

St. Christopher by-the-River
Episcopal Church
2020 Annual Report



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**Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of The Parish of St. Christopher by-the-River
Held on March 1, 2020
Respectfully Submitted, Irene McMullen, Clerk**

The Annual Meeting of St. Christopher's by-the-River Parish was called to order by Mother Ann, following the 10:15 AM service, at 11:22 AM. Mother Ann led a prayer.

Mother Ann noted that there were at least thirty-five (35) electors in attendance. Mother Ann especially mentioned the valuable service of Lydia Bailey. Mother Ann acknowledged and thanked the outgoing Vestry members.

Irene McMullen moved to amend the draft 2018 Annual Meeting minutes, with three corrections noted. Dan McMullen seconded the Motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Becky Everett moved to adopt the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes, as amended. Dan McMullen seconded the Motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Becky Everett, chair of the Nominating Committee reported on the nominations made by the Nominating Committee. David Hauserman was thanked for his service. His family has relocated to Georgia, so he resigned from the Vestry. Becky Everett nominated Charley Marston, Judy Holmes and Mary Holmes to be elected to the Vestry, for three-year terms. Becky reported that ten parishioners had nominated Tom Matthews to the open two-year term on the Vestry. Becky also nominated Peter Batcheler to be the NEMAC 2020-2021 representative from the Parish. Mother Ann closed the nominations. Randy Cole moved that all nominations be approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

John Irwin thanked the congregation for their service and support during his time as Senior Warden.

Becky Everett, Junior Warden, thanked all for the work at the church which had been undertaken this year. She especially mentioned VanCuren Tree Service, who donated their services and removed trees. The riverbank project has been completed. The Guild was thanked for their role in the ongoing maintenance of the Guild Room.

Mother Ann thanked the parish and staff for their service.

Randy Cole moved to conclude the meeting. Dan McMullen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST (before COVID hit!)



RECTOR'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mother Ann Kidder

2020 brought challenges to our personal and corporate lives that we will not soon forget. Sadly, the year started with the burial of Jerry Loth, soon followed by Tim Scott's death at the end of February. We did not have another death in the parish throughout 2020, for which I am very grateful. When the parish has to part with long-time, beloved members of the community, it creates an empty place; in the pew, at the altar rail, and in our hearts. Some members of our parish and their families did contract covid-19 in the past year. I am so very grateful that, to my knowledge, no one in the parish has died from this terrible disease. There are many parishes in our Diocese which have not been so fortunate.

Little did we know then that we would soon share Communion with each other for the last time in 2020 on March 8th. The pandemic has revealed many things about our resiliency, creativity, patience, faithfulness, and spiritual strength. Like many, even in the midst of the first spike in cases, I assumed that the pandemic would be behind us by June at the latest. When the Women's Guild voted to suspend Bargain Box until the fall of 2021, I knew we were in this for the long haul! Outreach and service to the wider community has been a hallmark of St. Christopher's for generations and the pandemic brought new challenges to that aspect of our parish life. Creativity and resilience, however, meant that our service in the name of Christ continued in spite of numerous challenges and restrictions. Please be sure to read the reports from Deacon Lydia Bailey and the Women's Guild printed elsewhere in this Annual Report to learn more about our continued service to the community.

Holy Week and Easter were fast approaching when public worship was suspended. Thanks to Yuri and John McElliott, John Irwin, Becky Everett, and (on Easter) David Ellis, we were able to put together online versions of Palm Sunday and the Great Vigil of Easter. In addition to the above, Becky Everett's gift to us of Sunday carillon concerts lifted us all during those early days, and again through the Advent and Christmas seasons.

The three "waves" of infections meant that we worshiped remotely for most of the year, with brief times of in-person worship in-between long stretches of YouTube and Zoom worship.

Yuri and John McElliott, John Irwin, and Deacon Lydia Bailey have faithfully pooled their time and talents to produce the Sunday worship services which John Irwin posts to YouTube each week. Becky Everett, David Ellis, Gretchen Fisher, Anna and Lily Klinginsmith, Alexis and Race Matthews, and John and Joshua McElliott all contributed their musical abilities to enhance our worship experiences.

In the Church's red Service Book, I recorded "Zoom" as the location of Evening Prayer for the first time on Thursday, March 19th. We have met for Evening Prayer on Zoom every Thursday since. Zoom has been a true saving grace during this time. Besides Thursday Evening Prayer, Zoom has made it possible for our Tuesday and Wednesday morning book discussion groups. In 2020 we read and discussed *Crazy Christians*, *White Fragility*, *The Hope of Glory*, and *The Purpose Driven Life*. Zoom also allowed our Stephen Ministers, and Grief Support Group to meet in a continuation of those ministries. In the fall, when our children could not return to Sunday School, Sunday School came to them in the form of Family Worship on, yes, Zoom! Our weekly Wardens Meetings, Vestry Meetings, and even a number of parochial visits all were able to continue thanks to Zoom.

In an effort to ensure that our members without internet were not isolated from the rest of the parish, the Vestry, Daughters of The King, and Stephen Ministers have all been faithful about calling or sending notes. When they become aware of any pastoral need, they notify me so that I can reach out to offer care. Together, they have helped to keep the fabric of our common life strong. This fall we added a weekly mini newsletter, which is mailed to anyone who does not receive our monthly newsletter online.

In spite of the challenges that we faced, in many ways our life as the people of St. Christopher's went on. This year we welcomed the Amefia family, who transferred from St. Paul's and on June 28th I baptized Maxwell Yao

Amefia in the backyard of his parents' home, witnessed by his close family and friends, all masked and safely distanced. Those couples who were scheduled to be married at St. Christopher's in 2020 each went through a process of discernment. Weddings were rescheduled for later in 2020 or into 2021. Three couples decided to proceed with their weddings in 2020 and I am so pleased to have officiated for each couple on their wedding day. Molly Nook and Stephen Hildebrant were married on the Church's front lawn on August 8th. Christina DeBaz and Zachary Splain were married on a roof-top pavilion in Columbus on August 15th. Teri Ianni and Patrick Manning were married on the side lawn of St. Christopher's, exchanging their vows atop the garden "mount" overlooking the Chagrin River, on September 12th. In Early November, just before in-person worship was suspended (again), I had the privilege of baptizing Elizabeth Mueller, whose parents were married at St. Christopher's. At the end of 2020 I transferred the membership of Linda Webb to the care of the Rector of St. James' in Painesville. While I am always sad to say goodbye to a parishioner, in this case Linda's transfer also brought some joy since this move enables her to share life more fully with her beloved Eric, a long-time parishioner at St. James'. We will miss her, but Linda and Eric have promised to visit and worship with us on occasion.

Thanks to many months of work by Irene McMullen and Jim Pender, through the generosity of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, last summer saw the installation of our Historical Marker. Unable to gather a large group in 2020 for celebrating this addition to our community, we look forward to a community wide dedication ceremony in 2021. The Blessing of the Hunt was also a "no go" this year so I was delighted to be able to Bless the Beagles on the back lawn of the Hunt Club on September 20th. This year, as I have said above, was challenging and different but it certainly had its joys as well! On the following Sunday we had a Blessing of the Animals (13 dogs, 1 bird, 1 horse, and 10 cats).

The greatest sign that life and ministry continue to move forward in spite of the pandemic may be the Vestry's decision during the summer to seriously explore the possibility of a licensed Pre-K program at St. Christopher's. As a result of interviews with Village leaders during the summer of 2019 (part of the Vestry's long-range planning process), we discovered that there is a genuine need in our community for a quality Pre-K program. If you have somehow missed out on knowing about this exploratory process, check out the July, August, September, and November vestry minutes printed in each Newsletter beginning with the September issue. (A special Vestry Meeting was held on January 13th regarding "next steps" and I hope that you will take time to read the Vestry Minutes in 2021 as we continue to explore this exciting possibility.)

The leadership of this parish – our Wardens, Vestry, and all of you who participate in the many ministries of St. Christopher's were vital to our ability to carry on in the face of a persistently pernicious challenge to our lives. Rotating off Vestry this year are Mary Murray and Jim Pender. Thank you both for your devoted work on behalf of our parish. I am happy to report that Mary Murray will continue to serve our parish as Treasurer. Becky Everett has agreed to be nominated for a second Vestry term. Thank you Becky! In saying farewell to Linda Webb, we also lost one of our parish representatives to our Mission Area Council. Linda served as, in my opinion, the best Secretary NEMAC has had.

It takes all of us together to truly be "the Body of Christ" at St. Christopher's and a vital part of the Body are our amazing Staff who made necessary adjustments and carried on. Yuri McElliott, Peggy Reda, Melanie Reda, Mary Zup, Lucy and Luis Calvo, Jolyon Welsh, (and Office Volunteer, Becky Everett) have my deepest appreciation and gratitude. I hope and trust that you all know how very fortunate we are to have them as part of our St. Christopher's team.

As we begin a new year with vaccine hopefulness of a return to "normal" may we not forget what we have learned about resiliency, creativity, patience, faithfulness, and spiritual strength in 2020. May God continue to bless us and increase our service to "the least of these" in 2021.

God's Peace and Blessings be with you, Ann+

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
Respectfully submitted by Charley Marston

As I prepare to write this report, I am reminded of the wonderful letter our Stewardship chairman, Mary Holmes, wrote last Autumn regarding the many aspects of stewardship carried out at St Christopher-by-the-River and so will use a similar theme.

Stewardship: "The responsibility of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization, property or mission."

Stewardship is a big word and one that has been an important focus of the families of St. Christopher by the River since it was founded. It is a never-ending responsibility which challenges us all to contemplate and act upon our personal commitment to the success of our parish.

While the word is most commonly used to discuss finances, we believe it suggests a far greater goal.

How as a community have we defined our mission? How have we executed on that mission?

Do we have the ability to expand on our desire to be a positive force in our congregation, our community, and beyond?

"Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change The World."

Here we are in the midst of a crisis which has impeded our ability to fully execute on our mission. But it is worthwhile to comment on the many activities which our church community undertakes to give those simple words meaning.



Central to our mission is the wonderful process of gathering on a regular basis to worship, be inspired, and provide friendship and caring for one another. Thank you Yuri and John McElliott, Becky Everett, our bell ringers and our choir for your beautiful music. Thank you all Eucharistic ministers, readers, ushers, and Altar Guild Ladies. Thank you Deacon Lydia Bailey, and especially thank you Mother Ann and John Irwin for delivering your message during this unusual time.

While it is also noteworthy that many of us watch the Sunday service online as well as partake of the Thursday afternoon Evening Prayer, education and coffee hour on Zoom, it is regrettable that many of our programs are toned down or on hold. However, we know that this crisis will end and we soon will be fired up and ready to go. What is not toned down is the work ethic of our staff led by Mother Ann. Mary, Luis and Lucy you have stayed resolutely on the job and maintained your pleasant/helpful personalities throughout this ordeal.

While the word utopia exists in the English language, we know that in reality there is no such place. Terrible things happen and when they do we are called upon to respond.

Foremost in this activity is the Stephen Ministry under the professional leadership of Kathy Pender. There are presently nine members in this group. They meet with an individual having a difficult time and provide care by listening, supporting, encouraging, praying, and being dependable and trustworthy in a very confidential fashion. Thank you Kathy and your teammates. You are terrific.

Special prayers and other means of contact are also beneficial and well received. That is why Mother Ann coordinates their process with special prayer sessions and our Daughters of the King also noted a void and responded with their prayers and inspirational messages like birthday cards.

If you would like to join any of these groups, please speak to Mother Ann.

For many decades the Women's Guild has been a driving force in helping us understand the human existence, the problems we face and ways to be helpful where possible. Though presently stalled, The Bargain Box has been an incredibly successful endeavor - a win-win for everyone. Items no longer needed by someone go to those who do

at “bargain prices” and we have given hundreds of thousands of dollars to needy organizations throughout the greater Cleveland area and beyond. Thank you, Carolyn Misko, and all you devoted workers.

The Episcopal Church has a tremendous message to deliver especially as it comes to young children. That is why we have always encouraged families to partake of the church school and appreciate its existence under the direction of Peggy Reda with the help of Debbie Cole, Paulette Matthews, and Melanie Reda.

In addition to many organizations receiving monetary support in our outreach effort, we like being a benefit to our community in other ways. For many years Debbie and Randy Cole have spearheaded our effort to feed meals to needy persons. More recently we have been volunteering at the Lutheran Men’s Shelter under the leadership of our Deacon, Lydia Bailey. Our volunteers often comment about how good they feel as they note the grateful expressions on the faces of folks as they pass by.

Additionally, Chagrin Valley Watershed Partners and Alcoholics Anonymous use our church for meetings free of charge and we even have had the local Cub Scouts here before the virus hit. We want them all back as soon as possible.

Almost everyone reading this report participates in one or more of the aforementioned activities. You should feel very good about what you do, and I thank you.

Finally, as you all recognize, it is not possible to engage in our mission without financial support. In recent years we have had or almost had balanced budgets. This year our Treasure’s report indicates that in 2020 our expenses have exceeded our usual income and it appears to be the case in 2021. Please increase your support if possible.

In conclusion, being a positive force in our community has always been our mission and has a deep history of devotion and successful stewardship. That desire still exists today and, with your help, will grow stronger as the pandemic subsides and we return to normalcy in 2021.

MUSIC REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Yuri Sato McElliott, Music Director

2020 was a year unlike any other. I had never imagined not having in person church services every Sunday; especially on Easter Sunday, Advent, and Christmas Eve. Since coronavirus restrictions made it impossible for our choirs to meet, I am so grateful to all the people who helped me put the service music together each week.

Thanks especially to Gretchen Fisher, Anna and Lily Klinginsmith, Race and Alexis Matthews, John McElliott and Joshua McElliott for singing; to Paulette Matthews for rehearsing Race and Alexis; to David Ellis for playing the Cello; to Becky Everett for playing the Carillon and hand chimes; to John McElliott for playing the recorder and to Joshua McElliott for playing the violin. Your hard work and unique talents are appreciated by the entire congregation. Thank you very much.

Some different challenges for the music department this year have included making audio recordings at home and at church, editing audio files (big thanks to my husband John McElliott every week!) and sorting out copyright clearances for the music used in our on-line services.

Needless to say, I am very much looking forward to the time when our choirs can return and we can all worship and sing together!

Outdoor Worship



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Becky Everett

It is with the greatest pleasure that I have been able to serve as your Junior Warden this past year. Having the support of our outstanding Rector, Senior Warden, and Vestry as well as the support of the parishioners has meant the world to me!

While the past year has been very quiet when it comes to the presence of all of you at church on Sundays and throughout each week due to Covid 19 restrictions, work continues on keeping our church and grounds in good repair! The landscaping project was completed this past Spring . New planting was added in the side yard, and Fran Meyers and Mary Holmes were helpful in designing and planting perennials in the small garden surrounding the St. Christopher statue. Work will continue on this project this Spring. Two Adirondack chairs were purchased and placed by the river in the side yard, as well, so that people can visit and have a comfortable and quiet place to reflect and/or pray.



New fencing and a new lamppost were installed in front of the church and around the rectory patio. The brick wall at the side door of the church was repaired as well as the steps at the front and side entrances of the church. Our sexton also repainted the black railings by each of these doors.

The rectory had a few repairs which included a new air conditioner, a new dishwasher and the replacement of a heating element in the oven. The fascia board underneath the gutter on the sun porch was also repaired and reinforced. Over the next year, or so, I anticipate the vestry looking at all the repairs/updates needed at the rectory and developing a plan to address them.

Twice this past year, the river has paid us a visit and managed to flood the basement. On both occasions, dedicated parishioners and church staff came down and helped with this crisis. Consequently, there was very little damage to the church. My gratitude goes out to these individuals! The church now has three portable pumps to address any future water issues in the basement.



Finally, Mother Nature sent that big snowstorm this past December which resulted in the loss of a number of tree branches from the oak, hemlocks and arbor vitae in the side yard. These have been cleaned up and removed.



Thank you to everyone for the help, support and confidence you have placed in me as your Junior Warden. It has been an honor to serve you in that capacity this past year.

Prayers, Blessings, and Best Wishes to you all!

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S FUND REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Kurt Liljedahl

Fund A:

Market value on 12/31/2020: \$2,658,905

Investment and Admin Fees in 2020: \$18,450

Tax Preparation Fee: \$1,400

Fund B:

Market value as of 12/31/2020: \$97,818

Investment and Admin Fees in 2020: \$667

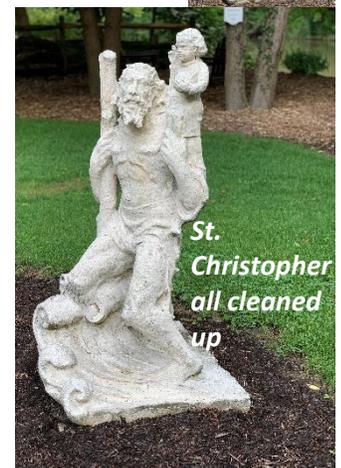
Tax Preparation Fee: \$0



In accordance with the spending policy for the year 2020, the Fund *distributed a total of \$131,706* to St. Christopher by-the-River's operating funds. Distributions are made on a quarterly basis.

Total gifts to the fund in 2020 were \$28,044. 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 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.



TREASURER'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mary Murray

Last year, we were pleased at the solid response to our 2020 Stewardship campaign and budgeted for a modest increase in pledges and plate collection. We could not have foreseen the pandemic and consequent severe financial impact on our membership and every sector of the economy. In 2020, actual total pledge and plate collections fell by 14.8% year over year and, with expenses coming in close to budget, we experienced a deficit of just over \$35 thousand. Since year end, we have received approximately \$13 thousand of belated collections which would have reduced the deficit to \$22 thousand. With our primarily cash-based accounting system, we will record these as Prior Year Receipts in the 2021 financial reporting. As did many other parishes, we applied for PPP and SBA loans and grants, receiving a combined total of \$50 thousand. We have applied for payment forgiveness of these amounts under the terms of the program and expect to receive this in the first half of this year. Per normal accounting practices, we did not include these one-time funds in our 2020 receipts; we expect to recognize the income upon forgiveness. Until forgiveness has been received, the \$50 thousand is reflected in current liabilities on our balance sheet.

The Parish continues to rely on the support of The St. Christopher Fund to an appropriate degree, receiving \$131 thousand, representing 5.25% of the Fund's average assets over the last 12 quarters. We also held the line on expenses which increased a very modest 2% in 2020. Our small staff has not had salary and wage increases in a number of years but the Church as well as the Rectory must be insured, maintained and climate-controlled, despite our not being able to hold indoor services for most of the year. Floods and winter storm damage contributed to higher property related expenses in 2020. We continue to examine expenses closely.

Our conservative balance sheet and the PPP funds have been important in our maintaining financial health despite the actual and anticipated operating losses.

A summary of recent financial performance with highlights of our balance sheet along with the 2021 operating budget is shown below

	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Pledges and Plate	\$ 214,783	\$ 237,811	\$ 238,123	\$ 248,276	\$ 257,000	\$ 218,581	\$ 231,500
St. Christopher's Fund	\$ 129,914	\$ 130,310	\$ 126,178	\$ 127,612	\$ 127,600	\$ 131,706	\$ 130,900
Other Income	\$ 7,571	\$ 26,305	\$ 18,261	\$ 22,735	\$ 21,000	\$ 19,217	\$ 16,600
Total Receipts	\$ 352,268	\$ 394,426	\$ 382,562	\$ 398,623	\$ 405,600	\$ 369,504	\$ 379,000
Outside Parish Expenses	\$ 47,931	\$ 51,550	\$ 53,337	\$ 54,319	\$ 55,335	\$ 54,559	\$ 53,400
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 241,594	\$ 251,922	\$ 266,528	\$ 266,665	\$ 270,400	\$ 272,231	\$ 279,000
Operating Expenses	\$ 65,780	\$ 75,897	\$ 72,436	\$ 76,165	\$ 78,730	\$ 77,932	\$ 74,800
Total Expenses	\$ 355,305	\$ 379,369	\$ 392,301	\$ 397,149	\$ 404,465	\$ 404,722	\$ 409,000
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (3,037)	\$ 15,057	\$ (9,739)	\$ 1,474	\$ 1,135	\$ (35,218)	\$ (30,000)
Balance Sheet Highlights							
Cash and Liquid Invs			\$570,553	\$545,597		\$579,147	
Current Liabilities			\$ 97,524	\$ 60,761		\$119,513	
Capital and Organ Reserve Funds			\$288,654	\$269,101		\$280,910	
All Other Reserves			\$ 69,785	\$ 51,492		\$ 34,732	
Unrestricted Net Assets			\$114,590	\$164,244		\$143,993	

2021 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Holmes

Charley Marston got us off to a splendid start by giving us this direction, stewardship is “The responsibility of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization, property or mission.”

In the case of St. Christopher’s by the River, we, the parishioners, are responsible for all of those things, most importantly our mission to love God, love our neighbor, change the world. In addition to our worship and study, the building and grounds, the organization of staff and volunteers support our mission and we are responsible for their upkeep and maintenance as well.

In essence, stewardship is what we do. When I drive by the church or join an online service or meeting, I am humbled that I have been given this treasure to care for and grow. I know many parishioners feel the same way as our campaign to raise money to keep the worship, building, grounds, outreach and care for each other alive went well during this time of uncertainty and inability to be together.

The budget for 2021 reflects the continued support of all. However, there is much to be done to reach our long-term goals of engaging new families and increasing our service to others. We welcome your thoughts and energy during 2021 toward reaching those goals.

For 2021, we received 77 pledges, totaling \$164,176.00. We have 13 donors who give their contributions through a recurring online donation.

The Stewardship Working Group

Brian Currutt, Mary Holmes (chair), Mother Ann Kidder, Lucy Lytle, Charley Marston, Mary Murray and Jim Pender

FAITH DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Reda, Director of Sunday School

Faith Development - Virtually and Long Distance! Most importantly, we send our virtual hugs and blessings to all the children and their families! We can hardly wait to be together in our classrooms, safely.

With gratitude to Mother Ann, we have managed to offer the 11 O’Clock Morning Family Worship each Sunday via Zoom. The link is included in the weekly Schedule of Events email. Although attendance has been, understandably, varying, it is always wonderful to see the children! We invite all families to join us. The worship is about 30 minutes long.

Approximately every other month a packet is mailed out to all the Church School children with materials covering the church seasons and two to three Bible stories, per our curriculum. Materials include word searches, crossword puzzles, coloring pages and different crafts. If you would like a packet to be sent to your children, please email Mrs. Reda at prseverin@aol.com. We’d love to make them available. We have been told that the children love to have the parents share the activities.

The Christmas Pageant was made possible through the hard work and many hours of time of Mr. John Irwin, Mrs. Debbie Cole and the Matthews family. The Zoom Pageant included Alex and Race Matthews, Charley, Danny and their Dad, Emery Vazzana and her dad Matt, Maxwell Amefia, Scott Broome, Stella Schmidt, Miss Melanie Reda (narrator) and volunteers behind the scenes. Hopefully you experienced the Pageant on YouTube. Thank you to all who participated!!

As the together time with the children in the classroom has been paused, we urge all families to take the time to unpack the large, brown envelopes that will be coming in the mail and discover what is inside. We all need to keep our faith alive. Read a Bible story each week and pray. Let the children hear the Word of God. We all need Him. Take the hand of your child(grandchild) and lead him/her to a greater faith. ---Blessings for 2021!

WORSHIP REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Zup

A special Thank you to John Irwin for the recording, editing and posting of weekly services online. Also a special thank you to Becky Everett who has performed many Sunday morning, as well as a Christmas Eve, Carillon Bell concerts.



We thank all the Parishioners who were involved in our Church Services in 2020 prior to shutting down in person gatherings, as:

1. Eucharistic Ministers (EM)

Peter Batcheller	John Irwin	Fran Meyers	Kitty Thomas
Randy Cole	Charley Marston	Melanie Reda	
Dale Gnant	Beth Miller	Sandra Redmond	

2. Lectors

Peter Batcheller	Judy Holmes	Tom Matthews	Fran Sarkisian
Victoria Connell	Mary Holmes	Kathi Mitchell	Courtney Schmidt
Mona DeBaz	Teri Ianni	Kathy Pender	Kitty Thomas
Chandler Everett	John Irwin	Chris Pucell	Sue Thorpe
David Hauserman	Cornelia Lee	Sandra Redmond	Joyce Welsh
Darlene Hauserman	Charley Marston		

3. Ushers

Brian Wright
 Rik Bole
 Kurt Liljedahl
 David and Darlene Hauserman
 Cornelia and Ron Lee
 Peter & Sandy Batcheller



Socially Distanced Worship

4. **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, Chandler & Becky Everett and Janet Hargrave have this license.

5. **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.

HOSTESS REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Zup

Due to COVID-19, we had the opportunity to gather less than a dozen times in fellowship for coffee hour. Thank you to those who provided their time and savories & sweets:

Laura Cotton	Mary Holmes	Lindsey McMillion	Jean Ramsey
Charlene Currutt	Nancy Irwin	Mary Murray	Sandra Redmond
Rebecca Everett	Cornelia Lee	Keri Osolin	
Gretchen Fisher	Tillie Malm	Barb Pesuit	
Janet Hargrave	Sue Marston	Christina Pucell	

ALTAR GUILD REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Marcia Alpers

Due to the pandemic, our group was not as active this past year as usual. Our membership totaled 15 women (listed below) who prepared the altar for all services prior to the cancellation of in person worship. In person worship was suspended after March 15th of this year.

Before Christmas, the altar was decorated with poinsettias which were later sent to shut ins. Our thanks to Janet Hargrave who prepared and delivered the Altar flowers to our shut ins during the first quarter prior to the shutdown.

Due to the pandemic, lives wreaths were placed on the church doors each week in place of altar flowers. Our group also provided palm crosses that were sent to many parishioners.

The Altar Guild women are dedicated in their service to the church. We appreciate the time and talent they give.

Marcia Alpers '88	Judy Eakin '16	Teri Ianni '16	Carolyn Miscko '93
Sally Conley '09	Nicki Henry '07	Neal Lee '16	Mary Murray '05
Laura Cotton '16	Renee Kolecki '19	Loni Todd-Lorenz '14	Jean Ramsey, III '92
Rosalie Della Ratta '11		Sue Marston '91	Courtney Schmidt '19

CO-DIRECTORESSES: Marcia Alpers and Sue Marston
FLOWERS: Carolyn Miscko, Janet Hargrave
WEDDINGS: Marcia Alpers, Sally Conley, Nicki Henry, Sue Marston
LINENS: Sally Conley, Jean Ramsey

Emeritus Members: Jane Battles '95, Polly Bixler '95, Helen Cicirello '85



ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
Respectfully Submitted by Becky Everett

The Daughters of the King is an order whose members undertake a Rule of Life which incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. Each Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. We are also dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of the parish.

We have four Daughters here at St. Christopher by the River. Becky Everett, Kathy Pender, Annette Lowe and Debbie Cole. We would welcome anyone who has an interest in becoming a Daughter. Please feel free to contact any one of us. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have and help you to determine if this group is the right one for you.

While the past year has been challenging for us all, the Daughters of the King have been faithfully practicing our Rule of Prayer in lieu of meeting in person each month. In addition to specific prayer requests we've received, please know we have also been praying for all of you each and every day throughout this pandemic. God willing, we hope this coming year brings us all back together, in person!

Please remember that there is a prayer box in the narthex where you can place any prayer(s) you wish. We promise to add those people/prayers to our daily prayer list, keeping the request totally confidential.

If you are looking to enhance your spiritual life and gain a devoted, caring sisterhood, please consider joining our order.

MOTTO OF THE ORDER

For His sake...	What I can do, I ought to do.
I am but one, but I am one.	What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.	Lord, what will you have me do?

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

The Women's Guild enjoyed one program in January at the Museum of Modern Porcelain Art before the COVID - 19 quarantine.

The only other activity during the remainder of the year was disbursing \$15,000 from the Vestry and \$1700 from parishioners for our annual outreach donations. A heartfelt thankyou to the Vestry and our fellow parishioners who made these gifts possible. Our simplified treasurer's report reflects these donations.

We are looking ahead to a fall Bargain Box in 2021.

WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Elise Bennett, Guild Treasurer

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S GUILD 2020 OUTREACH DONATIONS

<u>INCOME SOURCE</u>	<u>REVISED</u>
	<u>2020 BUDGET</u>
FUNDS FOR OUTREACH FROM VESTRY	15,000.00
ADDITIONAL DONATIONS	2,681.00
2020 INCOME	\$ 17,681.00

OUTREACH 2020 DISBURSEMENTS

Cleveland Food Bank	2,500.00
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem	250.00
Episcopal West Side Ministry	4,000.00
Gathering Place	500.00
Hospice	1,000.00
Meals on Wheels (Hillcrest & Chagrin)	250.00
New Directions	500.00
Family Promise (Formerly:New Life Community)	1,000.00
WomenSafe	1,000.00
City Mission	2,000.00
Lutheran Ministry	2,500.00
 <u>ADDITIONAL OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS (paid in 2021)</u>	
Cleveland Food Bank	\$ 1,000.00
Meals on Wheels (Hillcrest & Chagrin)	500.00
Seeds of Literacy	200.00
OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS	17,200.00

GRIEF GROUP
Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Pender

The Grief Support Group was formed in the fall of 2019 to meet on certain Tuesday evenings as scheduled from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. This group is open to members of St. Christopher’s Church as well as the community. This has been a good way to introduce people to our church to show them what services we provide.

The people who have attended this group have remarked how much the support has helped them deal with their painful journey of grief. The group offers companionship and understanding from others who have experienced similar challenges that living with grief brings. This year our group needed to participate by Zoom due to the pandemic which made it a bit more difficult but everyone was able to adjust as best they could .

It has been my privilege to be the facilitator of this group of people who are willing to share their stories and feelings that are painful. The dates and times of the group are posted in the church newsletter.

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 parish. These Stephen Ministers have had 50 hours of training and also have bi-monthly supervision and continuing education to keep their skills current.

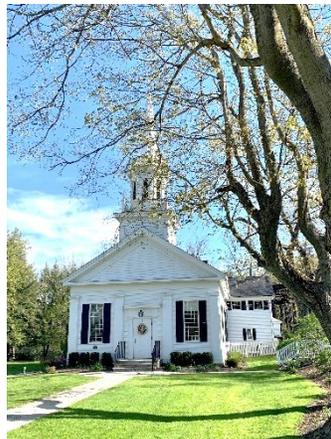
Because of the pandemic, we have had to adjust the way we provide our contact with our parishioners. We have used weekly phone calls to keep in touch and also have had other Stephen Ministers make additional phone calls as well. It has been even more difficult for people because of the isolation and lack of being able to get out and have social contact.

Many of these “care receivers” already experience loneliness, illness, perhaps loss whether it be death, loss of a job, a move. These relationships are strictly confidential; names are not used or revealed at Stephen Minister meetings. 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 meet with Mother Ann on a regular basis to update her on what the Stephen Ministers and our program are accomplishing. She also contributes valuable ideas to our program.

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 and years.

Their service is surely following the message of our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ.



OUTREACH AT LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY

Respectfully Submitted by Deacon Lydia Bailey

While the pandemic caused a temporary suspension of the *onsite* Volunteer Program at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Homeless Shelter in 2020, parishioners' involvement at LMM continued on several fronts.

Up until March, an average of 5 parishioners had served lunch monthly at the shelter. Others were volunteering in the shelter's computer lab or helped out in an art therapy workshop. Several had participated in a training for the shelter's pastoral listening program. Existing Stephen Ministers at Church had all the skills needed to talk with shelter residents in a supportive, confidential way. In short, the experience of being at the shelter, getting to know those who are homeless, had generated enthusiasm, and an interest in learning more about the root causes of homelessness. There was a vital element in the service reported by parishioners which could be called the "Holy Spirit factor."

Not long after COVID put a halt to all this, those who had served lunch asked how else they might help.

- Several parishioners donated money to fund a full meal - which is no small feat when you consider feeding 400+ individuals.
- Those who had been part of the Listening Program training now were given shelter residents to talk with by telephone, referred by LMM case workers who knew these clients could benefit from a Listener. One Stephen Minister tells us she formed a friendship which she will never forget.
- Another joined the shelter's *Finding Voice Poetry* workshop which was now meeting weekly on Zoom.
- The Women's Guild, along with individuals, donated a significant amount to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's *Breaking New Ground Affordable Housing Campaign*. Previously, the Director of Development at LMM had visited St. Christopher's in 2019, presenting on this new initiative. Hearing that the lack of affordable housing is the leading cause of homelessness in the nation, parishioners heard about the 20 homes LMM is renovating for families who are transitioning out of homelessness.
- St. Christopher's was well represented at a mid-summer Shelter Volunteer Zoom gathering with 68 others – sharing experiences of volunteering and what meant most.
- Gates Mills as a community stepped up through a donation drive of housewares for men moving into housing. Advertised in the Pink Sheet, the response was strong. Through this process, St. Christopher's is spreading the word on Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry and the issues associated with homelessness.

This began as a short paragraph for purposes of the Annual Report. The contributions of this parish, however, have been expansive – so now I've written a small book. I am very grateful for all of you at St. Christopher's. Here's to another year of service in 2021!



2020 NEMAC Annual Report
Respectfully Submitted by Linda Webb, NEMAC Secretary 2018-2020

Purpose. NEMAC — Northeast Council Mission Area Congregations — of which we are a member, held four quarterly meetings last year, hosted by Mother Rose Anne Lonsway at Grace Episcopal Church, Willoughby. St. Christopher had representation at each. One meeting was in-person; the rest were held through Zoom. Our NEMAC member parishes are:

Christ Church, Geneva; Epiphany, Euclid; Grace, Willoughby; St. Andrew, Mentor; St. Bart, Mayfield Village; St. Christopher; St. Hubert, Kirtland Hills; St. James, Painesville; St. Luke, Chardon; St. Martin, Chagrin Falls; Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst and St. Peter, Ashtabula.

The average meeting attendance for the four 2020 meetings was three Priests — and 11 Lay Reps.

Representation with the Diocese. Each mission area group has one representative for Diocesan Council, a group responsible for the development, implementation and oversight for programming and budget for the Diocese of Ohio. The 2020 Diocesan Council has also focused on ongoing efforts to educate itself about racism and white privilege, and considering how best to provide support to parishes working to eliminate racism through education and advocacy. In 2020, the Diocesan Council committed to creating a three-year vestry leadership program (called LEAD) designed to educate and equip vestry leaders for the good work of growing the body of Christ in our time and forever. Reports about Council and their efforts have been provided by our Diocesan Council NEMAC representative Mother Lisa O’Rear, St. Andrew.

Collaborative Mission Work. Based upon our efforts to foster collaboration among the 12 NEMAC parishes to promote working together to deliver mission outreach projects, we now look for requests across multiple parishes. This report is consistent with Episcopal Law, Canon 3.

Requests and Funding. In 2020, we continued accepting new requests using our internally-developed funding request form so members can provide a consistent set of information describing a proposed project for review and voting by NEMAC members. Copies of the form in both MS Word and PDF are attached. The following projects were approved for funding during 2020:

<i>Requestor/s</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
St. Andrew, St. James, Grace	Provide support for the Jubilee Garden. This funds the purchase of soil, garden conditioning material and plants	\$500	Grow and harvest food to provide through the St. Andrew Food Sharing Ministry
Los Amigos Episcopales	Provide support for various projects in El Salvador.	\$1,500	Support elementary education and Montessori schools — and food insecurity relief after storms Amanda and Cristobal in May and June. Also, provide the sole outside support for the school of La Divina Providencia, providing laptops and funding for four senior seminarians to be ordained in early 2021, with a cohort of priest and deacon postulants to follow.

Summary. For more information about NEMAC — or if anyone at St. Christopher’s is interested in starting or being involved in a collaborative mission outreach project, please contact Peter Batcheller.