

St. Christopher by-the-River  
Episcopal Church  
2017 Annual Report



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## **2017 STAFF**

<b>The Rev. Ann Kidder</b>	<b>Rector</b>
Yuri Sato McElliot	Director of Music/Organist
Mary Zup	Parish Administrator
Peggy Reda	Director of Faith Development
Melanie Reda	Nursery Director
Hugh Kelly	Sexton
Lucy Gutierrez De Calvo	Churchkeeper
Jolyon Welsh	Sunday Porter
Tellerd Organization, Ltd.	Bookkeeper
S'Amore Tatman Group	Auditor

## **2017 VESTRY**

John Irwin	Senior Warden (Class of 2019)
Charles Marston	Junior Warden (Class of 2018)
Mary Murray	Treasurer (Class of 2017)
Irene McMullen	Clerk (Class of 2019)
Heather Daly	Class of 2017
David Dickenson	Class of 2017
Elise Bennett	Class of 2018
Sean McMillion	Class of 2018
Mary Holmes	Class of 2019

**Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting of St. Christopher by-the-River  
January 22, 2017, at 11:15 a.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted, John Irwin, Senior Warden**

On Sunday morning January 22, 2017 The Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Christopher by-the-River was duly called to order by the Rector, Mother Ann Kidder, who served in accordance with Article II Section 3 the 2017 Code of Regulations as the Presiding Officer of this meeting.

The Presiding Officer thereupon determined and ruled that a quorum of at least 20 Qualified Electors was present in the congregation, as required by Article II Section 4 of the Code.

The Presiding Officer then addressed the Election of Vestry as set forth in Article III of the Code and summarized the report of the Nominating Committee which had proposed the names of three Qualified Electors to fill the vacancies arising upon the expiration of the term of the Vestry Class of 2016. Consistent with the provisions of the newly adopted Code, the Nominating Committee had proposed that the names of the following Qualified Electors be placed in nomination for election to the Vestry: Mary Holmes, John Irwin and Irene McMullen. In addition, the Nominating Committee proposed Charlene Currutt to serve as the Parish representative to the Northeast Mission Area Council in 2017. The Presiding Officer then called for any nominations from the floor, and hearing that there were none, then called the nominations closed.

The Presiding Officer then called upon the Qualified Electors present in the congregation to vote by voice upon the slate of nominees. There were no objections to this procedure of voice vote. By affirmative voice vote, with no nay votes nor voiced abstentions, the three nominees were elected to three-year terms upon the Vestry commencing today and Charlene Currutt was elected to serve as the Northeast Mission Area Counsel Representative.

The Presiding Officer then called upon the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Treasurer and others in leadership positions to provide their Annual Reports to the Parish, as further supplemented and delineated in the written reports contained in the 2017 Annual Meeting Brochure.

The Rector and the Wardens then presented a plaque of appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Kurt Liljedahl upon his retirement after 10 years of devoted service as the Treasurer of St. Christopher by-the-River.

Following the conclusion of the oral reports and upon expressions of gratitude to all those who have served on the Vestry, Parish Committees, the Guild and many other Parish functions and organizations and finally with gratitude to the administrative staff of the Parish, the Presiding Officer declared the Annual Meeting to be adjourned.

**RECTOR'S REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Mother Ann Kidder**

2017 was another busy and fruitful year at St. Christopher's. To one degree or another, I participate in, or have my finger on the pulse of, almost everything that happens here at St. Christopher's. It is a joy and a privilege to work closely with so many of you as we seek to carry out the work of God in this place. The numerous ministry reports that follow describe in greater detail much of what we have accomplished this year in our efforts to love God and our neighbor. Highlights unique to 2017 include the following: In early January a "Special Parish Meeting" was called and new parish regulations (bylaws) were approved. The Vestry passed a Facilities Usage Policy and a Conflict of Interest Policy (to be signed annually by all Vestry members). Bishop Hollingsworth gave his approval for St. Christopher's and Grace Church in Willoughby to share Deacon Lydia Bailey. Deacon Lydia is with us on the first and third Sunday of each month. A major renovation of our Children's Chapel was completed this year. A new altar and finishing touches are under way and the Chapel will be consecrated in 2018. Thanks to the generosity of Matthew Figgie, we have funding for an elevator so that our Fellowship Hall can be accessible for all. We hope to have that work completed over the course of this summer. We are continuing to seek a long-term solution to our riverbank erosion and hope to see concrete progress in 2018. Our 2017 stewardship campaign was a great success and we have ended the year in good financial health. Thank you to each and every one of you – your generous gifts of "time, talent, and treasure" are what makes our shared life and ministry possible.

My ordination vows include the responsibility for participating in the councils of the wider church. In addition to attendance at Clericus, NEMAC, Convocation, the Spring Clergy Conference, Diocesan Convention, and our two annual Clergy "Quiet Days", I serve in a number of Diocesan leadership roles. I serve on Diocesan Council and am a member of its Executive Committee. This is the third year in a 3-year term representing our Northeast Mission Area Council (NEMAC) on Diocesan Council. I have served on the Retreat Experience Working Group for Bellwether Farm for three years and have loved helping to plan its retreat facilities. With the dedication of Bellwether Farm in November, that work drew to a natural close. Last spring, I was asked to serve as Chaplain for our Seminarians & Commission on Ministry at their annual retreat and I have been asked to continue in that role. In October I was installed as the Diocesan Chaplain to Daughters of the King, an Episcopal women's lay order of intercessory prayer, evangelism, and service.

This year, as always, much of my day to day work involved planning and leading worship, providing pastoral care and home communions, supervising staff, and tending to a variety of administrative duties. In 2017 our total Sunday worship attendance was 4,282. Our average Sunday attendance was 81. Total attendance for 2017 at services held on other days of the week was 2,018. Holy Eucharist was celebrated 91 times at Sunday services and 15 times at weekday services. Communion was shared 63 times with parishioners who were hospitalized, in nursing/assisted living/rehabilitation facilities, or house-bound. We worshipped on Sunday using the service of Morning Prayer 12 times and Thursday Evening Prayer services were held 33 times.

In 2017 I baptized William Cooper Johnson, Andrew James Sherwin, Charles Tison Vestal, and Holden John Vestal. 2017 saw the "passing on" of a number of dearly loved parishioners. It was an honor to preside at the burials of Nancy Figgie, Elaine Wallace, Betty Murnick, Peggy Lammers, Helmut Alpers, Bob Malm, and Susanah McMurray. St. Christopher's was also a place of great joy

## RECTOR'S REPORT CONT'D

as couples exchanged (or renewed) their marriage vows. The following couples were married this year: Margo Horner & Patrick Hoeflinger, Rick Doody & Wendy Berry, Scott Mueller & Kelly Carleton. Following the retirement of Dean Tracy Lind, I also had the joy of officiating at the wedding of Dan Reynolds & Shannon Kilbane in Trinity Cathedral. I also witnessed and blessed the following couples who renewed their marriage vows: Tom & Paulette Matthews (25 years), Ron & Carolyn Misco (50 years), and Neal & Mary Baker (20 years).

Over the course of last summer and fall, Debbie Cole, Deacon Lydia Bailey and I shared working with our confirmands and those wishing to reaffirm their baptismal vows. The Sunday 9:00 Forums presented opportunities for study and conversation. "A Matter of Life and Death" series offered the opportunity to consider the meaning of our lives and the legacies we leave behind, as well as learning about the Committal Service and Burial Office options available in the Book of Common Prayer. During Wednesdays in November Kathy Pender offered a series on "Loss & Grief", which was well received and concluded with a healing service. In Advent, 58 of you committed to "The Bible Challenge", which will continue throughout 2018. We meet to discuss each week's readings on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 and on Sundays from 9:00-10:00. If you have lost track of where we are, or fell behind in reading during Christmas, look for the next week's readings listed in the Thursday News & Notes email, the Sunday bulletin, and on our website – then just dive back in!

Bishop Hollingsworth made two visits to St. Christopher's this year. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> we gathered for our Celebration of New Ministry. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, he returned to Confirm Austin Daly, Lily Klinginsmith, Tom Matthews, and Linda Webb. He received Sean McMillion into the Episcopal Church. He also blessed Becky Everett, Marilyn Fisher, and John Irwin as they reaffirmed their baptismal vows. The whole community gathered in joyful celebration on both occasions!

The Riverside AA group continues to call St. Christopher's "home" and meets in our Fellowship Hall every Thursday evening. In September our Cub Scout Troop began its second year at St. Christopher's and is now really "up and running". The Blessing of the Hunt and the Blessing of the Animals were both very well attended. Outreach ministries in various forms continue to take root and grow. Fair Trade Christmas Fair; Toiletries for Veterans program; Food Pantry Ministry (donations for Chesterland Presbyterian Church's Foodbank and volunteering at Our Savior Lutheran Church's Foodbank in Mayfield) all continue alongside the wonderful leadership of St. Christopher's Guild and the many ministries that they support through the funds raised at Bargain Box. St. Christopher's participation in our Diocesan Bicentennial "What's Your 200?" began on Ash Wednesday. Posters in the back hall track our 200 miles of prayerful walking, 200 stuffed animals for hospitalized children, and 200 toiletry kits for homeless men. We are closing in on our "200s" and the deadline is Ash Wednesday (February 14<sup>th</sup>) – so get walking, buy a stuffed animal or two, and pick up some travel size shampoo and toothpaste. As a "200" gift from the parish to the Diocese, the Vestry endorsed the idea of giving 200 rootstocks to establish a vineyard at Bellwether Farm. That idea will become reality once we have worked out a few more details (where on the Farm is most appropriate for grape vines, etc.)

Each year as I look back at our accomplishments in preparation for this report, I am always amazed at how full our year together has been. I look forward to 2018 with the joyful expectation that God continues to desire for us "more than we can ask for or imagine". May we say "yes" to all that God offers us this year.

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by John R. Irwin, M.D.**

It is with great pleasure, and with ever-growing confidence in the future of our Parish, that I make my annual report as your Senior Warden. We finished 2017 with an increase in our average Sunday attendance and with our financial house in order. Our church is in good condition, inside and out, structurally, financially, and most importantly spiritually.

Over the past couple of years the Stewardship Committee and the Vestry have asked the congregation, through the Capital Campaign and the Annual Pledge Campaign to step forward and meet and increase each member's financial commitment to this church. A conscious decision was made to specifically report the average parishioner pledge amount and to ask each of us to do our best to support the Parish.

The response to these campaigns has been wonderfully positive, resulting in a substantial increase in per capita giving, which for the first time in recent memory has produced a balanced and even slightly positive year-end financial budget. As a result, the Parish can continue all of its good works, for each of us and for our broader community, with new improvements to our church, such as the beautiful Children's Chapel, and with increasing mission and outreach projects. In these regards, I believe that we are fulfilling our duties and responsibilities as a Church.

With that said, we should all look forward to an even more rewarding and productive year in 2018. For the past recent years, we have relied upon our endowment, the St. Christopher Fund, to support a substantial portion of our operating expenses. We have been drawing heavily from the endowment fund and we hope that in 2018, with a continued increase in pledge income, we can reduce for the first time in several years the amount of money that we need to take each month from the endowment fund to support the church. The money in this fund, which represents bequests and gifts from many parishioners who preceded us in the decades past, is something which we also should pass on to the future to support those who follow us, consuming as little of the fund as possible, and indeed, adding to it by our own bequests and gifts.

In addition to the discipline of giving and stewardship we also have the gospel responsibility of proclaiming the Good News and inviting others to join us in our Parish community. During his recent visit, Bishop Mark Hollingsworth spoke to the Vestry and reminded us that the most proven method of increasing church attendance and growing a church is the Discipline of Invitation. I believe that all human beings long for spiritual meaning and comfort, and into everyone's life there are times that will come when questions arise, such as: Why is this happening? What should I do? How can I help? or Who can help me? When we talk to a friend or a neighbor and we hear them expressing these kinds of concerns, our Bishop suggested that we respond with three simple replies, "I understand how you feel, going to church helps me deal with these kinds of questions in my life, and, let me pick you up on Sunday morning and you can come with me." This is the Discipline of Invitation and through it, each of us can help many people. Just think about how much St. Christopher by-the-River adds to your life and make a commitment to share that with others.

Finally, I would like to personally thank everyone who has supported me as your Senior Warden, including our Rector, the Junior Warden, the entire Vestry, our church staff and, of course, the congregation. It has been a pleasure to be of service.

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

**Respectfully submitted by Charles Marston**

Last year I concluded my report by stating that the crow's feet were apparent around my eyes because of the big smile on my face. That smile was caused by the tremendous support I received from so many of you who helped me with the many projects we worked on in 2016. Those of you who are attending this year's annual meeting will note that my smiley countenance continues.

We have once again completed a number of important improvement projects.

In the Sanctuary, David Novak's master craftsmen have installed two rails to steady us as we come forward to receive communion.

The Guild has been active in refurbishing the Guild Room with donations from Nancy Irwin, Judy Eakin, and UBS Financial Services.

Our biggest project was accomplished by Heather Daly, and her special committee, who took on the \$18,000.00 project remodeling the Children's Chapel. With the vision of John Brown, the professional eye of Sally Conley, and the workmanship of David Novak's team, this room has been transformed from what was originally a classroom into a beautiful setting with the proper ambiance for our children to learn and worship and perhaps others to find it appealing for formal and informal prayer.

Most of the work was concluded by our September Rally Sunday, when we welcomed John Hellman and Peter and Sunnie Hellman, who, along with their sister, Kate Morris, were the major financial supporters as well as the inspiration for this project in honor of their mother, Joan.

Finishing touches are still in the works and then we look forward to a return of our bishop to formally bless this lovely chapel and altar.

Our 164 year old building always needs upkeep and Lucy DeCalvo and Hugh Kelly, with the help of Jolyon Welsh, have our yard and church looking better than my memory allows. It is noteworthy that our repairs and maintenance budget would have been in balance were it not for a persistent plumbing problem which we hope we have resolved.

While we have completed many projects these past two years, we still have several to be completed.

We have commented that there continues to be a concern that the river is eroding our bank. Under the guidance of Irene McMullen, we have been working with our two neighbors to the east, The Village of Gates Mills and The Chagrin River Watershed Partners to plan a system to alleviate the problem. Many meetings have been held, but as of this writing, I have nothing conclusive to report.

On a positive note, it has been a desire to have an elevator capable of getting people and other items to and from the fellowship hall. This past year, we had many meetings developing a proper design and cost estimate. Elevators are expensive and not in our budget. We have commented many times in the past about the tremendous support we have received over many, many years from the Figgie family. That support continues. In meetings with Mathew Figgie, he has encouraged us to move forward on the project with funding provided by the family foundation, Needless to say, this is very exciting.

Last year we cut the Children's Chapel ribbon on Rally Sunday. We hope we will have a similar celebration for our elevator during this year's Rally Sunday.

We are also planning new exterior signage and lighting, and new carpeting in the choir practice room.

All of these major projects have occurred thanks to all of you who contributed to our Capital Campaign. I wish to add some special recognition to the Hellmans, Jim and Kathy Pender, Darlene and David Hauserman, and Matthew Figgie for their recent interest in helping finance our projects.

Many things have been accomplished and 2018 will be another busy year, but the final result will surely be a beautiful and spiritually powerful setting for us to enjoy for a long, long time.

Thank you everyone who has helped in this endeavor. I look forward to seeing you often.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Mary Murray**

The 2017 budget approved by your Vestry in late 2016 anticipated a deficit for the third year in a row. The projected \$(11,452) deficit for 2017 was a significant improvement over previous budgets as we had clearly begun to see financial improvement. In fact, by the end of 2016 we were able to nearly break even, posting a modest loss of \$(3,037) for the full year. For 2017, we had projected a 5% increase in pledge and plate receipts to \$219,000 and held total operating expenses to a 1.3% increase at approximately \$372,000.

At this time, I am pleased to report that we exceeded the budget and will post a surplus for 2017. Pledge and plate receipts were up by 8.7% from the budgeted level. Other Income, in the form of Investment Income and Prior Year Pledges, was also substantial and had not been fully anticipated in the budget. In addition, the contribution from St. Christopher's Fund of \$130,000, currently 5.5% of the Fund's average assets over the last 12 quarters, has continued to be very generous. In all, total receipts were approximately 12% above the prior year and 9.5% above budget. Expenses were very close to plan with increased salaries and benefits being partially offset by savings in other operating categories as well as from an insurance payment relating to Mother Ann's 2016 disability leave. In total, expenses were 3.2% above plan. These results are preliminary, and there may be adjustments as we finalize the accounting entries.

The Vestry has approved a break even budget for 2018 which is summarized below alongside condensed statements for 2015, 2016 and preliminary 2017.

	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>2016 Actual</u>	<u>2017 Prelim</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
Pledges and Plate	\$ 196,474	\$ 214,783	\$ 237,810	\$ 218,000	\$ 248,000
St. Christopher's Fund	\$ 125,598	\$ 129,914	\$ 130,310	\$ 130,310	\$ 125,000
Other Income	\$ 11,237	\$ 7,571	\$ 26,305	\$ 11,800	\$ 17,150
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 333,309</b>	<b>\$ 352,268</b>	<b>\$ 394,425</b>	<b>\$ 360,110</b>	<b>\$ 390,150</b>
Outside Parish Expens	\$ 52,672	\$ 47,931	\$ 55,276	\$ 49,913	\$ 53,150
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 277,832	\$ 241,594	\$ 251,922	\$ 247,624	\$ 261,150
Operating Expenses	\$ 56,046	\$ 65,780	\$ 75,947	\$ 74,025	\$ 76,295
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 386,550</b>	<b>\$ 355,305</b>	<b>\$ 383,215</b>	<b>\$ 371,562</b>	<b>\$ 390,595</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (53,241)</b>	<b>\$ (3,037)</b>	<b>\$ 11,210</b>	<b>\$ (11,452)</b>	<b>\$ (445)</b>



**ST. CHRISTOPHER'S FUND REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by David Dickenson**

Fund A:

Market value on 12/31/2017: \$2,489,015.00  
Investment and Administrative Fees in 2017: \$18,384.06  
Tax Prep Fee: \$1,000

Fund B:

Market value as of 12/31/17: \$82,328.59  
Investment and Administrative Fees in 2017: \$611.61  
Tax Prep Fee: \$1,000

In accordance with the spending policy for the year 2017, the Fund *distributed a total of \$126,045.88* to St. Christopher by-the-River's operating funds. Distributions are made on a quarterly basis.

We wish to recognize and thank our donors for their generous support. Their kindness will have a major impact on the financial security of St. Christopher's by-the-River.

Those interested in including St. Christopher's Fund in their charitable contributions and/or estate plans should contact Charley Marston, Treasurer of St. Christopher Fund.

**ALTAR GUILD REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Marcia Alpers**

Our membership totals 16 women (listed below) who prepare the altar for all services, weddings, funerals, and baptisms.

The Guild also orders flowers and decorates the church for the Christmas and Easter seasons. Our members provide palm crosses for the Palm Sunday services. Our thanks to Janet Hargrave who prepares and delivers the Altar flowers each Sunday to our shut ins.

The Altar Guild women are dedicated in their service to the church. We appreciate the time and talent they give each week.

Marcia Alpers '88

Jane Battles '95

Sally Conley '09

Laura Cotton '16

Rosalie Della Ratta '11

Judy Eakin '16

Nicki Henry '07

Teri Ianni '16

Neal Lee '16

Loni Todd-Lorenz '14

Sue Marston '91

Carolyn Miscko '93

Mary Murray '05

Jean Ramsey, III '92

Theresa Richardson '16

Lydia Zimmerman '07

CO-DIRECTORESSES: Marcia Alpers and Sue Marston

FLOWERS: Carolyn Miscko, Janet Hargrave and Jane Battles

WEDDINGS: Marcia Alpers, Sally Conley, Nicki Henry and Sue Marston

LINENS: Sally Conley, Jean Ramsey

Emeritus Members: Mary Rountree, Polly Bixler, Helen Cicirello

## WORSHIP REPORT

### Respectfully Submitted by Peter Batcheller

We thank all the Parishioners who were involved in our Church Services in 2017 as:

1. **Eucharistic Ministers (EM).** These volunteers are trained by local Clergy, Laymen and licensed by the Bishop of Ohio to perform the duties of reading lessons, leading Psalms similar to Lectors but also sharing the chalice and performing other duties around the Altar. Those presently licensed to perform this duty and were able to donate their time in 2017 are:

Peter Batcheller	John Irwin	Fran Meyers
Randy Cole	Charley Marston	Melanie Reda
Dale Gnandt	Beth Miller	

2. **Lectors.** They volunteer to read the Lessons and lead the Psalms when required. Those involved in this Ministry this past year:

Peter Batcheller	Dale Gnandt	Charley Marston	Fran Sarkisian
Rik Bole	David Hauserman	Lindsey McMillion	Courtney Schmidt
Randy Cole	Darlene Hauserman	Fran Meyers	Bob Syverson
Brendan Daly	Judy Holmes	Beth Miller	Kitty Thomas
Heather Daly	Mary Holmes	Kathi Mitchell	Sue Thorpe
Elsbeth Daly	Thomas Holmes	Cindy Murphy	Jenessa Thirion
Mona DeBaz,	Teri Ianni	Kathy Pender	Linda Webb
Margaret Douglas	John Irwin	Chris Pucell	Joyce Welsh
Jeff Eakin	Renee Kolecki,	Jean Ramsey	Brian Wright
Chandler Everett	Cornelia Lee	Melanie Reda	
Marilyn Fisher	Ron Lee	Theresa Richardson	

3. **Eucharistic Visitor (EV).** Local Clergy supply the Training and this duty is licensed by the Bishop of Ohio. You are allowed to administer Communion with consecrated bread and wine outside the Church to baptized persons and normally to the sick or those incapable of attending a Church Communion Service.

Peter Batcheller, Janet Hargrave, Debbie and Randy Cole have this license.

4. **Worship Leader (WL).** Extensive Training is provided by local Clergy at Diocesan workshops to lead worship, such as Morning and Evening Prayer (but not the Eucharist), both in the Parish and at outside institutions. This duty is again licensed by the Bishop of Ohio.

Peter Batcheller, Randy Cole, John Irwin, Charley Marston, and Beth Miller have this license.

You probably saw this group in action at the 8 and 10.15 am Services leading Morning Prayer based on Rite One (at 8) and Rite Two (at 10.15).

5. **Ushers.** They are responsible for Greeting the Congregation as they enter the Church: Distributing the Bulletins, Finding, if necessary, seats for people, Collecting the Offertory and offering it at the Altar, Guiding and Helping Communicants to and from the Altar rail, Providing a count of Attendees, Guiding any overflow to the Guild Room, and Counting and Safeguarding the Collections at both the 8 and 10.15 Services. Handling these duties most of the time in 2017 were:

Brian & Tyler Wright	Brendan & Austin Daly	David and Darlene Hauserman
Rik Bole	Kurt Liljedahl	Ron & Neal Lee

During the course of the year, Peter Batcheller, Jane Battles, Sally Conley, Denny Currutt, Becky & Chandler Everett, Rosalie Della Ratta, Sue and Charley Marston, and Linda Webb could also be seen with helping with this ministry.

6. **Acolytes.** Various members of the Church Sunday School are involved in the 10:15am Service.

In order to enhance the flow of our 8 and 10.15 am Sunday Services, the following or a variation of such was put into effect:

- a) At the 10:15am Service, the Ushers will be responsible for Closing the gate immediately after bringing up the Offertory. This will give the EM the opportunity of helping the Celebrant prepare the Wine and the Wafers.
- b) At the 10.15am Service, the Ushers will be responsible for Opening the gate immediately after the last Communicant has received and is returning to their pew and should be done before the Celebrant and EM administer Communion to anyone who is unable to make the trip to the Altar Rail for Communion.
- c) At both Services, the EM is responsible for snuffing out the Lectern and Altar candles.
  - a. At the 8am Eucharist this should be done prior to leading the Celebrant out for the Final Blessing.
  - b. At the 10:15 am Eucharist this should be done during the last Hymn and before leading the Celebrant out with the Processional Cross.
- d) At both Services, the Lectern candles should be first snuffed out followed by the Altar candles (the left or Gospel first followed by the right or Epistle candle)

We are always on the lookout for members of the Congregation for any of the above Ministries so if you have a desire or calling, then please let Peter Batcheller, Mother Ann or the Church office know.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Pender**

*“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

*-Matthew 11:28*

In September of 2016 the Stephen Ministry training began at St. Christopher’s under the leadership of Kathy Pender. Eight members of our parish completed their 50 hours of training and were commissioned as Stephen Ministers in May of 2017. These dedicated individuals are Peter Batcheller, Sally Conley, Becky Everett, Janet Hargrave, Judy Holmes, Nancy Irwin, Fran Meyers, and Susie Thorpe

Each Stephen Minister meets with an individual who might have a need at a difficult time in his or her life. The Stephen Minister provides care by listening, supporting, encouraging, praying, being dependable and trustworthy, and maintaining confidentiality in their caregiving.

The Stephen Ministers meet twice a month for on going supervision and continuing education. Mother Ann Kidder joins the group once a month so that we are sure that we are all meeting the needs of the parish.

This has been a humbling and rewarding experience to be among these amazing individuals who have shown so much compassion and love to others in their care giving. Being a part of this ministry has been a blessing in my life.

## **MUSIC REPORT**

**Respectfully Submitted by Yuri, McElliot, Music Director**

Once again, our choir members worked hard each week and shared their talents during our Sunday services. Each choir is small in numbers but I feel so blessed to work with such dedicated and fun people every week. Our three choirs – the Junior choir, Handchime choir, and Adult choir meet every Sunday morning to rehearse before services. The Adult choir also rehearses on Wednesday nights.

Our junior choir members are Austin Daly, Bridget Daly, Elsbeth Daly, Anna Klinginsmith, Lily Klinginsmith, Maddie Pucell, and Oscar Connell.

Our Handchime choir members are Sal Cicirello, Heather Daly, Gretchen Fisher, Becky Everett, Chandler Everett, Sue Marston, and Fran Sarkisian.

The members of our Adult Choir are Sal Cicirello, Debbie Cole, Heather Daly, Becky Everett, Chandler Everett, Gretchen Fisher, Jan Tuttle, Fran Sarkisian, and Robert Turnbull.

Special thanks go to Becky Everett for her wonderful work playing the carillon every Sunday morning. She does a great job and we all appreciate her so much!

We also welcomed three fantastic readers during the Christmas Eve prelude. Dave Hauserman, Ted Fletcher, and Randy Cole read selections from Frederick Buechner's Magnificent Defeat alternating with carols sung by the choir.

Also thanks to David Ellis for providing wonderful cello music for services on Easter and the fourth Sunday of Advent, and to Anna Klinginsmith and Lily Klinginsmith for singing solos during the Christmas Eve service.

We are always looking for new members to join the Adult Choir, Handchime choir, and Junior Choir. If you are at all interested, please contact me. In addition, if you play a musical instrument; we would love to have you join us!

## **FAITH DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

**Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Reda, Director of Sunday School**

### **Nursery:**

Melanie Reda continues her faithful and loving ministry with the little ones. The unofficial registry of infants and toddlers numbers 10. The average attendance each Sunday has been 5. Nursery time is scheduled from 10-11:30 a.m. Luckily, when the class swells, the older students happily help with the oversight and an exciting game of Candyland!

### **Level 1 Church School Class: (Ages 4-10)**

This year we are blessed to enjoy the dedicated service of Mrs. Paulette Matthews as our co-teacher, along with Mrs. Peggy Reda. The unofficial registry for this class is 13, but, again, our peak attendance has been 6. We continue with our curriculum, “Weaving God’s Promises” for Children. Our focus is Weaving our Faith through the Gospel of Matthew. Some of our lessons: Fall & Exile from Garden of Eden, Cain & Abel, Abraham, Moses, John the Baptist and now the early years of Jesus. Our classes also include an overview of the church seasons and Christian symbols. The children have shown joy in their learning and insight into their faith journey.

### **Level 2 Church School Class: (Ages 10-14)**

Mrs. Debbie Cole is teaching a separate class with the “Weaving God’s Promises” for Youth curriculum. This is the class that formed the core of our church school for the past ten years. Mrs. Cole generously agreed to also teach their confirmation class this year. A registry of 14 translates into an average attendance of 6.

### **Challenges that we face**

60-minute classes are shortened to about 35 minutes as we experience late arrivals; family commitment to church school has declined in favor of other activities on Sundays; maturing of the current classes will result in fewer opportunities to form the faith of our children in a time when we all need our spiritual strength even more; a comprehensive assessment of the education program to include technology and meeting the needs of today’s families is needed to address the growth of our parish family.

### **Good News**

Our Children’s Chapel time has been fruitful as the children learn the outline of worship with reading the Bible, prayer and reflection. Special events during the year still attract families with children and increase attendance to 35 to 40 children. It includes extended family members but highlights the participation in traditional celebrations: Rally Sunday, Christmas Pageant, Children’s Vespers, Easter Egg Hunt, End of Year Party and Summer Church Camp.

*“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. (Luke 18:16)”*

## **WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT**

**Respectfully Submitted by Debbie Cole, Guild President**

The Guild has enjoyed another busy year. Due to the generosity of fellow parishioners, we have a number of new pieces of furniture which were donated to the church. Most of these pieces are currently in the Guild Room and the Children's Chapel. The Guild's Building and Grounds Committee worked together to select fabrics and place the furniture in a way that would be practical and attractive. Hopefully we have created a welcoming and adaptable space.

The Guild also offered a varied array of programs this year, beginning with a luncheon at Two Foundation, one of the organizations to which we donate funds. Another off-site luncheon was held at ML Restaurant in Chagrin, which included a glass blowing demonstration at the Glass Asylum next door. We held an informative and well attended evening program, open to the public, at the Community House on the subject of human trafficking. We had a Lenten quiet day led by Mother Ann, as well as making greens arrangements for Holly Hill and the Pleasant Hill Home. The Guild also purchased and wrapped items to fill forty backpacks for the Episcopal Westside Shared Ministries. This supplemented the generosity of parishioners who filled thirty-seven backpacks for children, bringing our total to seventy-seven, a new record and a great demonstration of this parish's care for those in need.

The engine which makes these activities possible is of course Bargain Box. Several innovations were tried out this year, including a boutique section downstairs and an early entry fee for those who want to get a jump on the crowd. Bargain Box, while spearheaded by the Guild, provides the bulk of the outreach for St. Christopher's. We hope that all parishioners will show their commitment to outreach by participating in Bargain Box, by donating, sorting, working sale day, or helping with set up the Sunday before or clean up the Saturday after the sale. This continues to be a great parish activity and one of the events that makes our community so strong!

Finally, you will note that I have not thanked individuals by name for their efforts this past year. This is because in doing so I realized I'd be naming virtually every member of the Guild! Therefore, I thank you all for another year of caring, conversation, sharing, and work. May the whole parish take an opportunity to join in.

## WOMEN'S GUILD FINANCIAL REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Elise Bennett

<u>INCOME SOURCE</u>	<u>2017 BUDGET</u>	<u>2017 INCOME</u>
Bargain Box (Net)	\$22,000.00	\$23,137.26
Stationery (Net)	\$40.00	--
Misc. Income	--	--
	\$22,040.00	\$23,137.26

<u>INSIDE DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>NET DISBURSEMENTS</u>
Guild Programs	\$1,850.00	\$ 857.10
Guild Room Expenses	<u>\$1,300.00</u>	<u>\$ 678.13</u>
	\$ 3,150.00	\$1,535.23
<u>OUTSIDE DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>NET DISBURSEMENTS</u>
Bargain Box	\$4,400.00	\$6,379.56
Cleveland Food Bank	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$250.00	\$ 250.00
Holiday Favors-Holly Hill	\$100.00	\$ 82.81
Diocese of Jerusalem	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Episcopal West Side Ministry	\$ 4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Gathering Place	\$500.00	\$500.00
Hospice	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Mailing/Printing/Supplies	\$200.00	\$49.00
Meals on Wheels (Hillcrest & Chagrin)	\$250.00	\$250.00
National Cathedral	\$200.00	\$200.00
New Directions	\$ 500.00	\$500.00
Family Promise (Formerly:New Life Community)	\$500.00	\$500.00
Blessed-Are-We	\$ 550.00	\$423.69
WomenSafe	\$1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Backpacks	\$1,700.00	\$ 851.98
Renee Jones Empowerment Center	\$500.00	\$500.00
Two Foundation	\$ 500.00	\$500.00
UTO	\$100.00	\$14.00
Unbudgeted Donations*	<u>\$ 4,100.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
	\$21,850.00	\$19,501.04
Total Inside & Outside Disbursements:	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 21,036.27

**ADDITIONAL YR. END DONATIONS - in addition to 2017 budgeted amounts**

Seeds Of Literacy	\$ 500.00
Food for Poor**	\$ 250.00
Cleveland Food Bank	\$ 1,000.00
Episcopal West Side Ministry	\$ 500.00
St. Andrews Youth Program	\$ 1,000.00
City Mission	\$ 500.00
Heifer:Send a Girl to School	<u>\$600.00</u>
	\$4,350.00

\*addit'l to Renee Jones and Two Foundation

\*\* hold in reserve for future project

