



# The Signpost Weekly

July 24, 2016

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Miriam Acevedo, D.Min, M.Div.**

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

## Calendar

### Sunday, July 24

- Eucharist, Rev David Plank 9 am

### Tuesday, July 26

- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.

### Sunday, July 31

- Eucharist, Rev David Plank 9 am

**St. Christopher's Episcopal Church**

**187 East Rd., Hampstead, NH 03841**

**Tel. (603) 329-4674**

News or Info: [signpostweekly@comcast.net](mailto:signpostweekly@comcast.net)

During the meeting, Hannah told us that technically our rector is the Bishop since we are a Mission, not a Parish, but that the Calling of a new priest will be conducted as if we are a parish.



*Hannah began the discussion of how we will remember, grieve, say good-bye and reconcile ourselves to Miriam's departure given her loving and caring mothering of us all.*

How we conduct ourselves and come together to prepare and work towards filling in the gaps left by Miriam's absence will be important as interested priests will look and judge how much of a community we really are by how many different people are involved in the church's

stability.

Upon Miriam's departure on Sunday, January 8, 2017, we will be joined by an Interim Priest, who will serve the parish during the interim period, probably for an approximate period of 12-18 months, maybe a little more. Hannah is reviewing possible interim candidates for the position. She said one of the roles of the interim priest is to get a sense of the parish culture and to see how to deepen the people's faith.

Our work as a congregation begins with a review of where we are and where we want to go, including our finances. Then a Calling Committee will be formed, it's members to be appointed by the Bishop's Committee. A short form will be available for members of the parish to indicate their interest in serving on the Calling Committee. The Calling Committee will begin by putting together a profile of the parish, and developing a narrative of the skills and abilities we would like to see in our new priest.

The parish profile will be totally electronic to



**Joining us this Sunday as "Supply Priest" is Rev. David Plank.**

We look forward to his return for July 24 and 31, and August 7 and 14.

He brings with him his wonderful sense of humor, and his knack for engaging us in his sermon.

**Last Sunday, Canon to the Ordinary, The Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson** from the diocese celebrated the Eucharist and met with us to talk about the transition period after Miriam's retirement. The "Canon to the Ordinary" is an assistant to the bishop. Hannah served in four other dioceses before coming to New Hampshire at the request of Bishop Hirschfeld in January of 2013. She has a doctorate degree in Congregational Ministries, is an artist, a "Life Coach", was a Canon for Congregational Development, and here in New Hampshire, has led vestry retreats, a Servant Leader training, oversees those in the ordination process and parishes having a transition in clergy – and much more. Within the story of Martha working very hard to please and add comfort to Jesus' stay with her and her sister, and Mary's way of stopping work to listen to Jesus, Hannah brought us to our own lives, here, at St. Christopher's.

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*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.*

be viewed on our website, the diocesan website and two other professional sites. Interested candidates will take note of our location including what diocese, providence (we are in Province I of New England) as well as the town. Initial interviews are held via Skype. Then members of the Calling Committee will make an incognito visit the top 5 or 6 finalist candidates at their own current location at a Sunday service. The Calling Committee will also meet often in order to present the final three candidates to the Bishop's Committee, who will then ask the candidates to visit us. Their work will conclude by selecting the final candidate to recommend to the Bishop, who will offer the Call to the selected person.

Hannah reiterated the importance of everyone pulling together, stepping up, getting involved. She also reminded us of the importance for good communication through the Signpost, website, phones and announcements. Both the BC and Calling Committee will update the parish regularly, possibly weekly.

Questions clarified that St. Christopher's will pay for any traveling necessary by the Calling Committee, that Hannah and the Bishop will rule out any questionable candidates by reviewing their Curriculum Vitae and by background checks, and by interviews with their current bosses.

When Hannah returns in September, she and Miriam will give a more detailed description of what to expect in the upcoming period of time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Groves, Clerk of BC

### Tending the Vine, It's all about relationship.

That's what the Bishop's Blog is all about on the Diocesan website. "The reason the vine seems to be such a compelling image is that it provides us with so many ways of thinking about God and how God wants to be involved in our lives. We are more than molecular or cellular accidents that live lives of separateness and isolation from God and disconnected from each other. As parts of the vine we are, to borrow the image of the 12 century mystic and abbess St. Hildegard von Bingen, ever-greening, and growing to the extent that we see ourselves



abiding, hanging in there, remaining in the almost vascular presence of God.

*We who listen deeply to friends who are "spiritual but not religious" have heard that, regardless of our different attitudes to organized religion, we share an awareness of the essential life-giving importance of community and connection.*

Human beings are supplied with not only the capacity but the intrinsic need for relationships that are holy, healthy, and creative. To see oneself as part of the vine could perhaps be more attractive than being part of a church or a denomination within the church because it is more organic than institutional, more about freedom and health than it is about bricks and mortar and politics. *A. Robert Hirschfeld a husband, father, painter, writer/poet, sculler and the Tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire.*

<http://www.tendingthevine.org/welcome/>

### Prayers of the People

For **David Darrah**, who had surgery last week; Please pray for **Dawn Hodges** a friend of Terri McDermott; Deb Pothier's granddaughter **Ellie Laura McCabe** as she continues to recover from heart surgery; for Cheryl Poussard for her loss; for Terry and Joan Stevens' daughter-in-law **Theresa**, who has Stage 4 breast cancer; for **Zach; Bill Steinhoff** going through cancer treatment; **Liz Naters-Gamarra and Carmen**, Miriam's daughter and mother; **Ann Donovan; Kate; Joan and Ron Ruggiero, and Josephine Herbert; Brayden; Matty; Ian;** for Christine's friend **Christine**; for **Cheryl**; for **Ryan**; for **Jacqueline**; for Natalie's brother **Lorin** and for **George Gallo, Jr.;** 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:** and Deborah Pothier; Nicholas Pothier; Cheryl Poussard; Kyle, Glen, Jack, and Jeff Potvin.

### Attendance

Sunday, 7/17, 9:00 am, 48

### Summer Wish List Ecumenical Food Pantry

*Juice, Spaghetti Sauce, Microwave Popcorn, Jelly/Fluff, Pudding, Tissues, Paper Towels, Body Wash, Bar Soap, Deodorant (M & F), Shampoo, Razors*

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



JULY 24, 2016 – TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (C): ALBERT JOHN LUTHULI

Albert John Luthuli was a South African tribal chief, teacher, activist, and politician who provided inspiration and leadership for more than 10 million black South Africans in the nonviolent campaign for freedom from apartheid.

Chief Luthuli was born in Zimbabwe, the son of a translator and Seventh Day Adventist mission worker, John Bunyan Luthuli and his wife, Mtonya. His grandfather was chief of his small tribe at Groutville in the Umvoti Mission Reserve. As a child he attended a local mission school and later went on to study at the Ohlange Institute, which was founded by Dr John Dube, the first president of the African National Congress (ANC).

In 1927, Chief Luthuli married Nokukhanya Bengbu, granddaughter of the Zulu chief Dhlokolo of the Ngcolosi, with whom he had seven children. He was elected by his people to serve as their chief in 1936. He served in this position until he was removed by the government in 1952. Chief Luthuli was active in the Christian church, serving as a lay preacher and chair of the South African Board of the Congregationalist Church of America.



In 1944, Chief Luthuli joined the African National Congress (ANC), an organization devoted to universal enfranchisement and human rights. After serving in several leadership roles, he was elected ANC president in 1952. It was a position he would hold until his death in 1967. Together with Nelson Mandela and hundreds of other South Africans, Chief Luthuli faced arrest, persecution, and government banning orders for his protests against repressive governmental actions.

Following the 1960 massacre of 69 black demonstrators, Chief Luthuli publicly called on South Africans to observe a national day of mourning. He was detained, given a suspended sentence, and then released but was confined to a small area around his home under the Suppression of Communism Act and banned from receiving visitors, issuing statements, and attending church services.

In 1960, Chief Luthuli became the first African to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Due to the government's restrictions on his movement, Luthuli did not anticipate attending the award ceremony. However, facing mounting pressure nationally and internationally, the South African government permitted Chief Luthuli to travel to Norway to receive his award. Accepting the award, he said:

“May the day come soon, when the people of the world will rouse themselves, and together effectively stamp out any threat to peace in whatever quarter of the world it may be found.”

Chief Albert John Luthuli's feast day in The Episcopal Church is July 21.

*Eternal God, we thank you for the witness of Chief Luthuli, Nobel Laureate for Peace, who was sustained by his Christian faith as he led the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Strengthen us, after his example, to make no peace with oppression and to witness boldly for our Deliverer, Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Sources: Luthuli Museum, Nobel Prize, “Holy Women, Holy Men”, wikipedia