



# The Signpost Weekly

September 3, 2017

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**Rev. Zac Harmon**, Vicar

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

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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## Calendar

### **Sunday, September 3**

- 9 a.m., Canon Hannah and Fr. Zac will celebrate a joint Eucharist service

### **Monday, September 4 LABOR DAY**

- 9-10 a.m., Monday Morning Yoga

### **Tuesday, September 5**

- 5:30 p.m., Al-Anon

**Saturday, September 9** NO 4 p.m. Service

### **Sunday, September 10**

- Sunday School sign-up.
- 9 a.m., Fr. Zac celebrates his fist Eucharist service with us.
- Followed by a POT LUCK

### **Saturday, September 16**

- 4 p.m. Eucharist Service

### **Sunday, September 17**

- 8 a.m. Eucharist
- 10 a.m. – Sunday School begins.
- 10:15 a.m. Eucharist Service

### **Next Sunday, September 10, A Eucharist and Celebratory Brunch!**

Come celebrate Fr. Zac's new ministry with us! We will have only one service at 9 AM, followed by a special parish style pot luck brunch so that we can all pray, worship and celebrate together. Sign up sheets are in the foyere. Won't you bring something special: a breakfast treat, fruit, breads, or drink.

### **Sunday School and Youth Group is Organized at St. Christopher's \*\*\***

A group of interested parents and Sunday School teachers met with me this week to develop a plan for the fall start-up of a program at St.

#### **Sunday School At-A-Glance**

- Sundays at 10
- Brooke LaMonica and Noelle Schreiber are Co-Directors
- Sept. 10 – Sign-ups
- Sept. 17 – first day of Sunday School
- 3 Age Groups:
  - Younger Children (ages 3-6 or 7);
  - Intermediate Age (Grades 3-5);
  - Middle and High Schoolers.
- Looking for people from the Parish to get involved.
- Plan to grow intergenerational activities between children/teens and adults in the worshipping community
- Fr. Zac to meet with teen-agers to set up a separate Youth Group not only for fellowship but for service projects.

Christopher's. There will be Co-Directors for the program: Brooke LaMonica and Noelle Schreiber. What a blessing that they have both stepped forward to follow Danielle LeClair's example of leadership and care for children and youth.

There will be three age groups for the initial program, with sign-up on Sunday, September 10th which is also Fr. Zac's first day with the congregation. He would love to have as many children and teens present as possible at this service to meet them! The age groups are: Younger Children (ages 3-6 or 7); Intermediate Age (Grades 3-5); Middle and High Schoolers. The curriculum for each of the age groups is being chosen with Fr. Zac's input and teachers/potential teachers are being recruited. If you are interested in offering your time and energy to any one of these age groups, please contact Brooke or Noelle. No experience is necessary and the curriculum designs are easy to follow. Safe Church requires that there be at least two adults in each of the groups with our children or youth. The start date for Sunday School is September 17th. Fr. Zac will also be planning a time to meet

with teen-agers to set up a separate Youth Group not only for fellowship but for service projects that can engage our hands and hearts.

This year the parents have requested more opportunities for intergenerational activities between children/teens and the adults in the worshipping community. Building relationships of

care and concern across the generations is important to them and helps their children know that they belong at St. Christopher's as true members of this body of Christ. While I will not be present to see the outcome of all of these efforts from our teachers and parents, I believe that children and teens will come to know the joy and love of Jesus as they learn, play, pray and serve others in His name. Blessings! Hannah+

### **From Ingrid and Mark Chapman**

To our blessed St. Christopher's parish, Mark and I are so grateful for the loving support received, and continue to receive from all of you. It is said that "it takes a village" to raise a child. We are blessed with a most wonderful village. Like most folks we prefer to keep our family problems to ourselves but this time God instructed us to ask for help. We could not have given little Macy Gail the care she needed without you. In many ways it was the most beautiful time of our lives. Macy is now with paternal grandparents receiving excellent care. Mark and I will be helping as we can, especially on weekends. Hope to bring her to meet you sometime in the near future. God bless you all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Love from Ingrid and Mark

### **A Parting Message from Hannah**

Dear friends and members of St. Christopher's, As I prepare for my final Sunday service with you as Interim Vicar, I've been reflecting on the many ways the Holy Spirit has been at work among us this summer. Through formation of new teams, completion of tasks including lots of cleaning, organizing, taking action with new signage, playground, gardens and sanctuary plus a weekly dialogue among the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit has swept through St. Christopher's to prepare the way for your future. It has truly been a joy for me to be with you for these three months and witness the transformational energy of God at work!

When there is a transition of leadership in a church, it is often a good time to reflect. The monastic tradition uses a term called an act of remembrance as a way of taking stock of the past to help interpret the present and prepare for the future. I like to think of it as re-mem-bering, putting pieces of a story together that then form a memory.

At our Bishop's Committee meeting on Monday evening, we had time to share an act of

remembrance together. **'What,' I asked them, 'have you learned this summer?'** Here are some of the responses from Bishop's Committee members:

- + Don't lose hope.
- + Hold on to the macro vision or the larger picture and stay on course.
- + It is great to work with one another, to share fun and fellowship in coming together to accomplish a purpose or complete a task.
- + Take more initiative as lay leaders in the life of our church.
- + I witnessed a change in attitude and spirit in the congregation to something more positive and optimistic.
- + When listening, reflect and synthesize information so we can then take action that is informed.
- + God prepares you for the next thing!
- + There is much more to serving on the Bishop's Committee than I first imagined. We really get involved in all aspects of the church.
- + As a member of the Bishop's Committee, we are called to take action, with the priest, for the sake of the health and vitality of our church.

These are things I hope all of you will remember as you grow into the next chapter as followers as Jesus at St. Christopher's. It has been my privilege and honor to walk with you on this recent part of the journey. May you continue to live in deep gratitude for God's many blessings and serve others with your gift of hospitality. In Christ's peace, Hannah+

### **The Presiding Bishop's message on Hurricane Harvey**



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**August 31, 2017 Episcopal Relief & Development Responds to Hurricane Harvey**

[Episcopal Relief & Development](#) is supporting emergency relief efforts of affected dioceses in Texas following Hurricane Harvey, which hit the Texas coast as a category 4 storm when it made landfall on August 25 and became the largest rainstorm in US history. To date, 30 deaths have been reported, and the storm has caused massive flooding and destruction and forced thousands from their homes.

In partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, Episcopal Relief & Development is responding to the immediate needs of people in the Greater Houston area, including Galveston. With this support, the diocese will provide temporary housing for 50 families, recruit volunteers to help clean out homes and deploy trained, spiritual care teams to reach out to people evacuated to the George R. Brown Convention Center and in other hard-hit areas. These teams are also distributing gift cards to help with purchasing food, basic supplies and necessities. The organization’s US Disaster Program staff has been in regular contact with affected dioceses in Texas and Louisiana. Donate to the [Hurricane Harvey Response Fund](#) to help Episcopal Relief & Development assist local partners in responding to critical needs.

**Interested in Being Contacted About Future Volunteer Opportunities or Disaster Response Trainings?**

As part of the US Disaster Preparedness Initiative, Episcopal Relief & Development is building a database of volunteers who are ready and willing to respond in the event of a disaster. When churches and/or dioceses around the nation are affected by disaster, Diocesan Disaster Coordinators will have access to this list of potential volunteers and you may be called to ask to serve. If you are interested in being contacted about volunteer opportunities or disaster response trainings, please fill out the form below. You may be contacted about opportunities

both in your community and around the country. To download a printable form, click [here](#).

**Prayers of the People**

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Ingrid and Marc Chapman** as they trust in The Holy Spirit to guide them during this very difficult period. Prayers also for **Ann Gerns** who is making a swift medical recovery. “Thanks to all of you faithful souls who have kept me in prayer. I'm doing well, and getting stronger every day as I eat good meals and get out of bed and move around more every day.” says Ann.

Please pray for a continuing good health for **Tom Baker**. Please pray for Judy McCabe, who recently moved to independent living in Salem, who fell last week, and is currently at Parkland Medical Center. Prayers for Dave Darrah’s nephew **Peter**, who had his cancer operation and all went well. However, there were complications and he has been moved to ICU for heart issues. Please keep Peter in your prayers as he is going through a rough time in his recovery; please pray also for Dave’s brother, **Tom**. Please pray for **Elaine**, a friend of Danielle LeClair; for Deb; for the soul of Anne Darrah’s cousin, for **Roy Jeffrey; Ann Donovan; Kate; Brayden; Matty; Ian;** for **Cheryl;** for **Ryan;** for **Jacqueline;** for Natalie’s brother **Lorin** and for **George Gallo, Jr.;** for Mark and Ingrid’s son **Eric**. **Serving in the Military:** Please pray for Del’s cousins, **Daniel, Matthew and Sandra,** for **Paul**.

**Attendance – 46 Sunday 8/27**

**Parish cycle of prayer:** Eleanor Simmons; Marcia Tapley; Rev. Ken and Edie Swenson; Sarah, Matthew, Genevieve, and Alexander Taglieri.

<u>Pledge Gifts/Intents as of Sunday, August 28,</u>	
<u>Week 35</u>	
Expected pledge gifts for week	\$ 2,347.35
Actual pledge gifts last week	\$ 1,108.65
Expected pledge gifts cumulative (35/52)	\$82,157.12
Actual cumulative pledge gifts for 2017	\$71,719.88
Cumulative shortfall	\$10,437.23

**Summer Wish List Ecumenical Food Pantry**  
 Juice, Spaghetti Sauce, Microwave Popcorn, Jelly/Fluff,  
 Pudding, Tissues, Paper Towels,  
 Body Wash, Bar Soap, Deodorant (M & F),

*Practice gratitude. Encounter the Lord each day. Be present to others. Resist overwork. Nurture friendships. Give more. Make a difference in your parish community. Consider living more simply. Get healthy. Don't give up. Turn to the Lord.*