

St. Christopher by-the-River  
Episcopal Church  
2018 Annual Report



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## **2018 STAFF**

<b>The Rev. Ann Kidder</b>	<b>Rector</b>
Yuri Sato McElliott	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

## **2018 VESTRY**

John Irwin	Senior Warden (Class of 2019)
Charles Marston	Junior Warden (Class of 2018)
Mary Murray	Treasurer (Class of 2020)
Irene McMullen	Clerk (Class of 2019)
Elise Bennett	Class of 2018
Sean McMillion	Class of 2018
Mary Holmes	Class of 2019
Becky Everett	Class of 2020
Jim Pender	Class of 2020

**Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting of St. Christopher by-the-River  
January 28, 2018, at 11:05 a.m.  
Respectfully Submitted, Irene McMullen, Clerk**

January 28, 2018 Annual Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.

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

Our Wardens have both written eloquently in this Annual Report about a number of significant changes that we have experienced this year. In 2018 we lived through the major construction project of our recently dedicated elevator, patiently rerouting our paths through the building as required while holding fast to the vision and hope of how an elevator could expand our capacity to welcome all people into this fellowship of love and service that we call St. Christopher's. We also endured the deaths of too many beloved friends this year. Mary Rountree's and Julia Dempsey's deaths were followed by a number of unexpected and sudden deaths that left their families, and us, reeling. Please continue to hold Madeline and Betsey Figgie, Renee Kolecki, Sue Thorpe, Deborah Brown, Polly Bixler and their families in your prayers. Remember to also give thanks for all that Mary, Julia, Matthew, Bob, Don, John, and Fred brought to our shared life and ministries as they each offered their lives to the glory of God.

The Parochial Report for 2018 shows a decline of twelve in our average Sunday attendance. The decline is largely accounted for by the Daley family's move to Delaware last summer as their family of five were present for worship each Sunday almost without fail. The remaining difference in attendance is reflective of less consistent attendance, mostly by our families with young children. The busyness of our culture and the prevalence of activities for school-age children on Sunday mornings has been challenging for the Church for some time and our parish children have arrived at that age. If your family is being pulled in two directions (Church and Church School vs Sports and other school or community activities) I encourage you to weigh your priorities and try to find a balance – not for the sake of our Sunday attendance figures, but for the sake of giving your children a solid faith foundation that will see them through the tough places in life. We will also experiment with some ways to support your role as teachers at home to help bridge this challenge that all parents face at some point in their family life.

It is also important for us, as adults, to intentionally spend time in study and prayer so that we also continue to grow and mature as Christians. In 2018 many of us participated in The Bible Challenge, which concluded at the end of our liturgical year. Whether you were able to participate in our Thursday night and Sunday morning discussions, or used the program on your own at home, I have heard from many of you that reading the entire Bible has been a life changing experience. You now hear our Sunday lectionary readings within the larger context of their time and place, deepening your understanding of how God was at work then and now. On March 10<sup>th</sup> we will begin reading "Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices". The books are available for \$20 and there is a signup sheet in the Guild Room for ordering a copy. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about how we live our Christian faith, as our Presiding Bishop would say, as members of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

I am now about midway through my fifth year as your Rector. Throughout 2018 I found myself frequently reflecting on what we have accomplished during these past years. I also spent intentional time thinking and praying about the future development of our parish.

Looking back, the physical repairs and improvements to our buildings and grounds are the most obvious signs of parish development. The completion of those projects has been vital to our responsibility as stewards of this parish, ensuring that parishioners and staff have the physical resources needed for ministry going forward. Less obvious, but just as important has been the continuation and expansion of ministries of love and service to the wider community. The St. Christopher's Guild (aka The Women's Guild) continues to work year-round in order to hold two one-day sales that raise most of the funds given for outreach purposes by this parish. We also continue to serve community dinners at Old St. Andrew's, volunteer at Our Savior Lutheran's Food Bank, contribute food to the Chesterland Foodbank, donate personal care supplies to the Veterans Home in Painesville, and fill Christmas back-packs and collect school supplies in partnership with Westside Ministries.

In 2018 after touring the Lutheran Metropolitan Men's Shelter in Cleveland with our Deacon, Lydia Bailey, the Women's Guild was inspired to serve lunch monthly at the shelter. This opportunity, like almost all of the Guild's service projects and other activities, is open to the entire parish and many of you have been able to participate in this new ministry. Worship, evangelism and service form the core of our life as followers of Jesus Christ and last fall a number of women began to discern together whether God might be calling them to form a chapter of

Daughters of The King. DOK is a fellowship of women who commit to daily prayer for others, as well as Christian service and sharing their faith. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the installation of a DOK chapter here at St. Christopher's. They will pray daily for this parish and for any of you who need and request their confidential prayers. If you would like to know more about Daughters of The King or need their prayers, please speak to Becky Everett or me. Our Stephen Ministers continue to offer vital pastoral companionship to fellow members of our parish. We actually need more Stephen Ministers and I hope that you will speak to Kathy Pender or myself if you might consider being trained for this ministry. Five or six would be enough for Kathy to offer another training class, beginning in the fall. Both men and women are needed!

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the many ways in which you enrich and empower our proclamation of the Gospel of God's Love here at St. Christopher's. Peter Batcheller and the "Sunday Servants", Rosalie Della Ratta and the coffee hour hosts, Yuri McElliott and the choirs all support our worship and enrich our sense of community and fellowship. Melanie Reda, Peggy Reda, Debbie Cole, and Paulette Matthews spend hours each week preparing for Sunday morning Nursery care and Christian Education for our children. Our Wardens and Vestry give generously of their leadership skills to keep our parish moving steadily into the future to which God is calling us. Our "behind the scenes" staff of Mary Zup and office volunteer Becky Everett, along with "the newsletter ladies" ensure that the communications and administrative aspects of our life flow smoothly. Lucy Calvo and Hugh Kelly ensure that we are able to welcome the wider community to a clean and beautiful parish where they can encounter and experience God's love, celebrate their marriages, and receive comfort in times of grief.

As we look toward the future, may we continue our faithful service to others and support of one another.

May we also challenge ourselves to grow into "the full stature of Christ" through recommitting ourselves to our Baptismal Promises and to the commitment we made at our Confirmations:

*Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?*

*Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*

*Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?*

*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?*

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

To each of these we promised, "I will with God's help". With God's help, in recommitting to those vows, we will find ourselves easily fulfilling the canonical definition of a Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing in the Episcopal Church, "to be faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented" and to be faithful "in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God."

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

Our parish has completed another year of service to God and the community, the continuation of our mission, the expansion of our programs and activities, several significant additions to our parish property and, lastly, a profound sense of gratitude and devotion as the body of Christ. The leadership of our articulate, compassionate and remarkable Rector, the Rev. Ann Kidder, remains the keystone of our parish.

It has been a good year for St. Christopher in many ways. We have felt the loss, however, of many long time, faithful members of our congregation including but not limited to Don Thorpe, Matthew Figgie, John Brown, Bob Trebar and Fred Bixler. We mourn those losses as we share our feelings with the families of those who passed on this year. For 2000 years the Christian Church has served to comfort and support those who grieve and perhaps as much as at any other time, the community of the church is at its best at these moments.

The parish remains healthy with new families joining us and with our finances in reasonably good order. We did finish this year with a moderate deficit of just under \$10,000, attributable not to an increase in our expenses, which have been assiduously held in check, but to a decline in pledge income. The Stewardship Committee has and is energetically addressing this matter, and we are confident that the parish, in its commitment and generosity to St. Christopher, will reverse this deficit in short order.

The year has seen marvelous achievements both in our missions and ministries as well in our major additions to the church property. Those additions, of course, include the total renovation of the Children's Chapel through the gift of the Hellman family, and the children's altar, a gift of the Pender family. Finally, one of our most long-sought-after, in fact, dreamed of additions to the church, an elevator was installed, one which services all three floors. The elevator was the gift of Matthew Figgie, the Figgie Foundation and the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Figgie. These two structural additions to the church are immensely welcomed and will serve us all in so many ways in the future years.

The person in charge of managing all of these projects, including the river restoration project and many others, our Junior Warden, Charley Marston with whom I have had the pleasure and honor to work for the past several years is owed a large debt of gratitude for his energy, insight, business sense, dedication to the church and Gates Mills and his unerring good judgment.

St. Christopher remains not only a community of faithful Christians in Gates Mills but also a source of outreach and missionary activities throughout the Greater Cleveland area and beyond, with its many charitable donations and programs, conceived and brought to fruition by the Women's Guild. The Guild's twice-yearly Bargain Box sale raises thousands upon thousands of dollars, virtually all of which is distributed to charities, missions and other benevolent organizations. The Guild should be honored for its devotion and energy in this regard, constituting, as it does, the major source of outreach activities for the parish.

The Stephen Ministry program, under the teaching and leadership of Kathy Pender is now serving a number of individuals who have welcome to the aid, comfort and guidance of their assigned Stephen Minister. This program exemplifies the Christian spirit of generosity and assistance to others in need.

In addition to the Bargain Box and the funds that the sale raises, the Guild is also responsible for many other charitable undertakings including arranging for volunteer services at the Lutherans Men's home, the monthly participation at the Blessed Are We Dinner at St. Andrews and innumerable social, cultural and educational excursions and meetings.

The parish is also greatly indebted to the Altar Guild, and the Sunday morning Coffee Hour hostesses who ensure that every Sunday our church is beautifully decorated and that wonderful refreshments are available after the 10:15 AM service.

The monthly newsletter, so artfully prepared by our parish administrator Mary Zup, details the voluminous activities of this parish, which I which I see as a testament to how this relatively small congregation is so very busy and so very productive in its service to God, each other and the wider world.

I hope that I speak for all in saying that we are looking forward to another vibrant, productive, compassionate and faithful year and I close by saying that I have been again honored through the past year to serve as your Senior Warden.

**JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**  
**Respectfully submitted by Charles Marston**

In 1935, John and Bunny Marston left their house on East 97<sup>th</sup> Street, near Wade Park Avenue, and moved into their new home on County Line Road. They brought with them Connie, age 4, and Tucker, age 2. I arrived on Bunny's birthday, July 11, 1940.

In the 1940's and 50's, there weren't a lot of choices of things to do, so the Chagrin Vally Hunt Club and St. Christopher by -the-River were popular destinations for many of the villagers. In those days, church on Sundays was a given.

I was in the boys choir under the direction of Walter Hurst. Fortunately, Morris and Chan Everett joined me and others, for their voices were as good then as they are today.

While I believe "The Greatest Generation" was our founding fathers – George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson et al, some say that my parent's was "the Greatest". Be that as it may, Connie, Tucker and I were constantly influenced by the example set by those who fought in World War II, and then returned to Gates Mills to develop it into the wonderful community it is today. Importantly, they had a powerful sense of responsibility, voluntarism, ethics and many redeeming values embodied in the St. Christopher by-the-River community.

So, with that in mind, it would have been very difficult to tell Kitty Thomas no when, three years ago, she called and asked me to serve on The Vestry.

It has been an incredible three years. I have been blessed to have been joined by a hugely popular Priest, a terrific Sr. Warden, an enthusiastic Vestry, a dedicated staff and many, many parishoners who have all come together to make our beautiful church sparkle and revitalize all of the activities which occur within.

When I arrived, we had just completed our capital campaign which gave your Junior Warden the funds to complete the badly needed church refurbishment. In addition to having a beautiful yard and painted exterior, almost every room inside the church has had a make over, especially the Sanctuary, the Joan A. Hellman Children's Chapel, the Guild Room, the choir practice room, and the men's and women's bathrooms.

Several years earlier I was a part of a church delegation to meet with Matthew Figgie, his mother, Nancy, and Figgie Foundation Trustees, Rick Solon and Brent Ballard. Harry and Nancy Figgie always had an interest in preserving our beautiful church and that interest was just as powerful in their son, Matthew. We left that meeting with a major gift, a matching gift challenge, and an offer to provide additional assistance for future necessary projects.

As you read this report, we will have finally completed the installation of the new Figgie elevator. Three years ago it never entered my mind that we could help our senior citizens reach all three floors in an elevator, but that became a reality because Matthew recognized the need and wanted it to happen. With the completion of the elevator, The Figgie Foundation has now donated \$342,000.00 to St. Christopher by- the- River.

Seven years ago, we created a vision where in we would raise the funds needed to make the necessary improvements to the building and grounds. In the last three years we have completed:

Children's Chapel	\$ 17,878.27	Men's Bathroom	\$ 14,197.63
Choir Practice Room	\$ 5,147.45	Sanctuary	\$ 13,200.75
Fire & Security	\$ 8,919.99	Women's Bathroom	\$ 15,640.17
Office Equipment & Miscellaneous	\$ 5,408.51		

Additionally, the project to stop river bank erosion is past the design stage and beginning construction. It consists of a large rock wall and special soil stabilizing plants. The length of time to completion is uncertain at this time. This is a very expensive project, but fortunately, a government grant is paying 60% of the estimated \$137,000 cost (thanks to Irene McMullen for helping us obtain the grant).

Please join me in recognizing that these projects could not have been completed were it not for each and everyone of you who donated to the cause, and then pitched in and helped do the work.

## JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT CONT'D

My three years as Junior Warden has come to an end. Service on The Vestry, and especially as Junior Warden, is a highly educational experience. I have learned much about what it takes to operate our church and have it function the way our forefathers wanted.

That leads to a growing sense of appreciation for the great effort made by everyone, and that must continue if we are to fulfill the responsibilities passed on to us. We must pay great attention to two important goals:

1. We must respond positively to the stewardship committee's obligation to provide the funds to operate a first class church.
2. We must articulate with others how rewarding it is to be a member of our congregation and invite them to join.

We have done that in the past. We are doing it now, and I am certain that St. Christopher by- the-River will be one of God's special places for many generations to come.

Thank you, everyone, for helping me; being your Junior Warden has been a terrific experience.

With my prayers and very best wishes to everyone - Charley

## TREASURER'S REPORT Respectfully Submitted by Mary Murray

The 2018 budget approved by your Vestry in early 2018 anticipated a breakeven year based on continued attention to expenses as well as a 4% increase in pledge and plate receipts. At the close of the year, however, pledges and plate amounted to \$238,123, or approximately the same amount received in 2017. This shortfall, combined with expenses held very close to the budgeted level, created a deficit of \$9,740 for the full year. The Stewardship Committee has begun to address the issue of improving our financial planning efforts based on encouraging more parishioners to provide estimates of their financial contribution.

The parish continues to receive generous support for the operating budget from the St. Christopher's Fund, totaling \$126,178 in 2018. This amount represented 5.25% of the Fund's average assets over the last 12 quarters, a reduction from the 5.5% we had previously requested and received. We continue to have a goal of reducing our reliance on the Fund to a more sustainable 5%. Other income is primarily investment income from our capital and music funds, with 2017 having also included the receipt of a large contribution that had been pledged but not received in 2016. In 2017 the parish had also benefitted from the receipt of a disability claim payment which was netted against expenses in that year.

The Vestry has approved a preliminary budget summarized below.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018	2019
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Pledges and Plate	\$ 196,474	\$ 214,783	\$ 237,811	\$ 238,123	\$ 248,000	\$ 240,000
St. Christopher's Fund	\$ 125,598	\$ 129,914	\$ 130,310	\$ 126,178	\$ 125,000	\$ 127,600
Other Income	\$ 11,237	\$ 7,571	\$ 26,305	\$ 18,261	\$ 17,150	\$ 19,000
Total Receipts	\$ 333,309	\$ 352,268	\$ 394,426	\$ 382,562	\$ 390,150	\$ 386,600
Outside Parish Expenses	\$ 52,672	\$ 47,931	\$ 51,550	\$ 53,337	\$ 53,150	\$ 53,919
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 277,832	\$ 241,594	\$ 251,922	\$ 266,528	\$ 261,150	\$ 267,197
Operating Expenses	\$ 56,046	\$ 65,780	\$ 75,897	\$ 72,436	\$ 76,295	\$ 74,480
Total Expenses	\$ 386,550	\$ 355,305	\$ 379,369	\$ 392,301	\$ 390,595	\$ 395,596
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (53,241)	\$ (3,037)	\$ 15,057	\$ (9,739)	\$ (445)	\$ (8,996)

**In 2018, St. Christopher's implemented an online giving opportunity, allowing donations through credit cards or bank transfer.**

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

Fund A:

Market value on 12/31/2018: \$2,225,020.59

Investment and Administrative Fees in 2018: \$19,137.51

Tax Prep Fee: \$1,000

Fund B:

Market value as of 12/31/18: \$82,328.59

Investment and Administrative Fees in 2018: \$4091.64

Tax Prep Fee: \$1,000

In accordance with the spending policy for the year 2018, the Fund *distributed a total of \$126,178.00* 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.

**FAITH DEVELOPMENT REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Reda, Director of Sunday School**

In 2018 we saw greatly reduced attendance in both the younger and older classes. As we struggle to prepare our lessons and make them meaningful for one or six children, we are still committed to the wonderful curriculum, "Weaving God's Promises". We thank Mrs. Debbie Cole, Mrs. Paulette Matthews and Miss Melanie Reda. Sunday after Sunday they are ready to teach and to help the children grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our special events attracted families to help swell the attendance to 35-40 children/event, i.e. Rally Day in September, Advent Wreath Workshop, Christmas Pageant, Children's Vespers, Epiphany activities, Valentine's Day, Easter Egg Hunt, Mother's Day and end of the year party! Ah, but to see that many every Sunday! Our goal, however, is to boost the weekly opportunities in which we can read Bible stories, discuss their meaning for us, engage in fun activities, and have the children grow in community with one another. Worship in Children's Chapel is our time to talk about the stories, pray for each other and recite the Lord's Prayer together.

Our lessons included : Abraham & Sarah, Isaac, Jacob & Esau (a class favorite!), Joseph, Miracles of Jesus, Jesus' Ministry and of course, the Church Seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. We did word searches, mazes, role playing, reading, games, map work, and family tree of Bible figures. All of this with children 3-8 years old!

The children especially enjoy interacting with the adults during the coffee hour when they handout Christmas cards, or Valentines or a flower on Mother's Day. We are trying to encourage the intergenerational interaction.

The construction of the elevator and renovation of the Children's Chapel , as well as the multiple uses of the Nursery were somewhat challenging as we had to move the spaces where we had class, Children's Chapel and playtime. Children thrive on routine, as well as new experiences. There was also some safety concern amidst the construction materials which kept us downstairs. We are looking forward to the completion of the elevator and the return to our learning space.

Taking stock of our Church School: We have compassionate and intelligent children with a desire to truly know Jesus. They want to share the Good News! We need to afford them the opportunity to grow in their faith. We need to support the children, their families and the future of our parish! Please let us know how you would like to help in that mission!

We wish to thank Mother Ann, the Vestry and all the members of our church family for helping to form the children's faith.

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

Our exciting news this year was our choir room renovation! With the help of many people, we now have a beautiful choir room with new carpet, new paint, and a new arrangement!

I would like to thank Sally Conley for designing the new room and helping with new layout ideas. To Jeff Eakin, Becky Everett, John Irwin, Hugh Kelly, Charley Marston, and Lucy Calvo; thank you very much for your time painting, especially to Jeff who painted all the windows and the ceiling by himself. You are the best, Jeff! Thank you also to Hugh, Jolyon Welsh, and Joshua McElliott for helping to move the furniture.

Many thanks also to Chandler H Everett for donating funds for our new lighting fixtures. We don't need to tape or use clips to hold the light fixtures together during our rehearsal anymore, so we are VERY grateful.

While the renovation was going on, Peggy Reda and Debbie Cole allowed us to move our furniture into their classrooms and they had to work around our things during their Sunday classes. Thank you so much for your help and support.

And of course to Mother Ann; thank you so much for making all of it happen!

After many years in the choir, Sal Cicirello decided to retire from the choir. Also, Heather, Austin, Elsbeth, and Bridget Daly have moved to Delaware, so we were very sad to say good bye to these special choir members this year. But we welcomed a new member, Chandler H. Everett, to the Adult choir and Handchime choir, and we are very grateful to have him join us. Even though we have a small choir, we work hard and enjoy singing for our Sunday services.

Thank you so much to Junior Choir members, Anna and Lily Klinginsmith for helping me to train our younger choir members, Race and Alexis Matthews. I always enjoy making music with them and I am looking forward to continuing that in 2019.

Our Adult and Handchime choir members are Debbie Cole, Becky Everett, Chandler H. Everett, Chandler P. Everett, Gretchen Fisher, Sue Marston, and Fran Sarkisian.

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!

On Palm Sunday we had a special choir because so many of our regulars were traveling. The group was Sal Cicirello, Dave Hauserman and his friend Jeff, Paulette Matthews, Joshua McElliott, Mary Murray, and Fran Sarkisian. They were great and we had a lot of fun. Thank you!

We also welcomed three fantastic readers during the Christmas Eve prelude. Dave Hauserman, Chandler P. Everett, and Randy Cole read selections from F. Buechner's Magnificent Defeat alternating with carols sung by the choir and David Ellis playing the Gamba.

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!

**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*

The Stephen Ministers continue to provide their one to one Christian care to people in St Christopher's congregation. These Stephen Ministers have had 50 hours of training and also have bi monthly supervision and continuing education and training. It has been rewarding to see the current Stephen Ministers continuing their education to keep their skills current.

Each Stephen Minister meets with an individual weekly who might have a specific need in their life at that moment. It might be a temporary illness or a chronic illness, a loss in their life whether it be a death or a loss of a job or another type of loss, or perhaps this care receiver is lonely and needs a friend to talk to. These relationships are strictly confidential; no names are ever revealed or used at the Stephen ministry meetings. The Stephen Ministers have provided many hours of emotional and spiritual care to members of our parish. It has been rewarding to see the benefits of their care and their ministry.

We have had additional training at our bi weekly meetings by re-enforcing the skills already learned and by having other professional speakers talk to us.

1: The group visited Hospice of Western Reserve and had a tour and learned about the variety of services they have for different stages of “end of life care “.

2: We had two social workers come from JFSA to speak about Domestic Violence. They were able to educate us about signs we might need to look for if necessary.

3: We visited Arden Courts to learn about a Center for residents with Alzheimer's. We also had our own parishioner Darlene Hauserman, who volunteers at the Alzheimer's Association, talk to us about Dementia and Alzheimer's.

4: We visited the Gathering Place to learn about the resources for Cancer.

5: We visited Magnolia Clubhouse for the Mentally Ill, a day community center for the adult mentally ill population.

We work with Mother Ann to keep her up to date on what the Stephen Ministers and our program is accomplishing. She also contributes ideas that are helpful. She presented a program on Prayer at our request and is doing a program on Meditation.

I am so grateful to these dedicated Stephen Ministers who have shown so much compassion and care and spent so many hours with their care receivers over the past months. Their service surely is following the message of our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ.

*“BE COMPASSIONATE JUST AS YOUR FATHER IS COMPASSIONATE” (Luke 6:36)*

## WORSHIP REPORT

### Respectfully Submitted by Peter Batcheller

We thank all the Parishioners who were involved in our Church Services in 2018 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 who are presently licensed to perform this duty and were able to donate their time in 2018 are.

Peter Batcheller  
Randy Cole  
Dale Gnant

John Irwin  
Charley Marston  
Beth Miller

Fran Meyers  
Melanie Reda

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

Peter Batcheller

Marilyn Fisher

Ron Lee

Jean Ramsey

Rik Bole

Dale Gnant

Annette Lowe

Melanie Reda

Randy Cole

David Hauserman

Charley Marston

Fran Sarkisian

Brendan, Heather and

Darlene Hauserman

Lindsey McMillion

Courtney Schmidt

Elsbeth Daly

Judy Holmes

Tom Matthews

Bob Syverson

Victoria Connell

Mary Holmes

Fran Meyers

Kitty Thomas

Mona DeBaz

Thomas Holmes

Beth Miller

Sue Thorpe

Margaret Douglas

Teri Ianni

Kathi Mitchell

Linda Webb

Jeff Eakin

John Irwin

Cindy Murphy

Joyce Welsh

Becky Everett

Renee Kolecki

Kathy Pender

Brian Wright

Chandler Everett

Cornelia Lee

Chris Pucell

3. **Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM).** 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, Debbie and Randy Cole have this License.

4. **Lay Readers (LR).** 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, Beth Miller have this license. Presently Fran Meyers and Dale Gnant are under Training.

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
- Counting and Safeguarding the Collections at both services.

*Those who performed these duties included:*

Brian Wright & Rik Bole  
Brendan and Austin Daly  
Kurt Liljedahl  
David and Darlene Hauserman  
Cornelia and Ron Lee  
Charley Marston  
Tom Matthews  
Linda Webb  
Becky and Chandler Everett  
Peter Batcheller

Members of the Congregation and also the Altar Guild (at the 8 am Service) also helped when asked.

6. **Acolytes.** Various members of the Church Sunday School are sometimes 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:*

1. 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.

2. 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. Peter Batcheller supplied some Training for this Service

3. At both Services, the EM is responsible for snuffing out the Lectern and Altar candles.

At the 8am Eucharist this should be done prior to leading the Celebrant out for the Final Blessing

At the 10.15 AM Eucharist this should be done during the last Hymn and before leading the Celebrant out with the Crucifix.

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 Mother Ann, Peter Batcheller or the Church office know or just add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the Guild Room.

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

Our membership totals 15 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	Rosalie Della Ratta '11	Teri Ianni '16	Carolyn Miscko '93
Jane Battles '95	Judy Eakin '16	Neal Lee '16	Mary Murray '05
Sally Conley '09	Darlene Hauserman '18	Loni Todd-Lorenz '14	Jean Ramsey, III '92
Laura Cotton '16	Nicki Henry'07	Sue Marston '91	

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: Polly Bixler, Helen Cicirello

**HOSTESS REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Mary Zup**

Throughout 2018 many of our parishioners provided refreshments for our weekly fellowship hour after our 10:15 Service under the direction of Rosalie Della Ratta. Rosalie has been organizing and scheduling our Sunday Hostesses (and hosts) for at least 5 years. Many thanks to Rosalie for her years of service. Starting in the Fall of 2019, hostess scheduling will be organized through the parish office as Rosalie takes a much deserved break. Thank you to our hostesses and hosts from 2018:

Sandra Batcheller	Nicole Henry	Carolyn Miscko	Courtney Schmidt
Elise Bennett	Mary Holmes	Mary Murray	Dolores Storer
Laura Cotton	Nancy Irwin	Keri Osolin	Susan Thorpe
Charlene Currutt	Cornelia Lee	Katherine Pender	Linda Webb
Rosalie Della Ratta	Tillie Malm	Christina Pucell	Karee Weikel-Broome
Rebecca Everett	Susan Marston	Jean Ramsey	Heather Daly
Morris & Diana Everett	Paulette & Tom Matthews	Melanie Reda	
Gretchen Fisher	Lindsey McMillion	Peggy Reda	
Janet Hargrave	Irene McMullen	Mary Reynolds	

**WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Sue Marston, Guild President**

The Women's Guild continues to be an active group at St. Christopher's. To summarize the year:

February	An enjoyable cooking demonstration with Laura Cotton
March	Lenten program working with prayer beads under the direction of Mother Ann
October	Making 13 gallons of soup for the Trinity Cathedral food program and for our own shut ins
November	Filling 40 backpacks for Westside Shared Ministries with wrapped Christmas Presents
December	Making Christmas arrangements for Holly Hill Nursing Home

And, as always, we held two Bargain Boxes. We appreciate the wonderful help from so many parishioners to make these sales successful. The proceeds from these two sales provided the fund for our extensive outreach program. This year, we gave an outstanding 86% to organizations outside the parish.

We encourage and invite any women in the parish to join us for any or all activities. There is a great joy in doing God's work and in sharing in the comradery of the women of the church.

Put on your calendars, June 2<sup>nd</sup> for our parish auction with proceeds going to Food for the Poor.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER'S GUILD 2018 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

Respectfully Submitted: Elise Bennett, Treasurer

	<b>2018 BUDGET</b>	<b>2018 INCOME</b>
<b><u>INCOME SOURCE</u></b>		
Bargain Box (Net)	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,082.55
Stationery (Net)	\$ 40.00	\$ 67.11
Ckg Acct Int/Chgs (NET)	\$ -	\$ (4.59)
	\$ 22,040.00	\$ 22,145.07
<b><u>INREACH DISBURSEMENTS</u></b>		
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>NET DISBURSEMENTS</b>
Guild Programs	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 880.34
Guild Room Expenses	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 2,180.34
<b><u>OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS</u></b>		
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>NET DISBURSEMENTS</b>
Bargain Box	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 3,983.94
Cleveland Food Bank	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Holiday Favors-Holly Hill	\$ 100.00	\$ 102.77
Diocese of Jerusalem	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Episcopal West Side Ministry	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Gathering Place	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Hospice	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Mailing/Printing/Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 310.15
Meals on Wheels (Hillcrest & Chagrin)	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
National Cathedral	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
New Directions	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Family Promise (New Life Community)	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Blessed-Are-We	\$ 550.00	\$ 265.86
Women Safe	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Backpacks	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 765.20
Renee Jones Empowerment Center	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Two Foundation	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Food for Poor	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Library	\$ 100.00	\$ -
UTO	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Unbudgeted Donations	\$ 790.00	\$ 964.12
	\$ 18,890.00	\$ 16,342.04
Total Inreach & Outreach	\$ 22,040.00	\$ 18,522.38
<b><u>ADDITIONAL YR. END DONATIONS</u></b>		
*** In addition to 2018 budgeted	Seeds Of Literacy	\$ 500.00
	Food for Poor (Accrual for future project)	\$ 808.30
	Cleveland Food Bank	\$ 1,000.00
	Episcopal West Side Ministry	\$ 500.00
	St. Andrews Youth Program	\$ 1,000.00
	City Mission	\$ 1,000.00
	Heifer: Send a Girl to School	\$ 600.00
	Lutheran Men's Ministry	\$ 1,000.00
		\$ 6,408.30

**2018 NEMAC Annual Report**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Linda Webb, Secretary**

Congregations in the Diocese of Ohio are organized into eight Mission Area Councils. The goal is to share programs and resources, provide mutual support among congregations — and to identify and provide opportunities for collaborative ministry. Each parish has a priest representative, and most have at least one lay representative. Each Council also elects a member of the clergy to serve on the Diocesan Council. (Mother Ann has served in that role but has passed the baton to Mother Lisa O’Rear, St. Andrews for 2019.) The Diocese provides a small amount of seed funding for projects approved by MAC members.

St. Christopher’s is one of twelve parishes in the NEMAC group, Northeast Ohio Mission Area Council. We meet quarterly throughout the year. We appreciate that our meetings have and continue to be hosted by Mother Rose Anne Lonsway at Grace Episcopal Church in Willoughby.

In 2018, we discussed progress and opportunities in support of programs for our 12 parishes, including funding for some ministries as they submitted requests for assistance. Below is a short summary of our work.

- **The Belize Project.** Both the Diocese for some years and more recently St. Martins have supported education efforts in the Belize area. NEMAC funded St. Martins for their sponsorship. [Note: This responsibility was turned over to local parishes in Belize as of our meeting on 10.25.2018.]
- **The Sanctuary Project.** One of our parishes has been working with an undocumented family, helping them with housing and work toward a Visa for a mother and two children to remain and work in the U.S. Funding discussions for this project are continuing.
- **Christmas Missions.** Our NEMAC member St. Peter’s funds a mission to host an annual Christmas dinner for more than 400 people in need. NEMAC approved funding in the amount of \$2,500, half the \$4,500 projected cost raised thus far by the parish since the church kitchen was rendered unusable by a flood. We will look for a report in 2019 about results.
- **Lenten Study.** Good Shepherd, St. Albans, St. Barts and St. Andrews participated, however attendance was light. The host church has said they would refund the grant money to NEMAC.

There has also been much discussion and work on behalf of the local Diocese and among NEMAC members as well that will carry on to our work in 2019.

- **Youth Groups.** A Seminarian from St. Martin's has been working to foster youth group interchange based on success with programs in her church. She is looking for interchange for teens among the NEMAC groups going forward.
- **Easter Vigil.** For 2019, NEMAC is considering the possibility of a vigil among our members. This will be discussed at the next meeting on 02/15/2019.
- **Anti-Bullying Campaign.** Discussion about this in 2018 will lead to further exploration in 2019.
- **Council for Racial Understanding [CRU].** The Diocese Council for Racial Understanding requires Clergy and Diocese Council members to undergo a racial understanding program. NEMAC voted to be a Host site and will continue to work with the Diocese on this program.
- **Priest Coverage.** Our Priest at St. Barts stepped up and covered Epiphany’s Mother Rosalind’s sabbatical.
- **Puerto Rico Hurricane Damage.** Christ Church, Geneva has kept us informed about their fundraising and volunteer efforts on behalf of this cause.
- **NEMAC Facebook Page.** We have a page that has been created and maintained by Sandy Pavlick of Christ Church, Geneva. Churches are encouraged to share church events and outreach programs on this page. Here is the URL: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthEastMissionArea/>
- **Potential Evangelism Opportunities.** Father Chris, our treasurer has asked NEMAC to consider work with evangelism across our membership. This discussion will continue in 2019.

As the secretary for our NEMAC group this past year, I would like to thank Peter Batcheller for his six-year term and continuing service with the NEMAC mission in 2019. Also, please say thanks to Mother Ann who served as our parish NEMAC Priest representative on our behalf through the 2018 year. Also we should give a shout-out to Sandy from St. James for maintaining our NEMAC Facebook site.

On a personal note, this work isn’t difficult, but I’ve learned that it’s a small way to give time for a great mission cause. If anyone at St. Chris who is perhaps retired or has a few hours a year to step up and commit to helping with this mission, please contact me. I’d be happy to explain the “ropes” and find small ways in which a new volunteer might contribute. Many thanks.