



THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

September 6, 2015

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Miriam Acevedo, D.Min, M.Div.

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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Calendar

Sunday, September 6

- Eucharist Service, 9 a.m.

Monday, September 7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Tuesday, September 8

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

Thursday, September 10:

- Thursday Evening Bible Study resumes

Sunday, September 13 Sunday School Registration

- 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.

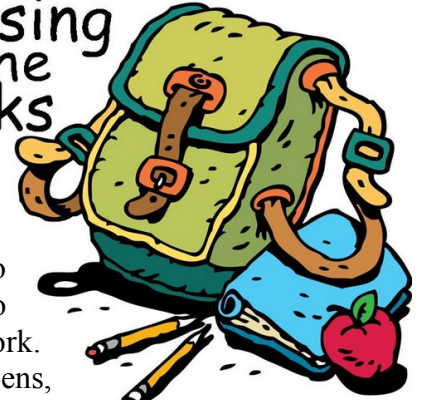
Sunday, Sept 20: First Day of Sunday School

- **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.

Are you willing to share details about your favorite charity to earn some grant money for it? St. C's Outreach Committee will be starting a grant program in the fall. Maybe we can work together. More information coming soon. *Outreach Committee*

The annual blessing of school backpacks will take place NEXT WEEK during the 10:15 service. On this occasion, we shall have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered. These backpacks will

Blessing of the Backpacks



contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, tools to complete homework. Notebooks, pencils, pens, protractors, compasses, crayons, rules, scissors, glue sticks and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks. Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. As our students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day. We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by God's blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

Miriam

Hospice Training

Rockingham VNA and Hospice is offering comprehensive Hospice volunteer training beginning September 18 and continuing every Friday from 9-noon through November 6. There is a special need for volunteers who are veterans! Classes will be held at **Rockingham VNA & Hospice**, 137 Epping Road, Exeter, NH. Please call Martha Carlson, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, 772-2981 ext. 140. *Miriam*

UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS

On Sunday, September 6, the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) celebrates the life and legacy of their notable saint, The Reverend Alexander Crummell. This day is also designated as UBE Sunday to commemorate the racial justice ministry of this organization which was an outgrowth of the Rev. Crummell's

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to teach the Gospel to those who were far off and those who were near.

Raise up in this and every land evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our

Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

advocacy. His faith in God, his perseverance in spite of repeated discouragement, his perception that the Church transcended the racism and limited vision of its rulers, and his unflinching belief in the goodness and greatness of black people are the legacy of this Afro-American pioneer. (See attachment.)

Group Spiritual Direction

“Group spiritual direction provides a place where members of a small group can listen carefully to their own soul 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*

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

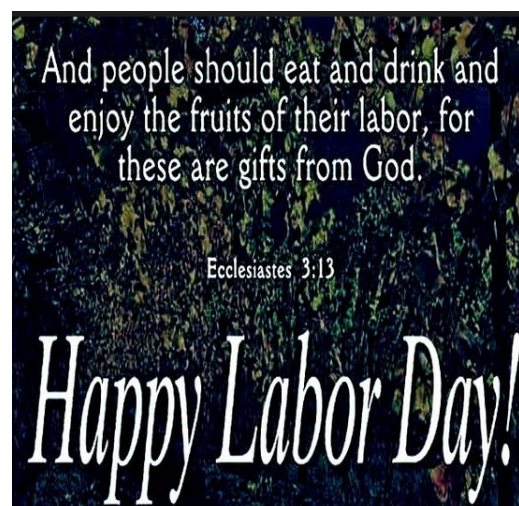
Prayers of the People

Please pray for **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**: Prayers for **Bradley LaMonica** who has just completed Basic Training for 10 weeks for NH Army National Guard. Please pray for Del’s cousins, **Daniel, Matthew and Sandra**, for **Paul**.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Parish cycle of prayer: Patricia Wright; Drs. Erik and Karen Young and Eva and Natalie Young; The Rev. Miriam and Carmen Acevedo and Elizabeth Naters-Gamarra; Keith, Tracy, Julia, Peyton, Kirsten, and Reed Acker.

Attendance

Sunday, 8/30, 9 a.m., 29



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



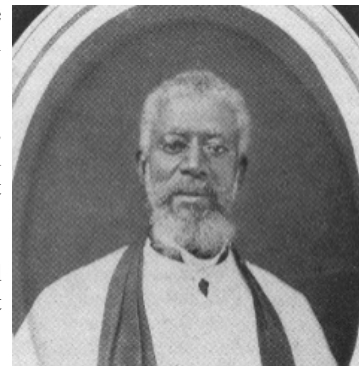
SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 - FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B)

UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS

On Sunday, September 6, the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) celebrates the life and legacy of their notable saint, The Reverend Alexander Crummell. This day is also designated as UBE Sunday to commemorate the racial justice ministry of this organization which was an outgrowth of the Rev. Crummell's advocacy.

Born March 3, 1819 in New York City, Alexander Crummell struggled against racism all his life. As a young man, he was driven out of an academy in New Hampshire, dismissed as a candidate for Holy Orders in New York and rejected for admittance to General Seminary. Ordained in 1844 as a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts, he left for England after being excluded from participating in diocesan convention.

After receiving a degree from Cambridge, he went to Liberia as a missionary. A model Christian republic seemed possible in Liberia. He traveled extensively in the United States urging blacks to immigrate to Liberia and support the work of the Church there. On returning to Liberia, he worked to establish a national Episcopal Church. Political opposition and a lack of funding finally forced him to return to the United States.



He concentrated his efforts on establishing a strong urban presence of independent black congregations that would be centers of worship, education and social service. When southern bishops proposed that a separate missionary district be created for black congregations, Crummell created a national convocation to fight the proposal. The Union of Black Episcopalians is an outgrowth of that organization.

His faith in God, his perseverance in spite of repeated discouragement, his perception that the Church transcended the racism and limited vision of its rulers, and his unfailing belief in the goodness and greatness of black people are the legacy of this Afro-American pioneer.

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to teach the Gospel to those who were far off and those who were near. Raise up in this and every land evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm and Lessons:

Psalms: 19: 7-11 Lessons: Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 2: 7-11, 17-18; James 1:2-5; Mark 4:1-10, 13-20

Prayers of the People:

Presider: Gracious God, you fill us with faith and courage to confront the world's injustice and to carry your abundant love to all the world: Hear us as we pray, saying: We give thanks to God in prayer; fill us with your Spirit.

Litanist: Raise up evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, who will preach the Gospel to those who are far off and to those who are near, and bring the unsearchable riches of Christ to all people.

We give thanks to God in prayer; **fill us with your Spirit.**

Direct the counsel and knowledge of all leaders, Almighty One, that they may confront injustice and racism with words and acts of wisdom and compassion.

We give thanks to God in prayer; **fill us with your Spirit.**

Visit with your healing power all who live in places of thorns and threat, violence and racism, the rocky soil and scorched earth of poverty and injustice: Sow your seeds of love into the soil of good hearts, that the earth may bring forth an abundant harvest of justice and truth.

We give thanks to God in prayer; **fill us with your Spirit.**

Revive our souls, O Gracious One, and fill our communities with perseverance and enduring faith, that with warm, emotional and impulsive energy we may reclaim neighborhoods in kindness and in peace.

We give thanks to God in prayer; **fill us with your Spirit.**

Into your abundant heart, O God, we offer the cares of our hearts as we pray in intercession, especially for ____.

Hear our glad shouts of thanksgiving and praise as we bring to you the gratitude of our souls, especially for ____.

We entrust into your eternal love all who have died, especially ____.

We give thanks to God in prayer; **fill us with your Spirit.**

Presider: Loving and gracious Father, you called your faithful servant Alexander Crummell to bring leadership and hope to your Church through the gifts and spirit of the African race: Fill us with your Spirit, that we may continue the work, building institutions and relationships of justice, truth, and reconciling peace, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

To learn more about UBE or support the ministry of racial justice and reconciliation:

Union of Black Episcopalians
701 Oglethorpe Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

www.ube.org

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