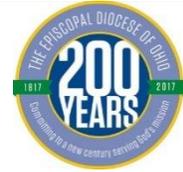


September 2017



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER



Dear Friends,

I hope that your summer has been a time of relaxation with family and friends. We who live in four-season country learn early to appreciate those luxuriously warm, long days which seem to fly faster with each passing year!

As we regather on September 10th, I look forward to greeting our children as they register for another year of Sunday School. We have experienced growth in the number of children who worship at St. Christopher's and so, to better meet their faith formation needs, we are adding a second class on Sunday mornings at 9:00. Children in 1st-6th grade will meet with Mrs. Reda in the second-floor classroom next to the Choir Room. Students in seventh grade through high school will meet with Mrs. Cole in the classroom next to the Rector's Office. Mrs. Cole will continue to work with those who are exploring being Confirmed at Bishop Hollingsworth's visitation in December. If you would be willing to assist in either class on an occasional (or regular) basis, please speak with Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Reda, or Mother Ann.

Please be sure to read Charley Marston's article about the renovations to our Children's Chapel that have been under way this summer. I am so very grateful to all who have been involved in this project. We will have an opportunity to thank everyone on Rally Sunday but I hope that you will all "save the date" of December 17th, when Bishop Hollingsworth will be here to Confirm, Receive, Hear Renewals of Baptismal Vows, and Consecrate our new Children's Chapel.

While the Chapel will be 95% finished by Rally Sunday, we would like the "finishing touches" to be gifts from members of the parish. Ramon and Jane Battles have given a beautiful children's processional cross. I have been approached by another couple who would like to give the movable altar that will allow me to celebrate Eucharist with the children and their families "in the round," another couple would like to provide vessels for the bread and wine of communion. There are many opportunities for making a gift in memory of a loved one, or a gift in thanksgiving for a person or event in your life. Please speak with Mother Ann to learn more.

Check the calendar for all the activities coming our way - and remember that Bargain Box is coming soon! Bring your nicest donations over the next few weeks. The more we sell, the more we have available to help the many organizations supported by our St. Christopher's Guild.

As fall begins, please remember that the Stephen Ministers and I are here to support you through any challenge you might be encountering in your life. Christ often reveals himself through the faithful companionship of our fellow believers. Allow us the privilege of serving you.

In Christ's Love,

Ann+



ONLY ONE SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 10th!

RALLY SUNDAY

10:15 Holy Eucharist

11:15 Church BBQ



MINUTES & REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP REPORT SUBMITTED BY: CHARLEY MARSTON

Autumn always brings a vibrant renewal of activities to our church and congregation such as Rally Sunday, the beginning of church school, the blessing of the hounds, bargain box, clambakes, the Every Member Canvas, and much more.

Importantly, it is a time when your Vestry needs to look at our financial condition for this year and plan for 2018. While it is not our favorite function at St. Christopher's, it is vital and important that we keep you aware of how we are doing.

Last winter, the Vestry approved an operating expense budget of \$371,563.00 for 2017. As of this writing, Mother Ann, the wardens and our treasurer, Mary Murray, are reporting that they expect that we will not exceed that authorization.

They also believe we can have a balanced budget this year if current year budgeted donations reach \$210,000.00 (a slight increase of \$4,500.00 over last year's results). The question is can that number be obtained?

To try to answer that, we have examined last year's results and how we are doing so far this year.

Last year we raised \$205,527.06 from annual giving including \$9,575.00 from our "Close the Gap" appeal. 132 families made contributions. Three families gave over \$10,000.00. Fifteen families donated between \$3,000.00 and \$9,999.99. We had indicated that an average gift of \$ 1,992.00 would be a target needed to balance the budget. 34 families exceeded that target and enabled us to help those who find our \$1,992.00 target a personal stretch. Thanks to all of you, we closed last year's books with a modest loss of \$3,037.40, instead of the \$22,881.00 we had originally feared. Again, thank you.

How are we doing this year? We are presently running slightly behind our year to date projections. As of this writing 99 families have donated \$115,992.39.

Every year we lose members and this year is no exception.

Every year we gain new members and that has happened. We hope they will keep our average gift objective \$1,992.00 in mind while thinking about our support.

So what does your stewardship committee conclude? We have a very good chance of attaining our financial goal if everyone equals or exceeds (exceeding is very important) the amount they gave last year, including their Close the Gap gift. Also, we need our new members to equal or exceed our \$1,992.00 average donor goal.

Rally Sunday is upon us and we welcome the wonderful things coming this fall and winter seasons. It is a great time for contemplation, celebration and offering our appreciation for all of the gifts which we receive, not only now, but throughout the year.

With best wishes and God's blessings, - Your Stewardship Committee

David Dickenson. Chairman
Janet Hargrave
Charley Marston

Scott Broome
Nancy Irwin
Fran Meyers

Morris Everett
Kurt Liljedahl
Mary Murray

MINUTES & REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY: MARY MURRAY

As we look forward to Rally Sunday and the start of the fall season, the Vestry wanted to provide a brief summary of our financial results to date. On the income side, we are slightly behind budget as a result of donations coming in more slowly than expected. Year to date through the end of July, we have collected approximately \$106,000 compared to the \$122,000 expected toward our full year budget of \$210,000. We have confidence that pledge commitments will be honored and expected donations received by year end.

Total expenses are also slightly behind budget at \$212,000 versus almost \$217,000 expected at this point in the year although we do expect expenses to increase in August and September with the start of the Church school year and increased level of Parish activities. Our expenses are also offset this year by the receipt of the disability insurance payment relating to Mother Ann's health issue in 2016.

Bottom line, our deficit is \$3,830 as of the end of July, which is about half of where we thought we would be at this point when we set the budget last fall. Although we had budgeted a deficit of \$11,453 for the full year, we now believe we can achieve breakeven results assuming all pledges are received by year end. Thank you to all of you who contribute to the financial viability of our Church. Please let me know if you have questions about our finances.

January- July 2017

INCOME

Current year Pledges	\$106,282
Prior year Pledges	\$ 13,165
St. Christopher's Fund	\$ 76,014
Plate and Holidays	\$ 4,229
Other	<u>\$ 7,773</u>
Total	\$207,463

EXPENSES

Diocese and Outreach	\$ 28,178
Salaries and Benefits	\$143,723
Pastoral Care and Investment	\$ 1,679
Property Expenses	\$ 18,372
Repairs and Maint.	\$ 4,784
Office and Administration	\$ 11,988
Christian Education	\$ 324
Worship and Choir Supplies	\$ 1,537
Special Events	<u>\$ 708</u>
	\$211,293

Surplus/(Deficit) \$ (3,830)

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT SUBMITTED BY: CHARLEY MARSTON

In 1852, Halsey Gates stood on the bank of the Chagrin River at what is now 7601 Old Mill Road, and declared that this plot of land would be set aside as a place of worship. Shortly thereafter, he and his fellow villagers erected our church building. From then on, it has been a sacred place within our valley. But a sacred place is just that, and without value until it is filled with people. It is the people past and present who have given St. Christopher by the River its character, its life and its purpose.

One of the very important aspects of our church life is our church school. We want our children to have a well-founded understanding of Christianity and its evolution, of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and the good news and redeeming values incorporated in its message. In recent years this inspiration has been delivered by Debbie Cole and Peggy Reda, and we are elated that they will be ready to begin the new school year with a fine cadre of children this September 10th.

MINUTES & REPORTS

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

For many years these lessons were presented in the little room in the back of the church looking out on the bridge. Many of us old timers fondly remember sitting in that room and being taught by Joan Hellman.

Last month I reported that, thanks to donations from Joan's children and friends, we are remodeling that room with the intent to strengthen our children's program and give it a more spiritual feel. During my conversations with Joan's children, Peter, John and Kate Hellman Morris, I asked them to share with us some of their memories about their mother and her relationship with St. Christopher. I am pleased to share their response:



Joan Alburn Hellman was the third daughter of John Alvin Alburn and Mary Isabel Alburn. The family moved to Gates Mills from Cleveland in 1915. Joan's mother was a founder of the Gates Mills Library, which began in the basement of St. Christopher. She continued to be the village librarian for many years after it moved to what is now the Historical Society. Joan's eldest sister, Ann, later married Wilbur Merkel; her other sister, Margaret, married Richard Seymour. All three girls ultimately resided in Gates Mills as adults. The Alburn Family lived in the house next to the rectory. The village being small and tightly knit, Mary Isabel was a friend of many of the women, who were active in the early days of St. Christopher's including Mrs. Walter White, Mrs. Thomas Jones, and Mrs. Frank Ginn. Joanie Walker was one of Joan's childhood playmates. Mr. Walker, an architect, was responsible for many changes to the church. Joan could remember

when the church was originally Methodist and a baptismal pool was centered on the alter. The family was close friends with Rev. Jackson and especially Rev. McDowell, who were the early rectors of the church when it became Episcopal. As young girls, they would unlock the doors to the church each day and set up the alter for Sunday worship. At the church during the Depression she and her sisters would assemble baskets of produce from Gates Mills gardens to be distributed to poorer families. When Joan was a young adult, before taking a job at Laurel School, she taught nursery school at St. Christopher. She was married at St. Christopher, all three of her children were christened and confirmed there, and her funeral services were held there. She actively participated in fund raising by volunteering during the Bargain Box Sales. It was her wish that the church be maintained and be central to the village community. In that spirit, her children are delighted to help renovate the Children's Chapel in her memory.

St Christopher has a rich history of people serving God's purpose. This brief report about Joan and others shares with us an important era of people devoted to fulfilling that purpose.

Thanks to the inspiration of the Hellmans, for almost a year, your worship committee, headed by Heather Daly, Mother Ann, the building committee and architect, John Brown, have been participating in many, many meetings to devise a remodeling plan for the children's chapel.

In July the Vestry approved the plan. August has been one of frenzied activity by our professional builders getting the room ready for Rally Sunday, September 10th, when church school resumes. We all are anxious to see the finished product. Let's have a big turnout for that Sunday when we kick off to the season and celebrate with our annual picnic on the lawn.

Finally, while we intend to use our new chapel this fall, we also look forward to the special visit of Bishop Hollingsworth on December 17th, when he will formally consecrate this beautiful room.

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
SUBMITTED BY: JOHN IRWIN**

As we approach the end of a remarkably beautiful summer in Northeast Cleveland, we should, as always, remain grateful for all that we have received and, at the same time, remain thoughtful of those in distress, in Texas, Louisiana and elsewhere. Life is precious and fragile but our faith sustains us and many others through difficult times.

As we get ready for the return of autumn, we look forward to Rally Sunday, the resumption of our educational programs for our younger members, the return of our choir and, what, I am sure will be a beautiful autumn.

Our Junior Warden has reported that much has been accomplished over the summer including the renovation of the Children's Chapel, thanks to the generosity of the Hellman family, as well as the contribution that all of us were able to make through the Capital Campaign. Our overall financial condition has improved significantly in the last two years and I have no doubt that the generosity of every member, as well as many friends of this parish, will continue to help us in our ministries, our education and our worship.

I have announced in recent services that we have two projects that we hope will engender energetic participation. The first is the Archive Project, an undertaking by those interested in helping the process of reviewing over 20 large banker boxes of records, documents, photographs and other historical items that have been accumulated and saved over the many years of the life of this parish. We need to go through those documents, make informed decisions about those items which should be preserved and those items which no longer hold such relevance and value as to occupy space in our church, space that can be better devoted to other purposes.

A sign-up sheet for those interested in participating in this project has been posted on the bulletin board. We expect to conduct an organizational meeting to determine the times that the project members will gather to review the documents and make the necessary decisions. I would anticipate that this would take several sessions, each probably two or three hours in length and that these sessions could be held at a time convenient to participants in the project either in the evenings or weekends. If you would like to consider participating in this project, please sign up with name, email or telephone number.

The Vestry also wishes to support the Fellowship and Evangelism efforts of the parish in a broad fashion. For many years, multiple parishioners have organized periodic social gatherings to instill an increased sense of community and fellowship in the parish, gatherings such as the annual clambake dinner, the pancake breakfast, the Rally Sunday barbecue, as well as special events with outside speakers and similar activities. Again, a sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board inviting all those who might be interested in joining together in an effort to expand and regularize these activities which have proven to be so enjoyable and beneficial to many.

As always, we should continue to keep in mind those persons in need with our gifts of food and toiletries as well as our continued fulfillment of our pledges and offerings. As always, it is my great honor and pleasure to serve this wonderful parish.

MINUTES & REPORTS

JUNE 20, 2017 VESTRY MEETING MINUTES SUBMITTED BY: IRENE MCMULLEN

Present: Mother Ann, John Irwin, Charley Marston, Elise Bennett, Mary Murray, Mary Holmes, David Dickenson, Sean McMillion, Irene McMullen

The meeting came to order at 6:00 PM. Mother Ann led a prayer.

John Irwin moved approval of the minutes for May 16, 2017. Sean McMillion seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Charley Marston led a discussion regarding the Children's Chapel. Aurora One Construction submitted an estimate for \$22,600. Another bidder was higher. Yoder Construction has not yet submitted a quote. The estimate exceeds the Hellman family contribution by a wide margin. Kate Morris will be contacted regarding the quotes to discuss the dilemma with her. Charlie will email the Vestry the Yoder bid when it comes in. We may have to postpone the renovation.

The Ohio EPA has recommended the project in the riparian area for funding. We are awaiting US EPA approval for the grant.

John Irwin discussed a draft conflict of interest policy. Members of the Vestry should send their comments to John, or sign the draft policy document before the next meeting.

John Irwin discussed a draft Building Use Policy. He created the draft based upon a policy from a church in St. Paul, MN. It may make sense to have a cleaning fee for usage.

July 4 Parade – a discussion was had regarding cotton candy. The Boy Scouts may hold a banner and march in the parade. Sue Thorpe is looking into use of a tractor and using the old model of the church in the parade.

Mary Murray discussed finances. \$12,140 came in as pledges from last year. We should be at about break even by the end of the year. Mother Ann passed out a sample brochure from another church used for their every member canvas. Letters will go out in September with an update on finances. A flyer in the bulletin listed contributors for the year.

Mother Ann discussed an extensive list of her work responsibilities for the year. The Bishop approved having Lydia Bailey appointed as our deacon. She will be in our parish once or twice a month.

The possibility of having an annual Vestry retreat was discussed. It should take place near the beginning of the year.

Future Agenda items to discuss included a columbarium, work on evangelism, and tasks relating to the 200th Anniversary.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM



- **CLAMBAKE** – Stay tuned for a date coming in October!
- **YOUTH EVENT– Oct 6-8 at St. Martin's in Chagrin Falls**
- Diocesan Convention November 11-12 (Nov 12 includes youth!)
- Fair Trade Sale – December 3rd in our Guild Room
- Bishop Hollingsworth will visit on December 17, 2017.

MINUTES & REPORTS

JULY 18, 2017 VESTRY MEETING MINUTES SUBMITTED BY: JOHN IRWIN

The meeting of the Vestry on July 18, 2017 was called to order at 6:03 PM with an opening prayer led by Mother Ann Kidder. In addition to members of the Vestry, members of the Children's Chapel Renovation Committee were also in attendance.

Those present for this evening's meeting included Vestry Members Sean McMillion, Elise Bennett, Mary Murray, Charley Marston, Ann Kidder, John Irwin, and on behalf of the Renovation Committee, Sally Conley, Peggy Reda and Melanie Reda.

The Junior Warden, Mr. Marston began the meeting by reporting on the status of the Children's Chapel renovation project. Mr. Marston recounted the bids that had been received to date for the renovation. The lowest and best bid received from 3 proposals was offered by David Novak who had prepared the chancel banisters.

Mr. Marston also reported upon his communications with the Hellman family regarding their initial gift and the possibility of additional gifts for this project in memory of Joan Hellman,

An extended discussion then followed among all attendees regarding the scope of the project, funding, various options to the renovation plans such as carpeting v. hardwood flooring, details of the dimensions of the renovation, relocation of structural elements in the Children's Chapel as well as considerations of additional funding from the capital campaign.

After a lengthy discussion on these matters, a motion was presented to authorize the Junior Warden and representatives of the renovation committee to proceed to negotiate a contract with David Novak, using their best judgment consistent with the plans for the renovation, up to a total amount of \$18,000. After further extensive discussion the motion was approved. The Junior Warden and the Renovation Committee will proceed accordingly.

There being no further business to come before the Vestry at this time, our Rector offered a closing prayer and the meeting, on motion duly made and seconded, was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

CHOIR MEMBERS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOME! SUBMITTED BY: YURI Mc ELLIOT

If you are interested in joining our choirs, we would love to have you! Please contact me or any choir member and we'll be happy to talk to you about it. Our fall schedules are:



Sunday, September 10 9:30am	Adult choir Sunday morning rehearsals resume
Sunday, September 24 9:00am	Handchime choir rehearsals resume
11:20am	Junior choir rehearsals resume
Wednesday, October 4 7:00pm	Adult choir Wednesday rehearsals resume

We are excited to begin the fall schedule and would be very happy if you could join us.

SUBMITTED BY: PEGGY REDA



Welcome to all returning families and to new ones that have joined us for the first time since summer started! We are so glad to share our parish life with you! Our population is growing and the number of younger members (4 to 8 years old) has increased. Mrs. Reda and Mrs. Matthews will be teaching the younger class. Mrs. Debbie Cole will be teaching the older class which will integrate the Confirmation curriculum into the familiar Weaving God's Promises.

Our weekly lessons are based upon the Gospel according to Matthew and the two classes will be taught in sync with coordinated lessons. The first lesson, for instance, for both levels will be the story of the Garden of Eden & Adam and Eve. The presentations, of course, will be age-appropriate. We are looking for volunteers to assist Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Reda once a month. If you would be willing to offer your time, please call the church office or email Peggy Reda at prseverin@aol.com. The second "teacher" would not be required to plan any lessons. We need an assist in the classroom and a parishioner to help guide our young people.

St. Christopher's would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Tom Matthews for their gift of time in setting up the classrooms and donations of new supplies in the classroom. There will be so many surprises!

CHURCH SCHOOL/NURSERY SCHEDULE

9:00 – 10:00	CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES (upstairs across the hall from office)
10:00 – 11:00	Nursery Care with Miss Melanie
10:00 – 10:15	Snack Time in the Nursery
10:15	Process into worship service – children sit together
10:30	Process out of service and to Children's Chapel (15-20 min.) – Bible Stories,/personal prayers/Lord's Prayer/Procession to Nursery
~10:45	Process into worship service and join families for Communion and Blessing (Children stay with parents until end of service and coffee hour.)



Parents/Grandparents, please complete a registration form and give it to the teachers.

September Lessons:
Garden of Eden & Adam & Eve
Cain & Abel



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WITH US IN THE GUILD ROOM ON MONDAY
MORNINGS WITH THE STEPHEN MINISTRY GROUP
SUBMITTED BY: KATHY PENDER**

As many of you know the eight people from our Parish were commissioned in May as Stephen Ministers after completing 50 hours of training. These Stephen Ministers continue with supervision and continuing education on an ongoing basis twice a month. It has been my privilege to facilitate these sessions and watch the growth and depth of these individuals in terms of their understanding, not only of themselves intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, but also to learn the skills needed to be able to listen with compassion to others. They have learned to share this with fellow Stephen Ministers in practicing different situations that might occur in real life.

We are studying and delving more deeply into our own faith and spiritual beliefs. I will assign homework in the form of discussion questions or ask for a piece of writing. Recently, I asked the group to write the story of Jesus from one's own perspective focusing on how that story communicates to him or her the reasons we Christians love and care.

Here is a beautiful example from one of the Stephen Ministers who wrote the following. It shows pure honesty and love and care and the trust that has come from being in this group where one has been able to listen, learn from one another, care for one another and love one another through the grace of Jesus Christ. Thank you Peter for your beautiful message:

“I often wonder why Jesus was born at such a time. Why was he born in humble circumstances and not into nobility as he could have easily been? Was God trying to send a message? Was this motivational for all of us to give each one of us a reason for our existence in the World?”

To me, Jesus was continuing to send us a message. Unless we are very lucky, there is always going to be some hardship in our lives but we have to find and develop our own individual talents and rise above that surface. Jesus did it without the internet, airplanes, Wi-Fi and all the communication devices which are all now around us. Now the story of Jesus comes to us with displays of his many talents. He showed us leadership, resolve, not worrying so much about himself but putting his trust in God, the ability to attract others – his Disciples – but not only while he was alive but even after his Death and Resurrection, he had followers, such as Paul and the Apostles, who were given the power through laying on of hands, and speech in numerous languages and continuing the founding of Christianity in its many. Is Jesus the messenger of God?

There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus loved and cared for little children and through adulthood. He must have had a caring attitude without worrying where the next meal was coming from. Was this because he put his trust in God, the Father and the disciples and followers around him? In our lives we rely on our Parents to provide us with all the necessities to achieve and find our talents. Now, Jesus gave me the impression that he never did really worry about his own existence. That is why we can never really find the high principles in ourselves that Jesus had. I would have liked to have got to know Jesus – yes, to have been one of his Disciples because my perspective on life would have changed.

Achievement is a funny word. Is it our own sense or how others view us? Does our growing up influence our own perspective of our love and care? Do we really know ourselves for without that knowledge, it is very hard to get to know others whether they be little animals, such as our cats or one of my Family members such as one of my six Grandchildren. I think that if you really want to be caring or loving then you cannot ignore animals just as much as your Family members – you cannot ignore one from the other – this is a bit hypocritical because I am guilty of quashing a fly if it offends me! Is that truly Christian?



Throughout the History of our World, there has always been bloodshed from the time of Jesus and before until our pleasant Day. In most communities, people practice an eye for an eye is this really Christian? I think that you can go so far but to be truly Christian, even in the life of Jesus, that is very difficult for anyone to follow. This is not an excuse for not trying to attain the level purported by Jesus. To me, he is the role model for all of us to follow and through his example we cannot ever stop trying! Without Jesus, I cannot see Christianity in its many forms evolving – there have been plenty of people who have tried! Is it just love and care being the magnet which binds us as Christians or is it Christianity a last resort kind of religion that a lot of prisoners being led to execution request or is it something deeper than that?

In my own mind, I seem to have so many unanswered questions which I know and understand will never be answered in my lifetime – I seem to have been born many generations too late! Unfortunately you only have 24 hours in a Day – I wish there were more! I think that true Christianity is a very deep, misunderstood, and difficult religion to master. For me, it is more than just love and care. From time to time, I feel that Jesus tries to show me that but somehow I miss it! For me love and care is a very good start! Do all Christians love and care? I see myself as a Christian but on the other hand I do not always practice love and care. I think that there is more in one's Christian life than just love and care and that is why I don't think I will ever attain the title of being a well rounded Christian in my own eyes. Is that really important or should you accept a person for what he or she shows? Is that the meaning of being a true Christian? I think that Jesus' example clearly showed that! I don't understand the meaning of being a true Christian because I think that a person is really conceited if he/she feels that! Does he/she want other people to consider you as a true Christian – I hope not. The topic of this discussion shows that not all Christians love and care but I maintain that there are many other attributes that can be shown as being Christian but for the individual that does not make that person a bad Christian if he does not always love and care but for me that is what Stephen Ministry is all about.”

Letting God Lead -

Practical approaches to allowing God to lead our faith communities so as to participate more fully in God's life and love.

Led by The Rev. Dr. Blair Pogue, we will explore:

- who God is and how God is already at work in the life of church members and neighbors,
- spiritual practices faith communities can incorporate to let God lead, and
- a "Way of Jesus", eight spiritual practices used by Blair's church in St. Paul, Minnesota to give them a concrete GPS for the spiritual life.

Our work at this conference will stand alone, but if you attended our most recent Winter Convocation, you have heard about Blair's church. It is the congregation at which The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile, our keynote speaker, serves on staff and about which he spoke several times. Blair Pogue is the rector there, in addition to writing and teaching. This conference will build on the same themes.

Blair will also lead us in exploring new ways we can help our parishioners see, seek, and celebrate the active presence of God in their everyday lives and vocations. How can we support, equip, and encourage each other as we serve as Christ's ambassadors in our neighborhoods, schools, families, friendship networks, workplaces, and volunteer work?

Bring a team of your vestry and other lay leaders for a day of participatory learning, story telling, exploration of spiritual practices, and encouragement as we collectively seek to learn how God can lead our faith communities more fully.

Blair has served as the Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in St. Paul since 2005. Before that she was the Associate for Adult Christian Formation at Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna, Virginia. She is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. In 2013 she completed a Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission and Leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Registration fee: \$25 per Person or \$10 each for a team of four or more from the same congregation. Lunch is included. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-lay-and-clergy-leadership-conference-tickets-36160055700>.

We wish a blessed day to all those with BIRTHDAYS in September!



Larry Bennett
Deborah Brown
Hudson Champ
Andrew Clark
Debbie Cole
Elsbeth Daly
Christine DeBaz
Marty Feller

Toly Gnant
Peter Holmes
Mary Holmes
Lily Klinginsmith
Paulette Matthews
Evin McMullen
Ron Miscko
Stacey Miscko

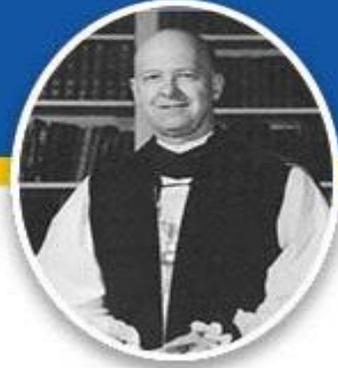
Samuel Miscko
Melanie Reda
Fran Sarkisian
Alison Selman
Conrad Selnick
Betty Tone
Jan Tuttle



A Year of Bishops

Celebrating the 11 bishops during the 200 year history of the Diocese of Ohio

The Rt. Rev. John Harris Burt



1968-1983

The eighth bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, John Harris Burt, was born in 1918 in Marquette, Michigan. He graduated cum laude in 1940 from Amherst College. During his time at Amherst, he served as the managing editor of the college newspaper, president of his fraternity, and vice-president of his senior class. After graduation, he spent one post-graduate year studying at Columbia University in New York City and working at the Christadora House on the Lower East Side as a social worker. Burt then entered the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia; he graduated cum laude in 1943.

He was later ordained and moved to St. Louis, Missouri to serve on the staff of Christ Church Cathedral. He also served as director of St. Paul's parish. He then met his future wife Martha May Miller.

Toward the end of World War II, Burt served as a chaplain in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theatre. After the war ended, he became the Episcopal chaplain of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He then served for seven years at St. John's Episcopal Church in Youngstown, Ohio where he received the Aryona Lynch Human Relations Award and worked with the ACLU.

In 1957, Burt became the rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California. He transformed the parish into one of the largest and most active voices for change in the country. While serving as president of the Pasadena Community Planning Council, he coordinated the work of welfare and other civic organizations. In 1963, Burt cosponsored the "Rally for Freedom," Los Angeles's largest civil rights rally until that date. The rally included a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The night before the rally, Burt joined Dr. King at the Shrine Auditorium where he convened a "Town Meeting for Democracy." During the event, a bomb threat was called into his home and the LAPD bomb squad was summoned.

In 1967, Burt was elected the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Ohio. While bishop, he was a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War and he spoke at anti-war rallies in Cleveland and at Kent State. The Presiding Bishop named him to be a delegate on an interfaith global tour that took him to South Vietnam and put him in an International Inter-Religious Symposium of Peace in New Delhi. The symposium was the first in history to have leaders of the Hindu, Muslim, Shinto, Taoist, Buddhist, Christian, and Jewish traditions around a single conference table.

As the collapse of the steel industry devastated Youngstown in 1978, Burt co-founded the Ecumenical Coalition of the Mahoning Valley. While the efforts proved to be largely unsuccessful, Burt received the Thomas Merton award given by the Thomas Merton Center for Peace and Social Justice to "national and international individuals struggling for justice."

Although an ardent and vocal supporter of women's ordination, Burt was embroiled in controversy when the Rev. Peter Beebe, invited three women who had been irregularly ordained in Philadelphia to preside at celebrations of the Eucharist at Christ Church, Oberlin. This action resulted in an ecclesiastical trial which led to a "Godly admonition" on the Rev. Mr. Beebe for disobeying his bishop. In 1976, Burt declared that he would resign as bishop if the Episcopal General Convention failed to approve women priests. During his time as bishop, he ordained eight female priests.

Burt was also committed to improving Christian-Jewish relations. He served as the president of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, the head of Christian-Jewish Relations for the Episcopal Church at the national level, and he was a founding member of the church relations council of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Burt retired as bishop in 1983. He continued fighting for social justice until his death on October 20, 2009.

NEWS, NOTES & EVENTS

BARGAIN BOX is just around the Corner - **SEPTEMBER 29TH!!!**



Presort week- September 18th
Set up Sunday – September 24th
Bargain Box week – Sept 25th – 29th

WE NEED DONATIONS!!

We are down in our merchandise so please go through your closets. Remember only clean items that are in good shape!

NEW THIS SALE:

Sept. 29th, we are opening at 8:00 a.m. for “Early Birds” & charging \$10.00 to shop one hour ahead of the crowd. Hopefully we will maintain the previous level of donations to our charities.

The Women’s Guild organizes this fun COMMUNITY event.
 We need EVERYONE’S HELP!!!!

REACHING OUT AND REACHING IN:

How LGBT-Affirming Churches Can Grow in Numbers and Spirit



SAVE THE DATE:
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

LGBT AFFIRMING CHURCHES CAN GROW IF THEY ARE VISIBLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Experience shows that the growing edge for many affirming congregations includes not only LGBT seekers but heterosexual millennials who identify with the church's inclusive values.

Learn the best practices of growing LGBT-affirming congregations, including tips for:

- Mission
- Ministry
- Communications
- Marketing and Advocacy

The event includes workshops, small-group discussions, and worship. Food will be provided.

Retreat leader Andrew G. Lang is executive director of the Open and Affirming Coalition and an Episcopalian and member of Trinity Cathedral. The Coalition is a network of 1,400 LGBT-affirming congregations in the United Church of Christ. A professional church communicator, Andy was a daily newspaper reporter and Congressional press secretary in Washington, D.C., before joining the UCC's national communication staff in 1993. He has been the Coalition's executive director since 2010.

Andrew G. Lang

A one-day retreat for church leaders in the Diocese of Ohio.

For more information contact: Kay Rackley
 rackley@trinitycleveland.org

CONNECT WITH US:
  

Free parking is available at Prospect & E. 22 St.
 Visit www.trinitycleveland.org for worship schedule, news, events and more.

TRINITY CATHEDRAL
 AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF FAITH
 The Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio located in downtown Cleveland
www.trinitycleveland.org • 2230 Euclid Avenue • 216-771-3630



Presents...

STAND UP FOR FAMILY PRIDE

Comedy Fundraiser
 September 9, 2017

Starring...



LIZ RUSSO

Notre Dame Education Center
 Chardon, OH at 5:30 pm

Tickets: \$25 per person
www.familyprideonline.org 440-286-1553



Senior Wellness Expo

FREE Richmond Town Square **FREE**
 Wednesday, Sept., 13th ♦ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

FREE Breakfast and Bingo
 9:00 am in the Food Court

FREE Health Screenings
 Blood Pressure ♦ Glucose ♦ Cholesterol Screenings
 Balance & Grip Strength Assessments
 Presentations ♦ Vendor Tables



Senior Wellness Expo

Richmond Town Square ♦ Wed., Sept. 13th ♦ 9:00 am -1:00 pm

FREE Breakfast & Bingo 9:00 am in the Food Court
 provided by University Hospitals Bedford & Richmond Medical Centers

FREE Health Screenings 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Give-a-ways, Presentations, and Much More!
 What's New with Medicare?
 Healthy Living : Cooking Demo
 Consumer Protection: Avoiding Scams & Fraud
 Vendor Tables showcasing helpful products & services

Enter for a free drawing! Winners will be chosen after each presentation.
 No registration required. For more information, contact WRAAA 216-621-0303 x1114.

CONVENTION 2017

November 10-12, 2017 will be a very exciting weekend for the Diocese of Ohio. Together we will convene our 201st Annual Convention and conclude a year of bicentennial activities. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend any or all of the weekend's activities so please share the following registration information with your parishioners.

NEW & IMPORTANT: EVERYONE MUST REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY

Everyone in the Diocese of Ohio who plans to attend any of the scheduled events must register. In other words, registration is not by group. This includes guests, visitors, volunteers, presenters, convention delegates, alternates and clergy.

1. Registration is by individual, so a registration must be submitted by/for each person.
 - a. If registering more than one person, be sure to register each individual by their name. Name tags will be printed from the registration data.
 - b. Convention delegates, alternates, and clergy – please coordinate with your parish so your registration is not duplicated.
2. During the registration process you will indicate which of the following you plan to attend:
 - **Nov. 11 – Hilton Cleveland Downtown & Huntington Convention Center**
 - Convention
 - Convention Eucharist
 - Reception
 - Bicentennial Banquet
 - **Nov. 12 – Bellwether Farm, Wakeman**
 - Youth & Young adult gathering with the Presiding Bishop (Jr. High to age 30)
 - Eucharist and Bellwether Farm Dedication
 - Lunch
3. During the registration process you will indicate which meals you plan to attend and make your meal selections. The Saturday boxed lunch (during convention business) is \$15 and the Saturday bicentennial banquet is \$35.

REGISTRATION is now open. To register, go to <http://2017conventioncelebration.eventbrite.com> or download a registration form at <http://dohio.org/registration>.

If you have questions about registration, please contact Betty Kondrich at [216-774-0466](tel:216-774-0466) or Eva Cole at [216-774-0457](tel:216-774-0457).

NOTES:

- The **Clerk of the Vestry must still submit the lay and youth delegate certification** forms as usual to comply with the canonical requirement for the business of convention.
- Registration for the Clergy & Senior Wardens conversation with the Presiding Bishop on Nov. 10 at Trinity Cathedral will be handled separately at: <http://tinyurl.com/2017PBLunch>.

THOSE WHO SERVE

SEPTEMBER 2017 ROTA

SEPTEMBER 3RD

8:00 EM: Peter Batcheller
LR: Kitty Thomas
AG: Sally Conley

10:15 EM: John Irwin
LR: Brian Wright/Mary Holmes
AG: Judy Eakin
Ushers: Rik Bole/Brian Wright
Hospitality: Gretchen Fisher/Nicki Henry

SEPTEMBER 10TH

8:00 NO SERVICE – RALLY SUNDAY

10:15 EM: Beth Miller/ Charley Marston
LR: Jeff Eakin/ Kathy Pender
AG: Jean Ramsey
Ushers: Brendan Daly
Hospitality: **RALLY SUNDAY COOKOUT**

SEPTEMBER 17TH

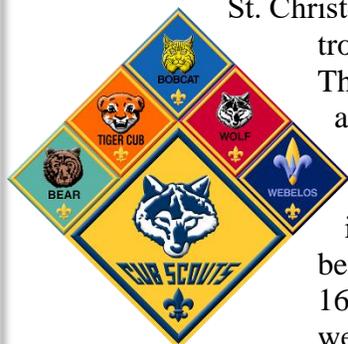
8:00 EM: Melanie Reda
LR: Kitty Thomas
AG: Rosalie Della Ratta

10:15 EM: Randy Cole
LR: Bob Syverson/ Marilyn Fisher
AG: Nicki Henry/ Loni Todd-Lorenz
Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl
Hospitality: Lindsey McMillion / Nancy Irwin

SEPTEMBER 24TH

8:00 EM: John Irwin
LR: Jeff Eakin
AG: Teri Ianni

10:15 EM: Beth Miller
LR: Mary Holmes/ Linda Webb
AG: Neal Lee
Ushers: Dave & Darlene Hauserman
Hospitality: **SET UP SUNDAY**



St. Christopher's hosts a cub scout troop here at the Church. They plan to meet the first and third Wednesday's each month at 6PM, starting in October. An initial interest meeting is being held Saturday, Sep 16th at 10AM. All are welcome!

Vestry 2017

John Irwin	Senior Warden
Charley Marston	Junior Warden
Irene McMullen	Clerk
Mary Murray	Treasurer

Class of 2019

Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Irene McMullen

Class of 2018

Elise Bennett, Charles Marston, Sean McMillion

Class of 2017

Heather Daly, David Dickenson, Mary Murray

Northeast Mission Area Council Representatives

Peter Batcheller, 2017-2018

Charlene Currutt, 2017

Volunteer Opportunities

Blessed Are We Dinner

Friday, September 14th

Meet at St. Christopher's at 4PM

Contact the office if you plan to help out.

Food Pantry

Saturday, September 15th

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Call the office if you wish to volunteer.



In **SEPTEMBER**, we are collecting:



Dry Pasta
Sauce
(preferably no glass)
Mac N Cheese
Ramen



We continue to collect toiletries for our Veterans.

September

Sunday

Monday

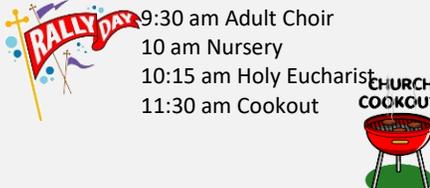
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>Food Pantry Donation: Dry Pasta, Sauce, Mac N Cheese, Ramen</p> 					<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2:00 PM Helmut Alpers Funeral</p>
<p>3 XIII Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>4</p> <p>CLOSED LABOR DAY</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:30 AM Guild Board Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 XIV Pentecost NO 8AM SERVICE! 9:30 am Adult Choir 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Cookout</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>9-11 AM Stephen Ministry</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>15</p> <p>St. Andrews Blessed Are We Dinner Meet @ 4PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Scouts 10:00 AM Our Savior Lutheran Food Pantry</p>
<p>17 XV Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School 9:30 am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6-8 PM Vestry</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 XVI Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult Choir 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior Choir</p> <p>SET UP SUNDAY BLESSING OF THE HUNT</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>9-11 AM Stephen Ministry (At Kathy's House)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>October Newsletter article/information deadline</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>BB Healing Service 5PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>29</p> <p>BARGAIN BOX 9-5</p> 	<p>30</p>
			<p>Oct 4 – 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals Resume</p>			

St. Christopher by the River

Gates Mills, Ohio

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone No. : Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information:

Date of Birth: _____ Last School Grade completed: _____

Name of School: _____

Allergies/ Medical Information/Other:

Emergency Contacts:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Dismissal Information:

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child:

Other Information that maybe helpful:

ST. CHRISTOPHER
BY-THE-RIVER
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
stchrisbytheriver.org

7601 Old Mill Rd.
PO Box 519
Gates Mills OH 44040

The Rev. Ann Kidder, Rector
stchris.motherann@gmail.com

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Nursery Care for 10:15 service
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Parish Office

Open T-W-TH 8:30-2:30
440-423-4451
stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

September 2017 Newsletter



St. Christopher by-the-River

We welcome you to join us:

Sunday, September 3rd – XIII Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, September 10th – XIV Pentecost

ONE SERVICE ONLY

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
RALLY SUNDAY / COOKOUT

Sunday, September 17th – XV Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, September 24th – XVI Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
BLESSING OF THE HUNT

ONLY ONE SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 10th!

RALLY SUNDAY

10:15 Holy Eucharist

11:15 Church BBQ



SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR KIDS 5-14

9 -10 a.m. Church School Class (Upstairs)
10-10:15 a.m. Break & Snacks in the Nursery
10:15-10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary with class
10:30 -11:00 a.m. Children's Chapel
11:00-11:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary with families

NURSERY CARE

10 am-11:30 am for Ages 0-4