



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

November marches us, week by week, toward the end of another Church Year. Something about the shorter days and the typically gray and rainy weather of this month has a way of prompting thoughtful reflections on what we have celebrated or endured since Advent, 2020.

Certainly, we have endured a great deal over the past many months, but we also have much for which we can give God our thanks. Earlier this week I attended the first in-person Clericus Meeting in over two years. We wore our masks and spread out but as we looked around the room, eyes were shining with the joy of being together once again. Our Convener, Father Chris McCann, reminded us that, “We survived. Our parishes survived. We are all here.”

Certainly, when Covid-19 arrived in our country and spread throughout every diocese, that was not a given. But through all the tough challenges from March 2020 to this day, hope has held us together and strengthened our love for our parish and for each other.

A wonderful determination was born from that hope and love – to continue to find ways to **be** St. Christopher’s; to worship God, to grow in our faith, and to serve others as fully as possible. Our Diocesan motto to “Love God, love your neighbor, change the world” requires that we hold fast to hope. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians names faith, hope, and love as enduring forever. I believe that they sometimes need to be nurtured to become more fully realized in our lives.

The best way to nurture faith, hope, and love that I know of is to practice gratitude.

And so, in these short and gray November days as you begin to plan your Thanksgiving celebrations, consider starting a gratitude list. It can live on your nightstand, on the refrigerator, or next to the television remote – wherever you will see it often and can easily add to it.

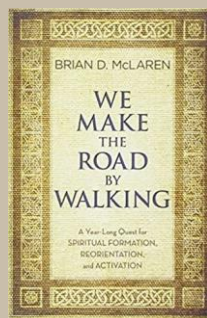
You may find that you need more than a page by the time you sit down for your Thanksgiving dinner because, honestly, even with all that we have endured, there is so much more for which to be thankful. As that list of thankfulness grows, we see more clearly God’s loving and sustaining presence in our lives. Our faith and trust in God – with us and for us – grows. With that also comes a growing hope for the future and trust that whatever we do to love our neighbors truly does contribute to changing the world. Faith, hope, and love are the agents of transforming the way things are into God’s will for life on earth to be “as in heaven.”

While I am on vacation this month, I will be making my own gratitude list. It will be very, very long! I will return from vacation in time for our Thanksgiving Eve worship service on November 24th at 6:00 p.m. If you can come, bring your thanksgiving list with you – we will have an opportunity to share our gratitude for God’s great goodness with each other. If you are not able to be at that service, I hope you will take time with your families and friends to offer your thanks for all that truly has blessed your lives during this year.

With my love and gratitude for all of you, Ann+

Book Groups

We will take a break during November.



We will continue and finish our study of *We Make the Road by Walking* on the following dates:

Thursdays, Dec 2, 9,
Chapters 51, 52
Sundays, Nov 28, Dec 5
Chapters 51, 52

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2021

by Tom Matthews

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

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

The July 28th meeting minutes were reviewed, two corrections were noted. Becky E. moved to approve the minutes, Sandra R. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Mother Ann then led the July Financial Review. With the PPP loan forgiveness transferring to income, the results for the month and year to date are in good shape and ahead of budget.

Election of 3 Delegates and 3 Alternates for the November Diocesan Convention was the next order of business. During the discussion, vestry members offered to represent the parish and other parish members were identified as possible candidates. However, the other parish members would need to be contacted to confirm interest before the final rosters could be approved. Tom M. proposed a motion that Mother Ann will provide the final list based on the discussions with the identified parish members. Sandra R. seconded the motion, a vote was taken and passed.

Ron L. then provided an update on plans for Rally Sunday. He mentioned the committee met on the 19th, making good progress on the plans. The group decided to supplement the pot luck with grilled items and was planning for 40 individuals. RSVPs will be requested. Charley M. will coordinate with the town for tables and chairs. From the report, looks to be a great event.

For the Stewardship Update, Mary Holmes stated the 2022 campaign program (Open Arms, Open Doors) and related materials are all progressing well. Mary stated she is looking for parish members to talk about stewardship and let her know of possible candidates.

For the Junior Warden update, Becky E. added to the Stewardship topic by mentioning there will be a call for service in the next newsletter. She also reminded the Vestry that Bargain Box is on the 24th and Set Up Sunday is the 19th.

Mother Ann then gave an update on recent services. She noted that all attendees were masked the prior Sunday. Turnout was light, roughly two thirds received communion, and the attendees seemed comfortable with the measures in place.

The next Vestry meeting will be on Wednesday, September 29th at 5:30pm via zoom.

Mother Ann closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:45 PM.

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

**NOV 9 & 23
6:30-8:00 PM**

If interested in coming to this group, please contact Kathy Pender:
440-463-7378 or kp@momshrink.com

CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS FOR CHILDREN

Every Christmas season we have asked our parishioners to fill backpacks with toys, books, games etc. to give to those children who may not get anything for Christmas otherwise. You have all been extremely generous in helping us with this service project in the past, and we hope you will continue to do so this year. This year we are asking that you and your family purchase a backpack, choose an age range from the lists below, purchase and wrap the gifts and bring the filled backpacks to church by Sunday, November 28th. Please label each bag with the age and sex of the child you have purchased for, and we will make sure the backpacks get delivered to the children by the first week in December. The church is open Monday – Thursday from 8:30 – 2:30pm and on Saturday mornings from 10 – 12pm. Please leave the labeled backpacks in the hallway by the bridge side entrance of the church. Thank you, in advance, for your dedication to this project! You truly are making a difference in these children's lives this holiday season! God Bless you!

-Becky Everett



YOU CAN HELP

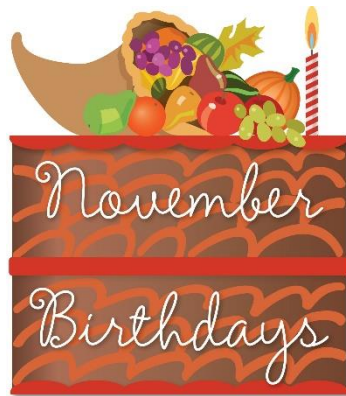
INFANTS: diapers, diaper wipes, rattles, teething, bottles, pacifier, bib, stuffed animal, hats, mittens and socks.

TODDLERS: diapers, pull-ups, diaper wipes, books, sippy cups, spoons, forks, stuffed animal, hats, mittens, socks

SCHOOL AGE: hats, mittens, crayons, markers, candy, construction paper, glue, socks, chap stick, journal, books, jump rope, cards and puzzles

TEENS: underwear, lined college rule paper, pencils, pens, highlighters, cards, games, books, hats, gloves, deodorant, combs, brushes, Chapstick, toothpaste and toothbrush

- 2 Don Negrelli
- 3 Dennis Currutt
- 4 Bill Donahue
- 5 Michael Marting
- 7 Kathy Pender
- 12 Helen Cicirello
- 13 Yuri McElliot
Tim Thirion
- 14 Hope Lomas
Betsi Morris
- 16 Andrew Everett
Alexandra Wolf
- 17 Buffy LaMantia
Susie Thorpe



- 18 Sue Marston
- 23 Will Barnes
- 27 Carolyn Miscko
Caleb Thirion
- 30 Lucy Lytle

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

OCTOBER 2021

In loving memory of:

- Dr. Petros & Elizabeth DeBaz and Shehadeh & Abba Kafena by Mona & Baz DeBaz & Family
- Marcia & John Eakin, loving parents of Jeffrey Eakin by Judy & Jeff Eakin
- James & Margery Beckerman, Eleanor Liljedahl Snyder and Leroy E. Liljedahl by Kurt & Mary Anne Liljedahl
- Robert & Virginia Chase by Sue & Charley Marston
- Suzanne Turner Gepfert by Leslie & Michael Marting

NEMAC Meeting Highlights from October 2021

Item	Proceedings
Diocesan Council: a) Rep Nomination b) Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa O’Rear has graciously offered to serve on Council again. With no others nominated, it was Moved to accept her service (Peter), seconded (Laura); passed. We thank you, Lisa! • From the Council meeting on 10/22/21, she reports that efforts will continue toward working with facts, development of a strategy for racial justice — and migrating this initiative out to the parishes. (See the report entitled Racial Justice Report, NEMAC 10.21.21.docx) • Laura shared that after a very successful Guild-sponsored September Bargain Box rummage sale at St. Chris, some funds are available to support a cause outside NEMAC. She asked if the Guild might do something to help.
New Lay Rep	We welcomed new NEMAC member Alana Hill representing Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst.
New Business	Funding Requests
<p>Al Muller, former NEMAC member and St. Hubert parishioner requests \$3,000 for key efforts in support of work of Los Amigos Episcopales for the Diocese of El Salvador. With the help of last year’s grant, the priest postulants from last year have graduated. This year’s request will support these initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminary. Funding will support the education of six priest postulants; deacon candidates are being sought. • Elementary Education. A second Episcopal Montessori school has been opened; both target the teaching of poor children. The diocese schools provide a higher level of education than that of the state, something Al has witnessed first-hand. • Food security and sanitary support. The country’s economy lags behind US; insecurity needs have increased. Funding will support sustainable food security and emergency food baskets as well as sanitizer, masks, digital thermometers and micro-grants to street vendors selling these products. <p>The funding request breakdown is: \$750 for each of the two Montessori schools, \$750 for the seminary — and \$750 in support of food security and sanitary supplies. Discussion and Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total LAE budget is \$35,145. • Since fundraiser events weren’t feasible during the pandemic, fewer funds have been available in NEO this year. • The Bishop has made a request for discernment of their needs. • St. Hubert does have a line item in its budget for LAE support. (Al is not sure if other parishes do.) <p>Moved to grant \$3,000 to LAE: (Peter), seconded (Andy); passed.</p>	
Ongoing Projects	Human Trafficking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl Gray shared a flyer regarding tips for children using the internet in support of anti-human trafficking initiatives. • The Episcopal Anti-Human Trafficking Committee has grant funding, planning to hold two programs this year with parish and community involvement. A walk is planned for May 21, 2022; information will follow from committee as plans are available. • During recent travels, Rose Anne noted that she’d seen many flyers with 800 numbers and tips for anti-trafficking prevention. • She also noted that a group titled “The Proposed Lake County Coalition to End Human Trafficking Volunteers” has held four meetings to date. To attend in person or by Zoom, or for further information, contact Carolyn M. Kinkoph at c.kinkoph@csuohio.edu. (Cheryl reported there is \$255 in extra funding that could help the efforts of this group.) 	
Other Business	A Word from the Parishes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Peter. Due to a large influx of addicted and homeless people living in front of the church, the pantry was closed for three wks. It will reopen in the church where it will be more manageable. • St. Andrew. The Jubilee Garden was a success this year. Vegetables were given to Choice Pantry guests. The land has been plowed and is ready for next spring’s planting. There is a fall festival next Saturday, at 6:00 p.m., open to all. • Epiphany. Bob Thompson remains in the nursing home, and is recovering slowly. Many groups want to use the church facilities. A pre-school is starting; there are requests from AA and others. • St. James. Beth Frank is serving as interim Rector. A mini-retreat will be held in November to work with her and parish leadership to make plans for finding the next rector. • Grace. Dawson Moorer served as interim priest for RAL+ during her brief sabbatical; • St. Luke. The parish celebrated its October 18th 65th anniversary on October. 17th. • St. Chris. Church activities are back to normal; grief and Stephen ministry meetings are being held in person and by Zoom. The September Bargain Box sale netted \$16,000. 	
2022 Meetings	Mon. Jan. 17; Tue. Apr. 19; Wed. Jul. 20; Thu. Oct. 20; (All at Grace and by Zoom)



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.



PRAYERS

The Daughters of the King chapter here at St. Christopher’s is committed to practicing a daily Rule of Prayer. If you or someone you know are in need of prayers, please feel free to fill out a prayer request form and place it in the “Special Prayers to God” box in the narthex! These confidential requests will be collected regularly and the names will be placed on our prayer list.

Thank you and God Bless!



THANK YOU LUCY & LUIS!

While all the Bargain Box workers deserve a huge thank you for donating time and expertise to the sale, we couldn’t have done it without the tireless efforts of Lucy and Luis! From the pre-sale set-up to the sale itself and the clean-up afterwards, Lucy and Luis never stopped. They were willing to help with any task, small or large, solve any problems that arose, and assist both customers and workers as needed. And, they did it with grace, smiles and kind words for all.

Earlier this year, Luis did exceptional work enhancing the Guild Room by painting the walls and woodwork and adding new hardware to the cabinets and windows.

Thank you, Lucy and Luis, for your help with the sale and for everything that you do for the entire congregation every day to keep St. Christopher’s well-maintained and welcoming for all. We are so grateful to you both and we are lucky to have you at St. Christopher’s. You are truly a blessing for our church!

~Sally Conley

2022 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



“Open Arms, Open Doors,” the theme for our every member campaign, seems to have touched many hearts this fall. Over 25% of last year’s committed givers have renewed or increased their gift for 2022! I am confident that the remainder will follow through with gifts for the 2022 budget by the time the campaign is concluded on **November 15th**.

For those who have never made a commitment to the budget, now is the time to consider what it means to be a member of St. Christopher’s. As a place of worship and Christian formation, as a starting point for service, as a connection to the wider church, St. Christopher’s is our spiritual home. A regular gift weekly, monthly or annually reminds us that we truly belong and are always welcome. What a privilege it is to be part of a beautiful church where we find hope, solace, forgiveness and challenge in the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus!

~ *Mary Holmes (chair)*

A FEW THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP DEACON LYDIA BAILEY

As St. Christopher’s plays out over time for me, this church is the core - out of which I move into the week ahead. My eyes and heart are *tuned* in a certain way from what I gain here.

Any given moment may seem quite ordinary on the surface, but with a little reflection, maybe at the end of the day, I realize something special took place. This church is more and more defining the core of who I am.

For me, our liturgy and Scripture - fellowship and sacraments - all combine and prompt me, all so subtly & gradually, to make choices daily in ways that are simple, reverent, and even a little profound. Profound because they are choices coming out of my faith which St. Christopher’s has all the while been building in me.

There is a passage in the Gospel of John that stands out for me whenever I come across it. It’s in the Gospel of John when Jesus asked the twelve, “*Do you also wish to go away? Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.*” (John 6:67-69)

Maybe you feel as I do: even when we are questioning and feel far from faith, there is something that continues to nag us, way in the back of our soul, and we ask, “Where else *can* we go, Lord?” All other avenues feel provisional at best.

St. Christopher’s brings us back to the core. We are guided in choices daily, all so simple and profound. How valuable.

Personally, it’s been a delight to have parishioners serve at the shelter where I work. I’ve appreciated the contribution of families and individuals to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, as well as the financial support which Bargain Box has generated over the years. Service with you at the shelter has been LIFE giving for me, and I daresay for you. There is a picture of the St. Christopher’s lunch servers on the bulletin board at church. Look at those faces! Tell me the Spirit is not life giving here! Among those faces is that of Janet Hargrave, our dear friend who passed away in October. While I don’t presume to know all about Janet’s inward self, I do have the sense that St. Christopher’s had for a long time been forming her as a disciple.

Whichever way we choose to apply ourselves – and there are many ways - may we do this as *disciples*, intentionally aligned with the core of our faith, like the first disciples who realized, “*Where else can we go, Lord?*” The sacraments and liturgy, Scripture and fellowship are all quietly forming in us this path of discipleship. In the end, there is nothing more important.

It is good to be serving with you!

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.

ROTA

		NOV 7	NOV 14	NOV 21	NOV 28
		FATHER RICH	MORNING PRAYER	MORNING PRAYER	ADVENT
8:00 AM	EM	Charley Marston	John Irwin	Charley Marston	Charley Marston
	LECTOR	Teri Ianni	Kitty Thomas	Annette Lowe	Terri Ianni
	ALTAR GUILD	Teri Ianni	Sue Marston	Sally Conley	Teri Ianni
10:00 AM	EM	John Irwin	John Irwin	Charley Marston	John Irwin
	LECTOR 1	Victoria Connell	Ron Lee	Mary Holmes	Ron Lee
	LECTOR 2	Brian Wright	Neal Lee	Chandler Everett	Neal Lee
	ALTAR GUILD	Neal Lee	Leslie Marting	Mary Murray ?	Renee Kolecki
	USHERS	Rik Bole Brian Wright	Ron & Neal Lee	Kurt Liljedahl	Ron Lee Peter Thatcher
HOSTESSES		Nancy Irwin	Laura Cotton	Becky Everett Elise Bennett	Neal Lee

Guild Outreach Spotlight



Two Foundation and Boutique is the inspiration of Shari Hunter. Having a son with Downs Syndrome, she observed a tendency in our society to sidetrack individuals with exceptionalities and keep them out of the mainstream. She developed a program to provide education, job experience, and a staffing agency to help those with mild to moderate exceptionalities find employment. She provides eight week summer day seminars including job training, hands on activities, daily living skills, such as time, food, and money management and social skills. The Boutique and Café provide hands-on work experience for young people aged approximately 16 to 22. This helps bridge the gap between school and workplace and provides a smooth transition. The goal is to fully integrate the individual into the workplace. Job training and placement are provided as well as ongoing coaching and support. [Two Café and Boutique](#) is located at 8578 = East Washington Street in Bainbridge.



[Renée Jones Empowerment Center](#) is a community center on the near west side whose goal is to rebuild broken spirits and create strong self-esteem in those disadvantaged by poverty, homelessness, teen pregnancy, human trafficking, domestic violence, or drug abuse. They also offer training in life and employment skills, job readiness, support groups, self-esteem empowerment classes, arts and theater opportunities, and social outings. They provide community education on the problem of human trafficking, awareness of the warning signs, and online dangers. Between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked per year worldwide, 14,500 to 17,500 in the US. More than half of these are children. Our own state is one of the major trafficking areas in this country.



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

November 2021 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

November Meetings/Events

- **Thursday Evening Prayer 5:00 PM**
 - **ZOOM + In Person**
- **AA Thursdays 8 PM**
- 1st – 23rd Mother Ann Vacation
- 1st Stephen Ministry 9-11 AM
- 9th Grief Group 6:30-8 PM ZOOM
- 12th & 13th Diocesan Convention
- 15th Stephen Ministry 9-11 AM
- 23rd Grief Group 6:30-8 PM ZOOM
- **24th Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:00 PM**
- 28th First Day of Advent



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)

Morning Prayer on Nov 14th and 21st

November 7th
Father Rich Israel will be our guest Priest.