

# The Signpost Weekly



November 9, 2014  
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost  
Miriam Acevedo, D.Min, M.Div., Vicar  
Visit us at <http://www.saintes.org>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
187 East Road, Hampstead 03841  
Tel. (603) 329-4674

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

## Calendar

November 9 – 16

- Family Promise Host Week

**Sunday, November 9**

- Eucharist Service, 8 and 10:15 (followed by Christmas Pageant Meeting)
- Fund Raising Committee, 9 a.m.
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10 a.m.
- Family Promise Guests Arrive, 5:30 p.m.

**Monday, November 10**

- Yoga with Miriam, 9 a.m.
- Bishop's Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 11**

- Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m.; babysitting.
- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.
- No Yoga

**Thursday, November 13**

- No Eucharist and Bible Study

**Sunday, November 16**

- Completion of Stewardship Campaign
- Music Team Meeting after 10:15 service
- Family Promise Guests Depart, 7:30 a.m.

## **Diocesan Convention**

Our 212th Annual Diocesan Convention - Tending the Vine Together was held this weekend, on Friday night and all day Saturday. Saturday's event can be thought of as the annual business meeting of the Diocese where agenda items include things like clergy compensation guidelines, the proposed budget for next year, revisions to canons, position statements on current or proposed laws, and changes in the status of specific congregations in the state. I and our elected Delegates will be attending, and will prepare summary report for us to be published in Signpost. The link to the full agenda of the convention is provided at the beginning of this article. Here also is [a link to Bishop Hirshschfeld's Convention address](#). It is very powerful, and if you can, take the time to read it.  
*Miriam*

**We Are Looking Forward To Our Family Promise Host Week Starting Today.** The beds etc. are being delivered at 7:30 AM, and we will do setup at around 11:30, right after the 10:15 service is finished. We have 4 families: 5 adults, 2 teenagers (one boy one girl), 5, 6 & 7 year old boys, 4, 8 & 11 year old girls. Two of the families are very active with work and after school activities with the kids, so we will hold their meals in fridge. Dinner is usually between 5:30 and 6, probably closer to 6. They have our menu so if a child will not eat what we have they will have a substitute food. Two are diabetics so they watch their diets SOMETIMES. Thanks to everyone for the wonderful support, to the volunteers in particular, and to the parish as a whole. *Peggy Baker*

**A Great Big Thank You!!** Thank you to all parishioners who helped out in any way with our Crafter's Fair last Saturday; the planners, those who set up the hall, provided the food and worked at the luncheon, re-set the church for Sunday worship, attended the fair and came for shopping and fellowship. To our talented, wonderful bakers who provided us with a phenomenal baked goods table. Thank you especially to Christine Mason. Without your support and participation this successful fund raising event would not be possible. Final figures are being tallied. The Fun Raising Committee



**Really?? Yes! It is time to start planning for the Christmas Pageant** that takes place Christmas Eve at the 4:30 Children and Family Service! A quick, but important meeting is being held right after the 10:15 service this Sunday for children to choose roles. If you cannot make it, please let me know. Also, please talk to your kids about what part they might like to play. We start rehearsals next Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for speaking parts. At the first we will hand out scripts and get organized. Non-speaking parts will

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*Have you invited a friend to come to church with you?  
A personal invitation is the best way, bar none, to grow a congregation and bless a friend's life.*

O God,

whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life:

Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

Where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

not have these early rehearsals. Going forward, we will be skipping the weekend of Thanksgiving (Nov 30) and continue throughout Sunday's in December at 9am. If you would like to help out with this fun project, get in touch! Let me know if you have questions. [Danielle LeClair](#), Sunday School Coordinator

### What's so special about the Christmas Pageant?

For many of the kids — and their parents! — the Christmas Pageant is a key event of Christmas, bringing the Christmas story to life by acting, singing and reading the Gospel lessons. For the students, it's the experience of standing on a stage in costume, and playing a role in the story of the Nativity, in front of a big audience. Each has a special

role to play. Each experiences a powerful, first-hand experience as they are drawn in to the story of which they are part. And, Oh Boy, does this bring back memories! I'm sure we all have fond-or not so fond-memories of them. You know the makeshift wings and halos, the beards, the hats, costumes and scarves, and the dolls as Baby Jesus! Our not-yet-Academy-Award-nominated Christmas Pageant is Christmas Eve, starting at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It is one of St. Christopher's most heartwarming services. Don't miss it



**Stewardship is Strength - 2015 Pledge Campaign**  
Stewardship is both an individual response to the presence of Christ in our lives and a shared demonstration of faith in the strength of our parish.

We have received 34 pledges to-date, from 32% of the membership; 2 new donors, 24 increased pledges, 7 the same, and one decrease. To the many who have already pledged, our most heartfelt thanks. If you have not been able to get your pledge in yet, we urge you to make your commitment as soon as possible. We pledge because as Christian people we have a mission to spread the Gospel in our community. We have a mission to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. We pledge to this parish because we seek a place to learn scripture, where we are comforted and challenged to live lives of healthy spiritually centered people. We pledge because St. Christopher's is our church, from which we are sent forward every Sunday in the name of Christ. Please join us in this partnership of caring.  
*The Stewardship Ministry Team*

### Prayers of the People.

**Arthur Mueller, Matty O'Leary; Greta and Jim; Nancy Hollinrake;** for **Linda**, who has been diagnosed with cancer; for **Ryan**; for Corinne Dodge's friend, **Mariellen**; for **William Friel**; for **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 **Rosalie Papoutsy**; for Natalie Gallo's brother, **Lorin Bielski**; for Mark and Ingrid Chapman's son **Eric** who with God's grace is in safe hands.

**Serving in the Military:** Please pray for **Michael Carr**; for Del Dooling's cousins, **Daniel Canfield, Matthew and Sandra Maloy**, and for **Paul Gagne**.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: **Tom Leveille, Marlana LeSage; Renee, Ronny, Zoie, Mollie, Jack, Ronald, and Thomas; Jacquelyn, Emily, Oliver, and Rachel Levy.**

### Attendance

Tuesday, 10/28, 6, Women's Bible Study  
Thursday, 10/30, 11, Evening Eucharist and Bible Study  
Sunday, 11/2, 8:00 am, 34; 10:15 am, 71

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

- ★ Christmas Eve Family Service and Children's Pageant - 4:30 p.m.
- ★ Christmas Eve Late Service -  
Traditional Carol Sing at 9 p.m.  
Eucharist Celebration at 9:30 p.m.
- ★ Christmas Day Worship -  
Sunday, Dec, 25, one service at 9 a.m.

*The Light of God surrounds me. The Love of God enfolds me. The Power of God protects me. The Presence of God watches over me. Wherever I am, God is. James Dillet Freeman*



## 2015 NOTICE OF FINANCIAL INTENT

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
187 East Road, Hampstead, NH 03841

*(Please take a moment to review and update our records as noted below.)*

Name:

Address:

Children's names:

Email Addresses:

Cell Phone:

Home Phone:

Other Address:

Other Phone:

*I/we offer this pledge a symbol of my/our commitment to do God's work through St. Christopher's Church by transforming our money into ministry.*

*We give to provide a safe place to explore and grow our relationship with God, to provide space for worship, to offer pastoral care to those who turn to us for support, education for our children and adults, housing for the homeless, and gathering rooms for outreach programs. These are a few of the ministries that use the money God has given us, to follow His vision for a more perfect world...*

*... a world where we worship, care for each other, learn, and reach out to those less fortunate.*

### **AND SO ...**

In faith and prayer my/our total annual pledge commitment for 2015 is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to be given: ( ) weekly, ( ) monthly, ( ) quarterly, ( ) semiannually, ( ) annually

*I/we want to do our part to keep St. Christopher's Church on a strong financial path.*

I/we would like envelopes \_\_\_\_\_

*I/we realize that in the event of an unforeseen life event and/or financial consideration in this giving year, I/we may increase or decrease our pledge intention by filling out a revised Notice of Financial Support form and giving or mailing it to The Rev. Miriam Acevedo.*

### **ALL PLEDGES ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

*At the completion of the pledge year for tax purposes, January 2016, you will receive an itemized statement of all pledge payments as well as any other gifts during 2015.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring your offering to church, and put it in the offering plate at the back of the worship space. Or mail to: The Rev. Miriam Acevedo, 187 East Road, Hampstead, NH 03841.



***No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves***

In the year immediately following my ordination to the priesthood, I had a recurring dream several times a month. It usually came when I was tired, or overworked, or generally anxious about life in the parish I was serving. In the dream I would be preparing to preside at liturgy; actually the liturgy was beginning. Acolytes and choir were all ready and lined up and I could not get vested. Literally, I could not get my vestments on and it was getting later and later and my anxiety in the dream increased. It was a very frustrating dream to have repeating in a young cleric's life!

I discussed this dream with my spiritual director and eventually with a counselor who was a friend. I came to realize quickly that my fear of not being ready was based on a not-so-hidden feeling of inadequacy that I kept hidden beneath the everyday surface. I was able to overcome this anxiety and eventually the dream by prayerfully recognizing that God and God's church had provided me with everything I needed to be a good priest.

The parable of the Ten Bridesmaids in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew's gospel always represents to me this sinful attitude of scarcity, that somehow God won't provide for us if we are generous. The "wise" bridesmaids respond to the request of the "foolish" ones in the usually sinful trickle-down attitude prevalent in our society today.

Now we recognize that an important theme in Matthew's gospel is this notion of the immediacy of the Messiah's return; so the theme and literal admonition to be ready is clearly the primary focus of this gospel passage. However, in examining the parable from the lens of stewardship, we cannot ignore the lack of charity and generosity portrayed by those the tradition has consistently called "wise."

They may have been wise, but not faithful, at least in my prayerful consideration. In this journey of life, would we not want to encourage an understanding and attitude affirming that God has provided for what we need; that as we await the coming of the bridegroom - who is Jesus, the Christ - that there is in fact enough? Would we not want to encourage a wisdom and generosity that matches the grace and mercy of the bridegroom? Should we not live boldly in the confidence that we will never hear the words, "...Truly, I tell you I do not know you" (Matt 25:13)?

Yes, we know neither the day or the hour; we must, in fact, keep awake. And we must, in fact, live generous and giving lives, in full celebration that God has given us all we need and we won't run out.



*The Rt. Reverend  
Lawrence C. Provenzano  
Bishop  
The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island*

### *Reflection Questions*

- How does the mentality of scarcity shape our lives?
- Do you trust that God will meet your needs?
- How is the practice of generosity an affirmation of faith?

