



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Kindness has been on my mind recently. I confess that lately I have been catching myself having extremely unkind thoughts about fellow drivers who do not use turn signals or who fail to get their entire car into the left turn lane. I feel irritated by grocery shoppers whose carts are left blocking the aisle while important decisions are made about which brand and flavor of yogurt should be purchased. When I moved to Ohio over seven years ago, I was shocked by how kind, thoughtful, and friendly people were toward each other. Drivers waited to let me into traffic, friendly conversations were struck up by complete strangers as we waited in line – anywhere for anything. As a native New Englander, I understood for the first time, what people meant when they referred to New Englanders as cold or unfriendly in general and as extremely rude drivers. It was a humbling experience for me, and I relished this thoughtful and kind Mid-Western culture.

So, what happened? Is it just me? Is it all of us? I don't like thinking of myself as a cranky person. Regional cultural differences aside, surely there were impatient drivers on Mayfield Road seven years ago. Surely, there have always been shoppers who are unaware of their carts taking up an entire aisle. Why am I so impatient and judgmental toward complete strangers these days?

As I think back to the truly scary months of the pandemic, I remember noticing then how thoughtful and patient people were being with each other; more so than usual. Now as we continue to return to more “normal” patterns of daily life, I wonder if we are experiencing a bit of post-traumatic stress. Stress of any kind can alter our usual behaviors, but we do not usually experience the kind of sustained stress that we have undergone since March of 2020. Many people handle stressful situations well “in the moment” and react to the stress “after the fact” – accidents and medical emergencies are two common examples.

If we are all (to one degree or another) experiencing some “after the fact” reactions to the stress and trauma of the past year and a half, how can we support ourselves and others toward a return to our true Mid-Western selves? I believe the answer lies in that old cliché about practicing “random acts of kindness”. Kindness lifts the spirits of both the giver and the receiver. Those random (undeserved and unearned) acts of kindness soften our hearts and open us more fully to God's love for us all. Kindness can transform us – and our world, which needs as much kindness as we can give.

As the days grow shorter, darker, and colder, may our small acts of kindness fill those days with the light and warmth of God's love for this world.

In Christ's Love, Ann+

BLESSING OF THE BEAGLES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18



VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

JULY 28, 2021

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

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

The June 30 meeting minutes were reviewed, no recommended corrections were noted. Mary H. moved to approve the minutes, Ron L. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

For the Stewardship Update, Mary Holmes mention there were a few Committee meetings to review and refine the proposed 2022 pledge goal. The initial proposed target was based off of 2021 data and it was determined that basing the target off of pre-pandemic 2019 data would be more appropriate. With this revision, the proposed 2022 Budget for Pledges, Plate, Gifts, Christmas and Easter donations was set at \$245,000. Charley M. moved to approve the \$245,000 Budget Target, Becky E. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Mary Murray then provided a review of the June Financial Report. She noted through the end of June, receipts are close to tracking 2020. Additionally, the PPP loan was forgiven, so the \$42,800 will be credited in July. As a result, year to date results are acceptable. Mary is still working on the \$8,000 grant and until resolved will be listed as a liability on the balance sheet. The Anne Feller \$100,000 gift was received which lead into a discussion on how to use/allocate the funds. Early in the discussion, Mary M. provided good guidance that the decision and supporting rationale be documented for future Vestry. Multiple proposals were reviewed leading to the resolution - Create a Bob and Ann Feller fund with the intention it be invested and can be withdrawn up to \$10,000 per year for budgetary needs if needed. Charley M. motioned to approve the resolution, Mary H. seconded, a vote was taken, and the resolution was approved. For the Junior Warden update, Becky E. mentioned after considerable consideration, she has decided to not extend her Junior Warden role through 2022. All thanked Becky for the great work she has done for the parish and for the advance notice to identify a successor.

Charley M. opened a discussion on recommendations for Rally Sunday, which will be held on September 12th. At the end of the discussion, all agreed that a pot luck is the best option for the event. Ron L. offered to lead a committee to coordinate the event.

Mother Ann reviewed how services are progressing and inquired whether present restrictions (eg, Congregational singing, communion in both kinds, coffee hour inside, ...) can be relaxed. The general consensus was it seemed prudent to lift many of these restrictions, but it would be prudent to get feedback from the Parish as well. With this, Mother Ann will bring up the topic during the upcoming service on Sunday.

The next Vestry meeting will be on Wednesday, August 25th at 5:30pm via zoom.

Mother Ann closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:00 PM.

RALLY SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 12



FROM YOUR JUNIOR WARDEN

Happy Fall to all of you! It's hard to believe it's already October with the cooler weather and colorful Fall foliage! I am happy to report that all is quiet on the Junior Warden front at St. Christopher's. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Luis for keeping our yard so manicured and beautiful. Please feel free to come and enjoy the quiet and beauty of our little piece of heaven here on the Chagrin River. It's a lovely place to come and enjoy a quiet moment in nature!

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that, after much consideration and prayer, I have decided to step down from my role as Junior Warden, effective March of 2022. I have enjoyed a wonderful three years as your Junior Warden and am encouraged by all the work we have done to keep the church building and grounds in shape! I have felt, for a while, that God has been pointing me into the direction of service, and I would like to find out what else He has in store for me. I still have two more years in my current term on Vestry which I am looking forward to completing. This means that I am happy to advise whoever steps into my role as Junior Warden next year. I am letting you all know this earlier than usual so that you can have more time to think about whether you or someone you know might like to consider becoming a member of the Vestry and becoming Junior Warden.

As Junior Warden you are, basically, in charge of the church building and grounds. This includes scheduling various annual inspections, scheduling needed repairs, lining up snow removal (plowing and shoveling) each winter, working with Luis to create a plan for the yard maintenance, and dealing with any little "surprises" that Mother Nature sends our way – i.e. the basement flooding occasionally etc. Please don't let this last thing scare you! What I

have been reminded of in these crisis moments, is that God is there with us as we deal with these situations and provides an army of wonderful volunteers who are willing to come and help! Some of my most meaningful memories have happened when a group of us are doing our very best to keep the river water out of the

basement in any way we can! And it ALWAYS works out in the end!

I am in the process of putting together a list of contacts that the church uses for various projects as well as a monthly calendar listing what inspections are done during the year. I promise, you will not be empty handed when/if you choose to step into this role, and I am always here to give advice and encouragement. So please take the next couple of months to prayerfully consider stepping into this leadership role next year! I am happy to answer any questions you might have, and I will be glad to pass on your name, if interested, to the nominating committee when it is formed later this Fall.

-Becky Everett



- 1 Bruce Long
Lindsey McMillion
Brooklyn Osolin
- 2 Elise Bennett
Bonnie Humphrey
- 6 Polly Bixler
- 7 Parker Selman
- 10 Baz DeBaz
- 13 Tillie Malm
- 14 Kerry Gnant



- 15 Mike Klinginsmith
- 16 Gretchen Fisher
- 17 Race Matthews
Alexis Matthews
- 19 Ralph DellaRatta
- 21 Sean McMillion
- 26 Pam LaMantia
John McElliot
Britni Ventimiglia
- 28 Margot Hoeflinger

NEMAC Meeting Highlights from July 2021

Attendance	Christ Church: Sandy Pavick; Grace: Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway, Debra Zimmerman, Pat Newyear; Epiphany: Rev. Rosalind Hughes, Nancy Geiger; St. Andrew: Andy Spiesman St. Bart: Rev. Steven Secaur; St. Christopher: Laura Cotton, Peter Batcheler; St. Luke: Rev. Chris McCann; St. Martin: Cheryl Gray; St. Peter: Rev. Peter Nielsen, Cathy Pelton; St. James, Linda Webb								
Financial Report	<table> <tr> <td>—Initial transfer to St. Peter, for the Northeast Mission Area Council:</td> <td>\$1,750.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>—Received from the Diocese of Ohio in early June for like use:</td> <td>\$3,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>—Allocations from the fund to date:</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>—Total available for approved uses:</td> <td><u>\$4,750.33</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Chris urged members to submit future requests before the 10/21 October meeting so the members can review them prior to the meeting and discussion.</p>	—Initial transfer to St. Peter, for the Northeast Mission Area Council:	\$1,750.33	—Received from the Diocese of Ohio in early June for like use:	\$3,000.00	—Allocations from the fund to date:	\$0.00	—Total available for approved uses:	<u>\$4,750.33</u>
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Diocesan Council Reports	<p>Anti-racism is a key focus for this group. There are five subgroups; Penance, Reparations, Partnering, Council Needs, Structure and Goals. All groups are developing initiatives that will be discussed at the upcoming convention. Information goes out to each Diocesan parish. Efforts are made to be sensitive to all levels of concern around racism — and to foster ongoing, civil discussions. A goal is to find justice in our world. Plans are being made for an in-person meeting at convention on November 12-13.</p> <p>Laura Cotton expressed an interest in considering visits to inner-city churches. This was acknowledged by Chris.</p>								
Other Business: A Word from the Parishes									
<p>St. James. The parish has returned to in-person worship for two services with pew-distancing and wafer-only communion. A new team is needed to support the Meal Program on some Sundays. Please email stjameslunch@yahoo.com for information or to volunteer.</p> <p>St. Christopher. The parish returned to in-house worship for both services, including ushers and lectors. The 10 a.m. service is broadcast on YouTube. Please keep organist Yuri's son in your prayers; he was in an auto accident. Stephen Ministers and the Grief committee are meeting at church again. The Grief group, gathering on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and on Zoom is open to the community; guests join from as far as TN. Email Laura Cotton at llcpersonalchef@gmail.com for information.</p> <p>St. Martin. The parish held a memorial service for the poor.</p> <p>Grace. Grace is following a hybrid worship model with distant pews, no wine — and Zoom. The church is blessed to have several beautifully remodeled areas.</p> <p>St. Andrew. The parish is holding both indoor and outdoor services. Work continues on the Jubilee Garden; beans and tomatoes have been harvested. Everyone pulls together, and anyone may join to help. The garden supports the food pantry and other causes. Contact Lisa at revlisastandrew@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>St. Peter. Plans are for the parish to return to indoor worship in September. The kitchen is about to reopen three years after the flood. The Ashtabula Choral Arts society will be housed in the church. There are lots of “gatherings” of those that are impoverished in the City of Ashtabula, so the city has decided to begin evicting occupants, starting with North and South Park Streets that surround the church. The Salvation Army does try to provide housing. Peters asks us to Join him in prayer for the cause.</p> <p>Epiphany. The parish is following an indoor/outdoor hybrid model. During Lent, there was an Intercontinental bible study; the parish joined a fellow church in Redding, UK for a session on healing. The group will meet again in the fall with another meeting possible during Advent. Rosalind reports that the program may also be extended to our mission area and others.</p> <p>St. Bart. Indoor worship has returned. Masks are recommended due to the Delta variant. The Parish picnic is at noon on Saturday, Aug 21, serving brisket and hot dogs.</p> <p>Christ. Christ is back to in-person worship with a “guarded” model. A new organist is being sought. Free library boxes have been added; people can take and/or leave books. The Blessings bags program continues.</p> <p>St. Luke. Chris is concerned about the dangers of the Covid variants. A return to masks is being considered; prayers are requested for a solution. The driveway has been paved.</p> <p>Epiphany. The parish is alternating indoor and outdoor worship and asks all to be masked. A camera captures the service for Zoom sessions.</p>									
Closing Discussion	Peter and Nancy asked whose decision it is mask or not mask at church. Chris commented that Bishop Mark has provided recommendations, however has not issued mandates.								
Our Fourth Meeting of 2021 and Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting on Thursday, 10/21 will again be held at Grace, and also through Zoom. We are reminded to please submit funding requests to the chairs and secretary so we can distribute copies to our members and the Diocesan Council. Also, if you have agenda items, please send them to Chris a few days before the meeting at 062663@sbcglobal.net 								

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ALTERNATIVE



Since they were little our children have heard and become very familiar with the story of the birth of Christ.

This is an invitation to all our young parishioners in Church School to “write” (Parents, please transcribe the telling for the younger children) their understanding of the story. Please include why your child(ren) think this story is important.

This does not need to be very long. A few sentences would be fine. We will publish the stories that are submitted in our December newsletter. Be sure to include the children’s age when the stories are sent in.

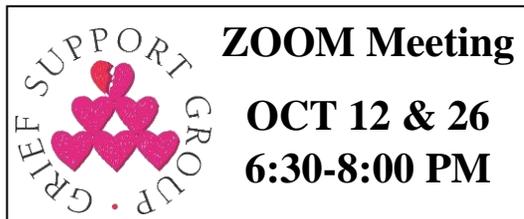
In view of the current state of uncertainty related to Covid-19 and our desire to keep everyone safe and as healthy as possible, we are encouraging all families and children to participate in this special Christmas project.

Many thanks to our St. Christopher families! Please send/email the stories to Peggy Reda at prseverin@aol.com.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS SEPTEMBER 2021

In loving memory of:

- Linda Matthews Costello by Cindy Costello
- Bob ‘Tiger’ Malm and granddaughter, Erin Malm by Tillie Malm and Laura LaRue
- Sarah Christy Dickenson and Jeffrey R. Cudlip by Frances and David Dickenson
- Irene & Merle Reynolds and Fred Bixler by Polly Bixler



ZOOM Meeting

**OCT 12 & 26
6:30-8:00 PM**

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

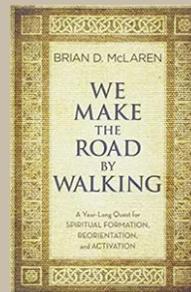
440-463-7378 or kp@momshrink.com

Adult Forum

Continue reading in
We Make the Road by Walking

Thursdays, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28
Chapters 46, 47, 48, 49

Sundays, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Chapters 46, 47, 48, 49, 50



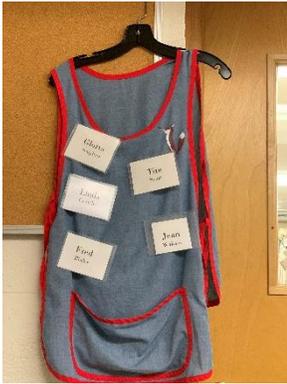
Parishioners (Sandy Redmond, Becky Everett, Ron & Neal Lee) have been involved in cleaning one of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Homes which a family transitioning out of homelessness will soon move into.



IN PRAISE OF THE GREATEST BARGAIN BOX



Since I no longer work in the investment business, I couldn't use it as an excuse to not participate in this year's Bargain Box sale; so, just before 8:00 I arrived to join Carolyn, her Guild stalwarts and other volunteers. We opened the doors and over forty shoppers paid \$10.00 and poured in followed by another big group at 9:00. Our Bargain Box is a big job and one of our greatest examples of volunteerism. It takes months of preparation heading into Setup Sunday and the big day. Yesterday over forty individuals helped out, including Melanie Reda's powerful team who arrived at four o'clock to help us bag and carry out all unsold items, to be given to needy organizations, and to replace all the furniture in preparation for a Saturday wedding and Sunday's services. Was it the best sale ever? I don't know but it is



surely the best in recent history. The final tally isn't in but it appears that our proceeds exceeded \$18,000.00 - \$6,000.00 over our last sale in September 2019. We had a lot of high-quality items throughout the departments, in "Dianna's Fashion Boutique" and especially in "Linda's Legacy Gift Shop" where people snapped up the incredible gift of Linda Costello's jewelry given by her sister, Cindy. I have often said that Bargain Box is a win for the donors, a win for the buyers and a win for the charities who benefit from the sale. It is also a BIG WIN for St Christopher by the River. It is a great example of how we fulfill our goal of being a positive force in our community and beyond. Sue and I returned home at 6:00 exhausted. Thank you everyone who participated.

~Charley, Senior Warden

Guild Outreach Spotlight



Family Promise is the result of the merger of Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cleveland and New Life Community. The goal is to inspire and empower homeless families to become self-sufficient and reach their full potential. They are unique in that they keep families of any description together while they work through homelessness. Families reside in the Family Promise facilities while receiving help in finding housing, employment, financial support, as well as medical, mental health, and legal services. They also provide four months of support after departure from the facility. They help 100 families per year secure and maintain independent housing.

WomenSafe supplies support for those experiencing violence in the home or in dating relationships.

They supply shelter, counseling, court, hospital, and employment advocacy, art therapy, and aftercare, and parenting skills. They do community education providing healthy relationship classes in Lake and Geauga County schools. They provide a shelter, the Green House, at a disclosed location, thus raising awareness of the problem in the community.



2021 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



To celebrate the joy of being together again to worship and serve, the Stewardship Working Group adopted the theme, "Open Arms, Open Doors" for the Every Member Campaign. Look for a letter in October that includes a giving card to be returned to the church no later than ***November 15th***. Our goal is \$245,000. Every gift, large or small, is important. Your returned giving card helps the Vestry prepare the budget for 2022. More importantly, it is your opportunity to reflect prayerfully on your faith and the privilege we have of serving God through the ministries of St. Christopher's.

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.

~ Mary Holmes (chair), Brian Currutt, Laura Cotton, Lucy Lytle, Charley Marston, Sandy Redmond

ROTA

		OCT 3	OCT 10	OCT 17	OCT 24	OCT 31
8:00 AM	EM	Charley Marston	Kitty Thomas	Melanie Reda	Kitty Thomas	John Irwin
	LECTOR	Teri Ianni	Sandy Redmond	Kitty Thomas	Annette Lowe	Teri Ianni
	ALTAR GUILD	Teri Ianni	Sue Marston	Sue Marston	Sally Conley	Teri Ianni
10:00 AM	EM	John Irwin	Charley Marston	Charley Marston	John Irwin	Melanie Reda
	LECTOR 1	Becky Everett	Mary Holmes	Kathy Pender	Becky Everett	Judy Holmes
	LECTOR 2	Brian Wright	Ron Lee	Sandy Redmond	Mona DeBaz	Jean Ramsey
	ALTAR GUILD	Leslie Marting	Renee Kolecki	Courtney Schmidt	Carolyn Misco	Mary Murray
	USHERS	Rik Bole Brian Wright	Ron & Neal Lee	Kurt Liljedahl	Ron Lee Peter Thatcher	Need more ushers HELP NEEDED!!
HOSTESSES		Judy Holmes Jean LaRiche	Kathy Pender Sue Marston	Mary Murray	Neal Lee Nancy Irwin	Laura Cotton Becky Everett

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

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
10:15 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

October 2021 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

October Meetings/Events

- **Thurs. Morning Book Group 10 AM ZOOM**
- **Thursday Evening ZOOM + In Person**
 - **Book Group 4:00 PM**
 - **Prayer 5:00 PM**
- **AA Thursdays 8 PM**
- **Adult Forum Sundays 9 AM In Person**

- 3rd Blessing of the Animals 12:15 PM
- 4th Stephen Ministry 9-11 AM
- 5th Mother Ann at Clergy Day
- 11th – 19th Mother Ann Vacation
- 12th Grief Group 6:30-8 PM ZOOM
- 18th Stephen Ministry 9-11 AM
DOK 1 PM, Guild Room
- 26th Grief Group 6:30-8 PM ZOOM
- 27th Vestry 5:30 PM ZOOM & In Person



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

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 a.m. Adult Forum
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
(Childcare available at the 10:15 service)

October 17th
Father Rich Israel will be our guest Priest.