



THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

October 11, 2015

Twentieth 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, October 11

2016 PLEDGE DRIVE KICK-OFF

- Sunday School Classes 10 am
- Eucharist Service, 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Monday, October 12

- Monday morning Yoga at 9 am.
- Bishop's Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13

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

Thursday, October 15

- Thursday Evening Eucharist and Bible Study

Saturday, October 17

- Children's Service, 4 pm

Peggy Baker's Call for Painters

Last summer a few members of the parish cleaned and painted the "Blue Room." Now, we'd like to make our kitchen more bright and welcoming. I have brushes and primer to cover the wallpaper to prepare the walls and trim for a final coat of colored paint. Is there someone or a group of people to take on the kitchen painting project? We still need to decide what color to paint the walls and trim. It would be a very quick and easy project for a couple of people to do and it would make our kitchen more welcoming. Please contact me if you can help and get involved in upgrading our kitchen with a fresh coat of paint. Thank you, **Peggy Baker**.

Stewardship Heads Up

Our annual pledge drive begins today with a celebration of gratitude. It runs for six weeks until November 22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Consider this if you feel you cannot pledge—how about a pledge of \$5 per month (\$60 per year),

My Pledge Offering

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

I give to provide a safe place to explore and grow my 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 me, 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.

I want to do my part to keep St. Christopher's Church on a strong financial path.

\$10 per month (\$120 per year) or \$15 per month (\$180 per year). The point is to get **100% participation** for the work we do in God's name in this part of His kingdom. Miriam

Sunday Schedule for Team Healing

Nov. 1, (end of Daylight Savings Time), 8 a.m. service; Dec. 6 service, 10:15 a.m. service; January 3, 8 a.m. service; February 7, 10:15 a.m. service; March 6, 8 a.m. service

The Agile Church

I was glad to see that all four copies of this book were picked up. There is no charge for the book of course, but if you did pick up a copy could you let me know who you are? *Miriam*

Two Benefits for God-filled Causes

First, there will be a Halloween benefit on October 24 for a nonprofit called S.T.A.R.S that offers support to families who have lost a child to SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.) For more information and to reserve your tickets please contact Tone Crossman's daughter Heather (who lost a child to SIDS). For tickets, contact Heather at 603-312-2398, email starsnewengland@yahoo.com, or mail check or money order made out to the Kaden Lafontaine Memorial Fund to S.T.A.R.S. New England, PO Box 142 Plaistow, NH 03865. They will reserve your tickets at the door or mail them to you per your request. The second is a benefit for Family Promise, Nov. 13. Visit www.familypromisegrc.org for information and for tickets. Miriam

Lord, we pray
that your grace
may always
precede and
follow us,

That we may
continually be
given to good
works;

Through Jesus
Christ our Lord,
who lives and
reigns with you
and the Holy
Spirit, one God,
now and for
ever.

Amen.

New Worship Service for Families

I am adding to our worship schedule a new service for families who cannot make church on Sunday for whatever reasons. The weekly service will be on **Saturdays at 4 pm beginning October 17**. The service will take about 30 minutes. I am looking for families to commit to attending this service as often as they can--I realize that every week might not be possible given the busy schedules of most families. Currently I have several families who are interested. Please note that this service does not take the place of Sunday school on Sundays. If your children are enrolled in Sunday School, it is important for them to attend on Sunday. Miriam

Do you have a special craft project or talent that you would like to share with the Sunday school children? We would love to have something for Advent maybe a calendar project on November 22? Do you have a craft idea for our annual Birthday Party for Jesus on December 20? How about an Easter activity on March 20? Would you like to get involved just one Sunday? Please get in touch. Thank you. [Danielle LeClair](#) Sunday School Coordinator

"We pray for the members of St Christopher's and their ministries both in, and outside, the church" - Now it's time to put our money where our mouth is! The Outreach Committee wants to support the charities our members hold dear, so **we have created a grant program**. If you are involved in a non-St Christopher's charity that benefits children or the hungry, we want to hear from you. Outreach is offering small grants (\$50 - \$500) that members can use toward supporting their outside ministries. Applications will be accepted until October 31st,

monies will be distributed in mid-November, in time for any year end or holiday projects. Forms are in the lobby of the church. Please contact [Michele Christian](#) for more information.

"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. As announced earlier, we are participating again this year. Look for all the details in the flyer in the foye. 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 **Kelsey**, Cameron M's girlfriend. She's in school in England and was hit by a car. She has a concussion and cuts and bruises. Please pray for **Quinton Collins**, Robin Flynn's father, diagnosed with cancer; **Arthur Kearley** who had surgery for lung cancer this week; **Diane Kolbe**; **Dick Groves**; **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: David and Anne Darrah; Maureen, Alton and Ara Dadekian; Bob and Tone Crossman; Dave, Kelly, Amy, Chris, Hannah, and Mary Cosio.

Attendance

Sunday, 10/4, 8 am, 29; 10:15 am, 57

Results of the Recent Stewardship Survey

The Stewardship survey was conducted after each Sunday service for two weeks in September. It was conducted at the same time as Sunday school registration and the first classes. The stewardship committee needed to understand how long people have been members, people's understanding of stewardship, as well as the ministries they support. Finally we want to hear about what people thought the leadership was doing right and what we could do to strengthen participation in services and ministries. We received 61 responses from both congregations. Here is some of the information we identified.

- 67% of respondents have attended St. Christopher's 6 or more years
- 83% of respondents are 46 years old or older
- 51% of respondents are retired or stay-at-home parents.
- 45% are on fixed (retirement) income,
- 71% attend services weekly
- 60% participate in 16 ministries operating within the community and 82% of this group serve on two or more ministries.
- 27 respondents told us they have children at home, a total of 63 children. They also report that 28 children are active in church (18 children are in Sunday school and 10 in Youth groups). NB: We don't know how many of these are too young for Sunday school or older and just not attending.
- 57 respondents understand what pledging is about.
- 81% of respondents pledged in 2015
- People felt the leadership properly recognized their pledging. Some folks felt this wasn't necessary.
- 12 respondents are considering St. Christopher's in their estate planning.

Interesting Comments

- I need more information (about how to pledge).
- Suggest using Online pledging and automatic withdrawal.
- Use Paypal or web banking.
- The church should sponsor a seminar on estate planning and how to include the church in an estate.
- Need a Saturday service
- More church suppers or develop a program of home services and meals for the community.

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone for participating in this survey. The various committees (stewardship, Finance and the Bishops Committee will use this information to develop our ministries and share our ideas with you.

This survey does not include people who are irregular attendees or stopped attending. This may provide some addition insight for planning.

For the Stewardship Committee,
Br. David Gerns, OSB
Terri McDermot

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

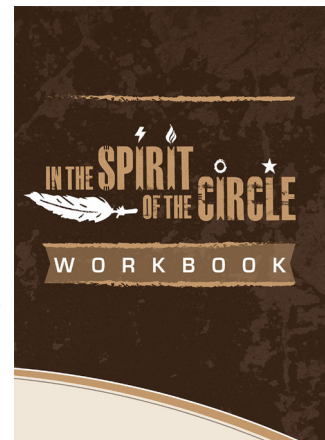


OCTOBER 11, 2015 - TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B)

INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

In honor of Indigenous Peoples Day on October 12 and Native American Month in November, The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's Office of Indigenous Ministries and the Office of Lifelong Formation in partnership with Forward Movement present a new resource "In The Spirit of the Circle." In the Spirit of the Circle is a Christian formation resource created by Native American and Indigenous members of The Episcopal Church intended for people of all cultures seeking a wider vision of the Christian faith.

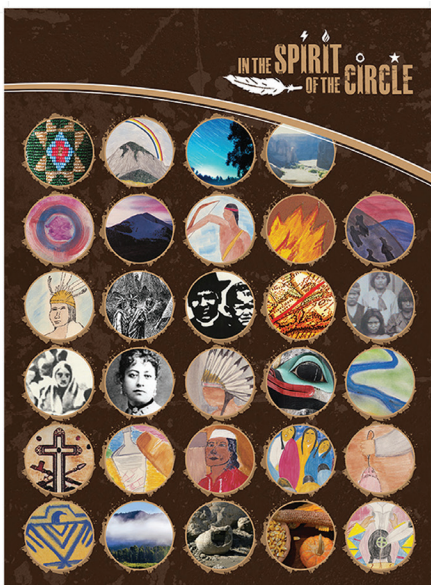
In the Spirit of the Circle speaks with uniquely Native American and Indigenous voices, yet it addresses the hopes, concerns, and commitments of all Christians. This resource represents a Native response to a church-wide need—to provide in-depth, quality Christian formation that is culturally aware and authentic. This resource speaks in the theological tradition of the people, is accessible to Native communities, and inspires a deep, more profound sense of pride among Native American and Indigenous Christians everywhere. At the same time, this resource is available to the entire Church, regardless of tribal or ethnic identity.



In the Spirit of the Circle can be used in a variety of ways:

- As the formation program on Sunday morning
- As part of the Liturgy of the Word in the celebration of Holy Eucharist
- As a focus for discussion in youth groups and confirmation classes
- As program material for retreats and convocations, or any time the community gathers to worship and learn

Different congregations and communities have different needs, so the posters are designed to be flexible (workbooks are also available). The posters can be used as a single lesson, as a smaller set of lessons on a particular topic, arranged by liturgical season, or as a yearlong program of thirty classes.



The posters, with their beautiful art, may also be suitable for framing or hanging in a classroom or gathering space. Our deep hope and earnest prayer is that this resource will inspire all people and congregations to learn more about Native American and Indigenous sacred stories and to continue to create and develop community and connection.

Christian formation is a lifelong journey to Christ, with Christ and in Christ. These resources will help develop deeper relationships with each other and with Jesus. This is a gift to all of God's children, in Jesus' name.

For more information or to obtain the resources, go here:

<http://www.forwardmovement.org/>