



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

JULY/AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

“We Are Theologians.” The title of this book by Fredrica Harris Thompsett popped out at me when I was a newly baptized Christian, enthusiastically learning all that I could in my new “home” at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. The book is worth reading but the title alone was transformative for me. The idea that you, me, “we” are all theologians had never entered my mind. The word theology comes from combining two Greek words; *theos* (God) and *logia* (utterances, sayings, oracles). A theologian is someone who speaks or writes about God. Professor Thompsett says that we are all “Natural Theologians” and she is right. We all have a history with God through our life experiences. We may have direct experiences of God’s presence and action in our lives. We may also read or be told by others about their experiences and ideas about God. The entire Bible is a collection of books filled with words about God. All of these experiences shape our understanding of God and help to form our own theology.

Our faith development as Christians is rooted in our theological understanding of God; who God is, how God is present and active in our lives, how God might be inviting us to grow and develop our full humanity, what God’s desires might be for the whole world. As Christians, there is no aspect of our lives that is separate from our relationship with the Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

St. Christopher’s has a solid history of encouraging the theological development of both children and adults. Prior to the pandemic, in-person Sunday School and the Sunday Forum were the norm. When our normal ways were disrupted by the pandemic, we gave thanks for Zoom and YouTube (shout-out to tech-masters John Irwin and John McElliott) and carried on. Sunday School (either in person or online) and our mid-week Zoom Book Discussion Group will resume in the fall, as usual. But we also have some new and exciting tools for developing our ability to know God more deeply through our capacity to be natural theologians.

Lucy Lytle has an article in this newsletter about **ChurchNext**, which offers the ability to learn about a wide range of Christian topics from the comfort of your own home. Be sure to check it out and sign up – you won’t regret it! Our Diocese has paid for a one-year subscription for every parish so this is free to us for an entire year.

We are also exploring forming an **Education for Ministry** group at St. Christopher’s. “EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together.” The complete program covers four (36 week) “years” and participants register for only one year at a time. We will need a minimum of six people in order to have an EfM group in our parish (maximum group size is twelve). The current enrollment fee is \$475, which includes all books to be read during that year, other than your own Bible. Scholarships and tuition reduction based on group size are available from EfM and I am able to help thanks to the Rector’s Discretionary Account so please don’t let cost be a factor if this is something you want to pursue.

If you would like to know more about this wonderful source of theological education, Sandy Redmond has just completed her first year of EfM via Zoom with a group in Lakewood. Debbie and Randy Cole were both in EfM when St. Christopher’s last had our own group. (Debbie was a trained EfM Mentor.) The Education for Ministry website at efm.sewanee.edu also has good information. If EfM sounds like something you are interested in doing, talk with Mother Ann. As soon as we have at least six people, we will get started with EfM.

“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.” Read, mark, learn, inwardly digest. This is the work of theology – and we are all theologians!

With Love, Ann+

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 28, 2021

Present: Father Richard Israel, Elise Bennett, Charley Marston, Becky Everett, Mary Holmes, Sandra Redmond, Ron Lee, Tom Matthews, Mary Murray

The meeting came to order at 5:37 pm. Father Rich opened the meeting with a prayer.

Review and approval of the March 24th meeting minutes was the first order of business. There were a few minor corrections noted and a recommendation to attach the resolution for resuming in-person worship to the minutes. Becky E. moved to approve the draft with noted corrections/additions, Sandra R. seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Mary Murray joined the meeting to review the Q1 2021 Financial Report. Mary noted that pledges for year to date 2021 are in line with last year. Combined with slightly lower expenses, the net results are slightly better than last year. Mary mentioned that the PPP loan forgiveness is still in process and not reflected as revenue yet. She closed by mentioning that the Parrish audit is planned and will begin soon. Charley M. moved to receive the Financial Report, Becky E. seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

The third order of business was an update from the Pre-K Investigative Task Force from Mary Holmes. Mary reviewed the rationale and results of community and parish surveys that were conducted. The community surveys resulted in a bit of concern that the market demand will meet the needs of the proposed business plan. This combined with the generally supportive with some concerns from the parish gave pause to the proposal. Mary also noted programs at other churches were not as “arms length” as anticipated and that the proposed program would require a similar support from St. Christopher’s. With all of these challenges, the task force recommended to not proceed with the proposal.

Review of the ChurchNext proposal was the next order of business. Most of the Vestry had the opportunity to review the on line program. Becky E. conducted some additional research from parishes utilizing ChurchNext and determined having a liaison is very beneficial for adoption and mentioned Ms. Lytle offered to fill that role for St.

Christopher’s. She also noted the Diocese will cover the first year expense and follow on expenses were minimal. All agreed that proceeding made sense. Becky E. moved to go forward with the trial of the program, Tom M. seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

During the Senior Warden report, Charley M. brought forward a proposal related to restarting Bargain Box with the hope of holding a Bargain Box sale in the Fall. Specifically, a request was made to allow donated materials to be accepted at St. Christopher’s. Early during the pandemic, accepting donations was stopped. With the progress towards the pandemic and many activities restarting, all agreed the proposal made sense. Charley M. motioned to restart the acceptance of donations on May 1st with himself and Becky E. managing the logistics. Elise B. seconded the motion, a vote was taken and passed. Charley M. highlighted that this is one of many examples including: 1) When can we have services inside and with what guidelines? 2) When can we reactivate the choir? 3) How do we decide to have two services? 4) What will be our policy about in person meetings inside the church? 5) What about other activities such as - Thursday evening prayer, book reading,

FLOWER DEDICATIONS JUNE 2021

In loving memory of:

- Harlan Gill by Dan & Rindy Collister
- Sarah Christy Dickenson and Jeffrey Rockwell Cudlip by Frances and David Dickenson
- Bill & Diane Hauserman and Louis LaRiche by Dave and Darlene Hauserman
- Brooke & Virginia Mallory, Tina Mallory & Alberta Day, Edward & Ann Meyers by Ed & Frances Meyers
- Helmut Alpers by Marcia Alpers and Family



Daughters of the King, Stephen Ministry, AA, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Cub Scouts, Weddings and Funerals?

Father Rich then opened the Sabbatical Debriefing discussion, using a handout sent in advance of the meeting asking vestry members to share observations about life at St. Christopher's during the sabbatical. Father Rich noted a number of strengths he observed, including the presence of engaged, strong lay leadership; a worship team that has put together virtual worship creatively in the midst of the pandemic; attention to pastoral care with the presence of both Stephen Ministers and the grief group both led so ably by Kathy Pender; and a core of people committed to study. He also mentioned how blessed St. Christopher's is to have Mary Zup in the office. It was also noted that while the pre-school Task Force did not recommend moving forward with this plan, the model the task force created for studying outreach opportunities will help look at other outreach possibilities. The biggest shortcoming noted had to do with community building and maintaining connections, a function of the pandemic more than the sabbatical time.

During the review, the dominant topic was similar to what Charley M. Highlighted--we need to work through the elements required to restart many of the pre-pandemic parish activities. There were reflections on how many of the new practices (such as Zoom meetings to augment activities to facilitate participation) have been beneficial and with this the need to determine how incorporate them into future practices. Ron L. mentioned the benefits of restarting and supporting small group activities supporting the parish community.

Dates for the next Vestry meeting were discussed that would work to include Mother Ann returning from her sabbatical. June 9th at 5:30pm was selected as the best option.

Father Rich then led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

--Tom Matthews

NEMAC Minutes for the first quarter are available. They are posted on the bulletin board at the church. If you would like a copy sent to you, please call the office.

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



GRIEF GROUP

ZOOM Meeting

6:00-7:30 PM

Alternating Tuesdays

July 6	August 3	September 14
July 20	August 17	September 28
	August 31	

The Grief Support Group was formed in the fall of 2019 and is open to members of St. Christopher's Church as well as members of the community.

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. Loss is inevitable in life—there are losses of all kinds whether it be through death, or loss in a relationship, or a lifetime vocation. One needs time to go through the process of healing.

If interested in coming to this group, please contact Kathy Pender:

440-463-7378 or kp@momshrink.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

On Sunday, June 20th, we all gathered on the front lawn for a 10:00 AM service and a special dedication of our new sign from The Ohio Historical Marker Program. This was completed thanks to Irene McMullen and Jim Pender and with a gift from the Williams G. Pompoy Foundation of Syracuse, NY.

It recognizes our history of bringing God's message of love and devotion to everyone for 168 years.

As I wrote in the year's annual report, there are many many aspects in the ways we deliver that message, and we all

recognize that much of what we do has been subdued or even curtailed while we protect ourselves and others from this very unusual virus.

Although 2021 is now half over, to a certain degree it feels as if it is just beginning. Father Richard Israel did a terrific job as our priest these past three months but it is great having Mother Ann back all refreshed and already in action performing the many activities she does so well.

We recently sent out a letter announcing the lifting of restrictions by the diocese and the Vestry's decisions to resume

almost all of our in-person activities.

I would like to add emphasis to that letter with the following entreaty:

Please come and partake of our many activities especially our Sunday services. Please tell all your contacts that we are here for them and invite them to come and be with us. Please, as you are able, remember us financially and help us remain fiscally sound.

We still have 6 months in 2021. Let's make the most of it.

Faithfully yours, Charley

Needlepoint Pew Panels

St. Christopher by-the-River has a long tradition of beautiful needlepoint pieces, stitched by members of the congregation, that enhance our lovely church. These include Altar kneelers, chair seats, and a rug and Altar panel in the Baptistry. Knowing that I am an avid stitcher, a friend invited me to visit St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, to view their extensive collection and meet with the leaders of their needlework guild. Over a period of forty years they have completed more



than 1,000 kneelers, in addition to a wide variety of other projects. These include panels to be placed at the end of a pew to mark them as reserved for special occasions---a much more elegant solution than rope!

In consultation with Mother Ann and Sue Marston, it was determined that twelve such panels would be a very useful addition to St. Christopher's collection. I am by no means an artist, but with God's help I was



able to design and paint the canvases and was very grateful to find seven other generous women to stitch them with me. Many thanks to

Anne Barnes, Helen Butler, Becky Everett, Nicole Lincoln, Alison Rankin, Mary Reynolds and Claire Morgan for their gift of time and talent. We are all thrilled and grateful to become a part of St. Christopher's history.

--Leslie Marting

NEW! Online Christian Learning Classes Available

Thanks to a generous gift from the diocese, St. Christopher's parishioners have limited access for one year to a broad variety of online Christian learning courses offered through **ChurchNext**. Given today's hectic schedules and our desire to develop a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith, *online Christian learning is an accessible and convenient way to grow in Christ.*

- Course topics include scripture, liturgy, and many other areas of personal and spiritual growth.
- Courses are taught by experts, many from The Episcopal Church, and allow parishioners to learn what they want, when they want, and at their own pace.
- Participants can learn anywhere there is an Internet connection on a PC, laptop, or tablet.
- Each course is self-paced and consists of 4-6 brief videos, each lasting 5-7 minutes.
- Occasionally, there are optional multiple-choice questions to check your understanding of the material.
- Each course typically takes 30-45 minutes to complete, and you can pause the material at any point and return to it later.

Available courses include:

How to Be a Crazy Christian.

Whether or not you've read his best-selling book, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reawakens us to the tremendous gift—and challenge—of giving our all to follow Jesus.

Introducing the Gospels. This course takes a fascinating look at who likely wrote each gospel, their intended audiences, and the ways in which they are similar and different.

Martin Luther: Seeds of Reformation. Next to Jesus himself, few people have had as significant an impact on the Christian religion as Martin Luther. Who was Luther and what was the context that allowed his ideas to spread? Learn about Luther's early life and unpack the societal underpinnings in which his ideas flourished.

Other Available Courses

Civil Conversations in Uncivil Times

Dynamics of Helping the Poor

Angels in Artwork

What Every Vestry Needs to Know

About Money

Growing Giving in an Online World

Spiritual Truth in an Age of Fake News

Courage for Caregivers

Citizenship as a Spiritual Calling

Contemplative Knitting

Surviving Moral Injury: When You Hurt Someone Against Your Will

Plus many more...

HOW TO GET STARTED

Because the number of parishioners with access to the material is limited to 10 people at one time, individual access to ChurchNext will be available in one-month memberships.

To learn more about ChurchNext or to request one-month access to its online Christian learning materials, please contact Lucy Lytle by Thursday, July 15.

lucynlytle@gmail.com

(440) 448-5095

(The cell # in the directory is incorrect.)

Lucy will host a brief orientation on the first Sunday of each month, then email you 30-day access to our online spiritual library.

2021 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The following people have pledged and/or donated to the 2021 operations at St. Christopher's. Thank you so much for your continued support and Stewardship.

Mr. M Stacey Alatis
Mrs. Joan Allgood
Ms. Marcia Alpers
Mr. & Mrs. Djifa Amefia
The Rev Mary Sterrett
Anderson
The Rev. Deacon Lydia Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. William Barnes
Ms. Laura Bauschard
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. David Bercheck
Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Bixler
Mrs. Polly Bixler
Mr. & Mrs. C. Perry Blossom
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Boswell
Mr. Gabe Brachna
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Butler
Mrs. Jane Chisholm
Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Cicirello
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Collister
Ms. Sally Conley
Ms. Cindy Costello
Miss Laura Cotton
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Currutt
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Currutt
Ms. Barbara Ann Davis
Dr. & Mrs. Baz DeBaz
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Della Ratta
Mr. & Mrs. David Dickenson
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Eakin
Mr. & Mrs. Chandler H.
Everett
Mr. & Mrs. Chandler P.
Everett
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Everett
Ms. Marilyn Fisher
Ms. Suzanne Foltz
Ms. Sarita Frith
Ms. Susan Gallop
Mr. Dale Gnandt
Miss Janet T. Hargrave
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hauserman
Mrs. Nicole P. Henry
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Holmes
Mr. Douglas Horner
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hoyt

Ms. Teri Ianni
Dr. & Mrs. John Irwin
Mr. & Mrs. Clarke Jones
The Rev. Ann Kidder & Ted
Fletcher
Mr. Michael Klinginsmith &
Ms. Gretchen Fisher
Ms. Renee Kolecki
Mr. & Mrs. James LaMantia
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Liljedahl
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Lindseth
Ms. Loni Lorenz
Ms. Annette Lowe
Ms. Lucy Lytle
Mrs. Tillie Malm
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Marston
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Marting
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Mavec
Mr. William McCoy

Mr. & Mrs. Sean M.
McMillion
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J.
McMullen
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Meyers
Mrs. Barbara W. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Miscko
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence
Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Negrelli
Mr. & Mrs. James Pender
Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Barb
Pesuit
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Pistell
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Pucell
Ms. Melanie Reda
Mrs. Peggy A. Reda
Ms. Sandra Redmond

Mrs. Francine Sarkisian
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel &
Courtney Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Spring
Mr. Jim Stafford
Mrs. Dolores Storer
Mr. Peter B. Thatcher
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Thomas
Mrs. Elizabeth Tone
Mrs. Diana D. Treco
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas V. H.
Vail Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius J. Van Hoek
Mr. Dave VanCuren
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Vazzana
Ms. Linda Ventimiglia
Ms. Kathleen L. Vilas
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Weitzel
Mr. & Mrs. Jolyon Welsh
Mr. & Mrs. David Wolf



Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Shelter

2100 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland

Team Up To Clean Up 2021

Saturday, July 10 at 2100

Please join shelter residents, volunteers & community partners for gardening, neighborhood cleanup, outdoor art projects, and cookout!

9:30 registration, 10:00-12:00 projects

12:00-1:00 cookout at East Dock of shelter

Please RSVP to Lydia Bailey, Lbailey@lutheranmetro.org 216-649-7723



ROTA

		4-Jul	11-Jul	18-Jul	25-Jul
8:00 AM	EM	Fran Meyers	John Irwin		John Irwin
	LECTOR	Annette Lowe	Sandra Redmond	Kitty Thomas	Annette Lowe
	ALTAR GUILD	Terri Ianni	Rosalie Della Ratta	Sally Conley	Sue Marston
10:00 AM	EM	Dale Gndt			Kitty Thomas
	LECTOR 1	Chandler Everett	Ron Lee	Lucy Lytle	Becky Everett
	LECTOR 2	Becky Everett	Neal Lee	Victoria Connell	Chandler Everett
	ALTAR GUILD	Renee Kolecki	Lucy Lytle	Leslie Marting	Carolyn Misco
	USHERS	Rik Bole Brian Wright	Ron & Neal Lee	Kurt Liljedahl	
HOSTESSES		Becky Everett Lucy Lytle			Judy Holmes Jean LaRiche

2 Jim Miller
Iris Vail
5 Sal Cicirello
10 Bob Weitzel
11 Charley Marston
13 Nancy Irwin



18 Frances Dickenson
John Irwin
21 Connie Lincoln
22 Randy Cole
Barb Miller
Gini Negrelli
23 Anderson Osolin

		1-Aug	8-Aug	15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug
8:00 AM	EM					
	LECTOR					Sandra Redmond
	ALTAR GUILD					
10:00 AM	EM				Kitty Thomas	
	LECTOR 1	Brian Wright	Ron Lee			
	LECTOR 2	Victoria Connell	Neal Lee			Victoria Connell
	USHERS	Rik Bole Brian Wright	Ron & Neal Lee	Kurt Liljedahl		
HOSTESSES						Sue Marston Elise Bennett

1 Carol Smith
8 Donna Bixler
13 Jeff Eakin
14 Patrick Hoeflinger
15 Peter Batcheller
16 Mary Murray
18 Sarita Frith



20 Marcia Alpers
22 Luke Mitchell
Maddie Pucell
24 Charlie Broom
Warren Morris
27 Brooks Vazzana
28 John Weber
31 Jane Chisholm

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

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharistic Rite II

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

Parish Office

Staffed T-W 8:00-3:00

440-423-4451

stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

July/August 2021 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

Meetings/Events

- [Thursday Evening](#) Prayer 5:00 PM ZOOM

JULY

- Hellman Funeral, July 7, 4:00 PM
- Grief Group July 6, 20 6-7:30 PM ZOOM
- Stephen Ministry July 19 9:00-11:00 AM
- Vestry July 28 5:30 PM ZOOM

AUGUST

- Grief Group Aug 3, 17, 31 6-7:30 PM ZOOM
- Daughters of the King August 9, 1:00 PM
- Vestry August 25, 5:30 PM ZOOM
- Wedding Rehearsal August 27, 5:00 PM
- Wedding August 28, 4:30 PM



We have fully returned to indoor worship. We are holding two services each Sunday.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
(Childcare available at the 10:00 service)

It is recommended that you wear a mask if you are not vaccinated.