



THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

January 3, 2016

Second Sunday after Christmas

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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Calendar

Friday, January 1 Happy New Year

Saturday, January 2

- Rhythms of Grace, 2 p.m.
- NO Saturday Family Service, 4 p.m.

Sunday, January 3

- Healing Sunday, 8 a.m. Svc.
- Eucharist Service, 8 and 10:15
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Sunday school, 10 a.m.

Monday, January 4

- Monday morning Yoga at 9 am.

Tuesday, January 5

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

Thursday, January 7

- Eucharist & Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 9

- Family Service, 4 pm



BISHOP Curry's Christmas and New Year's

Message (Click [HERE](#) to watch video.)

Did you know that St. Christopher's has an active Facebook Page? Miriam posts insightful messages daily? You can join this public group by going to www.facebook.com/groups/www.saintcs.org and signing up.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, you make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank you for this New Year and for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise your glorious name. Amen. Happy New Year!! Miriam

Please Note

We resume the Saturday afternoon weekly family service starting on January 9. The family service is for anyone who cannot for whatever reason attend church on Sunday. The service is about a half hour long and includes a sermon for children and adults. This service is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Miriam

Every Second Sunday of the Month Will be a Family Service at the 10:15 Service

Beginning next Sunday, January 10th every second Sunday of the month at the 10:15 our services will be an opportunity for families to worship together. Come and See!! Miriam

Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance

The Hampstead Area Clergy group invites you to join in "A Call to Courageous Compassion: A Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day" in Song, Readings, & Reflection. This service of celebration will held on **Monday, January 18th at 7:00 pm right here at St. Christopher's!** Although we are basically a Hampstead group, our membership includes clergy from Plaistow, Kingston, Salem and one rabbi from Derry. I hope that many of you will support this observance with your presence. Since we are hosting it would be nice to have some simple refreshments for our guests and so I have put out a sign up sheet for those who are able to help. Miriam

Our Parish Annual Meeting is Jan. 24

The Annual Meeting will be on January 24 with a snow date of January 31. As is our custom, we will have one service on that day at 10 am. New members of the Bishop's Committee, Delegates to Convention and Assessors will be voted in. A week before the meeting you will receive a PDF of the 2015 Annual Report via email. "Hard copies" of the report will also be available at church (for the three of you who don't have email.) Please save the date and join us for this important parish-wide event. [Miriam](#)

2016 Calendars

Do you get a lot of nice calendars from businesses and other organizations in the mail, but can't use them all? If you are like me you can't just toss them out! So please consider donating them to Seafarer's Friend. The crew enjoy having a calendar to brighten their rooms. The mission of Seafarer's Friend is to extend the ministry of the churches to meet the unmet spiritual, social and practical needs of seafarers in the New England Maritime Community in Boston, Portland, and Portsmouth. I will be collecting calendars and sending them off to the Seafarer's Friend in the next week or two. You can leave them in the marked box in the vestibule. Thank you. [Kathy Trombly](#), or if you prefer you can mail them to Seafarer's Friend, 77 Broadway, Chelsea MA 02150

A New Year, New Beginnings for the Christian Steward

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3000 years. The start of a New Year gives us the feeling of a fresh start, a new beginning, and new opportunities. It is a time when people feel that they can begin anew with their lives. Common New Year's resolutions are to lose weight, exercise more and eat healthier; or to spend more time with family. Still others include managing money better and being more organized.

Although there is nothing in the Bible or notable in Christian tradition about New Year's resolutions, many good stewards take advantage of this time of year to become closer to the Lord. They may re-commit themselves to pray more, to read the Bible, or to attend church more regularly.

If you are looking for some helps in your New Year's resolutions, here are a few ideas to get you started:

Practice gratitude

Encounter the Lord each day

Be present to others

Resist overwork

Nurture friendships

Give more

Make a difference in your parish community

Consider living more simply

Get healthy

Don't give up

Turn to the Lord

Pledge Update

As of 12-20-15, we have been blessed with 72 pledges that total \$145,144. We hope to hear from a few more people—it is not too late to submit a pledge. Thank you all for your generosity. *Miriam*

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; **Liz Naters-Gamarra**, Miriam's daughter; for **Jane Roth**; **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: Kara, Rob, Emma, and Matthew Kaslowski; Andy, Christine, Brady, Colby, and Addison; Terri McDermot; Judy McCabe.

Attendance

12/24, 4:30pm, Pageant, 98; 9:00pm, 58

12/25, Christmas, 16

12/27, Sunday, 8:00am, 25; 10:15am, 30

Ask much of us. Expect much of us. Enable much by us. Encourage many through us.

May we dedicate our lives to your glory. Amen.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



JANUARY 3, 2016 - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (C)

JOURNEY WITH EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES

This Sunday, the Episcopal Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany, which begins the six-week season of Epiphany. Epiphany recognizes the manifestation of the divine in Jesus and recalls the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt to escape the tyranny of King Herod, who ordered the Massacre of the Innocents in Bethlehem.

Forced to flee, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus became what we now call refugees.

The Holy Family's experience is mirrored today in the plight of more than 60 million displaced persons worldwide, including at least 19 million refugees. Many are in camps or cities in places such as Rwanda, Kenya and Jordan, hoping that someday it will be safe enough to return to their communities. Some, however, find that they must journey to a new country to begin again. For 70,000 refugees in 2015, that journey brought them to the United States.

The journey of a refugee is never easy. Someday these journeys may no longer be necessary; someday persecution and violence may cease to drive displacement and rob refugees of their communities and nations.

Until that day, please join Episcopal Migration Ministries in working toward safer, brighter futures for refugees.

For more than 75 years, the Episcopal Church has welcomed and supported refugees in the United States. Working in partnership with Episcopal faith communities as well as with local governments, non-government organizations (NGOs) and a network of 30 affiliate offices, Episcopal Migration Ministries provides safe passage, vital services, hospitality, and friendship for thousands of refugee families resettling in the U.S. every year.

Over the next three weeks, Episcopal Migration Ministries is providing bulletin inserts and Lesson Plans That Work that will help you learn more about the plight of the refugee and how you can join this life-saving and life-giving ministry.

To learn more about supporting refugee resettlement on a local level, contact Allison Duvall, Episcopal Migration Ministries program manager for Church Relations and Engagement, aduvall@episcopalchurch.org or visit <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm>.

O God, we ask your living protection of all refugees yearning for freedom and hope in a new land. May we ever remember that the Holy Family, too, were refugees as they fled persecution. Bless, guide and lead us in faith to open doors and to open our hearts through this ministry of hospitality. Give us strength, vision and compassion as we work together to welcome those in need. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.



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MIGRATION MINISTRIES