



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

JUNE/JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

As you may know, our own Bishops and the Bishops of the Diocese of Southern Ohio have agreed on a common process and standards for a return to worshipping in person. Part of that process requires each parish to formulate a detailed plan for resuming in-person worship in as safe a manner as possible.

I am working with our Wardens and Vestry to formulate a plan for St. Christopher's. The standards and guidelines provided by our two dioceses are quite thorough and detailed, which is immensely helpful as we draft our parish plan, which will be reviewed by our Bishop prior to returning to in-person worship. I am hopeful that the Vestry and I will be able to send a proposed plan for St. Christopher's to the Diocese by the first week in June. If all goes smoothly, we may be able to open our doors for worship by the end of June. That said, I cannot give you a "date certain" at this point. We will send a special mailing to all of you once our plan has been cleared and we have determined a date for regathering. That mailing will provide you with the details of what we have done to maximize your safe return to in-person worship and what to expect when you arrive. We will do our best to give you a full week's advance notice so that you can prayerfully choose the most appropriate way for you to worship at that time.

It is important for you to know that this will not be like the worship experience that we all shared prior to the middle of March. Masks will be required to be worn throughout the service and seating will be marked for you so that we can all maintain an appropriate six-foot distance from each other. (Households may, of course, sit together.) We will be asking you to sign-up in advance for worship (details to come later). There will be no singing by congregation, choir, or even a soloist. (Music will, of course, continue to be an important part of our worship and Yuri and I will ensure that music continues to enhance and support our worship experience.) Prayer Books and Hymnals will have been removed from pew racks and we ask that you bring your own Prayer Book to church. We will loan one to you but ask that you take it home and then bring it with you each time you come to church.

Our worship services during this "Phase 2" time will be Morning Prayer; and so the biggest change to our worship, in some ways, will be the absence of Communion. In the decades since the publication of our current Book of Common Prayer our worship has come to focus almost exclusively around sharing the bread and wine of Holy Eucharist. There are differing theological perspectives on Communion. One perspective is that the priest may consecrate and consume the bread and wine "on behalf of" the people. The Bishops recognize that this is a perspective that has been present historically in the Church and so the Guidelines allow for the clergy to consecrate and consume Eucharist "on behalf of the congregation". My own theological perspective is this: Sharing the bread and wine of Holy Eucharist is an incarnational experience of our oneness with each other in Christ Jesus. Since we cannot safely share Communion with each other at this time, I do not believe that it is appropriate for me to do so and exclude all of you. I do not usually have a "black and white" approach to life but in this case, for me, it's "all of us or none of us". We all hunger and thirst for Communion and I choose to share that hunger and thirst with you.

Finally, please know that you are not required to come back to worship. If gathering with a group of up to forty people does not feel safe, if you are over 65 and especially if you have any health conditions that increase your vulnerability to COVID-19, I encourage you to make the worship choice that is right for you. We will continue to offer on-line opportunities for worship, fellowship, and study through the end of this year and likely beyond. John Irwin will continue to post our Sunday worship on our parish YouTube channel. So please, again, make the choice that is best for your health and safety. I love and care for you all and my greatest fear throughout this time has been that one of you would fall victim to this terrible virus.

If you do not have internet access or cannot figure out how to access our online opportunities for worship, fellowship, and study, please call me at 207-664-4041. I will do all that I can to support you through this difficult and challenging time.

With Love and Prayers for you all, Ann+

VESTRY MINUTES, MARCH 1, 2020

Becky Everett, Junior Warden

Vestry meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting

Present: Ann Kidder, Becky Everett, Elise Bennett, Jim Pender, Tom Matthews and Charley Marston.

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am by Mother Ann who led us in prayer.

Becky Everett volunteered to take the minutes for the meeting.

The business of nominating and voting on vestry officers proceeded as follows:

- Elise Bennett moved to accept Becky Everett as the Junior Warden and was seconded by Tom Matthews.
- Jim Pender moved to accept Mary Murray as the Treasurer and was seconded by Charley Marston.
- Becky Everett moved to accept Judy Holmes as the Clerk, pending her acceptance at the next vestry meeting, and was seconded by Elise Bennett.
- Becky Everett moved to accept Charley Marston as the Senior Warden and was seconded by Elise Bennett.

The motions passed.

Becky Everett moved that the Senior Warden, Treasurer, and Rector have signatory power when writing checks from Parish accounts. The motion passed.

The meeting date for the monthly Vestry meetings was set for the fourth Wednesday of every month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned.

SPECIAL VESTRY MEETING, APRIL 2, 2020

Charles Marston, Senior Warden

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 with Mother Ann delivering an opening prayer.

Members present via Zoom conference- Mother Ann Kidder, Charles Marston, Becky Everett, Sean McMillion, Mary Murray, Jim Pender and Mary Holmes.

Following an afternoon conference call with Sue Leishman and Bill Powell, Mary shared with us the U. S. government SBA coronavirus Small Business Paycheck Protection Program. The government will lend up to 2 1/2 months of our expenses which we will incur for salaries, benefits, utilities and possibly other items. Mary estimates the amount would be \$55,517.00. If we receive the loan and actually spend the money the loan would be forgiven. Any money not spent would need to be repaid over a one half to two-year period. The Vestry unanimously approved by acclamation the authorization for Mary to go forward and apply for the loan.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17.

VESTRY MINUTES, APRIL 30, 2020

Tom Matthews, Clerk

April 30, 2020 St. Christopher's by-the-River Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Charley Marston, Elise Bennett, Becky Everett, Judy Holmes, Mary Holmes, Mary Murray, Sean McMillion, and Tom Matthews

The meeting came to order at 6:07 PM. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

Mother Ann reviewed the first order of business - the election of a clerk for the Vestry. Tom Matthews offered to cover this role with Becky Everett as part of the nominating process. All agreed - Tom Matthews elected as Vestry Clerk.

Mother Ann then discussed the approval of the minutes from the February 19 meeting, the March 1 special meeting, and the last minute – meeting on April 2. Mary Holmes moved they be approved. Becky Everett seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Motion Carried

The second order of business was the review of the February and March Financial Statements. Mary Murray reviewed the positive pledge amounts so far this year which have resulted in a good overall financial status. The discussion then went on to the application of the EIDL and grant under the CARES act. The EIDL for \$42k has been received. The grant for \$10k has been submitted.

Mother Ann then thanked Mary Holmes for the letter she submitted for the May newsletter and invited Mary to discuss the Message about Strategic Planning. Mary discussed elements of group and individual motivations and a study she found interesting that may be beneficial in our effort to get more of our parishioners to make their contributions through the digital portal. This then led to a discussion of whether some sort of number of individuals contributing digitally campaign/announcement should be created and added to the newsletter. Pros and Cons were reviewed and members were requested to consider in preparation for the continued discussion at the next meeting.

After the review of the submitted letter, Mary Holmes made a related request for the Vestry to consider possible candidates for the Stewardship Committee.

Mother Ann then reviewed the Bishop's recommendations for a conservative approach for the return to normal activities and events. With the uncertain date, Mother Ann mentioned she is investigating additional web based group meetings/events/sessions.

Becky Everett reported that the cleanup was complete from the recent flood, that the drainage was fixed, and the landscaping is targeted to be complete at the end of May. She also reviewed that the Rectory AC will need to get replaced, so the 3 estimates are getting updated for the project.

Charley Marston had some connection issues and called in and continued his discussion about his concern of keeping in contact with all of the Church's parishioners. He made a recommendation that each Vestry member be a contact person for a group of parishioners and an easy way to do this was each getting assigned a portion for the directory. Assignments from the 2019/2020 directory: Elise B- pages 1-4, Judy H- pages 5-9, Mary Holmes- pages 10-14, Tom M- pages 15-18, Sean Mc- pages 19-23, C M- pages 24-29, Jim P- pages 30-34, Becky E- pages 35-39.

For the next meeting, Mother Ann proposed we have a call in 2 weeks (May 14th at 6pm) due to the recent fluid nature of events and then we have the regular monthly meeting on May 28th at 6pm.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 PM.

Vestry

Charley Marston Senior Warden
Becky Everett Junior Warden
Tom Matthews Clerk
Mary Murray Treasurer

Class of 2022

Judy Holmes, Mary Holmes,
Charley Marston

Class of 2021

Elise Bennett, Tom Matthews,
Sean McMillion

Class of 2020

Becky Everett, Mary Murray,
James Pender

Northeast Mission Area Council

Representatives

Peter Batcheller, 2020
Linda Webb, 2020

Please read the enclosed letter received last week from the UTO committee regarding the UTO Spring in gathering. All donations this year will be devoted to COVID-19 Pandemic. Please consider donation as we all count our blessings and pray that his pandemic ends soon. Stay safe and blessed.

Sandy Batcheller



SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Charley Marston

While the ability to have our usual services and meetings has been eliminated, the work of the parish has continued: online services, Becky's carillon playing, Zoom prayer sessions and meetings have become the norm. The good news is that we have guidance from the Bishop to move into phase two and prepare a way to safely reopen our doors and welcome everyone using new practices. As Mother Ann is our leader in how we meet and worship, please keep on the lookout for her comments how she is working with the diocese and Vestry on the safest way to gather again. The Vestry was unable to hold our retreat at Bellwether Farm in March but we have much to do so our plan is to have a meeting locally shortly. In addition to starting services, we recognize that the virus has somewhat stalled our ability to congregate and to invite friends and acquaintances to come see St Christopher and consider becoming members. It is a big goal and one we need to activate as soon as possible. While we have been able to pay all our bills, our income from donations has been sporadic. In our last newsletter, this year's stewardship chairman, Mary Holmes, wrote about *our website and that it contains a new link for us to use to make donations on a onetime or ongoing basis. I recently made a gift using the system and found it extremely useful and easy.* Also, a tremendous number of our parishioners have already made a gift in the form of cash or stock and we wish to say a big thank you to everyone.

---With best wishes. and **A BIG THANK YOU TO:**

2020 Donors and/or Pledgers

The Riverside Group
Mr. M. Stacey Alatis
Mrs. Joan Allgood
Ms. Marcia Alpers
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Armstrong
The Rev. Deacon Lydia Bailey
Ms. Letitia Barnes
MR. & Mrs. William Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Batcheller
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Battles
✠Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Bixler
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Mr. & Mrs. C. Perry Blossom
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Mrs. Nicole P. Henry
✠Mr. & Mrs. Peter Holmes
✠Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hoyt
Ms. Teri Ianni
Dr. & Mrs. John Irwin
Rev. Ann Kidder & Mr. Ted Fletcher
✠Mr. Michael Klinginsmith & Dr. Gretchen Fisher
✠Ms. Renee Kolecki
Mr. & Mrs. James LaMantia
Mr. Tony Lammers
✠Mr. Jay Lammers & Emily Foote-Huth
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Lee
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Mr. & Mrs. Jon & Ginny Lindseth
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Mrs. Gladys Loth
Ms. Annette Lowe
✠Ms. Lucy Lytle
Mrs. Tillie Malm
✠Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Marston
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Marting
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Matthews
✠Mr. & Mrs. Bruce & Ellen Mavec
Mr. William McCoy
Mr. & Mrs. Sean M. McMillion
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. McMullen
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Meyers

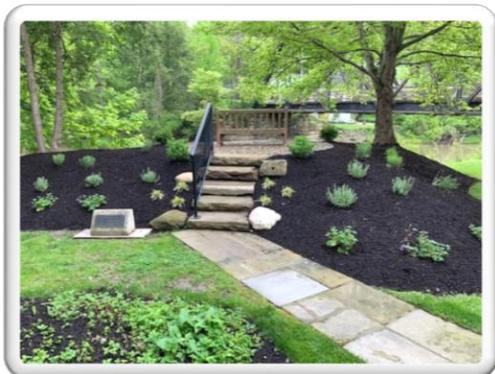
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✠Ms. Linda Webb
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Weitzel
Ms. Lynn Wiss
Mr. & Mrs. David Wolf
Mr. Brian J. Wright
✠Mrs. Joyce Zaid & Mr. Jolyon Welsh
Mrs. Lydia Zimmerman
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Zittkowski
✠Donations have been made through on line giving.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT Becky Everett

Greetings to you all! Summer is just about upon us with all its sun and warm weather! What a blessing after sheltering in place since the middle of March! I am very excited to let you know our landscaping project is finally complete, and I invite you to come visit our beautiful side yard, enjoy the lovely perennials, and climb the stairs to sit on the bench. It is a very peaceful and serene spot to enjoy the view of the river, reflect, meditate or pray.

I have also met with our very own master gardeners, Fran Meyers and Mary Holmes, to discuss the flowerbed by the St. Christopher statue. We are in the process of designing this garden space which promises to be spectacular. Fran has even decided to donate perennials, lilies and other plants to help fill this space. Thank you, Fran! We will also be transferring some of the extra spring bulbs from other areas of the property. We are still in need of funds, however, to pay for plants to complete this area as well as the beds on either side of the front door of the church. If you would like to donate to this cause, you can send a check made out to St. Christopher by the River with "Garden Fund" written in the memo line, **OR** you can make an online contribution using the church website or the link that appears in the News and Notes each week. Look for the Garden Fund category to which you can donate. We so appreciate any support you can give us!

God's Peace and Blessings be with each and every one of you!



Kindly keep up with your pledge during this shutdown

Even though we are not able to meet in person, St. Christopher's depends on their members donations during this time. Checks may be mailed to PO Box 519, Gates Mills, 44040 or you may give electronically through our website: www.stchrisbytheriver.org

NO Bargain Box Donations

We are not able to accept Bargain Box donations at this time. Not only are we wanting to limit potential exposure to the virus, but also with the church closed, we have no one to store and sort any donations. We will let you know if and when we can start receiving donations again.

'SELFIES' Wanted!

Thank you to all who sent in photos. Please keep them coming! We are looking for a photo of you or you and your family. Thank you!

Last Carillon Concert

The last Carillon concert will be played Sunday, June 7. Thank you so much to Becky Everett for donating her time and talents to benefit not only the parishioners of St. Christopher's and the community of Gates Mills, but also all of the visitors who came to hear the concerts.

Congratulations to Kerry Gandt!

Kerry recently completed her Honours Dissertation at the University of Saint Andrews in Fife, Scotland. She is one step closer to completing her degree of MA Honours in the School of Classics.



Flower Donors Needed!

Anyone interested in becoming a Sunday flower donor, please contact the office. We have a few openings. We are very grateful to those who donate and many who donate to two or more Sundays. Please consider a Sunday Flower donation. The requested donation is \$80. The donor may specify to whom the flowers are dedicated. This past month we have been providing beautiful live wreaths instead of our usual Altar Flowers. (at the same cost). Once services resume, we will return to flowers for the Altar.



Flower Dedications

- May 3 Ethel Fisher, Ruth Hood, Edward Misco, Sr. Edward Misco, Jr. by Ron & Carolyn Misco
- May 10 James T. Donaldson, James T. Donaldson, Jr., Penny G. Donaldson, Susan K. Miller, Richard H. Miller, Aston Y. Miller by Beth Miller
- May 17 Sarah Christy Dickenson and Jeffrey Rockwell Cudlip by Frances and David Dickenson
- May 24 In Thanksgiving for Mother Ann, the Staff and the Vestry at St. Christopher's by Annette Lowe





JUNE

- 1 Sandy Batcheller
- Clay McMullen
- 3 Alison Benek
- Chris Pucell
- 5 Stephen Morris
- 8 Elisabeth Blossom
- 11 Joan Allgood
- 12 Elise Champ
- 21 Bill Reynolds
- 23 Jay Lammers
- Tom Vail
- 29 Ryan Donahue

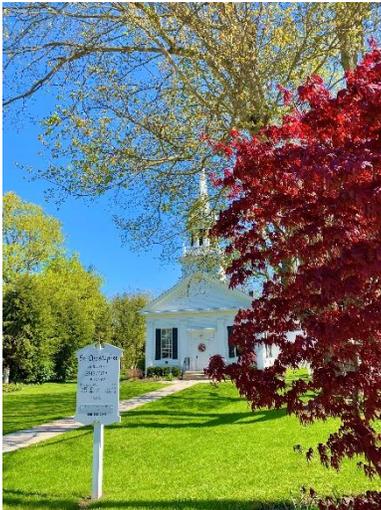
All Volunteering and
Food Pantry
donations are
suspended for June
and July



JULY

- 2 Jim Miller
- Iris Vail
- Frankie Ventimiglia
- 5 Sal Cicirello
- 10 Bob Weitzel
- 11 Charley Marston
- 13 Nancy Irwin
- 18 Frances Dickenson
- John Irwin
- 21 Margaret Lamantia
- John Lamantia
- Connie Lincoln
- 22 Randy Cole
- Barb Miller
- Gini Negrelli
- 23 Anderson Osolin
- 26 Joyce Welsh
- 29 Brittany Benek

May Pictures Around St. Christopher's



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

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

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

Sunday Services

In person worship is currently suspended.

Find our weekly worship on
[YouTube](#).

Parish Office

Currently closed to visitors.
440-423-4451

stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

June/July 2020 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River Opportunities to Study, Worship, and Chat Together Online

Thursdays, 5:00 Evening Prayer

Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573658691>

Meeting ID: 757 365 8691

Tuesdays, 10:00 AM Adult Forum

Join us to help us all stay connected to the Word, God and our Faith during these unprecedented times. To participate, email or call Mother Ann so she can send the ZOOM invitation: stchris.motherann@gmail.com
207-664-4041

Sundays, 11:30 AM Coffee (Half) Hour

Join us on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87998417516?pwd=ZS80OWVsMnNsQlltRVhkQWJxSmk5UT09>

Meeting ID: 879 9841 7516 Password: 463412

For Those Without the Ability to Join Us On-line

Now that the weather is becoming reasonably mild, I would love to come for a “dooryard call” so that we can see each other face to face (from six feet away) for a brief visit. Please do call me at 207-664-4041 and let me know if you would like me to visit. If you live in assisted living or a nursing home, I will not be allowed to enter until that restriction has been lifted by the Governor but I am always happy to chat with you and pray with you over the phone.



Please watch our web site and for a special mailing/email for information on when services will resume.