



The Beacon

June 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**



Synod Assembly 2015—Delegate Reports

The 2015 ELCA Southwest Washington Synod Assembly was held in Vancouver, Washington on May 15 and 16. St. Christopher's represented by a delegation of Lee Murray, Joyce Hanna, and Fr. James Thibodeaux (pictured below with Rev. Dr. Melanie Wallschlaeger).



Inside this issue:

Synod Assembly Reports	1-3
Church News	4-5
Calendar of Events	6
Sunday Service	7

The reports from the two lay member delegates follow in the next pages...

*"I was
blessed by
this event...
It was overall
a wonderful
experience."
-Lee Murray*

St. Christopher's Community Church, being a federated congregation supported both by the ELCA Southwest Washington Synod and by the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, alternates each year between sending a delegation to the Synod Assembly or to the Diocesan Convention. This year a delegation of myself (Lee Murray), Joyce Hanna, and Father James went to the Synod Assembly representing St. Christopher's with voice and vote. I have attended many Diocesan Conventions since 1999 as delegate, delegate-at-large, and visitor but this was my first time to attend a Synod Assembly. In many ways the Lutherans and Episcopalians conduct gatherings in the same way but there are also some interesting differences.

The Synod Assembly was a smaller gathering than the Diocesan Convention in that the ELCA has two synods covering Western Washington whereas the Episcopal church has a single diocese. The meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Vancouver, Washington with historic Esther Short Park across the street. The theme of the meeting was "The Three Great Listenings ... to God, congregation, and community." On the first day, keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Steve Bouman, introduced "The Great Listenings" which is from his book "The Mission Table." Throughout the remainder of the assembly, others took on each listening in turn: Bishop Richard Jaech, Reverend Kim Latterell, and Rev. Dr. Melanie Wallschlaeger. All the keynotes were thought-provoking to listen to.

We voted on a number of positions to fill and on one resolution. Some votes were done by raising different colored cards: green (yes or in favor), red (no or not in favor), or yellow (abstain—something new to me). Other votes used an electronic voting device each delegate was issued. That also new to me and certainly sped up votes where an accurate count was important. Another difference from the diocesan convention was that there are no votes by orders (clergy vs. lay). The Lutherans also intentionally make sure that at least 60% of delegates are lay.

There were a number of "ministry moments" highlighted by either a slide presentation or a video clip. At the end of the first day the delegation went to dinner at small restaurant called The Jerusalem Café. It was family run operation opened by an Arab Christian family from northern Israel. If you are ever in downtown Vancouver, Washington and would like to try some tasty Mediterranean cuisine your delegation can recommend this place for sure.

On both days there was a morning worship and on the second day in the after-

noon two back to back hours of workshops to pick from. In the first hour I went to a presentation called "Social Media for Faith Communities." I did not attend a second workshop but instead chose to walk across the street to Esther Short Park and take in the Farmer's Market that was going on next to the park. There was a closing worship which was interesting in that it was done "backwards" beginning with the dismissal and ending with the call to worship and readings.

I was blessed by this event and by some of the folk I met and spoke to. It was overall a wonderful experience.

Yours in Christ,
Lee Murray

The theme of the assembly, "The Three Great Listenings," is a call to action to us as individuals and as a congregation. Similar to the one made by the Episcopal Church at its Fall 2014 Diocesan Convention, ECLA is asking us to: (1) Listen to God through prayer, study of scripture and liturgy; (2) Listen to the church for the gifts and assets of many kinds to which God has given to us in our congregation. Listen to the many partners, ministries, networks and institutions to whom we are joined in mission; and (3) Listen to the world around us. Listen to our neighbors on the peninsula and surrounding communities. Listen to leaders in public life, elected officials, school and business leaders and all who have a shared stake in the health and well-being of our little corner of the world.

I found enlightening a table exercise, which the three of us representing Saint Christopher's did, using something called a "Congregational Vitality & Sustainability Quick Check." On a number of specific characteristics, we individually rated Saint Christopher's effectiveness at achieving its mission goals (vitality.) We then individually rated the likelihood of Saint Christopher's doing so in the future (sustainability.) The three of us then discussed our ratings.

I came away with a glimpse at the many challenges we face and the many opportunities before us as a unique federation of Lutheran and Episcopal faith traditions.

Joyce Hanna

*I came away
with a
glimpse at
the many
challenges
we face and
the many
opportunities
before us as
a unique
federation of
Lutheran
and Episco-
pal faith
traditions.
-Joyce
Hanna*

Stewardship Sunday—June 14

On Sunday, June 14th we will be having a mid-year Stewardship Sunday sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. The liturgy and sermon will be focused on Stewardship themes and we will hear an update on our budget and finance status from our Treasurer, Doug Smith.

Volunteer Connections

Our newly formed Volunteer Connections team is establishing rotations and schedules for our volunteer groups like acolytes, greeters, coffee hour, and readers. We will be using a new system for email reminders called Signup Genius (www.signupgenius.com), which sends automatic email reminders and allows for easy swapping with other volunteers.

In regards to Coffee Hour, we are reinstating the previous policy where congregation members were assigned a date automatically in alphabetical order to host coffee hour. If the date assigned does not work for you, we ask that you make your own arrangements to swap. If you need to be excused temporarily or permanently from the Coffee Hour rota, that is fine. Simply notify Volunteer Connections at stchristophervolunteers@gmail.com. We will be sure to notify you of your first assignment.

Good Reads:Articles and Books Suggested by St. Christopher's members

- ◇ **On Life:** [“The Moral Bucket List”](#) from NY Times. - For graduates and those anyone evaluating life and looking ahead.
- ◇ **On Stewardship:** [“The Island of Stone Money”](#) – An interesting example of what money really is.
- ◇ **Provocative Theology:** [Progressive Christianity in Africa](#) from Bishop J.S. Spong. (Scroll down to the bottom for the Q&A on this subject.)



Sr. High Campout—July 9th-11th

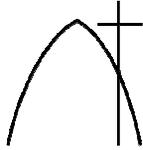
Sr. Highers are invited to a campout at Lake Cushman on Thursday, July 9 through Saturday, July 11. Contact Mark Soetenga or Fr. James for details.

Update on Christikon \$ and Car Wash on Father's Day

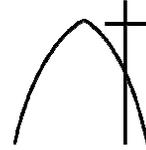
We are currently at \$1600+ of our \$2600 goal for our Middleschoolers to go off to Camp Christikon in July. Coming Father's Day, June 21st, we will be hosting our second car wash fundraiser. Cars will be washed during the service as you worship (car wash volunteers, please come at 9am for your own Eucharist). Cost is on a donation basis.



Christikon group in 2013



June 2015



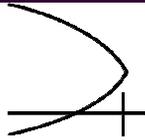
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm	2 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm	3 AA—8:00pm	4 Open Hands Garden—5:30pm Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm	5	6
7 Education Hour 9:00am Family Worship 10:30am	8 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm Vestry Council— 7pm	9 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm Stewardship Committee—7pm	10 AA—8:00pm	11 Men's Group 7:30AM Fr. James out — no office hours Open Hands Garden—5:30pm	12	13
14 Education Hour 9:00am Worship 10:30am Treasurer's Corner during Coffee Hour— 11:30am	15 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm	16 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm	17 AA—8:00pm	18 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm Open Hands Garden—5:30pm	19 Beacon Articles Due	20
21 Father's Day Education Hour 9:00am Worship 10:30am Christikon Car Wash during worship	22 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm	23 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm	24 AA—8:00pm	25 Men's Group 7:30AM Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm Open Hands Garden—5:30pm	26	27
28 Education Hour 9:00am Worship 10:30am	29 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm	30 Office Hours— 2:30-5:30pm				

June Sunday Service Schedule

	June 7	June 14	June 21 Father's Day	June 28
Greeter				
Acolyte				
Chalice Bearer				
Reader				
Coffee Hour	Andrew / Andruss	Doug Smith		Natasha Ashenhurst
Altar Guild	Christianson / Finn	Lisa Andrew	Annette & Cindy	Marilyn
Altar Flowers				

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

Reminder: 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
**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