

St. Christopher

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

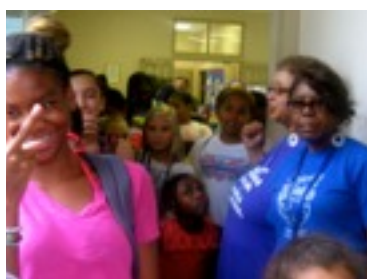


821 Edgewood Drive, Charleston, WV 25302 304.342.3272 www.stchristopherwv.com

A diverse family of faith, sharing in God's love, participating in ministries and welcoming all.

“Growing Green” at Summer Day Camp!

The St. Christopher Summer Day Camp was a success in mind, body, and spirit. The days from Monday, July 14 thru Friday, July 18 witnessed the



presence of the Holy Spirit in the many volunteers and children. This outreach to the community included instruction in Music, Art, Wellness, Writing, Internet Security,

Wood-work, Math, Scrap booking, and an introduction to religion. The children consisted of groups of six to eight year olds and nine to twelve year olds, numbering from thirty-five to forty-four each day.

Morning devotions began each day with Pastor Melissa Remington. This activity was followed by two periods of academic instruction, then lunch. In the afternoon, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the campers went swimming at the South Charleston Recreation Center. On Monday the afternoon session consisted of concurrent sessions on wellness led by Drs. David and Kevan Namay and the other session on horticulture led by Ms. Jenny Totten, from West Virginia State University Extension. Each day concluded with an afternoon snack and a

prayer. A newsletter of the day's event and a look forward to the next day's event was sent home with each camper.

On Friday the devotional was followed by a trip to the Heritage Farm Museum in Huntington in the morning and to the Valley Wave Pool in the afternoon. On Friday evening the campers had indoor and outdoor games. This was followed by a closing dinner and awards ceremony where parents, campers, parishioners and teachers participated. In keeping with our Theme “Growing Green”, instead of a paper award each participant was given a potted plant, thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Joan Conway, sister of Mrs. Elaine Chiles, who potted the plants.

Breakfast and lunch were provided by the summer food program administered by Kanawha County Schools and served by St. Christopher volunteers. Former campers older than twelve volunteered their time to be assistants to the adults, which was a real blessing.

In the end we all felt the comfort of the Holy Spirit blessing us with a task well done and the joyful anticipation of an even better camp next year. A big thank-you to all our volunteers and to all who contributed in any way! *Dr. Sonya Armstrong and Lloyd Miller, Co-directors.*

Greetings from Pastor Melissa



How many of you remember the phrase, *Rock my World*? Originally it had a positive connotation. It means one's world has been rocked in a good way. But, it also has a negative connotation when one's world is rocked in a tragic way. As we pick up a newspaper, turn on the television or peruse the internet we become jolted with reports of acts of violence, racism... (all the *isms* really), reports of terrorist war tragedies in Syria, Iraq, the conflict in Ukraine, and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

After the tragic terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon in April 2013 a new phrase was coined to describe Bostonians healing and recovering. The term was *Boston Strong*. Just as St Paul and Silas did not flee from prison after the prison was rocked by an earthquake (Acts 16:25-31), neither did the people of Boston. In the face of horror rather than flee they ran to each other to help. The term *Boston Strong* was soon modified by ABC World News Tonight as *America Strong*. These terms imply standing united to pick up the pieces and re-build the community better and stronger. As Christians we are called to not just be *America Strong*, or, *West Virginia Strong*; but ***Gospel Strong***. This is how we get through the events that *Rock our World*. *Gospel Strong* means to be people of hope and people who pick up broken pieces and rebuild a community better and stronger. This requires hard, dedicated work built on a foundation of God's love.

So what does it mean for us at St Christopher to be *Gospel Strong*? Our Sr. Warden, Dr. John L Fuller, recently said, "Our greatest strength and asset is our love for each other." He is right. *Gospel Strong* implies standing united together as the body of Christ in good times and in challenging times. Our survey results showed that we want to stay out of debt and make the best of where we are on Edgewood Drive and serve the West Side community. We are discerning a call how we can serve the needs of the community on the West Side as well as research the most cost effective way to expand where we are to accommodate our church growth.

As a unified body of Christ at St Christopher we do need to be *Gospel Strong* as we stay together to work hard making our church and local community healthier and stronger. And indeed we are founded on God's love with our greatest strength being our love for God and our neighbor. In the Gospel According to John, Jesus said, "The glory that you have given me I have given them...I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." John 17: 22a,26b. In other words, God is the source of a miraculous, creative love that binds all people together. And following Jesus Christ teachings of this love empowers us to run toward the places where we are needed rather than flee from our places of greatest challenge. Being *Gospel Strong* not only gives us the ability to run toward our challenges, but, to remain steadfast and dedicated to the good work needed to be done.

May we be *Gospel Strong* here at St Christopher and in the community in the weeks, months, and years to come? May we *Rock the World* in a good way!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Melissa



Some magic from Peterkin 2014 . . .



A word from the Senior Wardens

As the summer season winds down we look forward to the beginning of Fall with great anticipation; we began with the start of our Sunday School class, which adopted a new curriculum. On September 24th we will have a Stewardship Fun Night and Dinner (we all know how well we do dinner) and on Sunday September 14th we have the congregational brunch and meeting to discuss the results of the St. Christopher Episcopal Church Survey.

Hopefully we have all had the opportunity to review the results and summary of our collective thoughts on the direction of St Christopher for the near future. The Vestry is anxious to receive the constructive input that will be generated at our congregational meeting; we will have our listening ears on. The survey indicates our need to concentrate on our finances (budget), extend outreach ministry to the West Side and continue our existing ministries of Worship, Fellowship, Children and Youth, Van service, Choir and Pastoral Care. Your input and guidance is important to the Vestry as we are charged with developing the vision and mission for St. Christopher. We have a great loving church family; we pray the Spirit will move us forward as we strive to continue to do good works. *Dr. John L. Fuller and Preston Browning.*

From the Stewardship Committee

Traditionally, October and November are the months when the ‘Stewardship Campaign’ of annual giving is offered. As we enter this season remember the following prayer: Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance, and remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The purpose of an annual giving campaign is not only to raise support for the life-giving ministries of the congregation, but to also help members of the faith community explore intentional and proportional giving as a spiritual practice that reflects gratitude and generosity for all that has been given. For us as individuals and for our community of faith here at St. Christopher to achieve our vision, and fulfill our Christian responsibilities, we need you – your time, your treasure, and your talent.

As you pray and discern about making a meaningful commitment of your time, talent, and treasure, remember the two great commandments; “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and the second great commandment “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Pledging is your commitment to the operation of St. Christopher and to the ministry of outreach to our neighbors. We ask that you complete and return both the pledge card and activities form to the church office by November 7 or in the offertory plate on the day of ingathering, Sunday, November 9. There will be a special Stewardship Dinner on September 24 at 6:15. All pledge cards and the activity forms will be offered up for blessing and thanksgiving during the Eucharist on Sunday, November 9, 2014. St. Christopher – ‘Christ Bearer’ – Be a ‘Christ Bearer’ and pledge your commitment as a blessing. *Lanette Anderson, Dr. Sonya Armstrong, Preston Browning, and Cyron Lawson.*

Our Own Fred Chiles!

On August 23, 2014, Frederick Beecher Chiles, Jr. and Christie Annette Chiles Twillie were inducted into the WV All Black Schools Sports & Academic Hall of Fame. Fred was inducted as the Greatest of the Great, for Academics, as well as for Lifetime Achievement. Christie was inducted as a Vanguard and Legends Honor. Honoring and celebrating with

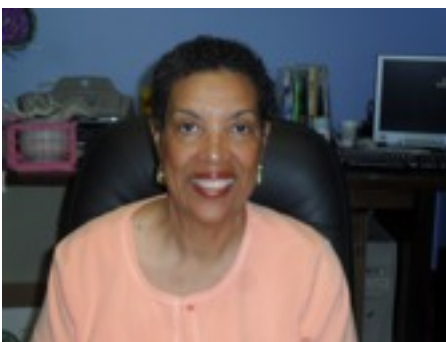
both father and daughter were twenty-three friends, family and St. Christopher members.

Founded September 19, 2006, the Hall of Fame was originally created to preserve the history of black education in West Virginia prior to 1954 and to honor African-American role models of yesterday.



Welcome Reginia!

Reginia Lipscomb is St. Christopher's Administrator. With efficiency and professionalism, Reginia ensures that St. Christopher runs like a top! We are so blessed that Reginia found us!



Paco, we love you!

Paco Cuadra was able to recommit as St. Christopher's Sexton. We are so very lucky!



The Birdhouse

St. Christopher has a birdhouse that we want to use for announcing milestones in our

lives. You can donate to this birdhouse and make our Summer Day Camp nest a little larger: for your birthday, good report card, your anniversary, a visit with friends and family, you cooked a great meal, a new job or promotion, great vacation or your team won a game. No amount is too small to give. Pastor Melissa will begin incorporating the birdhouse soon within the church service. We want to encourage everyone to participate with their milestones and celebratory happenings and watch the nest egg grow each year. *Joe and Jeannette Redd.*

IMPORTANT MILESTONES AND UPDATES ON OUR MEMBERS

- On October 30, **Cyron Lawson** plans to attend the 50th Reunion of his graduating class at Georgia Tech. My, how time has flown!
- **Zoey Rose Sikorovsky** started second grade at The Hunter School in Rumney, New Hampshire, on September 3, 2014. She and her mother, Jessica Rodecker, are currently living in Rumney so that Zoey Rose may continue her education at The Hunter School for another year that she began in March. Their address is P.O. Box 458, Rumney, NH 03266. Please drop them a note to say hello.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Kelly Merritt

A father and grandfather, Kelly loves to spend time with family. He grew up living the dream in an incredibly warm and loving family who always encouraged him to pursue his interests; his parents are his heroes. While he just joined St. Christopher in January 2013, he is no stranger to the Episcopal Church. As a child, Kelly attended St. Matthew's Episcopal Mission in Paradise, Louisiana and grew up listening to his paternal grandfather preach on holidays at a small Episcopal church in Hearne, Texas. In addition to his day job as the editorial page editor at the Charleston Daily Mail, Kelly serves as the public address announcer for South Charleston High School football and is beginning his 23rd season. He savors his mornings - every day before work, Kelly spends an hour hiking in the woods and enjoying the awesome beauty all around him. As a pet lover, his ten year old lab, Shelly, benefits from his avid attention. Kelly is a Renaissance man.

Malyka Knapp-Smith

Charleston is her home. Malyka lives with her parents, Dr. Cubert Smith and Eva Knapp-Smith, and their four-legged children. Malyka is pictured with their newest happy find, Lucas. As the daughter of retired educators, she teaches Spanish at South Charleston Middle School and water aerobics at the Charleston YMCA. She loves travel, exercise and reading. Malyka has been busy since joining St. Christopher in December 2013; she was baptized on this past Easter Sunday and serves as Clerk of the Vestry. Her lifetime goal is to travel to every Spanish speaking country. Her parents are her heroes, along with an inspirational Spanish professor at WV State University. Malyka is quite the creature of habit; she certainly appreciates an orderly, habitual morning routine. Timeliness and organization are also important to this lady; if given the choice, she will arrive early. When asked to offer three words describing herself, Malyka responded with "beautiful, compassionate and goofy."



Fellowship Committee

Fellowship will have a busy fall this year. We welcome new members and help in the kitchen every Sunday. In fact, we really need your help to continue to provide our Sunday fellowship after church. In order for us to continue, it is critical that participation increase. Please **mark your calendars** for the following Sundays, to bring a dish, set-up and clean-up:

1st Sunday - Everyone

2nd Sunday - Folks with last names beginning with A - J

3rd Sunday - Vestry

4th Sunday - Folks with last names beginning with K - Z

5th Sunday - Choir

Tish Lawson

Facilities Assessment Team, aka "FAT"

All Saints: A subcommittee of the Vestry, met on July 24 with Allen Pennington, a realtor, to discuss terms for listing the All Saints property, which information will be presented to the vestry. *Resource Center:* Two quotes for the replacement of the T'stats were received from ELCO (\$970) and Mullins (\$830) and will be presented to the vestry. Roof requires maintenance: removal of vegetation and inspection afterward. Paco and Mike will clean gutters. *Paco Cuadra report:* Paco had Pile hardware stock deicing chemicals for the church's use this winter. Sanctuary painting: Front and back are done. Paco is working on the sides at the choir. Narthex pier: Bricks have been replaced. Contractor will return to clean and seal. Narthex cross holder: Repaired. Roof Cross: Lights have been replaced. Cross requires painting. Garden Guild: Needs to be restarted. August 30 at 11am is the next garden work day. Pastor Melissa wants to have a vegetable garden for the

children. Tall Trees: Paco will get three prices to have all tall trees shaped. Exterior Lights: Lamps need replaced. Recommend LED warm white. Barnabas House: Paco will clean deck. Recommend that it be sealed after it dries from the cleaning. No other work is to be performed on Barnabas except for safety reasons until the Vestry considers recommendations from the Congregational Survey. Good Shepherd stained glass: Steve Haught is working on them. Hold on assignments until Vestry considers recommendations from the Congregational Survey. *Lloyd Miller.*

Communications

Kelly Merritt accepted the Communications committee chairmanship. The committee decided to publish the newsletter quarterly for now, with the next newsletter coming out in mid-September. Malyka is working with Regina to update the St. Christopher's church website: <http://stchristopherwv.com>. Karen Wheeler is responsible for the St. Christopher's Facebook page. Committee discussed having her update the page weekly. Decided to reprint more bookmarks but not brochures, since the bookmarks contain the same information and people are more likely to seek information on the church's website. The Committee discussed welcome bags and agreed to make more. Jeannette Redd detailed the contents of the bags and asked for more ideas. Malyka suggested small coloring books for visitors with small children. Committee members discussed a bird house set up inside to receive contributions, as had been done in the past. Contributions from parishioners would mark significant life events. Money collected could go to the Summer Day Camp. Kelly Merritt reported that he has read transcripts of all interviews conducted with long-term members of the four previous churches, has discussed an outline with Pastor Melissa, and is reading a

history of the Episcopal Church and will be working on the St. Christopher's story in the coming months. Discussed making a picture directory of church members. Could be printed or electronic, with an electronic one being formatted in such that it could easily be printed. Pastor Melissa said she will go through her sermons and pick a few that she might agree to being posted in Word on the website. *Kelly Merritt.*

Launching Sunday School

The 2014/2015 was kicked off beginning Sunday September 7, 2014 with the commissioning of our Sunday School teachers and Nursery Caregivers. St. Christopher is blessed this year to have four new teachers on the schedule for a total of ten. With many "hands on deck" the load should be easy. The curriculum being used this year is "Living the Good News". This is an on-line lectionary based curriculum that we have used and had success with, in the past. This will help tie what the young are learning in the classrooms to what the adults are hearing in church.

The Christian education of our youth is a critical part of our church life and the future of our congregation. This is a shared responsibility by all in the congregation. We thank you for your continued support for the youth of St. Christopher by showing interest in what they are doing in the classroom. This goes for everyone, not just the parents when they go home. Take a minute during the Sunday brunches to ask the kids about what goes on in the classroom. It is in building relationships with each other that helps strengthen our relationship with God. But most importantly remember the St. Christopher Sunday School program, teachers and kids in your daily prayers. With you, your prayers and God on our side we are headed for another successful year. *Ron King, Interim Christian Ed Co-coordinator.*

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 2014

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mon | 15th | F.A.T. Meeting | 6:30 PM | New Classroom |
| Tues | 16th | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |
| Sun | 21st | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Tues | 23rd | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |
| Wed | 24th | Stewardship Fun Night & Dinner | 6:15 PM | Parish Hall |
| Sun | 28th | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Mon | 29th | Adult Acolyte / Chalice / Servers Meeting | 6:30 PM | New Classroom |
| Tues | 30th | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |

OCTOBER 2014

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|-------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Wed | 1st | Pastoral Care Meeting | 6:30 PM | New Classroom |
| Sat | 4th | Garden Day (Weeding & Pruning) | 9:00 AM–12 Noon | |
| Sun | 5th | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Mon | 6th | Worship Planning Meeting | 6:30 PM | New Classroom |
| Tues | 7th | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |
| Wed | 8th | Vestry Meeting | 6:30 PM | Parish Hall |
| Sat | 11th | Creative Memories Scrapbooking | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM | Parish Hall |
| Sun | 12th | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Tues | 14th | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |
| Fri | 17th | Lay Leadership Appreciation Party | 6:30 PM | Pastor Melissa's Home |
| Sun | 19th | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Sun | 19th | U.T.O. (United Thank Offering) - In Gathering | | |
| Sun | 19th | Christmas Wreath Sales Begin | | |
| Mon | 20th | F.A.T. (Facilities Assessment Team) Meeting | 6:30 PM | New Classroom |
| Tues | 21st | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |
| Sun | 26th | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Mon | 27th | Communications Meeting | 6:30 PM | New Classroom |
| Tues | 28th | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |

NOVEMBER 2014

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|--------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sun | 2nd | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Mon | 3rd | Worship Planning Meeting | 6:30 PM | New Classroom |
| Tues | 4th | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |
| Sat | 8th | Garden Day (Leaves Clean-up & Mulching) | 9:00 AM– 2 Noon | |
| Sat | 8th | Creative Memories Scrapbooking | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM | Parish Hall |
| Sun | 9th | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Sun | 9th | Stewardship In Gathering Sunday | | |
| Tues | 11th | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |
| Wed | 12th | Vestry Meeting | 6:30 PM | Parish Hall |
| Sun | 16th | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Mon | 17th | F.A.T. (Facilities Assessment Team) Meeting | 6:30 PM | New Classroom |
| Sun | 23rd | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |
| Tues | 25th | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 PM | Resource Center |
| Thurs | 27th | THANKSGIVING DAY (Church Office Closed) | | |
| Sun | 30th | Holy Eucharist Rite I & Rite II Sunday Services - Advent I | 8:00 & 10:30 AM | Main Sanctuary |



The congregation of St. Christopher Episcopal Church welcomes you.

VISION STATEMENT

A diverse family of faith, sharing in God's love, participating in ministries and welcoming all.

CORE VALUES

- Sacramental Worship
- True Faith
- Caring People
- Hearts of Courage
- Real Acceptance
- Integrity in Living
- Service to GOD & Community

Services: Sundays at 8:00am (spoken)
and 10:30am (with music)
821 Edgewood Drive Charleston, WV 25302
304-342-3272

- The Right Reverend W. Michie Klusmeyer, Bishop
- The Reverend Melissa Remington, Priest in Charge
- The Reverend Gil H. Watkins, Associate Retired Priest
- Dr. John L. Fuller, Co-Senior Warden
- Mr. Preston Browning, Co-Senior Warden
- Mr. John Yeary, Junior Warden
- Dr. Michael Anderson, Treasurer
- Mr. Fred Chiles, Minister of Music
- Ms. Sarah Anderson, Nursery Care Attendant
- Ms. Madeline Barnett, Nursery Care Attendant
- Mr. Paco Cuadra, Sexton
- Ms. Regina Lipscomb, Office Administrator

St. Christopher Episcopal Church

821 Edgewood Dr.
Charleston, WV 25302

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| Church Administrator's Email: stchristopheradmin@stchristopherwv.com | | |