



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## DECEMBER, 2018 – JANUARY, 2019 NEWSLETTER

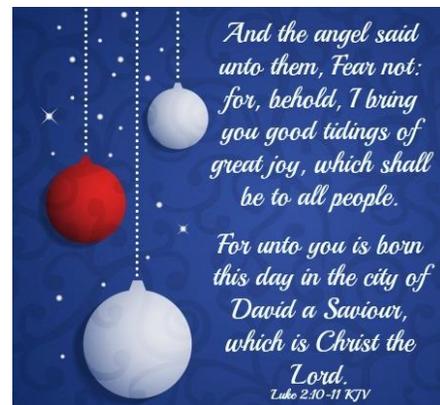
Dear Friends,

We are beginning a new year in our Christian calendar as we approach the end of another year according to our civic calendar. Past and future converge now as we reflect on the year past and consider our hopes, dreams, and plans for this new year in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. Every Sunday, I choose to use this Offertory Sentence: “Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.” The Way of Love has always been a reliable guide to living our faith day by day. Practicing that way of life asks that we do exactly that – practice. Study, Prayer, Worship, and Service provide a solid foundation for our daily practice in the Way of Love.

Recently we completed The Bible Challenge, a program for reading the entire Bible in one year. I was struck by the fact that the assigned readings for the last day ended mid-book. For me, it was a reminder that none of us are ever *done* with Bible study. The ancient stories, the historical accounts of the people of Israel and early Christians, prophecies, jokes (yes, there are jokes in the Bible), and praise songs (Psalms) are a rich source for deepening our understanding of God and expanding our understanding of how God calls us to live.

Beginning on January 13<sup>th</sup>, we will dive back into Sunday morning Bible study at the 9:00 Forum. We will be reading and discussing Paul’s letters in chronological order so that we can more easily notice how his own understanding of God’s purpose deepened and developed over time. If you are unable to join us for these discussions, I hope you will follow along by reading his letters on your own. We will begin our study by reading I Thessalonians. *Forward Day by Day*, (free copies are available in the Narthex and Guild Room) is another way to develop a habit of daily reading. Each day has a scripture passage to read, a reflection on that day’s scripture, and a prayer.

Prayer and worship are closely related. But prayer and worship are not restricted to Sunday morning. If you do not already have a daily practice of prayer and worship, here are some ideas for you. While you are going for a walk, swim, run, row – whatever you do for exercise – use that time to pray for others. You don’t need fancy words, or any words, to pray. Just visualize or think of the person and then think of their needs. As you hold them in your thoughts with love, you are also entrusting them to God’s love. As for worship – the very simplest act of worship is a feeling of gratitude – thankfulness for daily blessings, large and small. It’s easy to lose track of how blessed we are and to focus on anxieties or frustrations. This is where making a list can be helpful. Some people keep a Gratitude Journal or Diary and record what they are thankful for each day. You could use a sticky-note on the refrigerator and it would work just as well. I sit with my cup of coffee in the quiet early morning hours and think about all of the blessings in my life. Find what works for you!



Finally – Service. I suspect that all of you are engaged in a practice of Christian service, whether you know it or not. Everyone who helps make Bargain Box happen, fills a backpack for a child or adult at Christmas, brings a donation for the Food Pantry or toiletries for veterans, volunteers at a food pantry or the men’s shelter is practicing this aspect of being Christian. It is also possible to practice Christian service in the daily care for our families and friends – a meal cooked with love, a card or note, an understanding ear, a hug. What makes our actions an expression of Christian Service is that our motivation is love.

And so, like the year, we come full circle. The way of our life in Christ is The Way of Love. May God’s Love fill your hearts and all your days this Advent and throughout the year to come.

In Christ’s Love,

Ann+



**Phone  
Number  
Change**

Mother Ann has a new phone number:  
207-664-4041

## Vestry Meeting (September 26, 2018)

*By Irene McMullen*

Present: Mother Ann, Becky Everett, Elise Bennett, Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Sean McMillion, Irene McMullen, Mary Murray, Jim Pender.

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

John Irwin moved approval of the August Vestry meeting. Becky Everett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The first three chapters of the book, "Propel," was discussed. Section 2 will be discussed on October 24, and the final section will be discussed on November 28. The author is a Generosity Minister in a very large church. It is difficult to use these principles in a smaller church. Those who attended the workshop saw an emphasis on larger parishes as well. The concept of gratitude was discussed. What could we be doing at St. Christopher's to transition to a new St. Christopher's that will make members be ever more joyous to be here? We are trying to improve transparency and sharing information on the ministries. We need to look at what people's vision is for the future of St. Christopher's. We might want to have small gatherings (with treats) to discuss hopes and aspirations for the church. Could this be done on a programmatic level, or is it better to have a wide cross-section of those involved in disparate activities? The Stewardship Committee will follow up on these ideas, perhaps trying to have gatherings during the winter months.

Mary Murray discussed finances. We are behind on the percentage of pledges paid to date. August financial information was reviewed.

John Irwin discussed that there has been good progress on the elevator project. Completion will be in mid to late November. The river project may be started this winter. The choir room carpeting has been installed. Because of the construction, there will be no clambake this year. The Archive project will probably meet on Wednesday evenings every other week, after the elevator project is finished.

Jim Pender nominated Ron Lee, John Irwin and Charley Marston as delegates to the Convention. Neal Lee, and Peter and Judy Holmes will be asked to be alternates. Becky Everett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Pender spoke about stewardship. The committee has been wonderful to work with. There will be an announcement at a service regarding finances on kick-off Sunday, October 7. Jim Pender will speak about the history of the church. Mary Zup has been very helpful with this effort.

A review of insurance coverages was undertaken by Jim Pender. He suggested a committee be formed to review insurance coverages each March. John Irwin moved to raise liability coverage at a cost of \$1,650 annually. Elise Bennett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Charley and Sue Marston will assist the Guild in securing a venue for the auction project.

The idea of assisting with a vineyard at Bellweather Farm was discussed.

Distribution of the Jubilee Fund was discussed briefly. Potential recipients will be contacted.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

## Vestry Meeting (October 24, 2018)

Present: Becky Everett, Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Irene McMullen, Mary Murray, Jim Pender, Charley Marston.

The meeting came to order at 6:00 PM. John Irwin led an opening prayer.

Mary Holmes moved approval of the September Vestry meeting minutes. Jim Pender seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The second section of the book, "Propel," was discussed. The final section will be discussed on November 28. Different types of stewardship were discussed.

Jim Pender moved and Mary Holmes seconded a motion to place empty envelopes in the pews after the new year for those who wish to make a one-time contribution. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mary Murray discussed finances. We are behind on the percentage of pledges paid to date. September financial information was reviewed.

There has been good progress on the elevator project. Completion will be in mid to late November. The choir practice room project is almost complete. The Archive project will probably meet on Wednesday evenings every other week,

after the elevator project is finished. Dave Biggert will be contacted by Charley Marston to see where about progress on the riverbank project.

Morning Prayer vs. the use of supply priests was discussed. People have been concerned that there has been no communion available while Mother Ann is away. The Vestry will look into whether there is a way to have communion if no supply priest can be located. We also need to recruit worship leaders.

John Irwin indicated that making an effort to grow parish numbers would be a priority in 2019.

Jim Pender spoke about stewardship. The Stewardship Committee is reviewing received cards with intended gifts for 2019. We will try to create a bulletin board with names of parishioners who have sent back their intention cards. We will look into getting third party references for potential e-giving vendors.

Distribution of the Jubilee Fund was discussed briefly. Potential recipients will be contacted.

John Irwin led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

## DIOCESE

### Lay leadership Conference (September 22 2018)

*By Linda Webb*

Because the topic spoke to me, I took an initial leap of a different perspective about faith and drove out to Bellwether for the Leadership session titled “Riding Backwards Bicycles: Practical Ways to Join God's Work”.

The day's topic was “How Do We Learn New Things God Wants to Teach Us?”

Our facilitator was Michael Binder, a Pastor of Teaching and Vision at Mill City Church in Northeast Minneapolis. Michael is also a Ph.D. — and a contributor to the overall ministry of the Episcopal Church. He often conducts seminars such as this.

Our session opened with an exercise surrounding Acts 16:6, regarding how we don't know sometimes where we are going. We broke into small groups and discussed.

Then using the “bicycle” framework for the seminar, the group moved into several work and discussion sessions about “How do we learn new things God wants to teach us?” The video about riding a bicycle backwards was powerful. You might wish to look at it before reading the rest of this event summary. Find it at:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=backwards+bicycle+video&aq=BACKWARDS+BICYCLE+VIDEO&aqs=chrome..69l67j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Participants continued interactively throughout the table groups during the day with several sessions to think about the changes seen in the video — and how in our parishes and in our religious lives we can each translate this into valuable and thoughtful ways to consider change in our parishes and leadership roles. Michael stressed that sometimes change can be simple.

It was almost a gift that I arrived a bit late. [Yes, when you're late, you sit in the back. :) ] However due to that, I was pleased to sit at a table with two wonderful Seminarians — and also Diocese Clergy representative Father Brad Purdom — and Betty Kondrich who does programming work for the Diocese. Getting to speak with all of them about the work they do and to learn about all their missions on behalf of the Diocese and/or upcoming Priesthood responsibilities was a great learning experience for this more recent Episcopalian.

I am now on a distribution list from the Diocese for these types of programs. I will keep in touch with Mother Ann with an eye about how I can do more of this going forward as my full-time work permits.

## NEMAC Notes (October 2018)

*By Linda Webb*

**Election, Diocesan Council.** The group thanked Steve Secaur for volunteering to serve as NEMAC Diocesan Representative to the Council. His candidacy was approved unanimously. He will attend a Two-day Council retreat on 11/30 and 12/1.

**Update from secretary since the last meeting: Mother Lisa from St. Andrews has agreed to be our Diocesan rep since Father Steve is unable to serve. Online votes confirmed her candidacy. Thank you Mother Lisa for stepping up!**

**Minutes.** Minutes for the meeting on August 29, 2018 were approved unanimously after correction of the spelling of “Nielsen”.

**Treasurer's Report.** Chris McCann reported that the treasury balance is \$3,613.32. However St. James will be reimbursing NEMAC \$2,990.00 due to the suspension of the Phelps Street project, raising the balance to \$6,603.33. [See *Phelps Street Project* below.]

**New Funding Request.** Peter Nielsen requested funding to continue hosting the annual Christmas dinner giveaway at St. Peters for approximately 400 families. The parish provides bags containing dinner for four at this meaningful and popular event within the Ashtabula community. However after basement flood in January, 2017, the kitchen remains unusable. NEMAC support of \$2,500 was unanimously approved to augment the approximately half the \$4,500 projected cost raised thus far by the parish.

### **Old Business**

**Phelps Street.** All activity supporting the Phelps St. project at St. James is being suspended. Despite successful training for five companion parishioners and four participant volunteers, the coordinator became unavailable due to illness. The existing audio files are archived @ St. James awaiting transcription. Mother Vanessa is open to new possibilities to continue the program going forward. NEMAC participants expressed thanks for the significant work — and solidarity with the disappointment experienced by Vanessa and the volunteers. Individual expressions of support are welcome and encouraged from our NEMAC members.

**Live Streaming.** [There was no update at the meeting.]

**Sanctuary Efforts.** Lisa O'Rear sent a written report. In summary, Laura and her sons, the sanctuary family Laura of St. Andrew are moving into housing in late November. Showing proof of an in-process U-VISA should insulate them from detention by ICE. Sanctuary concerts will continue on 11/18 and 12/16 from 4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Because Laura is not eligible to obtain employment, concert proceeds are important help to provide family support. The December concert will also feature an artisan show with partial proceeds dedicated to support of the family.

**Belize.** It was noted that Dr. Matt Tere has moved to Florida. One summer workshop is planned next year, then program responsibility will pass to the people of Belize. There is approximately \$800 left in the account. If there could be more, science teachers could make one more trip. Paul Collins' daughter, a science teacher went with the group three times. However the general consensus is that it is time to hand this program over to the locals.

**CRU NEMAC Host Site Planning.** Rose Anne provided an update on behalf of representative Lisa O'Rear. She explained that initial training was developed and approved by the Diocesan Council and will be part of the upcoming November-December retreat. The approaches will be “glasses, scarf” and responses to the upcoming “beloved community” initiative. Chris shared that he felt that the presentation from the spring gathering wasn't very successful, however he will report back after the upcoming meeting.

**2018 Forum on Anti-Bullying.** The program planned at Epiphany was canceled and will be re-scheduled.

**Diocesan Council News.** Below are the key points from report provided by Rose Ann.

- Information will flow from NY to the Diocese — and then from the diocese to NEMAC.
- St. Andrews Akron was approved for a campaign to make property improvements.
- Open enrollment for health insurance is being conducted. Though premiums increased six percent, the Diocese is absorbing the cost.
- Barbara Jones from Boardman had an article published in *ECW*, the magazine of the National *Episcopal Church Women*. [<https://www.ecwnational.org/>]
- The Dean's specifics search is nearing an end.
- Both mission areas and parishes have had or are considering a day at Bellweather. As an example, St. Paul's held a successful retreat there.
- The Summit Mission area is promoting the “Love Enterprise”, planning to create a 501c3 and a business plan to raise funds to support the employment of work for youth performing tasks such as such as cleanup services and improving empty lots and homes.
- Bishops Curry and Hollingsworth encourage Episcopalians to vote in the upcoming midterm elections based on our faith. Congress.org is a suggested website for research.
- Rose Anne provided a quote for contemplation; “Overcome the tyranny of the urgent.” Hugh Grant.
- Work is ongoing regarding how to implement the initiative of “Becoming Beloved Community”.

### **Other Business**

**Facebook Webmaster.** Sandy Pavick from Christ Church requests that members visit the NEMAC page and add “likes”.

**Human Trafficking Program.** The “Know Human Trafficking” program was rescheduled for 11/01. Resources are being gathered. There is a potential opportunity to make videos with the help of an individual outside the Diocese. Due

to a change of focus at Holy Angels parish, the SOAP [Save our Adolescents from Prostitution] initiative will be housed at St. Martins.

### **New Business**

**Evangelism.** Chris asked NEMAC parishes to consider encouraging thinking about evangelism from a mission perspective, in which people come together to study and become comfortable discussing how Jesus impacts our personal lives. He suggested a weekend convocation at Bellwether could provide opportunities for study and discussion. As a basis, he recommended the book *Speaking Our Faith* by Kit Carlson. [ISBN-13: 9781640650275].

### **Parish Updates**

**St. Lukes.** The parish has a homecoming planned this weekend, providing a meal and slide show in an effort to welcome people back into the church. The annual “Let’s Gather for Christmas” is planned for 12/9, including poetry, readings and letters from spouses during the war. Reservations are requested. The Bishop will be visiting on 11/4 to celebrate a confirmation and perform a Baptism. Chris has invited three confirmation candidates from St. Huberts to join as well.

**Epiphany.** A successful annual chili cookoff was held. The annual Animal blessing and Halloween candy giveaway is on 10/31. Rosalind continues her sabbatical in the Holy Land with Father Steve filling in. Rose Anne added that Rosalind is a contributor to an article or chapter in a new advent book; Forward Movement [www.owisdomadvent] that publishes devotions in the name of Jesus.

**St. Martins.** The Bishop celebrated the receiving of one adult, two adult confirmations — and nine children’s confirmations. The church sponsors youth groups with activities such as hangouts, bonfires, rock climbing and movie nights. St. Martins encourages youth from other parishes to participate. Meetings are held on Sunday evenings for youth from sixth to twelfth grade. The church is hosting a session for “Caring for the Caregivers” with a meeting planned on 11/7 for self-care that will involve chaplains and topic experts. A Gateway Jazz Christmas concert is planned for 12/14.

**St. Peter.** A hymn fest was held in conjunction with the Lutheran Church in Brecksville; 150 people attended. Another concert will be held on 11/3 as a memorial to families that lost someone due to addiction or violence. The Ashtabula County Choral Music Society will perform at the parish with an orchestra on 12/2 at 4:30 p.m. Final planning is being conducted for “Follow the Star to Bethlehem” 12/7 and 12/8 at Ashtabula Mall. 19 Ashtabula churches are involved. The sights and sounds of Jerusalem and Bethlehem will be re-created with an expected attendance of 2,500. Small groups will be engaged by a narrator that guides the groups through scenes; there will also be kids’ activities and refreshments. In the past, clergy from several denominations offered exiting participants prayer. A brass instrument Christmas concert will be held at the church on 12/16.

**Grace.** The church welcomed Seminarian Noah Sutterisch in September to begin an educational “field” experience term. Project “Little Feet” is adding a third school this year. The annual Grace rummage sale was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> in support of the project. After the shopping trip the weekend of October 19, 81 kids received new shoes or boots. There is another shopping day on Saturday, 10/27 with hopes of getting to 120 pairs. Handwritten thanks have been received from the kids. There was a pet blessing at Grace Woods, and also at the church in October. The Feast of Grace kick-off in the Pavilion on 10/16 was well-received. Caroling is planned for 12/12 at Grace Woods with the “Christmas Hurts” service on 12/19. Rose Anne has a goal to introduce parishioners to the Episcopal tradition. A brief conversation ensued. A meeting participant shared that she used a special paper that dissolves in water as a basis for discussion about an issue. Writing the issue on the paper and placing it in a bowl of water allows one to “give the issue to God”.

**Christ Church.** A tree on the church grounds exploded recently at 1:00 a.m. Thankfully, there were no injuries; the 150-year old windows and church building were unharmed. A capital improvement program is being conducted. There will be a monthly meeting featuring crafts and stories.

**St. James.** The church held its annual Pork & Pierogis fundraiser on October, with 200-250 people attending. The blessing of animals will be held Sunday, 10/28 including involvement by the youth group. On Saturday, 11/3, a pot luck fellowship dinner will be held. The parish is planning for Advent and Christmas season activities.

**Good Shepherd.** The Thanksgiving service on 11/18 will include people from eight different denomination groups, including the Muslim faith. The parish is sponsoring a service in support of “Lessons and Carols” on 12/2; members of four Episcopal parishes have been invited.

**St. Barts.** Father Steve continues covering for Mother Rose of Epiphany during her sabbatical. On Saturday, 11/3, St. Barts Cub Scout Pack 124 will host a fundraising dinner with New Orleans style food; red beans and rice and jambalaya. The annual “Kirkin of the Tartans” to bless family clans will be held 11/4 during the 10:30 a.m. service with a Scottish-themed luncheon including smoked salmon and shepherd’s pie with entertainment by highland dancers. An adult forum to discuss the opioid crisis will be held for parish members on 11/5. The Choir will join a hymn sing hosted by St. Albans on Sunday, 11/11 at 4:00 p.m. St. Barts will participate in the “Lessons and Carols” service and the following Sunday, 12/9 celebrate St. Nicholas Day at church.

**St. Huberts.** An Advent event is planned for Sunday afternoon, 12/5.

## Grief & Loss

Loss is an inevitable part of life and grief is a natural part of the healing process. When a person is faced with a loss, crisis or a life changing event he/she is suddenly thrust into a new world ---a world that is unfamiliar, one that can seem very daunting and at times frightening. It is a world of intense, unsettling feelings of loss, anger, depression, loneliness, fear, frustration and desperation.



There are many kinds of loss such as the loss of a loved one, the loss of health, the loss of a relationship or of a job, or the letting go of a long-held dream. Dealing with a significant loss can be one of the most difficult times in a person's lifetime.

**You are invited to join Kathy Pender\* who will facilitate sessions on Thursdays, Dec 6, 13 and 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 pm on this topic. These sessions will conclude with a 'Blue Christmas' service with Mother Ann Kidder on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm.**

*\*Kathy Pender is a psychotherapist who has been in practice for over forty years.*

## Faith Development

*by Peggy Reda*

### Church School Class Schedule

Reminder: Class starts promptly at 9:00 a.m.

#### December

- 12/9 Class – The Season of Christmas – Jesus is Born – 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Sunday
- 12/15 **PAGEANT REHEARSAL – 10-11 a.m.**
- 12/16 **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (9:00 a.m. Arrival) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday**
- 12/23 No Class – Winter Break
- 12/30 No Class – Winter Break

Church School will resume January 6, 2019 with the Season of Epiphany!

#### Nursery

There will be no Nursery on Dec 23, 24 or 30<sup>th</sup>; please enjoy the Advent Christmas Services with your families.

Nursery will resume on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. **Miss Melanie will be there from 10 – 11:30 a.m.** We would like to remind parents to please provide a diaper bag, including a note on any allergies and any special snacks, if necessary.



Join us in telling the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior! Children and adults are welcome to sign up for the pageant. We need Mary, Joseph, Jesus, shepherds, angels, sheep, kings and maybe some other barnyard animals!

The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board or you can email Mrs. Reda at [prseverin@aol.com](mailto:prseverin@aol.com) or text her at 440-773-2518.

Please sign up as soon as you can!

### BONFIRE & SANTA

Polo Fields (Epping Road)  
4:30 PM, December 24<sup>th</sup>



## Daughters of the King

*By Becky Everett*

Four women, Becky Everett, Kathy Pender, Debbie Cole and Annette Lowe, have been slowly working their way through the discernment process for joining the Daughters of the King and, ultimately, forming our own chapter here at St. Christopher's. We have been learning about and discussing what it means to be a Daughter, the purpose of the order, and whether we ready to pledge ourselves to a lifelong program of prayer, service, and evangelism.

We have tentatively scheduled our service of admission on Sunday, March 10, 2019 at the 10:15 a.m. service. Until then, we will continue our studies and discussions which have been very thought provoking and rewarding. We look forward to adding this ministry to St. Christopher's in the spring! Keep us in your prayers, as we will keep you in ours!

## December & January Birthdays

### December

- 1 - Danny Broome
- 4 - Stephen Miscko
- 5 - Rindy Collister
- 7 - Kate LaMantia  
Presley Lammers
- 8 - Avery Alatis  
Rosalie Della Ratta  
Nicki Henry

- 9 - Irene McMullen  
Luci Schey-Spring
- 10 - William McCoy
- 14 - Emily Morris
- 17 - Keri Osolin
- 18 - Judy Pace
- 20 - Linda Ventimiglia
- 22 - Clara Butler
- 23 - Marilyn Fisher
- 31 - Liz Russo

### January

- 1 - Tyler Wright
- 3 - Rik Bole  
Griffin Butler  
Tony Lammers
- 5 - Margaret Douglas
- 7 - Becky Everett
- 8 - Tom Holmes
- 9 - Finn Johnson
- 11 - Jim Pender

- 19 - Tim Scott
- 21 - Ellile Johnson
- 22 - Chandler Everett
- 23 - Mary Bole
- 25 - Brian Murphy
- 29 - Betsy Wright
- 30 - Peggy Reda



## UTO



As we leave Thanksgiving and are now in the season of giving, please remember all the things that you are thankful for, think of the gifts and blessings that God has given you this year and think of those who may, perhaps, are less fortunate. This year the Women's Guild has decided to have only one United Thank Offering which will be held next spring. We, therefore, are suggesting that you **take a Mite Box** (or more) and put your pennies, nickels, dimes, or whatever you like, as you count your blessings over the next few months. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas as we celebrate God's greatest gift to us all the birth of his son Jesus Christ. Happy New Year. Sandy Batcheller UTO Chairman.

## Flowers



If you would like to remember someone special this Christmas season, consider donating to the Christmas flower fund. The suggested donation is \$25. The form can be found on our website.

Thank you to the 40+ families who donate Altar flowers each year. This is a wonderful ministry. Not only does it save the church the cost of flowers weekly, but it also provides flowers to those who are sick, hospitalized, homebound or suffering. Each Sunday, Janet Hargrave either delivers or arranges for delivery of the altar flowers to someone in need. It is wonderful to provide a smile to someone's face!

If you are interested in providing flowers for 2019 and did not do so for 2018, please contact Mary in the office. The requested donation is \$80. Those that have provided flowers in 2018, we will be sending a return postcard soon to confirm your commitment for 2019. Thank you!



### 2018 Flower Donors

- Brian & Cindy Murphy
- Lily & Anna Klinginsmith
- Bruce & Kitty Thomas
- Linda & Cindy Costello
- Becky & Chandler Everett
- Dede Storer
- Larry & Mary Murray
- Linda Webb
- Jean & Ted Ramsey
- Larry & Elise Bennett
- Janet T. Hargrave
- Thomas & Mary Holmes
- Gladys & Jerry Loth
- Sue & Charley Marston
- Paulette & Tom Matthews
- Peter Hellman

- Diana Treco
- Ron & Carolyn Miscko
- Beth Miller
- Frances & David Dickenson II
- Annette Lowe
- Hal Jones (Peter)
- Kathy Vilas
- Jean & Tucker Marston
- Darlene & David Hauserman
- Marcia Alpers
- Ed & Frances Meyers
- John & Nancy Irwin
- Leslie Marting
- Don & Gini Negrelli
- Tim Scott
- Randy, Debbie & Whitney Cole

- Sally Conley
- Sal & Helen Cicirello
- Jane & Ramon Battles
- Stuart Bates and Family
- Tillie Malm
- Polly & Fred Bixler
- Baz & Mona DeBaz
- Jeff & Judy Eakin
- Kurt & Mary Anne Liljedahl
- Anne Feller
- Ron & Carolyn Miscko
- Thomas & Iris Vail
- Dan & Courtney Schmidt
- Jim & Kathy Pender
- Whitney Jones
- Connie White

**Guild**



December 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM  
Making Centerpieces for Holly Hill  
Sign up on the Bulletin Board

***Programs 2018-2019***

- January 10<sup>th</sup>** Tour of the Children’s Museum *-Please sign up on the Bulletin Board*
- February 13<sup>th</sup>** Euclid Beach Carousel
- March 13<sup>th</sup>** Lenten program at Cleveland Museum of Art
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>** Bargain Box
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>** Auction for Food for the Poor

**SAVE THE DATE!!!! February 13<sup>th</sup> Euclid Beach Carousel**

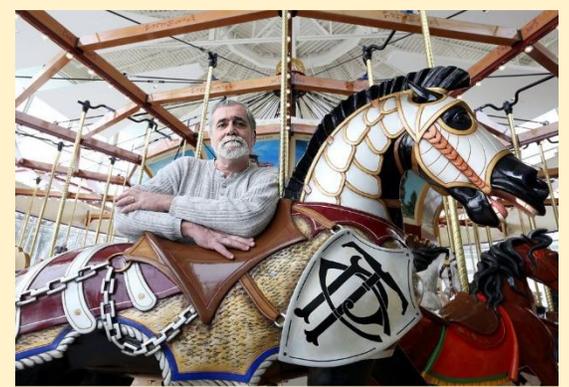
**Carpooling will be available.**

**Come take a ride on the carousel and hear about the historic Euclid Beach Carousel from John Frato, President of Euclid Beach Park Now, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the memory of Euclid Beach Park. EBPN’s**



mission is to support the history of Euclid Beach Park

through lectures, memorabilia, television and radio appearances, and other available media. The organization also supports the preservation of physical items and memorabilia from Euclid Beach Park that may be owned by other organizations, private individuals, or other entities.



***Outreach Highlight***

***Each month we will highlight one of the recipients of the Guild Outreach. This month is the Cleveland Food Bank.***



**Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank**

The Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger program in Ohio, where one in six people deal with hunger, one in four being children. The Food Bank serves Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, Ashland, and Richland counties, supplying food and non-food items to programs administered by the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, the Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network, and the Salvation Army. They supply the bulk of the food used at local feeding programs and pantries, including childcare centers, group homes, senior centers, and hot meal programs. In 2016, they supplied 50 million pounds of food to 840 different programs. They also connected people in need to SNAP, the current food stamp program, which has provided 14 million meals.

## Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter

An exhibit of Portraits of Homelessness with accompanying narratives will be shown in the Guild Room during the season of Epiphany. These are a few of portraits and stories of residents at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Shelter which Deacon Lydia Bailey has created. LMM's Men's Shelter is where the women's guild has been serving lunch and learning about the organization, It is Ohio's largest homeless shelter, serving 3, 600 men in 2017. Here are two links with more information of the exhibit:

<https://www.communitywestfoundation.org/blog/12-striking-portraits-that-reveal-what-its-like-to-be-homeless-in-cleveland>

[https://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2012/11/powerful\\_art\\_exhibit\\_about\\_hom.html](https://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2012/11/powerful_art_exhibit_about_hom.html)



## Electronic GIVING

**Now you can give to St. Christopher's by credit card or bank transfer!**

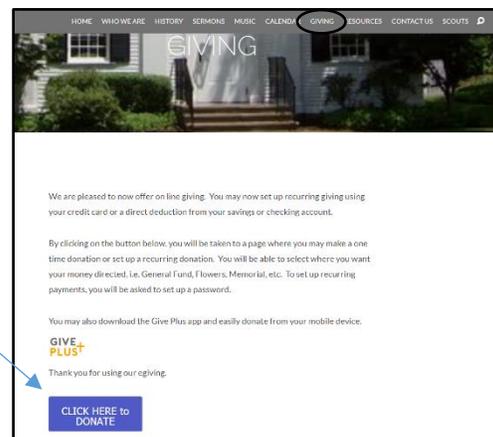
You can make a one time donation or set up monthly charges to your credit card or monthly debits to your bank account.



To get started, go to our website at [www.stchrisbytheriver.org](http://www.stchrisbytheriver.org). Click on the big button that says MAKE A DONATION.



*(You can also get to the donation page by clicking on the menu bar – Giving, then 'Click Here to Donate')*



You will then see this page with our logo – ‘Online Donation’

You will need to Create a Profile if you desire to set up a recurring payment. This will require a password and an email address.

One time donations do not require a profile set up.

Enter the Amounts you wish to donate in each fund. For your ‘pledge’ payment, simply select General Fund.

If you are donating Christmas Flowers, or Altar Flowers or a Memorial, then please use the required text field to add your inscription.

Then you will choose if this is recurring (Donation Frequency).

Then click to Continue. On the next page, you will enter your credit card or bank information

The church is charged a small processing fees, so you will also have the option to include that in your donation, so we do not incur any costs.

Finally, click Process to submit your payment.

St. Christopher by-the-River Episcopal Church  
Gates Mills, OH

**Online Donation**

**Donations**

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue. In order to set up recurring payments either on a credit card or through a direct bank withdrawal, you must set up a password with an email address. You may make one time donations without providing an email or creating a password.

General Fund:

Capital:

If targeted for a specific project, please indicate so in the text box.

Sunday Flowers:  \*

For assigned donors only: Please note your dedication and your inscription in the text box.

Christmas:

Christmas Flowers:  \*

Please note your dedication and who the donor is in the text box.

Memorial:  \*

Please indicate in whose memory you are donating in the text box.

**Total:** \$0.00

Donation Frequency:  (About recurring donations)

Donation Start Date:  mm/dd/yy

\* = Required

**Log In** [help](#)

Email Address:

Password:

[Forgot your Email Address or Password?](#)

**Create Your Online Profile**

***There is also an app*** for your smartphone that is easy to navigate. Simply go to the App store and get Give Plus.

You then can search for St. Christopher's by entering our zip code – 44040. Choose St. Christopher's and then either log in, create an account or simply choose Give now. Next, select the + at the top of the screen and then enter your donation amounts. The rest is easy.

***If you have any questions or encounter any problems with e-giving, please call the office at 440-423-4451.***

**GIVE+ Church** Giving to your church is as easy as 1-2-3  
Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download for FREE.

**1) Search**

**2) Select**

**3) Submit**

- Enter church name or tap Find Churches Near Me to start your search
- Select your church
- Your selected church will be displayed as your default church
- Tap Give Now
- Choose a fund and a preset amount or enter another amount
- Select Add to add another fund or move forward to the payment information
- Scan or enter your card or bank account information
- Review your donation summary then select Complete Donation

**Tip!** Create an account to manage your giving: Set up recurring gifts, update payment methods, view giving history and more.

**VANCO** 800-675-7430 vancopayments.com/giveplus-mobile

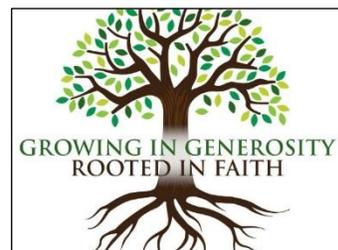
MasterCard American Express VISA DISCOVER ACH

© Vanco Payment Solutions

## Stewardship



A big thank you to everyone who has already communicated their planned giving. If you have not yet done so and you are able, please inform the office of your planned giving for 2019 by returning your card. If you did not receive one or need a new one, please contact the office or pick one up in the narthex on Sunday. The finance Committee and Vestry are working hard to be fiscally responsible in establishing the 2019 parish budget.



Please remember to complete your 2018 giving by the end of the month.

## Offering Envelopes

Anyone interested in offering envelopes for 2019, should let Mary in the office know, or indicate so on your planned giving card. Those listed below will be receiving offering envelopes for 2019. Thank you!

Alpers	Costello	Henry	Malm	Meyers	Thomas
Bixler	Gallop	Irwin	Marting	Redmond	Vazzana
Cicirello	Hauserman	Lee	Matthews	Sarkisian	Webb

## Parish NEWS

**9:00 FORUM:** No Adult Forum in December. Starting on January 13<sup>th</sup>, for 7 weeks, we will be studying the letters of Paul. We will begin by reading 1 Thessalonians.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The following individuals have been appointed by The Rev. Ann Kidder and approved by the vestry to serve as the Nominating Committee for 2019 open Vestry positions: Charlene Currutt, Becky Everett, John Irwin (Chair), Tom Matthews.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be one service on this Sunday.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** This year we will have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 5<sup>th</sup>.



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Blessed Are We Dinner

Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and January 18<sup>th</sup>

Meet at St. Christopher's at 4PM

Contact the office if you plan to help out.

### Food Pantry

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup>

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Call the office if you wish to volunteer.



In **DECEMBER**, we are collecting:

Chocolate  
Cookies  
Nuts  
Cake/brownie mix  
Frosting  
Powdered milk  
Graham crackers  
Pudding  
Jerky



In **JANUARY**, we are collecting:

Canned meats  
Ham/ Chicken  
Stew/ Chili  
Tuna/ Salmon  
Beans



## 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 & 2019

## Winter Convocation February 1-2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019!

*Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Sandusky*

### Trinity Cathedral Music & Arts

*Brown Bag Concert Series! Wednesday's at 12 noon. Bring a lunch or purchase one in the cathedral for \$7.*

Dec 12 Annual Messiah Sing – with soloists, the Trinity Cathedral Chamber Orchestra, Todd Wilson, conductors and you as the massed choir!

## The Boar's Head and Yule Log festival



Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 PM and 5:30 PM, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Join us in celebrating the 56<sup>th</sup> presentation of this one hour Christmas festival done with an Elizabethan slant. Celebrate the Light of Christ coming into the world through music, scent, color and pageantry. [www.boarsheadcleveland.org](http://www.boarsheadcleveland.org)

# DIOCESE

# DIOCESE

# DECEMBER



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

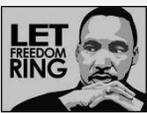
Friday

Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
<b>2 I Advent</b> 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 (Lessons & Hymns) 11:20 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry	<b>4</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting	<b>5</b> 10:30 AM Guild Board Meeting	  5 PM Evening Prayer 5:30 PM Loss & Grief 8 PM Riverside AA	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>9 II Advent</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Church School & Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Guild Greens Workshop   7 PM CHOIR	<b>13</b>   5 PM Evening Prayer 5:30 PM Loss & Grief 8 PM Riverside AA.	<b>14</b> 11 AM Daughter's of the King	<b>15</b> Pageant Rehearsal 10-11 Mandatory  Our Savior Lutheran Food Pantry 11 AM	
<b>16 III Advent</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Church School & Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist (Pageant) 11:20 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry (At Kathy Penders's)	<b>18</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting	<b>19</b>   6 PM Cub Scouts 6-8 PM Vestry 7 PM CHOIR	<b>20</b>   5 PM Evening Prayer 5:30 PM Loss & Grief 8 PM Riverside AA	<b>21</b>   St. Andrews Blessed Are We Dinner Meet @ 4PM	<b>22</b>   5:00 Blue Christmas Service	
<b>23 IV Advent</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Church School & Hand Chime 9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal NO NURSERY 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 3:30 pm Family Vespers 7:30 pm Prelude Concert 8:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Choir	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		<b>27</b>   8 PM Riverside AA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 I Christmas</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist NO NURSERY 10:15 am Holy Eucharist	<b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE			<b>Food Pantry Donation</b> Chocolate, Cookies, Nuts, Cake/brownie mix, frosting, Powdered milk Graham crackers, pudding			

# January



<p><b>Food Pantry Donations:</b>          Canned meats          Ham/ Chicken          Stew/ Chili          Tuna/ Salmon          Beans          Jerky</p> 		<p>1  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> 	<p>2          10:30 AM          Guild Board Mtg.</p>	<p>3          5 PM Evening Prayer          8 PM Riverside AA.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5  <b>EPIPHANY</b></p> 
<p><b>6 I Epiphany</b>          8:00 am Holy Eucharist          9:00 am Church School &amp; Hand Chime          9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal          10:00 am Nursery          10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8          9:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10          5 PM Evening Prayer          8 PM Riverside AA.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p><b>13 II Epiphany</b>          8:00 am Holy Eucharist          9:00 am Forum, Church School &amp; Hand Chime          9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal          10:00 am Nursery          10:15 am Holy Eucharist          11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	<p>14  <b>MLK Holiday</b></p> 	<p>15          9:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>16          Lutheran Men's Shelter          Lunch (Volunteer)</p> <p>Scouts 6-7:30</p>	<p>17          5 PM Evening Prayer          8 PM Riverside AA.</p>	<p>18          St. Andrews          Blessed Are We Dinner          Meet @ 4PM</p>	<p>19          Our Savior Lutheran Food          Pantry 11 AM</p>
<p><b>20 III Epiphany</b>          8:00 am Holy Eucharist          9:00 am Forum, Church School &amp; Hand Chime          9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal          10:00 am Nursery          10:15 am Holy Eucharist          11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22          9:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>23          6-8 PM Vestry</p>	<p>24          5 PM Evening Prayer          8 PM Riverside AA.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p><b>27 IV Epiphany</b>          8:00 am Morning Prayer          9:00 am Forum, Church School &amp; Hand Chime          9:30 am Adult CHOIR Rehearsal          10:00 am Nursery          10:15 am Morning Prayer          11:30 am Junior CHOIR Rehearsal</p>	<p>28          6:00 NEMAC @          Grace Willoughby</p>	<p>29          9:30 Staff Meeting          Newsletter          article/information          deadline</p>	<p>30          Scouts 6-7:30</p>	<p>31</p>		

# THOSE WHO SERVE

## DECEMBER 2018 ROTA

### DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>

8:00 EM: John Irwin  
LR: Kathy Pender  
AG: Sally Conley  
10:15 EM: Beth Miller  
LR: Tom Holmes/Renee Kolecki  
AG: Dalene Hauserman  
Ushers: Ron & Neal Lee  
Hospitality: Tom & Paulette Matthews



### DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> – Pageant

8:00 EM: Peter Batcheller  
LR: Kitty Thomas  
AG: Rosalie Della Ratta  
10:15 EM: Charley Marston  
LR: Fran Sarkisian & Chandler Everett  
AG: Mary Murray  
Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl  
Hospitality: Kathy Pender & Rosalie Della Ratta

### DECEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00 EM: John Irwin  
LR: Kathy Pender  
AG: Teri Ianni  
10:15 EM: Dale Gndt  
LR: Marilyn Fisher & Courtney Schmidt  
AG: Courtney Schmidt  
Ushers: Dave & Darlene Hauserman  
Hospitality: Linda Webb & Chris Pucell

### DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

3:30 PM Ushers: Becky & Chandler Everett  
8:00 PM EM: Charley Marston  
LR: Victoria Connell & D. Hauserman  
AG: Sue Marston

### DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>

8:00 EM: Melanie Reda  
LR: Judy Holmes  
AG: Sue Marston  
10:15 EM: Randy Cole  
LR: Renee Kolecki & Jean Ramsey  
AG: Laura Cotton  
Ushers: Ron & Neal Lee  
Hospitality: Kathy Pender & Rosalie Della Ratta

## JANUARY 2019 ROTA

### JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup>

8:00 EM: Melanie Reda  
LR: Teri Ianni  
AG: TBA  
10:15 EM: Beth Miller  
LR: Brian Wright & Becky Everett  
AG: Carolyn Miscko  
Ushers: Rik Bole/Brian Wright  
Hospitality: Mary Murray & Sue Marston

### JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup>

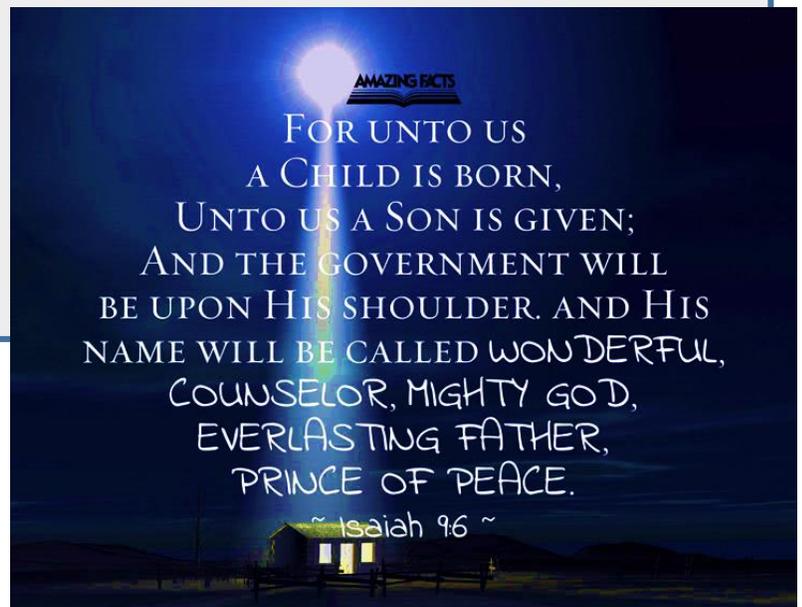
8:00 EM: Charley Marston  
LR: Kitty Thomas  
AG: Rosalie Della Ratta  
10:15 EM: John Irwin  
LR: Ron Lee & Linda Webb  
AG: Marcia Alpers  
Ushers: Ron & Neal Lee  
Hospitality: Chris Pucell & Mary Holmes

### JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup>

8:00 EM: Dale Gndt  
LR: Kitty Thomas  
AG: Sue Marston  
10:15 EM: Randy Cole  
LR: Chris Pucell & Judy Holmes  
AG: Neal Lee  
Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl  
Hospitality: Mary Reynolds & Sandy Batcheller

### JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup> – Morning Prayer

8:00 Officiant: Charley Marston  
LR: Teri Ianni  
AG: Sally Conley  
10:00 Officiant: Beth Miller  
LR: Joyce Welsh & Fran Sarkisian  
AG: TBA  
Ushers: Dave & Darlene Hauserman  
Hospitality: Neal Lee & Nancy Irwin



ST. CHRISTOPHER  
BY-THE-RIVER  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
[stchrisbytheriver.org](http://stchrisbytheriver.org)

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

The Rev. Ann Kidder, Rector  
[stchris.motherann@gmail.com](mailto:stchris.motherann@gmail.com)

**Sunday Services**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 a.m. Nursery Care for 10:15 service  
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

**Parish Office**

Open T-W-TH 8:30-2:30  
440-423-4451  
[stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com)

December 2018/January 2019 Newsletter

## St. Christopher by-the-River

We welcome you to join us:

### Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – II Advent

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II  
*Advent Lessons & Hymns*

### Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – III Advent

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

### Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – IV Advent

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

### Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5 pm.

*Blue Christmas Service*

### Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> – I Christmas

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



## December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

- 3:30 PM Family Vespers  
*Bring Mittens, Hats, and socks for the Manger*
- 4:30 PM Santa & Bonfire (Village Polo Fields)
- 7:30 PM Organ & Choir Prelude Concert
- 8:00 PM Festive Eucharist with Choir & Carols

**NO SERVICES ON DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>**