isphording's Fabulous Brunch: Redux. Carol and Richard Isphording, once again, generously and graciously hosted a parish brunch at their home in Northport, following the service on August 19. And once again they presented a wonderful feast for everyone attending; tables groaning with fabulous food, glasses clinking, and the merry sounds of conversation, laughter and fellowship. It is such a terrific opportunity for everyone to gather, to enjoy the lake breezes, and to relax in each other's company. All of us extend our profound thanks to Carol and Richard for hosting this wonderful get-together.

3. Request for Information (re. November/December 2018 Newsletter for listings, All Saints Day, November 1, 2018). The editor asks that anyone who has the names of friends and family who have departed this life since November 1, 2017, to provide those names and date of death to Mary Ruffley (ph.; 248-202-5363 or email: mjr3ms@gmail.com or in person after a service) for inclusion in the All Saints Day remembrance in the upcoming November/December 2018 Newsletter. Thank you.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Vestry - We are seeking a candidate to fill an open position on the vestry.

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

Enjoy Sending out Cards? A volunteer is needed to send out birthday and anniversary cards/wishes to parishioners.

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 JULY 11, 2018

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

The vestry approved the meeting agenda and the minutes of the prior vestry meeting held on June 13, 2018

Treasurer's Report – The June 30, 2018 balance sheet and Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2018 were reviewed and accepted. It was noted that current year pledge collections are running behind the amounts pledged, resulting in lower year-to-date revenues. The Treasurer noted that differences in the timing of collections versus the timing of budgeted collections is not unusual. The Treasurer also noted that actual year-to-date expenses are slightly below the budget, partially offsetting the lower collections level. It was noted that, overall, the parish remains in a sound financial position. The Vestry approved the Treasurer's report.

Audit Committee Report – Ed Ruffley, chairman of the audit committee, presented the Audit Committee Certificate, along with copies of the 2017 Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Activity for the year 2017, all on the cash basis. He noted that nothing came to the attention of the audit committee that would cause it to conclude that the cash basis financial statements do not provide a fair view of the financial position St Christopher's as of December

31, 2017. The Vestry accepted the Audit Committee Certificate.

Rector Search Committee - The Vestry discussed developing a network among supply priests to find potential candidates for the open rector position and a possible joint-ministry position with Bethany.

Senior Warden Items-

Supply Priests – The Vestry discussed the supply priest schedule for the remainder of July and August.

Building Rent – The Vestry discussed results of a meeting with Father Leonard and other representatives of St Gertrude’s regarding an increase in the monthly building rent paid by St. Christopher’s. The Vestry approved paying a \$100 increase in monthly rent beginning in January 2019.

Parish Secretary Expenses– Marilyn noted that the secretary was appreciative of the Vestry’s approval of an annual bonus to cover her year-end expenses.

Rev. Canon Hallmark – Marilyn noted that she received a phone call from Rev. Canon Hallmark following her visit to St. Christopher’s. She was very complimentary of our parish.

Committee Reports-

Worship – Arrangements for the scheduled baptism on July 29 were discussed.

Building and Grounds – Problems with the PA system and the Altar lights were discussed. The need for doors stops was also reviewed.

New Business-

Bill Cook Vacation – The Vestry discussed arrangements to cover the organist position during Bill Cook’s upcoming two-week vacation.

Parish Summer Gathering – Carol offered to host an “extended coffee hour” at her house. It was noted by the Vestry that last year’s event was extremely popular and well-attended. A tentative date of August 19 was selected.

Old Business-

Review of St. Christopher’s Mission and Mission Statement- The Vestry discussed a plan to review and possibly update St. Christopher’s Mission Statement. Marilyn noted that a specific budget should be

established next year to improve the awareness of St. Christopher’s in the local community.

Gift to the Parish- The Vestry discussed a possible gift from Steve Guback, brother of Tom Guback. The creation of a Labyrinth Walk was discussed.

Parish Bylaw Revisions- A review of the current bylaws is planned.

Personal Property Inventory- Marilyn and Carol are planning to update the property inventory during the next several months.

No other business came before the Vestry.

Ed Ruffley, Vestry Clerk

SUMMARY OF VESTRY MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 8, 2018

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

The vestry approved the meeting agenda and the minutes of the prior vestry meeting held on July 11, 2018

Treasurer’s Report – The July 31, 2018 balance sheet and Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the seven months ended July 31, 2018 were reviewed and accepted. It was noted that the parish remains in a sound financial position. The Treasurer reported that the timing of pledged collections continues to lag behind the budgeted level. After discussion, the Vestry approved the Treasurer’s Report.

Rector Search – Ed reported on the effort to develop a network among the various supply priests in the Diocese. Twenty-five priests were contacted with information about our open rector position, asking them to spread the word among their contacts. Six responses were received. No candidates have been identified from this effort.

Senior Warden Items –

Supply Priests for the Remainder of the Summer – Marilyn distributed a tentative schedule of supply priests for the Summer. She noted that only the August 26 and September 30 services are currently

without a scheduled supply priest. Efforts to find supply priests for these dates are ongoing

Sunday Bulletins – Marilyn discussed the arrangements regarding the distribution of LEM readings and the preparation of weekly bulletins.

Building Rent – Marilyn noted that she executed the amended Licensing Agreement with St. Gertrude's that was previously approved by the Vestry. She is awaiting a signed copy from Father Leonard.

Payment to Rev. Canon Hallmark- The Vestry discussed the appropriateness of paying Rev. Canon Hallmark for serving as our supply priest on July 8. Marilyn noted that the Diocese informed her that serving as a supply priest is part of Rev. Canon Hallmarks duties and that a supply priest fee is not necessary. The Vestry discussed possible alternatives to paying a supply priest fee. The Vestry approved a \$150 contribution to Rev. Canon Hallmark's Special Needs Fund if/when such a fund is established.

Sylvia Linde-Guback's Funeral/Memorial Service – The Vestry discussed certain arrangements for this service, scheduled for September 15.

Marilyn's Vacation – Marilyn stated that she will be traveling from September 29 to October 15. Carol, as Co-Senior Warden, will assume those duties.

Committee Reports – Various committee members outlined current activities.

Old Business –

Parish Bylaw Revisions – Marilyn presented a detailed report on her review of the Parish Bylaws, comparing them to the Diocesan Canon Laws. After a lengthy discussion, the Vestry concluded that it is not practical for our small parish, with limited human and financial resources, to make changes to the Parish Bylaws at this time.

Personal Property Inventory – The inventory of Parish property will begin before fall.

Diocesan Convention – November 2nd and 3rd - Marilyn announced that Mary and Ed Ruffley have agreed to represent St. Christopher's as delegates to the November Diocesan Convention in Lansing.

Bill Cook Vacation Schedule- Bill Cook revised his vacation schedule to accommodate Sylvia-Lynde Guback's funeral service on September 15. Bill will be gone for the September 23 and 30 services.

Arrangements for a substitute organist were discussed.

Upcoming Summer Gathering- Carol discussed arrangements for the August 19 post-service gathering at her house. The Vestry noted that Carol and Richard will incur significant expenses to host this gathering for the parish. The Vestry approved a \$250 reimbursement to be paid to the Ispbordings to cover a portion of their expenses.

Mission of St. Christopher's and Thoughts about Implementation- The Vestry discussed issues related to the refinement of St. Christopher's Mission and its relationship to stewardship. The discussion focused on improving the recognition of St. Christopher's within the community.

Labyrinth Update- The Vestry discussed the idea of a Labyrinth Walk and the issues related to the project. The matter is on hold until further notice.

No other business came before the Vestry.

Ed Ruffley, Vestry Clerk

PRAYER LIST PROCEDURE

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

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.

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.

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). Coffee is always already made; napkins, 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. 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 prepared the September – October Service Schedule, which is attached. Thank you Jill! THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 18, 2018.

MARCHING ORDERS

The following three hymns reflect St. Paul's writings to the Ephesians to put on "the armor of God". It would have been an easily-understood metaphor for those who would face suffering, hardship, and death, in standing for their beliefs. In today's view, some people see these hymns as overly aggressive, but reading through all the various verses of these hymns also reveals the true prize: attaining oneness with God in standing for your faith.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (#32)

"Stand Up Stand Up for Jesus" (page 561, The Hymnal, 1982). Presbyterian minister George Duffield wrote this as a poem, in recalling the death of twenty-nine-year-old Dudley Tyng, an Episcopal minister, in 1858. After preaching citywide in Philadelphia during evangelistic events, Tyng was the victim of a farming accident. The injury was so severe that Tyng could not be saved, but urged his father and others to "stand up for Jesus". Duffield's

poem was later set to music. [The Complete Book of Hymns, pages 188-189; William J. Petersen & Ardythe Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (# 33)

"Onward Christian Soldiers" (page 562, The Hymnal, 1982). English clergyman and schoolteacher Sabine Baring-Gould wrote this as a song for schoolchildren to sing as they marched to join other children for a church festival. [The Complete Book of Hymns, pg. 186-187; William J. Petersen & Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006] It has been a popular staple at revivals ever since.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN (# 34)

"Soldiers of Christ, Arise" (page 548, The Hymnal, 1982) was written by Charles Wesley, initially titled "The Whole Armor of God". The early Methodists in England endured beatings, stonings, threats on their lives, the looting of their homes, and the ruination of their businesses. Wesley's goal was to strengthen the will of new converts to continue the struggle. [The Complete Book of Hymns, pg. 187-188; William J. Petersen & Ardyth Petersen, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 2006]

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, 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. Episcopal Church General Convention met in Austin, Texas from July 5 – 13. Various resolutions were adopted. One resolution addressed possible revisions to the Book of Common Prayer. This resolution calls for bishops to work with worship communities to participate in revisionary (inclusive and expansive) language. No particular deadline was established, as it is seen as a many-years-long project. Another resolution allows all Episcopalians, including same-sex couples, to be married by their priest in their home churches. (The rites had been previously approved by the 2015 General Convention.) The resolution was overwhelmingly adopted. However, an amendment accommodates bishop substitutions if circumstances warrant, as another bishop can be called in to provide "oversight and pastoral care" for the couple. Among the many other topics addressed at the Convention were immigration, the Israel/Palestine conflict, gun violence, admission of Cuba as a diocese, and leadership impairment. The Living Church (8/5/18 edition) and The Episcopal Journal (August 2018 issue) have full reports on all activities, including those more light-hearted; a resolution forbidding the General Convention from including a karaoke night; and a Bishop Michael Curry bobblehead (in full regalia).

2. Speaking of Conventions. The 144th Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan will be held in Lansing, Michigan on November 2-3, 2018. Two delegates from St. Christopher's will be attending. Our rector search activities will be ongoing at the Convention.

3. The Book. The Greek word 'biblos' refers to the inner bark of the papyrus plant. The Latin version is 'papyrus', which is the root word for 'papier' (French) and 'paper' (English). The Greek word 'biblion' refers to the rolled sheet of 'biblos' used for writing. The Latin plural 'biblia' meant 'books'. At first, the English word 'bible' referred to any book. Over time, however, the now capitalized 'Bible' came to mean the only book. (page 47, Dictionary of Word Origins, Joseph T. Shipley, The Philosophical Library, New York, 1945.)

AN ONGOING CALL FOR FLOWERS

New owner Carly has taken over the Forget-Me-Not Florist shop in Suttons Bay. However, the procedure for purchasing flowers is the same, and if you wish to use Forget-Me-Not Florists, they can arrange delivery of the flowers on the Saturday prior to the service. Or you can pick them up yourself and bring them on Sunday morning, placing them on the stand(s) behind the Altar prior to the service. 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.

You can always bring your own flowers, of course. 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. Margie Beers, Marilyn Dry. Yes., Carol Ishpording or Dorothy Schobel should be contacted 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.

LET'S CELEBRATE THE ART OF GIVING''!

Have you channeled your inner Picasso and submitted an entry for the Leelanau Christian Neighbors (LCN) annual fundraiser? No? You can still attend, vote, and lend your support! "Celebrate the Art of Giving" will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., at the Old Art Building in Leland (cash wine bar and hors d'oeuvres). This fun and unique event not only raises funds for LCN, but also provides an opportunity to view the ingenuity and creativity in crafting something new, from something.....completely different! The fun continues after the Gallery opening on September 13th; the displays stay in place, to be viewed free of charge, at the Old Art Building for the following two days (Friday, September 14 and Saturday, September 15) from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. You can vote (\$1.00 per vote) for your favorite pieces, and you can buy your favorite pieces. All artwork remains on the premises until voting concludes. The winning project will be named on September 15. Please see Mary Fleishman or Mary Ruffley for tickets to the (9/13/18) Celebration night (\$35 per person), and further information. Encourage friends and family to attend, and to vote - early and often. Remember that this is Fun Fundraising Fun.

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.

A CINQUAIN SEASON

Cinquain is a specific poetry form (popularized by an American poet in the late 1800's) consisting of one five-line stanza containing a very specific number of syllables in each line: two syllables in the first line; four in the second line; six in the third line; eight in the fourth line; and two in the fifth and final line. The overall effect is one of 'stutter-step', which somehow captures our current seasonal and raggedy shift from lazy soaring summer into tired August and its current wilted landscapes. We look ahead to cooler temperatures (but slowly), and much-needed rain (but warm) and a crisp October. We consider August, now slipped away into a summer that is over in every way except the remaining heat, and thus 'meter' our way through to October.

Dry. Yes.
Arched hazy dome
Above. Road dust below.
Yet Queen Anne's lace looks lovely, still
Blooming.

Insects
Buzz, whine: non-stop
Knowing of things to come.
We know, too, but defer. They just
Accept.

Lyric
September sings
In key of easy rain.
Leaf-peepers ahead! We welcome
Autumn.

Jacket
May be needed.
But not heavy: too soon!
Cold must wait for now; and of course
No boots.

Pumpkins
Everywhere, now.
Not just gourds; children, too
As Halloweeners fly down streets
So: Boo!

Corner's
Been turned somehow.
Crystal cold nights; gray days.
Yet fellowship, family ahead;
Comfort.

Best wishes for a wonderful and warm autumn for
you, your family, and friends.

By Mary Ruffley

Service Schedule for September - October 2018

Date	Day	Lector	LEM 1	Clergy	Altar Set Up	Altar Clear		Greeter	Coffee
September 2	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	K. Mason	C. Isphording	R. Anderson	M. Zimmerman	J. Foerster		M. Zimmerman	M. Ruffley
September 9	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Ruffley	J. Dickerson	J. McLean	J. Foerster	J. Neuharth		P. Deal	J. Danaher
September 16	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	M. Zimmerman	C. Isphording	J. McLean	J. Neuharth	J. Dickerson		C. Dickerson	S. Husken
September 23	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	R. Bonbaugh	J. Dickerson	J. McLean	J. Dickerson	M. Zimmerman		J. Foerster	C. Isphording
September 30	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	J. Foerster	C. Isphording	Mary Frenz	J. Foerster	S. Husken		P. Deal	Mary Fleishman
October 7	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	Mike Fleishman	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	J. Neuharth	Joy Ham		C. Dickerson	J. Danaher
October 14	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost	Jim Ham	Joy Ham	T. Guback	J. Foerster	J. Neuharth		J. Foerster	J. Crane
October 21	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost	M. Ruffley	C. Isphording	T. Guback	Joy Ham	J. Dickerson		Joy Ham	J. Foerster
October 28	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost	J. Foerster	J. Dickerson	T. Guback	M. Zimmerman	S. Husken		P. Deal	B. Marsh

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