



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT!

Please read information inside!

Dear Friends,

This year Ash Wednesday fell on February 14th, Valentine’s Day. Easter Sunday is on April 1st, April Fool’s Day. I love the juxtaposition of these two dates. Many people, both in Jesus’ day and in our own, would call the Crucifixion the ultimate act of a fool. Yet, as Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians, “Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.”

God’s gift of eternal life is offered to us through the “foolish” love of Jesus Christ’s crucifixion. Our response to this Divine proclamation of love is, quite simply, our daily choice to love as we have been loved. Lent offers us an opportunity and challenge to go deeper in our response to God’s love. Our baptism empowers us to “walk in newness of life”. May this Lent remind us that we are invited to become “fools” for love – to look beyond surface appearances, to seek beyond easy answers, and to join God’s continuing declaration of Love to the world.

In Christ’s Love,

Ann+

Lenten Tuesday Simple Supper

6:30 – 8:30 PM in Fellowship Hall,

Feb 27 – Jesus’ Family Values

Mar 6 – The Miracles of Jesus

Mar 13 – The Parables of Jesus

Mar 20 – The Teachings of Jesus: How Shall We Live



Sign up on the Clip Board in the Guild Room!



Fun at the Pancake Breakfast!



Senior Warden's Report

PARISH REPORT

By John Irwin

At the annual meeting of the Parish on Sunday, January 28, 2018, we expressed gratitude to two members of the Vestry who were rotating off, David Dickenson and Heather Daly. The Parish then elected two new members to the Vestry, Jim Pender and Becky Everett and reelected or treasurer, Marry Murray to serve another term on the Vestry. Thanks were also expressed to Charlene Currutt for her service as the Parish representative to the Northeast Mission Area Council, NEMAC, and Linda Webb was elected to follow in her place for a one-year term of service on this important consortium of Parish mission representatives.

Our new Vestry member, Jim Pender and Becky Everett are both lifelong devoted Parishioners and I am certain that with their energy and expertise, they will be wonderful additions to the Vestry.

On February 28, 2018 the Vestry will hold a half-day long retreat session which will begin with the regular monthly Vestry meeting focusing upon orientation of new Vestry members and strategic planning for the year. In addition to the regular business of the Vestry, the retreat will also contain a session on stewardship and a session focusing upon the vision for the Parish both in the coming year and in the longer future.

On February 11, following the 10:15 AM service, the annual Shrove Tuesday (on Sunday) pancake breakfast was held. This year featured a new menu and an improved culinary technique producing an even better pancake breakfast. This was enjoyed by all especially the youngsters. We look forward to an even bigger pancake breakfast next year as the customary introduction to the season of Lent.

Meanwhile, we continue to move forward with a number of major projects including the river bank protection project, the Parish elevator project, the name badge project and thanks to the generosity of Parishioners new furnishings in the Guild room and elsewhere.

All of these activities, including the appearance of new members, brings Joy to the heart, growth to the Parish and energy to our mission to love and serve God and to change the world.

Annual Meeting (January 28, 2018)

PARISH MINUTES

By Irene McMullen

The Annual Meeting of St. Christopher by-the-River Parish was called to order by Mother Ann at 11:05 AM, following the 10:00 AM service. Mother Ann led a prayer.

Sue Thorpe moved to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes, as written. Mary Holmes seconded the Motion. Mother Ann noted that there were at least twenty (20) electors in attendance. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

John Irwin, Senior Warden reported on the nominations made by the Nominating Committee. Dr. Irwin noted that Heather Daly will be relocating, and David Dickenson is retiring from the Vestry as well. They were thanked for their service. Mary Murray was nominated to a three-year term of the Vestry from the floor, by Dan McMullen. Mary Holmes seconded the motion. Dan McMullen moved, and Mary Holmes seconded a motion to elect James Pender, Mary Murray and Becky Everett to the Vestry, and Linda Webb to NEMAC (a one-year term). Mother Ann closed the nominations. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Dr. Irwin noted that it has been an honor to serve as Senior Warden. He thanked Mother Ann.

Charley Marston, Junior Warden, thanked all for the renovations of the church which are being undertaken. Charley thanked the many parishioners for their efforts and contributions to the church. We will be undertaking many more projects in 2018.

Mary Murray, Treasurer, noted that the church broke even in 2017, and expressed gratitude to all for their contributions.

Dr. Irwin moved to conclude the meeting. Mary Murray seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Stephen Ministry

PARISH REPORT

A Reflection by Kathy Pender

It doesn't take much observation to know that the world is a broken place. Violence, racial hatred, sickness and death, they are all daily reminders of this world's brokenness. It is enough to make you feel pretty hopeless.

As Christians, we believe that this brokenness has one origin: our brokenness from God., otherwise known as sin. Sin is the gap that stands between us and the Creator. Because we are broken from God, we are also broken from one another, hopelessly disconnected from the source of our being and from our brothers and sisters. And in our hearts I believe we hunger to be put back together, to be reconciled with God and with one another.

It is to bridge that gap, to feed that hunger, to fill that hole, that Jesus Christ came; not with power, not with great psychological methods, not with grand philosophy or "just the right words" but with love.

Our Stephen Ministers have been ministering to their care receivers in the parish. They know brokenness firsthand. But they are also people who have tasted the wholeness that comes from faith in Jesus.

Our task as Stephen Ministers is not to cure hurting people of their ills or solve their problems. It is not even to make them feel better. Our task is to BE: to be loving, to give life giving presence of our own faith in their midst. By listening, caring, loving, being compassionate and present, we accompany hurting broken people on the long journey toward wholeness.

When we establish trusting, compassionate and confidential relationships with hurting people in the name of Jesus Christ, healing begins. How healing it is to be listened to when we know that we are really being heard and understood. How satisfying it is to be loved and not judged. To be free to be who we really are. This is how broken lives can become strong. This is the gift that Stephen Ministers offer in the name of Jesus Christ.

I feel so blessed to be part of this amazing ministry.

Stephen Ministry

A reflection by Becky Everett

The relationship between a caregiver and care receiver can be a very special, meaningful one. The following excerpts were taken from a letter one of our care receivers recently wrote to a caregiver.

When you visit me here, I enjoy looking at your eager, fresh face. Your eyes connect with me and it is great to see your full smile.

Then, of course, there are the discussions and conversations that we have. I truly feel that I can tell you anything – that no topic is "out of bounds." I have been reading and re-reading Book #1 on Loss and Grieving. As a replacement for you, I have re-read the book, highlighting and encircling what is important and new for me.

Especially poignant is a section that talks about grieving and one's relationship to God. I identify with the thoughts that grieving may make one feel more separate from God. This is how I feel. I remember in the past I felt close to God, loving – even "touched by God." Now I am so angry at God. I feel God took away everything and everyone I liked (except you) and left me "bare bones" abandoned.

My church friends visiting are the only touches of peace and hope. Each day I read the books that I obtained from you. They "pump" me up and keep me going.

If you, or someone you know, are having a rough time right now and feel that a Stephen Minister would be helpful, please contact Mother Ann or Kathy Pender. Get the help, support and love that you need! A Stephen Minister could make a world of difference!

Faith Development Report

By Peggy Reda, Director of Sunday School

PARISH REPORT

Church School Schedule

Let's make the most of our 11 remaining classes this year!

Topics to Come: The Miracles of Jesus, The Transfiguration, Holy Week

March

4 – Class
 11 – Class (Daylight Savings)
 18 – Class
 25 – Class (Palm Sunday)

April

April 1 – EASTER & Egg Hunts
 April 8 – Class
 April 15 – Class
 April 22 – Class
 April 29 – Class



May

May 6 - Class
 May 13 – Class (Mother's Day)/
 Open House
 May 20 – End of year Party

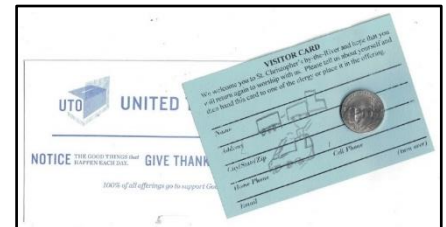
Summer Church Camp

If you know of any children in your family or neighborhood that might be interested in our half-day summer camp for one week (last week of July), please contact Peggy Reda at prseverin@aol.com call the church office.

UTO

By Sandy Batcheller

The multitude of gifts/blessings we, at St. Christopher's, have received from God is reflected in your thoughtful thanksgivings during our fall UTO offerings. As you know these offerings are used around the world by the Episcopal Church to help those less fortunate. This fall's UTO offering was approximately \$950.05. 5 cents you may wonder....well a very thankful young person donated his nickel along with artwork of his favorite toys -a train- and fire truck! So sweet. I wish I knew what his blessing was, but this shows is that we are never too young or old to give thanks, and no matter how small or large your offering is it will be much appreciated.



Guild Programs, 2018

- April 27th** Bargain Box
- May 9th** History of the "Euclid Beach Carousel", ride on the carousel and box lunch at the Western Reserve Historical Society
- June 13th** Wrap-up meeting, changing of Guild officers and lunch at Sue Marston's

Making Anglican Prayer Beads



March 14th, 10AM
(Fellowship Hall)
 Sign up on the Guild
 Bulletin Board



Enjoying the food at Laura Cotton's cooking Demo!



Adult Forum



Bible Challenge Discussion groups are meeting on Thursdays at 6PM and Sundays at 9AM.

Feel free to join in at any time.

Contact the office or Mother Ann if you need a book

PARISH NEWS

The readings for March are:

Mar 1 Ruth 1-4, Psalm 79, John 14	Mar 12 1 Sam 25-27, Psalm 88, Acts 2	Mar 23 2 Sam 22-24, Psalm 97, Acts 12
Mar 2 1 Sam 1-3, Psalm 80, John 15	Mar 13 1 Sam 28-30, Psalm 89:1-18, Acts 3	Mar 24 1 Kings 1-3, Psalm 98, Acts 13
Mar 3 1 Sam 4-6, Psalm 81, John 16	Mar 14 1 Sam 31, Psalm 89:19-52, Acts 4	Mar 25 – PALM SUNDAY
Mar 4 - SUNDAY	Mar 15 2 Sam 1-3, Psalm 90, Acts 5	Mar 26 1 Kings 4-6, Psalm 99, Acts 14
Mar 5 1 Sam 7-9, Psalm 82, John 17	Mar 16 2 Sam 4-6, Psalm 91, Acts 6	Mar 27 1 Kings 7-9, Psalm 100, Acts 15
Mar 6 1 Sam 10-12, Psalm 83, John 18	Mar 17 2 Sam 7-9, Psalm 92, Acts 7	Mar 28 1 Kings 10-12, Psalm 101, Acts 16
Mar 7 1 Sam 13-15, Psalm 84, John 19	Mar 18 - SUNDAY	Mar 29 1 Kings 13-15, Psalm 102, Acts 17
Mar 8 1 Sam 16-18, Psalm 85, John 20	Mar 19 2 Sam 10-12, Psalm 93, Acts 8	Mar 30 1 Kings 16-18, Psalm 103, Acts 18
Mar 9 1 Sam 19-21, Psalm 86, John 21	Mar 20 2 Sam 13-15, Psalm 94, Acts 9	Mar 31 1 Kings 19-21, Psalm 104, Acts 19
Mar 10 1 Sam 22-24, Psalm 87, Acts 1	Mar 21 2 Sam 16-18, Psalm 95, Acts 10	
Mar 11 - SUNDAY	Mar 22 2 Sam 19-21, Psalm 96, Acts 11	

Flocknote

Flocknote is here! We have begun to use this service here at St. Christopher's. Some of you may have received a welcome text. Over the next week, I hope to send out a test text to those with cell phones and a test email to those with emails. I will be asking for everyone to reply to these test messages, so I can be sure of who is connected and try to fix any issues. So, BE ON THE LOOK OUT for a text and/or email from flocknote and be sure to respond! You may also 'Text to Join' by texting "chagrin" to 84576.



March Birthdays

1 Anne Mitchell	12 Peter DeBaz	20 Hannah Thirion	28 Tom Matthews
2 Jean Weitzel	15 Carolyn Jones	22 Samantha Berchek	Annette Lowe
8 Scott Inkley	Clarke Jones	26 Collin Benek	29 Anne Barnes
Janessa Thirion	16 Chuck Bixler	Daniel Mansfield	30 Leland Morris
9 John Brown	Peter Mitchell	Kitty Thomas	
10 Bruce Thomas	Jo Reynolds	27 Judy Holmes	
Jolyon Welsh	19 Scott Broome	Leslie Marting	



Trinity Cathedral Music & Arts

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Brown Bag Concert Series is back for its 40th season! Wednesday's at 12 noon. Bring a lunch or purchase one in the cathedral for \$7.

Feb 28 – Cleveland Institute of Music Guitar Quartet

Mar 7 – Guys with Guitars

Mar 14 – Gruca White Ensemble

Mar 21 – Trinity Chamber Orchestra with Olin Davin, Guitar

Other Cathedral Events

Mar 20 – 7:30 PM - Concert by Candlelight, a fundraiser for Music & Art at Trinity. \$25 each and includes post-concert reception and art exhibit.

Mar 30, 7:30 PM – Good Friday Concert – A dramatic and deeply moving setting of the Passion narrative presented by Trinity Choir, soloists, and Trinity Chamber Orchestra.

THOSE WHO SERVE

MARCH 2018 ROTA

EM's & Lectors have not yet been assigned for March.

MARCH 4th

8:00 AG: Sally Conley
 10:15 AG: Laura Cotton
 Ushers: Brian Wright & Rik Bole
 Hospitality: Heather Daly/Gretchen Fisher

MARCH 11th

8:00 AG: Judy Eakin
 10:15 AG: Nicki Henry/ Loni Todd-Lorenz
 Ushers: Brendan Daly
 Hospitality: Elise Bennet/ Keri Osolin

MARCH 18th

8:00 AG: Rosalie DellaRatta
 10:15 AG: Neal Lee
 Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl
 Hospitality: Irene McMullen/ Chris Pucell

MARCH 25th – PALM SUNDAY

8:00 AG: Teri Ianni
 10:15 AG: Jean Ramsey
 Ushers: Dave & Darlene Hauserman
 Hospitality: Mary Murray / Rosalie DellaRatta

Altar Flowers

Anyone interested in joining the Flower Ministry, please call the office. Flowers are taken to homebound or sick parishioners after service each Sunday thanks to our wonderful donors in our flower ministry. **In particular, we need a donor to cover half of the flowers for Sunday, April 8th (\$40).**



Please check out Bellwether Farm's new website!

www.bellwetherfarm.com



Vestry 2018

John Irwin	Senior Warden
Charley Marston	Junior Warden
Irene McMullen	Clerk
Mary Murray	Treasurer

Class of 2020

Becky Everett, Mary Murray, James Pender

Class of 2019

Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Irene McMullen

Class of 2018

Elise Bennett, Charles Marston, Sean McMillion

Northeast Mission Area Council Representatives

Peter Batcheller, 2017+2018

Linda Webb, 2018

Volunteer Opportunities

Blessed Are We Dinner

Friday, March 16th

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

Food Pantry

Saturday, March 17th

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

Food Pantry

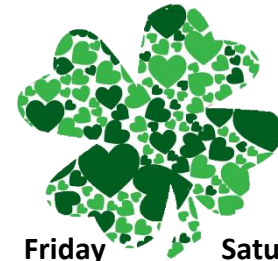
In **MARCH**, we are collecting

Boxed Cereal
 Oatmeal (Instant or Rolled Oats)
 Cream of Wheat





March



Sunday

Monday






Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>Food Pantry Donation Boxed Cereal, Oatmeal (any kind), Cream of Wheat, etc.</p>  				<p>1</p>  <p>5 PM Evening Prayer 6 PM Bible Challenge 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 III Lent 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Simple Supper</p>	<p>7 10:30 AM Guild Board Meeting 6 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>5 PM Evening Prayer 6 PM Bible Challenge 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 IV Lent 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal 11:30 am Pancake Breakfast</p>	<p>12 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry (Speaker)</p>	<p>13 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Simple Supper</p>	<p>14 10:00 AM Making Anglican Prayer Beads</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>5 PM Evening Prayer 6 PM Bible Challenge 8 PM Riverside AA.</p>	<p>16 St. Andrews Blessed Are We Dinner Meet @ 4PM</p>	<p>17 Our Savior Lutheran Food Pantry 11 AM 12-5 Private Party – Guild Room Happy St. Patrick's Day</p>
<p>18 V Lent 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 April Newsletter Information Due 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Simple Supper</p>	<p>21 6 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>5 PM Evening Prayer 6 PM Bible Challenge 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>23 OFFICE OPEN</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 PALM SUNDAY 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Forum, Church School & Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 Vestry Mtg.</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>6:00 Agape Supper & Stripping of Altar 8 PM Riverside AA</p>	<p>30 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 Holy Eucharist 7:00 Holy Eucharist (no music)</p> 	<p>31</p>

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

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

Open T-W-TH 8:30-2:30
440-423-4451
stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

March 2018 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

We welcome you to join us:

Sunday, March 4th – III Lent

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

Sunday, March 11th – IV Lent

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

Sunday, March 18th – V Lent

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

Sunday, March 25th – Palm Sunday

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

Thursday, March 29th – Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. – Agape Supper + Stripping of the Altar

Friday, March 30th – Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (no music)

SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR KIDS 5-14

9 -10 a.m. Church School Class (Upstairs)
10-10:15 a.m. Break & Snacks in the Nursery
10:15-10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary with class
10:30 -11:00 a.m. Children's Chapel
11:00-11:15 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary with families

NURSERY CARE

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

