



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

It has been so wonderful to be able to gather with each other in person to worship over these past months; first outside on the lawn and now inside St. Christopher's. As has been true throughout the 17 long months since the pandemic's arrival in Ohio, we have flexed and adjusted to new ways of being together over these many months. I am grateful that the great majority of you are fully vaccinated as that has allowed us to resume in-person worship. As the Delta variant continues its sweep through our region you may be wondering how we are currently "flexing" our way of worship.

The Vestry and I have agreed that, provided everyone wears a mask, we can continue to worship together inside St. Christopher's. While our parish vaccination rate is very high, a recent breakthrough infection has reminded us that masks offer an additional layer of protection for those who are immune compromised. We can help to protect each other by wearing masks when we are together inside.

We plan to continue using congregational hymns, recognizing that for some, singing with a mask on detracts from the experience. If that is true for you, please enjoy the singing of others with no guilt about not joining the chorus. Our soloists (and choir when they return later this fall) will be wearing masks designed for use by professional singers.

We will also continue to offer Communion to anyone who desires to receive either the Bread, or both Bread and Wine. Each of you will need to decide if it is reasonably safe for you to receive Communion. The Eucharistic Minister and I will be fully masked and standing at "stations" at the front of the Church. This will allow you to come forward one at a time, lowering your mask briefly, to receive Communion before returning to your seat. (This is much safer than having you all kneel next to each other at the Altar Rail with your masks lowered.)

All worship leaders and Lectors will remain masked unless reading at the lectern or speaking from the Chancel.

While the weather cooperates, we will continue to serve refreshments outside following the 10:00 service. I hope you find this information helpful and reassuring. Living through this pandemic has been much longer, and far more disruptive to our lives than any of us imagined back in March of 2020. We have come a long way together, thanks to our faithfulness to God and to each other.

Throughout, we have continued to celebrate baptisms, weddings, and the lives of those who have died. The Guild continued to support many local organizations and our ministry to the Men's Shelter "flexed" and continued. The fullness of life goes on despite a world-wide pandemic.

One aspect of life going on is the need for our Annual Appeal to support our working budget. Full membership in the Episcopal Church is defined as those baptized members who "are regular in worship unless for good cause prevented, and who work, pray, and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God." Our parish working budget supports the building facilities and the staff that, in turn, support and facilitate all the ministries of St. Christopher's – both within our parish and in reaching out to serve the needs of the wider community and world. Later in this newsletter you will read a bit about this year's Annual Appeal and about some of our service beyond the parish.

Our time and money have limits and God does not ask us to give what we do not have. What God does desire is hearts of love that give priority to loving others. As you consider your pledge of financial support for St. Christopher's this year, I pray that what you give to support our budget will be a gift given in love. May that be true of all that you do to "work, pray, and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God".

In Christ's Love, Ann+

# VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

## JUNE 9, 2021

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Elise Bennett, Charley Marston, Becky Everett, Mary Holmes, Judy Holmes, Sandra Redmond, Ron Lee, Tom Matthews,

The meeting came to order at 5:30 pm. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

Review and approval of the April 28th meeting minutes was the first order of business. No corrections were noted. Mary H. moved to approve the submitted draft, Sandra R. seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

The second order business was a review of the Financial Report for May 2021. Mother Ann led the discussion which was positive and brief due to the results being slightly better than budget.

Mother Ann then mentioned a Diocese requirement that all Vestry members need to complete Safeguarding God's Children training. It was noted that the training is online, and takes an hour to complete. The certificate should be printed and given to Mother Ann for the parish files.

Mary Holmes then provided Stewardship update, specifically plans for the Annual Campaign. The campaign will start in September with the target of getting pledge cards in November. The Stewardship group will start by compiling a list of supporters for the 2021. Mary mentioned many good outreach ideas were identified by the Pre-K Task force and she is considering promoting/vetting these as part of the campaign. Mary requested the the Vestry consider and provide recommended methods to help prepare the parish about stewardship.

The topic of how to transition St Christopher towards more normal, pre-pandemic operations per the Bishop's recommendations was the next order of business. The discussion started with the review of feedback obtained through phone conversations with the parish, which in summary was predominantly eager to return to normal services. With this backdrop, the vestry worked through options/levels of transitioning to pre-pandemic activities. Specifically, elements such as distancing requirements, mask mandates, vaccinated or not, singing or not, etc were considered. After a healthy debate, Ron L. summarized a motion to resume 8am and 10 am services, indoors June 27th with bread only communion, no congregational singing and guidance that non vaccinated individuals take precautions per their personal safety considerations. It was also noted that the Wardens and Mother Ann would message this into an invitation to the parish. Tom M. seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

A related topic - transition recommendations for the other groups that utilize church facilities - was the next order of business. All agreed that parish and community groups were ok to utilize facilities with the similar parish guidelines mentioned previously. Additionally, they are free to observe more stringent guidelines if their group makes that decision.

For the Senior Warden report, Charley M. mentioned that the Historical Marker dedication is planned for June 20th after the 10am service and non parish attendees have been invited to the 10 am service. Charley also reviewed proposals for the 4th of July. Specifically, the community will have a parade at 1pm and are encouraging decorations within the Village. Charley mentioned the Klingensmith's have offered to decorate but would need assistance. Becky and Sandra offered to help with the effort.

The next Vestry meeting will be June 30th at 5:30pm.

Mother Ann then led a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. *--Tom Matthews*

## JUNE 30, 2021

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Charley Marston, Becky Everett, Sean McMillion, Mary Holmes, Judy Holmes, Sandra Redmond, Ron Lee

The meeting came to order at 5:30 pm. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes were reviewed and corrected. Becky Everett moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Sandy Redmond seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Mary Holmes announced the theme of the 2022 Pledge Campaign will be Open Arms, Open Doors. She mentioned how difficult it is to set a goal for the pledge campaign when we set the budget for the upcoming year AFTER the pledge campaign. In spite of this challenge, the stewardship committee has set the goal of reaching \$160,000 from pledges for 2022. Mother Ann talked about the advantage having a vision budget early on for the parish to consider when discerning their pledges and then finalize the budget later. This topic will be discussed more at a future vestry meeting.

The vestry moved on to discussing how the first indoor worship services went. The comments were very positive, and everyone agreed the parish is very happy to have inside, regular services once again. The vestry decided to continue with the present plan

for now. In addition, emphasis was placed on the importance of spending time this summer planning on how to encourage families to return safely this Fall.

The possibility of forming an EfM group was discussed. There will be an article in the July/August newsletter addressing this topic.

The PPP loan has been forgiven! Mary Murray will follow up on the additional \$8000 grant that was given to us. Ann Feller's daughter sent a lovely note to the church with a gift check of \$100,000. There are no specifications as to the use of the funds. The Vestry will discuss at the July Vestry meeting how this donation will be put to use.

Deacon Lydia Bailey has asked for mileage reimbursement of \$616 for 2019-2020. Sandy Redmond moved that we reimburse Deacon Lydia for mileage incurred for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$616 and continue to reimburse her going forward. Charley Marston seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Mother Ann attended a webinar on Cyber and Malicious Attack coverage and learned that the church does, indeed have this coverage.

The next Vestry meeting will be on Wednesday, July 28th at 5:30pm via zoom.

Mother Ann closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:30 PM.

## RALLY SUNDAY



**SEPTEMBER 12**

**11:15 AM**

### PROVIDED

- Hamburgers
- Hot Dogs
- Water
- Lemonade
- Paper Products

Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Please RSVP:

1. Sign up sheet in the Narthex
2. Call the church office
3. Email the church office

We are looking for help to set up / clean up.

Please call Ron Lee if you can help.

(440) 338-5284

### 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

## BARGAIN BOX



Friday

September 24<sup>th</sup>

9-4

(New Hours!)

Early Entry at 8 AM, \$10

SET UP is Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>  
immediately following service.  
We need your help setting up!

# VOLUNTEERING IS SO MUCH MORE

In the past few years, St. Christopher's has made great strides in nurturing our relationship with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries and the Men's Shelter. We have served lunch on a monthly basis, attended current event and poetry discussions, donated men's clothes from Bargain Box, and given monetary donations. As St. Christopher's continues to determine how to be of service to the community and strives to be known for service, I wanted to share a very special experience I had during the pandemic which involved me volunteering as a listener at the shelter.



His name was Robert Hatchett, and I spent a good portion of the pandemic speaking with him on a weekly basis and, most importantly, being a good listener. I remember the first time we talked, and I asked him to tell me how he got to this point in his life. He jumped right in, and an hour later he had told me about his grandmother, who had raised him, and had continued to work in her garden at the age of 100! He told me about his family – his brother and sister, daughters and sons and grandchildren. He told me about everything that had led up to and contributed to him losing his house, his job and his health. We became friends in that hour of conversation and the many hours after that when he would share about his life at the shelter, his relationships with the other residents there, his frustrations and his hopes and dreams for the future. He had such a strong faith, and

we shared that connection as well. He asked about my family and what was important in my life. We talked about our childhood experiences, and the hopes and wishes we had had for the future. We were both very grateful for our time together and expressed this often. He had many challenges to face, but he faced them courageously and always had hope for his future.

Sadly, my friend, Robert, passed away from a heart attack on December 27, 2020. I think of him often and am so thankful that the service opportunity of simply listening led me to a friend I will always remember. We both touched each other's lives and became better people for it. I learned that volunteering in service to others is so much more than serving a meal or participating in a discussion or donating clothes. It is entering into a shared experience with another human being, sharing their joys as well as their pain, letting them know by your presence and your caring that they do, indeed, matter. If you ask any of the parishioners who have volunteered at the Men's Shelter, I know each one of them will say how they received so much more than they were able to give from their time shared with the shelter residents. My wish for everyone in this parish is that they experience the joy of service as we all work for the spread of the kingdom of God.

*-Becky Everett*

- 1 Betty Tone
- 3 Paulette Matthews  
Stacey Miscko
- 4 Debbie Cole
- 5 Ron Miscko
- 7 Lily Klinginsmith
- 8 Alison Selman
- 13 Samuel Mitchell



- 14 Deborah Brown
- 15 Fran Sarkisian
- 17 Peter Holmes
- 18 Mary Holmes
- 19 Larry Bennett
- 21 Jan Tuttle
- 25 Melanie Reda
- 29 Hudson Champ

## Guild Outreach Spotlight



Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank

The Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger program in Ohio, where one in six people deal with hunger, one in four being children. The Food Bank serves Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, Ashland, and Richland counties, supplying food and non-food items to programs administered by the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, the Catholic Hunger and Shelter Network, and the Salvation Army. They supply the bulk of the food used at local feeding programs and pantries, including childcare centers, group homes, senior centers, and hot meal programs. In 2016, they supplied 50 million pounds of food to 840 different programs. They also connected people in need to SNAP, the current food stamp program, which has provided 14 million meals.



New Directions provides individualized treatment for substance abusing adolescents and young adults and their families dealing with the consequences of that abuse. Their focus is on early treatment and prevention. They endeavor to get people back on track with their education, allowing them to continue their studies while they pursue their treatment in order to allow them to return to their regular school as soon as possible. They provide recovery schools, alternate peer groups, partial hospitalization, day treatment, short and long-term residence, and hospital inpatient and outpatient methadone and other drug treatment.

## 2021 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The Stewardship Working Group plans to launch the 2022 Annual Appeal in October with a newly designed giving card that portrays our theme, “Open Arms, Open Doors.” While we cannot forecast what challenges the virus may present to us, we do know that we will continue to worship, care for each other and the world as best as safety will allow. The support for the appeal from parishioners is critical for maintaining our ministries of Sunday worship and Thursday evening prayer, intercessory prayer, Stephan Ministry, Christian education for adults and children, outreach to the men’s shelter, and gifts for those in need in our community.



Planned Giving

The Working Group also would like to gather information from the Parish regarding planned giving. Having this information gives us the chance to thank anyone who has remembered St. Christopher’s in his or her will before the gift is received. We would also like those who have not considered this option, to think about it now.

Finally, we are looking for ways to get to connect with each other better through small group gatherings. Because we have not always been able to worship together during 2020 and 2021, we sense a desire to reconnect and welcome new members who have joined us. Please share your ideas about how to do this with any member of the Stewardship Group.

~Mary Holmes

The Stewardship Working Group:

Mary Holmes, Laura Cotton,  
Brian Currutt, Lucy Lytle,  
Charlie Marston, Sandy Redmond

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*Don't forget that you can set up an [on line donation](#). This can be a one time gift or a recurring donation either by credit card or direct bank transfer. If you need help with setting this up, please feel free to contact the office or Mary Holmes.*

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# ROTA

		SEP 5	SEP 12	SEP 19	SEP 26
8:00 AM	EM	Charley Marston	Fran Meyers	Charley Marston	Charley Marson
	LECTOR	Kitty Thomas	Teri Ianni	Annette Lowe	Kitty Thomas
	ALTAR GUILD	Rosalie Della Ratta	Teri Ianni	Sue Marston	Sally Conley
10:00 AM	EM	John Irwin	John Irwin	Dale Gnadtt	Beth Miller
	LECTOR 1	Chandler Everett	Fran Sarkisian	Fran Sarkisian	Mary Holmes
	LECTOR 2	Becky Everett	Judy Holmes	Becky Everett	Kathy Pender
	ALTAR GUILD		Carolyn Miscko	Neal Lee	Renee Kolecki
	USHERS	Rik Bole Brian Wright	Ron & Neal Lee	Kurt Liljedahl	Ron Lee Peter Thatcher
HOSTESSES		Victoria Connell	Rally Sunday	Set Up Sunday	Charlene Currutt Sandy Batcheller

## FLOWER DEDICATIONS JULY/AUGUST 2021

### In loving memory of:

- Our sister Suzy Novello Bako by Jan N Vondrasek, Nancy Novello, John Novello
- Margaret & Walter Marting by Leslie & Michael Marting
- Bobbie & Bill Gotherman and Betty & Mark Negrelli by Don & Gini Negrelli
- Art & Ruth Collins and Jim & June Irwin by John & Nancy Irwin
- Laura & Ed Cole and Dove & Harvey Schluter and Pam Kunkenmueller by Randy, Debbie & Whitney Cole
- Susie & Ralph Kloppenburg and Bethany Conley by Sally Conley
- In thanksgiving for our daughters, Nancy, Barbara, Joann & Helen G, by Sal & Helen Cicirello
- Sheila Bates by Stuart Bates & Family
- Ann Marie, Paul, Jackie & Bill by Tom & Paulette Matthews
- Linda Matthews Costello by Cindy Costello



## GRIEF GROUP ZOOM Meeting 6:30-8:00 PM September 14 & 28

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](mailto:kp@momshrink.com)

## Sacred Ground

People from around the Diocese are invited to join a lay-led Sacred Ground group. Classes may be offered in-person or virtually, based on interest and facilitator availability. If you are interested in a virtual class, please email Char Nichols at [cdn216@gmail.com](mailto:cdn216@gmail.com). If you are interested in an in-person class, please email Debbie Likins-Fowler at [dlikinsfowler@gmail.com](mailto:dlikinsfowler@gmail.com). More information about Sacred Ground is available on The Episcopal Church [website](#).



Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

### SCHOOL TIME!

All of us at St. Christopher's wish you a healthy and successful new year! Don't forget to pack your favorite pencils as well as your thoughtfulness and kindness! Look for your own special mail from St. Christopher's!



### Women's Retreat

St. Paul's, Akron is hosting a Women's Retreat **September 24-26** at the Loyola Retreat House, just 30 minutes south of St. Paul's. The weekend offers an opportunity to draw near to God and renew friendships in the relaxed quiet of a rural setting. The retreat is \$150 per person and includes two nights' lodging and five meals. Scholarships are available. Registration will close on September 9. For more information contact the Rev. Susan Tiffany at [stiffany@stpaulsakron.org](mailto:stiffany@stpaulsakron.org).

## YOU CAN HELP



We are collecting items for the food pantry in Chesterland. What is needed is PAPER PRODUCTS and TOILETRIES including diapers and Depends. These are items that are typically not allowed to be purchased with assistance program credits. Drop donations in the narthex or at the church during office hours. Thank you!

ST. CHRISTOPHER  
BY-THE-RIVER  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
[www.stchrisbytheriver.org](http://www.stchrisbytheriver.org)

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

The Rev. Ann Kidder, Rector  
[stchris.motherann@gmail.com](mailto:stchris.motherann@gmail.com)

### **Sunday Services**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:15 AM Holy Eucharistic Rite II

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

### **Parish Office**

Staffed T-W-Th 8:30-2:30

**440-423-4451**

[stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com)

September 2021 Newsletter

## **St. Christopher by-the-River**

### September Meetings/Events

- [Thursday Evening](#) Prayer 5:00 PM ZOOM
- AA Thursdays 8 PM
- Adult Forum Sundays 9 AM  
**(starting 9/26)**
  
- 12<sup>th</sup> Rally Sunday
- 13<sup>th</sup> Stephen Ministry 9-11 AM
- 14<sup>th</sup> Grief Group 6:30-8 PM ZOOM
- 19<sup>th</sup> Bargain Box 'Set up Sunday'
- 20<sup>th</sup> DOK 1 PM
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Vestry 5:30 PM ZOOM
- 24<sup>th</sup> Bargain Box 9-4
- 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding 3:30 PM
- 28<sup>th</sup> Grief Group 6:30-8 PM ZOOM

**MASK UP**



For the time being, we are asking everyone to wear masks to church.

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I**  
**10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II**  
*(Childcare available at the 10:15 service)*

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> there will be only ONE SERVICE at 10:15 followed by a church picnic.