



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

I grew up in a small home in rural Vermont, built at the edge of a hillside by my grandfather and uncles when my grandparents grew too old to continue “working” the Vermont hill-farm where my mother and uncles had been born. The view from our home overlooked the Connecticut River Valley and the White Mountains of New Hampshire that lay beyond. It was spectacular and I loved to take in the view from the edge of the hill.

The sixteen inches of snow that we got last week brought to my mind a particular snowstorm that swept through our part of Vermont when I was in my early teens. Twenty-four hours or so of intense, near-zero visibility snow was followed by hours of freezing rain. When the sun reemerged, I bundled up and went out to explore a world turned brilliant everywhere I looked.

The freezing rain had built a “crust” that I could not break through even when I stomped hard. As an ice skater, I was thrilled and spent some time “skating” in my boots over our lawn. Then I made a most memorable choice to walk along the edge of the hill that flowed down and away from our house. In a moment I was sliding down the hill toward a small stand of brush and skinny saplings – the only things that might save me from sliding straight into the road beyond them. I grabbed wildly and amazingly, one of them held and I jerked to a stop, suspended between the safety of home above and possible injury or worse below.

Trying to kick footholds through the ice didn’t work any better on the hillside than it had on our flat lawn. I began to yell, “Help” – it echoed back. “Help, Help” – silence. “HELP, HELP, HELP! This time I heard sounds. Doors opened and closed – more silence – then my father appeared above me, wearing ice crampons, and tethered by a rope to the pole supporting one of my mother’s birdfeeders. He began a slow descent to me, using a hatchet to hack foot and handholds through the ice.

The thing that I remember most clearly about my rescue is that my father didn’t get angry. He didn’t “line me out” for having done something so obviously stupid. When we were both safely back on top of level ground, and well back from the edge of the bank, he simply said “Better not to get so close to the edge next time.”

We all wander closer to the edge of slippery and dangerous places at times that we realize. Often it is only as we grab wildly for salvation that we remember to call out for help. Our sense of being in control of our bodies, minds, and spirits can slip out from under us in the blink of an eye. Clinging to that skinny sapling, I could not save myself; I needed my father’s help.

As we near the end of Epiphany in these coming weeks of February, the Sunday Collects point repeatedly to an awareness of our weakness (and the sin that flows from that) and pleads week after week for God’s active presence and saving action in our lives.

Those collects remind us to call out to the one whom Jesus called “Father” whenever, wherever, and however we need Him. Whether we are stuck in a situation of our own making or not, God will respond to our cries for help. Once on solid, level ground once more, we may even hear a divine, whisper in our souls. “Better not to get so close to the edge next time.”

In Christ’s Love,

Ann+

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 27, 2021

by Tom Matthews

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

The meeting came to order at 5:33 pm. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

Review of the September 29th meeting minutes were the first order of business. No corrections were noted. Becky E. moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Mary H. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

For the Financial Review, Mary M. attended to provide a third quarter update. Mary confirmed the PPT loan was forgiven and with this accounted as revenue. She also mentioned receipts were acceptable and cost controls were good, and these elements resulted in a good month and quarter. Mary is still working on getting the \$8,000 SBA grant released.

Ratification of the Nominating Committee was the next order business. Charley M. offered to chair the committee. Ron Lee and Lucy Lytle have confirmed participation. Mother Ann mentioned that Leslie Marting is a likely candidate but will need to be confirmed via a conversation. Tom M. motioned for the ratification of Charley M., Ron L., and Lucy L. with a proviso that Leslie M. can be ratified after the conversation via email. Becky E. seconded the motion, a vote was taken and passed.

For the Stewardship Update, Mary Holmes stated the Every Member Appeal Letter and pledge cards were sent out and 27 have already been returned. A reminder for expedient return from the Vestry was requested. Mary mentioned that in 2021, 87 families pledged. So, with the early responses, the 2022 campaign is proceeding well.

Mother Ann opened a discussion about Next Generation Parish Leadership. Mother Ann is planning to reach out to the younger families in the parish to update them on how Sunday services are proceeding and with this review options for families with children to attend. She is also thinking of planning a meeting in the spring to get the younger families together. There were also a few good ideas proposed for local family recruitment.

The next Vestry meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, December 8th at 5:30pm.

Mother Ann closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:18 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

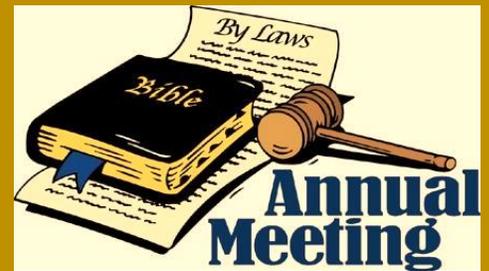
Judy Holmes, Mary Holmes,
Charley Marston

Class of 2021

Elise Bennett, Tom Matthews,
Sean McMillion

*Northeast Mission Area Council
Representative*

Laura Cotton, 2021



MARCH 6

11 AM

There will be one service at
10:15 with the Annual
meeting immediately
following.

Report of the Nominating Committee 2021

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit its report, in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Code of Regulations, setting forth the names of Qualified Electors of the Parish to fill three Vestry positions which will become vacant at the Annual Meeting of the Parish to be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022.

Therefore, the Nominating Committee proposes the following Qualified Electors to serve for the three-year term, 2022-2025:

Renee Kolecki

Bruce Long

Peter Thatcher

In addition, the Nominating Committee also submits the name of the following individual to serve as the Parish Delegate to the Northeast Mission Area Council for the two-year term, 2022-2024:

Peter Batcheller

Respectfully Submitted,

Charley Marston, Senior Warden
Member

Ron Lee, Vestry

Lucy Lytle, Parishioner
Parishioner

Leslie Marting,



The Benefice of Tilehurst
St George and
St Mary Magdalen



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
(EPISCOPAL)

EUCLID, OHIO

An Intercontinental Bible Study

God and Climate Change : Creation and Re-Creation

An eight-part conversation crossing boundaries of country and culture to explore God's good creation and our place in it

Weekly on Sundays at 12noon

13th February – 3rd April 2022

Please email The Revd. Rosalind C Hughes to

book a place and receive your

Zoom link and Bible study notes

epiphanyeuclid23@sbcglobal.net

Grief Group ZOOM Meeting



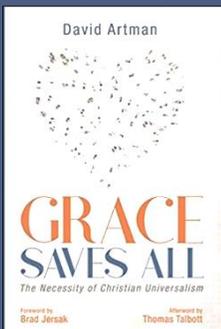
FEB 8 & 22

6:30-8:00 PM

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

440-463-7378 or kp@momshrink.com

Book Groups



- Sundays at 9:00 am (in person) resuming on Feb 20 with Chapter 6
- Thursdays at 4:00 pm -ZOOM. In person portion will resume Feb 24.

Chapters:

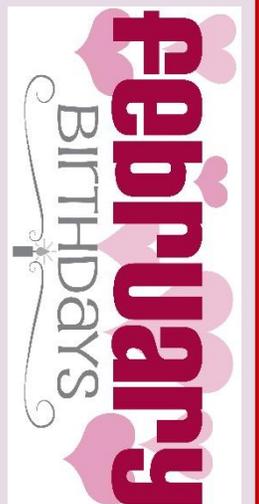
Feb 3: Chpt 4

Feb 10: Chpt 5

Feb 17 & 20: Chpt 6

Feb 24 & 27: Chpt 7

- 2 Mona DeBaz
- Lydia Zimmerman
- 4 Marshall Rankin
- 5 Eleanor Jones
- 6 Michael Marting
- 7 Rebecca Wolf
- Peter Thatcher
- 8 Ann Lammers
- 9 Karee Weikel-Broome
- 12 Olivia Misco
- 14 Michael Donahue
- 17 Laura Cotton
- 24 Anna Klinginsmith
- Lynn Pistell





THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

The listening process will provide an important opportunity for every member of the diocese to share in the Search Committee's work. We invite all lay and clergy members of the Diocese of Ohio to gather as the body of Christ, bonded by our Baptismal Covenant, and eager to develop further our prayer for the next Bishop of Ohio.

Starting in February, sessions will be offered virtually and in person throughout the Diocese. Participants will have an opportunity to respond to open-ended questions provided in advance for prayerful consideration. These questions will solicit your ideas and thoughts to inform the Search Committee's review of applications and interview of candidates. All comments will be treated with care and consideration.

- What would you like to give assent to? What are you glad is included?
- What would you also like to see, in addition to the profile, asked of the candidate?

Please [register](#) for the listening session that you would like to attend. Please register **no later than 24 hours** before the session you are attending.

Listening Sessions:

- Zoom - Monday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m.
- In Person - Tuesday, February 1 at St. Andrew's, Elyria at 7:00 p.m.
- Zoom - Wednesday, February 2, at 2:00 p.m.
- In Person - Thursday, February 3 at St. Timothy's, Macedonia at 6:30 p.m.
- In Person - Thursday, February 3 at All Saints, Parma at 7:00 p.m.
- In Person - Friday, February 4 at St. Andrew's Toledo at 6:30 p.m.
- Zoom - Friday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m.
- In Person - Saturday, February 5 at Grace, Mansfield at 10:00 a.m.
- Zoom - Sunday, February 6 at 2:00 p.m.
- In Person - Monday, February 7 at St. Mark's, Canton at 6:30 p.m.
- In Person - Monday, February 7 at St. Martin's, Chagrin Falls at 7:00 p.m.
- Zoom - Tuesday, February 8 6:30 p.m.
- In Person - Wednesday, February 9 at St. Paul's, Akron at 6:30 p.m.
- In Person - Wednesday, February 9 at St. John's, Youngstown at 7:00 p.m.
- Zoom - Thursday, February 10 6:30 p.m.
- In Person - Saturday, February 12 at St. James, Wooster at 10:00 a.m.)
- Zoom - Saturday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m.
- In Person - Tuesday, February 15 at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland at 7:00 p.m.
- In Person - Wednesday, February 16 at St. Peter's, Ashtabula at 7:00 p.m.

A big thank you to everyone who decorated the church for Christmas!



Junior Warden's Message

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope this finds you happy, healthy and warm after our recent snow storm Izzy! We live in Cleveland, Ohio so we should be used to it and simply take this in stride (at least try to)!

After a relatively quiet first nine months of 2021, a few issues have come up lately which have required our attention. First, we had to replace a heat pump on the boiler. We had to drain the pipes which resulted in an air pocket developing in the pipes, and we had no heat in the upstairs for a few days. Luckily, the weather was a little milder, so we came out the other side of this in good shape. Second, a couple weeks ago we discovered the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall kitchen in the basement had developed a big crack and was threatening to cave in. David Novak, the contractor who installed the elevator and renovated the parish office, came to our rescue. He has reinforced the ceiling to avoid a cave in and will be putting in a new ceiling and update the heating system in that room which happens to be above that ceiling. Finally, a clog developed in the sewer system on church property which caused a sewage back up in the house next door to us. That clog has been removed and we are in the process of making sure all our pipes are clear and in good working condition.

So it has been a busy few weeks at St. Christopher's, but we have met the challenges head on and hope to have a quieter time in the coming weeks! I look forward to the time when we can all meet again in person. Until then, stay healthy and well. God Bless!

~Becky Everett

FLOWER DEDICATIONS DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022

In loving memory of:

- Linda Costello by Cindy Costello
- Joyce & Dick Williams and Quarrier Cook and Robert Jones by Clarke & Whitney Jones
- William & Eleanor Calfee by Brian & Cindy Murphy
- Sarah C. Dickenson and Jeffrey R. Cudlip by Frances & David Dickenson
- Lynne & Bob Fisher by Anna & Lily Klinginsmith
- Molly & Chan Wick and Midge & Bob Thomas by Kitty & Bruce Thomas



We are looking for people who will be willing to deliver altar flowers to the homebound after services on Sundays once we resume in person worship.

We also are looking for a flower donor for April 24. Donation is \$80 and you may choose to pick up one of the bouquets for yourself.

Please call or email the office if you'd like to help.

Guild Outreach Spotlight



The Gathering Place provides support for individuals and families coping with cancer from initial diagnosis through treatment and beyond. They have centers in Beachwood and Westlake. They provide art and music programs, breast and other cancer programs, exercise programs, counselors, symposia, and support groups. They provide survivor programs, support for children and teens of cancer patients, support for young cancer survivors, nutritional education, Reiki and massage, various exercise programs, and support through all stages of treatment. They also have the Regina Brett Wig Salon.



Hospice of the Western Reserve serves an 11 county area offering pediatric and adult palliative care for symptom management of the seriously ill and hospice care where no cure is possible. They also provide perinatal care, skilled home care for those in recovery or therapy, emotional and spiritual support, school crisis support, bereavement support workshops, and information on care for the caregiver. They maintain, "It is not about giving up. It is about taking control."

Dear St. Christopher's,

Thank you for your donations of hats, gloves, and other outerwear for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Shelter leading up until Christmas. Over the weeks the church basket has been filled & refilled with items for those who are homeless. I even glimpsed one parishioner hoisting a large box of fresh oranges over his shoulder, the box appearing to have been shipped from Florida. This was delivered to the shelter's kitchen. Can you imagine what these would have tasted like to one who rarely, if ever, has accessed such fresh produce? But what most sums up for me your generosity was seeing someone almost furtively adding to the basket of donations - she didn't want to draw attention to her thoughtful act. Self-effacingly, she simply wanted to be a part of the effort of giving to the shelter.

Additionally, I've learned the Women's Guild has donated \$2,500 to the Housing & Shelter branch of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. Your months of planning for Bargain Box continue to pay off in large and tangible ways, even in a year when Covid was a menacing presence. Such actions, it seems to me, are following Jesus' call to participate with Him in furthering God's kingdom.

Your contributions speak to the mission of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, "To promote shalom (peace, well-being, health, harmony, wholeness) and justice (the demands of right relationship in community) through Christian ministry of service and advocacy with those who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting. It is good to be serving with you all,

Thank you! Deacon Lydia+



	MONDAY -31	TUESDAY - 1	WEDNESDAY-2	THURSDAY-3	FRIDAY-4	SATURDAY-5
		10:00 Staff Meeting		4:00 Book Group (Zoom Only) 5:00 Evening Prayer 8PM AA		

SUNDAY FEB 6		MONDAY -7	TUESDAY - 8	WEDNESDAY-9	THURSDAY-10	FRIDAY-11	SATURDAY-12
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	No in person service or meetings	1-3 Stephen Ministry	10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Grief	4:00 Book Group (Zoom Only) 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:							
LECTOR:							
ALTAR:							
USHERS							
HOSTESSES	No Coffee Hour						

SUNDAY FEB 13		MONDAY -14	TUESDAY - 15	WEDNESDAY-16	THURSDAY-17	FRIDAY-18	SATURDAY-19
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist		10:00 Staff Meeting		4:00 Book Group (Zoom Only) 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:							
LECTOR:							
ALTAR:							
USHERS							
HOSTESSES	No Coffee Hour						

SUNDAY FEB 20		MONDAY -21	TUESDAY - 22	WEDNESDAY-23	THURSDAY-24	FRIDAY-25	SATURDAY-26
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	 9-11 Stephen Ministry	10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Grief	5:30 Vestry	4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:	Charley Marston Dale Gndant						
LECTOR:	Sandra Redmond Fran Sarkisian & Victoria Connell						
ALTAR:	Sue Marston						
USHERS	NA Rik Bole						
HOSTESSES	No Coffee Hour						

SUNDAY FEB 27		MONDAY- 28	TUESDAY - 1	WEDNESDAY-2	THURSDAY-3	FRIDAY-4	SATURDAY-5
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9AM Book Group	10:00 Staff Meeting		4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:	Charley Marston Dale Gndant						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe Victoria Connell & Neal Lee						
ALTAR:	Sue Marston						
USHERS	NA Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES	No Coffee Hour						

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

February 2022 Newsletter

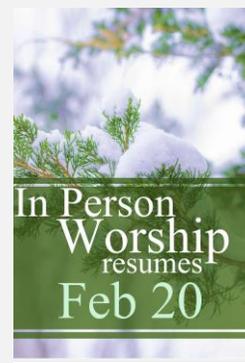
St. Christopher by-the-River

Lenten Retreat at the Cleveland Museum of Art



Rev. Deacon Lydia Bailey
Friday, March 18, 2022
10:00 until Noon

As in past years, Deacon Lydia Bailey will prepare participants for choosing a piece of art for personal reflection. "The art one settles on can speak to us spiritually without having a conventional religious subject. It can be an icon that serves as a window into God." We will convene under the bamboo trees in the Atrium when the museum opens at 10:00 AM. At the close, participants are invited to dine at the museum café, socially distanced and masked, of course!



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

Masks required.

Find our weekly worship on [YouTube](#)

COMING UP:
ONE SERVICE on MARCH 6 due to
ANNUAL MEETING