



The

JANUARY 2025

# Trumpeter

*St. Christopher's Episcopal Church*

## Weekly Schedule

Sundays

**8 am - Holy Eucharist Service**

**9:15 am Adult Formation**

**10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service**

Thursdays

**1 pm - Prayer and Bible Study (in Person)**



### Offering Envelopes

If you requested offering envelopes on your 2025 Pledge card, you will be able to pick up your offering envelopes in the Narthex. We are recycling previous years envelope packets so please ignore the dates on them.

### We need your help...

We are interested in rebuilding our church website to make it more appealing and user friendly. To do so, we are looking for volunteers to form a small group to help our web builder (Don Davidson). This small group would give insight regarding colors and help review content during construction before it is presented to the Vestry. If you would be interested in participating in the small group, please contact Angela in the Church Office no later than today. Thank you!

### Looking for Lay Eucharists Ministers and Ushers

We would like to add to our teams of LEM's and ushers. If you are so inclined to volunteer for either of these positions, please see Flo Gjerstad or Father Jerry. Father Jerry will be having a class for new LEM's sometime in January. (This will also be a refresher class for current LEM's). I will instruct new ushers on their duties. (we have a new system of locking the front door now, so that is not an issue anymore. Thanks to Dave Miller) If we get enough volunteers, you would need to serve about every 6 weeks. Thank you, Flo Gjerstad

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St Christopher's will take place in January 26, 2025 following the 10:15 am service. If you oversee an area of St. Christopher's life, please plan to have a report regarding 2024 to Angela in the church office by Sunday, January 12, 2025 for inclusion in the Annual Meeting booklet.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
(810) 694-3600  
[Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

## Staff

The Reverend Jerry Lasley  
*Rector*  
[Rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:Rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,  
*Priest in Residence*  
[FrMike@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:FrMike@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

The Reverend Dr. Donald F. Davidson  
*Priest in Residence*  
[frdon@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:frdon@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*  
[Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Jeffrey Walker, *Organist*  
[Jeffrey@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:Jeffrey@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Angela Zinsli, *Administrative Assistant*  
[angela@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:angela@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

## Vestry 2024

Ellen Safley, *Senior Warden*  
[SeniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:SeniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Bill Hartley and Rod Bytwerk, *Junior Wardens*  
[JuniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:JuniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Linda Rathburn, *Clerk*

Jane Brewer, *Co-Treasurer*  
Dale Rice, *Co-Treasurer*  
[Treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:Treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org)

Myrtle Duck (2027) Dave Miller (2027)  
Janice Convis (2027) Bill Hartley (2026)  
Linda Rathburn (2026) Colleen Shrank (2025)  
Jane Brewer (2026) Rod Bytwerk (2025)  
Ellen Safley (2025)

## Upcoming Lessons

**January 5**  
**Second Sunday after Christmas**  
Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 84  
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a  
Luke 2:41-52

**January 12**  
**First Sunday after the Epiphany**  
Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 19**  
**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**  
Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

**January 26**  
**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**  
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

**February 2**  
**Presentation of Jesus in the Temple**  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 84  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

**Find the readings every week at**  
**[lectionarypage.net](http://lectionarypage.net)**



# The Priest's Desk

Happy New Year! Each January, we all make our commitment to being a better person. We promise ourselves to lose weight, be kinder, be less judgmental, more prayerful, etc.

With the New Year, we are given the chance to begin again. I recently heard someone saying, “turn the page.” I would like to share a little about what opportunities this mindset can give us.

To begin with, “turn the page” does not mean that we forget everything that has come before. What I do think it means is that we learn from the past. Our mistakes, our challenges, the blessings we have received and so on. There are many things that we remember that we wish we could change. But we can't.

We can't go back and re-do things that have taken place in the past. But what we can do is try to do better as we move forward. Turning the page can help us with this task. We take what we have learned, and we do our very best to not repeat what we did before. Old habits are hard to break. As for me, one thing that I have done is that when I am stressed, I eat. Not a good habit and not an easy one to break. Moving forward in this case means that I'm not going to be perfect. But the more I remind myself that I'm not hungry and try to not eat, the more it will become a new habit. Habits are hard to break. With God's help and the encouragement of friends and family, we can do it.

Turning the page can also mean that we don't let our past completely influence our today. Just because we messed up, we should not carry the guilt with us forever. What I would suggest is this. If possible, make amends with the person. Ask for forgiveness. If they are no longer around, or if this is not possible, try to find another way to make amends. If you spoke harshly with someone, then try to be a kinder person today. Each day is a gift and we have the opportunity to be a better person than we were the day before.

We might have to “turn the page” many times in our lives. In fact, I think it is possibly the most necessary action we can take to improve our own lives and the lives of others. We need to stop beating ourselves up. Life is too short to carry so much.

Turning the page can also mean that we become more active in the life of the church. Maybe we sign up for things that we normally wouldn't sign up for. When I came to St. Christopher's five years ago, my deepest desire is that once the pandemic was over, we would become a vibrant parish with activities every day of the week. Our parish would be a busy hub of gatherings, learning, working in and for our community. Living lives of faith actively, not passively.

We are called to be Christ for the world. We can't accomplish this by just observing. The time for passive participation is over. Now is the time we must pull up our bootstraps, tighten our belts and get started on a new journey.

It is time for St. Christopher's to turn the page. We must become a hub of activity if people are going to be drawn here. We can't continue to dwell in the past. It's not that we forget what has taken place, but we can't let that continue to be our driving force. God is alive and well. God wants us to be fully immersed in the life of the church.

To say that activities at church are glum is a bit of an understatement. Bible Study has an average attendance of 3. Adult formation on Sunday mornings has an average attendance of 3. Our monthly healing service has an average attendance of 8 or 9. Our Sunday average attendance (for both services) is 64. Why is that?

# From The Priest's Desk....Continued

It's time we ask ourselves some hard questions. Folks, this is not all gloom and doom. Our coat closet has really taken off this year and we are having an impact in our community. But we must do more. When we have our Annual Meeting at the end of January, we must ask ourselves why people don't come to the activities that we currently have. We must also ask ourselves what we might add to attract more folks? How can we turn the page? How can we become the vibrant community that we all want? How can we attract more young people? How can we attract people in general? What is it that we need to do, so that we might answer the call Jesus gives us?

Turning the page can also be a time of excitement, anticipation, and joy. We all know the joy of having significant events in our lives. Remember how your life changed once you got your first job? Your first car? Your first home? Remember how your life changed when you got married or fell in love? This is the type of enthusiasm and joy that we can celebrate.

We must stop talking about the negative things that have taken place in the past. There is nothing we can do to change those things. More importantly, we must talk about the good we do and have done. I didn't imagine that we would become debt free. I didn't imagine a new parking lot, new parking lot lights, new sanctuary lights. I didn't know how effective our coat closet would be. I was not sure how many would show up for "The Chosen." But God did! And I firmly believe that God is not done with us. It is God and our faith in God and one another that has brought us to this time in our lives. We are at a "turn the page" moment in the life of St. Christopher's.

I am excited about what the next chapter will bring. We must continue to put our faith in God, in our families, our parish, our communities. I've often heard people refer to St. Christopher's as my church. In one sense, it is. But more importantly, St. Christopher's is God's house. God's invitation to be Christ to the world. We are a community of believers that tries to follow the path Jesus wants us to take.

So, I ask you this question. What are you willing to do to make St. Christopher's a more vibrant, welcoming, and loving church? It is up to you to respond. I know you will. I have faith in God and I have faith in you.

Wishing you a wonderful and happy New Year, filled with "turning the page" moments that help you to live life more fully, more lovingly, more joyfully.

Turn.....the....page!

Much love,

Jerry+







## HEALING AND EUCHARIST SERVICE

The next Healing and Eucharist Service will be held Friday, January 3rd at Noon. All are welcome to attend.



## Worship

Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in December.

There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to host! You only have to make coffee/tea and perhaps provide a small snack or treat item if desired.



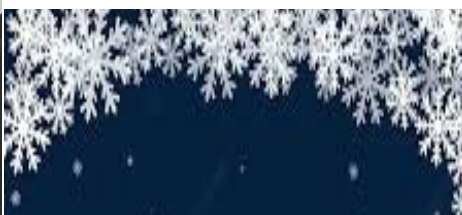
Every Saturday!  
October through March  
10am - Noon



Join us for Sunday Services!

8:00am and 10:15am

9020 S. Saginaw, Grand Blanc, MI (810) 694-3600



## Men's GROUP

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 9 am @ Hill Road Grille, 2160 W. Hill Road, Flint. Please sign up on the Kiosk.



The latest Vestry Meeting Minutes and a Financial Statement are located on the kiosk in the narthex for review.



## Ladies' LUNCHEON Ladies' Group

The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, January 8th at 11:45 am at Cobblestone Bar & Grill, 7490 Fenton Rd., Grand Blanc. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the kiosk or contact Louise McAra at (810) 287-4334.

# FROM THE MUSIC ROOM...



Greetings from the Music Room!

May I take this moment to wish everyone a meaningful and blessed Advent. How lovely that Flo has made certain we light the four Advent candles each season of Advent...representing the four Sundays of Advent, symbolizing hope, peace, joy and love. Sometimes a fifth candle is lit on Christmas Eve representing the birth of Jesus. This is usually a white candle and larger than the other candles and placed in the center of the wreath. During our Advent Season, the choir will be singing hymns and canticles representing the anticipation and then ultimately, the arrival of Jesus.

Advent 1, Hope, harkens back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us, from the Old Testament which would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus. Second Advent, Peace, is also purple in color (like the first Advent candle). This candle reminds us of the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Jesus is coming, and so is his kingdom of Peace. The choir will be singing "The Record of John" this morning. This beautiful piece, written by Orlando Gibbons contains a beautiful tenor solo. The third Advent candle, JOY, is quoted in Haendel's Messiah, "And the Angel, said unto them, 'Fear Not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord; And suddenly, there was with the Angel, a multitude of the Heavenly Host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God!'" (Luke, 2:10-12). The third Sunday of Advent candle is pink, and also referred to as the Shepherd's Candle. Our congregation will be sharing in our Lessons and Carols service on this third Sunday of Advent. Father Jerry and Flo and I worked very hard putting together this musical journey represented by these specific carols and readings. I really hope you can make it for service that morning (December 15). And finally, Advent IV is the candle representing love. The ultimate love of God that he might send his only son for us. This candle is known as the Angel's Candle and the color for this candle is purple as well, purple. ON this Sunday, the choir will be singing "Advent Message" (Martin Howe).

As we enter into this season of new beginnings, the anticipation of the arrival of this blessed new born child, let us all in our hearts, share in these feelings of hope, peace, joy and love.

In Christ, I am Yours,  
*Nada*



## FOYER GROUPS 2024-2025



For 2024-25 we are modifying our groups slightly due to attrition and new participants. Of course, we'd like additional participants and would gladly add groups. So, if this is a new concept to you and you ask, what are Foyer Groups...they are small groups of 3-8 persons sharing simple meals and fellowship, usually at the home of one of the members, though sometimes the group may gather at a restaurant or other venue. The intention is to have fun and provide an opportunity for us to meet each other and to become better acquainted. Each group typically meets monthly for a simple meal and relaxed conversation and the meetings typically last two to two and one-half hours. Foyer Groups are not intended to do anything, but simply to be what Christians are: groups of people who gather together and love one another so that friendships may grow. Each month, one of the members hosts a gathering. Foyer Groups are not a study or prayer group and they have no agenda other than spending time with one another, which is important for the building of Christian community in our parish. The uniqueness of the Foyer Group is its lack of formal structure, its openness of communication, and its free access given to the Spirit. Since some of our parishioners no longer drive at night, ride sharing and some daytime meetings are encouraged.

If you are interested in participating in a Foyer Group, please contact Ken Duck at [ken.ducksr@icloud.com](mailto:ken.ducksr@icloud.com) or by phone at (571) 232-1827.

| Worship Leaders for January 2025          |   |   |       |                   |                  |                  |
|---|---|---|-------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
|   | LECTOR /<br>LEM                         | GREETERS                                  | TECH  | ALTAR<br>GUILD    | COFFEE<br>HOUR   | ALTAR<br>FLOWERS |
| <b><u>January 5</u></b>                   |   |   |       |                   |                  |                  |
| <b>8 am</b>                               | Dave<br>Butler(LEM)/<br>Jane Brewer     | Neuman & Jan<br>Convis                    | ----- | -----             | <b>Available</b> | <b>Available</b> |
| <b>10:15<br/>am</b>                       | Ken Duck                                | Rod Pierson &<br>Flo Gjerstad             |       | Louise McAra      |                  |                  |
| <b><u>January 12</u></b>                  |   |   |       |                   |                  |                  |
| <b>8 am</b>                               | Debbie Moses<br>(LEM)                   | Dale & Sharon<br>Rice                     |       | -----             | <b>Available</b> | <b>Available</b> |
| <b>10:15<br/>am</b>                       | Flo Gjerstad<br>Andrew Jacob<br>(L)     | Bill Anderson &<br>Mike Latesky           |       | Colleen<br>Shrank |                  |                  |
| <b><u>January 19</u></b>                  |   |   |       |                   |                  |                  |
| <b>8 am</b>                               | Nancy Wells<br>(LEM)/Susan<br>Armstrong | Jane Brewer                               | ----- | -----             | <b>Available</b> | <b>Available</b> |
| <b>10:15<br/>am</b>                       | Linda Rathburn                          | Jan Taylor &<br>Bill Hartley              |       | Sharon Rice       |                  |                  |
|   |   |   |       |                   |                  |                  |
| <b><u>January 26 – Annual Meeting</u></b> |   |   |       |                   |                  |                  |
| <b>8 am</b>                               | Dave<br>Butler(LEM)/<br>Kay Van Natta   | Jane Brewer<br>& Susan Arm-<br>strong     |       | -----             | <b>Available</b> | <b>Available</b> |
| <b>10:15<br/>am</b>                       | Rod Bytwerk                             | Louise Des-<br>granges & Bill<br>Anderson |       | Jane Brewer       |                  |                  |