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# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

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*November 2016*

Dear Friends,

“Hesed” is my favorite Hebrew word. It is used frequently in the Old Testament, almost always in reference to God. It’s translated into English as “loving kindness” but the fuller way of understanding the Hebrew meaning is the “loving kindness” that a woman feels for the child she carries within her womb – the love for a child even before that child’s birth. That love is how the Hebrew scriptures describe both the essence of God’s nature and how they describe God’s love for us as individuals. We are God’s beloved children.

“Hesed” is what I have experienced over these last several weeks from all of you. Your tender loving kindness has come in so many forms – prayers, cards and notes, food and meals, errands, litter boxes scooped, transportation to surgeries and appointments, phone calls and visits. There is also an additional way that you have shown hesed to me and that is through your encouragement to take care of myself – to rest so that I can heal and return to full health more quickly. For someone who usually focuses on taking care of others, that has been an important message and it has helped me to be more at ease with taking this journey of healing one day at a time.

Hesed – loving kindness – is the identifying mark of Christian community. Jesus said that we would be recognized as his followers because of our love for each other. That love is made visible as it is expressed through words and actions. As we practice hesed in our daily relationships with those closest to us – family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, fellow parishioners – we experience an inner transformational growth of heart and soul. God’s very nature grows fuller and deeper within us. Over time we find that our natural, innate response in the wider world becomes a response of loving kindness – of hesed.

Father Ralph Pitman will be with us for one more Sunday on October 30<sup>th</sup>. I am very grateful to him for stepping up to help on such short notice. He, Father John Hayden, my clergy colleagues, and our licensed Worship Leaders (Peter Batcheller, Randy Cole, John Irwin, and Charley Marston) have made it possible for me to focus on healing and not on worrying about all of you.

Deacon Lydia Bailey has very kindly offered to preach on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, which will help immensely with my transition back to leading worship on Sunday mornings. I have missed all of you – especially our time together in worship. I will hopefully be able to celebrate Eucharist with and for you on November 6<sup>th</sup>. In the mean time I continue to be grateful for your patience and love.

I believe that my (hopefully) final surgery will be scheduled in the next month or two. I will certainly keep you posted and I know that we all are looking forward to life returning to normal!

With all my love and so much gratitude,

Ann+



**November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 PM**

# MINUTES & REPORTS

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

First and foremost, Mother Ann is continuing to progress very well in her reconstruction and recovery. We hope and anticipate that she will continue to do so and will be able to resume her functions and services over the next several weeks. We expect one further surgical procedure to refine the work that has been done so far, so please continue to keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

The Annual Pledge Campaign has begun under the leadership of our Junior Warden, Charley Marston and Vestry Member David Dickenson and the Stewardship Committee. Letters have gone out with pledge cards and this year we have decided to include some very specific information about our financial circumstances and our hopes for a generous pledge response. This Parish is chiefly supported by the receipts from the annual pledges. The average pledge is about \$1750 and we are asking for a relatively modest increase in 2017 pledges in order to overcome the continuous annual deficits we have faced for the past several years. In addition, we are also asking for a similarly modest extra gift before the end of this year to help us overcome the projected deficit for 2016. The loyalty and the generosity of parishioners of St. Christopher has always been remarkable and heartwarming. Those attributes are most gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, for those who missed the annual clambake this past Saturday, October 22, I must say that it was a wonderful event. Many people pitched in to help with the feast that included clams, grilled chicken, corn, sweet potatoes, lobster tails, desert and of course great comradeship. In particular however Laura Cotton and the Wardens' Wives, Nancy Irwin and Sue Marston put forth great efforts and succeeded in creating a marvelous event.

If you haven't been able to attend a church service recently, I encourage you to join us as we approach the all-important Christmas season. You will have a spring in your step and a smile on your face too.

## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY: KURT LILJEDAHL

	<b>9 Months</b>	<b>9 Months</b>	<b>9 Months</b>	<b>12 Months</b>	<b>12 Months</b>	<b>12 Months</b>
	<b>9/30/16</b>	<b>9/30/16</b>	<b>9/30/15</b>	<b>12/31/16</b>	<b>12/31/15</b>	<b>12/31/14</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Pledges and Plate</b>	\$133,593	\$156,750	\$115,666	\$209,000	\$198,186	\$186,566
<b>St. Christopher's Fund</b>	\$97,435	\$97,435	\$94,198	\$129,914	\$125,598	\$120,374
<b>Other Income</b>	<u>\$4,881</u>	<u>\$3,300</u>	<u>\$15,783</u>	<u>\$4,400</u>	<u>\$9,525</u>	<u>\$24,067</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$235,909	\$257,486	\$225,647	\$343,314	\$333,309	\$331,007
<b>Outside Parish Expenses</b>	\$36,353	\$36,572	\$40,029	\$48,762	\$52,672	\$35,241
<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	\$183,313	\$183,732	\$211,774	\$244,976	\$277,831	\$187,587
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<u>\$48,031</u>	<u>\$54,343</u>	<u>\$40,647</u>	<u>\$72,457</u>	<u>\$56,046</u>	<u>\$59,668</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$267,697	\$274,646	\$292,450	\$366,195	\$386,549	\$282,497
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<u>\$(31,788)</u>	<u>\$(17,161)</u>	<u>\$(66,802)</u>	<u>\$(22,881)</u>	<u>\$(53,241)</u>	<u>\$ 48,510</u>

# MINUTES & REPORTS

## APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY – SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

### SUBMITTED BY: IRENE MCMULLEN

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

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

The minutes for the August 16, 2016 were approved. John Irwin moved, Mary Holmes seconded. All voted in favor.

Mother Ann distributed an interim audit report, balance sheet, notes from the Guild/Vestry joint meeting on September 7, 2016, and the letter agreement between St. Christopher's and Mother Ann. Mother Ann passed out information relating to a Lay/Clergy Conference in Elyria on October 8.

Members of the Vestry are asked to put together a budget for their committee for 2017 and submit it to Mother Ann.

Delegates to the Diocese Convention will be John Irwin, Jane Battles and Peter Batcheller. Alternates are Charley Marston, Ron and Neil Lee. Motion to approve these candidates was made by Mary Murray, seconded by Elise Bennett. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Charley Marston and Mike Klinginsmith met with representatives of The Figgie Foundation. \$405,000 was raised through the capital campaign. The Figgie Foundation will contribute \$50,000 for this year, and would like a list of project from the church for a wish list for the next few years. Mary suggested that there be a schedule of when major systems might need to be replaced.

Regarding the bathroom renovations, they are almost complete. Some of the red carpeting that will be removed is in good shape. We might save some of it for other uses.

The Stewardship Committee is working on the every member canvas. Mailings will go out soon. The projected deficit is larger than was anticipated (the Vestry had budgeted a deficit). There was a discussion regarding how to close the deficit experienced in 2016.

John Irwin has volunteered to be the liaison for a new Cub Scout pack. He will attend the signup meeting on Monday night and can attend sessions which might take place after school.

A Motion was made to move forward on a 319 grant regarding the riparian buffer area. All voted in favor.

John Irwin spoke about the September 7, 2016 meeting with the Guild. John explained that there is a new Guild checking account. The Diocesan assessment of 19% of all expenditures does not include outreach expenditures. Over a year ago, the Vestry passed a resolution that the Guild should distribute its funds 90% to outreach, 10% to programming. John Irwin moved that the Vestry rescind this Motion, and that the Vestry will continue to review and approve the annual Guild budget. Mary Murray seconded the Motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

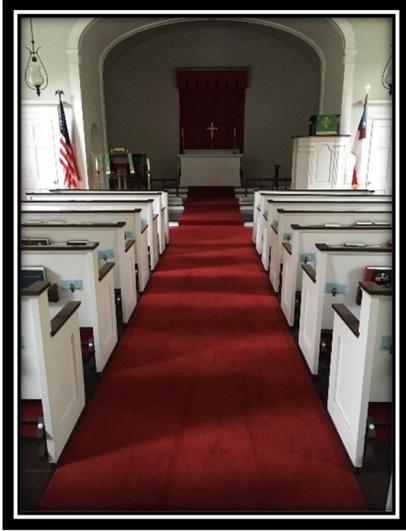
The Bylaws Revision Committee will meet again, probably on October 12. The Women's Guild Committee is meeting on October 19 as a follow up of the September 7 meeting. A goal of the Bylaws Committee is to have a draft of the Bylaws to distribute to the Vestry by the next meeting.

John Irwin brought up a proposal to hold a special meeting to approve amended bylaws (Regulations) before the Annual Meeting. A resolution to adopt the new regulations could be effective on January 1, 2017. Then, John Irwin would be eligible to stay on the Vestry for another term, and he could be nominated for that term through a floor vote procedure. A discussion was had regarding the role of the nominating committee. An undercurrent of concern has been expressed regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting and parishioner eligibility to vote. Mother Ann is trying to organize the records relating to Qualified Electors, so that everyone will know if they are qualified to vote, or how they can become qualified to vote. The Parish Register is out-of-date.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting concluded at approximately 8:00 PM

# MINUTES & REPORTS

## JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT SUBMITTED BY: CHARLEY MARSTON



We have put three more notches in our capital projects quiver: one for our carpet, and one for each of our remodeled bathrooms.

Last spring, I faced the daunting task of shaping up parts of our beautiful church. Designing bathrooms (or any other rooms) is not in my area of expertise. So with hunched shoulders and a hangdog/sad expression on my face, I approached Sally Conley, interior decorator par excellence, to see if she would help with our refurbishment projects. Sally accepted and I have had a spring in my step and a smile on my face ever since. Additionally, Elise Bennett volunteered to help me with the bidding process, and joined Sally in choosing tile, flooring, fixtures, paint, etc., with proper budget constraints.

Our capital campaign planned on remodeling one wheelchair accessible bathroom.



Thanks to a generous donation from Kitty and Bruce Thomas, specifically to redo the ladies bathroom, we were able to remodel it and the men's bathroom as well. Additionally, Bruce joined Sally and Elise in overseeing the reconstruction project.

I also want to recognize and thank John Brown, architect, and Ann Dunning, architect, for their design work.



While the carpet in the sanctuary is about the same color and texture as the old frayed one, it is indeed new. Again, our professional decorator, and regular 8:00 service attendee, Sally Conley, went to three different carpet companies, passed around numerous choices, and presented samples and bid prices to The Vestry for approval. She then diligently oversaw the installation process.

I am sure you all will join me in expressing special praise and thank yous to Sally, Elise, Kitty, Bruce, John and Ann for their help in completing these projects. They are great additions and will last for many years.



**2017 PLEDGES** are due on November 15<sup>th</sup>. We will bless our pledges and give thanks for all the blessings God has given us on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Pledge cards were mailed on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Every Member Canvas - 2017

The **total** amount I would like to ***pledge*** to  
St. Christopher by-the-River for the 2017 calendar year is:

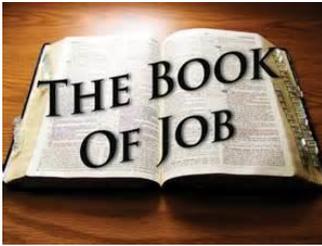
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my additional gift to 'Close the Gap' in **2016**  
in the amount of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# FAITH FORMATION

Adult Forum in November - Sundays at 9:00 AM



We are finishing up our study of the Book of Job. At Mother Ann's suggestion, we have approached this Book in a different and very interesting way. Rather than reading the book in the normal fashion from the beginning to the end, we are reading and analyzing the disputations by Job's "friends", in their three cycles of argumentation with Job. In their purported efforts to explain to Job that he must have committed some type of sin to have brought on the wrath and punishment of God, they instead simply add to Job's misery. Despite their encouragement and that of Job's own wife to curse God and die, Job never gives up his faith and reverence for God and he never takes Satan's bait to turn against God. By following the arguments of each one of these friends, one at a time, through each cycle, we have gained a much clearer understanding of the bases of their arguments. Each friend has a different theory and a different justification in their own mind for Job's suffering. None of them, however, including Job is aware of Satan's challenge to God that begins the ordeal. Instead each reflects an almost universal but often very misguided attempt to explain human suffering. Ultimately, of course, job resists Satan's temptations, remains obedient to God and demonstrates the power of faith.

## NEWS, NOTES & EVENTS

### UTO Sunday - November 6<sup>th</sup>



The in-service for United Thank Offering (UTO) will be Sunday November 6. As you thank God for all you have been blessed with please put a few pennies or dollars in the Mite boxes or envelopes which can be found in the narthex and guild room to be used for missionary work around the world.

### **DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

**NOV 11-12**

### **Bowling Green University**

Pray for our Delegates and Mother Ann as they travel.



### GUILD PROGRAM

November 9<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 AM  
Filling of Backpacks for West Side Shared Ministries.  
Lunch to follow.

### Looking for Photos!

**CHEESE!**



If you snap any pictures at a church event, choir practice, Sunday School, or guild events, or of a member volunteering anywhere please send them to the office! We are looking for pics for the newsletter and the website.

### Trinity Cathedral Events (2230 Euclid Ave)

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 12PM</b>     | Brown Bag Concert – TOPS Big Bane – America's Songbook   |
| <b>Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 10 AM</b>    | Bicentennial Celebration Service   |
| <b>Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 12 PM</b>    | Brown Bag Concert – Bluewater String Ensemble – Mendelssohn's Octet  |
| <b>Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 6 PM</b>     | Bicentennial Evensong – World Premiere of a specially commissioned choral work by David Conte, sung by the Trinity Cathedral Choir |
| <b>Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 12PM</b>    | Brown Bag Concert – Duo-Grand Pianos, Wilson and DeMio   |
| <b>Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM</b> | Fall Choral Concert: Masterpieces of the 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> Century   |
| <b>Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 12 PM</b>   | Brown Bag Concert – A Jazzy Christmas with the Gateway Band  |



# THOSE WHO SERVE

## November 2016 ROTA

### NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Sue Marston

10:15 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Jean Ramsey/Laura Cotton  
Ushers: Rik Bole/Brian Wright  
Hospitality: Susie Thorpe/  
Dede Storer



### NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Judy Eakin

10:15 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Mary Murray  
Ushers: Brendan Daly  
Hospitality: Janet Hargrave/Charlene Currutt

### NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Jane Battles

10:15 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Nicki Henry/Loni Todd-Lorenz  
Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl  
Hospitality: Mary Reynolds/Janessa Thirion

### NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>

6:30 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Sue Marston

### NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Sally Conley

10:15 EM: TBD  
LR: TBD  
AG: Marcia Alpers  
Ushers: TBD  
Hospitality: Gretchen Fisher/Heather Daly

## Vestry 2016

John Irwin Senior Warden  
Charley Marston Junior Warden  
Irene McMullen Clerk  
Kurt Liljedahl Treasurer

### *Class of 2018*

Elise Bennett, Charley Marston, Sean McMillion

### *Class of 2017*

Heather Daly, David Dickenson, Mary Murray

### *Class of 2016*

Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Irene McMullen

### *Northeast Mission Area Council Representatives*

Peter Batcheller, 2015-2016

Nancy Irwin, 2016-2017

## Volunteer Opportunities

### *Blessed Are We Dinner*

Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

Meet at St. Christopher's at 4PM  
Contact the office if you plan to help out.

### *Food Pantry*

Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Call the office if you wish to volunteer.



This month, we are collecting

Stuffing

Canned Gravy

Instant potatoes of any kind

Rice – white, brown, instant, side dishes like rice roni

Soup

Tortillas



# NOVEMBER 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Food Pantry Donation this Month: s</p> <p>Stuffing, Instant Potatoes, Canned Gravy, Rice, Tortillas, Soup</p>		1	2 7-8PM CHOIR <i>New</i>  Choir Members <i>Welcome!</i>	3 Riverside AA AlAnon 8 p.m.	4	5
<p><b>6 XXV Pentecost</b> Guest Preacher Deacon Lydia Bailey 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School &amp; Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist UTO in-service</p> 	7 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry Training	8	9 10:00 AM Guild Mtg & Backpack Filling 7-8PM CHOIR 	10 Riverside AA AlAnon 8 p.m.	11 DIOCESAN CONVENTION	12 DIOCESAN CONVENTION
<p><b>13 XXVI Pentecost</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School &amp; Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	14 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry Training	15  2017 Pledges Due 6-8 PM Vestry	16 7-8PM CHOIR 	17 Riverside AA AlAnon 8 p.m.	18 St. Andrews Blessed Are We Dinner Meet @ 4PM	19 Our Savior Lutheran Food Pantry
<p><b>20 XXVII Pentecost (Blessing Sunday)</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School &amp; Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	21	22	23 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7-8PM CHOIR 	24  OFFICE CLOSED	25	26
<p><b>27 I Advent</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School &amp; Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	28	29 December Newsletter article/information deadline	30 7-8PM CHOIR 	 <p>What are YOU Thankful For?</p> <p>health home family friends food</p>		

ST. CHRISTOPHER  
BY-THE-RIVER  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Rev. Ann Kidder, Rector  
[stchris.motherann@gmail.com](mailto: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: 440-423-4451  
[stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com)  
[stchrisbytheriver.org](http://stchrisbytheriver.org)

November 2016 Newsletter



**St. Christopher by-the-River**  
We welcome you to join us on:

**Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost XXV**

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

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost XXVI**

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

**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost XXVII**

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



**Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> –  
Thanksgiving Eve**

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – Advent 1**

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

**SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR KIDS 5-14**

9 -10 am Church School Class, (Upstairs)  
10-10:15 am Break & Snacks in the Nursery  
(1<sup>st</sup> floor)  
10:15-10:30am Worship in Sanctuary with class  
10:30 -11:00am Children's Chapel  
11:00-11:30am Worship in Sanctuary with  
families

**NURSERY CARE**

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

**Office/Church Open**

T-W-TH 8:30-2:30

440-423-4451