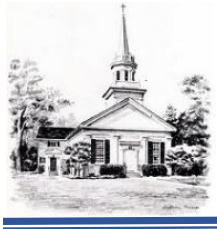


ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Last year when we were all engaged in "The Bible Challenge" many of you were surprised to learn that the letters of Paul are; a) not all written by Paul, even though attributed to him and b) not arranged in chronological order. This led to an interest in reading the authentic (undisputed) letters of Paul in the order that he wrote them to learn more about the development of his faith. We agreed that this would be the next focus of our Sunday 9:00 Forums. On January 13th we looked at background information about the Pauline Letters and how biblical scholars have come to agree on which ones were authentically written by Paul. (Remember that, at that time, an individual would write under a famous and respected person's name as a way of honoring them and of ensuring that their thoughts would get widely read. It was widely practiced and was not dishonest in the way that we would understand that behavior.)

There are seven undisputed letters of Paul. Scholars largely agree that they were written in the following order: I Thessalonians, Galatians, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Philemon, Philippians, and Romans. (I Corinthians 3-4 and 11-14 have some likely later additions by other writers, as do the 4th-6th and 13th-16th chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans.) I hope that you will consider joining us at the 9:00 Forum for our discussions concerning Paul's life, ministry, and the development of his theology. So far, we have read and discussed the first three letters of Paul. In February we will complete our study and discussions using the following reading schedule:

On February 3rd we will discuss II Corinthians and Philemon

On February 10th we will discuss Philippians and as much of Romans as possible

On February 17th we will conclude Romans and have a "wrap-up" discussion of how Paul's theology developed and changed over time.

We will then have a two week break in order to enjoy our annual **Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 24th, following the 10:15 service.** On **March 3rd we will have one 10:15 service, followed by our Annual Meeting** so there will be no 9:00 Forum that day.

Jumping ahead in our parish calendar, Bishop William Purcell will make an Episcopal Visitation to St. Christopher's on Sunday, October 13th. In preparation for his visit, we will be reading and discussing the book, *Walk In Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices.* There are 26 chapters, which cover such topics as Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage, Holy Week and Easter, Salvation and Grace, Daily Office and Daily Prayer, The Bible, The Church, Vocation, Finding Spiritual Practices, etc. There is something of value in this book for everyone. A copy of *Walk in Love,* along with a sign-up sheet for ordering your own copy is available in the Guild Room. You may read this on your own, or with the Sunday 9:00 Forum. All are welcome to participate. If you are considering being baptized, confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church from another denomination, this book is required reading as part of your preparation for those forms of commitment.

Copies of the book are $20 and checks can be made out to St. Christopher by-the-River. If you need financial assistance to purchase the book, please speak to me and I can help cover that cost. I look forward to continuing to share with you in the joyful process of learning more about our Christian Faith and finding new ways to bring that faith into our daily lives.

In Christ's Love,

Ann+

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd

One Service at 10:15 AM followed by the Annual Meeting of the Church. Join in Fellowship following the meeting for a special coffee hour with brunch foods and gluten free options hosted by Nancy Irwin, Laura Cotton and Charlene Currutt.

Vestry Meeting (November 28, 2018)

By Irene McMullen

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

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

John Irwin moved approval of the October Vestry meeting minutes. Becky Everett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried. John Irwin led a discussion regarding the date of the Annual Meeting. John Irwin moved, and Becky Everett seconded a Motion to move the Annual Meeting to **March 3, 2019 at 10:15 AM (one service only)**. This will make sense as the Parochial Report will be done and financials are in. We also need to appoint a Nominating Committee, which needs 90 days before the Annual Meeting to select Vestry nominees. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Charley Marston moved that John Irwin, Becky Everett, Charlene Currutt and Tom Matthews be named to the Nominating Committee. Mother Ann has recommended these individuals. Mary Holmes seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The last section of the book, "Propel," was discussed. Part 3 focuses on different types of campaigns. There is a Parochial report of attendance for the church three times a year. Attendance is in the high 70s or low 80s. We would like to be more intentionally welcoming to newcomers. We may need a structure and process for this. Different types of stewardship were discussed.

There is a riverbank meeting at Town Hall on November 29. (Charley Marston and Irene McMullen attended. The project is on track to be within budget and will commence in January or February of 2019).

Mary Murray discussed finances. We are behind on the percentage of pledges paid to date. October financial information was reviewed. The Vestry are concerned about the optimistic budgeting for 2018.

There has been good progress on the elevator project. The elevator should be finished by early 2019. The current estimate for the project, including adding an elevator that can reach the second floor, is $180,000 to $190,000. The Figgie Foundation has again generously agreed to underwrite this endeavor.

Charley Marston moved that the December Vestry meeting be moved to December 19, 2018. Becky Everett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

John Irwin indicated that making an effort to grow parish numbers would be a priority in 2019. This could be the focus of our vestry retreat for 2019. We need to identify people who can help with new member welcoming and opportunities for fellowship. There was interest in focusing on stewardship and parish growth at the retreat. The Vestry retreat will probably take place in March.

Jim Pender spoke about stewardship. The Stewardship Committee is reviewing received cards with intended gift amounts for 2019. Last year, intention cards totaled $170,000. We have intention cards to date of $156,000. We also want to broaden the concept of the stewardship campaign in the future to a vision that reflects our mission.

Mary Murray will start compiling a budget for 2019. The generosity of the Veale Foundation was discussed. A portion of their contributions go to the St. Christopher's Fund annually. Our long term stewardship of our property requires the resources of an endowment to continue to keep up with maintenance. We need to provide the parish with more information about the endowment.

Mary Zup is setting up an e-giving option for the website.

Distribution of the Jubilee Fund was discussed. The $10,000 Jubilee Fund is to be used for a charitable purpose. Debbie Cole has some ideas and potential recipients will be contacted.

A vineyard at Bellwether Farm was discussed. Katie Ong-Landini will visit next Monday at 4:00 PM to discuss this idea.

John Irwin led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Vestry Meeting (December 19, 2018)

By Irene McMullen

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

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

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

Elise Bennett presented the 2019 Guild budget. She spoke about the organizations supported through Bargain Box. Bargain Box expenses were discussed. Jim Pender asked that we consider expanding the concept of Bargain Box to encompass inheritance of personal property. This type of inheritance can be difficult to deal with, in terms of logistics. The fundraiser for "Food for the Poor" was discussed. We need to start getting organized for this endeavor. Charley Marston moved that the Vestry approve the Guild budget. Mary Holmes seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The November financial report was reviewed. Mary Murray spoke about budgeting. Jim Pender spoke about intention for giving cards, with respect to the budget. The Finance Committee needs to have a better understanding of the church finances. Jim Pender created a draft letter to some donors from 2018. Mother Ann spoke about 2018 pledgers who haven't made a written intention of donation for 2019. We may try to contact these people in early 2019. John Irwin talked about having a January telephone calling event, followed by a Finance Committee meeting.

The Finance Committee will meet and have a telephone event on January 16, 2019, at 6:00 PM.

John Irwin spoke about the need for a new line item in 2019 for elevator maintenance of $1,000. Charley Marston discussed the St. Christopher's Fund line item in the budget. John Irwin spoke about calling the few people who have outstanding pledges for 2018. Statements are sent to all donors a the end of the year with an accounting of their donations.

There was a riverbank meeting at Town Hall on November 29. The project is on track to be within budget and will commence in January or February of 2019). Fran Meyers, a Master Gardener, is working on a plan for the landscaping which will need to be accomplished after the project is completed.

Mary Murray discussed the 2019 proposed budget. Many thanks to Mary for this thoughtful undertaking. The Vestry are concerned about presenting a budget with a deficit for 2019.

The Annual Meeting of the parish will be March 3, 2018, at a single service. With respect to Vestry election, Elise Bennett and Sean McMillion are both eligible to serve again, and have agreed to do so if called.

John Irwin indicated that trying to grow parish numbers would be a priority in 2019. This could be the focus of our vestry retreat for 2019, which will be held on March 22 and 23, 2019 (second choice of March 29 and 30) at Bellwether Farm. We are trying to work out an arrangement with a local vineyard to learn more about what might be needed to maintain a vineyard at Bellwether Farm.

The office safe is extremely difficult to open. We may have to consider getting a replacement in the future.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

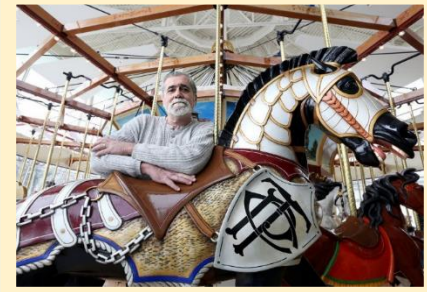
CHOIR

by Yuri McElliot

A big thank you to all the choir members and readers; Debbie Cole, Randy Cole, Whitney Cole, Becky Everett, Chandler H. Everett, Chandler P. Everett, Gretchen Fisher, Dave Hauserman, Anna Klinginsmith, Lily Klinginsmith, Sue Marston, Alexis Matthews, Paulette Matthews, Race Matthews, Maddie Pucell, and Fran Sarkisian for a wonderful job during the Advent Season and our Christmas Eve service. You are the BEST!!

GUILD

February 13th - Euclid Beach Carousel



Please sign up on the Guild bulletin board to go to The Western Reserve Historical Society to hear John Frato (*President of Euclid Beach Park a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the memory of Euclid Beach Park*) talk about the Euclid Beach Carousel**.** You may also take a ride on the carousel if you like plus you'll ***enjoy lunch from Panera's!***

The Guild will pay the museum admission cost of $8.00 and subsidize the cost of lunch making it only $8.00 for a delicious box lunch! The deadline for signing up is Wednesday, February 6th. This is also the deadline for getting your check (made out to Becky Everett) to Becky for lunch. Your check is your reservation, so don't forget to plan ahead! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Becky at 216-409-2370. This promises to be a very informative, enjoyable morning that is not to be missed! Carpooling information is on the sign up sheet. See you there!

REMAINING PROGRAMS FOR 2018-2019

March 13th	Lenten program at Cle. Museum of Art
May 3rd	Bargain Box
June 2nd	Auction for Food for the Poor

BARGAIN BOX DONATION PICK UP!

If you have donations for Bargain Box, but can't find a time to drop them off or they are just too much for you to carry, feel free to contact Melanie Reda. She has volunteered to pick up any donations and bring them to the church in anticipation of the Spring Bargain Box Sale! Melanie will try her best to coordinate a good time to pick up any donations at your convenience. Remember the outdoor storage boxes on the bridge side of the church are still available for use when the church is locked.

Melanie Reda
440-773-4976
melanie.reda@gmail.com.

Guild January visit to the Children's Museum

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Mona DeBaz
	John Mueller
	Lydia Zimmerman
4	Marshall Rankin
5	Eleanor Jones
6	Michael Marting
7	Rebecca Wolf
8	Anne Lammers
9	Karee Weikel-Broome
12	Olivia Miscko
13	Anne Feller
14	Michael Donahue
17	Laura Cotton
24	Anna Klinginsmith

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped serve lunch at the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter over the past few months! What a blessing you all are! We will be doing this ministry the third Wednesday of every month, and we welcome ALL who would like to participate! Look for the sign-up sheet every month! Blessings to you all!

Janet Hargrave
Rosalie Della Ratta
Nancy Irwin
Laura Cotton
Charlene & Denny Currutt
Becky Everett
Whitney and Clarke Jones
Debbie and Randy Cole
Teri Ianni
Peter Batcheller
Fran Sarkisian
Lindsey McMillion
Marcia Alpers
Kathy Pender
Kitty Thomas

Early in my employment with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Shelter, I was struck by the individuals I met there. Shelter residents would tell me snippets of stories from their life. I'd observe expressions on their faces as they were speaking and think to myself, "Ah! This is so valuable!"

What was coming across was this deep humanity. I was hearing individuals with concerns and hopes like yours and mine. I was realizing their gifts and vital personalities; people who were reaching out simply and honestly, seizing opportunities to work, to help a brother in need, and to laugh! I began to understand the struggles that many face, in whatever form; loss of family, loss of hope; feeling invisible to the world around them.

In an effort to convey something of this presence of the residents of 2100, I created *Portraits of Homelessness*, a collection of 50 portraits & stories which travels our region. In February, 2019 the show will go to University School; in March to Mandel School of Social Science; and in April to Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple.

I am so glad to have St. Christopher's parishioners now serving lunch at this shelter on a regular basis. Thank you, Becky Everett, for making this a reality!

The shelter is a vital place for us to realize more of our faith, calling us to offer our presence and respect for our brothers and sisters in Christ. "Love one another as I have loved you."

I look forward to serving with you in 2019. Thank you!
-Deacon Lydia Bailey

Funding for Portraits of Homelessness was provided by The Dominion Foundation and Community West Foundation.

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Homeless Shelter at 2100 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, is the largest shelter in Ohio, serving 3,600 men annually, or an average of 150 new men per month

THOSE WHO SERVE

FEBRUARY 2019 ROTA

February 3rd

8:00 EM: Peter Batcheller
LR: Kathi Mitchell
AG: Rosalie Della Ratta

10:15 EM: Dale Gnandt
LR: Courtney Schmidt & Becky Everett
AG: Marcia Alpers
Ushers: Brian Wright & Rik Bole
Hospitality: Gretchen Fisher & Nancy Irwin

February 10th

8:00 EM: John Irwin
LR: Annette Lowe
AG: Sally Conley

10:15 EM: Randy Cole
LR: Judy Holmes & Ron Lee
AG: Nicki Henry & Loni Todd-Lorenz
Ushers: Ron & Neal Lee
Hospitality: Karee Weikel-Broome & Lindsey McMillion

February 17th

8:00 EM: Charley Marston
LR: Kitty Thomas
AG: Sue Marston

10:15 EM: Dale Gnandt
LR: Mary Holmes & Sandra Redmond
AG: Darlene Hauserman
Ushers: Kurt Liljedahl
Hospitality: Kari Osolin & Courtney Schmidt

February 24th

8:00 EM: Peter Batcheller
LR: Teri Ianni
AG: Teri Ianni

10:15 EM: Beth Miller
LR: D. Hauserman & Victoria Connell
AG: Mary Murray
Ushers: Dave & Darlene Hauserman
Hospitality: **Pancake Breakfast**

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

Food Pantry

In ***FEBRUARY***, we are collecting:
Kids Snacks of any kind, such as:
Juice Boxes (100% juice)
Granola Bars,
Goldfish,
Cheez-it
Fruit Snacks
Trail Mix
Raisins

Volunteer Opportunities

Blessed Are We Dinner
Friday, February 15th
Meet at St. Christopher's at 4PM
Contact the office if you plan to help out.

Food Pantry
Saturday, February 16th
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Call the office if you wish to volunteer.

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter
Serve Lunch.
Wednesday, February 20th, 11:30-1:00
Sign up on the bulletin board at church.
All welcome. Carpool leaves at 11:00 sharp!

2019 Vestry Nominees presented by the nominating committee are:
Elise Bennett
David Hauserman
Sean McMillion
Peter Batcheller as Parish Delegate to NEMAC for 2019-2020

Our sermons are available on line. There is a link to our YouTube page on our website:
http://stchrisbytheriver.org/sermons-2/

Check it out and subscribe to the YouTube page!

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February Food Pantry DonationsKids Snacks of any kind: Goldfish, Cheez Its, Trial Mix, Fruit Snacks, Granola Bars, etc.					1 Winter Convocation	2
3 **IV Epiphany** 8 am Morning Prayer 9 am Church School, Adult Forum, Handchime 9:30 am Choir 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Morning Prayer 11:20 am Junior Choir	4 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry	5 9:30 Staff Meeting	6 Mother Ann at Fresh Start 10:30 AM Guild Board Meeting 6 PM Cub Scouts	7 5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA	8 10 AM Daughter's of the King	9
10 **V Epiphany** 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Church School, Adult Forum, Handchime 9:30 am Choir 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior Choir	11 9:00 Presort	12 9:30 Staff Meeting	13 Euclid Beach Carousel Guild Event (sign up by Feb 6)	14 5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA	15 St. Andrews Blessed Are We Dinner Meet @ 4PM	16 Our Savior Lutheran Food Pantry 11 AM
17 **VI Epiphany** 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Church School, Adult Forum, Handchime 9:30 am Choir 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior Choir	18 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry 4:30 PM Watershed Meeting	19 9:30 Staff Meeting	20 Men's Shelter Serve Lunch 11:30-1 6 PM Cub Scouts	21 5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA	22	23
24 **VII Epiphany** 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Church School, Handchime 9:30 am Choir 10 am Nursery 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Junior Choir	25	26 9:30 Staff Meeting March Newsletter Information Due	27 6 PM Vestry	28 5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA		**NOTE: Annual meeting is March 3rd!**

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

February 2019 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

We welcome you to join us:

Sunday, FEBRUARY 3rd – Epiphany IV
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, FEBRUARY 10th – Epiphany V
88:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, FEBRUARY 17th – Epiphany VI
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, FEBRUARY 24th - Epiphany VII

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

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
11:00-11:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary with families

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