



THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY!

September 9, 2018
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Fr. Zac Harmon, Vicar

<http://www.stchristophersnh.org>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
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News or Info: signpostweekly@comcast.net

Calendar

- Saturday, September 8**
 - 2 p.m., Rhythms of Grace
 - Followed by Welcome Back Potluck Brunch
- Sunday, September 9**
 - 8 a.m. Worship Service
 - Followed by Welcome Back Breakfast after 8 a.m.
 - 9 a.m. Sunday School Meeting to learn about our upcoming year.
 - 10:15 Children's Sunday Worship Service and Blessing of the Backpacks
- Monday, September 10**
 - 9 a.m. Yoga
 - 7 p.m. Bishop's Committee
- Tuesday, September 11**
 - 9 a.m. Morning Prayer
 - 9:30 a.m., Exodus Bible Study
- Thursday, September 13**
 - 7 p.m. Eucharist/Bible Study

Ryan and Emily Bacall), which facilitates community building events within the parish. There will be a special coffee hour after the 8AM service and a potluck with our own TWO GUYS burgers and hot dogs (Bob Leonard and Dave Darrah) following the 10:15- where there will also be healing prayers. We'll also have music at the 8AM service and a children's sermon at the 10:15 with an archeological expedition to find clues about the Gospel and Epistle readings (which have given pause to many a theologian, pastor and Bible scholar). We'll also be blessing backpacks for the school year at the 10:15 service (though if you're an adult who is young at heart and wants a backpack blessed, we can work that in too). It will be a good day and you don't want to miss out.

We have some exciting events on the horizon as we start this year.

- Many of the teens are preparing for **Confirmation** when the Bishop visits us on October 21 and more service projects planned for our youth group to learn about faith through living it out.
- We have an enquirers class prepared for **Adult Formation** at 9:15 on Sundays. If you've never done one of these introductions to the Episcopal tradition, there is so much that is unique, rich and wonderful about our church that it is well worth exploring. Also, if it's been awhile since you've been involved in something like this, it can often be refreshing to return to the basics of what's in the prayer book, our inspiring history, our approach to worshipping God and how we've followed Christ in mission in the world. We'll start that up next Sunday. (9/16).
- **Children's ministries** led by Brooke LaMonica will feature the return of church school with some fun new curriculum for learning Bible stories as well as some Messy Church celebrations around major holy days which

Sunday School Signups

Our Church School begins next Sunday. It is a vital part of our mission. As in years past, every month on the 2nd Sunday, the kids will be in church. We will also be holding some "Messy Church" activities throughout the year for parents and children.

Please register your child now! Here is the Sunday School Sign-up Link:



So, join us after church this Sunday after the 9 a.m. service to hear about the programs and classes we'll be teaching this year. Also, we welcome any family looking for a friendly, nurturing church school program for their kids. Please invite them to come and take a look. Have them register and come along with you on the 16th or some Sunday after that. If you have questions or suggestions, please email me.

Brooke LaMonica,

Welcome to the Program Year 2018-19!

Here we are at the beginning of the program year. We have celebrations planned this Sunday thanks to the hard work and effort of the Parish Life Committee (Karen Groves, Peggy Baker, Joyce

people can bring friends to.

- **Fun fundraising** opportunities to participate in (stay tuned.)
- We have an **Opioid and Substance Addiction Family Support Group** meeting on third Mondays at 7:30 PM, if this is something that could help a situation you or a friend are in.
- An **Episcopal Revival** being planned for May of 2019 with inspiring teaching, speaking & music to get us comfortable with sharing our faith
- Mid-week formation opportunities **Tuesday morning (Morning Prayer @ 9AM, Exodus Bible Study @ 9:30 AM)** and **Thursday night with a Celtic/Iona inspired Eucharist @ 7PM and Bible study at 7:45 PM.**

While there are certainly significant challenges ahead for our church community, there is much of Christ's life, ministry and mission thriving in Hampstead at St. Christopher's. Blessings, Fr. Zac

Thursday Evening Eucharist/Bible Study

St. Christopher's has offered a Eucharist/Bible study for many years on Thursday night. That will continue, but we will develop a fuller liturgy for the Eucharist which draws from Celtic prayer traditions (which includes many of the Iona prayers already in use there) and features readings about the lives of saints and more recent Christian figures in our church calendar, as well as other special focus points which we usually can't include in the regular Sunday service. It will be followed by Bible study. People are free to attend only Eucharist, only Bible Study or both. The new service with a fuller liturgy will run approximately from 7 - 7:45 p.m. Thursday evening will now provide an alternative for people who cannot make it to the Sunday morning service, as well as more fully developing a service to feed those who hope for a mid-week service to reconnect in between Sundays.

Needs of Our Area

The slower pace of summer has given me time to visit ministry and service sites- from Isaiah 58's work locally to Greater Derry's Community Health Services which provides for welfare needs in Hampstead to St Anne's Food Bank bustling operation to Sonshine Soup Kitchen's amazing work feeding 40-60 people every week night, there are a lot of hands being raised up to support those who would otherwise fall through the cracks. It's also clear that the needs of our area are substantial- once a person loses housing there are very few local recourses and the situation is only getting tougher as lease renewals go up and many people's

wages do not progress at the same rate. Deciding where St. Christopher's fits in these efforts will be a subject of ongoing discernment and there are many ways where we are already active. However, it is clear that there is a need and perhaps a call from Christ to be more present in our community. -Fr. Zac



Is This an Opportunity That's Too Good to Pass Up? Yes. It Is.

Late last week they started publicizing the **Third Annual Hampstead Town Yard Sale**. **Saturday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** It's such short notice, but we'd like to try to pull off a yard sale on our campus, not just for fundraising purposes, but equally important to get as many people onto our campus as possible, where we could begin to tell them about St. Christopher's, sort of an "Open House" type thing. We could do it if we could all pitch in and take just one little piece of it. Could you or a group of you set up and run an individual yard sale space? We need as many of these as possible. The more "vendors" we have on our campus, the more likely people will stop to walk around. Are there any snack or lunch items we could offer or sell? Could we offer handouts about us? Something else? I'll be emailing out more details early this coming week! Questions? Email me. **Lyn Rockwell**

Prayers of the People

Ingrid and Mark Chapman ask for your prayers for their daughter **Lisa**. Please pray for **Nick**, Anne Darrah's cousin's husband; please pray for **Angie McCurdy** and her family; please pray for **Lincoln**, Christine Collins' cousin's young son who is ill; and for **Aaron, Alex & family** in their time of grief. Prayers for healing and relief from pain for **Pat Williams**; for **Zach**, a relative of a parishioner; prayers for **Noelle Schreiber**; **Ellie McCabe**; prayers for **Bob Gleason, Lucille Gigeure**. For Dave Darrah's brother, **Tom**; for **Deb**; for **Roy Jeffrey**; **Ann Donovan**; **Kate**; **Brayden**; **Matty**; **Ian**; prayers for **Howie**; for **Cheryl**; for **Ryan**; for **Jacqueline**; for Natalie's brother **Lorin**; for Mark and Ingrid's son **Eric**.

Serving in the Military: Pray for Pam Vasquez's son, **Army 2nd Lt. Nicholas J. Vazquez**. Del's cousins, **Daniel, Matthew** and **Sandra**, for **Paul**.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: John Svitak and Madeleine Dionne-Svitak; Ken and Edie Swenson; Sarah, Michael, Genevieve, and Alexander Taglieri; Steve, Kelly, Katie, and Alex Tahan.

Attendance: 9/2, 39