



The Beacon

September 2015

St. Christopher's
Community Church

7902 Steamboat
Island Road NW
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 866-2111

Sunday Worship and
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.

Blueberry Bash 2015 was a success!



The morning of August 16th started off with a casual outdoor service where more than 90 members of our community shared a moment of worship under a cathedral of trees and blue sky. A highlight for the little worshippers was rolling down the grass hill during Fr. James's sermon. Shortly after worship, the bells were ringing to signal the start of Blueberry Bash 2015. For the next four hours, we joined with our Steamboat Community for fair food and old-fashioned family fun.

We were serenaded by the jovial music from the bluegrass band Oly Mountain Boys. Many hands prepared and served over 100 homemade pies, which sold out quickly. Food was plentiful with BBQ hot dogs and bratwurst, corn on the cob, popcorn and snow cones. Many a person was seen savoring a blueberry milkshake as they wandered through the festivities. Children leaped for hours in the bouncy house after being jazzed up on chocolate covered blueberries. *Blueberries for Sal* story time, bubbles, face painting and play dough were well enjoyed by flocks of children that poured through the activity area.

Thank you to the Griffin fire department for participating. The proceeds from the silent auction and St. Kitts shirts also contributed greatly to the charitable donation St. Christopher's gave to Community Youth Services of Olympia. Many thanks goes out to those who helped make this event a success and those who joined us once again for this Steamboat summer tradition.

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Next Steps... An Additional Time to Worship

Some of you have seen the recent requests to take a worship survey. (Have you taken yours yet? [Click here](#) or find one in entryway of the church.) In particular, we're trying to find out what kind of worship people would like to attend and when. But that doesn't explain *why* we're thinking of an additional worship time. So here is the background:



Studies on church growth show that newcomers do not stay at a church when services are at 75% capacity. There just doesn't appear to be enough room and being forced to snuggle in close to someone you don't know isn't a big plus for most people. St. Christopher's hits 75% capacity or above frequently. Trying to enlarge our worship space isn't in our budget yet. If we are going to build a larger space it will be in response to our congregation base, not an attempt to increase that base. Again, studies show that the "build it and they will come" philosophy frequently fails. Instead "we build it because they came."

Christ's call to open the Kingdom to others and to make disciples doesn't allow us to complacently stay the same. It's just not in our Christian DNA to hang a "No Vacancy" sign on the Church. Making room for others by adding an additional worship time is a logical conclusion. That time need not be a traditional time. Other congregations are having successes with evening services on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, for instance.

One of the worries some have expressed is that a new service creates two communities under one roof. Common concerns in this situation are that we won't know everyone, we will lose cohesiveness and unity, and the feel of St. Christopher's as our spiritual home may change. Let's address those fears together.

It's true. Having another worship service sets up the possibility of separation and segregation. That's why so many other congregations have worked hard to create fellowship, formation, outreach and worship opportunities that draw people from the various services together. The Church was never meant to gather solely on Sunday morning.

It's true. Knowing others and being known by others at your church is part of what makes that home. That's very, very important. It's also true that getting to know others is one of the joys of God's Kingdom. If we aren't meeting people for the first time at our church then there is a problem.

It's true. Adding an additional worship time or new people puts unity in jeopardy. And that is the same jeopardy families experience when an adult child gets married or when that couple has children of their own. Our unity is always in jeopardy because people move on, pass away, change, are born, or join in. Living communities are always changing because all of us are changing. It is God who is constant and God's love in Christ active through us that overcomes separation.

And so if we add an additional worship time, your community will need your help. Because of Christ our church community has much to offer. Help us not lose what we have to offer and help us to continue to offer it to others. God's Kingdom is always open; In God's house there is always room.

-Fr. James+



Ministry Fair Sunday September 20th

After services on Sunday September 20th St. Christopher's Community Church will be having a ministry fair in our fellowship hall. This event is part of our September kick off. This is an opportunity to explore, discern and participate in our joint community life. Come learn more about the following: nursery, Sunday school, youth group, faith formation classes (baptismal preparation, first communion training, new members classes, confirmation), adult formation, Bible study, coffee hour hosts, Vestry Council leadership, stewardship committee, food bank ministry, Open Hands Garden, volunteer connections, worship committee, choir, alter guild, acolytes, lay Eucharistic ministers, scripture readers, greeters/ushers, men's breakfast, women's ministry and more. Join your community and see how God is working in and through us.

Upcoming Events

Open Hands Garden:

Thursdays, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

The Garden continues to produce fresh vegetables in support of the Thurston County Food Bank. Throughout the summer we will continue to plant and harvest. Join us in fellowship and making a contribution to the community. No experience is necessary.

Fall bible Study:

If you are interested in joining in a home bible study this fall please contact Cory Hilby, and let her know what times work best for you.

Men's Group Breakfast

Thursday, September 3 & 17, 7:30 a.m.

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.

Labor Day Weekend Youth BBQ

Sunday, September 6, 2:00 p.m.

Middle & high school youth: kick off the year right with a great BBQ hosted by Kathleen and Erik Penner at their home on Sunday (contact the Penners for directions and to RSVP). Bring a friend, a side dish, chips, or drink and another friend and join in the foray of fun. (Or just come and we'll supply friends and food!) See you there!

Directory Update:

August 30-September 27th

We will be updating the church directory. Please let us know if you have any changes to make to your personal information by filling in new information on a Connection Card. Also, if you do not have a picture in the directory please send in pictures of your family. The pictures need not be professional or 'yearbook style' but just a current picture even if from a recent vacation or camping trip! We will update the directory and have available via email or print early October.

Sunday School Devotional:

Wednesday Sep 9, 3:00 p.m. at the Thibodeaux home

Please consider coming to the devotional if you are discerning a ministry to children at St. Christopher's. Following our devotional we will be planning curriculum and schedules for the fall. Contact person Annaka Thibodeaux.

Kick-Off Sunday**September 13, 10:30 a.m.**

We'll be starting our new program year on September 13 with a blessing of students at teachers at our usual 10:30am Sunday Service. Afterwards join us for an all-church beachside picnic-potluck at Lisa, Steve, & Jayme Andrew's home. Middle and High school youth groups follow at 5pm and 6:45pm at the church.

All-church Beachside Potluck-Picnic**September 13, after service**

Our annual church picnic is scheduled for 9/13 immediately following our service (no coffee hour). Thanks again to Lisa, Steve, & Jayme Andrew for hosting at their home. (Contact the Andrews for directions). Burgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers provided. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or drinks to share. Wanted: volunteers to help with parking, shuttle, and setup/cleanup. Can't wait to see you there!

Safeguarding God's Children:

**Saturday October 3, 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m. At St. John's Episcopal Church
114 20th Ave SE, Olympia, WA (360) 352-8527**

Free to attend but please register ahead of time by going online or calling.



September Event Calendar

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2 AA (8pm)	3 Men's Group Breakfast (7:30am) Open Hands Garden (5:30-6:30pm)	4	5	6 Education Hour (9am) Family Service Worship (10:30am) Youth BBQ (2:30pm)
7	8	9 Sunday School Devotional (3pm) AA (8pm)	10 Open Hands Garden (5:30-6:30pm)	11	12	13 Education Hour (9am) Worship—Kick-off Sunday (10:30am) Worship Committee Meeting (12pm) All Church Picnic (12-4:30pm)
14 Vestry Council Meeting (7pm)	15	16 AA (8pm)	17 Men's Group Breakfast (7:30am) Open Hands Garden (5:30-6:30pm) Choir Practice (7-8pm)	18	19	20 Education Hour (9am) Worship (10:30am) Ministry Fair (after service) Willapa Regional Meeting (2-4pm)
21	22	23 AA (8pm)	24 Open Hands Garden (5:30-6:30pm) Choir Practice (7-8pm)	25	26	27 Education Hour (9am) Worship (10:30am)
28	29	30 AA (8pm)	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3 Safeguarding God's Children (8:30am-12:30pm)	Oct. 4

Office hours are every week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00am to 12:00pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:30pm.

[Click here](#) for the most current events calendar. [Click here](#) for our Youth Calendar.

September Sunday Service Volunteer Schedule

	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27
Greeter	Annette Edwards	Wyatt Finn	Alan & Sharon Parker	Bonnie Finn
Acolyte	Settle	Settle	Buelt	Kneeland
Chalice Bearer	Lee Murray	Jim Morrell	Betty Kutter	Cindy Goldsmith
Reader	Linda Scharf	Carolyn Soetenga	Mike Swigert	Bruce & Ginnie Whitehouse
Coffee Hour	Stephanive Kolb & Betty Kutter	Carrie Bowen	Shari Buelt	Karli Plughoff & Angela Kirkendall
Altar Guild	Marilyn Walther	Lisa Andrew	Sherry Christianson & Bonnie Finn	Cindy Pitcher & Annette Edwards
Altar Flowers		Goldsmiths for Cindy's birthday	Kirkendall for Lena's birthday	Andrews for Lisa's birthday

Contact Volunteer Connections at stchristophervolunteers@gmail.com to help fill in the rest of this schedule!

If you are unable to provide service on the day scheduled, please make arrangements to find a replacement or trade places with someone. Thank you!



St. Christopher's Community Church
(Episcopal/ELCA)
7902 Steamboat Island Road NW
Olympia, WA 98502

St. Christopher's Community Church

Office Hours

Mon. & Wed. —8:00am–12pm

Tues. & Thurs. —2:30-5:30pm

or by appointment

360-866-2111

office@stchristopherolympia.org

Pastor & Priest

Fr. James Thibodeaux

Sunday Worship Hours

Worship and Sunday School

at 10:30 a.m., with nursery

care