



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Season of Lent, is only a little over three weeks away. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be two Ash Wednesday services (12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.) with Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. Now is a good time to begin thinking about what you want or need to receive from God over the course of those Forty Days. What needs to be different in your relationship with God? What will help you to follow Jesus more closely in your daily life? A few Sundays ago I sang the first verse of this hymn to you:

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.

The hymn continues:

Though none go with me, still I will follow; though none go with me, still I will follow;  
though none go with me, still I will follow; no turning back, no turning back.

The World behind me, the cross before me; the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me; no turning back, no turning back.

No turning back! Our Sunday morning Forum has begun reading “Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus” by our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. The short chapters are engaging to read and have prompted some terrific conversations about our own calls to follow Jesus. We are enjoying the book so much that I am extending an opportunity for more of us to be in conversation with each other about following Jesus in our lives.

Whatever you choose as your personal Lenten Practice, I hope that you will join in our Wednesday evening “Simple Suppers”, beginning on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m.. Sign-up sheets for bringing soup or salad, and for your R.S.V.P. are on the bulletin board in the hall near the Guild Room. Each Wednesday during Lent we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to share a meal and conversation focusing around a few chapters from Michael Curry’s book. Please let Mary Zup know if you would like a copy at our cost of \$13. Our readings for each gathering follow:

- March 4: Chapters 1-3                    “We Need Some Crazy Christians”  
    “We Are Part of Something Greater Than Ourselves”  
    “Following Jesus with Our Feet”
- March 11: Chapters 4-6 “Living into God’s Dream”  
    “A Mountain Climb that Can Change the World”  
    “Down with Walls of Division and Up with the Dream of God”
- March 18: Chapters 7-9 “The Savior’s Not-So-Serene Call to Life on a Wild, Restless Sea”  
    “When Upside Down Is Really Right Side Up”  
    “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize, Hold On, Hold On”
- March 25: Chapters 10-11            “The Outstretched Arms of Jesus and the Limitless Reach of Love”  
    “*E Pluribus Unum*: God’s Dream, Our Hope”
- April 1: Chapters 12-13 “The Gospel Witness of Welcome Will Rearrange the World”  
    “Come, Let Us Go to Galilee – Probably the Last Place We Want to Be”

Please don’t be put off by the number of chapters – They really are short. I promise!

Let’s follow Jesus together, through Lent and beyond. No turning back!

In Christ’s Love,  
Ann+

## September 19, 2019 St. Christopher's-by-the-River Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Elise Bennett, Becky Everett, David Hauserman, John Irwin, Irene McMullen, Mary Holmes, Jim Pender.

The meeting came to order at 6:00 PM. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

John Irwin presented draft July and August Vestry meeting minutes he wrote. John Irwin moved to approve the July and August 2019 minutes. Mary Holmes seconded the motion. A discussion was had regarding the motion. A vote was taken. Irene McMullen abstained from the discussion and vote regarding proposed July and August 2019 Vestry minutes. The Clerk's draft minutes were not considered. Motion carried.

The Senior Warden spoke about the 2020 Stewardship Campaign. Volunteers for the Stewardship Campaign Committee were sought, perhaps about six people. A discussion was had regarding the objective of raising money and fundraising efforts. David Hauserman and Jim Pender graciously agreed to be co-chairs of the Committee. The Cottage Meeting Committee was again thanked for their important work. We need to work on creating an accurate database of parishioner information. Mary Holmes and John Irwin volunteered to assist with this effort.

The Junior Warden spoke about the gardener. New sandstone steps and a railing were added to the landscaping. We will put a bench and chairs in the flat area. An additional \$500 was added to the budget for stump removal. An appeal for donations regarding plantings was discussed. An effort is being made to clean out the garage area at the Rectory. The parish will be offered the firewood stored there to be given away.

John Irwin and Peter Batcheler have been asked to be Delegates to the 2019 Diocesan convention. A discussion was had regarding alternates. David Hauserman moved that Mother Ann be authorized on behalf of the Vestry to be delegates and ask alternates. Mary Holmes seconded the motion. A discussion was had. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

Regarding stewardship, a discussion was had regarding having people speak about church initiative and groups during the service.

Mary Murray distributed the financial statement. Our financial picture is on track based on where we expected to be.

The strategic plan was discussed. Mary Holmes led a discussion regarding Christian Education. Mary attempted to speak with younger parents regarding the Sunday School schedule. A meeting was held last Sunday and another meeting will be scheduled. The participants at the meeting explored the idea of moving the time schedule for Sunday School for a later start.

The Director of Development of the Men's Shelter will speak on November 15, 2019 about Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries. On November 3, 2018, Deacon Lydia will speak about volunteering opportunities at the Men's Shelter.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Irene McMullen

### Report of the Nominating Committee 2019

The nominating committee is pleased to submit its report, in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Code of Regulations, setting forth the names of Qualified Electors of the Parish to fill two positions of the Vestry which will become vacant at the Annual Meeting of the Parish to be held on March 1, 2020.

Therefore, the Nominating Committee proposes the following Qualified Electors:

Charley Marston

Judy Holmes


Mary Holmes


In addition, the Nominating Committee also submits the name of the following individual to serve as the Parish Delegate to the Northeast Mission Area Council for the two-year term, 2020 - 2022:


Peter Batcheller

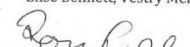
Respectfully Submitted,

  
Becky Everett, Junior Warden

  
Sandra Redmond, Parishioner

  
Tom Matthews, Parishioner

  
Elise Bennett, Vestry Member

  
Ron Lee, Parishioner

## JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Warm greetings to you all! I hope and trust that the holiday season was a good one for each of you! The winter season has been a quiet one when it comes to Junior Warden responsibilities. We have lined up plowing for the rectory and shoveling services for any snow accumulating on the walkways. Thank you to the Hunt Club for the use of their guys who have kept the walkways clear and safe when Luis is unavailable. A big thank you goes out to Charley Marston for organizing this service!

With regard to the church building, Luis continues to paint the guild room which is looking great! Many thanks to the Women's Guild for covering this expense! The furnaces had some repairs recently and are currently doing a great job of keeping our church home warm.

I'm beginning, with great anticipation, to look forward to this spring when the second stage of our landscaping project will be completed. The landscaping company will be planting all the perennials planned for around the big maple tree and the steps leading up to the bench in the side yard. We have two master gardeners in our congregation who will help with the design of the flower bed surrounding the St. Christopher statue as well. Finally, we will be looking at the beds on either side of the steps going into the church. In the past, a number of annuals have been planted there. As these only last for a season, we are hoping to plant perennials which come back year after year and will give us years of beauty and enjoyment!

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions/concerns you might have! God's blessings to each and every one of you!

### Vestry

John Irwin      Senior Warden  
Becky Everett    Junior Warden  
Irene McMullen   Clerk  
Mary Murray     Treasurer

### Class of 2021

Elise Bennett, David Hauserman,  
Sean McMillion

### Class of 2020

Becky Everett, Mary Murray,  
James Pender

### Class of 2019

Mary Holmes, John Irwin, Irene  
McMullen

### Northeast Mission Area Council Representatives

Peter Batcheller, 2019  
Linda Webb, 2019

## FAITH FORMATION

Please note that Mrs. Coles 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Class will continue to meet 9:00-10:00.

Mrs. Reda and Mrs. Matthews will gather with the younger class at 10:00.

### CLASS DATES

February 2, 9, 16, 23

March 1, 8, 15

April 19, 26

May 3, 17

### KEY DATES

Feb 26 – Ash Wednesday

Mar 22 & 29: No class Spring  
Break

April 5 Palm Sunday

April 12 Easter

May 17 Last class. Classes will  
be combined

## Lenten Soup & Fellowship

### LENTEN SERIES

Soup Suppers will begin March 4<sup>th</sup> and will continue Wednesdays through April 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at 6 PM.

Sign up on the bulletin board to attend and indicate if you can bring a soup or salad.

We will be discussing the book Crazy Christians. Please see Mother Ann on Sunday if you need a book or call the office. Books are \$13.

## GUILD

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Sue Marston
<b>V P Programs</b>	Sandy Redmond, Debbie Cole Laura Cotton, Kitty Thomas
<b>VP Bargain Box</b>	Carolyn Misco
<b>Secretary</b>	Neal Lee
<b>Treasurer</b>	Elise Bennett
<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	Fran Meyers
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	Sally Conley
<b>In Reach</b>	Charlene Currutt
<b>Library</b>	Rosalie Della Ratta
<b>Stationery</b>	Marcia Alpers
<b>Trac Rack</b>	Jean Ramsey
<b>UTO</b>	Sandy Batcheller
<b>Worship</b>	Jean Ramsey

### Upcoming Events

March	Lenten Meditation at Cleveland Museum of Art
April 24	Bargain Box
May	Lakeview Cemetery Gilded Age Tour
June	End of Year Luncheon



### **GUILD PROGRAM**

**FEB 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**10AM**

Join the Women's Guild as we welcome Mike Matoney, Director of New Directions. His program will highlight the work done at this facility in treating drug addiction including opioids.

New Directions, located off of Lander Circle, has been a long time recipients of Guild outreach funds.

*All parishioners and guests are welcome.*

### **Outreach Spotlight**

Family Promise is the result of the merger of Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cleveland and New Life Community. The goal is to inspire and empower homeless families to become self-sufficient and reach their full potential. They are unique in that they keep families of any description together while they work through homelessness. Families reside in the Family Promise facilities while receiving help in finding housing, employment, financial support, as well as medical, mental, and legal service. They also provide four months of support after departure from the facility. They help 100 families per year secure and maintain independent housing

### **Strategic planning update**

The first year of our strategic planning efforts have led to some exciting conversations and new initiatives, resulting in two major goals for the next five years:

1. Increase parish participation and build our Sunday School to include 20 children
2. Become known as a church where the parish practices outreach in many ways

Kathy Pender and Darlene Hauserman have been extremely helpful in the information gathering phase that included cottage meetings and interviews. I would like to invite two more "strategically minded" parishioners to join our efforts as we develop ways to achieve our goals. Please contact me or Mother Ann to volunteer or learn more.

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

For some of you the whole idea of grieving and dealing with it may seem overwhelming and you may think you don't want to deal with the pain of it all! So – you might think a “Grief Group” to which people come and share their stories about their losses and loved ones is just not for you.

Maybe you have heard different ideas about grieving –perhaps different myths. Here are some for you to check off if you think one of these are true that you have heard.

**Myth 1:** The goal of grief is to get over it. This is simply not true. The goal of grief is to find an enduring connection with the deceased in the midst of trying to find a new life for oneself.

**Myth 2:** If you ignore grief it will go away. This does not work and will fail. Grief will catch up with you later. It is better to acknowledge and move through your grief.

**Myth 3:** Staying Busy is a good way to cope. This is foolish and does not work; it only leads to exhaustion. Staying busy will only distract and postpone the work of bereavement.

**Myth 4:** Grief is purely an emotional reaction to loss. No. The mind and body are tied together, and grief involves the whole body and impacts us emotionally, physically, spiritually, and cognitively.

**Myth 5:** Grief is a predictable, ordered process. Your grief can feel like a roller coaster ride. It follows no timeline and is not logical.

**Myth 6:** Grieving means letting go of the person who has died. We never let go of those we love. Bereavement involves accepting their death in learning how to live creating a healthy emotional, psychological and spiritual connection.

**MYTH 7:** Grievers should choose to be left alone. This is false as those in bereavement may need to be alone, but they need support to talk about their feelings and concerns. This is why a support group can be helpful

### GRIEF GROUP DATES

MEETS AT 6 PM

February  
10, 17, 25

March  
17, 24

April  
7, 21

May  
5, 19

June  
2, 16

Please contact Kathy Pender for questions or more information at 440-463-7378 or email at [kp@momshrink.com](mailto:kp@momshrink.com).

## ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date!

**MARCH 1, 2020**

There will be one Service at 10:15 with the Annual Meeting immediately following.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>

AFTER THE 10:15 SERVICE



**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

8:00 EM: Charley Marston  
 LR: Kitty Thomas  
 AG: Sally Conley  
 10:15 EM: Peter Batcheller  
 LR: Fran Sarkisian & Kathy Pender  
 AG: Mary Murray  
 Ushers: Brian Wright & Rik Bole  
 Hospitality: Becky Everett & Barb Pesuit

**February 9<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 EM: Melanie Reda  
 LR: Peter Batcheller  
 AG: Renee Kolecki  
 10:15 EM: Randy Cole  
 LR: Chandler Everett & Sue Thorpe  
 AG: Carolyn Miscko  
 Ushers: Ron & Neal Lee  
 Hospitality: Chris Pucell & Nancy Irwin

**February 16<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 EM: Peter Batcheller  
 LR: Teri Ianni  
 AG: Teri Ianni  
 10:15 EM: Dale Gndt  
 LR: Kathy Pender & Darlene Hauserman  
 AG: Micki Henry & Loni Todd-Lorenz  
 Ushers: Peter Batcheller  
 Hospitality: Mary Holmes & Keri Osolin

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

8:00 EM: TBA  
 LR: TBA  
 AG: Sue Marston  
 10:15 EM: TBA  
 LR: TBA  
 AG: Courtney Schmidt  
 Ushers: David & Darlene Hauserman  
 Hospitality: **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> – ASH Wednesday**

12:15 EM: TBA  
 LR: TBA  
 AG: Marcia Alpers  
 6:00 EM: TBA  
 LR: TBA  
 AG: Sue Marston

*Volunteer Opportunities*

**Blessed Are We Dinner**

**Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

**Food Pantry**

**Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter**

Serve Lunch.

**Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

Look for sign ups on the bulletin board.  
 All welcome. Carpool leaves at 11:00 sharp!











**We are collecting kids snacks:**

100% juice boxes, granola bars, pretzels, raisins, goldfish, etc.



- 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

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Kids snacks: 100% juice boxes, granola bars, pretzels, raisins, goldfish</p> 	 	 				1
<p><b>2 Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Adult Forum, Handchime, Level 2 Class 9:30 am Choir 10 am Nursery, Sunday School (Younger) 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	3	4	5 10 AM Guild Board Meeting	6 5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA	7-8 <b>Diocesan Convocation</b>	
<p><b>9 Epiphany V</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Adult Forum, Handchime, Level 2 Class 9:30 am Choir 10 am Nursery, Sunday School (Younger) 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	10 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry 6:00 PM Grief Group	11	12 Mother Ann at Fresh Start 10 AM Guild Event New Directions Speaker	13 11:0 AM Daughters of the King 5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA	14	15 Our Savior Lutheran Food Pantry 11 AM
<p><b>16 Epiphany VI</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Adult Forum, Handchime, Level 2 Class 9:30 am Choir 10 am Nursery, Sunday School (Younger) 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	17 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry 6:00 PM Grief Group	18 Annual Report Submissions DUE!	19 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:00 Men's Shelter Volunteering 6 PM Vestry	20 5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA	21 St. Andrews Blessed Are We Dinner Meet @ 4PM Wedding Rehearsal	22 4 PM Wedding Pfar/Zittkowski
<p><b>23 Last Epiphany</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Adult Forum, Handchime, Level 2 Class 9:30 am Choir 10 am Nursery, Sunday School (Younger) 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 Pancake Breakfast</p> 	24 9-11 AM Stephen Ministry	25 6:00 PM Grief Group	26 9:30 Staff Meeting  Services: 12:15 PM 6:00 PM	27 5 PM Evening Prayer 8 PM Riverside AA	28	29

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)

February 2020 Newsletter

## St. Christopher by-the-River

We welcome you to join us:

### Sunday, FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Presentation

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

### Sunday, FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany V

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

### Sunday, FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany VI

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

### Sunday, FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> – Last Epiphany

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

#### **SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR KIDS 5-14**

9 a.m. Church School Class (2<sup>nd</sup> level)  
10 a.m. Church School (Younger Children)

#### **NURSERY CARE**

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



**FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup>**

**12:15 PM  
6:00 PM**