ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

It has been such a joy to gather for worship inside our beloved St. Christopher's throughout these past months. As we move deeper into Advent and approach Christmastide, I believe that we can safely celebrate Christmas at St. Christopher's as we used to do prior to 2020. (We will, of course, continue to wear masks during the services.)

Although there will not be a Pageant this year, I hope that you will enjoy the full service of Advent Lessons and Hymns that will be offered on the Fourth Sunday of Advent at the 10:15 service. It is a worship experience that uses scripture and hymns to tell the "old, old story" of God coming to save us from ourselves and set us free to experience the transforming power of God's eternal love in our daily lives.

On Saturday, December 18th, there will be a Blue Christmas service in the Church at 5:00 p.m.

This is a quiet and gentle opportunity for anyone who struggles with the "Merry" part of Christmas.

You can read more about Blue Christmas later in this newsletter.

On Christmas Eve we will offer our traditional Family Vespers service at 3:30 p.m. in the Church. All are welcome and rumor has it that St. Nicholas plans to make his appearance on the Polo Field at about 4:00 p.m. Becky Everett will again be playing Christmas Carols on our carillon as we make our way from St. Christopher's to the Polo Field to await St. Nick. At 9:00 we will celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus with a festive Eucharist and special music by Yuri, our choir, and the hand chime choir. There is always a special "something" about this Christmas Eve service and I hope that many of you will be able to come this year.

Enjoy those you love on Christmas Day. **There will be one Morning Prayer service at 9:00 on the 26th.**

Beginning on Sunday, January 2nd at 9:00, the Adult Forum will begin discussing "Grace Saves All: The Necessity of Christian Universalism" by David Artman. It is available in paperback from Amazon for $18.63 or on Kindle for $9.99 This book will carry us through the end Lent. There will also be an opportunity to gather via Zoom during the week for those unable to meet on Sunday mornings. This excerpt from the Introduction should give you a sense of the author's approach to a key concept of our faith – God's Grace.

> *Grace is amazing. About this all Christians agree. Yet nearly all forms of Christianity put significant limits on grace. … Can one be Christian and understand grace to save alone and go to all? Can one be a Christian and believe salvation by grace alone is for everyone?*
>
> *I will argue here that being Christian does not require one to limit either grace's power or scope. It's quite possible, I will contend, to be Christian and to believe grace is God's way of finally saving everyone.*

I very much look forward to having conversations with you about an aspect of our faith that is key to our understanding of who God is; for us and for the whole world.

Wishing you God's Peace throughout these ever-briefer days,

Ann+

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

by Tom Matthews

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

The meeting came to order at 5:32 pm. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

The August 25th meeting minutes were the first order of business. No corrections were noted. Becky E. moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Sandra R. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

For the Financial Review, Mother Ann mentioned that the August report wasn't compiled in time for the meeting. However, an update for the Anne and Bob Feller gift was available, the funds have been put in an existing interest bearing account per the agreed resolution.

Election of 3 Delegates and 3 Alternates for the November Diocesan Convention was the next order of business. The Delegates (Becky Everett, Neal Lee, and Sandra Redmond) and Alternates (Charley Marston, Leslie Marting, and Tom Matthews) had been confirmed and just need to be voted on by the Vestry. Sandra R. motioned for approval of the proposed slate of delegates and alternates, Tom M. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

For the Stewardship Update, Becky E. updated the group that the Pledge cards have been printed and will get mailed the following Tuesday.

For the Junior Warden update, Becky E. reviewed the progress she has made documenting the responsibilities associated duties of the Junior Warden position to assist future Junior Warden's as well as reduce the trepidation of future candidates.

Mother Ann opened a discussion about the recent announcement of Bishop Hollingsworth retirement. For many, it was a well appreciated opportunity to better understand the process of finding a successor and how our parish will be involved. Overall, it was a very informative and appreciated discussion.

Mother Ann then reviewed her plans for the remainder of her vacation time. Specifically, October 12th to the 19th and November 1st to the 23rd are the selected dates. It was good to hear that Father Rich Israel is available to fill in during these periods.

The next Vestry meeting will be on Zoom on Wednesday, October 27th at 5:30pm.

Mother Ann closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:10 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

VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Charley Marston
Ron Lee
Lucy Lytle
Leslie Marting

The positions that will need to be filled are:

- Three (3-year term) positions on the vestry
- One (2-year term) position as NEMAC Representative

Thank you for taking your important part in discerning the leadership of our parish by suggesting names to any member of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee is required to complete their work by January 21st.

Senior Warden's Message

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright successfully flew their plane at Kitty Hawk North Carolina. Elated, they wired their sister, Katherine, in Dayton the good news: "We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas." Katherine ran down to the local newspaper office and shared the telegram with the editor. With a big smile he responded, "Isn't that nice that they will be home for Christmas."

While this little anecdote is a simple tale, it has a big meaning, especially these days. More and more our lives seem to be pressured by activities demanding our time attention and physical presence. Add to that the concern about our health exasperated our desire and ability to gather at "The Lord's Table. Once again we are approaching the most important event in the history of mankind and we at St Christopher by the River are here for you, especially on Christmas Eve. We will celebrate with the Holy Eucharist at 9:00PM with the church beautifully decorated and with prayers and music extraordinaire. Also, at 3:30 on that day, we will have our abbreviated family service. This is a tremendous tradition and one well worth having your children and grandchildren attend. Weather permitting, after the service many attendees cross the street to join others at a huge bonfire. Shortly after 4:00, Santa Claus is expected to be delivered in a huge carriage pulled by a team of beautiful Percheron horses. While he visits with everyone, thanks to donations to the village's Judy Bell Fund, carriage rides around the polo field will be offered as well as coffee, hot chocolate, hot dogs and toys for the kids. The combination of these three events represent the classical tradition of welcoming the arrival of the Christ child the way Norman Rockwell envisioned.

I also have to report that Sue and I will be departing on December 28th to spend six weeks in England with our children and grandchildren. Despite being five hours ahead, I will try to keep in touch, so keep our email- skypond1@aol.com- handy. In the meantime, we have begun the season of Advent and our "Open arms open doors" services and activities continue for you. And, if you can't make it here for Christmas, like Wilbur and Orville did, remember that you are in our prayers and hope you are doing the same for us.

~Faithfully yours Charley

"Come to me all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." ***-Matthew 11:28***

For those experiencing grief, loss or hardship, the Christmas season is far from the most wonderful time of the year. Typical holiday festivities—merry carol singing, decorating, gathering with family in purchasing gifts, emphasize joy and cheer, and little room for pain and grief.

In response some churches offer a special service leading up to Christmas that accommodate those for whom the season is trying and difficult. This service called **Blue Christmas** emphasizes the pain of loss felt by many at this time of year and offers a somber, gentle space to gather.

Symbolically, many of the services are held on or around December 21, the date of the winter Solstice, the longest night of the year.

The service is very important to many, as it gives them permission to grieve openly, offers hope and comfort—consolation that they are not alone in their grief—and that others care. It is a quiet time for meditation and reflection.

The service is open to anyone who needs it regardless of denomination. It can be any kind of loss that one is grieving- A loss of a child, loss of a job, loss of a marriage--- a loss that creates a hole in our life

Grieving with others is so valuable because one will be offered empathy, comfort, prayer, scripture, and temporary or long-term relationship.

Please join us at St Christopher's at 5:00 pm on December 18th for the BLUE CHRISTMAS service.

If you have questions, please call Mother Ann or Kathy Pender (440)463-7378.

Dear Children and Families of St. Christopher's,

We are in the church season of Advent and soon will be in the season of Christmas! It has been some time since we were together in the classroom! We have missed you very much, but we think of you and keep you in our prayers!

Here are a few activities for you to celebrate the season with your families and to remember the birth of Jesus as the indescribable gift he is to us!

Wishing you many hours of togetherness with your family!

1. Decorate the tree
2. Set up the nativity scene under the tree or elsewhere in your home
3. Read the Christmas story in the Bible in Luke 1:1-21
4. Make paper snowflakes
5. Write a letter to God to thank Him for something you received
6. Send a Christmas card to someone else in your church family
7. Send a Christmas card to your pastor
8. Make an ornament with your mom or dad
9. Bake cookies with mom and dad
10. Bake a birthday cake for Jesus (with mom!)
11. Donate blankets and towels to animal shelters
12. Make donations to shelters.

Blessings, *Peggy Reda*

Junior Warden's Message

As we enter this holiday season, I would like to wish you all a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas! It's hard to believe another year has come and gone, and I look forward to next year and all that the Holy Spirit has in store for us at St. Christopher's!

With regard to the realm of Junior Warden, I would like to report that it has been a very busy fall full of various yearly inspections and a number of repairs, most of them being small. I am not surprised by this as we all came back to our usual activities at church this past spring. After a little over a year of quiet solitude, St. Christopher's came back to life which resulted in the return of the usual maintenance of the building and grounds which had been reduced during the pandemic.

I would like to offer my most heartfelt thanks to all of you who so generously donated time and money to make it a very special Christmas for 36 men and women in need with the Christmas totes as well as the 25 backpacks that were filled and donated to children of various ages. As Debbie Cole has often told us, these donations are often the only Christmas these children and adults will receive. Your generosity means so much!

Enjoy the next few weeks as we wait for and welcome baby Jesus into the world! God Bless you all with health, happiness and the love of family and friends this holiday season and beyond! *~Becky Everett*

Guild Outreach Spotlight

DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem covers five countries, including Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. They provide hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, and schools. They provide a rare oppor tunity for people of different faiths to learn and live together in peace, and they work to strengthen interfaith dialogue with Jews and Muslims. They also provide a Kids4Peace program which educates the next generation in the language of tolerance and acceptance.

Episcopal Westside Shared Ministries is a consortium of westside Episcopal churches offering significant outreach to the local community. They provide a hot meal program, twice a month mobile fresh produce pantry, weekly free clothing distribution, school clothes, as well as other responses to need. They also have an extensive AA response. At Christmas we participate in their backpack program providing 60 or more filled backpacks to those in need of all ages.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE PLEDGED FOR 20222

Barnes, Will & Anne
Bennett, Larry & Elise
Bixler, Chuck & Donna
Bixler, Polly
Blossom, Perry & Pam
Boswell, Lou Helga
Brachna, Gabe
Butler, J. C. & Helen
Cicirello, Sal & Helen
Conley, Ms. Sally K.
Cotton, Miss Laura
Davis, Barbara Ann
DeBaz, Dr. Baz & Mrs. Mona
Dickenson,. David & Frances
Everett, Chandler H. & Marsha
Everett, Chandler P. & Becky
Fisher, Marilyn
Foltz, Suzanne
Frith,. Sarita
Holmes, Peter & Judy
Holmes, Tom & Mary
Hoyt, Doug & Dr. Callum (Cally)
Ianni,. Teri & Patrick Manning
Irwin, Dr. John & Nancy
Kidder, Mother. Ann & Ted
Klinginsmith, Mike & Dr. Gretchen Fisher
LaMantia, Jim & Pam
Lee, Mr. Ron & Mrs. Cornelia
Liljedahl, Kurt & Mary Anne
Lowe, Annette
Lytle, Lucy
Malm, Tillie
Manning, Robert & Lisa
Marston, Charley & Sue
Marting, Michael & Leslie
Matthews, Tom & Paulette
Mavec, Bruce & Ellen
McCoy, Bill
McMullen, Daniel & Irene
Meyers, Ed & Fran
Miller, Barb
Miscko, Ron & Carolyn
Mitchell, James & Kathi
Morgan, Dixon & Claire
Negrelli, Don & Gini
Novello, Nancy
Pender, Jim & Kathy
Pesuit, Craig & Barb
Pistell, Tim & Lynn
Pucell, Tony & Chris
Reda, Melanie
Redmond, Sandra
Reynolds, Bill & Jo
Sarkisian, Fran
Stafford, Jim
Thatcher, Mr. Peter
Thomas, Bruce & Kitty
Vail, Tom & Iris
VanCuren, Dave
Vazzana, Matt & Jamie
Ventimiglia, Ms. Linda
Vilas, Kathy
Warren, Russ &Dori

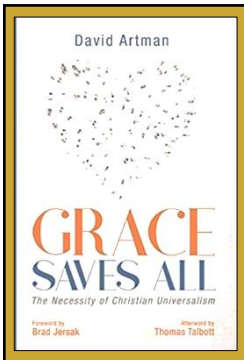
The Stewardship Working Group would like to thank all who have responded to the "Open Arms, Open Doors" every member campaign. To those who have not yet responded, we say, "It's not too late!" If those gifts are renewed, we will be able to achieve a balanced budget for 2022. In spite of many challenges, the work of St. Christopher's will continue and grow stronger in the year to come!

Mary Holmes
For the Stewardship Working Group

2021 Flower Donors

Thank you to the families who continue to provide the Sunday Altar Flowers.

Alpers
Bates
Battles
Bennett
Bixler
Cicirello
Cole
Collister
Conley
Costello
Cotton
DeBaz
Dickenson
Eakin
Everett
Fisher
Hauserman
Hellman
Holmes
Irwin
Jones
Kidder
Klinginsmith
Liljedahl
Lindseth
Lowe
Malm
Marston
Marting
Matthews
Meyers
Miller
Miscko
Mitchell
Murphy
Murray
Negrelli
Novello
Pender
Ramsey
Schmidt
Storer
Thomas
Vail



Book Groups

Book groups restart in January.

- Sundays at 9:00 am (in person)
- Thursdays at 4:00 pm (ZOOM + in person)

We will be reading *Grace Saves All* by David Artman. Please obtain your own copy of the book if you'd like to participate.

Grief Group ZOOM Meeting

DEC 21 JAN 4 & 18
6:30-8:00 PM

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

December

1 Danny Broome
4 Stephen Miscko
5 Rindy Collister
7 Kate LaMantia
Presley Lammers
8 Avery Alatis
Rosalie Della Ratta
9 Irene McMullen
Luci Spring
10 Bill McCoy
14 Emily Morris
17 Keri Osolin
20 Linda Ventimiglia
22 Clara Butler
23 Marilyn Fisher
31 Liz Russo

January

1 Maxwell Amefia
Franco Amefia
3 Rik Bole
Griffin Butler
Tony Lammers
7 Becky Everett
8 Tom Holmes
11 Jim Pender
22 Chandler Everett
23 Mary Bole
25 Brian Murphy
30 Peggy Reda

FLOWER DEDICATIONS NOVEMBER 2021

In loving memory of:

- **Howard & Helen Cadiou by Ron & Carolyn Miscko**
- **Delia White Vail and Herman Lansing Vail by Thomas V.H. & Iris J. Vail**

In honor of:

- **Our 18th Wedding Anniversary by John & Nancy Irwin**
- **Our Parents by Daniel & Courtney Schmidt**

Calendars

St. Christopher's 2022 photo calendars are now available for purchase. All proceeds go to support the Guild's outreach efforts. Make checks payable to St. Christopher's with "Guild" in the memo. Please leave your check in the envelope in the calendar box or contact Debbie Cole (440) 247-2263 to have one sent.

We are collecting Hats, Socks, and gloves for Lutheran Metropolitan Men's Ministry. Please drop off all donations in the Narthex.

December

SUNDAY DEC 12			MONDAY -13	TUESDAY - 14	WEDNESDAY-15	THURSDAY-16	FRIDAY-17	SATURDAY-18
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	9:00 Adult Forum 11:15 Coffee Hour	10:00 Staff Meeting		10 AM & 4 PM Book Groups 5:00 Evening Prayer 8PM AA		5:00 Blue Christmas
EM:	Melanie Reda	Charley Marston						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe	SandyRedmond, Fran Sarkisian						
ALTAR:	Sally Conley	Renee Kolecki						
USHERS	NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	NA	Sandy Redmond, Charlene Currutt						

SUNDAY DEC 19 – Lessons & Hymns @ 10:15			MONDAY -20	TUESDAY - 21	WEDNESDAY-22	THURSDAY-23	FRIDAY-24	SATURDAY-25
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	11:15 Coffee Hour	10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Grief		OFFICE **CLOSED** Church Decorating 5:00 Evening Prayer 8PM AA	**3:30 Family Vespers** **9:00 Holy Eucharist**	Merry Christmas Joy to the world
EM:	Charley Marston	John Irwin						
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Mary Holmes, Chandler Everett						
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni							
USHERS	NA	Kurt Liljedahl						
HOSTESSES	NA	Mary Holmes, Elise Bennett						

SUNDAY DEC 26			MONDAY -27	TUESDAY - 28	WEDNESDAY-29	THURSDAY-30	FRIDAY-31	SATURDAY-1
		9:00 am Morning Prayer		OFFICE **CLOSED**		OFFICE **CLOSED** 5:00 Evening Prayer (Zoom Only) 8PM AA		Happy New Year
EM:		John Irwin						
LECTOR:		Ron & Neal Lee						
ALTAR:		TBD						
USHERS		Ron Lee, Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES		No Coffee Hour						

JANUARY

SUNDAY JAN 2			MONDAY -3	TUESDAY - 4	WEDNESDAY-5	THURSDAY-6	FRIDAY-7	SATURDAY-8
	8 am Morning Prayer	**10:15 am Morning Prayer**	9:00 Adult Forum 11:15 Coffee Hour		10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Grief	 4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:	John Irwin	John Irwin						
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Fran Sarkisian, Becky Everett						
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni							
USHERS	NA	Rik Bole, Brian Wright						
HOSTESSES	NA	Neal Lee						

SUNDAY JAN 9			MONDAY -10	TUESDAY - 11	WEDNESDAY-12	THURSDAY-13	FRIDAY-14	SATURDAY-15
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	9:00 Adult Forum 11:15 Coffee Hour	9-11 Stephen Ministry	10:00 Staff Meeting		4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:		Dale Gnandt						
LECTOR:	Sandy Redmond	Ron Lee, Mary Holmes						
ALTAR:								
USHERS	NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	NA	Laura Cotton, Nancy Irwin						

SUNDAY JAN 16			MONDAY- 17	TUESDAY - 18	WEDNESDAY-19	THURSDAY-20	FRIDAY-21	SATURDAY-22
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**		10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Grief		4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:	Melanie Reda	Dale Gnandt						
LECTOR:		Victoria Connell, Chandler Everett						
ALTAR:								
USHERS	NA	Kurt Lliljedahl						
HOSTESSES	NA	Mary Murray						

SUNDAY JAN 23			MONDAY -24	TUESDAY -25	WEDNESDAY-26	THURSDAY-27	FRIDAY-28	SATURDAY-29
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	9:00 Adult Forum 11:15 Coffee Hour	9-11 Stephen Ministry	10:00 Staff Meeting	5:30 Vestry	4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:	John Irwin	John Irwin						
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Neal Lee, Courtney Schmidt						
ALTAR:								
USHERS	NA	Ron Lee, Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES	NA	Courtney Schmidt, Becky Everett						

SUNDAY JAN 30			MONDAY -31	TUESDAY -1	WEDNESDAY-2	THURSDAY-3	FRIDAY-4	SATURDAY-5
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	9:00 Adult Forum 11:15 Coffee Hour		10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Grief		4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:	John Irwin	John Irwin						
LECTOR:		Mary Holmes, Renee Kolecki						
ALTAR:								
USHERS	NA							
HOSTESSES	NA	Charlene Currutt						

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
Closed DEC 23, 28, 30
440-423-4451

December 2021/January 2022 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

December 19th – Lessons and Hymns at 10:15AM

December 24th – Christmas Eve

3:30 PM Family Vespers
Bring Mittens, Hats, and socks for the Manger
4:00 PM Santa & Bonfire (Village Polo Fields)
9:00 PM Festive Eucharist

DECEMBER 26th - ONE 9:00 AM SERVICE
Morning Prayer

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 December 26 and January 2nd

ONE SERVICE on December 26 at 9AM.