



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Following our Annual Meeting on February 28th, I will begin my three-month sabbatical. Our Sabbatical Priest, The Reverend Richard Israel introduces himself to you in this Newsletter. I know that you will enjoy your time with Pastor Rich, who is a gifted preacher and pastor.

Annual Meeting (February 28th at 10:00 a.m.) will happen via Zoom this year and requires some advance work on all our parts. The Annual Report is included as an insert to this Newsletter so that you can review the year 2020 prior to our meeting. We will use the Flock Note “reservation” system that we made use of last summer for in-person worship. If you plan to attend Annual Meeting via Zoom, please use that reservation system. It will be available to you as of the February 18th News & Notes. By notifying us that you will be at Annual Meeting, we can be assured that we will have the required quorum present. The link to enter Annual Meeting will appear as a “Button” in the February 25th News & Notes. Simply click on that button when 10:00 a.m. on February 28th arrives.

I look forward to my sabbatical time and to my return to be with all of you on June 1st. Sabbaticals are intended as a time away from the parish, but the continuation of the pandemic may limit my ability to do that. So – if/when you see me in these next few months, wave and say “Hi” but help me to truly be on sabbatical by not engaging in conversation beyond that. Thank you so much – that will be a challenge for me as much as for you, but it is helpful for my sabbatical experience (and yours) to provide for the growth that God has planned for us. You will, of course, continue to be held in my prayers and in my heart.

God’s Love and Grace be with you all, --Ann+



were both students at Yale Divinity School. Lois is a certified professional coach with the International Coaching Federation. We have two grown children, Tim, a visual arts teacher at the Ellis School in Pittsburgh and Molly, an actor and producer, now a full time mom to four month old

Aiden, our first grandchild. Molly and her husband Tyler, and Aiden, live in Stamford, CT. Lois and I live near Shaker Square with our rescue dog, Trouper.

Since retiring I have enjoyed being able to pick and choose my activities. While my primary role is serving as “house husband”, a job title that covers many tasks including gardener, cook, home project foreman, and dog walker, I also enjoy serving on the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies, volunteering with

Greater Cleveland Congregations, and being a docent for the Undesign the Redline exhibit at Trinity Cathedral. During Covid 19 I have learned, like all of you, to “zoom” with friends and family and enjoy having more time for reading.

While Mother Ann enjoys her much deserved sabbatical leave, I look forward to getting to know you, the people of St. Christopher’s, and worshiping, studying, and being of pastoral support with and to you. In my ministry at St. Paul’s Church I was blessed to enjoy two sabbaticals and came back from each of them with new energy and enthusiasm for ministry.

During my years at St. Paul’s Church I had the pleasure of coming to St. Christopher’s by the River for several staff retreats and was nurtured by the beauty and tranquility of your beautiful church and its natural surroundings. While we are still called to practice “physical distancing” due to Covid 19, I look forward to building meaningful relationships with you during the three month sabbatical. I hope you will feel free to call on me whenever you are in need of pastoral assistance and personal support during my time as your sabbatical priest. I hope each of you will look back on Mother Ann’s sabbatical as a time of learning and growth for you personally on your faith journey as well as for St. Christopher’s as a parish.

MEET The Rev RICHARD ISRAEL

In preparation for Mother Ann’s upcoming sabbatical leave she has asked me to share a little bit of my background with you by way of introduction. I am a Lutheran minister, ordained in the

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and licensed to serve in the Diocese of Ohio by Bishop Hollingsworth. I retired from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights in 2018 after serving as Associate Rector at that parish for twelve years. I am married to the Rev. Lois Annich, a Presbyterian minister, whom I first met when we

VESTRY MINUTES

-Tom Matthews

DECEMBER 10, 2020

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

The meeting came to order at 6:05 pm. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

The review of the November 5th meeting minutes was the first order of business. Tom M. recommended a minor correction. Jim P. moved for approval of the meeting minutes with the proposed correction. Charley M. seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Selecting a date for the Special Vestry Pre-K review meeting was the next on the agenda, January 13th at 5pm was chosen.

The Treasurer update was then covered by Mary Murray. The first PPP loan forgiveness forms were sent in and we are waiting for a response. October's financials were Ok in light of the pandemic. There are still some 2020 pledges that have not been received, but they are expected to be in by the end of the year. Following these updates, there was a group discussion for the need to continue to push for 2021 pledges.

For the Stewardship Update, Charley M. provided some brief updates in Mary Holmes absence. For the 2020 pledges that are outstanding, Charley mention the gap analysis has been completed and reminder calls start next week. Charley mentioned that letters have been sent out for the 2021 pledge campaign.

Charley then provided the Senior Warden update. Charley proposed that with the anticipated PPP loan forgiveness, we use a portion of those funds for outreach programs. He recommended that the Vestry set the amount and the Guild would then determine the programs to support. All agreed with the proposal. Charley then moved that the Vestry hereby approve a \$15k distribution for Outreach Programs proposed and administered by the Guild. Jim P. seconded the motion, a vote was taken and passed. Charley then mentioned that year end schedule has been set with Mother Ann. He also mentioned the progress is being made with the nominating committee.

Becky Everett covered the Junior Warden update. She had good news for the rectory sunroom. Through another contractor, it has been repaired for less than anticipated. She mentioned the big snowstorm took down quite a few limbs, so she is getting quotes for the clean up. The best news was that she is willing to do another term on the Vestry.

Mother Ann then provided the following updates,

- Advent Services have all been recorded.
- The diligence review for the farm share is done and it looks like the program will work. Let people know about this who may be interested.
- The Parochial Report has been expanded to include recent items such as racial justice. Please send thoughts and feedback, the report needs to be completed in late February.
- For Sabbatical
 - has a good lead for a replacement that the vestry will meet at the next meeting.
 - plans include - time with Husband, collect/write/possibly publish sermons, set aside time for health.
 - inquired on the Vestry's thoughts for Sabbatical plans for the Parrish - Pre-K project?
 - dates have been selected to be March 1st through May 31st.

The next meetings are January 28th, 2021 and February 25th, 2021 for normal Vestry meetings and January 13th for the Special Pre-K Review meeting.

Mother Ann then led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

JANUARY 13, 2021

St. Christopher By-The-River Special Pre-K Proposal

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Elise Bennett, Charley Marston, Judy Holmes, Becky Everett, Mary Murray, Mary Holmes, Jim Pender, Annemarie Grassi Amefia, Tom Matthews

The meeting came to order at 5:05 pm. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

Following general introductions and a review of the purpose and objectives of the meeting, Mary Holmes provided background for the idea for a Pre-K program at St Christopher's. Specifically from the community outreach identified in the strategic planning to interviews with Parrish and community leaders, the need for good Pre-K programs in our community was identified.

With the provided background, Annemarie Amelia led the discussion through the main areas of concern:

- Establishment of a separate entity
- The need for an independent board for the program and specific make up of the board
- Role of Vestry for the analysis and support for the creation of the program
- Outside space requirements and associated fences and equipment

- Inside space requirements and how this space can interleave with church programs such as Bargain Box.

The discussion was very helpful for the vestry's understanding of the proposal which led to the need for a clean landlord tenant type of relationship and the composition of the independent board to support such an arms length relationship. It also became clear that the independent board will actually start out as an investigative task force to understand the nuances of creating and setting up this program. If the investigative review determines viability, the task force will then evolve into the independent board previously mentioned.

On the topic of funding the project, the prior discussions clarified the investment needs for facility additions/upgrades, initial start up expenses as well as timing of investments and levels of commitments. A key point was little to no investment is needed through the investigative task force phase.

Based on the broader understanding of the proposal and associated process, all agreed the appropriate next step was the creation of an Investigative Task Force to further work through the details of creating a Pre-K program at St. Christophers. Becky E. made a formal motion, Tom M. seconded, a vote was taken and the motion to create an Investigative Task Force was passed. Mary Holmes and Becky Everett volunteered to be the vestry members of the task force and to identify the other members by the next Vestry meeting on January 28th, 2021.

Mother Ann then closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

A LENTEN ART RETREAT



Instructor: Rev. Deacon Lydia Bailey
Date: Saturday March 13, 2020
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Cost : \$25
Location: Online via [Zoom video conferencing](#)

Course Description:

This will be a different art museum experience. It will be a semi-self-directed virtual Lenten retreat involving the participant's reflection on a single piece of art. The retreat leader will prepare participants for choosing a piece of art for personal reflection. The artwork one settles on can speak to us spiritually without having a conventional religious subject. It can be an icon that serves as a window into God.



Mtg Dates

Feb 8
 Feb 22
 Mar 8
 Mar 22
 Apr 5
 Apr 19



FEB 9 & 23

6:00 PM

Zoom link to be sent prior to meeting

Please contact Kathy Pender for more information or to register and receive the link. (440-463-7378) kp@momshrink.com

Flower Dedications – January 2021



- David & Frances Dickenson in memory of Sarah C. Dickenson and Jeffrey R. Cudlip
- Anna & Lily Klinginsmith in memory of Bob Fisher
- Kitty & Bruce Thomas in memory of Molly & Chan Wick and Midge & Bob Thomas

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



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

No In Person worship.

Find our weekly worship on
[YouTube](#).

Parish Office

Currently closed to visitors.
Staffed T-W-TH 8:30-2:30
440-423-4451

February 2021 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu_QqAANDzOu-Bwf8gh-t6Q

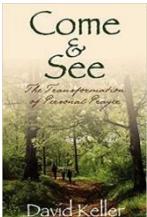


There will be an Ash Wednesday Service posted, however, there will be no imposition of ashes being offered.

Faith & Fellowship

All Services may be found on line at the link above.

The following are offered via Zoom:



- Book Group Tues 10AM or Wed 9AM
 - Currently studying *Come & See*
- Thursday Evening Prayer 5:00
- Thursday Evening Fellowship 5:30
- Sunday morning Family Worship 11:00 AM



LAST CARILLON CONCERTS
FEB 7 & 14 10:30-11:00 AM

We ask that you park by the church and stay in your cars for the duration of each concert.

FEB 28TH 10 AM
VIA ZOOM