



# THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

September 20, 2015

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Miriam Acevedo, D.Min, M.Div.

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

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)

## Calendar

### Sunday, Sept 20: First Day of Sunday School

- Sunday School Classes begin and there will be a cookout following the 10:15 service.
- Eucharist Service, 8 a.m. AND 10:15 A.M.
- NO Bible Study due to Outreach meeting.
- Outreach Committee, 9 a.m.

### Monday, September 21:

- Monday morning Yoga at 9 am;
- Stewardship Committee Meeting at 6:30

### Tuesday, September 22

- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study at 10 am
- Yoga with Miriam at 6:30

### Thursday, September 24:

- Thursday Evening Bible Study

We have one more week to go for those who wish to participate in the survey (attached) for the Stewardship Committee. "I urge each adult family member to complete a survey. *The primary goal is to gather insight into the possible causes of declining participation in our pledge campaigns the last two or so years.* The survey is one page, front and back, and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. It is completely anonymous, and responses are being handled by the Stewardship Committee. Results will be shared with you as soon as the responses are tabulated. **The survey is attached to this issue of Signpost**, and is also available on our website and at church in the foyer. Please drop your completed survey in the collection box at church, or mail to the Stewardship Committee.



### Group Spiritual Direction

"Group spiritual direction provides a place where members of a small group can listen carefully to their own soul's needs and to the needs of others. As each person is given an opportunity to talk about whatever they want to share, the group listens

attentively, seeking together to hear the direction of God." Alice Fryling, [Seeking God Together: An Introduction to Group Spiritual Direction.](#) The groups will meet Wednesday evening, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.; Thursday morning, 11 a.m., September 24; and Tuesday afternoon, September 29 at 3 p.m. There is still time to sign up for this amazing experience. *Miriam*

### Stewardship Heads Up

Our annual pledge drive begins on Sunday October 11 with a celebration of gratitude. It runs for six weeks until November 22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Your pledges make it possible for us to continue to serve God in this part of his kingdom. *Miriam*

### The Bishop's Committee

The first Bishop's Committee meeting for the season was last Monday, September 14. We started with a potluck dinner followed by a Bible Study on the story of the rich young man from Matthew 19:16-22. Following the Bible study we discussed nominations for new Bishop Committee members, delegates and assessors. Elections will take place at our Annual Meeting in January 2016. We also discussed stewardship as a year round effort with the annual pledge campaign being just one part of the work of the committee. I also announced that Terry Copeland is now the new chair of the committee. Our meeting ended at 8:30 with the Lord's Prayer. *Miriam*

### What Would Jesus Do about the Refugee Crisis?

In his recent blog posting, Tending the Vine, Bishop Rob asked, What Would Jesus Do about the Refugee Crisis? "It's really not a question of what would Jesus do, as though Jesus is absent now and available to us only as a matter of speculation. It's a question of what the Risen Body of Jesus Christ, the Church, is doing and is capable of doing, right now, among us. As I have heard from several

*Overheard. First impression of the Episcopal Church.:*

*"Questions encouraged. Doubts expected. Is this really Church?"*

congregations now in New Hampshire, I am confident that were we located there, most of our congregations would answer such a call with compassion and hospitality. As the U.S. State Department considers how to bring refugees to communities such as Manchester, Concord and Laconia, we can prepare ourselves to be open as Jesus was, and still is, open to the Syrophenician woman, who may be coming to New Hampshire. "In the meantime, we pray and work for peace in this and all parts of the world terrorized by violence and war." Attached to this issue of Signpost is a lot of useful background information that Bishop Rob gathered. Bishop Rob included many informative links to help us, "...learn more about the causes and the extent of this, the worse refugee crisis since World War II."

### **Letter from a Former Family Promise Guest Mother**

*"Family Promise has given my children and me a second chance in life. Before I came to the program I felt that there was no hope for us. My whole world was falling apart. Bills were piling up and we were going to be homeless. I met Maggie and Nicole on my intake [interview]. I put everything on the table and told them everything that I was going through; they listened and assured me that everything would work out as long as I got in the program and did what was expected of me. This was my chance to get the help I needed in order to be able to get myself out of the hole, get counseling, and learn about financial independence, which has taught me how to become a self-determining mother for my children. "At first, it was the most overwhelming step that I have ever had to take. I never thought that I would be in this situation. But I gave it a shot. I knew deep down inside that this program would do me some good in accomplishing my goal of being independent and being able to handle everyday situations that come along with the help and support from Family Promise. "While in the program I received so much positive feedback from all the churches. The hosts and all the volunteers are truly amazing to us while we try to adjust to being homeless and work on getting ourselves on our feet. I have been blessed by every person who has helped us. I've met so many wonderful people who care, who do not judge because of our situation, which has made it easier for my transition while accomplishing fixing all my debt, getting counseling for my children and me, and getting moral support from the churches, hosts, and*

*volunteers, who put their heart and soul into helping us. I'm very grateful to Family Promise for supporting us while we were down and out. You have truly made me grow as a stronger woman and I want to thank you ALL for being a part of this wonderful program. You are dedicated to changing people's lives, and I am proof of what this program has done. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. God Bless you all..."*

### **Family Promise Host Week Begins Sept 27**

Thank you for those who have already volunteered. We still have a few openings: Meals for Sunday and Thursday, breakfast for Saturday. Overnights: We need 2 for Sunday the 27th, 1 for Monday and 1 for Saturday Oct. 3rd. Click on this [LINK](#) to visit the signup area online. Right now we have 3 families and I will know about preferences next week for food and how much they eat. Meals are served around 5:30 to 6pm. Thank you again. Peggy Baker

### **Prayers of the People**

Please pray for the repose of Natalie Gallo's husband, **George Gallo**. "Deliver your servant, George, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set him free from every bond; that he may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." Please keep Natalie and her sons in your prayers

Please pray for the repose of **Jean Porter**, and pray for her family and friends; **Arthur Kearley** diagnosed with lung cancer; **Diane Kolbe**; **Carmen Acevedo**; **Jess**; **Kate**; **Scott Freeman** who is Fred Black's stepson; **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 **Brenda**; for strength and peace; for Jean'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:** Tom and Peggy Baker; Paul, Jennifer & Helen Barkworth; Fred and Mikki Black; Elizabeth, Ryan and Jameson R. Burke.

### **Attendance**

Tuesday, Sept 8, 4; Thursday, Sept 10, 8  
Sunday, Sept 13, 8 a.m., 32; 10:15 a.m., 72

## [What Would Jesus Do about the Refugee Crisis?](#)

[September 11, 2015](#) / [Rob Hirschfeld](#)

In his [recent blog posting](#), Tending the Vine, Bishop Rob asked, [What Would Jesus Do about the Refugee Crisis?](#) Bishop Rob included many informative links to help us, “to...learn more about the causes and the extent of this, the worse refugee crisis since World War II. One resource is the website for the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), which maintains a web portal for aid groups in the region to share information and coordinate response: [http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/region al.php](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php).” He goes on to provide additional resources. [“Refugees From Syria, a Cultural Orientation Backgrounder.”](#) offers provides more information about the unique experiences, trauma, and needs of the Syrian refugee population :<http://www.culturalorientation.net/learning/backgro unders>. Or, watch The Episcopal Migration Ministries’ video on “Syria’s Refugees: The Episcopal Church’s response:” <https://vimeo.com/114033002>. “To provide meaningful relief to those affected, I encourage our parishes and people to make contributions or learn more about these partners, who are equipped to help:

### **Episcopal Migration Ministries**

Episcopal Migration Ministries is The Episcopal Church’s foremost response to refugee crises. Working in partnership with offices and groups within the church as well as with governments and non-government organizations (NGOs), Episcopal Migration Ministries assures safe passage and provides vital services for thousands of refugee families upon their arrival in America: English language and cultural orientation classes, employment services, school enrollment, and initial assistance with housing and transportation. For each family, the goal is self-reliance and self-determination. Learn more at: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/episcopal-migration-ministries>.

### **Episcopal Relief & Development**

Episcopal Relief & Development is the compassionate response to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world. You can make a gift or learn more at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org>.

### **Welcoming America**

Welcoming America is a national nonprofit that helps communities achieve prosperity by becoming more welcoming toward immigrants and all residents. National Welcoming Week is celebrated September 12-20. To find events in NH and across the US, visit: <http://www.welcomingamerica.org>.

### **Ascentria Care Alliance**

Ascentria is the local community service organization, which works most closely with the resettlement of refugees, serving their needs socially, spiritually and economically. Inspired by their faith-based heritage, Ascentria “envisions a world in which everyone can realize their fullest potential and share with others in need.” More at <http://www.ascentria.org>.

### **The Missionary Society**

The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church pools its members together to advocate for solutions to a variety of pressing issues, including domestic poverty, environmental protection and global justice. More at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/missionary-society>.

## Stewardship Survey

The Stewardship Committee would like your help improving the effectiveness of Stewardship programs and practices here at St. Christopher's, with special emphasis on the annual pledge drive. Your feedback is most helpful and greatly appreciated.

- 1) How long have you been a member of St Christopher's Episcopal Church?
- Less than 2 years
  - 2 – 5 years
  - 6 – 10 years
  - 11 – 15 years
  - More than 15 years
- 2) In your opinion, what does St. Christopher's do well? Please check all that apply.
- Welcomes new members and visitors.
  - Worship services
  - The church encourages my learning and spiritual development.
  - Serves the community well with outreach activities.
  - Communicates well with parishioners regarding activities, updates and reports.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) In your opinion where does St. Christopher's need to improve?
- Facilities
  - Programs for youth
  - Services for seniors
  - Services for handicapped
  - Outreach
  - Worship services
  - Communications (leadership, support, updates, etc.)
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) From September through June, how often do you attend church services?
- Weekly
  - Twice a month
  - Less often than twice a month
- 5) If less than twice a month what can St. Christopher's offer to increase your attendance?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) What Ministries do you participate in? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- STEWARDSHIP AND PLEDGING**
- St. Christopher's yearly budget is driven by the generosity of our parishioners through annual pledges. These pledges cover our ministries as well as the operating costs and expenses of our building and staff. It is our desire to get a better understanding of our parishioners' views, practices and preferences on pledging with the following questions:
- 7) To fund the operating needs of the parish for the next year, St. Christopher's conducts a pledge drive in the fall. How do you view your pledge
- I'm not familiar with how pledge drives or pledging works.
- 8) Making and paying a pledge is a voluntary gift to God, through His church.
- 9) Making and paying a pledge is a voluntary donation to support the church and its ministries.
- 10) Making and paying a pledge is an obligation I have to pay, like my electric bill, to support the church and its ministries.
- 11) Other : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Did you complete a pledge card for 2015?
- Yes
  - No
- 9) Is 2015 the first year you pledged to St. Christopher's?
- Yes
  - No
- 10) Did you complete a pledge card for 2014?
- Yes
  - No
  - Not a member at that time
- 11) Have you pledged in years prior to 2014, if so what years?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) If you pledged in previous years, but not in 2015, please share your reason?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

13) If you have never made a financial pledge, please share with us your thoughts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14) What can St. Christopher's do to make it easier and more comfortable for you to make a pledge? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15) Do you feel your financial contributions have been properly thanked and recognized?  
 Yes  
 No  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16) Have you considered including St. Christopher's in your estate plan?  
 Yes  
 No  
 I have included St. Christopher's in my estate plan.  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF:**

17) What is your gender?  
 Female  
 Male

18) Please select your age group:  
 20 – 45  
 46 – 65  
 66+

19) Are you employed?  
 Yes  
 No  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

20) Are you retired on a fixed income?  
 Yes  
 No  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

21) Are you on either disability or fixed income?  
 Yes  
 No  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

22) Please check any of the following that apply:

- Single
- Married
- Separated/Divorced
- Widowed
- Children \_ yes \_ no  
How many? \_\_\_\_

23) How many children in your family are in  
Sunday School? \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Groups? \_\_\_\_\_

24) Do you have any thoughts on how St. Christopher might increase youth involvement?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FINALLY**

25) Is there anything else you would like to share?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

st chris finalsurvey 9-7 lyn.doc

Thank You!

Please drop completed survey in collection box at church, or send completed form to:  
The Stewardship Committee, St. Christopher's Church, 187 East Road, Hampstead, NH 03841

*Please use this space to clarify any of your answers,  
to add additional information, ask questions,  
or make suggestions/observations.*

# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B)

## RALLY SUNDAY

### ral·ly 1

(rāl'ē)

1. To call together for a common purpose; assemble

### ral·lies

1. A gathering, especially one intended to inspire enthusiasm for a cause

Rally Sunday is a long held tradition across the church as school year programs gear up and kick off each fall. For those new to our faith communities it may be a confusing term, and for those who maintain year-round calendars of formation opportunities it may not apply. As referenced above we do assemble as a church for a common purpose; and Rally Sunday is intended to inspire enthusiasm for the cause of discipleship through worship, fellowship, learning and service.

The Missioners in the Lifelong Formation, Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries offices of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society would love to break it down for you and offer links to resources that might inspire your programs throughout the liturgical year. We encourage you to reflect on your invitations of outreach and inreach and to be inclusive as you discern, affirm, equip, and encourage leaders for mentoring and lifelong learning. Below are links to resources to inspire your creativity as you draw upon the vast network of those committed to Lifelong Faith Formation and gather together to invite, inspire, and transform one another.

**The Five Marks of Mission** – How we engage our Baptismal Covenant putting faith in action: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/five-marks-mission>

**Lesson Plans that Work**– Free downloadable lectionary lesson plans for children & adults: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/>

**The Charter for Lifelong Formation** – How we grow in the knowledge, love and service of God: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/formation-charter-2/>

**The Children's Charter** – How we love, shelter, defend and protect children: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/childrens-charter/>

**Youth Ministry Network** – Connecting youth ministers with ideas, collegiality, and resources: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/youthministry/>

**Forma** - association of Christian educators, formation professionals, and their institutional partners: <http://episcoforma.org/>

**Build Faith** – Christian Formation inspiration from Virginia Theological Seminary: <http://www.buildfaith.org/>

**D365.org** – Daily devotions for youth and those who journey with them: <http://d365.org/>

**Living Compass** – Connecting faith and wellness in a whole new way: <http://www.livingcompass.org/congregations-intro.html>

**ChurchNext** – Online Christian learning from expert teachers and practitioners: <https://churchnextblog.wordpress.com/>

**Vibrant Faith** – Innovative ministry leadership and resources: <http://vibrantfaith.org/about/>



Your Missioners in the Lifelong Formation office are eager to learn about your ministry and support your efforts at the congregational, diocesan, and regional level. Contact us!

The Rev. Shannon Kelly [skelly@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:skelly@episcopalchurch.org)

Young Adult and Campus Ministries, Lesson Plans that Work, General Convention Children's Program

Bronwyn Clark Skov [bskov@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:bskov@episcopalchurch.org)

Youth Ministries, Episcopal Youth Event, General Convention Official Youth Presence