



THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

November 01, 2015

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Calendar

Sunday, November 1 All Saints Sunday

- Sunday School Classes 10 am
- Eucharist Service, 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Outreach Committee meeting, 11:30

Monday, November 2

- Monday morning Yoga at 9 am.

Tuesday, November 3

- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study at 9:30 am
- Yoga with Miriam at 6:30

Thursday, November 5

- Thursday Evening Eucharist and Bible Study

Saturday, November 7

- Family Service, 4 pm

All Saints Sunday – Nov.1

This feast day in the Church's calendar is set aside to remember all those who have gone before us and given us a glimpse of God's love. Bring something tangible that reminds you of a saint in your life — someone who's made an impact on your life.

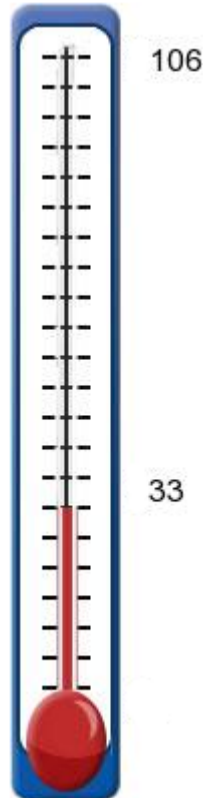
Today we remember...

... the lives of those who have moved into the nearer presence of God: Bjorg Dame, Nancy Hollinrake, Arthur Mueller, Jean Porter and George Gallo.

Stewardship Heads Up

The campaign is about half way through and runs until November 22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This does not mean we won't take your pledges later. Pledges are welcome any time! Our goal is 100 percent participation for the work we do in God's name in

Number of pledges received to-date.



this part of His kingdom. This includes all our ministries—housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, pastoral care and more. If you think you cannot pledge please consider this as an option so you can move us towards that 100% participation. How about a pledge of \$5 per month, \$10 or \$15 per month? The amount of your pledge is not as important as the fact that you are participating. Heartfelt thanks to the 33 parishioners who have already come forward with a pledge. *Miriam*

MSG Toiletry Drive

The MSG is organizing a toiletries drive for the local food pantries as a service project. They made signs to collect toiletries. A box is in the vestibule and signs are hung. We are asking the parish to help us by donating toiletry items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, disposable razors, etc. Your help is crucial to our success. Thanks, *Christine Collins*

Notice

The Women's Bible Study is now meeting at 9:30 am each Tuesday. We are currently reading the epistle 2 Peter. Join us. We always have communion at the end of our one hour session. *Miriam*

2015 Pledges

A number of folks are behind with their 2015 pledge. We need you to make an effort to complete the pledge you made. If for whatever reason you cannot complete the pledge, please let me know [no need to be embarrassed and no questions asked] so we will have a clearer picture of our 2015 income. With much gratitude to you for your pledges. *Miriam*

Thursday Evening Eucharist and Bible Study Advent Series

November 29 is the first Sunday in Advent!! This year for our Advent series we are doing a study of the Old Testament readings of Isaiah and Zechariah

along with pertinent New Testament readings from Mark and Luke. Join us on Thursdays Dec. 3, 10, and 17. *Miriam*

Outreach Grant Applications

The Outreach Committee is meeting today at 11:30 to review all applications received.

Family Promise

Our next week to have the families is the week before Christmas—not the best timing I know. We are going to be in need of all kinds of volunteers. I know that many people like to do something for others during the holidays—it feels good to serve. Why not volunteer and do your part to help these families in need. Believe me God will bless your service. *Miriam*

From M.L., Family Promise Volunteer

"We're all doing so much, so fast, so much of the time-that it gives you the chance to stop and look at what's important. It really brings it home to you. There are so many things we take for granted-things like home cooked meals or a safe place to sleep. By volunteering at IHN, we get to see first hand what a difference these things make in the lives of others, and we learn to appreciate them all over again."

A Way to Pray for Our Church

Why not use the Signpost as a prayer guide? Treat this as more than a list of announcements and more like a call to pray. For example pray for the Thursday evening bible study and all its members, or for the Saturday Family service or for any of the announcements that appears on these pages.

Miriam

Ministries Outside The Church

We would like to add to our website a list of all the ministries that our members engage in outside the church. We won't publish your name and just list the organization. I've put out a signup sheet in the vestibule for you to write down your cause or organization. Thank you, *Miriam*

Gift Cards

As a church, we would like to donate a children's basket for the raffle at the Family Promise Gala on Nov. 13th. We are looking for gift cards to put in the basket. We should have them for Nov. 1st. Thanks, Peggy Baker

Nominations

Nominations for the following various governance positions at St. Christopher's are open: Elections will take place at our Annual Meeting in January, 2016.

- Treasurer: 1 year term
- Bishop's Committee: 3 year term
- Finance Committee: 2 year term
- 2 Delegate positions: 2 year term each
- Alternate Delegate: 2 year term
- 2 Assessor positions: 1 year term each

Please contact us if you have an interest in helping run our church. There are job descriptions available to provide to interested people. Thank you. **Karen Groves, Marcia Devine, Joe O'Leary**

Prayers of the People

Please pray for **Quinton Collins**, Robin Flynn's father, diagnosed with cancer; **Bill Steinhoff** recovering from brain surgery; **April Bergeron** who has gone into premature labor, pray for a healthy baby boy; **Diane Kolbe; Dick Groves; Ann Donovan; Carmen Acevedo; Jess; Kate; 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 **Natalie Gallo;** for Jean Porter'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: Julia Forbes; Natalie Gallo; Mary and Oliver Ford III; Ruby Gaudet.



"I'll raise you, Lazarus...."

Attendance
Thursday, 10/22,
7; Saturday,
10/24, 5
Sunday, 10/25,
8:00am, 24;
10:15am, 43

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



NOVEMBER 1, 2015 - TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B)

ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day, celebrated November 1 or the nearest Sunday afterward, is characterized by the Book of Common Prayer as a Principal Feast, "taking precedence over any other day or observance" (BCP 15).

The holiday is set aside to remember and commend the saints of God, especially those who are not recognized at other points in the church year. According to Holy Women, Holy Men, in the tenth century, it became customary to recognize on a single day "that vast body of the faithful who, though no less members of the company of the redeemed, are unknown in the wider fellowship of the Church" (Holy Women, Holy Men, 664). Over time, the day became associated with special remembrances of an individual's family and friends.

While several churches abandoned the commemoration during the Reformation (1517-1648), the Feast of All Saints was retained on the Anglican liturgical calendar. All Saints' Day began to assume the role of general commemoration of the dead: all Christians, past and present; all saints, known and unknown.

Though celebrations across churches are certainly varied, consistent themes arise. Because of the day's association with the remembrance for the dead, many churches publish a necrology. This reading of the names of the congregation's faithful departed may include prayers on their behalf. Such prayers are appropriate, as the Catechism reminds us, "because we still hold [our departed] in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is" (BCP 862).

The Book of Common Prayer recommends All Saints' Day as one of the four holy days especially appropriate for the administration of Holy Baptism (HWHM, 662). This recommendation strives to make clear themes of newness of life, our membership in the communion of saints.

Finally, the day is often characterized by joyful hymns, including such favorites as "For All the Saints," "Who Are These Like Stars Appearing," and "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God." These hymns share motifs of rest, fellowship, and continued, joyful service to God—salient indeed on this day, as we remember "those of dazzling brightness, those in God's own truth arrayed, clad in robes of purest whiteness, robes whose luster ne'er shall fade"!

Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.



"Detail from "The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs" (circa 1423-24) by Fra Angelico, National Gallery, London. Photo via Wikimedia

Ministry Minute – Terry Copeland

I had the pleasure of giving my “minute” this past Sunday to both services. I felt it was important for everyone to understand my background as it is really defines where I am today and my thoughts about St. Christopher’s.

My first appreciation for the church was when I was confirmed and I know this as I still have the cross and prayer book that I was given at that time. I remember well our ministers from Christ Church in Greenville, DE. Rev. O’Hare was an Ireland native and had a beautiful Irish brogue from the pulpit. Dianne and I were married in 1976 in the oldest Episcopal Church in Cambridge, also named Christ Church and dating back before the Revolution. Rev. Kinney was the minister there and it was a good time. In 1978, I remember struggling with the changes to the prayer book. Like many, I didn’t understand why it needed to be “updated”. Like others, I had pretty well memorized everything and if it was good enough for my parents and me, why change? We moved back to Delaware in ’78. My two sons were born there and Christened in the Chapel at Christ Church where I had grown up. There was a nice sense of continuity. Well that wouldn’t last.

In 1983 we moved to Florence, SC, when our second son was only a few weeks old. There we joined All Saints Episcopal Church and attended regularly. Our daughter was born in 1985 and was Christened there. We moved again in 1985 to Circleville, OH and we joined St. Philips Episcopal Church there. We were in a small town and a small church but with a great minister whom we knew as Father Jim. We became very involved with the church, particularly as many of our friends were also members. I became a member of the Vestry for the first time. Once again, in 1988, we moved to Chadds Ford, PA. (By now, you should begin to see a pattern). This was a much larger community than Circleville and Church of the Advent in Kennett Square, a much larger church. We attended regularly but were not as involved as we had been in OH. To no one’s surprise, we found ourselves in Newtown, CT in 1992. This was a nice small town with a smaller church,

Trinity Episcopal. Once again we became more involved. This lasted until it was found that the married minister was misbehaving with some of the female members as well as one on his staff. He was actually defrocked which led to some disarray. Fortunately, our tenure there didn’t last much longer. And it was off to NC and SC in rapid succession from 1995 to 1998. That year we settled in to Holliston, MA and began looking for another church. We first went to St. Michael’s but were not happy there. Dianne and I are both conservative and trying to find anything conservative in MA is not easy. Ultimately we wound up at Holy Trinity in Marlborough which was much more to our liking. We stayed there for several years until moving once again. Interestingly, shortly after we left, Holy Trinity became one of the parishes that split from the Episcopal Church and became an Anglican affiliate.

In 2004 we found ourselves in the greater Tampa Bay area of FL and attended Grace Episcopal Church in New Tampa. Father Ben, a native of Uganda, was a great fellow and very energetic. His sermons were easy to relate to everyday life and once again we became very involved and I joined the Vestry. This too was a conservative parish with a conservative Bishop, Father John Lipscomb. After the Bishop retired he actually left the Episcopal Church and converted to Catholicism. Our journey continued and we moved to Reno, NV in 2008. Once again we had difficulty and found too much politicizing from the pulpit for our taste at Trinity Church. We then joined a small parish within the Reformed Episcopal Church. I joined the vestry and still remain close to the minister, Father Ron, and many of the members.

That brings us to Atkinson in 2013. We looked for another Anglican church but weren’t able to find one that we liked. We also looked at several other churches in the area and were pleased to land here at St. Christopher’s.

It is no surprise to anyone that it was Miriam that closed the deal for us. She came to our home for a visit, which I can tell you had never happened at any other church in our long history. We really appreciated that and as a cradle Episcopalian it is nice to be back in the church.

Miriam asked me to join the Stewardship committee earlier this summer and I was pleased to do so. In September I became chairman of the committee and hope that I can do it justice. I know our journey isn’t over. Dianne and I are considering retirement and are trying to figure out what that means for us. Stay tuned, I’m sure it will be interesting. As chairman of the stewardship committee I would like to add some perspective for all of you considering your pledges. Many years ago I heard the CEO of the Dupont company talking about giving and the pain associated with it. He related this to the familiar bell curve:

As your giving increases from zero, the pain level increases. But interestingly, at some point, as you give more, the pain level begins to decrease. The transition point is different for all of us but I have found it to be true. So I encourage you to give real consideration to your pain threshold this pledge season. (See below.)

We have a very talented Sr. Warden in Wayne Trombly, but he really needs everyone’s help as we move into 2016. It is only through your pledges that he can begin to develop plans for the coming year and to consider the longer term game plan for this wonderful church.

Dianne and I have been to many churches over the years as described and we are both delighted to be a part of St. Christopher’s. I want to thank everyone that we have come to know for making us feel so welcomed and hope we have the chance to get to know everyone better.

