



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

My Heartfelt Thanks



In the book, *Praying Your Goodbyes*, Joyce Rupp writes, “Goodbyes are as much a part of life as the seasons of the year. The story of gain and loss, of joy and sorrow, of life and death, of union and separation, is inside each one of us.” As I come to the end of my three months serving as your sabbatical priest, I am feeling the varied emotions of loss and heartache and gratitude that come with saying goodbye. In a short time I have come to know and appreciate so many people at St. Christopher by-the-River, especially in the vulnerable time of living through COVID 19. I give thanks to God, and to you, for offering me the opportunity to serve among you, and for entrusting me with your faith stories.

The word *goodbye* is a conflation of the phrase “God-be-with-ye” or “Go with God”. Over the years we have lost that recognition that God is a significant part of our comings and goings. Goodbye is a blessing of love, proclaiming the belief that if God goes with you, you will never be alone. In our home, my wife and I have a framed tapestry with this quote from our teacher and friend, Henri Nouwen: “*From now on, wherever you go—wherever I go, the ground is holy between us. As you leave, you stay within the hospitable solitude of my heart.*” While I will miss the weekly companionship, we shared for these past three months, I will carry a piece of St. Christopher’s in my heart and will keep you in my prayers as you enter a new season of growth with your rector, Mother Ann, knowing that the distance between us is “holy ground”.

In leaving, I am reminded of this beautiful benediction that I first heard in my time serving at St. Paul’s Church and which is my prayer for you.



Life is short
and we do not have too much time
to gladden the hearts
of those who travel the way with us;
So be swift to love
and make haste to be kind.
And may the blessing of the One
who made us,
who loves us,
and who travels with us,
be upon you, and those you love dearly,
this day and always. Amen.

*Gratefully for sharing our journey of faith,
Fr. Richard*



JUNIOR WARDEN

-Becky Everett

Greetings to all of my St. Christopher friends! The past year has been long, tough and challenging, but we made it through and are rounding the bend on our way back to a new normal! I look forward to traveling with all of you through the next few weeks as St. Christopher's continues in-person worship services and looks at how we will re-open the church building for use.

As I have mentioned in past newsletters, we have strived to maintain the church, as usual, both inside and out during the pandemic. Over the winter, Luis and Lucy began the slow process of refinishing and painting all the pews in the sanctuary. In the fullness of time, as I always like to say, this endeavor will be complete, and we will enjoy the facelift that has been needed for a while. When spring arrived, Luis got right to work outside, and we have all enjoyed the beauty of our church yard during outdoor services. I would like to thank Fran Meyers for her help, guidance, time and money in planting perennials and annuals in the flower bed that surrounds our St. Christopher statue in the side yard! Fran, you have our deepest gratitude!

As always, I invite all of you to visit the church anytime and enjoy the solitude, peacefulness, and serenity that the quiet spots in our side yard offer. Relax in the Adirondack chairs, or contemplate the world as you sit on the bench next to the river. I promise you, it will be hard to tear yourself away! I look forward to seeing all of you at church services on Sundays, as we wait for and anticipate how we will all move forward from here! God's Blessings and Peace to each and every one of you!



- 1 Sandy Batcheller
Clay McMullen
- 3 Alison Benek
Chris Pucell
- 5 Stephen Morris
- 8 Elizabeth Blossom

- 11 Joan Allgood
- 12 Elise Champ
- 21 Bill Reynolds
- 23 Jay Lammers
Thomas Vail
- 29 Ryan Donahue

SENIOR WARDEN

-Charley Marston

May 23rd was Pentecost Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other followers of Jesus and is considered the birth of Christianity and is so celebrated. And Celebrate we did with a beautiful service in front of the church and our first communion in over a year. (*Good news #1*).

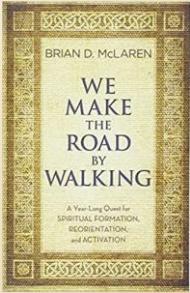
As you know, we have been following the guidelines issued by the diocese in term of our activities including in-person services, other meetings and the use of the church. The diocese has released new guidelines giving local churches more leeway in determining appropriate methods in returning to a normalization of all our activities. (*Good news #2*).

As this report is being sent, Mother Ann has returned from her sabbatical. (*Good news #3*). Normally, the Vestry meets the last Monday in the month. This month we have decided it to move it forward to June ninth in order meet with Mother Ann and make decisions about our services and other activities. (Hopefully many good news to be announced). Last Sunday many of us were present as we thanked Father Richard Israel for his three months attending lots of Zoom meetings, making pastoral calls, communicating with the diocese and, most importantly, recording and performing live services. His gracious demeanor and positive, uplifting messages have been inspirational and a great gift to all of us. Father Richard, your life's calling has been and will continue to be a tremendous benefit to us and all parishes who will be fortunate to have you in their midst. Thank you.

All in all, many decisions are in the offing so please keep checking our website and "News and Notes" The *biggest good news* is - We have our arms wide open welcoming everyone back so please come and participate.

Faithfully yours, Charley

FLOWER DEDICATIONS MAY 2021



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.

June 8 Chapter 42: Spirit of Love: Loving God
 June 15 Chapter 43: Spirit of Love: Loving Neighbor
 June 22 Chapter 44: Spirit of Love: Loving Self
 June 29 Chapter 45: Spirit of Unity and Diversity

In loving memory of:

- Ethel Fisher, Ruth Hood & Edward Miscko Jr. and Edward Miscko Sr. by Ron & Carolyn Miscko
- James & Penny Donaldson, Richard & Susan Miller, Ashton Miller and William Cogan by Elizabeth Donaldson Miller
- Sarah Christy Dickenson & Jeffrey Rockwell Cudlip by Frances & David Dickenson
- The Rev. Rodney C. Shoemaker, PhD by Annette Lowe
- Jim Storer by Dede Storer



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



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

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

440-423-4451
stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

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

Sunday Services

10 AM Outdoors, see below.
Find our weekly worship on [YouTube](#).

Parish Office

Staffed T-W 8:00-3:00

June 2021 Newsletter



NOW ACCEPTING
BARGAIN BOX
DONATIONS!

St. Christopher by-the-River

All recorded services may be found at:

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

Faith & Fellowship

The following are offered via Zoom:

- [Book Group](#) Tuesday 10:00 AM
- [Thursday Evening](#) Prayer 5:00 PM
- [Thursday Evening](#) Fellowship 5:30 PM



**SUNDAYS at 10 AM
Weather Permitting**

*Determination will be made each Thursday prior
to sending the News & Notes*

RSVP from News & Notes, on our
[website](#), or call Becky Everett.

Social distance and bring your own
chair.

 **June 8 & 22**
6:00 PM
Zoom

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



**STARTING
JUNE 8
T-W 8-3**