



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

I am overjoyed to share some very good news with all of you. In only six weeks we have received gifts totaling \$7,074 to help Oscar and Elena recover from the fire that destroyed their house and everything except the clothes they were wearing. We have already sent \$2,000 through Western Union so that they could cover their immediate needs, including the hospital bills for the birth of their first child which was by emergency C-section. The remaining balance of \$5,074 is just enough to cover the cost of a small house from a material like our cement board, which is used in Peru and is fire-proof. The house will cost between 15,000 and 18,000 soles which is equivalent to 5,000 to 6,000 dollars. As you can see, we have the minimum necessary dollars in hand, but it would be lovely to have a bit of a financial cushion in case the exchange rate changes, or the cost of materials goes up. With that in mind, I will continue to accept donations through Easter, trusting that we will receive enough additional funds to do this.

Lucy's brother, Edwardo, has arranged for a local contractor to build the house in early June. Lucy and Luis will use their vacation time (and airline points) to go to Peru in early June so that they can help with the construction and painting, hoping to keep the costs as low as possible. I will send the remaining funds via Western Union to Lucy and Luis at that time. They have promised to send photos of the building process and, ultimately, of Oscar and Elena's new home. What a joy it will be for all of us; a true celebration of how it feels to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Oscar and Elena's need spoke to your hearts, and you responded in love and generosity. Before we were called Christians, those who believed that Jesus was the long-promised Messiah (Christ), were called "followers of The Way". The name suggests, not so much a set of teaching to be believed, as a set of teachings to be lived. Our Presiding Bishop echoes that early name for Christians. When he refers to our Christian daily lives; he calls it The Way of Love.

Each Sunday, at the time of the Offertory, I quote this passage from Ephesians 5:2: "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." And at the eight o'clock service each Sunday morning I say these words on behalf of the congregation as part of the Eucharistic Prayer: "And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee."

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, our liturgies invite us to follow Jesus and his disciples in "the way of the cross". The way of the cross is The Way of Love. It is a life filled with love for God and love for Neighbor. It is a life where The Way of Love shows who it is that we claim to follow in words louder than any we can speak.

The "words" of your love made visible in your gifts have spoken loudly and clearly; to Oscar and Elena, to Lucy and Luis, and to me. As your priest, it brings me such joy to know that you carry within you a deep understanding of how to "walk in love", how to be a "living sacrifice" in daily life; how to be followers of The Way."

May God's blessings fill your lives this day and forever,

Ann+

Junior Warden's Message

As I begin reporting about our new vestry members, I first want to reinforce the wonderful comments which were made before, during and after the annual meeting about our three retiring vestry members- Elise Bennett (6 years), Sean McMillion(6 years) and Tom Matthews (our master minute taking clerk these past 3 years) Being a vestry member is performing an invaluable service to fulfilling our mission. Thank you, Elise, Sean and Tom. Three longtime members were unanimously elected to fill the positions vacated.

Renee Kolecki is a lifelong Clevelander having been born in Garfield Heights. Since receiving her degree at Cleveland State University, Renee has been a mental health counselor at Cuyahoga County Community College. The importance of her work was well spelled out in the lead article in last Sunday's Plain Dealer which reported about the vast shortage of professionals like her in a nationwide spike of people in need. In 2007 Renee and Bob Trebar moved to Highland Heights and she joined St Christopher shortly thereafter. Bob died in 2018 and she has since moved to Lakewood. Despite the long drive, Renee has remained loyal to our little church which is a big gain for us, especially now that she has agreed to be on our vestry.

Bruce Long was born in Chicago. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan. While there, he met Susan and in 1974 they were married. He then received his medical degree from The University of Illinois- College of Medicine in 1978. Since then Bruce has had a thriving business as a specialist in the field of Rheumatology. This brought Bruce, Susan and his two children to Cleveland in 1984 to practice in connection with The Cleveland Clinic. They moved to Gates Mills in 1990 and Bruce has been a member here ever since.

Peter Thatcher has been a lifelong Episcopalian from an Air Force family and lived all over the United States, Europe and Asia. A graduate of George Washington University, he spent 12 years in Air Force Intelligence. He then arrived in Cleveland and spent 10 years at Gould Ocean Systems before entering academia on the faculty and staff of Western Reserve Academy and then Trinity Preparatory in Orlando. Peter attended St Christopher from 1981 to 1993 and then has been here again since 2014. In addition to seeing him in church on Sundays you can hear him entertain you with his guitar some Wednesday or Thursday evenings at Paris Restaurant in Chagrin Falls.

Following the annual meeting, the Vestry had a short meeting to choose our new officers. Mary Murray was re-elected Treasurer. Mary Holmes was elected Clerk. Becky Everett has been very active as our Junior Warden the past three years. With one year left as a vestry member, she wants to focus on her many other church activities so I am switching back to fulfill the Junior Warden responsibilities. I am delighted that Ron Lee has been elected to be our new Senior Warden. His first report is well worth reading. As I said at the annual meeting, all of us on the vestry want to join Mother Ann, our staff and everyone else who are committed to having every service or other activity a welcoming, inspirational and rewarding experience for you. When I was a child I remember Reverend William Shively commenting many times that having religion in one's life has great redeeming value. I strongly believe him to be right to this very day.

Vestry

Ron Lee	Senior Warden
Charley Marston	Junior Warden
Mary Holmes	Clerk
Mary Murray	Treasurer

Class of 2024

Renee Kolecki, Bruce Long,
Peter Thatcher

Class of 2023

Becky Everett, Ronald Lee,
Sandra Redmond

Class of 2022

Judy Holmes, Mary Holmes,
Charley Marston

Northeast Mission Area Council Representative

Peter Batcheller, 2023

Faithfully,
Charley

Senior Warden's Message

I am very humbled and honored to assume the duties of Senior Warden of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. It is particularly humbling when I consider the dedicated and outstanding service of recent and current Wardens Becky Everett, Charley Marston, and John Irwin have played along with Mother Ann in keeping a sound and robust course through the Covid pandemic. It is very helpful to know I can turn to them freely for guidance as I come to understand my duties more thoroughly.

Neal and I retired to your community in January 2016, moving from Dallas, TX in part to live near one of our two daughters, Kirsten and her family. We have a son, Erik and family, who live near Boston, and our youngest child, Ingrid and her family, who live in the Woodlands, Texas north of Houston. So, we're kind of centrally located.

Looking for a church home in early 2016, we visited St. Christopher's and were impressed, not only by the beauty of church and setting, but by the congregation which, though small, ranged from families with small children, to middle aged families and seniors. We also were impressed by the small but effective choir. And of course, Mother Ann as rector. So, we looked no further.

I grew up in the northeastern area of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and my family were members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church (merged into the Evangelical Lutheran of America years ago). Neal grew up in the Episcopal Church in Tidewater Virginia, effecting my becoming an Episcopalian, though perhaps with a modest influence from an older cousin who was an Episcopal clergyman. After college graduation in 1961 from St. Olaf College (me) and University of North Carolina (Neal) we met at work in the Washington, D. C. area where we had accepted jobs with the Defense Department. We married shortly thereafter and now are looking forward to our 60th anniversary this year.

Mother Ann, Charley Marston, Becky Everett together with the Vestry have done a masterful job navigating the twists and turns of the pandemic convolutions over the last two years. And, thanks to John Irwin, our services have been widely accessible. But, thinking optimistically that the epidemic is getting more contained and controllable, we in 2022 face the challenge of restoring some of the normalcy, vitality, and robustness that Neal and I observed back in 2016.

Of particular concern, is getting the Children and Youth programs re-activated from the constraints they have been under during Covid. Also, while many of St. Christopher's outreach and focus group activities have been sustained, they have perhaps been muted somewhat. To that end, we ask everyone to think about this challenge and share your ideas so that as we proceed through spring and summer, we might formulate plans to launch initiatives in the fall season.

Finally, in consideration of the above, Neal and I were active participants in a monthly social gathering program at our Dallas church which typically was a potluck dinner at someone's home. It was a long standing and strong element in the church community. Perhaps it, or a variation thereof, would be of interest at St. Christopher's. Neal and I would like to be hosts for a trial run sometime this spring. More on that later.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Lee

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 19, 2022

by Tom Matthews

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

The meeting came to order at 5:31 pm. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

The purpose of this additional meeting was an update on the change to online services due to the Omicron outbreak and to review dates to return to in person worship services. Mother Ann reviewed case data for the recent surge in relation to past surges to frame the discussion. Based on this data and regional indications of anticipated durations for the recent surge, dates to returning to in person services were proposed. After further discussion, the group determined February 20th as the conservative choice. Mother Ann mentioned she would make this announcement via the next email and mail newsletters.

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

Mother Ann closed the meeting at 6:00 PM.

JANUARY 26, 2022

by Tom Matthews

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

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

Review of the December 8th and January 19th meeting minutes was the first order of business. No corrections were noted. Becky E. moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Sean M. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Ron L. inquired about the responses for the shift to online services. Mother Ann mentioned that overall there has been positive feedback for the temporary shift.

Mother Ann started the agenda reviewing December's results. With the assistance of the PPP funds and good expense management, the net result was positive for 2021.

A review of the proposed 2022 budget was the next order of business. The vestry had reviewed a prior proposal which led to adjustments and the latest version submitted for the meeting. There were a few comments and discussions for clarifications, but all agreed that the proposal was acceptable. Mary H moved to accept the proposed 2022 budget, Elise B. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

The next order business was the Junior Warden Update. Becky E. provided updates for the kitchen ceiling repair as well as the boiler and heat pumps maintenance project. The kitchen ceiling issue was more involved than expected, but is progressing well. The heating system is operational, but Becky mentioned there are some components that were identified for probable replacement during a future scheduled maintenance. Becky then presented a recommendation for the addition of a backup generator for the rectory. Rationale for the addition was provided and discussed. Two quotes had been obtained and were reviewed. Based on vestry member experience with generator installations, it was noted that the provided quotes were reasonable for the market conditions. After the discussion, there was agreement that installing a generator made sense. Mary H. moved to proceed based on the 2 provided quotes, Tom M. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed. Sandra R. then moved to approve the generator installation project, Mary H. seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Mother Ann then provided an update on the regional Covid cases. It appears that cases have peaked for the latest variant and based on other regions, should come down quickly. With this, all agreed that the return to in person services on February 20th still made sense. Related to the return to in person services, Mother Ann mentioned that March 2nd is Ash Wednesday and historically we have a pancake breakfast the Sunday before. Due to the state of the kitchen project and just returning to in person services, there was consensus that the pancake breakfast doesn't work well for this year.

The next Vestry meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, February 23rd at 5:30pm.

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

CONSIDER DONATING IN APRIL

Lutheran Metropolitan Men's shelter needs:

- Reading Glasses
- Laundry and dish soap
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels & Dish towels
- Pots and pans
- Can openers
- Plastic containers
- Silverware
- Cups/Drinking glasses



FLOWER DEDICATIONS MARCH 2022

In loving memory of:

- Alexander Ferguson by Jean & Ted Ramsey
- Gwen Cooper by Elise & Larry Bennett
- Lois & Wilbur Holmes and Esther & Harry Larsen by Mary & Tom Holmes
- Our parents by Paulette & Tom Matthews

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1 | Sally Conley |
| | Pauline Marting |
| | Connor McMillion |
| | Ted Ramsey |
| 5 | Larry Murray |
| 7 | Brian Wright |
| 8 | Kathy Vilas |
| 14 | Stuart Bates |
| | Lou Boswell |
| 16 | Bill Doyle |
| 21 | Loni Todd-Lorenz |
| 22 | Fran Meyers |
| 23 | Ed Meyers |
| 27 | Judy Eakin |
| 28 | Diana Treco |
| 29 | Dan Collister |
| 20 | Beth Miller |

APRIL
Birthdays

A new addition in the guild room

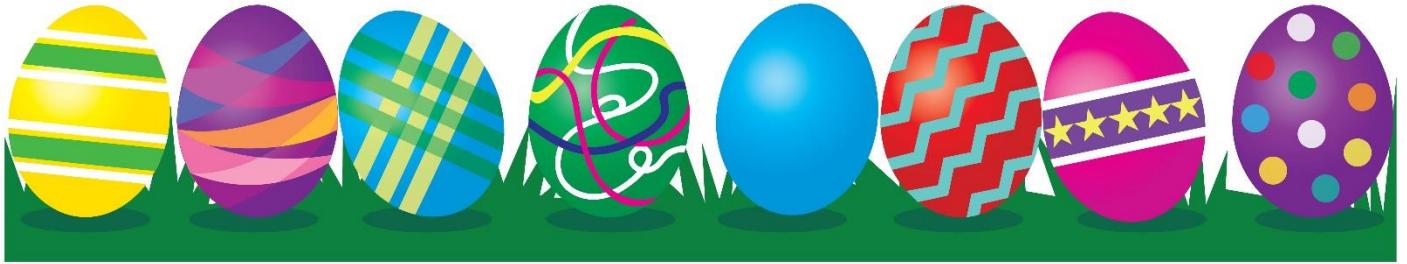
It is a beautiful watercolor by Cleveland's well known artist, Terry Thomas. I recently received it from Mary Anderson and the explanation is best reported by quoting from the note she included with the painting: "The print by Terry Thomas was a gift from the Women's Guild in 1991 "Easter Day" upon completion of three years serving as your assistant minister. It was one of the greatest honors of my life to have the privilege of serving you during that brief tenure. I have always been grateful to Mr. Shively for having me and taking a chance on me at a time when it was still a novel idea to hire women clergy! I'll always be indebted to your beloved mother, Bunny, for befriending me and schooling me in the customs of St Christopher's!. I loved every minute of her "tutorials". Bunny had the idea to give me the gift. Love and appreciation always- Mary Sterrett Anderson."

Ever since the first day I met Mary, she has always been a ray of sunshine, delivering positive messages of God's love everywhere she has been, especially since that memorable Easter Day thirty one years ago. Thank you, Mary, we are delighted to have this beautiful watercolor in the Guild room (with your note attached on its back). -Charley



Grief Group ZOOM Meeting APR 5 & 19, 6:30-8:00 PM

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



Happy Easter to All the Children!

Easter Sunday is the most important celebration in our church. On this day, we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Throughout the Easter season we can remind ourselves of the hope that Christ's sacrifice means to us and how much his death shows us how much God loves us.

We will not be having our Easter Egg Hunt at St. Christopher's this year, but we can think about the story of Easter through the traditions and symbols of Easter.

[Here is some interesting information.](#)

Egg Traditions: The egg reminds us of the tomb where Jesus was placed after his death. The fact that the baby chick breaks out of the egg reminds us of Jesus coming out of the closed tomb. Here are some egg traditions around the world.

Jewish tradition. The egg is a part of the Passover Seder meal, representing hope and a new life after escaping slavery.

Chinese tradition. A red egg is sent to friends when a baby is one month old. This is an invitation to a celebration feast for the child's birth.

Ukrainian tradition. Giving a decorated egg symbolizes giving a gift of love to that person.

German tradition. When you break the shell of an Easter egg, you allow the blessing of Easter to enter your home.

Do you know the answers?

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on what animal? _____

What is the color for purity? _____

What was used to keep Jesus on the cross? _____

What reminds us of Peter's denial of Jesus? _____

What was rolled away from the tomb on Easter? _____

What was placed on Jesus' head at his trial? _____

What color symbolizes penitence? _____

What color is used in the church on Good Friday? _____

St. Christopher's wishes all the children and their families a blessed Easter!



**lutheran
metropolitan
ministry**
listening. serving. empowering.

**I am very excited to let you know that
St. Christopher's will shortly be
resuming our volunteering at the
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's
Shelter!**

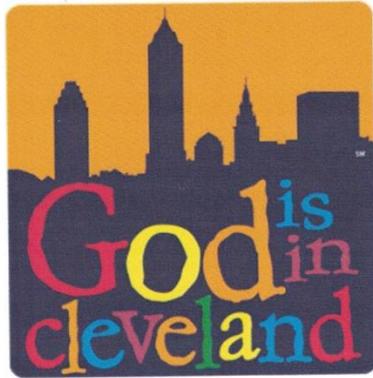
As some of you will remember, before Covid, St. Christopher's volunteers served lunch at the shelter once a month and got to know a number of the staff and the residents very well in our time down there. Deacon Lydia Bailey has told me that the shelter is relaxing Covid protocol, allowing up to six volunteers indoors at a time, with masks. It is now possible to resume our lunch service! **I have posted a sign up sheet on the bulletin board at the church for those who are interested in participating in this ministry. We don't have an exact starting date yet, but I am hoping to line us up for the third Wednesday of every month to serve lunch.** St. Paul's Episcopal, Cleveland Heights, is already onsite at the shelter providing food for meals on a monthly basis. They are very interested in joining us in serving lunch, and perhaps jointly providing food, based on St. Christopher's interest. Please sign up if interested, and I will be in touch soon!

There are other opportunities to serve at the shelter including the Listening Ministry, Computer Lab volunteers and weekly Art or Poetry groups. Finally, Lydia is looking for several volunteers interested in being "Housing Locators" which requires no previous experience. The volunteer would be working with staff and residents at a time convenient for the volunteer. After Easter, we will have an information session at coffee hour one Sunday where we can all learn about the service opportunities.

In addition to volunteering at the shelter, St. Christopher's will also be collecting certain items for residents who frequently move into their own housing. In April we will collect:

- Laundry Soap
- Dish soap
- Paper towels
- Can openers – a biggie!
- Toilet paper
- Dish towels
- Pots and pans
- Silverware
- Cups, drinking glasses

We are very thankful for the relationship we have forged with the men's shelter. We are also in the process of collecting information about the women's/children's shelter and their needs. If you have a particular interest/idea for how St. Christopher's can be of further service, please don't hesitate to let Deacon Lydia Bailey or Becky Everett know.



God is in Cleveland, living among the homeless.
God is in Cleveland, breaking bread with the poor.
God is in Cleveland, suffering with the brokenhearted.
God is in Cleveland, celebrating with the joyous.
God is in Cleveland, calling us into the community of Jesus Christ.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1349 West 78th Street, Cleveland, OH 44102
216-631-2841
stluke.cleveland@gmail.com

March 21, 2022

The Rev. Ann Kidder
Rector
St. Christopher by-the-River Episcopal Church
7601 Old Mill Road
Gates Mills, OH 44040

Dear Rev. Ann,

On behalf of the Parish of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, we offer our sincere thanks to the St. Christopher's by-the-River Episcopal Church community for the donation of \$495, received on 1/25/2022, in support of our clothing ministry, Your Neighbor's Cloak. Your donation provides us with funding to continue purchasing winter wear items that are much needed in our neighborhood and surrounding community, especially during the cold winter months.

I extend to you and the members of the St. Christopher's parish, the gratitude and appreciation from myself and the staff here at St. Luke's for your ongoing support of our ministry.

In Faith,

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Lori Fiorelli

Lori Fiorelli
Parish Administrator

To comply with Internal Revenue Services regulations, St. Luke's Episcopal Church affirms that it has not provided any goods or services to you, in whole or in part, in exchange for the contribution. Please retain this letter to serve as your contribution receipt for income tax purposes.

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

April 2022 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River



Good Friday

Our offering on Good Friday will go to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. If you can not be here, you may donate directly at:

www.iam.ec/goodfridayoffering

or send a check with 'Good Friday' in the memo to Mary in the office.

Book Groups

Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

We Make the Road by Walking

April 3: Chpt 3

April 7 & 10: Chpt 4

April 14 & 17: No Book Groups

April 21 & 24: Chpt 5

April 28: Chpt 6



Palm Sunday

8:00 – Holy Eucharist

10:15 – Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

6:00 – Agape Supper

7:30 – Stripping of Altar

Good Friday

12:00 – Holy Eucharist

7:00 – Holy Eucharist



EASTER

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

SUNDAYS

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

(Childcare available at the 10:15 service)

Find our weekly worship on [YouTube](#)

Sign up to bring something!

THURSDAYS

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer