



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Rally Sunday marked the return of our Church School year and the transition from summer to fall. I have loved worshipping together on our beautiful side lawn over these past weeks. Each Sunday the song of birds, sunlight reflected from the river into the trees along our riverbank, shimmering golden leaves scattering on a light breeze, have all been reminders of God's presence with us in our worship.

On October 1st I will begin my month-long annual vacation. Charley Marston and Becky Everett will arrange for any pastoral care needs that may arise during October. Since they each need to be out of the area at times during October, they will be "on-call" during the following schedule:

October 1-6 Becky Everett

October 7-16 Charley Marston

October 17-31 Becky Everett

Tell Becky or Charley of your need and they will then contact one of my wonderful clergy colleague neighbors, who will care for you until I return on November 1st.

While I am recharging, worship will continue to be held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 on the side lawn, weather permitting. In case of rain, the service will be held inside the Church. Please do remember to sign up in advance if you plan to attend. This is important should contact tracing ever be required. John Irwin, who is licensed as a lay preacher by our Bishop, will Officiate on Sundays and will preach on October 4th, 11th, and 25th. Deacon Lydia Bailey will preach on October 18th. John's first turn at preaching was on September 20th. One of the requirements for his licensing is feedback from the congregation as well as ongoing mentoring by me. The purpose is to help him find his unique voice as a preacher and to grow in effectively communicating the Gospel. While you may give feedback to him directly, it is most helpful if you would please send me your observations and suggestions by email. I will hear and see John's sermons on YouTube and will take your emailed comments into account when I meet with him following my vacation. Preaching quarterly is a more typical schedule, so John is jumping into the deep end of the pool! Be both kind and honest in your feedback as that is how he will grow as a preacher.

Peggy Reda has created a Church School program for families to engage in together in their homes. In addition to Church School happening in a new way this Fall, families are also gathering on Sunday mornings at 11:00 for a brief and informal time of worship. It's always nice to see and hear each other!

The Zoom Tuesday (10:00-11:00 a.m.) and Wednesday (9:00-10:00 a.m.) book discussion groups have been a great hit this summer. In November we will begin reading "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. If you do not already own a copy, Half-price Books in Mayfield Heights had copies last week for \$9.99 plus tax. You can come to either or both days, which allows for some flexibility in everyone's busy lives. This book will be somewhat intense as **it requires daily reading and reflection**. Start your reading on November 1st and I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, November 3rd or Wednesday, November 4th. You enter the group on meeting day by clicking on the link in your weekly News & Notes email. I look forward to seeing you and to our conversations!

In Christ's Love,

Ann+

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Charley Marston

Sunday September 20, 2020: This morning Sue and I attended a new first at St Christopher's by the River. Historically, as the Summer comes to an end, we have held a "Rally Sunday" with an indoor service and an outdoor cookout. This year the tradition had to be cancelled, however we still wanted to do something special. While the temperature was creeping into the low sixties without a cloud in the sky, we gathered with Becky's carillon call to worship and a truly inspirational service. In addition to Becky's carillon and songs and music by John and Yuri McElliott we listened to two of Cleveland's finest musicians. Ida Mercer (cello) and Mari Sato (violin) performed before, during and after the service. Beautiful music in a beautiful setting. The most notable part revolved around our friend, John Irwin. In my first letter as Senior Warden, I wrote about John's tremendous accomplishments as Senior Warden during his six years on the Vestry. While John had to go off the Vestry due to term limits, his commitment to St Christopher has not diminished. He has spent many hours helping Mother Ann deliver both live and recorded services these past six months. John has now taken his talent to a new level. The diocese offered, thru Bellwether Farm, a lay reader college which, upon completion, licenses individuals to prepare and deliver their own inspirational sermons. John signed up and completed the course. This morning he delivered his first sermon. Today's service can be found through our website. I encourage you to watch it and hear John speak. He is terrific. Today was the beginning of what I hope will become another new tradition. Mother Ann still has vacation time left and will be taking it this month. John and Lydia will be filling in on the Sunday services so keep checking our announcements and please plan on attending, I know you will be glad you did. Best Charley



Flower Dedications

- September 6 Linda Costello by Cynthia Costello-Mandes
September 13 Bob "Tiger" Malm and granddaughter Erin Malm by Tillie Malm
September 20 Sarah Christy Dickenson and Jeffrey R. Cudlip by Frances and David Dickenson
September 27 Irene & Merle Reynolds and Charles F. Bixler III by Polly Bixler



- 1 Bruce Long
Lindsey McMillion
Brooklyn Osolin
- 2 Elise Bennett
Bonnie Humphrey
- 6 Polly Bixler
- 7 Parker Selman
- 10 Baz DeBaz

- 13 Tillie Malm
- 14 Kerry Gnant
- 15 Mike Klinginsmith
- 16 Gretchen Fisher
- 17 Race Matthews
Alexis Mathews

- 19 Ralph Della Ratta
- 21 Sean McMillion
- 26 Pam LaMantia
John McElliot
Britni Ventimiglia
- 27 Harriet Leedy
- 28 Mallory Turnbull
Margot Hoeflinger

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Becky Everett

For the second time in six months Mother Nature paid us a call on Labor Day! After a huge deluge of rain, the Chagrin River decided to get up close and personal with our beloved church. Within an hour, if not minutes, of the worst of the rain, we were surrounded by a muddy, roaring mess of water. Our blessed statue of St. Christopher was surrounded by water, and the sight of Mother Ann's "sermons on the mound" had become a small island with water continually creeping higher and higher! We had the usual puddles/ponds of water in the basement and our window wells were filling up quickly. Thanks to Luis and Lucy Calvo, Charley Marston, Teri Ianni and Patrick Manning (scheduled to be married on that mound a few days later), Teri's sons, Mike Klinginsmith, and Chandler Everett, we were able to fight off the river for the rest of the afternoon. Every time we turned around it seemed like there was more water coming in. Because of our experience with the flooding in March, we were all pros at getting the portable water pumps hooked up quickly, and I think we had three wet vac's running continually along with volunteers using squeegees to push water toward the drains. As you can imagine, it was an exhausting afternoon, but we were victorious!! The rain stopped, the river eventually began to recede, and in the next couple of days, Luis and Lucy did a phenomenal job of cleaning up and getting our basement back to normal.

While I remember feeling very frustrated and overwhelmed at times that day, what sticks out most in my memory is how these wonderful members of our parish seemed to magically show up when needed. They put aside what they were doing that day and put our church's safety and well-being first. We worked together as a church family, taking care of one another as well as our sacred home. The love and gratitude I have for each of them is immense! And thanks to them, you will find our little church just as it should be when this Covid 19 nightmare is over, and we all feel safe enough to come back together to worship in person! What a joyous day that will be!

I send you God's peace and blessings as we enter this Fall season. You are all so vital to this church. I am so thankful for each and every one of you!



VESTRY MINUTES, JULY 30, 2020

Tom Matthews, Clerk

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Elise Bennett, Becky Everett, Mary Holmes, Jim Pender, Charley Marston, Tom Matthews

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

The review of the July 2nd meeting minutes was the first order of business. Mary Holmes noted a correction. Becky Everett moved for approval with the correction, Charley Marston seconded, a vote was taken and the motion to approve passed.

Due to limited time for some attendees, Mother Ann recommended the review of a Historical Site sign as the next agenda item. Details related to sign location and installation options as well as cost to the parish (\$0) were reviewed. All agreed this is a great opportunity contingent upon agreement of the placement details.

The financial review was the next order of business. Mary Murray was not in attendance to lead the review. Based on the provided reports, the status was deemed acceptable considering the effects of the pandemic. Mother Ann confirmed we fully expect full loan forgiveness and the related funds are not yet included in the operating statement.

Mother Ann stated services will be suspended due to the increased pandemic severity level. This led to a discussion of options, specifically options for services held outdoors and the associated details. All agreed that outdoor services were the best alternative for upcoming church services.

Mother Ann then reviewed the adult forum is going well (16 attendees) and she is still looking into family/Sunday School Zoom services options. For her upcoming sabbatical, Mother Ann proposed the April/May time frame and reviewed plans for substitutes as well as consideration for Parrish learning options during this period.

The Annual Meeting was the next order of business. All agreed February 28th appeared to be the best option. Charley reminded the vestry of all the all duties/work necessary to prepare for and conduct the meeting.

Mary Holmes stated data and reports are in place for the August Stewardship Committee. For the Pre-K School opportunity, Mary proposed a feasibility study that would investigate and detail out exactly what is involved with such a program. All agreed this would be a good next step and supported getting an estimate.

Charley Marston reviewed the likelihood of an outdoor Rally Sunday, the associated details and the possibility/logistics of a rain date. He then mention the next Bargain Box will be held in the fall of 2021 and that the Women's Guild proposed connecting with the Parrish via a mailing of notes or cards to communicate the delay.

For the Junior Warden update, Becky Everett stated the oven and brick wall were repaired, the fence project is targeted for the end of August, and lamp and lamp post have been purchased and will be installed August 7th.

The next Vestry meetings is planned for August 27th at 6pm.

Mother Ann led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM.

Vestry

Charley Marston Senior Warden
Becky Everett Junior Warden
Tom Matthews Clerk
Mary Murray Treasurer

Class of 2022

Judy Holmes, Mary Holmes,
Charley Marston

Class of 2021

Elise Bennett, Tom Matthews,
Sean McMillion

Class of 2020

Becky Everett, Mary Murray,
James Pender

Northeast Mission Area Council

Representatives

Peter Batcheller, 2020
Linda Webb, 2020

STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

Fran Meyers

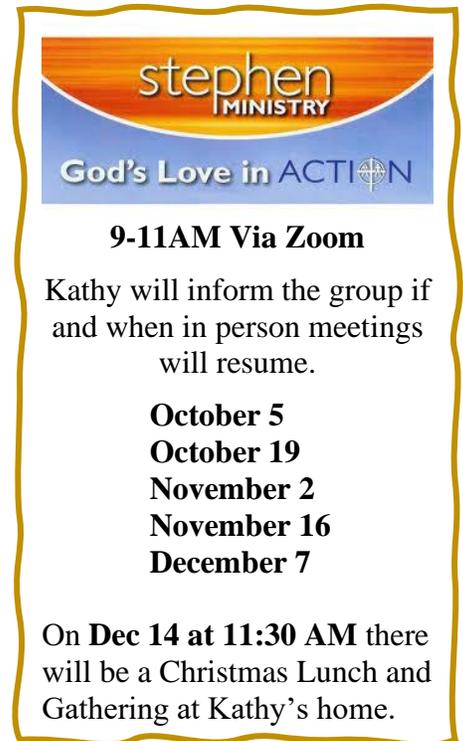
*As an older person, I often look back at my earlier years attempting to understand how certain milestones have shaped my life. Joan Chittister says in the chapter "Letting Go" of her book *The Gift of Years*, that life, it seems, follows a relentless cycle: during the early years we accumulate, but in our later years we divest.*

We accumulate with first words, first steps, first friends, first car, first job, first house and so on. I remember a year in school when my first grade teacher told my mother that I did not participate, that I needed to do homework and be active in class. Why was I that way? Maybe I was shy and feared I would not fit in. I was evaluating what was going on around me. Later on I coasted through school, making A's and B's without working very hard. When I received a C in second year Latin, which did not come easily to me, I was devastated. I realized I wasn't as smart as I thought I was. Later I was honored with a good citizenship medal which was good for my lowered self esteem.

College was a struggle my first year, but after becoming more serious about my studies, I graduated. It was liberating, I was beginning to accumulate - I had a degree. I was married after my senior year. My husband and I had jobs, a new car, a nice apartment and lots of friends. Eventually we built a house and had children. There were ups and downs while "getting ahead." Life was good and we were happy. We were accumulating the comforts of life.

Before long retirement was upon us. What do we do with the material things we have accumulated so far? Do we give them to family, sell them to antique dealers or just give them to Bargain Box? It's a time of divestment of collections, downsizing and traveling light. I am glad we never added onto our house although I had wished to do that when the children were home. Now that I don't have the desire or strength I am thankful that the original home is easy to take care of. Our eyesight may decline in the later years but our spiritual eyesight increases. As senior citizens we do not consider only the material things of life but the meaning of life and death.

This is a period when we evaluate everything we have come to know about life so far. As Joan Chittister recounts in her book, "The blessing is to go light footed into the here and now - because we spend far too much of life preparing for the future rather than enjoying the present." That reminds me of the blessings and joy that grandchildren bring to us. We can enjoy them instead of raising them. It is time now to become what all the living has enabled us to be; what we learned along the way and what we meant to other people. It is time to be simply human - no regrets.



stephen
MINISTRY

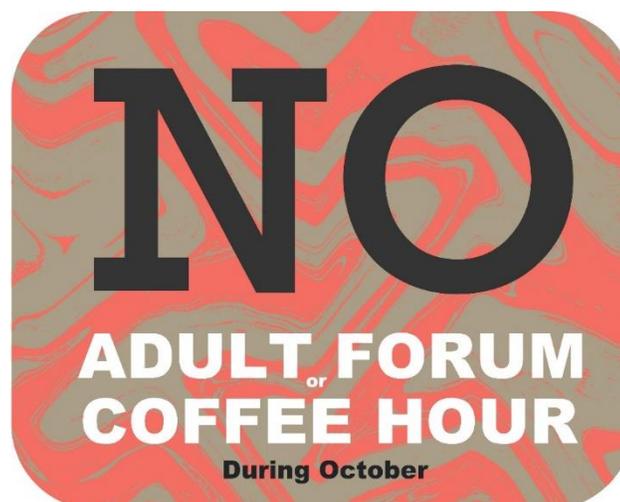
God's Love in ACTION

9-11AM Via Zoom

Kathy will inform the group if and when in person meetings will resume.

October 5
October 19
November 2
November 16
December 7

On **Dec 14 at 11:30 AM** there will be a Christmas Lunch and Gathering at Kathy's home.

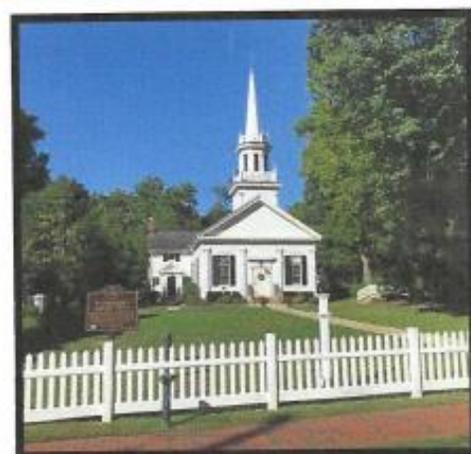


Come Join Us By The River

by Kathy Pender

There is a new historic marker that recently was installed in front of St. Christopher by-the-River Episcopal Church. "Ohio History Connection" has given special commendation to St. Christopher Church, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the Gates Mills Historical Society for furthering our knowledge of our state's heritage by placing an Ohio Historical Marker to tell the story of the church and its importance to Cuyahoga County.

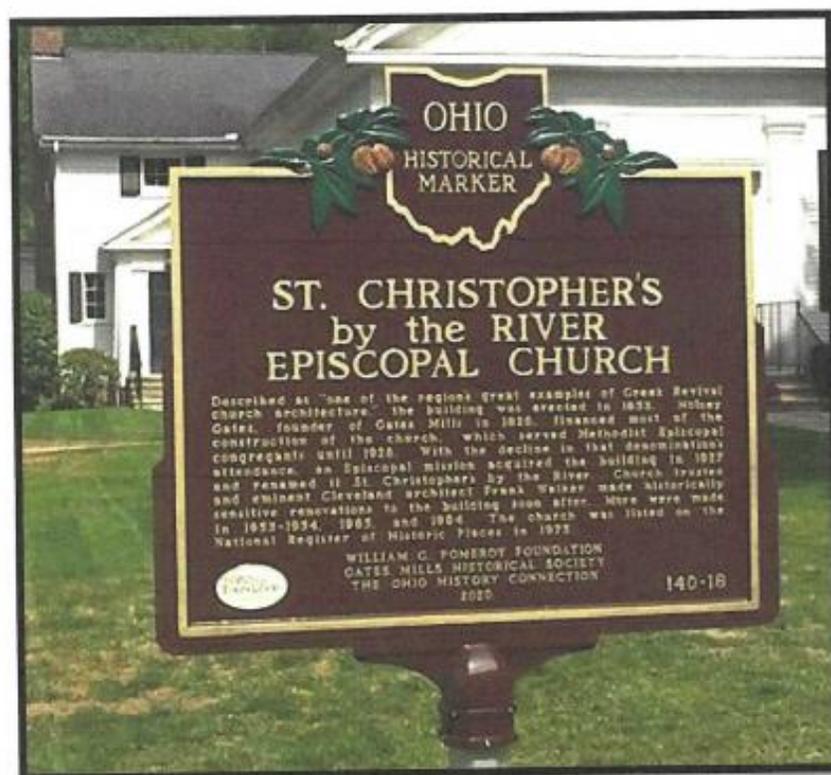
Holsey Gates built the church in 1853 across from his tavern, the Eagle Tavern, later called the Maple Leaf Inn. This inn eventually became The Hunt Club which was destroyed by fire in 1935 and again in 1994. Many small churches similar to St. Christopher's are scattered over northeast Ohio. What distinguishes St. Christopher's from other still standing Western Reserve churches built at the same time is not its style but the remarkable conservation of its structure and particularly of its surroundings. Many other churches are in poor condition and remain among other abandoned buildings.



Holsey Gates' church consisted of the present vestibule, the tower and the main body of the sanctuary, with its 3 windows on each side, as it is today. The comparison of the structure with other small country churches of the period shows that this was a good-sized religious building for its time, testifying to the prosperity of Gates Mills in the 1800s.

The church hosted circuit riding Methodist preachers for the first 75 years, and there have been Sunday services without interruption at what is now St. Christopher's for 150 years. Episcopal Vesper Services on Sundays during the summer began in 1906.

Much of the renovation of the historic landmark itself was led by the classical architect Frank R. Walker in 1928, who also presided over a number of Gates Mills projects and was our first mayor. There have been renovations since.



You are all welcome to visit St. Christopher's. You may have noticed our pages in the Pink Sheet. We have a beautiful historic church built a long time ago but with many new things to offer.

Come to the Bell Concerts by Becky Come to a Grief Group Come to a Church School Class

Come to a Zoom Evening Prayer Group Come to a Church Service Come Visit

Come sit in our Garden by the River We welcome you all!

Volunteering Has Gone On Line

Adjusting to Covid-19, volunteering has gone online at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Shelter instead of in-person service.

One of the weekly Zoom workshops is Finding Voice Poetry, now in its 11th year at the shelter. Shelter residents are using laptops to connect with volunteers, including 4 students from John Carroll University. Becky Everett has occasionally joined the group where we read published poetry, then discuss & write our own. Becky wrote a poem today which, with a little arm twisting, she shared. One shelter resident, Lawrence, liked the poem so much he asked Becky for a copy...

Where do I go from Here?

Breathe

Don't rush - take your time

Open up yourself to others and take them in as well

Move forward

Observe

Hear others and accept them

Listen to that inner voice

Find your inner joy and let it bubble into the world

Love without exception!

-Becky Everett

Finding Voice Poetry occurs Mondays, 1:00-2:30 at this link: <https://zoom.us/j/91859363589>

No prior experience necessary, please join us!

If poetry is not your thing, please join us at the online **Current Events Discussion group, Fridays, 1:00-2:30** at this link: <https://zoom.us/j/93223963709>

Shelter residents and volunteers discuss the news of the day, facilitated by seasoned volunteers and four John Carroll University students.

We would love to have you join us.

Gratefully, Deacon Lydia Bailey+



lutheran
metropolitan
ministry

listening. serving. empowering.

Help us collect housewarming packages which are given to shelter residents who have reached their goal of leaving the shelter and moving into their own apartments. In order to help with this transition, they need the following items, purchased new:

laundry soap	can openers
dish soap	bar soap/body wash
cleanser	shampoo
spray cleaner	toothpaste/tooth brush
paper towels	toilet paper
deodorant	plastic containers
dish towels	dish rags

Please place any donated items (in boxes or bags) into the brown storage container, marked Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, next to the side door of the church. Thank you for your generosity and help with this important ministry! God Bless you all!

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Kindly keep up with your giving.

St. Christopher's depends on their members donations. Checks may be mailed to PO Box 519, Gates Mills, 44040 or you may give electronically through our website:

www.stchrisbytheriver.org



ST. CHRISTOPHER
BY-THE-RIVER
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
www.stchrisbytheriver.org

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

The Rev. Ann Kidder, Rector
stchris.motherann@gmail.com

Sunday Services

Outdoor Service at 9AM.
Find our weekly worship on
[YouTube](#).

Parish Office

Currently closed to visitors.
440-423-4451
stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

October 2020 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

Opportunities to Study, Worship, and Chat Together

October 4, 11, 18, 25

- You must make a reservation to attend (40 spots available)
- You must make new reservations for EACH Sunday
- Bring your own chair and Prayer Book
- Wear a mask
- Keep 6 Feet apart

Outdoor
Worship
Service

9:00 AM

Evening Prayer

Thursdays, 5:00

Outside, Bring a Chair

