



# THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

September 13, 2015

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Miriam Acevedo, D.Min, M.Div.

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

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## Calendar

### Sunday, September 13

- Eucharist Service, 8 a.m. AND 10:15 A.M.
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School Registration Day
- **Blessing of Backpacks!**
- A fun activity is planned for all the children beginning at 10:15..
- Outreach Committee, 11:30 a.m.

### Monday, September 14:

- Monday morning Yoga resumes at 9 am;
- Bishop Committee Meeting begins with a potluck at 6, meeting at 7.

### Tuesday, September 15

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

### Thursday, September 17:

- Thursday Evening Bible Study

### 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.
- Bible Study, 9. a.m.
- Fund Raising Committee, 9 a.m.

**The blessing of backpacks is TODAY during the 10:15 service.** Let us bless the backpacks carried by the children and youth gathered. We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by God's blessing.



Dear Members,

I am very sad to say that our wonderful Jean Porter passed away Friday morning surrounded by her four children. May the Lord bless her and keep her. May Jesus Christ raise her and welcome her home.

Miriam

*Dear God,*

*as we remember the events of September 11th, 2001,*

*We pray that you have taken under Your Merciful wings those who innocently perished on that tragic day.*

*Show Your comfort upon the families of the victims. Replace the pain in their hearts with the knowledge that their loved ones are in an abode of peace.*

*Bless the children of the victims with bountiful lives, with direction and remembrance, with discipline and virtue. Bless them with all that is good, and protect them from all that is evil.*

*Dear God, it is in You that we place our ultimate trust; it is to you that we ask for guidance. Dear God, please bless America. Amen.*

### My dear friends in Christ,

Every now and then, we ask our members to take a survey. These surveys allow the leadership to hear your voice about a given topic that is important for our life together as the community of St. Christopher's. The input we gather is very valuable to us as we discern God's next steps for our parish.

**Starting today, and over the course of the next two weeks,** I am asking each adult family member to complete a survey for the

Stewardship Com-mitte. *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](#). There is still time to sign up for this amazing experience. *Miriam*

## The Bishop’s Committee

Your Bishop’s Committee will meet tomorrow beginning at 6 pm with a potluck dinner to welcome everyone back from the summer break. The meeting will start at our usual time of 7 pm beginning with a Bible Study on the story of the Young Rich Man. Also to be discussed is the preliminary 2016 budget and Nominations for the election of new BC members and delegates to Convention. *Miriam*

## Thursday Evening Bible Study

We begin our year with the study of the book, [The Bible and the Land](#) by Gary M. Burge. “This book reopens the ancient stories of the Bible and urges us to look at them through new lenses. Beautiful color pictures, maps and artwork enhance Burge’s presentation as he explores the biblical landscape—geography, water, rock, bread, etc. and applies this to both the Bible and a spirituality we might recover from antiquity.” The book is available through Amazon. *Miriam*

## Family Promise Host Week Begins Sept 27

It is time for us to host our families beginning Sunday, Sept. 29. We have graduated 3 families, Chris, Jamie and Cindy. There is also a chance that Loretta will be graduating some time in September. The program is working well and it is wonderful to see our families become independent. As we get closer, I will let you know the number of guests we will have. The signup sheet for volunteers is now posted online. Click on this [LINK](#) to visit the signup area online. Thank you for your continued help. Peggy Baker

## It’s Never too Early to Start Talking about "ChIPs"

Christmas Gifts for Children of Incarcerated Parents ([ChIPs](#)) is one of the most important outreach

programs of the [Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire](#) because it touches the lives of the people society would prefer to forget: incarcerated parents and their children. This is the thirty-eighth year that parishes in the Diocese of NH have supplied gifts and new books for the children of incarcerated parents. We will be participating again this year. Look for all the details in Signpost. If you have any questions or would like to help further, please see, call (382-8423) or [e-mail](#) Barbara Hughes. Thanks for being Christ's hands and feet in the world. *Barbara Hughes*

## Prayers of the People

Please pray for the repose of **Jean Porter** and 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**; **George Gallo**; **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:** Muriel Andernacht; David, Kim, Brianna, David, and Julia Marie Angelini; Theresa and Justine Altsher; Jeremy, Candace and McKenna Jane Allen.

## Attendance

Sunday, 9/6, 9 a.m.,  
55



# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B)

## WELCOMING WEEK

*"Refugees and migrants become strong members of local communities, and a blessing to their neighbors."* Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori in her 2015 World Refugee Day message

The week of September 12-20, 2015 is National Welcoming Week, a nationwide annual event highlighting the contributions of immigrants and refugees to American communities. The United States draws strength and vitality from its tradition of welcoming new Americans.

Did you know...

- Refugees and immigrants were responsible for 28% of all business start-ups in 2012.<sup>1</sup>
- 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by refugees and immigrants or their children.<sup>1</sup>
- Over half of all tech start-ups in Silicon Valley have refugee or immigrant founders.<sup>1</sup>
- Immigrants were involved in the founding of many prominent American companies, including Google, Yahoo, and eBay.
- Refugees and immigrants contribute as much as \$10 billion to the U.S. economy each year.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Partnership for a New American Economy

<sup>2</sup>United States National Research Council

During National Welcoming Week join Episcopalians from across the church in appreciation of the gifts of our new American friends and neighbors and in working to ensure that all of our communities are welcoming communities.

Find a National Welcoming Week event in your area: <http://bit.ly/NationalWelcomingWeek>.

### Join us!

Every year the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, in partnership with local resettlement organizations, Episcopal faith communities and volunteers, welcomes more than 5,000 refugees from war-torn locations across the globe.

The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society has resettlement partners in 30 locations across the United States. We provide refugees with the items and the services they need during their transition to their new lives in the United States, including housing, food, furnishings. We also work with new Americans make sure they are oriented to their new communities and can access services like English classes, job training, school, health care and other services available in the community.

Individuals, families and congregations of all sizes can join and support this life-saving ministry.



Go here to see if one of our resettlement partners is located near you: <http://bit.ly/EMMpartners>. If there is no agency in your area, contact Allison Duvall to connect with a local opportunity for engaging and supporting new Americans.

### More information:

Allison Duvall, Manager for Church Relations and Engagement for Episcopal Migration Ministries, 212-716-6027, [aduvall@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:aduvall@episcopalchurch.org).

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 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? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Making and paying a pledge is a voluntary gift to God, through His church.
  - Making and paying a pledge is a voluntary donation to support the church and its ministries.
  - Making and paying a pledge is an obligation I have to pay, like my electric bill, to support the church and its ministries.
  - 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

### 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:

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 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.

- 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?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**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.*