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# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S BY-THE-RIVER

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*August 2016*

Dear Friends,

By the time that you read this both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions will have come and gone. Unlike the founders of our country, we live with instantaneous news coverage and the endless opinions of journalists and our fellow citizens regarding who will be the best political party and/or candidate to lead our country into the future. Frankly, it can be exhausting, and confusing to sort out who and what to believe. When international news is added into the mix it can be overwhelming to the point of despair.

We probably all remember that “old Chinese blessing/curse” - “May you live in interesting times.” We do, indeed, live in interesting times. The truth is that down through the ages it has always been “interesting times”. So how we are to live in the midst of political and social “interesting times”. This was a question often posed to Jesus in a variety of ways.

Regardless of the specific wording or situation, Jesus’ answer can always be summed up with one word - Love. Love of neighbor as of self - even and maybe especially when the neighbor is not like us. Love that cares in concrete ways for orphans, widows, prisoners, the homeless and hungry, foreigners, children, and the elderly. In the Gospel According to John, Jesus speaks plainly, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

As followers of Jesus we are called to live lives of love - for all who we encounter. Jesus took action to meet the needs of people outside the comfort zones of his faith and time. Lepers, foreigners, dead people, a woman hemorrhaging blood, people who we would identify as mentally ill; all came within the reach of Jesus’ concrete acts of love because Jesus chose to see a fellow child of God standing before him in need.

How are we to live in these interesting times? We are to live beyond our comfort zones with tender hearts, open minds, and hands willing to serve all who Jesus would recognize as God’s own beloved children. Love is the only way to live through interesting times as faithful followers of the One who loved us through and beyond the power of death itself. May the love of God, made visible for us in Jesus Christ, be made visible to the world by God’s Holy Spirit living in us and acting through us.

In Christ’s love,  
Ann+



# MINUTES & REPORTS

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

Following a long-standing custom, the Vestry did not meet during the month of July, but its work has nevertheless vigorously continued. The Finance Committee of the Vestry is working on the employment agreement with the Rector-Elect. This will be based upon her current Letter of Agreement, modified to relate to the position of Rector. A date for her installation celebration has not yet been selected by the Bishop but as soon as that occurs, everyone will be notified and, of course, invited to the event.

The Stewardship Committee has been working diligently to launch the annual pledge campaign and to celebrate the very successful capital campaign. We anticipate that on Rally Sunday, September 11, 2016, a fun and grateful event will be held to thank all who have supported and continue to support this Parish.

All of the other Vestry Committees have been equally busy. A new checking account has been opened for the use of the Women's Guild and the Guild treasurer, Elise Bennett will be managing those funds in accordance with the Guild's bylaws and Parish budget.

The website committee has completed its work for the implementation of a new newly designed website. Members of the Parish Administration are being trained on editing and maintaining their respective pages on the website. We can all look forward to a vibrant and continuously updated website and associated Facebook pages

Once again, the Vestry and the Wardens wish to thank all for their service to this Parish.

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

For many years our fire detection system has had two methods. Heat detectors contacted an alarm company, and other heat detectors activated the automatic sprinkler system. Modern methods recommend smoke detectors as the speedier way of alerting the fire alarm company and the fire department. The previous vestry began the process of upgrading our system and I am pleased to report that with the help of the village Fire Marshall, we have restructured our contracts and our new system has been installed.

Two major renovation projects will be in full swing during the month of August.

Last month, your vestry authorized the upgrading of both the men's and ladies' bathrooms with the intention of making them more attractive and wheel chair accessible. The ladies' bathroom was installed when the Guild Room was added on to the church. The rusted out men's room is more than 70 years old.

During this period, please use the bathroom in the hall leading to the children's play room or the one on the second floor near the secretary's office.

Also, the carpeting in the sanctuary has served us well for many decades. It is now badly frayed, stained and in need of replacement. Our buildings and grounds committee has been determining the cost and establishing an installment schedule.

September 11<sup>th</sup> is 'Rally Sunday', kicking off the church school year and the end of summer. A picnic party is planned. We hope to have our projects completed by that time and our buildings and grounds sparkling for this special occasion.

# FROM THE BISHOP



Paris last November. Brussels airport in April. Orlando in June. Baton Rouge. Minneapolis. Dallas. Nice. In our own country and abroad, the list of violent killings seems endless. Many go by almost unnoticed. On the evening of July 2nd in Baghdad, for instance, as Muslim families gathered to break Ramadan fast, one suicide car bomb killed more than 200 men, women, and children.

Some of these are acts of terrorism, some reflect deep racial disparities in our society and a continuing racism in our culture, some reveal a societal breakdown of trust. The sniper-style murder of five police officers as they protected protesters and calmly kept the peace in Dallas and the ambush of officers in Baton Rouge that killed three were as unimaginable and horrifying as the live-streamed killing of Philando Castile in a suburban Minnesota traffic stop.

The current volume and degree of violence produce both an emotional burden of fear and a spiritual burden of doubt. We wonder: Can we be safe anywhere? What could happen at the conventions in Cleveland this week and in Philadelphia the following week? Where is God in all of this? Is there any “good” upon which we can ever rely?

It is important that we talk and pray about these things in church. Both consciously and unconsciously, we are carrying them around with us all the time. The names of towns where people no different from us live and work and raise their families – Sandy Hook, San Bernardino, Columbine – forever trigger traumatic images of bloodshed and heartache. There is no vacation from this burden; wherever we go, we take it with us. And if we are not bringing these emotional and spiritual burdens to church, then we are not bringing our whole selves to church. We need a time to hold them in our collective hearts and to place them in God’s hands, if only for that hour, and to recognize that we are not alone.

The power of evil, of course, wants us to feel helpless, because then we will be vulnerable to its ways. It wants us to feel isolated, from each other and from God, because that is the only way it wins.

Helplessness makes us susceptible to violence and to the excessive exercise of power, ourselves. Witness the colossal arming of the American public with both legal and illegal firearms. The United States has 113 guns for every 100 Americans. Even as a gun owner myself, I find this a shocking figure. It is the highest guns-per-capita ratio in the world, and it goes up every day.

Helplessness leads to the demonization of those who are different, to ostracizing the other. It results in the dehumanization of everyone, victims and perpetrators alike, and to the general devaluing of all life.

And helplessness leads us to a paralyzing cultural disrespect of one another, as seen in the contemptuous tone of campaign rhetoric in our own country, and globally in the xenophobic tendency of protectionist populism.

But we are not helpless. Our help is in a God who is greater than all this. As the 124th Psalm proclaims, “Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” And it is in church and in our prayer lives that we connect with that help.

In worship and in prayer we are reminded that we are not helpless, but are beloved of God, and in being loved by the divine without condition, we are empowered to love in response. In Matthew 5 Jesus says, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.” To be children of God means to be godly, to be invulnerable to the power of evil. Praying for our enemies is not about condoning their actions, it is about emboldening ourselves to resist participating in them. In the words of St. Paul’s letter to the church at Rome, it emboldens us to “cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

The armor of light is not a garment of passivity. It is the uniform of advocacy, justice, compassion, accountability, and truth. And it is anything but helpless. This is what Jesus offers and demands of us, whether we come to church seeking it or not – the companionship and hope of a loving and just God who empowers us to be the very body of Christ, the human manifestation of divine love in our perilous but not helpless time.

So when we pray for that peace that passes all understanding, let us do so with a bold hope and a willingness to go to whatever length it takes to achieve it. That is what our savior Jesus did; that is what it will take for us to be his body today. No matter who you are or how you got here, no matter how great is your conviction of inadequacy or guilt or shame, no matter what you think of yourself or what you fear others might think of you, you are exactly what God needs to heal the world, not because of who you are, but because of who God is.

In the face of even the greatest evil, we are not helpless. “Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” May God clothe you in the armor of light, empower you to be healers of this broken world, and keep you safe.

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.  
Bishop of Ohio  
July 20, 2016

# NEWS AND NOTES



We are still in need of more **GEMS** (pebbles) so we may continue to deliver flowers to parishioners who cannot make it to church and to hospital patients after the Sunday services. Please drop off GEMS at the church or call Chris Kramer (440-463-0074) for pick-up!



**Free Training!**  
**August 5<sup>th</sup> 1-4 PM**  
St. Chris Fellowship Hall

Contact Chris Kramer (440-463-0074) if you would like to participate. Training is offered by Tom Majeski, Fire Safety Inspector for Gates Mills.

## Donate!

For the August Pantry Donation, we will be collecting school supplies. Items most needed are:

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Scissors        | Erasers     |
| Pens            | Crayons     |
| Rulers          | Glue Sticks |
| Colored Pencils |             |



## Bathroom Remodel!



The men's and women's bathrooms are being remodeled throughout the month of August. You will have to use the bathroom in the hall by the nursery or the upstairs bathroom during this time. Thank you for your understanding as we make these needed improvements to our church.

## SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>

### Rally Day & Capital Campaign Commemoration

You may sign up on the bulletin board to bring a dish to share. There will be a barbecue provided by the church.



## OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>

### St. Chris Clambake



July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade



# LOCAL EVENTS

# EfM

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

## Mentor Training

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Loyola Retreat House, 700 Killinger Road, Clinton Ohio  
August 4-6, 2016

Registration will be at 2:00 pm and training sessions will begin at 3:00 pm on Thursday and end at noon on Saturday. Followed by lunch

**Basic/In Service Mentor Training:** The purpose of mentor training is for participants to discern whether they have the desire and skills to be a mentor for the Education for Ministry program, and to provide ongoing training and support for experienced mentors with an EfM group. The event provides an opportunity for an EfM trainer to evaluate the skills of each trainee and to accredit those who qualify. Mentor training involves six to eight participants and one trainer.

**Mentor Formation Training:** A Formation Training is an event for more seasoned mentors. It is an opportunity to go deeper into their skills and to explore a topic relevant to mentoring an EfM group. They may expect to build community among more experienced mentors for mutual support, and to gain confidence in their leadership. The event fosters new learning and spiritual growth while still including elements foundational to EfM: worship, group life development, and theological reflection.

The focus for this year is SPIRITUALLY. To experience and explore our own spirituality and draw implications for mentoring by having a time of refreshment and renewal. This is achieved through deepening our relationship with God and exploring resources for our spirituality. This training will include six to twelve participants and one trainer.

#### FORMATION EVENT CRITERIA

To be eligible to attend a formation training, one must have attended two training events and been accredited by the trainer at the second training as ready for formation training. Formation trainees must be active mentors who have led groups within the last 12-18 months. People whose last three trainings were non-basic/in-service (formation or alternate training) must do a basic/in-service as their fourth reaccreditation training.

**Cost for this event is \$275.00**

*(Sorry no refund for cancellation)*

*Fee includes room and board.*

*Thursday - dinner; Friday-breakfast, lunch & dinner, Saturday-breakfast and lunch*



Register at <https://2016-efm.eventbrite.com>

Questions: contact Rev. Vincent Black at [vblack@dohio.org](mailto:vblack@dohio.org) or by phone at 216-774-0453.

# THE FEST <sup>SUNDAY</sup> 8.7.16

**Christian Music  
Festival and Family  
Friendly event and  
its Free!**

[www.thefest.us](http://www.thefest.us)

# EVERYTHING

»»» THEFEST2016

The FEST is held each year at:  
The Center for Pastoral Leadership  
28700 Euclid Ave.  
Wickliffe, OH 44092

12:00 FEST GATES OPEN!

12:00 HARLEND

12:30 SHARON ROSHELL

1:00 VESSEL WORSHIP

1:30 LAUREN DAIGLE

3:00 MATTHEW WEST

4:30 MICHAEL W. SMITH

6:15 NEWSBOYS

7:45 GRAND RAFFLE DRAWING

8:20 OUTDOOR MASS

10:00 AMERICAN FIREWORKS

## **ST. JOHNS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OHIO CITY**

### **STEP Performance**

**August 6, 5PM**

STEP is an arts-based job training program that engages Cleveland teens from low-income families in a powerful 8-week intensive that focuses on excellence in performance, play creation, writing, and production. *Come see the result of their hard work.* For more information, visit:

<http://www.cptonline.org/education/student-theatre-enrichment-program/>

### **Spirit and life speaker series**

**August 28, 4PM**

Hearing and Sharing Music

Tom Welsh Director of Performing Arts at the Cleveland Museum of Art

# THOSE WHO SERVE

## August 2016 ROTA

### AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 EM: Melanie Reda  
LR: Kitty Thomas  
AG: Sue Marston  
10:15 EM: Peter Batcheller  
LR: Renee Kolecki/D. Hauserman  
AG: Mary Murray  
Ushers: Rik Bole/Brian Wright  
Hospitality: Loni Todd-Lorenz/ Nicki Henry

### AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 EM: Charley Marston  
LR: Fran Meyers  
AG: Rosalie Della Ratta  
10:15 EM: Dale Gnant  
LR: Chandler Everett/Joyce Welsh  
AG: Loni Todd-Lorenz/Nicki Henry  
Ushers: Peter Batcheller  
Hospitality: Nancy Irwin

### AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>

8:00 EM: Melanie Reda  
LR: Kitty Thomas  
AG: Judy Eakin  
10:15 EM: Beth Miller  
LR: Lindsey McMillion/Chris Pucell  
AG: Jean Ramsey  
Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl  
Hospitality: *Please sign up on bulletin board.*

### AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 EM: Fran Meyers  
LR: Peter Batcheller  
AG: Jane Battles  
10:15 EM: Randy Cole  
LR: Judy Eakin/Janessa Thirion  
AG: Marcia Alpers  
Ushers: Peter Batcheller & Darlene Hauserman  
Hospitality: Becky Everett

## 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, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

Meet at St. Christopher's at 4PM

Contact Debbie Cole if you plan to help out!

### *Food Pantry*

**Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Call the office if you wish to volunteer.



If you receive this newsletter in paper form by postal mail, and you would like to instead *ONLY* receive it through email, please let Mary in the office know. This will help us save on both printing and postage expenses.

Just email the office from the email address you would like the newsletter sent along with your name. [stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com)

# AUGUST 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Food Pantry Donation this Month: School Supplies</p>	1	2 <b>Finance Committee</b> 6 p.m.	3 Bathroom Remodeling Begins	4 Mother Ann's "Drop By Hours" 10a.m.-5p.m. Evening Prayer 5:00 p.m. Riverside AA AlAnon 8 p.m.	5 <b>AED/CPR Training</b> 1-4 PM	6 <b>New Members Party</b> At the Rectory 5-7 PM
<p><b>7 XII Pentecost</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Forum 10 a.m. Nursery 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist + Baptism</p>	8	9	10	11 Mother Ann's "Drop By Hours" 10a.m.-5p.m. Evening Prayer 5:00 p.m. Riverside AA AlAnon 8 p.m.	12	13 <b>3:00 Rehearsal</b> <b>5:00 Wedding</b>
<p><b>14 XIII Pentecost</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Forum 10 a.m. Nursery 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	15	16 <b>Vestry</b> 6-8 p.m.	17	18 Mother Ann's "Drop By Hours" 10a.m.-5p.m. Evening Prayer 5:00 p.m. Riverside AA AlAnon 8 p.m.	19 St. Andrews Blessed Are We Dinner Meet @ 4PM	20 Our Savior Lutheran Food Pantry
<p><b>21 XIV Pentecost</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Forum 10 a.m. Nursery 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	22	23	24 <b>September Newsletter</b> <b>article/information</b> <b>deadline</b>	25 Mother Ann's "Drop By Hours" 10a.m.-5p.m. Evening Prayer 5:00 p.m. Riverside AA AlAnon 8 p.m.	26	27
<p><b>28 XV Pentecost</b></p> <p>8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Forum 10 a.m. Nursery 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	29	30	31		29	30

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S  
BY-THE-RIVER  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Rev. Ann Kidder  
Rector Elect  
[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)

**August 2016 Newsletter**



**Church Camp Counselors**

**St. Christopher's by-the-River**

We welcome you to join us on:

**Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost XII**

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

**Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost XIII**

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

**Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – Pentecost XIV**

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

**Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost XV**

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

**Office/Church Open**

T-W-TH – 8:30-2:30

**Evening Prayer**

TH – 5:00

440-423-4451

