



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

As you know, our Church-keeper Lucy grew up in Peru where most of her family still lives. As I'm sure you remember, in February her brother Oscar's home burned to the ground when a neighbor's propane tank exploded. He had left for work early in the morning. His wife, Elena, who was expecting their first baby at the end of February, was at home alone. Thankfully, she was able to get out of the house alive, but they lost everything in the fire. A few days later, Elena gave birth early to a baby girl.

Pachacamac, where Oscar and Elena live is what is called a *pueblo joven*, a young town. The houses are very small and close together. People build their own homes with whatever materials they can afford. Because Peru lacks the social safety nets that we are used to in this country, including the ability to insure a home such as Oscar's, I asked you to consider helping Oscar and Elena get back on their feet. You responded with great love and generosity to the needs of someone you had never met.

We were quickly able to send \$2000 to Peru, which allowed Oscar to meet their immediate needs including the hospital bill for Lucy's birth. Here is the note that Lucy wrote on behalf of her brother, along with a photo of baby Lucy at one week old.

*"My brother Oscar wants to give thanks to everyone involved in donating and praying for his family's well-being during these tough times. He was brought to tears with all the generosity, love and support he has received from everyone at St. Christopher's. He was not expecting so much kindness from far away. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> his baby girl was born, weighing 8 pounds 20 ounces, named Lucy Gutierrez. We appreciate all the love and support from the congregation, and everyone involved. Thank-you!"*



It was always my hope that we would be able to provide enough funds for Oscar and Elena to rebuild their home. As you look at this photo, taken during the fire, you can see how most of the neighboring houses are constructed. We wanted to be sure that the new house would be fireproof so that Oscar and Elena would never have to go through such a traumatic experience again. A material similar to what we call "cement board" is sometimes used in Peru for building houses in new settlements like Pachacamac. It lasts thirty-plus years and we anticipated that we would be able to afford the full cost of rebuilding Oscar and Elena's house.

Oscar has a learning disability, which was not understood or treated during his early school years. He struggled academically and was not able to graduate from high school. Because of this, Oscar's brother Eduardo stepped up to deal with finding a contractor and negotiating an agreement for building a new home

for Oscar and Elena. The contractor would be able to begin building in mid-late May. By Easter we had raised a total of \$7,324, and had a set aside \$5,324 for the new house. We sent a down-payment via Western-Union and Lucy and Luis made plans to travel to Peru in early June with the balance of the funds.



Eduardo wouldn't let Oscar visit the house site during construction, which was probably very wise. We all know what a temptation it is to ask for changes to the original plan – with the resulting hike in costs! Eduardo also knew that he had found a contractor with a huge and good heart. Oscar and Elena would have a house that would last beyond their own lifetimes and Eduardo wanted it to be a surprise. It was! When the contractor heard about the fire, and the new baby, he insisted that the house be built with brick.

These are photos that Lucy and Luis took on the day that Eduardo took everyone to see the new house.

Lucy said that when they arrived, Oscar exclaimed, “This is my house?!?” His eyes welled up with tears and in the photo of everyone walking up the hillside you can see that the only other brick or concrete houses are further down the hillside, which was settled decades ago.

Right now, the house consists of a large main room, a bedroom, a kitchen, and a bathroom. Oscar owns enough land on one side of the house for another room to be added at some point in the future when baby Lucy is older. The photo of Oscar, Elena, and Lucy in front of their new home is something that we can carry in our hearts with joy. The gift of your love and the generosity of your giving has changed Oscar and Elena's lives and the future of their family's life.



The house will not be ready for Oscar and Elena to move in for several more months. The plumbing and electricity need to be connected and the municipality is in the process of laying gas pipes, which should reach Oscar's neighborhood by next year at the latest. Oscar's family will continue to stay with his older brother until they can move into their new home – we'll be sure to share some photos when that day arrives.

With thanksgiving for all that you made possible,

Ann+





## WE WANT YOUR FAVORITE QUOTES!!



## CASSEROLES & COOKIES!

As St. Christopher's continues to learn about the needs of our friends at the Lutheran Metropolitan Men's Shelter, we will be making and selling Day by Day Calendars! All the proceeds from the sale of these calendars will be used to purchase daily RTA bus passes for the shelter residents. These bus passes will make a huge difference in their ability to continue on their journey toward independence! We hope to have this 2024 calendar ready by next summer, so we need your help! Please email or call the church office with your quote submissions or write them on a note card (available in the basket in the narthex) and put them in the offertory plate each Sunday. Please include the source of the quote when possible! Feel free to submit MANY quotes! We



have to fill 365 pages of this calendar each year! For the first year, our goal is to sell 100 calendars which will provide **300 bus passes!!!** Imagine that! Please help us in

this endeavor by sharing your favorite quotes/sayings.

In case the news hasn't gotten to you yet, St. Christopher's is back serving lunch to our friends at the LMM Men's Shelter the second Wednesday of every month! Every other month we not only serve but also help to provide the meal! We are doing this ministry in cooperation with St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, and we are so happy and grateful to get to know and work with them!

St. Paul's provides the recipes for the casseroles that we bring every other month. We need a total of twelve casseroles each time we provide the food - six from St. Paul's and six from St. Christopher's. If you are interested in helping to make a casserole, please contact Becky Everett at (216)409-2370 or by emailing Becky at [chanbeckyl@rtoadrunner.com](mailto:chanbeckyl@rtoadrunner.com). We also provide twelve dozen cookies for dessert every other month. If you would like to help with this, please contact Becky as well. As always, thank you for participating in this important ministry!

Your efforts are so very appreciated!  
God Bless!



**GUILD SPOTLIGHT:** The Meals on Wheels programs of Hillcrest and Chagrin provide meals for homebound, disabled, or elderly individuals unable to shop or prepare meals. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday. The Hillcrest meals are prepared by the Cleveland Food bank and are delivered in Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Richmond Heights, South Euclid, and Mayfield. This program delivers more than 22,000 meals per year. The Chagrin program serves eastern Cuyahoga and western Geauga counties. This program receives no government subsidy. The meals are prepared by a chef, their only paid employee. They provide one light and one main meal two, three, or five days a week at a cost of six dollars per day, though no one is turned away.

# VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

**MAY 25, 2022**

*by Mary Holmes*

In attendance: Mother Ann Kidder, Becky Everett, Judy Holmes, Mary Holmes, Renee Kolecki, Ron Lee, Bruce Long, Sandy Redmond, Peter Thatcher

Mother Ann opened the meeting with prayer

The April 30, 2022, minutes of the Vestry Retreat were reviewed and approved as written.

**Treasurer' Report:** Mary Murray gave the quarterly income report. Receipts are above expectation partly because 20% of pledges for 2022 were actually paid in December of 2021. The rate of the Diocesan assessment has gone up slightly to 15.25% of church expenses. Nothing else to report at this time.

**Rector's Report:** Yuri, our Music Director, had made a request for a portable keyboard and speaker so that we could have organ music outside or other places in the church. After researching several options, she recommended a keyboard and speaker that costs \$1,600. Chandler Everett, Sr. has offered to pay for the system. Renee moved and Peter seconded the acceptance of Chandler's gift to buy the keyboard and speaker. The motion was approved.

Mother Ann gave an update regarding the Diocesan Internship Program, which gives seminarians experience in a parish before graduation. Because of COVID, there are no qualified candidates for this fall. We should revisit in the fall of 2023.

**Sr. Warden's Report:** Ron Lee gave an update on the Parish Picnic, which will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> after the 10:15 service in Marston Park. The church will provide the food and drinks. People are asked to sign up through Flocknotes or by calling the church office. They can also offer help in setting up and cleaning up.

Peter Thatcher gave an update about advertising in the Chagrin Valley Times. Based on an ad created by the Women's Guild for the paper several years ago, he shared a design for an ad to be included in the church directory page of the paper. He will edit the ad and report at the next Vestry meeting what the cost is of running the ad so that the Vestry can consider a frequency.

Mother Ann invited those who attended the Vestry Retreat to share their thoughts and ideas that they shared in the small group conversations.

## Stewardship:

Lucy Lytle has agreed to lead the Annual Appeal with help from Mary Holmes.

Legacy/Planned Giving will be discussed at the Stewardship meeting on June 4.

Charley and the committee will work to revitalize the Finance & Investment group.

## Fellowship:

Ron, Renee and Bruce discussed several ideas for monthly fellowship.

They will meet again soon with Mother Ann to solidify plans for monthly fellowship and to develop ideas for welcoming and engaging newcomers.

## Service:

Mother Ann will meet with the Women's Guild about Bargain Box

Becky reported that the response our ability to reengage at the Men's Shelter has been very positive. We are collaborating with St. Paul's Church in Cleveland to prepare lunches to take to the Shelter and many parishioners have signed up to make casseroles and cookies.

Education/Faith Formation:

Becky and Sandy will meet with Mother Ann to discuss the future of our Christian formation for children and youth. Becky recommended that we re-examine the Godly Play curriculum, which she learned and used at St. Christopher's in the past.

Mother Ann will meet with Peggy Reda to determine her interest in future participation. Melanie will continue to provide care for infants.

For adults, Mother Ann will review two programs at the next Vestry meeting, "On Sacred Ground" and "The Way of Love."

In consideration of rising COVID rates in Cuyahoga County, Mother Ann will direct Mary Zup to change our statement about masks inside the church to "masks encouraged."

Mother Ann closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Meeting: June 29, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – Guild Room and Zoom**

Future Agenda Items:

Review of "On Sacred Ground" and "The Way of Love" programs (June)

Updates from Jr. Warden (June)

## NEW NAME TAGS!

Look what you could have! Your very own name tag to wear at Sunday services and church functions! **It can be yours for just \$5.00!** Please call the church office at (440) 423-4451 to let Mary Zup know you are interested. You can pay by cash or check mailed to the church. If sending a check, please make the check out to St. Christopher by the River and write the word NAMETAG in the memo line! More and more people are joining us every Sunday. Please help us welcome them by wearing your nametag (this new one or the old bigger one) so that they can begin to get to know us! We are hoping to have these new nametags available for Rally Sunday, September 11, 2022! Place your order SOON!



## FLOWER DEDICATIONS JUNE & JULY 2022

### In loving memory of:

- John & Barbara Nash by Dan & Rindy Collister
- Ruth & Art Collins, June & Jim Irwin and beloved friend Jack Auble by Nancy & John Irwin
- Bill & Diane Hauserman, and Louis LaRiche By Dave & Darlene Hauserman
- Brooke & Virginia Mallory, Tina Mallory & Alberta N Day, Edward & Ann Meyers by Edward & Frances Meyers
- Helmut Alpers by Marcia Alpers and Family
- Constance & Mauro Novello and Suzy Novello by Nancy Novello
- Walter A. & Margaret Brown Marting by Leslie & Michael Marting
- Betty & Mark Negrelli and Bobbie & Bill Gotherman by Gini & Don Negrelli
- James & Margery Beckerman, Eleanor Liljedahl Snyder and Leroy E. Liljedahl by Kurt & Mary Anne Liljedahl
- Laura & Ed Cole and Dove & Harvey Schluter and Pam Kunkemueller by Debbie, Whitney & Randy Cole

### Food Pantry Donations

#### SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Only new items please.



- 1 Carol Smith
- 6 Cecile Murray
- 8 Donna Bixler
- 13 Jeff Eakin
- 14 Patrick Hoeflinger
- 15 Peter Batcheller
- 16 Mary Murray
- 18 Sarita Frith
- 20 Marcia Alpers
- 22 Luke Mitchell  
Maddie Pucell
- 24 Charlie Broom  
Warren Morris
- 27 Brooks Vazzana
- 28 John Weber
- 31 Jane Chisholm



### Grief Group ZOOM Meeting August 2 & 30 6:30-8:00 PM

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



Tuesday & Wednesdays

8:30-2:30

June 9 – August 25

Normal days will resume in  
September.

<b>SUNDAY JULY 31</b>		MONDAY- 1	TUESDAY - 2	WEDNESDAY-3	THURSDAY-4	FRIDAY-5	SATURDAY-6
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	 10:00 Staff Meeting <b>6:30 PM Grief</b>	 9AM Book Group Chpts 31 & 32		4-7 Breaking New Ground @ LMM  8:00 AA		
<b>EM:</b> Charley Marston	Dale Gndt						
<b>LECTOR:</b> Annette Lowe	Fran Sarkisian & Dixon Morgan						
<b>ALTAR:</b> Sally Conley	Renee Kolecki						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Becky & Chandler Everett						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Lucy Lytle & Becky Everett						

<b>SUNDAY AUGUST 7</b>		MONDAY - 8	TUESDAY - 9	WEDNESDAY-10	THURSDAY-11	FRIDAY-12	SATURDAY-13
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	 Baptism @ 10:15	10:00 Staff Meeting		4:00 Book Group  5:00 Evening Prayer  8:00 AA		
<b>EM:</b> Becky Everett	Fran Meyers						
<b>LECTOR:</b> Teri Ianni	Brian Wright & Judy Holmes						
<b>ALTAR:</b> Sally Conley	Neal Lee						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Brian Wright						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Mary Murray & Neal Lee						

<b>SUNDAY AUGUST 14: Eva Ellis, Organist</b>		MONDAY -15	TUESDAY - 16	WEDNESDAY-17	THURSDAY-18	FRIDAY-19	SATURDAY-20
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	9AM Book Group	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  10:00 Staff Meeting		4:00 Book Group  5:00 Evening Prayer  8:00 AA		
<b>EM:</b> Becky Everett	John Irwin						
<b>LECTOR:</b> Teri Ianni	Lucy Lytle & Fran Sarkisian						
<b>ALTAR:</b> Teri Ianni	Lucy Lytle						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Nancy Irwin						

<b>SUNDAY AUGUST 21: Fr. Richard Israel presiding, Eva Ellis Organist</b>		MONDAY -22	TUESDAY - 23	WEDNESDAY-24	THURSDAY-25	FRIDAY-26	SATURDAY-27	
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	Mother Ann on Vacation				5:00 Evening Prayer  8:00 AA		
<b>EM:</b> Melanie Reda	Dale Gndt							
<b>LECTOR:</b> Teri Ianni	Chandler & Becky Everett							
<b>ALTAR:</b> Teri Ianni	Courtney Schmidt							
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Kurt Liljedahl							
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Lucy Lytle							

<b>SUNDAY AUGUST 28: Fr. Richard Israel presiding, Eva Ellis Organist</b>		MONDAY -29	TUESDAY - 30	WEDNESDAY-31	THURSDAY-1	FRIDAY-2	SATURDAY-3
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	9AM Book Group	10:00 Staff Meeting  <b>6:30 PM Grief</b>	<b>6:00 PM Vestry</b>	4:00 Book Group  5:00 Evening Prayer  8:00 AA		
<b>EM:</b> Charley Marston	John Irwin						
<b>LECTOR:</b> Annette Lowe	Neal Lee & Dixon Morgan						
<b>ALTAR:</b> Sue Marston	Renee Kolecki						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Becky Everett						

ST. CHRISTOPHER  
BY-THE-RIVER  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
[www.stchrisbytheriver.org](http://www.stchrisbytheriver.org)

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The Rev. Ann Kidder, Rector  
[stchris.motherann@gmail.com](mailto: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 8:30-2:30 (Summer Hours)**

**440-423-4451**

[stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com)

AUGUST 2022 Newsletter

**St. Christopher by-the-River**

**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](#)

**THURSDAYS**

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

**BOOK GROUPS**

Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. *(except 8/25)*

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

*New selection Coming!*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

One service at 10:15.

