



# THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

December 6, 2015

Second Sunday of [Advent](#)

Miriam Acevedo, D.Min, M.Div.

Visit us at: <http://www.saintcs.org>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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## [Calendar](#)

### Sunday, December 6

- Sunday School Classes 10 am
- Eucharist Service, 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.

### Monday, December 7

- Monday morning Yoga at 9 am.

### Tuesday, December 8

- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study at 9:30 am
- Yoga with Miriam at 6:30

### Thursday, December 10

- Thursday Evening Eucharist and Bible Study

### Saturday, December 12

- Family Service, 4 pm

## Christmas Schedule

### Thursday, December 24 -

#### Christmas Eve

- Christmas Eve Family Service and Children's Pageant - 4:30 p.m.
- Christmas Eve, Holy Eucharist, 9 p.m.

### Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day

- Christmas Day, 9 a.m., Holy Eucharist

### Saturday, December 26

- NO Saturday Family Service

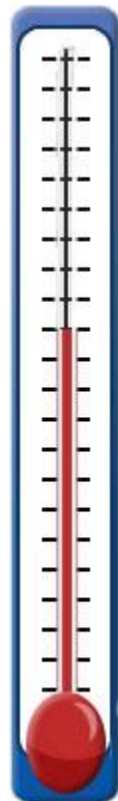
### Sunday, December 27

- Eucharist Service, 8 and 10:15
- No Bible Study

## Taking Action Because We Are Christians!

Our week to have the Family Promise families with us is December 13-20. It is a tough week, the week before Christmas but all the more reason to stop and do something for someone else. We need your help. Also during Christmas, we gather a giving tree filled with \$10 gift cards for our families from area retailers. If you can volunteer or if you

Number of pledges received to-date.



106

63

wish to contribute to the giving tree, please speak to [Peggy Baker](#). Thank you. *Miriam*

## Holiday Blessings from GRC Family Promise

From all of us at Family Promise of Greater Rockingham County—staff, board of trustees, and guests—to all of you, generous supporters, volunteers, and host congregations, holiday blessings to you and your families! May God, however you see him/her, bless you this season. A combined celebration was held November 17 for 3 families that have graduated from our program. We are so proud of all that they have accomplished through the Interfaith Hospitality Network program

## Saints Mary & Joseph Parish, Salem NH will join Family Promise as a Host Congregation.

“We are thrilled to form this relationship with them,” says Maggie Martin, Executive Director. Peter and Kristen Klecan will be the Host Coordinators and are looking to recruit volunteers to help during their host weeks. We will keep you posted on this exciting new partnership! And more good news, the 3rd Annual Evening of Thanks & Giving Gala & Auction held in November **raised over \$24,300!** That’s \$2,300 more than last year. An unprecedented number of sponsors supported this fundraiser to benefit local homeless children and families served by Family Promise of Greater Rockingham County.

## Spirited Life Today, Miriam and Ed’s Cable TV



Program is now available on our website.

[CLICK ON THIS LINK](#) to watch all 6 shows.

*Overheard. First impression of the Episcopal Church.:  
“Questions encouraged. Doubts expected. Is this really Church?”*

Good and gracious  
God,

As your Son Jesus  
Christ reached out in  
love to welcome  
and serve children  
and all in need,  
You have given St.  
Christopher's a call  
to do the same.

Bless us as we live  
out this call.

Open our hearts to  
discern the  
movements of your  
Holy Spirit, the  
needs of this  
community, and the  
gifts you have given  
us for service.

Ignite our passion  
and our love for  
you and for others.

In the name of the  
one who loves us  
all, Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.

### Stewardship Update

If you have not pledged for 2016 please do. Remember that if your circumstances change during the year you can always let us know, no questions asked. *Some pledge is better than no pledge;* the amount is not as important as the fact that you are participating. Heartfelt thanks to the parishioners who have already shown their willingness to support the work God would have us do at St. Christopher's.

Miriam

### Advent Season

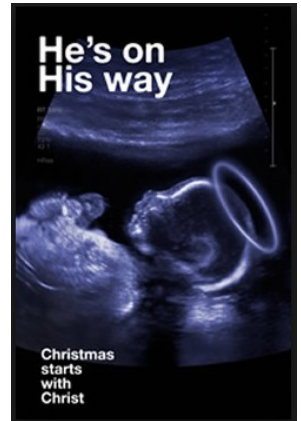
Advent has been a part of the church since the last half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. It comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "coming." Today is the

second Sunday in the **Advent** season. Since so much about Christmas has become separated from its purpose of celebrating the birth of Jesus, Advent offers us a time of waiting and preparing. Once known as a penitential season like Lent, the color of Advent is purple though more and more the color blue is worn. In church we display an Advent wreath with four candles. The circle of the wreath and the evergreens that make it up both signify God's endless mercy and undying love. There are three purple candles and one rose colored one. The rose candle is for the third week of Advent, it is set aside as a more celebratory week than the others. Each week an additional candle is lit. As the light grows brighter, we are reminded that the Light of the World will soon

arrive. The white candle in the center is a relatively recent addition to the wreath and it signifies the Light of Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

### Prayers of the People

Pray for **Diane Foley**, who is in hospice, and is the mother of Morgan LaMonica's boyfriend; **Quinton Collins**, Robin Flynn's father, diagnosed with cancer; **Bill Steinhoff** going through radiation and chemo; **Jabula Butler**; **Diane Kolbe**; **Ann Donovan**; **Carmen Acevedo**; **Jess**; **Kate**; **Joan and Ron Ruggiero**, and **Josephine Herbert**; 2 year old **Brayden**; **Matty**; **Ian**; **Joan Fettes**; for Christine's friend **Christine**; for **Cheryl**; for **Linda**, mother of Ruth Ann who has been diagnosed with cancer; for **Ryan**; for **Jacqueline**, for **Natalie Gallo**; for Jean Porter's grand-nephew **Tyler**; for Natalie's brother **Lorin**; for Mark and Ingrid's son **Eric** who with God's grace is in safe hands. **Serving in the Military**: Please pray for Del's cousins, **Daniel**, **Matthew** and **Sandra**, for **Paul**.



**Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Barbara Hughes; Roy Jeffrey; Joyce Kershaw; David, Lisa, Ashley, and Ethan Keith.

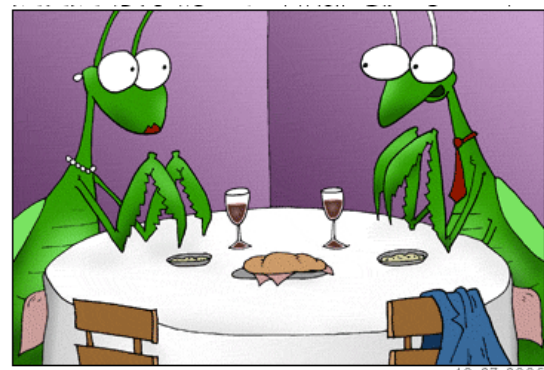
### Attendance

Saturday, 11/28, 10

Sunday, 11/29, 8:00 am, 29; 10:15 am, 48

**Just for fun: How To Get A Boomerang  
To Come Back To You**

<http://wimp.com/get-a-boomerang-to-return-to-you/>



WHAT ME? ... OH NO, I'M DONE PRAYING  
... I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL PRAYING!

Ministry Minute, Nov. 29, 2015  
PLEDGE Report for 2016 ST. C. Budget  
by Oliver Ford



Last year I informed you that we would henceforth have only one pledge campaign process each year and that we would adopt standard accounting practices in reporting our budget. One of the things that this has affected is how we “anticipated” revenue from parishioners who did not respond to our pledge campaign; we no longer factor in projected income from these sources. So, as you can see in the *Signpost*, we now have 67 pledges from the list of 106 families from whom we have received pledges in the past. This means that we have not received a pledge from 23% of those who have pledged in the past. When we asked the 2 or 3 people who know the names of those who are in that 23% but from whom we should not expect to receive pledges for various reasons (i.e. relocation, transfer elsewhere, deceased, unemployment, etc.), they removed 15 names from the list. This left us with a total of 91 potential sources of pledges, which includes people who continue to support St. Christopher’s even though they have left our community for some time now but still contribute to the church.

To put it plainly, we need to hear from everyone, *WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE ABLE TO PLEDGE*. We cannot know how many people whose needs we should prepare to fulfill *UNLESS* we hear from EVERYONE. No one else will ever know whether or not you pledged or how much you contributed, but we NEED to know you consider yourself a participating parishioner at St. Christopher’s Church, even if you are unable to pledge at this time or have to change your pledge at some point in the future. Pledging is NOT a requirement for participating membership in a vibrant church, but participation is.

We build the recommended budget to fulfill the needs of the members of our Parish, and we build it on the basis of Parish priorities and commitments; the final decision is made by the Bishop’s Committee with regard to the specific allocation of funds. Of course, we have to pay our various bills (heating fuel, electricity, salaries, insurance, etc.) and other commitments, which in the past sometimes were side-stepped when possible. We are one of the larger parishes in the Diocese (Yes! Count the children in our parish and you will find we are well ahead of most parishes in NH), so we must fulfill our Fair Share contribution to the Diocese of NH. You also will note we need MORE parishioners, so there will be more pledging units to support and participate in our various ministries. So invite more people to join us!

Yes, if the funds pledged do not equal the amount projected as needed for the 2016 budget, we shall have to go through the budget carefully and reduce our expenditures in various categories, but the final decision will be made by the Bishop’s Committee. More than a few churches have had to make significant adjustments because of declining numbers of parishioners and pledges, which include reducing the number of services, or meeting in the winter only in the undercroft (which would be problematic at St. Christopher’s since our church building was built on a concrete slab!), or even reducing the Rector and staff to part-time status. We do not want even to contemplate these issues until we have given everyone a chance to make their pledge for 2016, because until then we would be working with numbers in which we had no confidence. We build in ways to address necessary changes if unforeseen circumstances require them, but we want to plan based on sound numbers the parishioners provide us. We believe that if every member responds to the call for pledges, we will be able to develop an appropriate budget for 2016.

Please help us complete this annual pledge solicitation as soon as possible. Our pledge to you is that we will not conduct another pledge campaign beyond this one for 2016, and we thank all of you who have responded to date.

SO FAR FROM HOME  
WE MAKE OUR WAY  
TOGETHER, YET ALONE.  
BEHIND THE WORLD  
WE KNOW AND LOVE  
AHEAD, A  
NEW UNKNOWN.

WE DID NOT CHOOSE  
THIS TIME OR PATH  
BUT NOW, AS  
NIGHT DRAWS NEAR  
WE SEEK A PLACE  
OF WARMTH AND REST  
O, DO NOT  
TURN IN FEAR!

SOME BREAD, A BED,  
A BIRTHING STOOL  
IS WHAT WE  
NEED TONIGHT.  
WE STAND BEFORE  
YOUR DOOR AND KNOCK.  
IS YOURS A  
WELCOME LIGHT?

YES, I'VE THE HEART,  
THE HOME, THE LIFE  
THAT OPENS WIDE  
THE DOOR  
TO GREET THE  
STRANGER, FRIEND OR  
FOE  
THAT WELCOMES  
CHRIST ONCE MORE.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 LIGHT ONE CANDLE.  JER. 33:14-16	30 SEE THE GROWTH.  ISA. 11:1-3	1 BE PATIENT.  ROM. 8:25	2 BAKE BREAD.  1 COR. 5:8	3 TRUST.  PS. 62:5-8	4 KEEP HOPING.  HEB. 11:1	5 TASTE IT.  PS. 34:8
6 LIGHT TWO CANDLES.  LK. 3:1-6	7 MAKE PEACE.  PS. 122:6-9	8 SEE THE LIGHT.  JN. 1:6-9	9 BE EARLY.  PS. 119:147	10 SHOW THANKS.  1 THESS. 1:2,3	11 CELEBRATE.  DEUT. 26:11	12 FORGET THE FORMER.  ISA. 43:18
13 LIGHT THREE CANDLES.  ZEPH. 3:14-20	14 REMEMBER REFUGEES.  PS. 137:4	15 CHOOSE BETTER.  LK. 10:38-42	16 WATCH FOR ANGELS.  PS. 91	17 BE STRONG.  MT. 26:41	18 GO!  2 JN. 12	19  ISA. 43:19 SEE THE NEW.
20 LIGHT FOUR CANDLES.  LK. 1:46-55	21 SAY YES.  LK. 1:26-38	22 RECEIVE HIM.  ISA. 9:6	23 MAKE ROOM.  LK. 2:1-7	24  JN. 1:14	<h1>ADVENT</h1>	

# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



DECEMBER 6, 2015 -SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

## ADVENT CHALLENGE: JOURNEY FROM GRATITUDE TO HOPE

Advent is a time of waiting and watching. We pray and sing, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” reliving the beginning of our sacred story, entering into that liminal and holy space of hope. Each year, we are secure in our knowledge of the story’s resolution. The Christ child will be born. God will come among us. Mary and Joseph will flee with the infant Jesus as refugees, escaping the murderous King Herod, fleeing to Egypt in a reversal of the Exodus. The child who would become the Savior of the world will begin his life as a refugee.

This Advent season, our world faces the largest refugee crisis ever known – 60 million displaced, nearly 20 million of whom are refugees, half of whom are children. Four million Syrian refugees have fled civil war and terrorism in their country, and the number continues to grow. Here in the United States, refugees, especially Syrian refugees, have received increasing attention in the media. Programs funding refugees are in jeopardy of being cut or severely limited, which would result in this most vulnerable population of new Americans having limited access to food, housing, health care and the other basic needs they need to get on their feet during their first few months in the United States.

In response, the United Thank Offering board is challenging Episcopalians to take part in an important part of refugee welcome in the United States through its 2015 Ingathering Challenge, which will support Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee resettlement service of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Deemed the 2015 Advent Challenge: Journey from Gratitude to Hope, United Thank Offering will match the first \$30,000 given by December 31, 2015 that is marked “EMM-UTO.” The challenge will continue throughout December 2015.

Known worldwide as UTO, the United Thank Offering grants are awarded for projects that address human needs and help alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally in The Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Heather Melton, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society’s Missioner for United Thank Offering, noted, “Episcopalians are encouraged to begin using their United Thank Offering Blue Box as an expression of gratitude this Thanksgiving and to continue the journey with United Thank Offering and Episcopal Migration Ministries through Advent toward the hope Episcopalians embrace through the birth of the Christ child.”

### To Donate

Checks or online donations should have UTO-EMM in the memo line/comments section.

Donations are also accepted online at <https://episcopalchurch.thankyou4caring.org/> just select UTO from the drop down menu and then put EMM in the comments.

Submit checks to:  
United Thank Offering  
DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 958983  
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

**Check notation: UTO-EMM**

Submit checks to:  
United Thank Offering  
The Episcopal Church  
815 Second Avenue  
New York City, New York 10017

**Check notation: UTO-EMM**

