The DECEMBER 2025

Trumpeter

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service

From the Senior Warden...

Hello to all the northern members of our congregation in Grand Blanc, Michigan. I want to say it's a lovely day here in Florida and that is just one of the ways in which Ellen and I feel blessed. We are certainly blessed to have spent Thanksgiving together sharing the holiday with our Florida friends. I hope your turkey was as good as mine! We will be flying home soon to spend December with family and our church family for the Christmas holidays.

In the midst of counting blessings I feel the sadness of Jeffrey Walker 's death. Jeff was a talented and generous blessing as our organist and skilled craftsman who, along with Nada, kept everything "in tune" in the music program. He will be greatly missed. We are also blessed with Nada and the Grand Blanc Choral Society's ability to carry on the Messiah this year under very trying circumstances and in honor of Jeff's legacy.

I must also say that we are blessed with the members of our vestry. We will miss those who have served and look forward to adding new members in the month of January for the coming year. thank you!!

We are also blessed with a fine staff that help us plan the services, deal with all required events and keep the building clean. Thank you all.

Sunday worship is a weekly blessing as we have welcomed several new faces and members to our midst, as well as seeing several children at worship services.

Finally, thank you to all the members of our congregation for all you've done to decorate, welcome new people, and be the great group of people that you are. Please continue to support our Coat Closet and our outreach projects by providing support for our Blessing Bags for Carriagetown Ministry, and other groups.

-Chapin Cook

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
9020 S. Saginaw Road
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600
Email: office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Staff

The Reverend Jerry Lasley
Rector
Rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr
Priest in Residence

The Reverend Dr. Donald F. Davidson
Priest in Residence

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Angela Zinsli, *Administrative Assistant*
angela@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Luna, *Sexton*

Vestry 2025

Chapin Cook, *Senior Warden*

Rod Bytwerk, *Junior Warden*

Louise McAra, *Clerk*

Jane Brewer, Co-*Treasurer*
*Dal*e Rice, Co-*Treasurer*

Karen Carr (2027) Dave Miller (2027)
Janice Convis (2027) Bill Hartley (2026)
Linda Rathburn (2026) Louise McAra (2028)
Jane Brewer (2026) Rod Bytwerk (2028)
Chapin Cook (2028)

Upcoming Lessons

November 30
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

December 7
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:4-9
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 28
First Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

January 4
The Second Sunday of Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 84
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Find the readings every week at lectionary-page.net

FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

Greetings Everyone!

It's that time of year when things start to get very busy. As I write this though, I wonder if there is ever a time when it is not busy. This year has flown by for me, and I can't believe we are getting ready for the beginning of Advent. I look back and I think, wow, we've done a lot this year.

As we begin to prepare for the holiday season and as we look back on what we have accomplished, I'm left with some questions.

1. How are we growing spiritually?

a. Communal worship is key to being a Christian. We should actively participate in the life of the church. There are many ways to do this. Become an usher, LEM or reader. Becoming a part of our Prayer Ministry Team is another way to participate. How about Vestry? So, I'm left with this question. Are you an active participant or merely a bystander?

2. How are we growing in active members?

a. I'm happy to say that we have several new faces in our pews. Get to know them and invite them to breakfast (8:00) or invite them to Coffee Hour. Another way to make them feel welcome is to invite them to sit with you during worship. If we want new members, we must make certain that they feel welcomed and valued. Maybe they have questions that you can answer about the service or what we believe as Episcopalians. If not, send them my way.

3. How are we providing for the future of St. Christopher's and for our financial security? We want to be here for generations to come.

a. Our Vestry works hard on planning. They look at opportunities we might have that will get people involved and will help us in our daily lives. Vestry may only meet once a month, but I assure you they work weekly on gathering information, deciding about opportunities we might have for engaging in outside ministry, dealing with finances.

b. If you look closely at our budget, you will see that much of our current cash on hand is in designated funds. That money can only be used for very specific purposes. Our collections lately have been down, yet our expenses continue to grow. Your budget at home sometimes requires cuts to spending. Your Vestry and Finance Team make sure that we don't waste money on frivolity. We don't want to make cuts in staff or services, so we need everyone's help. The budget for next year will soon be made. Please get your pledge in as soon as possible so that we can plan ahead. If you make a pledge, please honor that promise to God and to the church. If I pledge to give a million dollars (oh how I wish I could) it means nothing if I don't honor it. I do understand that sometimes things happen that are out of our control. That is life and there's nothing that we can do about it.

I am proud to be your rector. I am proud of the work we have accomplished. I am proud of our new outreach project that provides Blessing Bags to Carriage Town. I know that there are some folks who are planning on going there to help make the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on Wednesday mornings.

I am excited about our future, and I hope you are too. I believe that our theme for the coming year holds true. “We Believe that Together, Everything is Possible.”

Each of us holds our own views on the world, on the larger church and on the people we worship with. Despite our differences, we come together to worship, to enjoy the company of one another, to laugh, to cry, to celebrate and to mourn. We are invested in one another, in our parish and in our world. We are better together!

Blessings on you as you begin preparations for the coming holiday season. My prayer is that you have much to be thankful for, that you are able to gather with friends and family, to remember those we have lost, to celebrate those we have gained. I pray that each of you will find the joy of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to fill you hearts with love, light, peace and hope. Be the reason someone believes in God!

Jerry+

Armed Forces and Federal Ministries Cycle of Prayer

Armed Forces and Federal Ministries

Under the direction of Bishop Ann Ritonia, Armed Forces and Federal Ministries provides pastoral care and support to members of the military and federal agencies. This week’s updates include:

Cycle of Prayer 2025-2026. You can find the complete cycle at www.episcopalchurch.org under Armed Forces and Federal Ministries.

In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we prayfor our chaplains, military members, their families, and for the following:

Week of December 7 All our National Guard service members on their 389th birthday and those serving in Hawaii - at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Schofield Barracks, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Tripler Army Medical Center, Federal Detention Center Honolulu, and the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System.

Week of December 14 All our Space Force service members on their 6th birthday and those serving in Idaho - at Mountain Home Air Force Base, the 124th Fighter Wing Air National Guard, Orchard Combat Training Center, Pocatello Air National Guard Base, and the Boise VA Medical Center.

Week of December 21 Those serving in Illinois - at Scott Air Force Base, Great Lakes Naval Station, Rock Island Arsenal, Peoria Air National Guard Base, Federal Correctional Institution Perkin, and the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital.

Week of December 28 Those serving in Indiana - at Camp Atterbury, Naval Support Activity Crane, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute, and the Roudebush VA Medical Center.

In Memory of Jeffrey L. Walker

We are grieving. There is no way around it. The unexpected death of Mr. Walker has placed a heavy pall over many people including Nada, our choir, our parish family and the wider music community.

Mr. Walker was an excellent musician with many accolades, and we were beyond blessed to experience his talent, knowledge, understanding, and love of music. He lived, breathed, and played music. He was always transformed when he played. It was like he became a part of the music, and the music became a part of him. When Mr. Walker played, everyone became engrossed in the music. The rhythm, the flow of the notes. They just came to life through his talent.

Mr. Walker was always practicing, whether it was a hymn, prelude or postlude for church, or if it was for a concert. He practiced and practiced. There was never a "let's just roll with it" with him. I often closed my eyes in prayer with Mr. Walker's preludes and was often carried away by the music. I simply cannot say enough good things about Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker will be missed. Not only for his music, but for the teacher, friend and compassion that he lived daily.

"Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Jeffrey. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen." BCP p499

We thank God for sharing Mr. Walker with us these past several years.

Jerry+

Please note that the next Healing Service will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025 at noon. The following Healing Service will be Friday, January 2, 2026.

COFFEE HOUR

Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in November : Dave & Karen Miller, Bill Hartley, Chuck & Gerry Rudduck, Jane Yorks, Janice Fly, Shirley Showler, Diane Stellrecht, Mary Little & Heather Edmonds-Hogan. 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.

The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 11:45 am at Sophia's Kitchen, 11395 S. Saginaw St., Grand Blanc.

If you plan on attending, please sign up on the kiosk or contact Louise McAra at (810) 287-4334.

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 13 2025 at 9 am @ Hill Road Grille, 2160 W. Hill Road, Flint. Please sign up on the Kiosk.

Please mark your calendar for St. Christopher's Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 11, 2026 following the 9 am service. There will only be one service on January 11th at 9 am. We hope to see you all there.

If you oversee an area of St. Christopher's life, please plan to have a report regarding 2025 to Angela in the church office by Sunday, January 4, 2026 for inclusion in the Annual Meeting booklet. Thank you!

From the Music Room...

Notes from the Music Room:

Thank you, everyone, for your understanding and kindness during this very difficult time. When you were here 'greening' the church the other morning, so many of you were so gentle with me, with my feelings, with my sadness. I am so grateful, being a part of this very beautiful and kind church family.

Thank you, each one of you, who came to attend "Messiah", which Jeff had developed into quite a reputable performance in our community. His brilliant musicianship and care turned into a musical event that players in the orchestra actually started putting in the calendars to make sure they were available to play.

Thank you for welcoming Jeff into our church family. He was starting to really feel at home here, and was having such fun planning great works he wanted to play for us on the organ. He had so much fun with our choir, cracking jokes at rehearsals and then with the very next breath, pulling a beautiful vocal phrase out of our ensemble.

I am hoping he will continue to watch over us from above---

~ In Christ, I am yours,

Nada

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

As announced at the Annual Meeting, all funds given toward pledges received in the current calendar year must be deposited and posted to the same calendar year. We can no longer accept advanced payment of pledges for the next calendar year.

Thank you for your understanding.

COAT CLOSET

The Coat Closet has been very busy this year. With donations of coats, mittens and hats - we have been able to help keep the community warm!

Currently, we are in desperate need of coats in all sizes – both male and female styles. We are also in need of mittens and hats.

Thank you for your generosity!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR

BLESSING BAGS

Please help us provide essentials to those in need. Items can be placed in the basket in The Gathering.

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Hand Soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Deodorant
- Water Bottles
- Socks
- Protein Bars
- Gallon Size Baggies

Thank you for your donations!

St. Christopher's Holiday SCHEDULE

December 7
8 am Service
10:15 am Service

December 14
8 am Service
10:15 am Service

December 21
8 am Service
10:15 am Lessons & Carols Service

December 24
4 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 28
8 am Service
10:15 am Service

Church Office Closed
December 25th through January 1st
Normal Office Hours Resume January 2nd

9020 S. Saginaw Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Tel: (810) 694-3600

Worship Leaders for December 2025

	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOWERS
December 7						
8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)/ Jane Brewer	Dale & Sharon Rice	---	---	Flo Gjerstad	---
10:15 am	Rod Bytwerk (LEM)	Flo Gjerstad & Jane Yorks		Mary Van Duyne		
December 14						
8 am	Dave Butler (LEM)/Jacob Stuart	Jane Brewer & Susan Armstrong		---	Chuck & Gerry Rudduck	---
10:15 am	Dianne Trevino (LEM)	Becky Stermer & Bill Anderson		Cindy Donner		
December 21						
8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)/Susan Armstrong	Jane Brewer & Debbie Moses	---	---	Jeff & Kim Parker	---
10:15 am	Bob Luckey (LEM)/Steve Huber (L)	Jan Taylor & Bill Hartley		Colleen Shrank		
December 24 – Christmas Eve						
				---	**No Coffee Hour**	---
4 pm	Linda Rathburn (LEM)	Louise Desgranges & Flo Gjerstad				
December 28						
8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)/ Kay Van Natta	Neuman & Jan Convis		---	Bill Hartley, Jan Taylor & Rene Carpenter	---
10:15 am	Ellen Safley (LEM)	Flo Gjerstad & Rene Carpenter		Dawn Rutherford		