



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL REPORT

RECTOR'S REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Mother Ann Kidder

Dear Friends,

2021 was something of a rollercoaster ride. The availability of effective vaccines against Covid as we began 2021 meant that in April, we were able to gather on the Church lawn for the first in-person worship since October of the previous year and at Pentecost we were able to celebrate and share Holy Eucharist for the first time since March 8th, 2020. When it became too warm to comfortably worship on the Church lawn, we returned to worshiping inside the Church. We weathered both the Delta and the Omicron variants, doing our best to love our neighbors as ourselves. Despite Omicron's December arrival in our area, we were able to squeak through Christmas with in-person worship; the first since 2019, and a true joy! Thank you all for your patience with wearing masks, etc.

Throughout 2021 our parish was blessed with wise and steady leadership. During March, April, and May, we were blessed to have The Reverend Richard Israel as our Sabbatical Priest. His skilled preaching and pastoral care made it possible for me to set aside my parish responsibilities for a much-needed time of refreshment and renewal. Once again, my gratitude to our Wardens Charley Marston and Becky Everett; our Treasurer Mary Murray; and Clerk Tom Matthews. Together with our Vestry members they kept us focused on a sustainable and successful future for our parish as we begin to emerge from these pandemic years.

Rotating off the Vestry this year are Elise Bennett, Sean McMillion, and Tom Matthews. Please thank them for their years of service to our parish. Thanks also to John Irwin, Yuri & John McElliott, Deacon Lydia Bailey, and Becky Everett for their service week after week in making on-line worship available throughout 2021. We are also blessed with a staff who genuinely love this parish and are committed to its wellbeing. My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to: Deacon Lydia Bailey, Mary Zup, Yuri McElliott, Office volunteer Becky Everett, Peggy and Melanie Reda, Lucy and Luis Calvo, and Jolyon Welsh. We would suffer as a parish without their dedicated service in so many areas of our communal life and ministry. Bargain Box was held at the end of September after a two-year hiatus. Thank you to Carolyn Miscko for her leadership and to all to pitched in to make the sale a resounding success. Be sure to read the Guild report for details. Most of our programs continued to be held remotely, as in 2020 and I am so pleased with our parish's determination to carry on our shared life of worship, spiritual formation, and service in Christ's name despite the challenges of a continuing pandemic.

As is always true in the life of a parish, this year was marked by baptisms, marriages, and the deaths of members. Franco Joseph Amefia was baptized on August 22nd and Allison Marie Cianfarani was baptized October 31st. On August 28th Morgan Mills & Edward "Mac" McElroy exchanged their marriage vows and on September 25th I blessed the civil marriage of Emily and Anthony "Jay" Lammers. We said farewell to far too many members of our parish this year. Mary Auble, Suzy Novello Bako, Lynn Wood Burt, Ann Feller, Janet Hargrave, John Hellman, Evelyn Smolik, Jean Wallace, and Robert Wallace all are now part of the Communion of Saints; "those too many to number whose hope was in the Word made flesh." We miss them all.

Looking to the future, 2022 offers the hope of returning to a life that is unrestricted by public health concerns. I look forward with real joy to the services of Holy Week and Easter *the way it used to be*. May we ever remember the spiritual lessons learned over these past two years.

In Christ's Love, Ann+

2021 STAFF

The Rev. Ann Kidder	Rector
Yuri Sato McElliott	Director of Music/Organist
Mary Zup	Parish Administrator
Peggy Reda	Director of Faith Development
Melanie Reda	Nursery Director
Luis Calvo	Sexton
Lucy Calvo	Churchkeeper
Jolyon Welsh	Sunday Porter
Tellerd Organization, Ltd.	Bookkeeper

2021 Vestry

Charley Marston	Senior Warden (Class of 2022)
Becky Everett	Junior Warden (Class of 2023)
Mary Murray	Treasurer
Tom Matthews	Clerk (Class of 2021)
Elise Bennett	Class of 2021
Sean McMillion	Class of 2021
Judy Holmes	Class of 2022
Mary Holmes	Class of 2022
Ronald Lee	Class of 2023
Sandra Redmond	Class of 2023

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting of The Parish of St. Christopher by-the-River

Held via Zoom on February 28, 2021

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Matthews, Clerk

The Annual Meeting of St. Christopher's by-the-River was called to order by Mother Ann and meeting came to order at 10:05am. The meeting was being held in virtual format via Zoom meetings. Mother Ann then led a prayer.

Mother Ann confirmed a quorum of 32 electors in attendance as well as 3 clergy. She then noted that Tom Matthews was in attendance and as Clerk would take the meeting minutes.

The first order of business was approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. Charley Marston motioned to approve, John Irwin seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Mother Ann introduced Father Richard Israel to the attendees and provided time for Father Rich to review past connections with St. Christopher and thoughts for his upcoming sabbatical coverage.

Mother Ann recognized and thanked the offgoing vestry members - Mary Murray, Becky Everett, and Jim Pender. Mother Ann then stated that Mary Murray will continue as Treasurer and Becky Everett was willing to serve for another term.

Charley Marston, chair of the Nominating Committee, started the report by thanking and recognizing Mary Murray, Becky Everett, and Jim Pender for their excellent service on the Vestry. He then stated the Committee nominates Sandra Redmond, Becky Everett, and Ron Lee to be elected to the Vestry for three year terms. Charley also nominated Laura Cotton to be the NEMAC 2021-2022 representative from the Parrish.

Mother Ann closed the nominations and clarified that the vote would be for the slate of provided nominees.

Mary Holmes made a motion to approve the provided nominees, Mary Murray seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Charley Marston, Sr. Warden, thanked the congregation for their service and support in this challenging year.

John Irwin echoed the comments of appreciation and thanks and mentioned he was looking forward to parish services and personal get togethers.

Mother Ann thanked the parish and staff for their service and called for close to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

WORSHIP REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mother Ann Kidder

A special thank you to John Irwin for the recording, editing, and posting of weekly services online. We thank all the Parishioners who were involved in our Church Services in 2021 when we were able to gather in person.

LECTORS

Victoria Connell	Teri Ianni
Mona DeBaz	John Irwin
Becky Everett	Neal Lee
Chandler Everett	Ron Lee
Judy Holmes	Annette Lowe
Mary Holmes	Lucy Lytle
Tom Holmes	Charley Marston

Kathy Pender
Sandra Redmond
Fran Sarkisian
Kitty Thomas
Brian Wright

USHERS

Brian Wright
Rik Bole
Kurt Liljedahl
Neal Lee
Ron Lee
Peter Thatcher

The following ministries require training by the Rector, or diocesan approved trainer, and a license from the Bishop of Ohio to serve for three-year terms. Those licensed serve at the direction, and under the supervision of, the Rector.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers are licensed to serve the Chalice at Communion during services of public worship.

Dale Gnandt	Charley Marston	Melanie Reda
John Irwin	Fran Meyers	Kitty Thomas

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

Eucharistic Visitors are licensed to administer Communion, with previously consecrated bread and wine, to baptized members of the parish who are unable to attend public worship.

Peter Batcheller	Neal Lee	Chandler Everett	Jim Pender
Debbie Cole	Ron Lee	Kathy Pender	Sandy Redmond
Randy Cole	Becky Everett		

WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship Leaders are licensed to officiate at non-Eucharistic public worship services, in the parish and at outside institutions.

Peter Batcheller	John Irwin	Beth Miller
Randy Cole	Charley Marston	Kathy Pender

HOSTESS REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mary Zup

Due to COVID-19, we were not able to gather very many times in fellowship for coffee hour. Thank you to those who provided their time and savories & sweets:

Sandy Batcheller	Becky Everett	Renee Kolecki	Mary Murray
Elise Bennett	Judy Holmes	Jean LaRiche	Nancy Novello
Victoria Connell	Mary Holmes	Cornelia Lee	Sandra Redmond
Laura Cotton	Nancy Irwin	Lucy Lytle	Fran Sarkisian
Charlene Currutt	Dolly Kingsbury	Sue Marston	

MUSIC REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Yuri Sato McElliott, Music Director

After more than a year of recording music for our on-line services, I was so happy to be back in the church, playing the organ and working with the choir members in the summer! Even though we couldn't sing all hymn verses during the Sunday services, and we couldn't do our regular thirty-minute prelude of special music on Christmas Eve, it was still so nice to hear the congregation and our small choir singing in the church and it almost made me cry! Even though we only had 4 people in the choir and 5 people in the Handchime choir, they worked very hard singing and playing every Sunday and Christmas Eve, and I really appreciate their hard work!

Special thanks to our small choir and handchime choir members, Becky Everett, Chandler H. Everett, Chandler P. Everett, Sue Marston and Fran Sarkisian; to Lucy Lytle for joining us during summer services, to Becky Everett for playing the Carillon, and to John McElliott for not only singing, but continued recording and editing music files for our on-line services. Your hard work and unique talents are appreciated by the entire congregation. Thank you very much.

I very much miss seeing and working with all of our choir and handchime members, and I miss seeing the congregation and hearing everyone sing together. I sincerely hope that we can all worship and sing together sometime soon!

FAITH DEVELOPMENT REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Reda, Director of Sunday School

The past year was one of uncertainty and continuous adjustment and challenges for the world, including our own church school. As we followed the recommended precautions to keep our children and families safe during the pandemic, we moved to Zoom sessions on Sundays with Children's services. These were led by Peggy Reda with visits by Mother Ann and Father Rich Israel. A concern for everyone's health and safety and the extremely low attendance at the Zoom sessions pushed us to try something else. The Zoom-weary children (from school) and the focus of many parents on their online job obligations made for reluctant Zoom participants every Sunday.

We then tried mailing activity packets to the children to coincide with the church seasons and a Kids' Newsletter. Attempts to activate responses to fun projects such as letters to God or to submit activity sheets for prizes were not successful.

The limited energy level and, perhaps, the difficulty in achieving enthusiasm without social contact and weekly togetherness took a toll on the faith development of our children, as well as on the world's adults.

In our isolation and our separation from one another we have tried to ensure that the children's relationship with Christ somehow continues, if not grows. The most important element remains above all that the children know that they are loved by God.

We have sent individual cards for each of the holidays to, hopefully, most of the children - just to remind them that their parish family misses them and loves them.

Our Nursery has continued with Miss Melanie Reda most Sundays, but attendance here has also been minimal.

Mother Ann, the vestry and church school staff are committed to Church School and with fervent prayer, to the faith development of all the children. We hope for in-class Church School! There are 20-25+ young Christians for us to strengthen in their faith! Let us pray for strength, courage, wisdom and the love of our Lord as we move into a new year.

ALTAR GUILD REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Marcia Alpers

Due to the pandemic, our group was not as active this past year as usual. Our membership totaled 12 women (listed below) who prepared the altar for all services once we resumed in person indoor worship at the very end of June.

Before Christmas, the altar was decorated with poinsettias which were later sent to shut ins.

Due to the pandemic, lives wreaths were placed on the church doors each week we did not worship in person in place of altar flowers. Our group also provided palm crosses that were sent to many parishioners.

The Altar Guild women are dedicated in their service to the church. We appreciate the time and talent they give.

Marcia Alpers '88
Sally Conley '09
Laura Cotton '16

Renee Kolecki '19
Lucy Lytle '20
Leslie Marting '20

Teri Ianni '16
Neal Lee '16
Sue Marston '91

Carolyn Miscko '93
Mary Murray '05
Courtney Schmidt '19

CO-DIRECTORESSES: Marcia Alpers and Sue Marston

FLOWERS: Carolyn Miscko,

WEDDINGS: Marcia Alpers, Sally Conley, Sue Marston

LINENS: Sally Conley,

Emeritus Members: Jane Battles '95, Polly Bixler '95, Helen Cicirello '85

ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
Respectfully Submitted by Becky Everett

The Daughters of the King is an order whose members undertake a Rule of Life which incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. Each Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. We are also dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of the parish.

We have four Daughters here at St. Christopher by the River. Becky Everett, Kathy Pender, Annette Lowe and Debbie Cole. We would welcome anyone who has an interest in becoming a Daughter. Please feel free to contact any one of us. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have and help you to determine if this group is the right one for you.

While the past year has been challenging for us all, the Daughters of the King have been faithfully practicing our Rule of Prayer in lieu of meeting in person each month. In addition to specific prayer requests we've received, please know we have also been praying for all of you each and every day throughout this pandemic. God willing, we hope this coming year brings us all back together, in person!

Please remember that there is a prayer box in the narthex where you can place any prayer(s) you wish. We promise to add those people/prayers to our daily prayer list, keeping the request totally confidential.

If you are looking to enhance your spiritual life and gain a devoted, caring sisterhood, please consider joining our order. The following is the Motto of the Order:

For His Sake...

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
Respectfully submitted by Charley Marston

I sometimes wonder why we ask our Senior Warden to write a letter for the annual report. One person told me that it is because, in future generations, historians will be reading this report seeking an understanding of life in our beautiful parish. So to those curious future individuals I offer my greetings from February 2022 Anno Domini. Our Covid 19 viral worldwide pandemic continues. The year 2021 began where we left off - no in person services. Mother Ann, John Irwin and our Deacon, Lydia Bailey, recorded services along with music by Yuri and John McElliot. The annual meeting was held virtually with parishioners joining in on the internet (ZOOM). We offered our heartfelt thanks to two terrific vestry members, Jim Pender and Mary Murray, who stepped down after six years of dedicated service. With the unanimous vote of the congregation, Ronald Lee and Sandra Redmond took their place and we were pleased that Becky Everett continued on the vestry as our Jr. Warden.

March 1st marked the beginning of Mother Ann's well deserved three month sabbatical. We welcomed Father Richard Israel as our spiritual leader. He had recently retired from his position as Associate Rector at St Paul's Episcopal church. While he began with our "physical distancing" programs, as the number of new illnesses in the area declined and the weather warmed we were able to gather outside for lovely Morning Prayer services. Everyone agreed that Father Richard was a perfect fit and we are grateful that he brought his charm and his theological brilliance to fill in in Mother Ann's absence and again several times later in the year.

On June 1st. Mother Ann returned and we continued our outdoor services until it became too hot and then moved inside. Many of our parishioners are unable to attend, so John Irwin continues to post our services on YouTube. At the last service in December, we had a special thank you for him. He has now produced over ninety productions. In last year's report, I listed the many many activities we perform as a parish. Some are curtailed, some are back in person and some continue virtually. We are exercising great patience until the spread of this scary virus subsides to a point when we can return to normalcy.

Our treasurer, Mary Murray, reports that our stewardship committee, under the leadership of Mary Holmes, conducted an excellent campaign and our parishioners have continued to be generous in their support. We begin the year only expecting a small deficit. Finally, in addition to the aforementioned individuals, I want to personally thank you all for your perseverance during these past two years. You, our vestry, our staff and our entire congregation have remained steadfast in our desire to accomplish our off times well articulated multifaceted mission.

OUTREACH AT LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY
Respectfully Submitted by Deacon Lydia Bailey

The Women's Guild donated \$2,500 to the Housing & Shelter branch of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry in 2021. Your months of planning for Bargain Box paid off in large and essential ways. Parishioners also donated winter outerwear for the residents of LMM's Men's Shelter during Advent & Christmas - thank you.

As COVID continues its downward trend, I look forward to having parishioners return for in-person volunteering at the shelter. Shelter residents and staff have missed your cheerful presence serving lunch. A few St. Christopher's folks volunteered in a weekly art workshop at the shelter, creating a sense of support, respect, and community. Several hardy parishioners were onsite at one of LMM's affordable homes, cleaning the home in preparation for a family moving in, transitioning out of homelessness.

A Lenten retreat looking at the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art went on via ZOOM in 2021 with wonderful sharing by parishioners, in spite of the online format. I am looking forward to an in-person Lenten Art Retreat at CMA in 2022!

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
Respectfully submitted by Becky Everett

It is with the greatest pleasure that I have been able to serve as your Junior Warden this past year. Having the support of our outstanding Rector, Senior Warden, and Vestry as well as the support of the parishioners has meant the world to me!

2021 started out relatively quietly as we were still in remote church service mode due to Covid 19. By the middle of April, our interim priest, Rich Israel, and the vestry determined it was safe to resume in person worship outside. With the great care Luis gives to our grounds, services outside in the side yard as well as the front yard became a reality. When services moved indoors later in the year, the building was ready, and we enjoyed indoor services with masks.

Normal operations continued the rest of the summer and early Fall with the completion of all our annual inspections and normal HVAC maintenance. We replaced some sprinkler heads in the fellowship hall as well as the antifreeze in the sprinkler system. The carpeting in the Guild room as well as the sanctuary was cleaned and protected. Luis added insulation around the outside doors to conserve heat in the winter, and he completed some general painting maintenance.

In late fall, early winter, two heat pumps for the boiler were repaired. The ceiling in the fellowship hall kitchen developed a crack and threatened to collapse. David Novak and his crew are in the process of replacing the entire kitchen ceiling as well as improving the heating pipes in the ceiling.

In early January, the sewer system developed a clog which caused a sewage back up at the house next door to the church. This problem was addressed and we are taking the necessary steps to ensure this doesn't happen again.

At our January Vestry, The Vestry unanimously voted to purchase and install a generator for the rectory which will take place within the next couple of months. In addition, it has come to my attention that the squirrels, who have been running around in the attic, crawl spaces and walls of the rectory for some time, need to be removed. Proof of this came with two squirrels finding their way into the interior of the rectory in February which resulted in our trapper coming once to retrieve one from the downstairs shower stall, and Luis blocking off the opening in a cupboard which another clever squirrel had discovered. This project will need to be addressed by the next Junior Warden and completed in a timely fashion. I am very thankful for Mother Ann's patience and tolerance for the squirrels' invasion over the years and apologize for her having to endure this at all!

I am completing my third year as your Junior Warden, but I feel there is other work to which the Holy Spirit is leading me. Therefore, it is with a grateful heart that I am stepping down from my role as Junior Warden, but will continue the two more years of my term on the vestry. I would like to thank both the Senior Wardens with whom I worked, John Irwin and Charley Marston, as well as our fearless leader, Mother Ann, for all their support and advice. I would also like to thank the Vestry and all of you for the confidence you placed in me during my time as Junior Warden. I believe I am leaving this role having accomplished a number of improvements around St. Christopher's, and I have every confidence that the next Junior Warden will face this role with as much energy and dedication as I did.

Prayers, Blessings, and Best Wishes to you all!

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Sue Marston, Guild President

The Covid pandemic certainly altered the way the Women's Guild operates. In the past two years, we have cancelled three Bargain Box sales, most of our Board Meetings and monthly programs and several outreach projects.

We did at last hold a fall Bargain Box in September which was very successful (see our financial report). It was well attended and staffed by many volunteers. We were able to disperse \$15,200 to our usual outreach organizations. It was decided by the Board that moving forward, there will only be one Bargain Box per year, being held in the fall.

In addition, we filled 35 backpacks with health and personal items for St. Luke's Church. We provided \$621 for this project.

We also had a delicious Christmas lunch for the Board catered by our own Laura Cotton.

We pray for better times ahead.

WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Elise Bennett, Guild Treasurer

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S GUILD 2021 INCOME & DISBURSEMENTS

<u>INCOME SOURCE</u>	<u>2021 INCOME</u>
BARGAIN BOX INCOME	19,780.26
CALENDAR SALES	45.00
BANK INTEREST	0.79
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INCOME	\$ 19,826.05

INREACH 2021 DISBURSEMENTS

Guild Room Carpet Cleaning	330.00
Guild Room Repairs---Door & Lighting	200.00
Misc Expenses	39.90
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INREACH DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 569.90

OUTREACH 2021 DISBURSEMENTS

Backpacks Project	621.41
Cleveland Food Bank	2,500.00
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem	250.00
St. Luke's Episcopal Church -formerly Episc. Westside Ministry	4,000.00
Gathering Place	500.00
Hospice	1,000.00
Meals on Wheels (Hillcrest & Chagrin)	250.00
National Cathedral	200.00
New Directions	500.00
Family Promise (Formerly:New Life Community)	500.00
WomenSafe	500.00
City Mission	2,000.00
Lutheran Ministry	2,782.15
YWCA/Norma Herr Women's Center	200.00
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OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 15,803.56

GRIEF GROUP
Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Pender

The Grief Support Group has continued to meet on Tuesday evenings as scheduled on Zoom from 6:60-8:00 pm. This group is open to members of St. Christopher's Church as well as members of the community.

Even though Covid has caused stress and isolation for many, the ability to have a support Group using Zoom, has allowed an opportunity for people to have support at a difficult time in their lives as well as permitting people to join who live at a distance. This has also been a good way to introduce people to St. Christopher's Church to show them a service offered to the community.

The group of men and women offers companionship and understanding from one another as they share their painful journey of grieving. Educational materials are offered to help the group understand some of the emotions and behaviors that they are experiencing. Sharing their own experiences with others helps them in the healing process.

It has been my privilege to be the facilitator of this group of people who have the courage to share their stories and feelings that are painful.

The dates and times are posted in the church newsletter. Everyone is always welcome

STEPHEN MINISTRY REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Pender

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

The Stephen Ministry has continued to provide their Christian care to people in St. Christopher's parish. The Stephen Ministers meet bi-monthly for supervision and continuing education to keep their skills current.

The pandemic has made it more difficult to have contact with parishioners since much of this is now done by phone or remotely. We are aware that the Pandemic has generally made it more difficult for people because of the isolation and difficulty of getting out and not having much social contact. Many of these "care receivers" are already experiencing loneliness, illness, and loss whether it be as a result of death, loss of job, a move or other reasons. We are also aware that there have been many deaths in our parish this past year,

which has had a profound effect on many of us in our Parish. One of these is one of our own Stephen Ministers, Janet Hargrave, for whom we continue to grieve.

Stephen Ministers have provided many hours of emotional and spiritual care to members of our parish. These relationships are strictly confidential; names are not used or revealed at our Stephen Ministry meetings. We meet with Mother Ann on a regular basis to update her on what the Stephen Ministry and our program is accomplishing throughout the year.

I am so grateful to these dedicated Stephen Ministers who have shown so much compassion and care and spent many hours in this ministry over the past years. Their service is surely following the message of our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mary Murray

As we worked and worshipped though our second pandemic-constrained year, pledge and plate receipts for 2021 increased to \$233 thousand, or 6% above 2020's collections and slightly above the budgeted amount. While this total remains 6% below the pre-pandemic year 2019, it does not reflect a significant increase in other gifts, most notably a large bequest which the Vestry has elected to use to establish a fund that will be available to supplement receipts in coming years. The other notable "receipt" is the forgiveness by the Small Business Administration of the \$43 thousand PPP loan St. Christophers was granted in early 2020. This is an accounting entry only, but it does reduce the liability that we had previously reported; without the PPP impact, total receipts were \$382 thousand and very close to budget. Expenses have remained tightly controlled and appear to be slightly reduced from the prior year, although much of the difference can be attributed to payroll timing. We did not make reductions in our largest expense category of salaries and benefits but have continued to look for savings in other areas. Our total expenses were \$391 thousand. Excluding the PPP accounting impact, St. Christophers experienced a deficit of \$8 thousand.

Our balance sheet has long been a source of strength for St. Christophers to weather the volatility of the economy and of our small parish where a small number of deaths or people moving out of town can have an outsized impact. The improvement in our already strong cash position at year end is based on the \$100,000 bequest noted above, \$70 thousand of pledges for 2022 that were prepaid in 2021, other special gifts and a favorable investment market.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Pledges and Plate	\$ 237,811	\$ 238,123	\$ 248,276	\$ 218,581	\$ 231,500	\$ 233,059	\$ 222,100
St. Christopher's Fund	\$ 130,310	\$ 126,178	\$ 127,612	\$ 131,706	\$ 130,900	\$ 130,942	\$ 140,000
Other Income	\$ 26,305	\$ 18,261	\$ 22,735	\$ 19,217	\$ 16,600	\$ 61,374	\$ 50,800
Total Receipts	\$ 394,426	\$ 382,562	\$ 398,623	\$ 369,504	\$ 379,000	\$ 425,375	\$ 412,900
Outside Parish Expenses	\$ 51,550	\$ 53,337	\$ 54,319	\$ 54,559	\$ 53,400	\$ 53,581	\$ 56,769
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 251,922	\$ 266,528	\$ 266,665	\$ 272,231	\$ 279,000	\$ 265,816	\$ 280,382
Operating Expenses	\$ 75,897	\$ 72,436	\$ 76,165	\$ 77,932	\$ 74,800	\$ 71,377	\$ 79,980
Total Expenses	\$ 379,369	\$ 392,301	\$ 397,149	\$ 404,722	\$ 409,000	\$ 390,774	\$ 417,131
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 15,057	\$ (9,739)	\$ 1,474	\$ (35,218)	\$ (30,000)	\$ 34,601	\$ (4,231)
Surplus/Deficit Excluding PPP Loan Forgiveness							\$ (8,199)
Balance Sheet Highlights							
Cash and Liquid Invs	\$ 570,553	\$ 545,597	\$ 579,147				\$ 791,645
Current Liabilities	\$ 97,524	\$ 60,761	\$ 119,513				\$ 109,417
Capital and Organ Reserve Funds	\$ 288,654	\$ 269,101	\$ 280,910				\$ 322,341
All Other Reserves	\$ 69,785	\$ 51,492	\$ 34,732				\$ 131,044
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 114,590	\$ 164,244	\$ 143,993				\$ 228,843

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S FUND REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Kurt Liljedahl

Fund A:

Market value on 12/31/2021: \$2,954,335
Investment and Admin Fees in 2021: \$19,068
Tax Preparation Fee: \$1,500

Fund B:

Market value as of 12/31/2021: \$113,036
Investment and Admin Fees in 2021: \$705
Tax Preparation Fee: \$0

In accordance with the spending policy for the year 2021, the Fund ***distributed a total of \$130,942*** to St. Christopher by-the-River's operating funds. Distributions are made on a quarterly basis.

Total gifts to the fund in 2021 were \$30,000. We wish to recognize and thank our donors for their generous support. Their kindness will have a major impact on the financial security of St. Christopher by-the-River.

Those interested in including St. Christopher's Fund in their charitable contributions and/or estate plans should contact Charley Marston, Treasurer of St. Christopher Fund.

2022 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mary Holmes

Stewardship is a profound idea. It seems to me to be the fundamental relationship we have with our faith: the responsibility to grow and keep safe the treasure of God's grace without having control over its future. The parishioners of St. Christopher's have shown their commitment to this responsibility in their continued financial support of the church in 2022.

During the 2022 campaign, "Open arms, Open doors", 79 families made pledges or gifts to support this year's budget. Even during this time of uncertainty where many weeks we could not worship together in person, many people increased their gifts. This is the kind of parish we are, hopeful, committed stewards of our time and treasure.

The Stewardship Working Group: Laura Cotton, Lucy Lytle, Charlie Marston, Sandy Redman, Mary Holmes

2020 NEMAC Annual Report
Respectfully Submitted by Linda Webb, NEMAC Secretary

Purpose

The primary goal of NEMAC — Northeast Council Mission Area Congregations — is to receive, review, vote upon and award small funding grants based on requests from our geographic mission area parish members. Ideally, requests are made collaboratively by two or more of our member parishes.

NEMAC Member Parishes

Christ Church, Geneva; Epiphany, Euclid; Grace, Willoughby; Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst; St. Andrew, Mentor; St. Bart, Mayfield Village; St. Christopher, Gates Mills; St. Hubert, Kirtland Hills; St. James, Painesville; St. Luke, Chardon; St. Martin, Chagrin Falls, St. Peter, Ashtabula.

Meetings and Attendance

NEMAC meetings were again hosted in 2021 by Mother Rose Anne Lonsway at Grace — and also through Zoom. Thank you Mother Rose Anne! The average attendance at our meetings was 14 priests and lay reps.

2021 Attendance Per Meeting				
January	April	July	October	Average
13	13	15	15	14

Member Loss

We regret the passing of our NEMAC Chair, Bob Thompson, Epiphany on November 5, 2021. Father Chris McCann, St. Luke served as acting Chair during the latter months of Bob's illness, and will do so through the January, 2022 meeting, at which time NEMAC will elect a lay rep to serve the two years remaining of the Chair term. Thank you, Father Chris.

Other Leadership Roles

Mother Lisa O'Rear agreed to serve a second term as our Diocesan Council rep, an important liaison role between NEMAC and the Diocese. Thank you, Mother Lisa.

Father Peter Nielsen was elected treasurer. Thank you, Father Peter.

Grants

One mission request was approved for funding during our October 2021 meeting:

Parish Requestor/s	Purpose	Amount	Description
St. Hubert, Al Mueller	Los Amigos Episcopales for the Diocese of El Salvador	\$3,000	Funds will support these initiatives: Seminary, elementary education (two Montessori schools) — and food security and sanitary support.

January 2022 Meeting

The first NEMAC meeting for 2022 will be held on Monday, January 17 at Grace in Willoughby — and also through Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent the week of January 10.

Summary

For any further information about NEMAC 2021 activities, contact your parish NEMAC Priest or Lay Rep.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda P. Webb

Linda Webb, NEMAC Secretary

*Northeast Mission Area Council
Representative
Laura Cotton, 2021*

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2021 by Tom Matthews

Present: Mother Ann Kidder, Charley Marston, Becky Everett, Ron Lee, Elise Bennett, Sandra Redmond,

Mary Holmes, Mary Murray, Tom Matthews

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

Review of the October 27th meeting minutes was 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.

The next order business was the Junior Warden Update. Becky E. reviewed the required sprinkler system maintenance project as well as the recent issue with the boiler and heat pumps resulting in no heat upstairs. She mentioned both items should be resolved soon.

Mary H. then provided a Stewardship Update. For the 2022 Every Member Appeal campaign, we have received \$138k of pledges with 21 families still outstanding. This good initial progress will be followed up with contact to the remaining families. Mary mentioned she also plans to reach out to individuals and foundations that historically make contributions but not linked to a pledge. Clarity into all these anticipated contributions is very important for the budgeting process.

Mary Murray was in attendance to review the October Financial Report as well as present the Preliminary 2022 Budget. Financial results for October were under budget, but year to date remain positive. The expectation is financial results will still be positive for the 2021 fiscal year. For the 2022 Budget, estimates for expenses based on prior year(s) were fairly straight forward. Clarity into the sources of income was the core of the discussion. At the end of the discussion, although the deficit had closed a bit, there is still work to be done to create a balanced budget.

Mother Ann opened the Rector discussion with the planned Christmas services. The biggest change for this year is holding off on the pageant. All other services are scheduled as they were pre-pandemic. Mother Ann then announced that singing is planned to return January 9th. All agreed that this will be a great addition to the services.

The next Vestry meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, January 26th at 5:30pm.

Mother Ann closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:39 PM.

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,



FLOWER DEDICATIONS FEBRUARY 2022

In loving memory of:

- Michael James Pender by his parents, Kathy & Jim Pender
- Janet Hargrave by Becky & Chandler Everett
- Brooks Murray Goodyear and Frank T Murray by Mary & Larry Murray
- Joan K and J Robert Cotton by Laura Cotton



We are looking for people who will be willing to deliver altar flowers to the homebound after services on Sundays.

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.

Lenten Retreat at the Cleveland Museum of Art



**Rev. Deacon
Lydia Bailey**

**Friday, March 18
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!

Book Groups

- Sundays at 9:00 am in the Guild Room
- Thursdays at 4:00 pm - ZOOM + in the Guild Room

Chapters:

Mar 3 & 6:	Chpt 8 <i>Grace Saves All</i>
Mar 10 & 13:	Conclusion <i>Grace Saves All</i>
Mar 17 & 20:	Chpt 1 <i>We Make the Road by Walking</i>
Mar 24 & 27:	Chpt 2 <i>We Make the Road by Walking</i>

Grief Group ZOOM

Meeting

**MAR 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

MARCH Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | Ann Mitchell |
| 2 | Jean Weitzel |
| 8 | Janessa Thirion |
| 10 | Bruce Thomas
Jolyon Welsh |
| 12 | Peter DeBaz |
| 16 | Chuck Bixler
Peter Mitchell
Joanne Reynolds |
| 19 | Scott Broome |
| 20 | Mother Ann
Hannah Thirion |
| 22 | Crystal Zittkowski |
| 26 | Kitty Thomas |
| 27 | Judy Holmes
Leslie Marting |
| 28 | Tom Matthews
Annette Lowe |
| 29 | Anne Barnes |
| 30 | Leland Morris |
| 31 | Emery Vazzana |



Thank you so much to all those who have contributed to help Oscar & Elena. We are continuing to accept donations for their support. There will be a special offering Sunday, March 6 for them. Great news is that their baby was born healthy on Feb 23!

		MONDAY -31	TUESDAY - 1	WEDNESDAY-2	THURSDAY-3	FRIDAY-4	SATURDAY-5
			10:00 Staff Meeting	 12:00 Holy Eucharist 6:00 Holy Eucharist	4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8PM AA		

SUNDAY MAR 6		MONDAY -7	TUESDAY -8	WEDNESDAY-9	THURSDAY-10	FRIDAY-11	SATURDAY-12
ONE SERVICE ONLY:	10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
EM:	NA John Irwin						
LECTOR:	NA Becky & Chandler Everett						
ALTAR:	NA Neal Lee						
USHERS	NA Rik Bole & Brian Wright						
HOSTESSES	Nancy Irwin & Elise Bennett						

SUNDAY MAR 13		MONDAY -14	TUESDAY - 15	WEDNESDAY-16	THURSDAY-17	FRIDAY-18	SATURDAY-19
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
EM:	John Irwin						
LECTOR:	Sandra Redmond Fran Sarkisian & Courtney Schmidt						
ALTAR:	Sally Conley Mary Murray						
USHERS	NA Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	No Coffee Hour						

SUNDAY MAR 20		MONDAY -21	TUESDAY - 22	WEDNESDAY-23	THURSDAY-24	FRIDAY-25	SATURDAY-26
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
EM:	Melanie Reda Dale Gnandt						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe Victoria Connell & Neal Lee						
ALTAR:	Sue Marston Carolyn Miscko						
USHERS	NA Rik Bole						
HOSTESSES	No Coffee Hour						

SUNDAY MAR 27		MONDAY- 28	TUESDAY - 29	WEDNESDAY-30	THURSDAY-31	FRIDAY-1	SATURDAY-2
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
EM:	Charley Marston John Irwin						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe Mary & Tom Holmes						
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni Renee Kolecki						
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

March 2022 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River



MARCH 6
11 AM

There will be one service at 10:15 with the Annual meeting immediately following. Light refreshments in the Guild Room following the meeting.



Easter is April 17.
Services will be at
9 AM & 11 AM.

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

Masks optional.

Find our weekly worship on [YouTube](#)

Don't FORGET to set your clocks forward
March 12/13.

