



The Signpost Weekly

May 19, 2019
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Children's Sunday

Fr. Zac Harmon, Vicar

<http://www.stchristophersnh.org>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
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Calendar

Sunday, May 19

- **12noon CROP HUNGER WALK**
- 8 and 10:15 Services
- 9:15 Adult Formation, where theology meets difficult situations – Memory Loss, Alzheimer's & Dementia
- 10 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, May 20

- 9 a.m. Yoga
- 7:30 p.m. Opioid Support Group

Tuesday, May 21

- 9 a.m., Morning Prayer
- 9:30 a.m., Exodus Bible Study

Thursday, May 23

- 7 p.m. Eucharist/Bible Study

Sunday, May 26

- 8 and 10:15 Services
- 9:15 Adult Formation - where theology meets difficult situations – Anxiety
- 10 a.m. Sunday School

people go hungry in the world and 12% of the US population is hungry and 39.7 million people in the US are at or below the poverty line (source CWS & US Census). Won't you come be a part of the day?

Addressing Some News of the Week

You might have heard about the Diyanet Mosque set on fire in New Haven, Connecticut by what police believe to be arson. It is sometimes difficult to know what to say. Is it better to be silent and not draw attention to the act of hate? Is it safer to write it off as being in far away Connecticut? Is it important to speak out? I believe that such acts should not be sensationalized, but that they are important to draw attention to in order to remind ourselves of what is happening in wider New England. It is important to draw attention to so that we do not become numb to such acts and accept them as status quo. *(continued on P. 3)*

Adult Formation will be exploring where theology meets difficult life situations.

5-12 Mental Health

5-19 Memory Loss, Alzheimer's & Dementia

5-26 Anxiety

An important update on the challenges facing St. Christopher's - Finance Chair, Christine Collins



If you weren't able to make it to church yesterday, Christine Collins (Finance Chair) had an important update on the challenges facing St. Christopher's as well as the multiple approaches we are taking to follow God and overcome these challenges. Here is an abbreviation of her message:

It has been a very busy beginning to St. Christopher's 2019. There have been some emergent property issues that required immediate action and put significant pressure on our financial status. These issues were in part due to the age of our facilities. .

Crop Walk: Walking to End Hunger One Step at a Time

It's here! It's here! The Crop Walk has arrived. This Sunday we will be hosting a big gathering with many area churches (First Baptist Church of Plaistow, Atkinson Congregational Church and members of Hampstead Congregational church, St. Anne's & St. Luke's/Holy Angels) to raise funds for Church World Service, the food bank at St. Luke's/Holy Angels and Liberty House for homeless veterans. From St. C's we have Del Dooling, Ginette Duchaine, Barbara Hughes, Edie Swenson, Fr. Zac and Pam Vazquez walking & there's still time to sponsor them.

It's a festive gathering and a lot of fun. It also is a step to take in a huge need- currently 821 million



"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The issues were:

The women's bathroom had multiple floods that stemmed from a clogged pipe due to significant rust buildup. Roto-Rooter needed to come out several times in January and February. The clean outs and video diagnosis of the problem cost \$1200 and the fix entailed digging up the pipe and replacing it which cost \$2600.

There were also electrical problems in the parish house leading to essential rewiring, which cost \$1700.

It was brought to leadership's attention that some of the front columns of the sanctuary building are rotting. This will cost over \$13,000 to repair.

As you may remember from Annual Meeting in January, our budget was short of being fully funded. For those new to the Episcopal tradition, each parish is responsible for raising the appropriate funds to run the parish as well as contribute to the diocese via the diocesan fair share.

Needless to say, these series of unfortunate events leaves St. Christopher's in a serious financial shortfall. At first glance, this picture looks very grim.

I want to assure you all that the Diocese has been vocal about its support of St. Christopher's. Benge Ambrogi, COO and Canon for Mission Resources has been a tremendous resource to Fr Zac and Sr. Warden Bob Leonard to come up with some possible solutions. The Finance and Property Committees and the Bishop's Committee have met multiple times to discern a path forward. The result is that St. Christopher's leadership has created a multifaceted solution to our financial situation.

Before going any further, I want to take a moment to say that we appreciate each and every one of you. During our pledge drive last fall, we heard many of you express that you have reached your limit in spending. We understand this and want you to know that we don't expect to get water from a stone. This message is not to alienate you or pressure you, but rather to inform you of what we are going through.

As I mentioned, **our solution is multifaceted.** We hope to receive help from the Diocese, from our friends and family, and tighten our belt a little bit.

Fair Share- The Diocese heard our predicament and believes in us. Beginning in May the fair share amount that St. Christopher's owes each month has been reduce by \$500. This is the first step to moving toward a solution.

Loan- Canon for Mission Resources Ambrogi recommended that we apply for a loan. This would

be a 10 year loan from the Diocese. This money will help pay for some of the needed repairs but not all.

Grant- Mr. Ambrogi also recommended that St. Christopher's apply for a sustainability grant to make such improvements as upgrading the insulation in the parish house attic, replacing the 3 aging propane furnaces that heat the Sanctuary and repair entry ways to improve heating efficiency.

Stewardship- Moving forward in the years to come, St. Christopher's needs to increase stewardship. Within a month or so, the stewardship committee will begin to plan for the next pledge drive. We are looking for new faces, ideas and energy to help St. Christopher's reach its goals.

Fundraising- Once again the fundraising committee bears the incredible burden of making up the gap when we struggle to balance the budget. They have started off with a bang with a successful vendor bingo event and have plans a few more events this summer. This committee is also open to new faces and ideas.

Gift challenge- The final piece to our solution is the 5k Challenge. After hearing of the dilemma that St. Christopher's is in, an anonymous donor challenged the parish to match a \$5,000 donation. In the short time that this challenge has been placed, some of the leadership have promised donations totaling \$2,600. This means \$2,400 remains to meet the challenge. \$10, \$50, \$100? Individually these are small donations in comparison, but together it can add up to reach the goal. You can pledge a donation over the next couple months or give this week. Please put "Matching Funds" in the memo line of a check.

Many people in this room consider this place their spiritual home and family. I want to leave you with this:

Families lift each other up in times of need, they pitch in to get the work done.

Make a monetary donation, volunteer your time to a committee like stewardship and fundraising or volunteer a special skill that can contribute towards repair and maintenance of the property. I am asking you to pitch in and lift each other up because that's what families do.

Christine Collins, Chairman of the Finance Committee

Addressing Some News of the Week

(Continued from Page 1)

Coming in the wake of attacks on churches in Sri Lanka over Easter, and coming in the wake of three predominantly black churches burned by arson in Louisiana, we cannot accept these acts of hate as status quo. Jesus never encouraged his followers to burn anyone's houses or houses of worship, but rather charged us to love like the Good Samaritan (who in fact came from a different religious group than Jesus and his disciples).

What can we do? About this particular action in New Haven there is not much to do other than pray (which is significant). Yet we can also be mindful of the atmospheres we allow to be created around us in our communities, work places and neighborhoods. We can continue to create spaces for learning, listening and curiosity in our midst. We can build neighborhoods of love and hospitality and we can remember the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

TALENT SEARCH

Do you bake cakes? Would you bake a "from scratch" cake for a contest about Halloween or the fall? Would you sign up to participate in a bake-off? Parish Life Committee is looking to have fun holding a bake-off in the fall if we have enough contestants. Will you be one of them? Email us and let us know. We need your support so let us know if you would participate by emailing one of us: Karen at karen7078g at comcast.net, Emily at ecbacall at gmail.com, Joyce at jmrtrl at yahoo.com, Peggy at pbaker10948 at yahoo.com. We'll give much more detail when we start the contest but will be happy to answer any questions you may have when you email any one of us. We're excited and anticipate a fun time. So don't forget to email us! *Parish Life Committee*

Yes, Virginia. We ARE holding a Yard Sale this Fall as part of the 4 Annual Hampstead Town Wide Yard Sale on October 12. So now's the time to begin putting things aside or thinking about replacing things like some of your old appliances or



decorations. as you do your Spring Cleaning. Things will be like last year where you can set up your own table, or get your friends and neighbors to set up their own Table (for a small fee going to [Community Caregivers of Greater Derry](#)) Maggie Heyer and Lyn Rockwell are spearheading this year sale.

Prayers of the people

Prayers for Ginette's grandson, **Chase**, and his parents in the face of long-term medical disabilities; for **Peggy Baker**. 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 **Zach**, a relative of a parishioner; **Ellie McCabe**; prayers for **Bob Gleason, Lucille Gigeure**. 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**, and their daughter, **Lisa**. Pray for the repose of **Anita Pauley**, and prayers for her son **Brian Shankey**.

Serving in the Military: For Pam Vazquez's son, First Lt. Nicholas J. Vazquez, an Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC; for Del's cousins, Daniel, Matthew and Sandra.

Parish cycle of prayer: Violet and James Demarco; Corinne Dodge; Heather, Nathaniel, Emma, and Jacob Dias

Attendance
5/7, 9:00am, 6
5/11, 2:00pm, 5
5/12, 8:00am, 21; 10:15am, 48

ST ANNE'S ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY is in dire need of canned pastas with meat , soups, juice boxes, canned chicken, cereal. saltines. Ritz crackers and baking goods.



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