



The Beacon

February 2015

St. Christopher's
Community Church
7902 Steamboat
Island Road NW
Olympia, WA 98502

(360) 866-2111
office@stchristopher
olympia.org

**Sunday Worship
and
Sunday School
10:30 am**

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Pastor's Page – Embarking on the Lenten Journey



Jesus went into the sun-baked desert. Seeking to follow Jesus' example, thousands of monastics entered the deserts during the 3rd and 4th centuries (circa the time of the Nicene Creed). Having no desert to enter, hundreds of Celtic monastics ventured into the harsh northlands to live in storm-beaten caves or wind-swept island wildernesses. All of these people were seeking the same thing: a life submitted to God's will and closer communion with the Divine.

We, too, make a journey out of our normal daily living during Lent. We leave behind some things of our daily existence. We fast distractions, comforts, and busyness, purging our schedules and our thoughts of the distractions that can hinder the deep conversation between God and our truest inner selves. This is a pilgrimage to encounter God in a new way, to go to an often unfamiliar interior land wind-swept and weather-beaten, devoid of the cushions of denial and diversion. It is hard and it is beautiful. It is the place of God's righteousness and God's nurture. It is a place where we can find the Grace of Jesus.

(cont.)

With our festive celebration of Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple on Sunday, February 1st – we have passed out Epiphanytide and are now fast approaching Lent.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is Baptized and the Holy Spirit immediately drives him into the desert wilderness for 40 days where he is both fed by God and tempted by Satan. The ancient Christian practice of a 40 day Lent is intended to be that same kind of experience for Christians.

(cont. from page 1)

As we approach Ash Wednesday (February 18th), I invite you to plan your inner and outer pilgrimage of Lent. Into what life-desert will you go; what soul-cave will you enter? What things will you leave behind to speed you on your journey? What are your hopes as you journey to meet God? What are your fears? What will be the prayer of your Lent?

Above all, keep your eyes open for Christ. These are the paths of Jesus and the Saints who tread them before us. We should not be surprised if we meet them there.

-Fr. James+



Celebration of New Ministry Service **Tuesday, Feb. 10 — 6:00 p.m.**

Also known as the “Installation” service, the Celebration of New Ministry Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Join us as we celebrate, with both our bishops, the beginning of our ministry with Father James.

We are in need of people to help with the reception after the service, both with set up and clean up. We also still need Chalice Bearers and an Acolyte. If you are going to attend the service and are able to help in one of these areas, please contact the church office at office@stchristopherolympia.org or Cindy Goldsmith at 360-866-0612 or petvetcrg@gmail.com.

New Church Directories Available

Both electronic pdf and paper copies of the newly updated St. Christopher’s directory are now available from the church office. Contact Becky Finn at office@stchristopherolympia.org or 360-866-2111 to request a copy.

Men’s Breakfast and Fellowship Group

The men’s breakfast group meets every other Thursday morning at 7:30am at the IHOP in West Olympia (1520 Cooper Point Rd. SW) for good company, good food, and conversation about our faith. This month we’ll gather on **February 5 and 19**. All are welcome!



Annual Meeting Report

The 2015 annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 25. Here are some highlights:

- **The 2015 Budget was approved.**
- **New members elected to the St. Christopher's Vestry Council**
 - Greg Settle
 - Bob Buehl
 - Mark Soetenga

The new members join continuing members of the VC: Ann Greene, Wyatt Finn, Carrie Bowen, Tiff West-Schaub, Pat Kelley, Brian King, and consultant Steve Andrew.

Outgoing Vestry members include Sharon Parker, Wayne Whidden, and Doug Smith (who will continue as treasurer until a new treasurer is selected.) The VC will have their annual retreat on Saturday, February 14.

- **Representatives elected to 2015 Diocesan Convention:**
 - Joyce Hanna
 - Lee Murray
- **Copies of the 2014 Annual Report are available at the church. Contact the church office if you would like a copy.**

Seeking Building Committee Members

We are looking for persons who are willing to share their talents and skills in building, permitting, planning, and communicating as St. Christopher's proceeds towards future expansion. Current projects include installing a new well on church property. Please speak with the Wardens or Fr. James if you are able to assist as a committee member.



Adult Education Hour

Education hour is every Sunday morning from 9am-10am. The topics vary from week to week, but the format is the same: coffee, conversation, and a time to grow in faith through reflection on subjects that matter deeply. Childcare is provided and everyone is welcome!

The current session is on **Simplicity**: a refocusing on what is truly central, which has refreshing implications for our lifestyles, starting with the book "*Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity*."

After the Simplicity session, we will begin a study on **Spiritual Traditions**: an exploration of some of the traditions that inform our liturgy, worship, music, and spiritual thought: Celtic, Benedictine, Augustinian, Franciscan, and Wesleyan, to start.



Youth Group

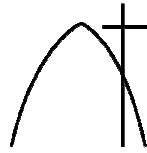
St. Christopher's Youth Group regularly meets every other Sunday—Middle School (grades 6-8) at 5:00 p.m., and High School (grades 9-12) at 6:45 p.m.

The February meeting is on **Sunday, February 8**. *The February 22 meeting is canceled.*

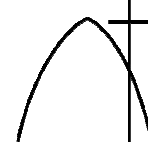
There will be three Youth Group meetings in March: **March 8, March 15, and one more TBA.**

March 13-15: SW WA Synod ALYVE Retreat

Games, Zip Line, Challenge Course, Swimming Pool, Engaging speaker (Keith Marshall), etc. Camp Berachah in Auburn, WA. Deadline for registration is March 1, 2015. Contact Terri Heckroth at Creator Lutheran Church.



February 2015

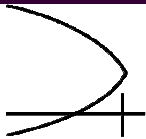


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Education Hour 9 a.m. Worship / Sunday School 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>2 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4 AA—8pm</p>	<p>5 Men's Group 7:30AM Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m. Choir—7pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Education Hour 9 a.m. Worship / Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Youth Group 5:00 p.m.—8 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m. Celebration of New Ministry Service—6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>11 AA—8pm</p>	<p>12 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m. Choir—7pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Vestry Council Retreat 9-3pm</p>
<p>15 Education Hour 9 a.m. Worship / Sunday School 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>16 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18 Ash Wednesday Service - 6 p.m. AA—8pm</p>	<p>19 Men's Group 7:30AM Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m. Choir—7pm</p>	<p>20 Beacon Articles Due</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Education Hour 9 a.m. Worship / Sunday School 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>23 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>24 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>25 Holden Evening Prayer—6 p.m. AA—8pm</p>	<p>26 Office Hours 2:30—5:30 p.m. Choir—7pm</p>	<p>27</p>	

February Sunday Service Schedule

	Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Feb. 22
Greeter	Bonnie F. & Sherry C.			Annette E.
Acolyte				
Chalice Bearer		Patti S.	Jim M. & Lee M.	
Reader	Ericka Boysen	Becky F.		Cindy P.
Coffee Hour		Lee M.		
Children's Ministry		Annaka T. & Charlotte C-N & Sarah	Lisa A. & Debbie W. & Sarah	Karli (or Betty) & Carrie & Sarah
Altar Guild	Bonnie F. & Sherry C.	Lisa A.	Marilyn W.	Cindy P. & Annette E.
Altar Flowers	Hannas	Soetengas		

To sign up for one of the vacant service positions,
go to VolunteerSpot.com using this url: <http://vols.pt/zMkDdP>
or contact Becky Finn at office@stchristopherolympia.org or 360-866-2111.
Thank you all for your help!



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(Episcopal/ELCA)
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Office Hours
**Mondays, Tuesdays,
& Thursdays, 2:30-5:30 p.m.**
-or by appointment

360-866-2111
office@stchristopherolympia.org
www.stchristopherolympia.org

Pastor & Priest
Fr. James Thibodeaux

Sunday Worship Hours

Worship and Sunday School
at 10:30 a.m.,
with nursery care