



The Courier

The Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, River Hills, WI

August 2009

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Parish Profile: What it is and is NOT today!

The parish profile has been approved by the Vestry and is about to “go live.” But the parish profile of today is not what you may have seen in the past. Gone are the days of hard copies of lengthy black and white pictureless descriptions of parishes. Gone are mailings to potential candidates. Today, the profile is an up to the minute description of the many facets of a parish looking for a new rector. A good one is on the web, in color; it has pictures and an inviting layout with easy access (links) to parish and community documents and to lists that a prospective rector can easily search out. (One significant advantage is that other than a tremendous amount of volunteer time and some office staff assistance, it costs nothing!)



The parish profile is NOT the “Complete, Unabridged Life and Times of St. Christopher’s.” Nor should it be! Although we have so many things to help us attract a good, make that GREAT rector, we can’t include them all. Our target audience of potential candidates is probably “searching” late at night after a long day of ministering to their current parishes and after the family has gone to bed. The purpose of St. Christopher’s parish profile is to attract enough interest to make those tired rectors want to explore further. We feel we give the essence of the spirit, the breadth and the depth of our parish. Our profile is open and it is honest. It shows our strengths and our challenges – how we have met challenges in the past and how we are meeting current challenges. We have intertwined our aspirations with the qualities we seek in a rector. You gave us all of this these last few months. Although it’s been difficult, we have fought the temptation to add more and more stuff – there’s so much that is important about us. We must, however, distinguish it from the many other profiles those potential rectors will be reading.

Shortly, we’ll be letting you know when we are “live” on the web. And we’ll have a few black and white hard copies available for those of you who do not have access to a computer.

So many of you have been involved thus far giving us your opinions informally, participating in various groups and completing surveys – for this we are most grateful. We know, also, that you are keeping us and our mission in your prayers. Thank you, your support is terrific! Please keep it up.

Susan Hackl
Co-chair

The Interim Rector's Corner

Life is full of transitions: the economy, health care, politics, and parish life to name a few. As we say goodbye and many thanks to Sally Walters, our Director of Children's ministries, we know that we will continue our programs, volunteers will become more important in parish life, and we will continue to rejoice and thank God for our blessings in this community of St. Christopher's, River Hills.

Although we prepare the fall start up, I hope that you will not miss our summer activities: Every **first Sunday**, you are invited to the prayer group in the Williamsburg Room between the 8 and 10 am services. On Sunday, August 16, we will **baptize Ella Gotz**. In September, we will **begin church school and baptize Alexandria Sophia Thurow on the 13th**, and at 2:30 PM delight to the works of Beethoven for cello and piano by the **Florestan Duo** (details elsewhere). Funds raised will go to the music program for our youth. On the the 27th we will welcome the **Reverend Cotton Fite of the Diocese of Chicago**, who will share the stories of Anglicans living in Israel/Palestine.

Some of you may have checked the Adult Education section of our web site and found the *Episcopal Café*. The excerpts below will give you some idea of the breadth of discussion and lead you to other sites and blogs.

Dean Nicholas Knisely of Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix in his blog *The Entangled States* responds to a question about where he stands on blessing same sex-couples, a question I have received often as have most clergy. As he states, "it is the BIG question folks use to determine which churches or diocese are "right-thinking and therefore worthy of support."

I think that his answer probably fits most congregations including this one. "There are people in this congregation who are fully supportive of the Church's blessing of same-gender unions. There are people in this congregation who are opposed to the Church's blessing of same-gender unions. While the Episcopal Church as a denomination is on record as calling for equal protection under the law for all citizens, if you're looking for a congregation that is of one mind on this issue, you're going to be disappointed with this one. We don't have agreement internally on this particular - or many - issues. Instead, we just agree to pray and worship together."

We don't have to agree with one another but we do pray together using the [Book of Common Prayer](#). Dean Knisely expresses it this way: "We are willing to be in relationship with people who will gather with us around Jesus; whether they be free or slave, men or women, Jew or Greek. We are the anti-puritans caring less about clarity of theological categories than we do about loving relationships. If you will pray to Jesus with me, I will pray to Jesus with you."

Eusebius writes that in the latter days of his life, St. John the Evangelist would respond to repeated requests of visitors to "tell of us of Jesus" by only repeating again and again "Little children, love one another." When asked by those caring for him why he would only say that, he is supposed to have responded, "because if they do only that, it is enough." "Episcopalians don't agree to agree. We pray with each other. Because if we can manage to just do that, it seems to me, that we will have done enough."

David Simmons expresses much the same when he states why he is an Episcopalian in *Ask the Priest. Org*: "It was that vision of the Episcopal Church that I fell in love with - Christ-centered, faithful in worship, diverse in belief, and tolerant of difference. In a culture that tended to force churches to take set identities, we steadfastly refused and instead centered ourselves on worship of the living God." Perhaps you feel the same way.

Charlie +

Warden's Words

Tom Napper, Senior Warden

Last week I was walking down State Street on my way to work. A young man approached me to ask for directions to 1 North State Street. I pointed down the street saying "It's right there, the place with the black awnings". I've been walking up and down State Street since the late 80s so I felt pretty confident about my directions, but as I walked along I began to doubt these directions. In the next block another young man asked me for the location of the same building. This time we were right across the street from the address. The building number was obscured by construction scaffolds. I told the young guy "It's right over there, I'm pretty sure, but I can't see the numbers on the building but I've walked by it before." He nodded his head and off I walked. Just to make sure that my directions were correct I cut across the street and confirmed the address. I turned around and noticed that the second young man was talking with a woman who was giving very firm directions in the other direction. From the look of her hand gestures, and the volume of her voice, it appeared as if she firmly believed that he needed to walk very far the other way. Recognizing that he hadn't really trusted my directions, I ran across the street and brought the young man to the right address. He still didn't trust me but when I offered to dodge traffic with him he followed; when we got across the street he said "Oh, I see it...thanks!"



This little direction event underlined for me how when we aren't sure where we are going we really want someone giving us firm specific directions on where the next turn is. We don't want someone saying "I'm pretty sure". When we are seeking directions I think we all have a gut belief of where we should be going but we want it confirmed. It is very easy to be dissuaded from those beliefs if someone comes along and more firmly states their case. The next thing you know you are headed the wrong way only to have to double back again to the place where you started.

It reminded me that as a Vestry we have worked very hard since the beginning of the year to hold true to what we believe every member of this congregation wants. It would be easy to get trapped in side issues and topics but your Vestry has remembered to keep focus on the higher vision for our congregation, that final destination.

We continue to support this congregation in its desire to make Christianity a way of life. I applaud the courage of each member of our Vestry, which really are representatives of everyone in our congregation, to make tough decisions. Those decisions have helped us to solidify our footing as we move forward into the upcoming Fall season.

The conviction in direction that the Vestry has shown is reflected back to us by your responses to our requests for support. We have closed the gap on our deficit and are in a much stronger fiscal place than earlier in the year. Your continued support of the Search committee is also reflective of our conviction in direction. Outreach and other committees are as strong as they ever were and we are seeing a renewed sense of confidence and direction in those groups.

My hope, as your warden, is that we are clear in our direction in purpose for St. Christopher's and by our actions are communicating that to you. We can't run across the street to our final destination. While the scaffolding may be clouding the street numbers of our final destination, we firmly believe that we are right across the street from the final address, as we have walked passed it many times before, whether we know it or not.

A Message from the Senior and Junior Wardens:

We are looking forward with excitement to the start of the new church school year. Most of the structure of the programs will remain the same for the Ark and ROOTS. We plan to reinvigorate REACT with new life. It is with sadness that we share the news that Sally will be leaving us as Director of Children's Ministries on the 18th of September. "So many factors have influenced" Sally's decisions, she wrote to us a few weeks ago, including circumstances with her family and business partners. She wrote us further to say "I thank God and the Vestry of St. Christopher's that I have been able to minister to the Church in this most important way. My experience with the children of St. Christopher's has been a source of joy for me and an important step in my path of serving Our Lord. I thank you and all the members of the Church for allowing me to have this vital role in my life." We are extremely sorry to see Sally leave this role. She has been so important to our church.

We have already taken steps to make sure that the Children's program continues to flourish and grow. Sally will help shape the start of the program for the coming year. One of the best ways to honor the work she has done is to volunteer your time to ensure the continuity of the program she helped to develop.

Tom and Jayne

Book Nook Late Summer Update



It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we began the Book Nook. What a success! Many parishioners have “checked” out books this past year and are hungry for more. You have also been generous with your donations—so generous that we now have three locations for our books.

In the Community Room, you will find popular fiction along with action, mystery and intrigue selections. In the newly dubbed “Conference Room” (Charlie’s old office) you will find liturgical and religious selections along with memoirs, biographies, classics, history and self-help selections. All of these books are available for “check-out” by signing the sheet on the located by the book shelf in the Community Room.

In the Williamsburg Room, there is a wonderful array of collectible books. They are located in the secretary on the north wall. We invite you to browse these books and leave them in the room once you are finished. So, if you are looking for a brief respite, pull up a chair or couch and enjoy!

With our reorganization of the books, we did make a donation to the Cathedral for their used book sale. This is a small way of “paying it forward” with books.

We continue to welcome your book donations! So as you finish a book that you would love to share, please consider sharing it with the Book Nook. You may leave your donations by the book shelf in the Community Room and we will take care of the rest.

Thank you for making the Book Nook such a success. It has proven itself to be another wonderful way for us to share our gifts with one another.

Debbie Roesner and Susan Hackl
Book Nook Co-Chairs

Building Access Changes

Due to recent security concerns the code for the key pad for all church doors has been changed. If you need to enter the church outside of regular hours please speak with Charlie Caskey or the wardens to receive a code.

Thank you for your understanding.

A note from our recently relocated parishioners - The Taylors:

“Just a quick note to say hi. We’re settled in here on English Settlement road in Underhill. It’s rural enough where the occasional bear crosses the driveway on the way to the woods. We do, however, have Comcast cable/Internet service so in effect our rural living is mitigated to some degree.”

**The Taylors - Rick, Deb, Jason, Emily & Rebecca
99 Lower English Settlement Rd.
Underhill, VT 05489**

Caring Ministry



St. Christopher's Caring Ministry is in the kitchen cooking up super delicious soups! Imagine a convenient, homemade meal to go, for you or your family with proceeds benefiting the Caring Ministry efforts!

Several varieties of fresh homemade soups will be packaged and frozen to be sold once a month!

Our first sale date is **September 13th**~ Watch for our "Pre-order Sheet" and ingredient lists posted mid-August on the communication board in the Community Room!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION
KICKS OFF
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
10:00 A.M.

*PLEASE LOOK FOR SIGN UP SHEETS
FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS IN THE
COMMUNITY ROOM BEGINNING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH



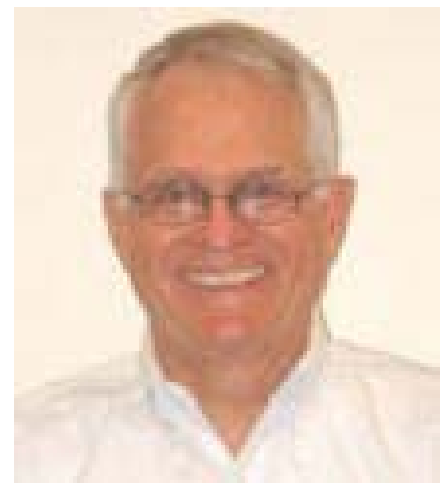
Parish Finance

We have all been aware of the financial challenges which the parish is facing this year. Tom Napper, Jayne Heffron and our vestry have communicated with us on a regular basis. Our challenge has been a function of the economy, our transition and other factors. Having said this, our response to this challenge has been remarkable. Our wardens and vestry have led the way with a firm commitment to live within our financial means. Too often in the past, we have looked to our reserves to fill the gap and have postponed the day of reckoning. This year, our lay leadership has made the difficult decisions with respect to reducing staff and expenses. They have had the full support of our Finance Committee which continues to do an outstanding job. This has been a most productive partnership for St. Christopher's. As a result of these efforts, we have made remarkable progress. Our initial forecast called for a deficit of as much as \$150,000. Clearly, this was an untenable position. After six months of concentrated effort, we have reduced this deficit to \$60,000. We have made progress across the board. We increased our support of the Every Member Canvass to \$440,000, an increase of some \$40,000. The Diocese contributed almost \$7,000 as our share of the proceeds of the sale of some property. On the expense side, we have eliminated the position of Associate Rector. In addition, the Buildings and Grounds Committee revised our lawn care schedule and reduced the mid week heating and cooling temperatures in the Sacristy. The reorganization of our office staff saved additional dollars. We have reduced office supplies and postage with our online Courier. We are reusing weekly bulletins, saving paper and printing while conserving our environment, a cause near and dear to the hearts of our young people. It is so important to emphasize that we are living out our commitment to live within our means.

There is still much work left to be done. The deficit still stands at \$60,000. Your wardens and vestry have committed to a budget next year that is based on our revenue stream this year. Additional very difficult decisions may still be before us. However, we are also taking a new and comprehensive look at stewardship at St. Christopher's. We know that stewardship needs to become a year round mindset and not just an Every Member Canvass event in the Fall. Many new ideas have surfaced in this context. We will be sharing these ideas with you and seeking your input in September.

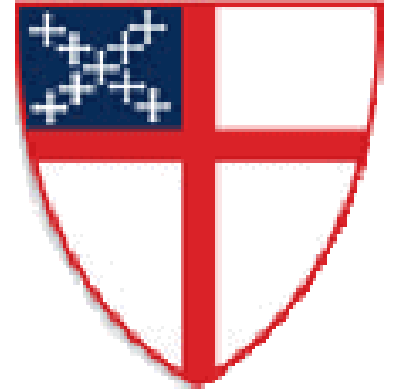
And so, much has been accomplished. Yet, much has yet to be done. However, we can all take satisfaction in our progress and in our commitment as a parish family to live within our means. We will continue to journey together to find the special work which God has for us to do at St. Christopher's. As you have questions, please seek out your wardens, vestry, members of the Finance Committee and your EMC co-chairs

Thanks and God Bless,
Ran Hamner



Reflections on General Convention (part one)

It seems that at every General Convention in recent memory, the subject of human sexuality has been one of the dominant themes. The Episcopal Church is not alone, most denominations are struggling with these issues. This week Jim Wigdale was kind enough to pass along a letter regarding Convention that their guests, Bob and Carol Reeves from St. James' in Lancaster, PA. received from their rector.



I would like to share with you some of the reflections by their rector, David Peck. He reminds us that one resolution simply describes and affirms the fact that the Episcopal Church has for many years called and is at liberty to continue calling to all of its orders of ordained ministry (bishops, priests, and deacons) any person who is gay or lesbian in orientation whether celibate or in a committed relationship. A second resolution simply calls for material to be drawn together that might assist in the creation of a liturgy of blessing for those in same gendered relationships in time for the next General Convention in 2012.

As David Peck says, “the decision to affirm the legitimacy and freedom of the Episcopal Church to call by God’s grace any person, regardless of gender, race, or sexuality, to any ordained order of the church is one which the resolution itself makes clear that some faithful Episcopalians feel is either premature or wrong. It means that one also has conflicting sensitivities, that when taken together do not make ‘inclusivity’ in the church a simple matter of human rights.”

“So while there will surely be for many joy for what the resolutions signify, there is cause for agony for others too. That one person feels joy and one person feels agony is not in any way a statement on their faithfulness to God or their love of others. What it means is we have a deep and honest disagreement in the face of a painful and possibly prophetic decision. One taken with a large majority after careful consideration, but also without a clear consensus in the global church or the local church. So there is a great deal of patient, painful, humble and honest work that needs to be done.”

As with St. James', we here at St. Christopher's will continue live out our baptismal covenant by welcoming the ministry of all who seek to know and make Christ known. We, too, will continue to gather round the table of the Lord and remember his prayer that we all might be one.

Charlie+



An Evening with Friends St. Christopher's Seasonal Kick-Off Party

- Dinner for you
- Games for the children
- Music for dancing
- God's Joy for all



Saturday, September 19th
St. Christopher's Community Room
Catering by Blue Moon Catering
(our very own Julie Wolf!)



5 - 10 pm

All are welcome, please bring friends and family
RSVP office@stchristopherswi.org or 414-352-0380



This event will kick off a new Season, coming closer in God's love to celebrate our period of transition and to learn ways you can get involved throughout the year

- Stewardship
- Youth and Children's Ministries
- Outreach
- In-Reach

**Can you help with the party? Please contact co-chairs Chip & Robyn Slater 414-238-5878 or slater_robyn@hotmail.com*



Flourestan Duo Concert



Selected works by Beethoven
for
Cello and Piano

Sunday, September 13
2:30 p.m.

St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church

Donations to benefit
St. Christopher's Youth Music program

The Florestan Duo, Stefan Kartman - cello and Jeannie Yu - piano will perform works for cello and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven. Both members of the Florestan Duo are accomplished teachers of chamber music and solo repertoire, having served on the faculties of Drake University, Illinois Wesleyan University, the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, the MidAmerica Chamber Music Institute at Ohio Wesleyan University, the Alfred University Summer Chamber Music Institute under the artistic directorship of Joseph Fuchs, the Milwaukee Chamber Music Festival, and the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival under the artistic directorship of Kevin Lawrence. Kartman is Associate Professor of Cello and Chamber Music at University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and Yu freelances in the Milwaukee and Chicago metropolitan areas.

BULLETIN BOARD

STICKY NOTES:

This summer by all accounts has been cooler than most with people complaining almost daily that they don't feel that they have had a "summer" this year. As I write this column I am under a shady tree at the Zoo waiting for Jack to come out of his class and it is 80 degrees and sunny. What a pleasant day. Since my move here three years ago I quickly have forgotten what a really hot summer is like. When my family and I lived in Virginia it was regularly 99° with humidity of 99% from May through October and Jack, the dog and I would hang out in the cool basement for the majority of the day to avoid heat stroke. It makes me realize how truly blessed we are this year with the corresponding lower utility bills and no threat of heat exhaustion!

Summer is a quiet time of year in the office — the Every Member Canvass has not started yet, there are no major holidays for which to prepare, and fewer people pass through the doors. But though it may be quiet in the office, it certainly has remained busy for Dorota and me. Dorota has taken on the massive task, with the help of a few lucky parishioners, of cleaning out and cataloguing of financial files and church archives from decades long ago. It is amazing the things she has been finding. I'll turn it over to Dorota so you can get an idea of just how large this project is.

For some people, summer means grill-outs, swimming pools, and vacation. For me, it means wading through basement storage space. St. Christopher's basement, to be exact. Who knew that, in between boxes of Christmas pageant costumes and altar guild décor, one could uncover copies of The Courier from the 1980s, EMC pledge cards from 1990, or tax forms from 1966!! I have been sifting through the financial records from the last 20 years in an attempt to organize those which are considered permanent records.

And me ? I have had a chance to update our website, parish brochures, courier email lists and our database. Look for a new Parish directory in the fall and prior to that a call for updates. We just keep rolling along, just like the summer. Before you know it – it will be gone!

We hope you are all enjoying these beautiful days of summer.
Robyn & Dorota

To receive the Courier by email each month, please email the Parish Office - office@stchristopherswi.org or call 414-352-0380.

A Message from Your Building Use Stewards -

St. Christopher's beautiful facilities are available for personal use by parishioners and their families and also community groups whose purpose and activities are consistent with St. Christopher's mission and vision. Thus far we have opened our doors to scouting groups, various support groups and the Herb Society, just to name a few.

The requirements for use are minimal so if you are interested please contact Dorota in the parish office at 414-352-0380 or email at office@stchristopherswi.org for more details. You can also visit the St. Christopher's website and click on the tab labeled "Building Use" to get started.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to become a member of the prayer team or would like to add a name to the prayer chain please contact the office or Kathy Housiaux.

The Prayer Chain meets the first Sunday of each month between services in the Williamsburg Room for prayer. Please join us!



AUGUST MILESTONES	
BIRTHDAYS	
1	Jack Casey
3	Judy Scharfenberger
6	Joyce Kuehl Tom Napper
7	Michael Kennedy
8	Martha Davis Kipcak Meredith Petrie
10	Bob Slater
11	Rick Deuser
12	Mary Marks
14	Ginny Kyle Sarah Schmidt
15	Martha Boles Tricia Moore John Roesner Franco Silverman
16	Abby Wigdale Maggie Wigdale
17	Maddie Goltz Kathy Rostad Henry Uihlein Lauralee Uihlein
18	Will Bartlett Ran Hamner
20	Augie Braeger Terry Hausmann
21	Mitchell Coburn Diane Eisen
23	Harry Ansley
24	Jon Jamel
25	David Sande John Thickens William Warner
26	David Uihlein
27	Ned Purtell
28	Alan Becker John Housiaux Jason Taylor Nancy Warner Zane Whitcroft
29	Jessica Etheridge Helen Sheen
30	Elizabeth Purtell Lily Ruf Mickey Ruf
ANNIVERSARIES	
2	Mike & Jen Darrow
3	John & Dee Hodnett
6	Dick & Rosemary Fritz
7	Bonnie Thomson & Don Callahan Casey & Heidi Brunner
12	Mitch & Tami Vincent
14	James & Stephanie Klas John & Julie Wolf Scott & Jennifer Weigel
16	Brent & Susan Martin John & Julie Kennedy Jon & Karin Jamel
22	Darrell & Jennifer Fischer Stephen & Elise Neils
24	Mark & Jayne Heffron
25	Jack & Jackie Greeley
29	Fred & Anne Stratton Ted & Hattie Purtell
31	John & Katy Housiaux

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7845 N. River Road River Hills WI 53217

Phone: 414 352-0380 Fax: 414 352-0381

Email: office@stchristopherswi.org
 Interim Rector's Email: charlescacaskey@aol.com
 Children's Ministry: children@stchristopherswi.org
 Youth Group: youth@stchristopherswi.org
 Caring Ministry: caring@stchristopherswi.org
 Rector Search: search@stchristopherswi.org
 Website: www.stchristopherswi.org

Parish Office

Open Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 3:00 p.m.

Staff

The Rev. Charles C. Caskey, *Interim Rector*
 Dorota Pruski, *Director of Administration*
 Robyn Slater, *Director of Communications*
 Sally Walters, *Director of Children's Ministries*
 John Beardsley, *Music Director*
 Anne Davis, *Youth Choir Director*
 Gloria Bond, *Housekeeper*
 Michael Schneider, *Building & Grounds Supervisor*

Vestry - Meets 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Tom Napper and Jayne Heffron, *Wardens*
 Hannah Pillsbury, *Treasurer* Robyn Slater, *Clerk*
 (2010) - Florence Parnegg, Helen Sheen,
 Kathleen Stokes, John Wolf
 (2011) - MaryBeth Ansley, Kip Jacobs
 (2012) - Nick Geimer, Jeni Piper, Deb Roesner,
 John (Chip) Slater, MaryBeth Ansley

Committee and Ministry Contacts

Altar Flowers: Helen Sheen
Altar Guild: Roz Krause, Mary Jane Perry
Acolytes: Dee Hodnett
Building & Grounds: Kip Jacobs
Building Use: Susan Martin
Caring Ministry: Lauralee Uihlein
Coffee Hour: Cordelia Gelly, Lyn Slater
Endowment: Bonnie Thomson
Finance: Hannah Pillsbury
Flower Guild: Roz Krause, Hattie Purtell
Gifts Committee: Edith Braeger
Labyrinth: Catherine Davidson
Memorial Garden: Jeanne Tanner
Newcomers: Deb Roesner
Outreach: Mark Heffron, Steve Petrie
Personnel: Kathleen Stokes
Prayer Chain: Chilly Braun, Kathy Housiaux
Search Committee: Laura Gough, Susan Hackl

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Permit No. 1643
Milwaukee WI

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Email: office@stchristopherswi.org
Interim Rector's Email: charlescacaskey@aol.com
Web Page: www.stchristopherswi.org

Dated material

This issue was mailed on August 12, 2009

THE COURIER

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

The Holy Eucharist

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, Mass on the Grass 5:30 p.m.
Thursday 7:00 a.m.

Outdoor Labyrinth - open to the public, weather permitting

The Rev. Charles C. Caskey, *Interim Rector*



Christianity is not just a religion...it's a way of life.