ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

From The Rev RICHARD ISRAEL

A Humble Proposal for a Season of Fasting

In the Ash Wednesday bidding to the observance of a holy Lent, the Prayer Book calls us to "a season of penitence and fasting". Like many, my first association with the term "fasting" was of giving up something, e.g., chocolate, a glass of wine at dinner, etc. One year when I was in Divinity School my roommate and I even tried a literal "fast" from eating one day a week. My memory of that year's practice is not one of great spiritual awakening or uplift, but rather how at midnight we couldn't wait to "break" our fast.

I recently got a new perspective on fasting from Br. Curtis Almquist of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Writing on Shrove Tuesday, Br. Curtis noted that our word "fast" comes from the old English *faesten* which means "firm", such as to hold fast to some principle or decision. Br. Curtis goes on to note that the biblical understanding of fasting is "more an affirmation of some principle rather than a renunciation of some desire". He then suggests avery different kind of fast, writing, "You may find in Lent the invitation not only to do something less, but also to do something more with your time or attention or money." You might hold fast to a daily resolve to practice some act of kindness or generosity with your family, friends, or even strangers.

Shortly before I read Br. Curtis' words on fasting, I received what I thought was just another piece of junk mail. Addressed to Cleveland Religious Leaders, the letter was titled, "From Cleveland to *Kindland*". Having been retired for several years now, I am not usually a recipient of such letters anymore but before I tossed it in the "circular file", I gave it a quick glance.

In the wake of our most recent election and the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capital, I resonated with the opening sentence of the letter, "No doubt you are concerned about the uprise of toxicity and negativity seen throughout our country and community and, like everyone, you are searching for answers." On a daily basis we are deluged with media from all sides telling us what isn't working in our country or trying to score points against others. However, closer to home, on any given day hundreds of thousands of acts of kindness are being performed in our communities. Few of these acts of kindness are made known to others so they can serve as inspiration to others and change the culture of our community.

The goal of Kindland is to engrain kindness throughout Greater Cleveland through its school, businesses, churches, synagogues, mosques, cities, and general public. This is accomplished by encouraging people to REPORT acts of kindness on social media (@BeKindland) using the unifying hashtag **#Kindland** and asking community members to take the Kindland pledge at www.bekindland.com The goal of the Kindland organizers is to document 1,000,000 acts of kindness by the end of 2021.

When Henry James was saying goodbye once to his young nephew Billy, his brother William's son, he said something that the boy never forgot. "There are three things that are important in human life. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. The third is to be kind." Commenting on James' advice, Frederick Buechner writes, "Be kind because although kindness is not by a long shot the same thing as holiness, kindness is one of the doors that holiness enters the world through, enters us through…."

How to Contact Father Rich

During Mother Ann's sabbatical, the Rev. Richard Israel is serving as St. Christopher's sabbatical priest. He can be contacted by email at stchris.fatherrich@gmail.com and looks forward to hearing from anyone who wishes to say a word of welcome or make him aware of a personal need.

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Charley Marston (Senior Warden), Becky Everett (Junior Warden), or the parish office. They will pass on your need to Father Rich.

Perhaps you have already established a Lenten discipline that works for you. If so, by all means keep practicing it. However, if you might still be looking for such a discipline, let me commend practicing some act of kindness or generosity with your spouse or partner, with colleagues or neighbors or family members, even strangers. What if you wrote a letter to a different person every day in Lent? Simply let them know you are thinking of them, that he or she matters, that you care for them and think of them in your prayers. And visit the website BeKindland.com. and learn how you can report acts of kindness to the wider community so that Cleveland becomes synonymous with Kindland. In so doing you can "hold fast" to a meaningful Lenten discipline and start a snowball of kindness rolling downhill until it becomes visible to people near and far and a sign of hope that inspires others to be kind and generous, too.

Faithfully yours, Fr. Richard

SENIOR WARDEN -Charley Marston

On February 28th, at the annual meeting, our on line congregation unanimously elected two new members to the vestry. With the intention of writing about them in this newsletter, I called to learn a little bit about their pasts.

SANDRA REDMOND

Sandra was born and raised in upstate New York in a large family of three sisters and three brothers (one her twin!). She discovered Cleveland when grounded in a snowstorm in 1963. Snowbound for three days, she interviewed at the Hanna Perkins School and was offered a teaching position. This led to a rewarding career in Cleveland in the early childhood education field.

Awarded a Federal fellowship at Case Western Reserve, she completed a doctorate in education, then moved into Program Administration, heading the Day Program for Bellefaire Jewish Children Bureau. She started the first preschool program for Beachwood City Schools, then moved into teacher education, chairing the Early Childhood Education Department for Cuyahoga Community College, and finally directing the Children's Museum of Cleveland in its last days at University Circle.

Worship through the years has been within our Episcopal Diocese at St. Paul's, Christ Church, Trinity Cathedral, and, for the last several years, finding a spiritual home at St. Christopher's.

Free time includes enjoying enduring colleague friendships, loving our Metropolitan parks, kayaking, golf, and pottery. Sandra feels privileged in joining the vestry to extend to others the fellowship, rich study and meaningful worship she has experienced at St. Christopher's.

Vestry

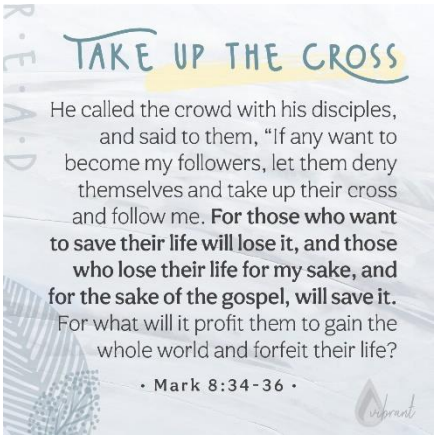
Charley Marston	Senior Warden
Becky Everett	Junior Warden
Tom Matthews	Clerk
Mary Murray	Treasurer

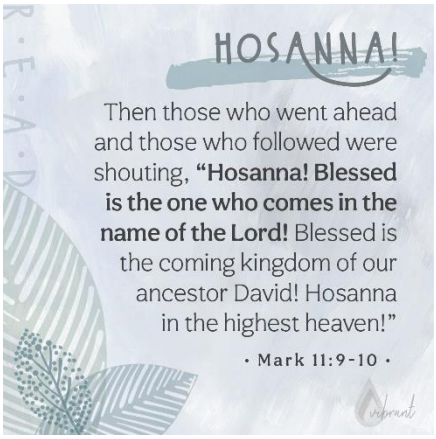
Class of 2023
Becky Everett, Ronald Lee, Sandra Redmond

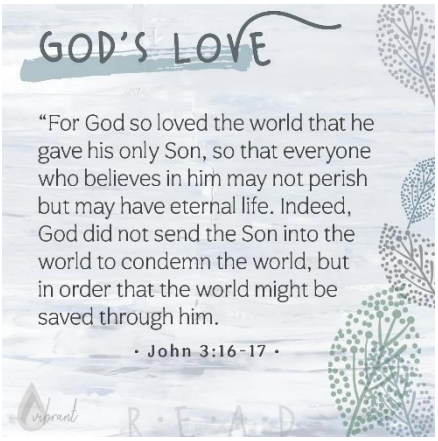
Class of 2022
Judy Holmes, Mary Holmes, Charley Marston

Class of 2021
Elise Bennett, Tom Matthews, Sean McMillion

Northeast Mission Area Council Representative
Laura Cotton, 2021







RONALD LEE

Born on a farm near Alpena, Michigan, Ron has lived a life far more varied than he ever imagined. Following his 1961 graduation from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, he was hired by NSA at St. Meade, MD where they used his natural ability towards mathematics to help develop computer systems.

That same Spring, Cornelia (Neal) McKenney was also recruited to Washington by NSA. They were married at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Neal's hometown of Newport News, VA on September 8, 1962.

Several years later, Ron joined Control Data's Washington office. During the next 24 years his job had the family (Neal, Kristen, Erik and Ingrid) living in numerous locations including Germany and Pittsburgh.

By 1988, Control Data's supercomputer technology had become obsolete, so Ron joined Cray Research in Dallas. While there, they developed many friendships, especially from their association with the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, so they stayed. After early retirement, Ron joined the sporting goods company, REI in Dallas and spent a great amount of time enjoying his love of hiking, backpacking, camping and kayaking.

Finally, the decision to escape the extreme summer heat brought them North. Erik & Chris and four children are in Massachusetts; Ingrid, John (Sandy) McGinley and three children are near Houston; and Kristen, Tom Sterkel and their twins are in Chagrin Falls. They chose Cleveland. Dallas' loss is our gain!

Having Sandy and Ron on the Vestry is just an extension of the many activities they are already doing at St. Christopher's and we know they bring a great amount of enthusiasm and energy as they take on this new responsibility.

While Mother Ann is taking her well earned sabbatical, Father Richard Israel, Becky and the rest of the Vestry and everyone else involved with our programs are on the job to serve you. I am available by phone or text at 216-870-4533 and email at skypond1@aol.com.

In Peace, Charley

The Pre-K task force has met by zoom four times via zoom and we are making great progress toward preparing a report for the Vestry in June. Becky Everett is meeting with staff and volunteers to gauge support for the project and evaluate space needs. We have a terrific resource in Betty Saraniti whose job at Starting-Point is to help organizations like ours navigate the many regulations and licensing requirements.

If you have any suggestions or concerns about having a Pre-K program at St. Christopher's now would be a good time to voice them. You can contact Mary Holmes at mkhcon@gmail.com or 440-423-1870 if you have questions. This is not an approved project. We are exploring what is involved at this point.

<u>Mtg Dates</u>
Mar 22
Apr 5
Apr 19

MAR 9 & 16
6:00 PM
Zoom

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

VESTRY MINUTES

-Tom Matthews

JANUARY 28, 2021

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

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

Review of the December 10th meeting minutes was the first order of business. Becky E. moved to approve, Charley M. seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed. Approval of January 13th special meeting minutes was the next order of business. Mary M. moved to approve, Becky E. seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Approval of the Letter of Agreement between the Vestry and the Reverend Richard Israel was the next order of business. Tom M. moved to approve, Mary H. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Approval of the Housing Allowance Resolution for the Reverend Richard Israel was the 4th order of business.

For the following resolution, Becky E. moved to approve, Charley M. seconded, a vote was taken and passed.

> WHEREAS The Rev. Richard Israel is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Church of St. Christopher by-the-River, which does not provide a residence for him; the Vestry of St. Christopher by-the-River resolves that of the total annual compensation of $9,000.00 to be paid to The Rev. Richard Israel during the year 2021, $9,000.00 is to be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

The Treasurer's 2020 End of the Year Budget and proposed 2021 Budget Report was the next order of business. Mary M. was in attendance and lead the discussion.

- Through 2020, pledge receipts were off but expenses were well controlled, resulting in a $35,220 net deficit for the year without applying the PPP loan and SBA grant. Since the PPP loan and SBA grant have not been formally forgiven, the combined $50,800 will continue to be carried as a loan. Once forgiveness is received, the $50,800 will be recognized as revenue. Additionally, there were $13k of 2020 pledges that were received in January 2021 which will be accounted in the 2021 financials.
- The 2021 Budget Proposal was built up from 2020 actual expenses in combination with estimate guidance from the Senior and Junior Wardens. Details for the 2021 pledge estimate were discussed as well as rationale for other 2021 expense estimates. The proposal provided receipts of $379,042, expenses of $408,682 and a $29,640 net deficit not including the PPP/SBA funds. Once the $50,800 is forgiven and taken into income, a surplus of $21,160 is projected. Charley M. moved to approve the proposed 2021 budget, Mary H. seconded, a vote was taken and the 2021 Budget Proposal passed.

For the Stewardship Update, Mary H. mentioned there has been good progress for the Task Force to review the Pre-K school opportunity. Parrish and Community members have been selected and the first meeting is scheduled for January 29th. Mary mentioned no funds are anticipated for the Task Force review.

Mother Ann then reviewed the Plans for the Virtual Annual Meeting.

- The Annual Report will be included in the next Newsletter
- Flocknotes will be used to get the planned attendance.
- The meeting will be held via Zoom.
- Voting will be done during the Zoom meeting and minutes will be taken.

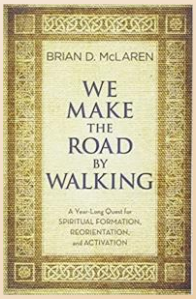
There was a discussion of proposals on how to get votes for those who are known that can not attend.

The next Vestry meeting is February 25th, 2021 at 6pm. The Annual meeting will be Sunday February 28th, 2021 at 10am. Mother Ann then led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.

Flower Dedications February 2021

- Jim & Kathy Pender in memory of our son, Michael Pender
- Becky & Chandler Everett in memory of Barbara & John Nash, Morris & Eleanor Everett
- Mary & Larry Murray in memory Adam & Jane Gambel, Chris Gamberl and Dean Murray
- Charley & Sue Marston in memory of Jerry Loth, Tim Scott & Eirato Sato
- Jean & Ted Ramsey in memory of Jon R. Ramsey

We Make the Road by Walking
by Brian McLaren

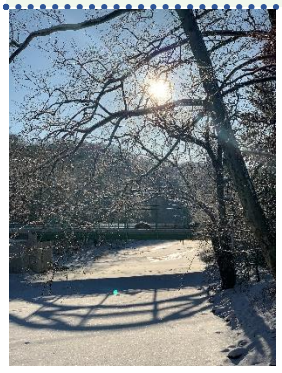


Each week's reading is very short (3-5 pages), plus two or three Scripture passages. Please read both the chapter and the Scripture passages. At the end of each reading are some suggested questions for meditation/discussion. Each week is a separate "stand alone" reading so if you miss a week you can easily join in when you return by doing the reading for that week.

March 9/10	Chapter 32: Peace March (Palm Sunday)
March 16/17	Chapter 32A: A Table. A Basin. Some Food. Some Friends. (Holy Thursday)
March 23/24	Chapter 32B: Everything Must Change (Good Friday)
March 30/31	Chapter 32C: Doubt. Darkness. Despair (Holy Saturday)

march BIRTHDAYS

1 Ann Mitchell
2 Jean Weitzel
8 Janessa Thirion
10 Bruce Thomas
Jolyon Welsh
12 Peter DeBaz
15 Caroline Jones
Clarke Jones
16 Chuck Bixler
Peter Mitchell
Jo Reynolds
19 Larry Bennett
Scott Broome
20 Ann Kidder
Hannah Thirion
22 Ian Bates
Samantha Berchek
Crystal Zittkowski
26 Collin Benek
Danield Mansfield
Kitty Thomas
27 Judy Holmes
Leslie Marting
28 Tom Matthews
Annette Lowe
29 Anne Barnes
30 Leland Morris
31 Emery Vazzana



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER
TRINITY CATHEDRAL

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28
9:00 a.m. A Service of Word & Prayer
zoom.us/j/91964122120, passcode 138020
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Procession and Blessing of Palms
trinitycleveland.org & facebook.com/trinitycleve

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy & Eucharist
trinitycleveland.org & facebook.com/trinitycleve

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2
11:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross
trinitycleveland.org & facebook.com/trinitycleve
12:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy & Eucharist
trinitycleveland.org & facebook.com/trinitycleve
7: 00 p.m. Good Friday Concert
Organ music from Todd Wilson and Nicole Keller
Chants by Hildegard von Bingen
Traditional spirituals by solo singers from the Cathedral Choir
trinitycleveland.org & facebook.com/trinitycleve

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3
8:00 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter
trinitycleveland.org and facebook.com/trinitycleve

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
trinitycleveland.org and facebook.com/trinitycleve

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

March 2021 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

All recorded services may be found at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu_QqAANDzOu-Bwf8gh-t6Q

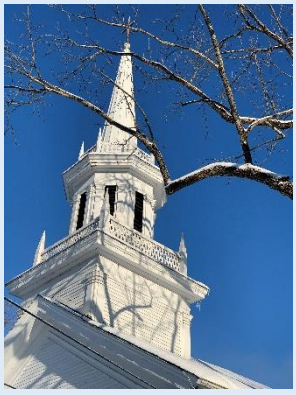
Holy week is March 28- April 3.
St. Christopher will have a Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil Service available on our YouTube site.

Faith & Fellowship

The following are offered via Zoom:

- Book Group Tues 10AM or Wed 9AM
- Thursday Evening Prayer 5:00
- Thursday Evening Fellowship 5:30
- Sunday morning Family Worship 11:00 AM

CARILLON CONCERT

MARCH 28th
Palm Sunday
10:30-11:00 AM

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