



# THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

October 04, 2015

Nineteenth 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 4:

- BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, 11:30 a.m.
- Sunday School Classes 10 am
- Eucharist Service, 8 a.m. AND 10:15 A.M.
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Family Promise Guests leave, 7:30 a.m.

### Monday, October 5

- Monday morning Yoga at 9 am.

### Tuesday, October 6

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

### Thursday, October 8

- Thursday Evening Bible Study

### Sunday, October 11

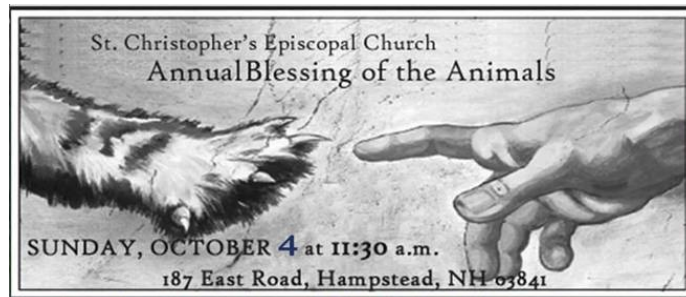
2016 PLEDGE DRIVE KICK-OFF

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

## The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 where there is injury, pardon;  
 where there is doubt, faith;  
 where there is despair, hope;  
 where there is darkness, light;  
 where there is sadness, joy;  
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
 to be consoled as to console;  
 to be understood as to understand;  
 to be loved as to love.  
 For it is in giving that we receive;  
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
 Amen.

**The Annual Blessing of the Animals** will take place on today, the Feast of St. Francis. I will begin to bless the animals at 11:30 and will continue until the last animal is blessed. As I did last year I am asking for contributions for the



shelter, All Better Pets in Manchester. **This is completely optional!** We are looking for contributions of Purina dog and cat food, old towels and blankets. I will deliver the contributions to the shelter later that day.

## **Stewardship Heads Up**

Our annual pledge drive begins 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*

**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

## **A Message from Natalie Gallo**

My family and I thank each and every one of you for your continued prayers of support and caring. George, my beloved husband for fifty-five years is no longer with us. Sadly, George suffered greatly over the past five years. You were there to support us when the sorrow was profound.



*Overheard. First impression of the Episcopal Church.:  
 "Questions encouraged. Doubts expected. Is this really Church?"*

George fulfilled his life's purpose by being a model to our sons, loyal and loving to me, and by being a doting grandfather to our granddaughter, his little love. His life was focused on his family, and his animals. Music brought him much joy, as did watching the birds, chipmunks, and squirrels outside the kitchen window. During the past few years George's activities were limited, but our memories are of a man who gave much to us, his family, so that we'd appreciate music, art, theater, outdoor adventures, and love of God's creatures. His was, indeed, a life fulfilled. Thank you, all, for your condolences, and please know that when his ashes are placed in the Memorial Garden on October 10th, they will mingle with others who knew of God's love and goodness. Blessings,

**Natalie Gallo**

**"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.

### **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

### **"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 that is attached to this issue of 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 **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:** James, Michele, Jordan, and Leanne Christian; Rob, Christine, Cameron, and Hannah Collins; Chris, Ruth-Ann, Abigail, Eva, and Madeline Cooper; Terry and Diane Copeland.

### **Attendance**

Tuesday, 9/22, WBS, 6

Thursday, 9/24, 9

Sunday, 9/27, 8:00am, 27; 10:15am, 60

### **Rockingham Community Action**



#### **Fuel & Electrical**

#### **Assistance Programs**

**NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS**

**Call for Information**

**(603) 965-3029**

**(855) 295-4105**

**Derry Outreach Office**

**9 Crystal Avenue**

**Monday - Friday**

**8:30am to 4:30pm**



## Announcing the 2015 ChIPS Program

Christmas comes to children of incarcerated parents every year with your help: you and sponsors like you who donate gifts and funds to make it happen! Both the families and the incarcerated parents themselves are deeply grateful for the opportunity that the ChIPs program affords them.

The prisons count the number of gifts needed for each age and gender group. Volunteers collect your gift donations, and use your monetary donations to supplement the gifts provided. Once the presents are sorted, they're brought to the prisons, and the inmates get the chance to choose one gift for each child on their list. Usually the inmate is a parent. Sometimes a grandparent. Sometimes even a big brother or sister.

At the Men's Prison in Concord, once the gift is chosen, volunteers wrap it. The prison then throws a party! The family visits, and the inmates are able to give presents to their children. The ChIPs program also includes an age-appropriate book to go with each gift, helping to promote literacy within this sometimes-underprivileged population.

### **There are many ways you can help:**

1. You can purchase a gift directly or contribute \$20. If you decide to make a monetary donation, please make out your check to St. Christopher's with ChIPS written on the memo line of the check. You may place the check in the Offering Plate before Sunday, November 1st or hand it to Barbara Hughes, the ChIPs Coordinator for St. Christopher's.
2. You can help sort the gifts at St. Paul's School.
3. You can help with wrapping of the gifts at the New Hampshire State Prison for Men in Concord. (The date for wrapping has not yet been set.)

Gifts should be placed in the ChIPs container in the Vestibule. There will be a separate box for books

The delegates to the Diocesan Convention will bring your gifts to the Convention on November 7th where they will be transported to Blass Clubhouse at St. Paul's School for sorting. The dates for

sorting are tentatively set for mid-November. (Call 432-7679 after November 1st for more information).

### **Gift Guidelines**

- We group gifts according the following age groups: birth to 1; ages 2 to 4; ages 5 to 7; ages 8-11; and ages 12-15
- Gifts should not exceed \$20 (original retail value).
- One \$20 gift is preferable to four \$5 gifts as it is difficult to group items together to equal a \$20 gift.
- If you don't want to purchase a \$20 gift, any monetary donation will be gladly accepted.
- Books are a separate category and our goal is to provide each child with a gift and a book. (both hard cover and paperback books are appropriate)
- If you purchase a gift that requires batteries, please purchase those as well and attach them to the gift. It's so discouraging to receive a gift with no batteries.
- Consider buying a gift that would be appropriate for both boys and girls such as balls or board games.
- Don't forget the older children. It is often easier to buy gifts for younger children. There is always a shortage of gifts for older children.
- No used items, homemade items, or gift cards can be accepted.
- The following items are NOT acceptable: jewelry, balloons, crayons, play dough, glue, bubbles, make up, long sticks, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or paint brushes, glass items, clothing, sharp tools or toy weapons of any kind.

**For more information, please contact Barbara Hughes, or if you wish to volunteer, please contact Margaret Mackie-Ciancio, at 603 432-7679 or at [maggie.ciancio@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.ciancio@gmail.com).**

Thank you,

Margaret Mackie-Ciancio  
ChIPS coordinator for the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire

# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



OCTOBER 4, 2015 -NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B)

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

On October 4, the Church celebrates the life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan and Clarissine Orders, advocate for the poor, and friend of the animals.

Born in the late 12th century, Francis was the son of a wealthy merchant and his high-born wife. Despite living a life of general comfort and ease, he found himself called toward a life in pursuit of “Lady Poverty”. After a series of humbling interactions with the poor, Francis devoted himself to the care of the sick and poor, giving up his business interests and material possessions (much to his father’s chagrin). It could not have been easy, but Francis’ faith demanded that he trade in his fine clothes for sackcloth and financial security for scarcity. In the words of the prayer attributed to the saint, he found that “it is in giving that we receive.”



Francis founded the Order of Friars Minor, which demanded a strict vow of poverty, in the belief that worldly goods too often proved distractions from a sanctified life. With Clare of Assisi, he would form the Poor Clares, a religious order for women similarly dedicated to service. A Third Order would follow close behind, for those men and women who would live out Franciscan values in the context of everyday life. In Francis’ thought, to fully embrace one’s poverty was to embrace reliance on God alone; to physically suffer was to identify with Christ’s own suffering. According to *Holy Women, Holy Men*, this made Francis, “the most popular and admired [saint], but probably the least imitated.”



We may perhaps remember St. Francis best for his devotion to nature and animals; in several hagiographies, or stories of the saints, Francis is depicted as preaching to and otherwise communicating with fish, birds, and even a wolf. He believed that the Creator, is praised through all His creatures and, indeed, creation itself. It is in this spirit that many Episcopal churches offer blessings of pets and other animals each year on Francis’ feast day. In order to commemorate the love Francis had for all of God’s creation, churches may draw on The Episcopal Network for Animal Welfare’s Rites and Prayers for the Care of Beloved Animals. These resources, authorized at the 2012 General Convention, can be found here: <http://www.franciscan-anglican.com/enaw/resources.htm>.

### Collect for the Feast of St. Francis

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (“Holy Women, Holy Men,” p. 623)