



THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

January 24, 2016

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Calendar

Sunday, January 24

- Vestry Handbook discussion with Karen Groves, 9:30 a.m., Blue Room.
- Annual Meeting, one service 10 am
- Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Monday, January 25

- Monday morning Yoga at 9 am.

Tuesday, January 26

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

Thursday, January 28

- Eucharist & Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 30

- Family Service, 4 pm

Sunday, January 31

- 8 am, 10:15 am Eucharist
- Bible study, 9:15
- Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Annual Meeting

This is your church and the Annual meeting is your opportunity to elect your Bishop's Committee leaders, Diocesan Delegates to Convention and parish assessors. As is our custom, we will have one service on that day at 10 am with the meeting taking place at what is normally sermon time. Please read your Annual Report that was sent out via email. We will also have some hard copies made available. This is your church, please attend! [Miriam](#)

Lent Is Almost Here!

Lent is less than a month away! It begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. I will be available to give ashes from 9-11 am for those who cannot attend the later service. We will have two services—4:30 Children's service and 7:30 full Ash Wednesday liturgy. Later in Lent on Sunday, March 6, we will have a Taize Service at 10:15. Taize is a form of service that originated in France that includes

meditative singing and silence. More about the history of Taize to come as we get closer to the date. *Miriam*

Family Promise

Hello to all, the week of March 6th is our host week. It will not be at St. Christopher's; it will be at Calvary Bible in Derry. Our church is making the decision whether we can continue hosting at our church. Hopefully on Sunday the decision will be made. We are however going to continue volunteering in other churches if we do not host ourselves. So I am looking for volunteers for the week of March 6th. If you can help out please email me and I also need to know who is still willing to volunteer elsewhere. Please let me know if I can give other coordinators your email address so you will be on their list of volunteers. We need the usual: overnights and meals. Thank you for your great support and I hope next week we will be able to tell you that the program will continue at our church. Peggy Baker

Area clergy participating in the MLK Observance on January 18.



(l-r) Rabbi Peter Levy, Etz Hayim Synagogue,

Derry, Ed Koonz, Hampstead Congregational Church, David E. Yasenka, President,. Isaiah 58, Rev. Ken Swenson, Miriam, Rev, Canon Mark A. Pearson, and Rev Robert Macfarlane, Interim Minister, Atkinson Congregational Church. Thank you to all of you who brought delicious refreshments, who sang solos, to the choir and Nick Pothier for his leadership. *Miriam*

Worth Repeating, ...Help Plan This Year's Ten Talents Challenge

The Fundraising Committee has begun planning this year's Ten Talents Challenge. Our meeting last Sunday resulted in lots of new ideas to make this another great event for St. Christopher's!



We will have detailed information for the parish shortly, but for now please **save the date of Saturday, May 21** for an event day. It will be a little different than last year, and your participation will make it fantastic! We still can use some additional help on the planning committee, so if you are interested, contact Karen Groves or Kathy Trombly. Our **next planning meeting is Sunday February 14 between services.** *Karen Groves and Kathy Trombly*

Pastoral Card Group

Would you like to be involved in an outreach activity that wouldn't involve much time? The pastoral card group sends greeting cards to parishioners for weddings, births, baptisms, illnesses and deaths. We also send cards to five parishioners who are elderly/infirm and are unable to attend church. For these parishioners, we send a card once a month to let them know they are still in our thoughts and prayers. If this sounds like the right outreach activity for you, please call me at 329-5928, or send an e-mail to me at sh944s at comcast.net by Sunday, 1/24. [Heike Martineau](#)

The 2015 Annual Report

You should have received via email the annual report for 2015. Thank you for reading all the reports prepared by your fellow parishioners. If you did not receive the email, please let me know. Also, a few paper copies of the report will be available this Sunday for those of you who do not have email. [Wayne Trombly](#), Senior Warden.



SNOW STORM, BLIZZARD, VERY INCLEMENT WEATHER AND/OR POWER OUTAGE Of course, days like these are a struggle, and, yes, some of them even occur on the Lord's Day, Sunday. So what happens then? Please call the office and see if I have left a message regarding worship that day; check Channel 9 for church closings; check the website for an announcement. If you can't get to any of these, then call me directly at 603-489-3731.

Prayers of the People

Please pray for Terry and Joan Stevens' daughter-in-law, **Theresa**, who has Stage 4 breast cancer; **Quinton Collins** Robin Flynn's father, diagnosed with cancer; **Bill Steinhoff** going through radiation and chemo; **Liz Naters-Gamarra**, Miriam's daughter; for **Georgia** on her birthday; **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 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: Martha Poloian; Lori, Dean and Jenna Parrillo; Kim and Chelsea Peters, Julia Nye and Michaela Bilodeau; Melissa, Jerry, Colissa, Christopher, and Chelsea Paquette

Attendance

1/12, Tuesday, 6, WBS
1/14, Thursday, 9
1/16, Saturday, 4
1/17, Sunday, 8:00am, 27; 10:15am, 50

Calling on Saint Medard

Saint Medard, sixth-century bishop, preacher, and missionary, whose feast is observed on June 8, is the patron saint for protection from bad storms. As a child, so the legend goes, he was once sheltered from the rain by an eagle hovering over him. Let us call upon the intercession of Saint Medard to keep safe and protect all those who are in particular need of shelter and heat during winter storm Jonas.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



JANUARY 24, 2016 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (C)

#REFUGEESWELCOME: RESILIENCE, HOPE, AND SOCCER

Growing up in Somalia, Sowdo loved nothing more than soccer. She listened to games on the radio and dreamed of being a sports journalist, covering games, talking to players, being immersed in a sport that, for her, was more than just a game.

“I love the way the ball moves, how they communicate without talking to each other. I wish everybody could do the same.”

Despite all the odds, Sowdo’s dream came true. She was on the radio. In fact, she was the only woman on sports radio in Somalia.

But her dream came with a price.

“In Somalia people don’t want women to be journalists,” says Sowdo. “People think we should just sit home, get married, and have a bunch of kids. Not me. I love soccer too much for that.”

A country deeply entrenched in civil war and extremism, Sowdo’s life was threatened. She lived in fear thinking every day was her last.

Then, when two of her colleagues were killed by a car bomb, she knew the threats were real and she had to leave to save her life.

Sowdo received refugee status from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and applied for resettlement. She was accepted by the United States and finally, was on a plane to a city she never dreamed of visiting.

“When I saw Columbus, Ohio from the airplane I thought, this place is going to be my home,” reflected Sowdo.

She was greeted at the airport by staff and volunteers from Columbus Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), a local resettlement partner of Episcopal Migration Ministries. These were her first friends and her first guides through the sometimes overwhelming process of starting over in a new country. They helped her meet new people, find a job and reclaim her sense of security and empowerment.

Reflecting on her experiences, Sowdo says, “Bad things happen but you stay strong, you pass the ball. You just keep going until you get home.”

Welcome home, Sowdo.

Episcopal Migration Ministries is the resettlement service of The Episcopal Church. Each year, Episcopal Migration Ministries, in partnership with 30 local organizations, staff and volunteers, resettles 5,000 refugees from countries across the globe.

You can be involved in this life-saving ministry. Visit episcopalchurch.org/emm for more information.

