



# THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

June 29, 2014

Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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During July and August, Sunday worship takes place at a single service at 9 a.m.

## Calendar

Sunday, June 29

- Worship Service, 8 and 10:15 a.m.
- NO Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Fundraising Committee, 9 a.m.

Monday, June 30

- Yoga, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, July 1

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

Sunday, July 6

- Worship Service, 9 a.m.

## Music at St. Christopher's

In the survey that was distributed several months ago, some members expressed a desire for "different" and/or "contemporary" music. In addition, members have shared verbally similar desires. In response to these comments, I have called for a task force to be formed that will explore what is meant by "different" and "contemporary" music and how these may fit our parish. However, it is very important to understand that this does not mean that we will stop having traditional church music, only that we will expand to include a greater mix of music. The task force is charged, over the summer, to come up with a simple survey by which members have an opportunity to define what they mean by the terms "different" and "contemporary." The task force is currently at work producing the survey. Please expect it sometime this summer. Your responses are very important for this process.



While it is exciting to explore new possibilities, unfortunately this will mean a change in musician. Anne Darrah has served us beyond anything I could have expected for several years. She has given us the opportunity to explore the traditional music of the Episcopal Church; she has worked with our children and our choir. I could always rely on Anne's steady devotion

to music in the church and her advice and leadership however, contemporary music is not an area she is interested in exploring. Anne will play through September when we will all have a chance to celebrate Anne's ministry among us. I come at this of course with mixed feelings and also a deep appreciation for Anne's work. Please address any questions concerning this to me or while I am away to [Christine Collins](#) and [Karen Groves](#).  
*Miriam*

## Important Fundraising Committee Meeting Today

First of all, I want to commend Bob Salois his strong leadership of the Fundraising Committee. Bob is retiring after 10 years of service. The committee is meeting this Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps. If you have fundraising ideas let us know or attend our meeting. If you can't attend but would like to share your ideas, please speak to [Karen Groves](#), Junior Warden.  
*Miriam*

Rhythms of Grace: St. Christopher's Rhythms of Grace (ROG) service runs throughout the year, including July and August. Originally developed in 2003 for children with Autism spectrum disorders, ROG now serves participants with various learning challenges including sensory, learning, visual and mobility disorders. Bible stories are told with creative activities that develop sensory integration, fine motor and communication skills and many opportunities for movement! The Eucharist is offered at all services. Siblings, friends and caretakers are welcome. Join us on July 12th at 2:00 p.m. or on August 2 at 2:00 p.m. For more information contact [Lori Parrillo](#), [Jean Sanders](#), [Carolyn Weir](#) or view our [Facebook page "Nhrhythmsofgrace"](#)

## 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

*Have you invited a friend to come to church with you? If not, what are you waiting for?  
A personal invitation is the best way, bar none, to grow a congregation and bless a friend's life.*

*Almighty God,  
you have built your  
Church upon the  
foundation of the  
apostles and  
prophets, Jesus  
Christ himself  
being the chief  
cornerstone:*

*Grant us so to be  
joined together in  
unity of spirit by  
their teaching, that  
we may be made a  
holy temple  
acceptable to you;  
through Jesus  
Christ our Lord,  
who lives and  
reigns with you  
and the Holy  
Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

### Spiritual Direction Group

We have been meeting together ever since we attended a Spiritual Direction Workshop presented by the diocese in September. It's been and continues to be a good, enriching journey. We are preparing ourselves to lead Spiritual Direction Groups in the fall. Stay tuned for more details to come. Presently our group consists of [Ken Swenson](#), [Wayne Trombly](#), [Barbara Hughes](#) and Miriam [Miriam](#)

### Happy Summer from the Food Pantry



Hope you are enjoying the fine weather. The food pantry has been busy. At the half year, we find that there are 9% more visits to the pantry compared to this time last year. Fortunately, donations remain steady and we have not had to reduce the quantity of food, toiletries or paper products. Hannaford's continues to be generous every Thursday and now with the "Fresh Rescue" program, we are receiving frozen meat as well as produce, deli and bakery items. We expect to receive fresh neighborhood garden produce this summer as well. We will be starting to register for back to school back packs

beginning the middle of July. They will be distributed August 14th and 21st so that families have them in time for the start of school. There's a wish list devoted to this project. In 2013 we prepared and distributed backpacks filled with grade appropriate school supplies to 46 students and expect to do as many this year. [Fran Rosenau](#)

### Summer Schedule

Summer time is a great opportunity for the 8 am and 10:15 congregations to worship and have fellowship together at the 9 am service that we offer from July 6 through August 31. I hope that you will take advantage of this time to meet those you don't know and to reacquaint yourselves with those you do know. I encourage all to remember that worship does happen here during the summer. God it seems does not take a vacation from us so take the time to praise and worship the Lord together. *Miriam*

### Prayers of the People.

Please pray for Arthur Mueller, his wife Carolyn and their children, Arthur received a difficult diagnosis this week and is now undergoing radiation; thanks to everyone for praying for my husband, Jim McElvanna, he has been able to go back to work; for JoAnne, Madeleine Dionne-Svitak's sister in law; for Anne Darrah's aunt, Sophie Payne, who is in rehab now and recovering from a lengthy illness; prayers for Joan Anderson; for Ryan; for friends of Marcia Devine, Anita and Gene Sibley; for Kelly, the daughter of Tom and Peggy Baker; for Corinne Dodge's friend, Mariellen; for William Friel; for healing for Maristopher Webber; for Marcia Devine's landlady, Carol Sienkiewicz; for Jeff and Katie Waymouth's daughter, Ginny and family; for Jacqueline Parent, for strength and peace; for Jean Porter's grand-nephew Tyler, for Cheri and her husband Walt, friends of Jennifer and Robert Aiken; for Rosallie Papoutsy; for Geoffery Richardson son of Dave Darrah's co-worker; for Natalie Gallo's brother, Lorin Bielski; for Mark and Ingrid Chapman's son Eric who with God's grace is in safe hands; for Hope; and all who face difficult changes and transitions.

Serving in the Military: Please pray Michael Carr, for Del Dooling's cousins, Daniel Canfield, Matthew and Sandra Maloy, and for Paul Gagne. Our most heartfelt gratitude to Jonathan Mason who just completed his tour of duty.

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Marilyn and Phil Towne; Wayne and Kathy Trombly; Pamela Vazquez; Scott, Jamison and Jackson Webster.

### Attendance:

Tuesday, 6/17, Women's Bible Study, 6  
Thursday night Eucharist and Bible Study, 6/19, 9  
Sunday, 6/22, 8 a.m., 28; 10:15, 35

# St. Christopher's Rector Celebrates 30 Years in Ministry

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - The Rev. Miriam Acevedo, a native New Yorker who came to Hampstead in 2000 as Rector at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, is celebrating her 30th year in the ministry. Her path to St. Christopher's speaks to her many interests as Rector of the church.

"I basically had no desire to become a priest

when I got out of college until one day, on a Good Friday, I visited a little church called St. Peter's in Chelsea, the land of which used to belong to Clement Clark Moore, who wrote 'The Night Before Christmas,'" Acevedo said. "Slowly, as I was exposed to the Episcopal Church, the bible and liturgy, I became interested in learning more. I took courses in bible, church history, the Episcopal Church, etc., but I still

had not considered becoming a priest.

"In the church we often talk about 'call,'" she said. "It's what a person senses when they begin to turn their attention to the church or even other professions. So one day I had an experience; it's hard to describe but it was like a presence of God that lasted a few seconds or so. That nailed it for me - I felt the call and decided to go to seminary."

That took her to the General Theological Seminary in New York. She said it took her extra time to complete her degree because in the midst of her studies, she married and had a daughter. She graduated in May 1983 and was ordained a deacon on June 3, 1983 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan.

Shortly thereafter, she and her family moved to Philadelphia, where she served as an ordained deacon at Christ Church, a parish started in the 1690s. A year later, on June 8, 1984, she was ordained a priest at Christ Church.

She's held a variety of positions since then. "I was in an African-American



The Rev. Miriam Acevedo, Rector of Hampstead's St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, is celebrating 30 years in the ministry.

mission in Philadelphia for seven years before moving to Cambridge, Mass., where I got my Doctor of Ministry degree," she said. "While in Massachusetts I had two interim positions, a rectorship and Protestant Chaplain at Tufts University. Then she moved to New Hampshire to serve at St.

Christopher's.

"I've been here 14 wonderful years serving with a great Christian community," she said.

She has worked tirelessly in the St. Christopher's community to bring the church to parish status and expanded its uses and offerings. Many community or-

ganizations use the church facility, and Acevedo has brought yoga, mothers' classes, blessing of the animals, and Christian educational offerings to the congregation, as well as expanding outreach and community service projects. She has also provided innovative ways to celebrate church holidays.

New Hampshire Episcopal Diocese Bishop Robert Hirschfield said about Acevedo and her 30-year celebration, "The lives that God has transformed through your ministry are too many to count...I have seen the power of your pastoral care, preaching, and spiritual leadership...This diocese is truly blessed by your presence."

Acevedo summed up her journey saying, "What have I learned in 30 years? Well, a lot about the church and about human nature but the thing is I'm still learning, and I suppose I will keep on learning for a long time to come."

