



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

In case you have not seen her recently our Church Cleaner, Lucy Calvo, is expecting a baby boy in early October. He is a surprise and we are nearly as excited about him as his own family. A few weeks ago we held a baby shower for Lucy in the Guild Room and I want to thank all of you for keeping it a secret. Lucy was genuinely surprised! I am thrilled to share with you that the Vestry has approved a six-week paid maternity leave for Lucy, which may be extended by adding on her regular two-weeks annual paid vacation. Lucy is beyond grateful to the Vestry – as am I. Anyone who has welcomed a child into their family knows how very precious and important that time together is. Lucy's daughter, Andria, will be covering our Church cleaning needs during her mother's leave. Thank you Andria!



Babies seem to be a theme in our parish life this year. On March 29th, Matt and Jamie Vazzana welcomed Emery Quinn Vazzana into their family. Soon after, on July 1st, Rich and Haley Radis welcomed Vivienne Quinn Radis into their family. Just think – these two newest members of our parish already have something in common! The Babies and children of our parish have been blessed over many years with the wonderful love and care provided by Miss Melanie in our Nursery and in their faith formation by Miss Peggy and her parent volunteers. When we baptize a child, we all, along with the parents and godparents, make a promise. The parents and godparents promise to be responsible for seeing that the child being presented for baptism “is brought up in the Christian faith and life.” The whole congregation promises, by their “prayers and witness”, to help that child “grow into the full stature of Christ”. These are huge promises and the only way in which we can faithfully fulfill them is in our response, “I will, with God's help.”

What does the Christian faith and life look like? How do we pray and witness in ways that help our children “grow into the full stature of Christ”? Baptism itself is a good starting point. In baptism we renounce: Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God, the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God, and all sinful desires that draw us from the love of God. We turn to Jesus Christ, accept him as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace and love, and promise to follow and obey him as our Lord. Our decision to be baptized or to bring our children to be baptized is an irreversible choice to turn to Jesus and follow him for the rest of our lives here on earth. The baptismal covenant that follows this moment of decision is a practical guide for this life-long journey. After we affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed we promise *to continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers, to persevere in resisting evil, and whenever we fall into sin to repent and return to the Lord, to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.*

We each do our best on any given day, knowing that we will keep the promises imperfectly. Through it all we put our trust in the promise God makes to us that in our baptism we participate in the death and resurrection of God's own son. We are joined in baptism with the living Christ and are marked and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever. Nothing that we do or have done to us in this life can destroy that promise and gift of eternal life. As Paul said in his letter to the Romans, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Thanks be to God!

In Christ's Love,
Ann+

It's hard to believe August is here, once again! I hope all of you have had a nice, relaxing and restful summer! I look forward to seeing many of you back here come September. Even though it is summer and life slows down for many, we have been busy keeping the church building and grounds in good shape.

First, Hugh has done an outstanding job keeping the flowerbeds looking beautiful and the lawn in pristine condition! Thank you so very much for your dedication to our parish! I have heard a number of comments from people about how pretty and inviting the church looks!

The new choir room rug was replaced in June due to defects. Thank you to Hugh, Jolyon Welsh, Xavier Zup and Andrew Everett for moving furniture, cabinets and bookcases in and out of the room during carpet installation. The sacristy toilet was repaired and resealed and is in good working order now.

The rectory gutters have been thoroughly cleaned out. We were happy to say goodbye to the little forest of trees which had made their home there! In addition, Vancuren Tree Service will be trimming the trees along the fire lane, removing a dead ash tree that overhangs the church, and removing the hemlock trees at the corners of the rectory as they are not looking very healthy and their root system is far too close to the foundation. We will replace these trees with pink Kousa dogwoods. The HVAC system at the rectory is also being studied and evaluated. I appreciate Mother Ann and Margaret being so patient and understanding while they have made due with window air conditioning units for the past few weeks!

We are also addressing two of the projects that are on the list of capital improvements. First, the church sign in the front yard has been replaced with an entirely new sign that is made out of PVC material that will not chip, crack and age like the old sign. Check it out the next time you come! We are also looking at and moving forward with the landscape improvement needed on the west side of the church. At the July vestry meeting, the vestry voted to clear out and replant the bed along the fence line and the back bed to the left of the maple tree along the river, and the little mounded area where there are steps leading up to a bench. By this Fall, we are hoping to clear out these beds, kill unwanted vegetation, apply leaf hummus to add nutrients back into the soil, and eventually add new planting.

Please enjoy these last few weeks of summer! Please know that I am always available to you! I am here almost every Sunday at the 10:15 service if you have a concern, question or comment. You are also welcome to contact me at 216-409-2370 or by email at chanbecky1@roadrunner.com.

Vestry

May 22, 2019 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Irene McMullen

May 22, 2019 St. Christopher's-by-the-River Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Becky Everett, Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Irene McMullen, Mary Murray, Jim Pender.

The meeting came to order at 6:00 PM. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

John Irwin moved approval of the April 24, 2019 meeting minutes, as amended. Mary Holmes seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

John Irwin spoke about why the idea for a vineyard at Bellwether Farm will not become a reality. The labor costs would be too high. Bellwether is in need of trees, and possibly supplies for a sugar bush. Irene McMullen will look into grant possibilities to obtain trees, which would be planted as part of a service project.

John Irwin spoke about the \$10,000 of the Jubilee Fund. It was decided to find a way to approach the Parish to determine the best way to distribute these funds. An urban ministry program with a capital aspect has been suggested. A gift to the City Mission was also suggested.

John Irwin moved that the Vestry communicate with the Parish regarding a gift to Bellwether Farm and a project for the Jubilee Fund by the end of 2019. Becky Everett seconded the motion.

John Irwin asked for Vestry support for the Guild's "Raise the Roof" fundraiser. Mary Holmes moved that the Parish contribute \$500 toward the fundraiser. Mary Murray seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Becky Everett gave an update of some projects.

Gutters – Kudos to Becky Everett for undertaking thoughtful research on gutter cleaning and gutter covers. Becky explained that gutter cleaning is necessary and outlined strategies for cleaning. John Irwin moved that St. Christopher's contract with BC Gutters for the next year for \$1,125, for gutter cleaning and repair. Jim Pender seconded the motion All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Elevator – Our new elevator is installed and functioning beautifully. Charley Marston is working on obtaining a commemorative plaque. The last of the invoices will be paid soon.

Streambank Restoration – The project is complete, and the plants are beginning to show leaves.

Choir Room Carpet – The carpet is defective and will be replaced at no charge to the church on June 10,2019.

Mary Murray distributed the April financial statement. Our financial picture is on track based on where we expected to be regarding a deficit. How to account for the Daughters of the King account was discussed. Mary Murray reported that Mary Zup has figured out the sewer bill, and we will be receiving regular bills now. Mary Murray is also looking into pricing for natural gas through a contract.

Jim Pender spoke about delays in the work of the Stewardship Committee relating to an inability to obtain information regarding parishioners. Unfortunately, the delay of months to obtain basic information means that the Parish does not have a strategy for consistently raising funds and keeping track of donors in an easy-to-use fashion. Becky Everett will try to create a paper notebook to use as a starting point at a later date.

Irene McMullen noted that the application to the Ohio History Connection for an historic marker has been mailed.

Mary Holmes spoke about the cottage meetings, which were attended by 33 individuals. The committee has started to identify strengths of the Parish. The Committee will be meeting with outside community individuals, including the Gates Mills School and Community Club, among others. The committee will likely come up with a few large goals for the Parish. The congregation has the responsibility to build loving relationships among parishioners. Mary Holmes would like to have a July Vestry meeting to discuss the results of the cottage meetings.

Mother Ann spoke about a request received from the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, an entity the Guild has selected for donations annually since 2005. The Parish could augment those contributions by sponsoring a grant application to the Diocese of Ohio for the benefit of the American Friends. Mother Ann moved that St. Christopher's apply for a grant as long as there is no budget allocation (no cost). Mary Holmes seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mother Ann spoke about a brochure she received for pilgrimages to the Holy Land. This might be an opportunity to publicize to the Parish to see if there is interest.

John Irwin noted that the Archive Project will start their work after June 10.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.

By Mary Holmes, Darlene Hauserman & Kathy Pender

Phase I of the Strategic Planning process for St. Christopher Church by the River seeks to determine from parishioners and the outside community what are the perceived strengths and challenges of the church. This phase looks at the history and current life of the church in the context of contemporary life in an effort to identify goals for the future. It is both an assessment of our current situation and a guide to our future based on our collective values and the opportunities presented to us by our sense of calling.

Thirty-three parishioners attended cottage meetings and interviews were conducted with eight community leaders to learn about our dreams for the future and find ways to be a community partner. There are a few important members of the parish to interview (young families), but an initial report has been presented to the Vestry.

Our next step is to use our findings to craft a compelling mission statement for the church and create a vision with specific plans for achieving our goals over the next five years. It is not too late too late to share your thoughts with any of the planning team. The Vestry will be meeting August 10th at the church to continue our process. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please contact us.

August Birthdays

- 1 Carol Smith
- 5 Joey Inkley
- 6 Cecile Murray
- 8 Donna Bixler
- 9 Lynne Fisher
- 12 Connie White
- 13 Jeff Eakin
- 14 Patrick Hoeflinger
- 15 Peter Batcheller
Frank Ventimiglia
- 16 Mary Murray
- 18 Sarita Frith
- 20 Marcia Alpers
- 22 Luke Mitchell
Maddie Pucell
- 24 Charlie Broome
Warren Morris
- 28 John Weber
- 31 Jane Chisholm



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8th



ONE SERVICE ONLY – 10:15

Look for a sign up at the end of the month.

SUMMER HOSTESS

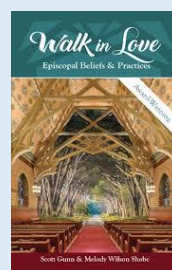


We still need help on:

**August 18th
September 1st**

Call the office or sign up on the bulletin board.

ADULT FORUM



Sundays at 9AM we are studying 'Walk In Love, Episcopal Beliefs & Practices'. Books are \$20. Please contact the office if you would like one. Feel free to join in at any time.

SUMMER HOURS



Summer Hours will continue throughout August. The office will be open only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30-2:30 throughout the month of August

BARGAIN BOX

COMING SOON!

Set up Sunday will be September 22nd

The sale is FRIDAY September 27th

Food for the Poor Auction. June 2nd, 2019



August 4th

8:00 EM: Kitty Thomas
LR: Teri Ianni
AG: Sue Marston
10:15 EM: Randy Cole
LR: Susie Thorpe & Tom Matthews
AG: Mary Murray
Ushers: Brian Wright & Rik Bole
Hospitality: Rosalie Della Ratta

August 11th – Morning Prayer

8:00 Lay Readers: Peter Batcheller & Charley Marston
LR: Annette Lowe
AG: Renee Kolecki
10:15 Lay Readers: John Irwin & Randy Cole
LR: Fran Sarkisian & Lindsey McMillion
AG: Jean Ramsey
Ushers: Ron & Neal Lee
Hospitality: Neal Lee

August 18th

8:00 EM: Fran Meyers
LR: Kitty Thomas
AG: Courtney Schmidt
10:15 EM: John Irwin
LR: Becky Everett & Judy Holmes
AG: Marcia Alpers
Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl
Hospitality: **Please sign up.**

August 25th

8:00 EM: Melanie Reda
LR: Annette Lowe
AG: Sally Conley
10:15 EM: Beth Miller
LR: D. Hauserman & Jeff Eakin
AG: Darlene Hauserman
Ushers: Dave & Darlene Hauserman
Hospitality: Nancy Irwin

Vestry 2019

John Irwin Senior Warden
Becky Everett Junior Warden
Irene McMullen Clerk
Mary Murray Treasurer

Class of 2021

Elise Bennett, David Hauserman, Sean McMillion

Class of 2020

Becky Everett, Mary Murray, James Pender

Class of 2019

Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Irene McMullen

Northeast Mission Area Council Representatives

Peter Batcheller, 2019

Linda Webb, 2019

Volunteer Opportunities

Blessed Are We Dinner

Friday, August 16th

Meet at St. Christopher's at 4PM

Contact the office if you plan to help out.

Food Pantry

Saturday, August 17th

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Call the office if you wish to volunteer.

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter

Serve Lunch.

Wednesday, August 21st

Look for May Sign ups on the bulletin board.

All welcome. Carpool leaves at 11:00 sharp!

FOOD PANTRY

In **AUGUST**, we are collecting School Supplies:

Please, only **new** supplies.

Scissors, Paper

Folder, Notebooks

Glue, Erasers

Pencils, Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils, etc.





Sunday



Monday

August



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday



Friday

 <p>New School Supplies</p> 			<p>Adult Forum is studying:</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>6 PM Holy Land Trip Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Pentecost VIII 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist with Baptism</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 OFFICE OPEN</p>	<p>7 OFFICE OPEN</p> <p>6 PM Archive Team</p>	<p>8 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10-2 Vestry</p>
<p>Mother Ann on Vacation</p>						
<p>11 Pentecost IX 8 am Morning Prayer 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Morning Prayer</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 OFFICE OPEN</p>	<p>14 OFFICE OPEN</p> <p>6 PM Archive Team</p>	<p>15 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>St. Andrews Blessed Are We Dinner Meet @ 4PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Our Savior Lutheran Food Pantry 11 AM</p>
<p>Mother Ann on Vacation</p>						
<p>18 Pentecost X – Guest Priest John Keller 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4:30 PM Watershed</p>	<p>20 OFFICE OPEN</p>	<p>21 OFFICE OPEN</p> <p>11:00 Men's Shelter Volunteering</p> <p>6 PM Archive Team</p>	<p>22 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>Mother Ann on Vacation</p>						
<p>25 Pentecost XI 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9-11 AM Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>27 OFFICE OPEN</p> <p>9:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>28 OFFICE OPEN</p> <p>10AM DOK Mtg</p> <p>6 PM Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>29 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

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

August 2019 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

We welcome you to join us:

Sunday, AUGUST 4th – Pentecost VIII

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

Sunday, AUGUST 11th – Pentecost IX

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sunday, AUGUST 18th – Pentecost X

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

Sunday, AUGUST 25th – Pentecost XI

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

NURSERY CARE

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

