

ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

October 2016

Dear Friends,

I recently had a small skin cancer removed from my nose. All went well but I do need to have some reconstructive surgery. By the time you read this, I will have had my first surgery on Friday, September 30th. Our Sr. Warden, John Irwin, will arrange for any emergency pastoral care needs that you may have during my recovery. I am sorry to announce this with such short notice - this has all come about rather suddenly (for me as well as for you).

I want you to know that I am feeling extraordinarily blessed right now. I have always felt blessed by being called to serve as your priest. But I now also see God's care for me personally through my call to St. Christopher's. If I were still in rural Maine, I would not be living twenty minutes away from the Cleveland Clinic. I would not have Dr. John Irwin as my Sr. Warden, who was able to connect me with Dr. Vidimos – perhaps the best MOHs surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic. I would most likely have waited weeks for an appointment to deal with what appeared to be a minor procedure. So I am feeling very blessed – and very grateful. Blessings – however they come and in whatever form are a gift from God.

On Sunday, September 25th, I officiated at the 89th Blessing of the Chagrin Valley Hunt at St. Christopher's. Fifty-two horses and their riders lined the main walk to the Church. The hounds and beagles milled in circles, tails up and wagging. The words of the blessing, largely unchanged since first pronounced by The Rev. Frank Jackson, Vicar on October 1, 1927 are as follows:

- Bless, O Lord, rider and horse and the hounds that run in their running.
- Bless and shield these riders from danger to life and limb.
- May your children who ride and your creatures who carry come to the close of the day unhurt.
- Bless these hounds to our use and to their joyful part in your service.
- Bless those over whose lands we hunt, and grant that no deed
- or omission of ours may cause them hurt or trouble.
- Bless the foxes who take part in the chase, that they may run straight and true,
 - and find their destiny in You. Amen.







We <u>all</u> find our destiny in God – and <u>that</u> is the ultimate blessing. With love and gratitude for you all,

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT SUBMITTED BY: JOHN IRWIN

Autumn has now officially arrived and with it, for farmers, gardeners and other stewards of the earth, the end of the growing season. For us, however, at Saint Christopher, our season of growth is continuing.

With each Sunday we see new faces and new families in the pews. Our Rector is the source of great spiritual guidance, solace and strength for both new and established members of the congregation and the word of her qualities is spreading throughout the community. Saint Christopher is growing, as seen by the increase in our Sunday attendance.

The Parish is also growing in many other ways. On September 25, the Church continued a wonderful tradition that has been celebrated for many decades, namely the Blessing of the Hunt. This year over 50 riders, fully attired and their horses, all very well behaved, were joined by the hounds and the Hunt Masters to receive the traditional blessing. I do not recall ever seeing a crowd as large as this, with not only the riders and animals to be blessed, but also the audience, lining the street to join in the recitation of Psalms and listen to the prayers and blessings. This wonderful service is another example of this Parish serving, quite literally, in many ways as the beating heart of the community.

The next evening on September 26 Mother Ann and I welcomed a group of parents and their young sons for an organizational meeting to establish a Cub Scout pack, to be sponsored by Saint Christopher. The Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts have been a very positive part of Americana for over 100 years

It has been quite some time since Gates Mills had a scouting program but interest has recently arisen and, once again, Saint Christopher is honored and pleased to be the sponsor of a local scouting organization. As a sponsor, Saint Christopher will provide a place for Cub Scout meetings in the Fellowship Hall and will encourage and support the growth of this community activity for young people and their parents. In addition to providing meeting space and support and advice to assist the program, the only financial obligation for the Parish is a \$40 per year sponsorship fee paid to the Boy Scouts of America. No better investment in the growth and enrichment of these families could be had at such a modest price.

As some members of this Parish may have seen, in one of the photograph albums in our Guild room, there are copies of 55year-old photographs of your Senior Warden taking his Boy Scout oath downstairs in the Fellowship Hall many, many years ago. Scouting leaves a lifelong, positive and meaningful impact on all of its participants. We hope and anticipate that this activity will grow and we perhaps will also be able to institute and sponsor a Girl Scout or similar program for the young ladies of Gates Mills.

It may be Fall in Gates Mills but it is certainly Spring in our Parish.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT SUBMITTED BY: CHARLEY MARSTON

Why is it that St. Christopher by the River is one of the most photographed churches in the Western Reserve? It is beautiful!

True, but it is more than beautiful. It radiates all that is great in God's message to all who pass by.

Autumn is a wonderful time of year. I invite you to use a little bit of it to make a peaceful visit here. Wander around both inside and outside. Enjoy the bucolic ambience and the feeling of serenity. Spend a moment in meditation or prayer, and contemplate the power of God's love infused in this sacred location.

What does your buildings and grounds Jr. Warden need to say about St. Christopher? Not much, for it speaks for itself.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY – AUGUST 16, 2016 SUBMITTED BY: IRENE MCMULLEN

Present: Mother Ann, John Irwin, Charley Marston, David Dickenson, Elise Bennett, Mary Murray, Mary Holmes, Heather Daly, Sean McMillion, Irene McMullen. Also present: Sally Conley

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

Sally Conley presented carpet sample to replace the red carpeting. She also created a very helpful chart which was passed out, and contained pricing, including padding and labor. The Vestry members moved to the Chapel with Sally to discuss the options. Sally will consult with Charley regarding further options and email the Vestry. Mary Holmes moved and Mary Murray seconded that the Vestry be notified by email and determine which option is best by email vote. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Regarding the bathroom renovations, they are on plan and on schedule. A window in the men's bathroom will be replaced at an extra cost. There was a discussion regarding whether to pay a few thousand dollars for an automatically opening bathroom door. The decision was made to keep the plans the way they are, without an automatic opener.

Charley Marston purchased storage bins for Bargain Box, which will be installed this week, at a cost of \$199. Bins for garbage will be purchased as well.

A calligrapher will make a scroll, which will be framed, costing between \$1,000 and \$1,300, plus \$300 to \$400 for framing. Names of parishioners who have contributed to the Capital Campaign will be on the scroll. It will be ready by September 11. A Motion was made by John Irwin that this is not a biddable item. Seconded by Mary Holmes. Unanimous vote in favor. After the Peace on September 11, the scroll will be blessed as a part of the offering.

A meeting with the Women's Guild and their new officers is planned. Lunch is included. Please RSVP to Sue Marston. It is September 7 at 10:30 AM.

The Stewardship Committee is working on the every member canvas. Mailings will go out at the end of September. In October, follow up phone calls will be made.

John Irwin spoke about the Finance Committee and a meeting he had with a representative of the Diocese. The church has about \$200,000 in capital campaign funds that will not be used for some time. The Committee is looking in to options to purchase preferred stocks that yield 5.3%. They have a variable interest rate.

The Bylaws Revision Committee will meet again before the next Vestry meeting.

Regarding Mother Ann's contract, a savings of \$3,948 annually will be experienced by switching her plan from the "Platinum Plan." A HAS with a high deductible will be used instead. Mother Ann pays 5% of the medical premium. Mary Murray moved to approve the letter agreement. Mary Holmes Seconded. All voted in favor except Irene McMullen, who abstained.

John Irwin spoke about the Guild checking account. All bills relating to the Guild need to go to Elise so the expenses can be appropriately categorized.

At the September meeting, two delegates to attend Convention must be selected. John Irwin would like to go.

A Cub Scout group may be organized. Scott Broome is going to touch base with Mother Ann regarding this idea.

A new member party was held by Mother Ann. A good time was had by all.

A Motion was made to move forward on a 319 grant regarding the riparian buffer area. All voted in favor. Charley Marston will be the point of contact.

BEGINNING A NEW DAY – ESTO PERPETUA FUND REPORT SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 SUBMITTED BY CHARLES S. MARSTON



In 1853, Halsey Gates, who owned much of the land along the Chagrin River, dedicated this parcel, where on we sit today, as a sacred location to be used for worship and fellowship. Methodists erected this church and used it for three quarters of a century. In the early nineteenth century the population on the village shifted. The number of Methodists dwindled and IN 1926 they relinquished the building to an Episcopal mission as many Episcopalians were making Gates Mills their summer and permanent residences. John Irwin found and has placed in The Guild Room a letter describing a bit of

the process by which St. Christopher by the River came about.

Through a powerful pride of ownership, maintenance of the buildings and important additions have been made. A church steeple, a carillon, fellowship hall, and of course, our beautiful guild room.

To accomplish all of this, there have been times when a special collection plate has been passed.

In the early 1990's, Richard Beeman spearheaded a drive which ended in a \$100,000 building fund, and Bill Lantz led a commitment to construct and preserve the Hretzgy pipe organ.

By 2010 the building fund had been depleted, and it wasn't long after that that Father Conrad approached me and others with the realization that a new campaign was necessary.

Under the leadership of Senior Wardens Doug Webb and John Kramer, the vestry formed a committee. A feasibility study indicated we could raise \$200,000 far less than the \$500,000 Conrad thought we should seek.

In 2013, the initial fund raising work occurred. In January 2014, we launched the campaign with \$75,000 in pledges and a \$250,000 goal. And then the real effort began.

Janet Hargrave, Doug Webb, John & Nancy Irwin, Mike Klinginsmith, John Kramer, Scott Broome, Carolyn Miscko, Chris Pucell, Jim Phillips, Kathy Vilas, Sally Conley, and I, followed up letters with phone calls, and by the fall great progress was made.

And then we received an invitation from Matthew Figgie to meet with him, his mother, and the members of the board of the Figgie Foundation. At that meeting, Matthew shared with us his fond memories of attending our church school and services, and the meaningful impact they had on his attitude toward life. Recognizing that we needed far more than \$250,000, the Foundation gave us \$50,000 in 2014. A \$50,000 matching challenge in 2015, and they have pledge another \$50,000 for this year.

These gifts are of major importance to us and continue the tradition started many years ago by Harry and Nancy Figgie, Matthew's father and mother. The automatic sprinkler system was a gift from them to help protect our historical church from a disastrous fire.

To date, we have received \$405,000 in cash and pledges from 82 families, most of whom are seated here this morning.

As a result, under the leadership of Junior Wardens Nancy Irwin and Joycelyn Brogley, the paint is no longer peeling off the inside and outside of the building. A very important modernization of the Rectory has been

completed, new fencing and beautiful plantings enhance the exterior of our Greek/Gothic façade, new carpeting has been installed, and our bathrooms have been upgraded and are wheelchair accessible.

More projects are on the drawing boards. Our river bank is eroding, and a children's chapel with a more religious setting similar to our sanctuary is under consideration. And we still need to find a way to help those people who have difficulty using the stairs – especially going down to our fellowship hall.

But we have to be careful not to spend this money all at once. Capital Campaign drives are hard work, no fun for the askers or the givers, and they strain the annual efforts to support our day to day activities.

But there always needs to be a fund dedicated to support our responsibility to maintain this incredible facility, and so we have created the perpetual fund - "Esto Perpetua Fund" and the money we have not yet needed has been deposited there.

As we gather here today for our annual Rally Sunday, we want to take this as a special day to thank everyone who has made our Beginning a New Day campaign so successful. And as a way of honoring all of you, your committee has prepared a present to present at this gathering. *{Scroll presented.}*



Concluding remarks

Dante's Inferno references 7 deadly sins, like envy and lust, sloth. greed and gluttony. One of them is pride.

But I think there are important nuances to that. One shouldn't be prideful about one's own accomplishments, for to quote my wife, Sue, "pride commeth before the fall". However, I think that for one to feel a sense of pride over the accomplishments of a group is perfectly acceptable. That is how I feel about all of you.

I think it is terrific what you have accomplished these last four years: A successful capital campaign, a refurbishing process almost completed, the calling of a new inspirational leader in Mother Ann, and a unified commitment to continue the vision established first by Halsey Gates, and carried on by our forefathers to have this sacred place open to all for fellowship and worship, Esto Perpetua – to eternity.

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUBMITTED BY KATHY PENDER

On September 12th 2016 the Stephen Ministry Training began again at St. Christopher's. Several years ago this program was initiated; there were 6 dedicated faithful women who participated in the training and ongoing supervision. These individuals were involved in a caregiving relationship with parishioners who were in need of support and love and caring in a time of need.



The Stephen Ministry is a Christian Ministry in which clergy and laity work together to provide quality one to one care to meet the needs of people experiencing

a wide range of life circumstances. Stephen Ministers are lay people who have been trained through the Stephen Series in the theology of caring and in specific caring skills. They are trained and supervised by a trained Stephen Leader who has gone through an intensive weeklong training course.

Stephen Ministers care by listening, supporting, encouraging, praying, being dependable and trustworthy and maintaining confidentiality in their caregiving. *(cont'd on next page)*

They provide one to one care to people experiencing a difficult time in their life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, loneliness and feeling isolated and other difficult life situations,

The Stephen Ministry, a non-profit ministry organization, founded in 1975, serves more than 150 denominations in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces and several countries and is trans denominational. Its mission is to show the love of Jesus Christ.

Upon the completion of the 50 hours of training these Stephen Minister trainees will be commissioned in the church to become Stephen Ministers. When there is a need a Stephen Minister is matched and assigned to work weekly with a "care receiver". The Stephen Ministers will then meet twice a month for supervision and continuing education.

My own personal experience as a Stephen Minister and a Stephen Leader has been rewarding and humbling. It has allowed me to rely on God to show me what to do, to listen carefully, and to show me what to say in many situations that have been difficult. Being a part of this ministry has been blessing in my life.

NEWS, NOTES & EVENTS



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Trinity Cathedral Events (2230 Euclid Ave)

- Oct 4 11AM 1PM Speaker Series Connie Shultz & Senator Sherod Brown, "Creating a Future that Works for All"
- Oct 5 12 PM 1PM Brown Bag Concert Saxophone Duo Trinity Chamber Orchestra
- Oct 12 12 PM 1PM Brown Bag Concert Dancing Wheels Art in Motion
- Oct 19 12 PM 1PM Brown Bag Concert Gruce White Ensemble Flute & Guitar
- Oct 26 12 PM 1PM Brown Bag Concert Acclarion Duo Clarinet/Accordion Magic
- Oct 26 7:30 PM 9PM Dean's Forum Exploring 200 years of the Episcopal Church in Ohio

OTHER AREA EVENTS

October 9 – 3:00PM - Violin Concert at St. John's Youngstown, performed by Andrew Sords

October 15 – 9:30AM TO 3:00PM - Ministry Discernment Day, St. Andrew's Akron. Talk with Mother Ann if you have any interest. **October 21**– 7:30 PM – Dorman, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, St. Noel, Willoughby

October 28/9 – Lay Preaching & Eucharistic Visitor training, St. Paul's Canton. Talk with Mother Ann if you have any interest

THOSE WHO SERVE

October 2016 ROTA

OCTOBER 2ND

8:00 EM: Charley Marston LR: Kitty Thomas AG: Sally Conley
10:15 EM: Peter Batcheller LR: Brian Wright/ Rik Bole AG: Jean Ramsey Ushers: Rik Bole/Brian Wright Hospitality: Diana Treco/ Sandy Batcheller

OCTOBER 9TH

8:00 EM: Peter Batcheller LR: Kitty Thomas AG: Judy Eakin
10:15 EM: John Irwin LR: Elsbeth Daly/ Heather Daly AG: Carolyn Miscko Ushers: Brendan Daly Hospitality: Polly Bixler/ Becky Everett

OCTOBER 16th – Morning Prayer

8:00 Worship Leader: TBD LR: TBD AG: Sue Marston
10:15 Worship Leader: TBD LR: Sue Thorpe/ Mary Holmes AG: Laura Cotton/ Marcia Alpers Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl Hospitality: Mary Murray

OCTOBER 23RD

8:00 EM: TBD LR: TBD AG: Jane Battles
10:15 EM: TBD LR: TBD AG: Rosalie Della Ratta Ushers: TBD Hospitality: Keri Osolin/ Karee Weikel Broome

OCTOBER 30TH

8:00 EM: TBD LR: TBD AG: Jane Battles
10:15 EM: TBD LR: TBD AG: TBD Ushers: TBD Hospitality: Betsy Wright/ Lindsey McMillion

Vestry 2016

John Irwin Charley Marston Irene McMullen Kurt Liljedahl

Senior Warden Junior Warden Clerk 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

Food Pantry Saturday, October 15th

Saturday, October 15th Our Savior Lutheran Church Call the office if you wish to volunteer.

<u>Blessed Are We Dinner</u>

Friday, October 21st Meet at St. Christopher's at 4PM Contact the office if you plan to help out.



This month, we are collecting Kitchen Staples



Flour

Sugar (Granular, Brown, Powdered)



Salt, Pepper and Spices

Canola/Olive/Vegetable Oil Baking Soda/Powder

Chicken/Beef Stock Chocolate Chips





OCTOBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Food Pantry Donation this Month: Kitchen Staples Flour, Sugar, Oil Salt & Ppper, Spices, Baking Soda/Powder, Chicken Stock						1 Groundbreaking Diocesan Camp & Retreat Center 11-3 PM
2 XX Pentecost (Fr. Ralph Pitman)	3	4	5	6	7	8
8 am Holy Eucharist	9-11 AM		7-8PM	10:00 AM		Lay & Clergy
9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime	Stephen Ministry		CHOIR	Guild Speaker &		Leadership
9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal	Training			Lunch		Conference
10 am Nursery				Riverside AA		9AM – 3PM
10:15 am Holy Eucharist	(A) (A)			AlAnon 8 p.m		
12:15 pm BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS	As all			Alchon o p.m		
9 XXI Pentecost (Fr. John Hayden)	10	11	12	13	14	15
8 am Holy Eucharist	9-11 AM					
9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime	Stephen Ministry		7-8PM	5-9 Riverside AA Dinner –		Our Savior Lutheran
9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal	Training		CHOIR	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM	Food Pantry
10 am Nursery					WEDDING	
10:15 am Holy Eucharist				AlAnon 8 p.m.	REHEARSAL	5 PM WEDDING
11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal						
16 XXII Pentecost	17	18	19	20	21	22
8 am Morning Prayer	9-11 AM				St. Andrews	CLAMBAKE
9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime	Stephen Ministry		7-8PM		Blessed Are We	OM -
9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal	Training	6-8 PM	CHOIR	Riverside AA	Dinner	
10 am Nursery		Vestry		AlAnon 8 p.m.	Meet @ 4PM	
10:15 am Morning Prayer						
11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal						
23 XXIII Pentecost (Fr. Ralph Pitman)	24	25	26	27	28	29
8 am Holy Eucharist	9-11 AM	November				
9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime	Stephen Ministry	Newsletter	7 0004			Pasta Dinner
9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal	Training	article/information		Riverside AA		St. Luke Chardon
10 am Nursery		deadline	TOIR 2	AlAnon 8 p.m.		
10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal						
30 XXIV Pentecost (Fr. Ralph Pitman)	31					
8 am Holy Eucharist	9-11 AM					
9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime	Stephen Ministry					
9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal	Training	P' Mo	ther Ann at Credo	Conference October 23 rd	^a – October 31 st	
10 am Nursery						
10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal						
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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

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 stchrisbytheriver.org

October 2016 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

We welcome you to join us on:

Sunday, October 2nd – Pentecost XX



8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:15 p.m. Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 9th – Pentecost XXI

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

Sunday, October 16th – Pentecost XXII

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

Sunday, October 23rd – Pentecost XXIII

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

Sunday, October 30th – Pentecost XXIV

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 st 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