



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Do you remember my story from the August Newsletter about the time that Margaret and I accidentally ran a half-marathon? If so, you will also remember that we did not actually run the whole way. The final miles were completed as we held each other's hand and determinedly, one step at a time as night fell, kept going until we reached the end of our seemingly endless journey.

Anticipating a Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas that will demand our determined "one day at a time" journeying onward into the New Year, I invite you to read again my closing thoughts from that August Newsletter article.

*In the years since, I have often thought about how that experience showed us both things that we had not known before. Things about ourselves and about each other. About the importance of courage, patience, persistence, and hope in the face of an unknown future with no clear endpoint in sight. About how much we can help one another get through long, tough times by simply sticking together and supporting each other in holding on to hope and the will to keep going.*

*We don't know how much further we have left to go but we have each other – and having each other was what got Margaret and me safely through our long journey through the woods in that dark night so long ago. So hold on to hope – this time will end, though we do not yet see when that will be. We have each other for our own present, personal, marathons. Call each other, send a note or card, and don't watch too much news. Remember that Jesus promised his disciples (and us) that he would be with us always. Read books that will offer you spiritual support. Pray – give your worries, hopes, and fears to God. Margaret and I were never really alone on that dark, gravel, road and we are not alone now.*

We will continue posting Sunday worship services to our YouTube channel as we will, most likely, not enjoy in-person worship until we can gather on our Church lawn again in the Spring. You can link to our YouTube worship recordings from our website or the weekly News & Notes email. Our Thursday Evening Prayer Zoom worship continues and Coffee (half) Hour is now on Thursdays from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Family Zoom worship is on Sundays from 11:00-11:30 for those with young children. I am a phone call away (207-664-4041) and I encourage you to give me a ring – a pastoral emergency is not required!

I am grateful that, to my knowledge, our parish has been spared this terrible virus, but I have worried a great deal about our parishioners who do not have internet or are unable to navigate Zoom and other online opportunities to connect with each other. If you are in this group, beginning with I Advent, we will be mailing a mini newsletter and Sunday scripture insert to you each week. Our Stephen Ministers, Daughters of The King, Women's Guild, and Vestry will also continue to pray for all of you, as well as keeping in touch by phone calls, notes, and cards. And please do know that you are always welcome to call me – even just for a brief chat! I love you all and miss being able to see you and to hear about your lives.

As we seem to be doing more reading these days, here is a book suggestion for the coming months: **Joy Anyway! Seeing God in the Tough Times** by Carolyn Lunn. Please continue to be careful with your health and safety. This Thanksgiving, Ted and William (in Maine) and Margaret and I (here in Ohio) are coordinating our Thanksgiving menus and plan to eat "together" via a laptop on our respective tables and the miracle of Zoom! Be creative and determined to find **joy anyway** and a reason to be grateful each day in the months to come.

With love and my prayers for you all,  
Ann+

## JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

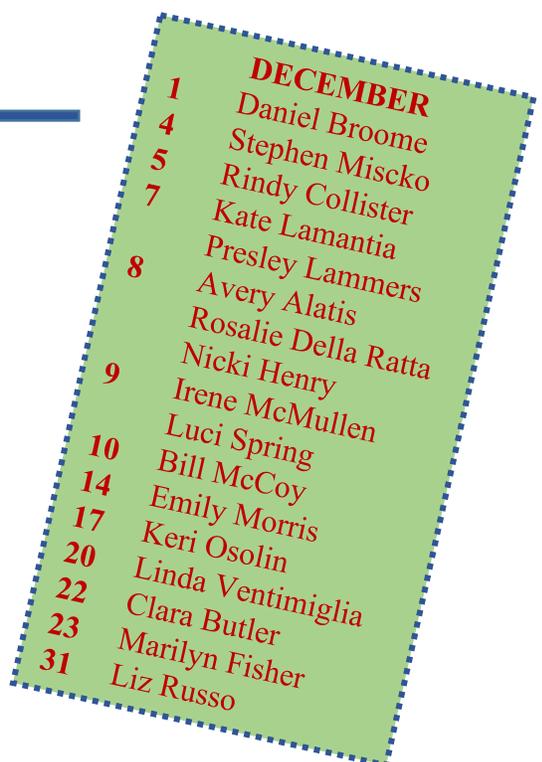
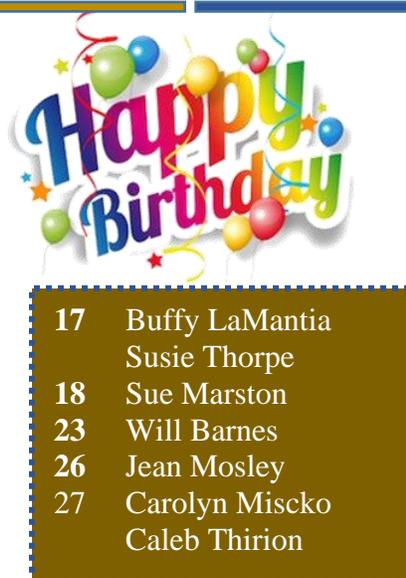
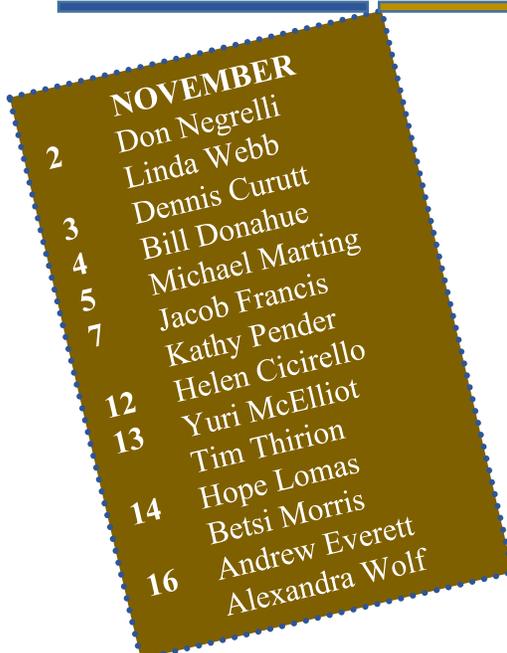
Becky Everett

While we are not able to meet together at St. Christopher's at this time, I wanted to make sure you know that we are taking very good care of your church home so that when you ARE able to return, all will be as it should be!

I will do my very best to summarize what has been done at church since this Covid 19 pandemic started.

- 1) Fran Meyers began updating the flower bed surrounding the St. Christopher statue
- 2) Luis has continued to make sure the grounds are taken care of
- 3) Fertilizing of the lawn
- 4) Power washing the front of the church and parts of the rectory
- 5) Brick wall repair by the side entrance
- 6) Repair of the steps at both the side entrance as well as the front entrance to the church
- 7) Painting of the railings at these entrances as well as the repair and painting of the white railing by the steps next to the fire lane
- 8) Installation of the new fence
- 9) Annual Fire inspection
- 10) Furnace, boiler, air conditioner, and sprinkler inspections
- 11) Back flow valve inspection
- 12) Elevator inspection
- 13) Painting of the pump at the back of the church
- 14) Replacement of the rectory air conditioner
- 15) Unclogging a drainage pipe in the basement
- 16) Repairing a broken drainage pipe in the window well
- 17) Completion of the Guild Room painting
- 18) Repair of the roof and gutter on the rectory sun porch
- 19) Cleaning of the gutters
- 20) Thorough cleaning of the fellowship hall ( x2) due to flooding

As you can see, there is never a dull moment at St. Christopher's! We continue to be good stewards of our sacred home and look forward to when you all can be back here with us! I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving! Although the past 8 months has been unlike anything we have ever experienced, there is so very much to be thankful for! God Bless!



## Flower Dedications

- October 4 Petros & Elizabeth DeBaz and Shehadeh & Abba Kafena y Baz & Mona DeBaz & Family  
October 11 Our children and Grandchildren by Jeff & Judy Eakin  
October 18 James & Margery Beckerman, Eleanor Liljedahl Snyder and Leroy E. Liljedahl  
by Kurt & Mary Anne Liljedahl  
October 25 Robert & Virginia Chase by Charley & Sue Marston  
November 1 Margaret Brown Marting and Walter H. Marting by Leslie & Michael Marting  
November 8 Howard & Helen Cadiou by Ron & Carolyn Misco  
November 15 Art & Ruth Collins and June & Jim Irwin by John & Nancy Irwin  
November 22 Delia White Vail and H. Lansing Vail by Tom & Iris Vail



## STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

Kathy Pender

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the Stephen Ministers have read and reflected upon and studied a book called “The Gift of Years “by one of the most celebrated spiritual writers of our time, Joan Chittister. Each person has presented to the group different topics that have been written about in the book and shared their own personal views as to how the topic might relate to their life at the age they are at presently.

One of my topics is “Appreciation”. One might think that as we start to lose a lot in life as we age( lose our jobs, lose our agility, different parts of our health , begin to lose friends through death) , that we might sink into depression or not realize that there is anything positive. When you think about it perhaps as we lose something it makes us more aware of it. Maybe this is one of the functions of aging that allows me to see what I have missed the years before. To understand that life cannot be taken for granted, I have learned to appreciate my long-time friendships and to take time to nurture them. I have also realized the importance of the family connections that I have and the importance of maintaining these long-distance relationships no matter how hard that may seem since I rarely see these family members.

Life all around me is rushed and I used to be able to keep up with that; today I don’t want to be rushing. I am taking the time to be more leisurely and to go more deeply into life, to talk more to those people around me about important things. I am looking back on those people in my life who helped me develop into the person I am today – some positive role models and some not, but I have learned resilience, empathy, forgiveness, and an everlasting faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. These are the things I have learned through aging that have shown me the way to appreciate the people in my life from the past as well as today, to understand better and appreciate some of the newer ways and disciplines in this world today , to appreciate the past and the present .

***“The burden of having to confront those lost years lies  
In the fear that I have missed most of my life while I  
Was living it head up and running  
The blessing lies in the fact that I not only come to  
appreciate the past, but also the present in a whole  
new way.”*** -Joan Chittister



Kathy Pender  
Becky Everett  
Janet Hargrave  
Peter Batcheller  
Fran Meyers  
Sally Conley  
Judy Holmes  
Nancy Irwin  
Susie Thorpe

# VESTRY MINUTES, AUGUST 27, 2020

Tom Matthews, Clerk

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

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

The first order of business was the review of the July 30th meeting minutes. Mary Murray recommended a correction. Mary Holmes moved for approval with the proposed correction, Jim Pender seconded, a vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

The Treasurer review led by Mary Murray was the next order of business.

- The July report summary - income MTD and YTD were below budget but cash flows were ok.
- The annual audit was then reviewed and the main findings/recommendations provided by Mary

1. Parish does not have a written policy regarding use of a credit card. I recommend we adopt such a policy and I will plan to incorporate this in a larger set of written "best practices" for the business operation of the Parish.
2. The Giving Statements (based on my observation of my own second quarter 2020 statement) do not include a statement that no goods and services were received other than "intangible religious benefit." I recommend we add wording to that effect.
3. The Annual Report to the Parish does not contain a balance sheet. I can add a balance sheet summary starting with the 2020 annual report. The financial statements should be available to parishioners upon request.
4. Regarding Rector signatory authority, I do not recommend any change from our current practice. The vast majority of our disbursement activity goes through Tellerd with Rector and Treasurer approving almost every expenditure as well as the assignment of the expense to the appropriate account. The obvious risk is with the office checks, which have all had email notification/approval and a second signer depending on size. We should consider developing a statement concerning use of office checks as a backup/emergency method of making payment only for situations in which our usual method is not fast enough, and I should sign them if at all possible. Our normal practice (sending approved invoices to the business office (i.e. Tellerd) should be explained to vendors and we should only use office checks signed by you when absolutely needed. We will add the Senior Warden as a signatory on the account.

- Becky moved to approve the audit report, Mary Holmes seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Jim Pender then reviewed the Historical Site sign project. Placement was discussed and all agreed that closer to the road and rectory was the best alternative. A vote for this placement was taken and approved. How to recognize and celebrate this addition with the parish and community was the next topic of discussion and numerous alternatives were provided. Charley will review the alternatives and report his recommendations.

Mary Holmes' Stewardship Update was the next order of business.

- Mary reviewed the Pre-K School feasibility study proposal. All agreed proceeding with the proposal made sense. Mary moved that we proceed with the proposal, Charley seconded, a vote was taken and passed.
- Mary then reviewed the progress made with the newly formed Stewardship Committee. The new committee is formed, had their first conversation, and will have a formal meeting in September. Mary mentioned a letter will be going out requesting attendance and support for Rally Sunday.

Charley Marston then reviewed options for Rally Sunday. Based on the recent success of the outside services, all agreed that having Rally Sunday outside with bring your own chair and picnic made the most sense. The date is set for September 13th. The 20th was set as a rain date.

For the Junior Warden update, Becky Everett stated the fence and lamppost projects are complete, a mason is coming in to fix the front steps, and she is hoping to get power washing done by Rally Sunday. Becky also elaborated on all the positive comments we are getting for the new landscaping.

## 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

Nominations for the Diocesan Convention was the next order of business. Mother Ann led the discussion which resulted in Charley, Becky and Peter Batcheller being nominated as delegates. A few alternates were identified, and it was agreed that Mother Ann would contact and confirm the 3 alternates. Charley moved that we proceed with this proposal, Mary H. seconded, a vote was taken and passed.

Mother Ann then provided the following updates

- Peggy Reda has a proposal for Sunday School meeting and Mother Ann will send out a survey for options for a zoom Bible Study.
- We are Holding off on the Sound and Video updates until further in the fall.
- The Global Mission Grant Application was submitted.

A review of the Bishops letter to return Holy Eucharist was the next order of business. Mother Ann provided a summary of the proposal and thoughts for a process at St. Christophers. After a good discussion, the consensus was it is too early to implement this at St. Christophers and we revisit in November after Mother Ann returns.

The next Vestry meetings is planned for September 24th at 6pm.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM.

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## **VESTRY MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020**

**Tom Matthews, Clerk**

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Elise Bennett, Becky Everett, Charley Marston, Judy Holmes, Jim Pender, Sean McMillion, Tom Matthews

The meeting came to order at 6:05 PM. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

The first order of business was the review of the August 27th meeting minutes. Mother Ann recommended a correction. Becky Everett moved for approval with the proposed correction, Sean McMillion seconded, a vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

The Treasurer review was the next order of business. Pledges continue to be short of budget. However, with the government loan, overall cashflows remain acceptable. Related to the remaining paperwork associated with the loan forgiveness, Mother Ann mentioned the documentation is complete and ready to be submitted.

Mother Ann filled in for Mary Holmes for the Stewardship Update. The Every Member Canvas is in process and should be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Becky reminded the group processing all of the material that needs to be mailed takes a bit of time, so anything that can be done to get this submitted sooner is greatly appreciated. Mother Ann also mentioned progress is being made on the Pre-K School feasibility study and it is anticipated to be reviewed at the November Vestry meeting.

Jim Pender then gave an update on the Historical Site sign project. The sign is up and looks great. An article was written for the Pink Sheet, correspondences have taken place with local officials and a commendation was presented at last Sunday's Service. Due to the pandemic, plans for an official ceremony are difficult to solidify. All agreed that this discussion and related decision should be deferred until next spring.

The Sr. Warden update was the next order of business. Charley reviewed plans for coverage during Mother Ann's absence for both Services and Pastoral needs. Related to the plans, Mother Ann volunteered to send out the Warden's on call schedule. Charley then mentioned, with the long lead time for ordering, a decision needs to be made regarding plans for flowers, and decorations for Christmas.

For the Junior Warden update, Becky Everett reviewed the flood that occurred on Labor Day. As part of the remediation effort and associated loaned equipment, Becky identified it would be beneficial for the church to get 2 water pumps and hoses for the next flood. All agreed. Becky also noted that one of the electrical circuits tripped and upon further investigation there is a need for additional GFCI's in the basement. Related to the flood, Jim Pender made a good recommendation that a mold inspection would be in order.

Mother Ann gave an update on the nominees for the Diocesan Convention and reminded that the group that the nominating committee has a quite few positions to fill in the upcoming months. If anyone has any thoughts or recommendations, they are appreciated.

Mother Ann then reminded everyone that John Irwin, Charley Marston and Becky Everett are covering the 9 am services in October during her absence, but she will still cover the 11 am family zoom services.

The next Vestry meetings is planned for November 5th at 6pm. Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM.



**NOV 24 † DEC 8 † DEC 22**

**6:00 PM**

**Zoom link to be sent prior to meeting**

*"The numbness of his loss had passed, and the pain would hit me out of nowhere, doubling me over, racking my body with sobs. Where are you? I would cry out in my mind. Where have you gone? Of course, there was never any answer."*

*-Suzanne Collins, The Hunger Games*

A Grief Support Group can help support people experiencing a similar loss and similar challenges that living with grief brings. In a support group you will find support and understanding from others who have experienced a similar experience. You have the opportunity to share your story and hear others. The group will meet approximately twice a month. Please contact Kathy Pender for more information or to register and receive the Zoom link. (440-463-7378) kp@momshrink.com

## HATS & MITTENS



The Women's Guild is collecting new hats, scarfs, and gloves for the men at Lutheran Metropolitan Men's Ministry Shelter. Help us out to keep everyone warm this winter. Items can be brought to the church office Tues-Thurs 9-2 or in the bins outside.



## ART SHOW (Through Dec 12)

Light through the Trees

An art exhibit featuring paintings and mixed media pieces by artist Lucy Bailey, will be on display at the Van Aken Community Gallery at Christ Church, Shaker Heights. The show will be open on Wednesdays from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment by contacting the artist at [lucybaileyart.com](http://lucybaileyart.com)



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THE RT. REV.  
Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.  
BISHOP

THE RT. REV.  
Arthur B. Williams, Jr.  
ASSISTING BISHOP

THE RT. REV.  
William D. Persell  
ASSISTING BISHOP

**BISHOPS ANNUAL APPEAL**

October 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

During this pandemic and the ongoing limitations to parish life and ministries, I have held back from making a direct mail invitation to you to participate in the Bishop's Annual Appeal. My intention was to allow communicants to focus first on supporting their parishes, knowing that for some people this might be a time of making harder than usual choices about their philanthropic commitments. It is heartening to hear from congregations that our parishioners are being generous and steadfast in their giving.

As we move through the last quarter of the year, I am aware of how great a contribution to our common work as a Diocese the Bishop's Annual Appeal has made annually for the last 15 years, and how especially we will need to rely on it this year and next. It will allow us to provide continued support for seminarians, some of whom are without the work-study and other part-time employment income on which they have previously relied. It will allow us to continue supporting recently ordained clergy serving in congregations particularly hard hit by the economic recession. It will allow us to prepare for future summer camp and other youth programs which have not received participant revenue at Bellwether Farm for many months. And it will allow us to provide needed support to congregations especially struggling during this pandemic time.

Most importantly, it will allow us to increase our support of parochial feeding and outreach programs, caring for those who are most critically affected by job loss, health threat, and food insecurity. Our Feeding the Beloved Community program reported in the most recent *Church Life* is a good example.

Please know how very much I value your past support and how much I appreciate your generous consideration now. If you have already contributed to this year's Appeal, thank you! Perhaps you are able to consider making an additional gift. If you have not yet given, be assured that your gift is particularly important this year. And if this will be your first donation to the Appeal, know that it will make a significant difference.

Thank you for sending in a contribution to the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal in the enclosed envelope or by clicking the Bishop's Appeal box on the diocesan website ([www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org)).

I am very grateful, and hold your safety and wellbeing in my prayers always.



The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.  
Bishop of Ohio

Love God. Love your neighbor. Change the world.®

The Bishop's Annual Appeal



# Thank you to all who have pledged!

**\*Mr. M. Stacey Alatis**

**\*Mr. & Mrs. Djifa & Annemarie Amefia**

The Rev Mary Sterrett Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bennett

Mrs. Polly Bixler

Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Butler

Mrs. Jane Chisholm

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel R. Collister

Ms. Sally Conley

**\*Miss Laura Cotton**

Ms. Barbara Ann Davis

Mr. & Mrs. David Dickenson II

**\*Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Eakin**

Mr. & Mrs. Chandler P. Everett

Miss Suzanne E. Foltz

Ms. Sarita Frith

Miss Janet T. Hargrave

**\*Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Holmes**

Mr. & Mrs. James LaMantia

**\* Online giver**

**\*Ms. Lucy Lytle**

Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Marston

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Marting

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Matthews

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce & Ellen Mavec

Mr. William McCoy

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Meyers

Mrs. Barbara W. Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Miscko

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Murphy

Ms. Sandra Redmond

**\*Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Schmidt**

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas V. H. Vail Sr.

Mr. Dave VanCuren

**\*Mr. & Mrs. Matt Vazzana**

Ms. Kathleen L. Vilas

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Warren

Mr. & Mrs. David Wolf

We have received 38 commitments and are at 39% of our goal.

The Stewardship Working Group has sent invitations to every member of the parish to make their financial support for the church known so that the Vestry can develop a budget for 2021. Many have generously responded either by sending in a pledge card or setting up an on line account. To those we say thank you, your gift of whatever size is important. We are indeed privileged to have this church and its work in our care!

Since we are not meeting in person, we have asked some members to make a video statement about St. Christopher's that we can share on our weekly News and Notes. If you would like to share your thoughts about why you support the work of our church, you can make a one minute video on your cell phone and send it to [stchirsbytheriver@gmail.com](mailto:stchirsbytheriver@gmail.com)

We all have our own ways of engaging with St. Christopher's even during this time of separation. These short videos can remind us of the many different aspects of our church life for which we are stewards.

We will also report each week how many people have made their plans known and how close we are to our goal of \$250,000. If we achieve this goal, we will sustain our church through the next year and support our neighbors through these difficult times.

Respectfully,

Mary Holmes for the Stewardship Working Group

Brian Currutt, Laura Cotton, Mary Murray, Jim Pender, Charley Marsden, Lucy Lytle

## YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

### 5 ways to let us know your 2021 giving plans

1. Set up an on line recurring donation by going to our website.
2. Make a one time donation on line to the 2021 account.
3. Email the office with your commitment.
4. Send back your pledge card. If you didn't receive one and would like one, simple call or email the office and ask for a card to be mailed.
5. Mail a contribution, clearly labeled 2021 to PO Box 519, Gates Mills 44040

website: [www.stchrisbytheriver.org](http://www.stchrisbytheriver.org)

ST. CHRISTOPHER  
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EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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The Rev. Ann Kidder, Rector  
[stchris.motherann@gmail.com](mailto:stchris.motherann@gmail.com)

**Sunday Services**

No In Person worship.  
Find our weekly worship on  
[YouTube](#).

**Parish Office**

Currently closed to visitors.  
Staffed T-W-TH 8:30-2:30  
440-423-4451

November/December 2020 Newsletter



## St. Christopher by-the-River

## CARILLON CONCERTS ARE BACK!

**There will be no in person Christmas Services.**

All Services may be found on line at  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu\\_QgAANDzOu-Bwf8gh-t6Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu_QgAANDzOu-Bwf8gh-t6Q)

The following are offered via Zoom:

- Book Group [Tues 10AM](#) or [Wed 9AM](#)
- Thursday [Evening Prayer](#) 5:00
- Thursday Evening [Fellowship](#) 5:30
- Sunday morning [Family Worship](#) 11:00 AM



Becky Everett will be giving carillon concerts during the season of Advent/Christmas! The concerts will be Sundays from 10:30 – 11:00am.

November 29<sup>th</sup>  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Due to the rise in Covid 19 cases, we ask that you park by the church and stay in your cars for the duration of each concert.

There will also be a concert of Christmas Carols on Christmas Eve from 4:00 – 4:30 pm.

We look forward to seeing you again as we, hopefully, get some comfort, hope, peace and happiness from listening to these wonderful Advent and Christmas hymns!