



THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

March 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday in **Lent**

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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Calendar

Sunday, March 6

- Taize service, 10 am [one service only]
- Sunday school, 10 a.m.
- Potluck

Monday, March 7

- Monday morning Yoga, 9 am.
- Stewardship Committee, 1pm
- Yoga with Miriam, 6:30

Tuesday, March 8

- Women's Bible Study, 9:30 am
- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.
- NO Yoga with Miriam

Thursday, March 10

- Eucharist & Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 11

- Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12

- Eucharist, 4 pm [everyone invited]

Sunday, March 13

- Eucharist, 8 am
- Sunday school, 10 a.m.
- Family Service, 10:15

Safe Church Trainings Continue

The next Safe Church Training will be on Saturday, March 12 at 9am at Church of Our Saviour, Milford. You can learn more about ongoing training opportunities at the Diocese [website](#). Or, go [HERE](#) to register for the March 12 training.

Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Historically, it is during this service that people were baptized. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day. This is one of the most ancient rites of the church. The service begins outside where an Easter fire is kindled and the Paschal candle is blessed and then lit. This

Paschal candle will be used throughout the season of Easter and throughout the coming year at baptisms and funerals, reminding all that Christ is "light and life." Our Easter Vigil will be held on March 26 at 9 pm. If you plan to attend bring hand bells with you so we can make some joyful noise when the moment arrives when we say, "Alleluia, Christ is risen." Two things: **there will not be a 4 pm service that day and there won't be any incense at this service.** *Miriam*

Group Spiritual Direction

The next round of Group Spiritual Direction sessions will begin the week of April 4. A signup sheet will be put out next Sunday. We hope to provide two day time sessions and one evening session. One of the keys to this discipline of spiritual direction is attentive listening. We listen to one another as we tell our stories and struggles to find God in our present lives. We provide a safe place and maintain strict confidentiality. Everyone in a group is invited to take a turn and share whatever is on their mind. The group does not attempt to "fix or set each other straight." Rather we seek to be companions along the spiritual journey of our lives. "Awareness of God is one of the gifts of spiritual direction." If you have any questions about the practice or process please speak to Wayne Trombly, Ken Swenson, Barbara Hughes or me. *Miriam*

New this Year for Ten Talents Spring Festival - May 21 The Fundraising Committee is committed to making this year's Spring Festival and Yard Sale another big success but we need your help. We want this to be a fun family day, with something for everyone, especially our kids! We are planning some kids games and a Lego Competition for ages 5 and up. The Lego



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.

Competition will be open to all in our community and will require a pre-registration, so if you would like to help with the planning of this please let us know! Don't forget, the Ten Talents Challenge is more than just the Spring Festival and Yard Sale. Last year our collective talents, from massages to yoga and from biscuits to bracelets, earned an enormous amount of income for our church. We hope that you start thinking of how sharing your special God given gifts can help St. Christopher's and all that we do here. Updates will be on our website soon and always here in the Signpost. Karen Groves, Dianne Copeland, Del Dooling, Terri Mc-Dermot, Peggy Baker, Laura Madison, and Kathy Trombly. *The Fundraising Committee*



sacred and wonderful time of fellowship and worship. I hope many of you will plan to attend. Just so we can get a head count I have also put out a signup sheet for you to reserve your spot. *Miriam*

Special Prayers

Please pray for the Davis and Vars families who lost children in a tragic car accident this week. Pray also for the Perreault family whose child was also in the car accident but survived and is recovering from his injuries. *Danielle LeClair*

Prayers of the People

Please pray for **Dawn Hodges** a friend of Terri McDermot; Deb Pothier's granddaughter **Ellie Laura McCabe**; for Terry and Joan Stevens' daughter-in-law **Theresa**, who has Stage 4 breast cancer; **Quinton Collins** Robin Flynn's father, diagnosed with cancer, for **Zach**; **Bill Steinhoff** going through chemo; **Liz Naters-Gamarra**, Miriam's daughter; **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.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday during Lent [except for Good Friday] at 5:30. we will offer Stations of the Cross on Fridays as a reminder of what Jesus has done for us. Every week we move through each station, saying prayers, listening to Scripture, and pausing for silence. The service is reflective, and it aims to pull us from our normal rhythms while encouraging us to focus on God through imagery, word, prayer, and silence. Please join us at any or all of these weekly stations throughout Lent. All are welcome. *Miriam*



Summer Camp at Barbara C. Harris Center

BCH Episcopal Camp is a wonderful summer experience with varied programming for children entering 4th grade through 12th grade. Do you have children in the church who might like to go? How about providing summer camp for children in your community? Camperships are available (typically shared as 1/3 from BCH, 1/3 from the church, 1/3 from the family) for New Hampshire children. Space is limited this year - so register soon! BCH is located in Greenfield, NH and attracts a diverse group of children from all over New England and beyond. For information and registration, visit: www.bchcenter.org/camp.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday

As is our custom, we will have a dinner of soup and bread before our Maundy Thursday service on March 24. I have put out a sign-up sheet on the round table in the vestibule for soup and bread offerings. The dinner will begin at 6:30, followed immediately by the Eucharist at 7:30. This is a very

Serving in the Military: Please pray for Del's cousins, **Daniel**, **Matthew** and **Sandra**, for **Paul**.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Marilyn and Phil Towne; John Svitak and Madeleine Dionne-Svitak; Carolyn Timbie and Dusty Clampitt; The Rev. Ken and Edie Swenson

Attendance

Tuesday, 2/23, WBS, 3

Thursday, 2/25, 8

Saturday, 2/27, 7

Sunday, 2/28, 8:00 am, 27; 10:15 am, 43

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

March 20: Palm Sunday, 8 and 10:15

March 24: Maundy Thursday [see notice above]

March 25: Good Friday, 4:30 children, 7:30 liturgy

March 26: **No 4 pm Eucharist**; Easter Vigil, 9 pm

March 27: Easter, 8 and 10:15

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



MARCH 6, 2016 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (C)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation...2 Corinthians 5:16-19

Our readings for today include a passage from 2 Corinthians 5 reminding us that we are all a “new creation” in Christ. Regardless of our gender or any other means of self or group identification, we are all one and the same in the eyes of Jesus. It encourages us to not regard each other from “a human point of view,” since we would not regard Christ this way. Yet, in our daily, earthly reality, God calls us to love and care for one another from a “human point of view.”

A few years ago, business executive Sheryl WuDunn wrote the book *Half the Sky* with her husband, New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof. The title comes from the Chinese proverb that “women hold up half the sky.” The main premise is that we cannot advance as a society, neither at a micro nor a global scale, until women and girls are empowered to live fully into this “human point of view.”

This Tuesday March 8 is International Women’s Day, offering us an opportunity to pray for and reflect upon how “half the sky” is doing. Do the women and girls in our lives have sufficient food, water, shelter and safety? Can they care for themselves, their families and their communities, by finding decent work at a fair wage and accessing essential services like medical care, education, child care and transportation? Are their voices heard, are they able to make decisions, be chosen as leaders and be represented by their leaders? Do they enjoy equal opportunities? How about women and girls worldwide, our neighbors on planet Earth, our island home? Such questions highlight whether women and girls in our communities are empowered. They are at the heart of the UN’s new Sustainable Development Goals (www.globalgoals.org), with targets for measuring their progress.



Some of the UNCSW Episcopal delegates gather outside the United Nations, 2015

Empowerment of women, and how that links to a community’s sustainable development, is the theme for this year’s UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016>). From March 14th - 24th, over 80 Anglicans and Episcopalians will gather in New York and at the Episcopal Church Center to participate in events and talk about women’s realities in their communities. Many will share their experiences and stories through blogs and social media. They will bear witness, too, to the benefits of spiritual empowerment and to our unity as sisters in Christ. One important instrument of this unity is the International Anglican Women’s Network (iawn.anglicancommunion.org).

This coming Tuesday, March 8, International Women’s Day, let us give thanks for our women and girls, and ask ourselves what we might do to improve the ways in which they live and move and have their being. Let us show them the same care as does our Lord Jesus Christ.