



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

At this November's Diocesan Convention, the canonically resident clergy and the delegates elected from each parish in our Diocese will elect our next Bishop. Our Vestry will soon nominate and elect three Delegates and three Alternates to represent St. Christopher's at the electing convention on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Three final candidates for Bishop of Ohio have been identified by the Diocesan Search Committee. They are (in alphabetical order): The Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Diocese of Chicago; The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas, Diocese of Newark; and The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox, Diocese of New Jersey. Information about them has been posted on the Diocesan website and you will find links to that information in our weekly News & Notes email between now and the Diocesan Convention. Several printed copies will also be available in the Guild Room if you do not have internet access.

Please take the time to read each candidate's biographical statement. Those statements provide us with an introduction to each candidate's personality, professional experience, and interests. Each candidate was also asked to respond to the following four essay questions:

1. The Presiding Bishop has made racial healing and reconciliation a priority for the church. How have you made this a priority in your life and ministry? Please include concrete examples.
2. The Diocese of Ohio encompasses not only Cleveland's densely populated metro area but also many sparsely populated areas, many of which are struggling to sustain churches and often feel overlooked or under-supported by the Diocese. How have your experiences in ministry and leadership prepared you to support such struggling churches in ways that will nurture their gifts and help them find creative ways to sustain their ministries?
3. Describe how you view the role of a Bishop in the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
4. Having viewed our position profile, what attracts you to serving the Diocese of Ohio as Bishop?

Those of us who will cast a vote for our next Diocesan Bishop need to hear your thoughts about each of the candidates. Please take some time, perhaps reading the candidates' materials more than once, and share your views with us. The Vestry and I, as well as our parish Delegates and Alternates need to hear from you as we participate in this communal work of discerning who God is calling to serve our Diocese in the years to come.

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, page 818)*

With Love,

Ann+

1 Betty Tone  
 3 Paulette Matthews  
 Stacey Miscko  
 4 Debbie Cole  
 5 Ron Miscko  
 7 Lily Klinginsmith  
 Conrad Selnick  
 8 Alison Selman  
 13 Samuel Mitchell  
 14 Deborah Brown  
 15 Fran Sarkisian



17 Peter Holmes  
 18 Christine DeBaz  
 Mary Holmes  
 19 Larry Bennett  
 20 Evin McMullen  
 21 Toly Gnant  
 Jan Tuttle  
 25 Melanie Reda  
 29 Hudson Champ  
 Bennett Vandertill

# VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

**JUNE 29, 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 May 25, 2022, minutes of the Vestry Retreat were reviewed. Peter Thatcher noted that his name was omitted from the attendee list even though he was there. The minutes as amended were approved.

## May Budget Report:

Mary Murray provided a revenue and expense report year to date along with the current balance sheet. There were no concerns identified.

## Stewardship Update:

Mary Holmes reported that the Stewardship Committee met at Charley Marston's house on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Most of the meeting focused on the timeline for the Annual Appeal. Lucy Lytle has agreed to chair the Campaign this year. She has written a job description for members of the committee working on the Campaign. Becky, Charley and Mary will be meeting to develop a legacy giving program.

## Update regarding advertising:

Peter Thatcher showed two designs for an ad to be placed in the Chagrin Valley Times. The rectangle version was preferred. The Vestry decided to run the ad weekly in July and August and design a larger ad to invite people to Rally Sunday in September. The cost is \$18.75 per issue.

## Jr. Warden Updates:

Charley and Mother Ann met with Rick Solon from the Figi Foundation. They showed him several items at the Rectory and at the church that need repair as well as the need to paint the church. Rick asked for a request for capital expenditures for the committee to review.

Charley provided, through Mother Ann, a design for a Children's Chapel Plaque, acknowledging the major gift of the Hellman Family. The plaque will also have brass nameplates for all the directors of Christian Education in the Church's history.

## Sr. Warden Updates:

Ron reported that the church will not offer any food for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. The banners are already up in front of the church. Mother Ann will ride in the Clergy car and deliver a prayer at the polo field.

## Rector's Report:

Last Sunday, masks were required for the indoor services. Bruce reported that Cuyahoga County is now doing better, but cautioned that long-term effects of Covid are still unknown and caution still needs to be taken. The Vestry agreed with Mother Ann's directive to Mary Zup to indicate, "masks are encouraged" for this week.

Mother Ann asked the Vestry to approve authorization for the use of the parish credit card by Lucy and Luis Calvo since they often purchase items they need to do their work at the church and then submit their receipts for reimbursement. Ron made a motion to extend the authorization for the use of the parish credit card to church staff to purchase items they need for their work. The single day limit on the card is \$300. Mary Murray and Mother Ann review credit card charges regularly. Receipts will still need to be submitted. The motion was approved.

Melanie Reda has agreed to take over the running of Bargain Box!

Mother Ann, Judy Holmes, Sandy Redmond, Becky Everett, Melanie Reda and Peggy Reda will meet soon to map out a plan for Christian Education for next year.

Mother Ann informed the Vestry that the last three years of the parochial report have asked parishes what they are doing to educate themselves about the racial history of this country. St. Christopher's has not had an answer so far, but Mother Ann suggested that we look at three programs that are available to us to get started. One is "On Sacred Ground" which is an eleven session discussion program led by a facilitator. It is intended to be for white audiences. A program called "Becoming Beloved Community" which helps parishes make commitments to be more knowledgeable and proactive about eliminating racism might follow it. The third choice is "Way of Love" which focuses on individual spiritual

development. There was a lengthy discussion, which ended with Rene's motion to "adopt the program, On Sacred Ground, to begin in the fall." Bruce seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Future Agenda Items (July Meeting):

- Updates from: Stewardship, Fellowship, Service, and Education/Faith Formation
- Discussion of safety, medical emergency procedures, and online training programs offered by the National church

Mother Ann closed the meeting with prayer **Next Meeting: July 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – Guild Room and Zoom**



Breaking New Ground, Building LMM's Next 50 Years Shelter is an intermediate solution to a broader housing problem. The most obvious barrier to sustainable, permanent housing is prohibitive cost. In 2019, LMM launched Breaking New Ground: LMM's Next 50 Years with intent of raising \$3.5 million. As of June 2022, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry has exceeded our goal and raised \$4,245,000. Our promise is to be the landlord we wish to see. LMM is now producing innovative rental models and advancing existing efforts to end family homelessness in Greater Cleveland. The purchase and renovation of 20 units in the St. Clair Superior neighborhood is underway. The funds raised will help to both directly remodel the homes and to sustain the project through a Family Stability Fund. So far, 3 families have left homelessness and moved into their homes with several more families being ready to move in by fall. We have additional affordable housing initiatives in Cleveland Heights/East Cleveland for men leaving the men's shelter. Attached are photos from July 2022, planting shrubs with a few from St. Paul's Episcopal, in front of one of those duplexes where 6 shelter men now live.



Staying in housing is not easy, but there will be follow up case management for families, both from the family shelter where they stayed, as well as with LMM social services as needed. LMM is

renting all units at a rate that will not exceed 30% of their monthly income, in an effort to follow national best practice definitions of affordable housing (defined by HUD). Finally, an innovative part of this project is LMM's Family Stability Fund intended to temporarily assist families until employment or other sources of income can support their housing costs. Families chosen from the shelters are those who already have a source of income that means they'll be able to pay rent.

I so love sharing this journey with St. Christopher's parishioners, as you've heard me talk on these initiatives throughout the year. You've contributed volunteer hours, in-kind and financial support. Parishioners continue to ask me how they might contribute to the Breaking New Ground campaign at LMM.

This can be done online at <http://www.lutheranmetro.org> Select Make a Gift (upper right) then designate BNG.

or mailed to:

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry  
Attention: Office of  
Development.  
4515 Superior Ave,  
Cleveland, OH 44103



On the memo line of check: "Housing & Shelter, BNG"

Thank you, Deacon Lydia Bailey+

## FLOWER DEDICATIONS AUGUST 2022

In loving memory of:

- Susie & Ralph Kloppenburg and Bethany Conley by Sally Conley
- In honor of our daughter caretakers: Nancy, Barbara, Joann and Helen Cicirello by Sal & Helen Cicirello
- Jackie and Bill by Paulette & Tom Matthews
- Hazel Butterfield and Mattie Battles by Ramon and Jane Battles
- Sheila Bates by Stuart Bates

## Mid-Year Operating Results

Our financial results are on track for 2022. However, if you refer to the spreadsheet below, you might wonder about that, given that we are showing a \$5,000+ deficit, even though the full-year budget estimate predicts an annual deficit closer to \$4,000. The primary difference shows in the “Other Income” line, which consists of *Investment Income* as well as *Special Gifts*. We are right on the nose for *Investment Income*, having recognized \$10,000 of the \$20,000 budget. The other \$30,000 in that line comes from items we were aware of when we created the budget but may not yet have fully realized. Two parishioners made gifts or pledges of gifts outside of their normal level of giving; we want to treat these donations separately from their regular giving because we do not expect these extraordinary gifts to be ongoing. In addition, we have budgeted the use of \$10,000 from the Feller Fund, which the Vestry has earmarked for operations as needed over a 10-year period. Accounting for these specific items would put us in positive territory, but these “good news” items are expected to be somewhat offset by the cost of utilities and *Repairs and Maintenance*, as well as an expected increase in insurance expense in the second half of the year. Finally, while we estimate costs for a full year, the actual expenditures are not always smoothly distributed throughout that time.

					First Half	Full Year
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
<b>Pledges and Plate</b>	\$ 238,123	\$ 248,276	\$ 218,581	\$ 233,059	\$ 110,407	\$ 222,100
<b>St. Christopher's Fund</b>	\$ 126,178	\$ 127,612	\$ 131,706	\$ 130,942	\$ 66,226	\$ 140,000
<b>Other Income</b>	\$ 18,261	\$ 22,735	\$ 19,217	\$ 61,374	\$ 10,544	\$ 50,800
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$ 382,562	\$ 398,623	\$ 369,504	\$ 425,375	\$ 187,177	\$ 412,900
<b>Outside Parish Expenses</b>	\$ 53,337	\$ 54,319	\$ 54,559	\$ 53,581	\$ 25,796	\$ 56,769
<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	\$ 266,528	\$ 266,665	\$ 272,231	\$ 265,816	\$ 133,332	\$ 280,382
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 72,436	\$ 76,165	\$ 77,932	\$ 71,377	\$ 33,323	\$ 79,980
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 392,301	\$ 397,149	\$ 404,722	\$ 390,774	\$ 192,451	\$ 417,131
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	\$ (9,739)	\$ 1,474	\$ (35,218)	\$ 34,601	\$ (5,274)	\$ (4,231)
<b>Surplus/Deficit Excluding PPP Loan Forgiveness</b>				\$ (8,199)		
<b>Balance Sheet Highlights</b>						
<b>Cash and Liquid Invs</b>	\$570,553	\$545,597	\$579,147	\$ 791,645	\$ 602,638	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	\$ 97,524	\$ 60,761	\$119,513	\$ 109,417	\$ 72,285	
<b>Capital and Organ Reserve Funds</b>	\$288,654	\$269,101	\$280,910	\$ 322,341	\$ 233,812	
<b>All Other Reserves</b>	\$ 69,785	\$ 51,492	\$ 34,732	\$ 131,044	\$ 129,087	
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	\$114,590	\$164,244	\$143,993	\$ 228,843	\$ 164,059	

Respectfully submitted,  
 Mary Murray  
 Treasurer

## Mid-Year Giving Report

Our Treasurer, Mary Murray, has provided the parish with a financial history and current budget year estimate. We believe further comments about it and our spending plans might be of interest. It is noteworthy that our general operating expenses have stayed quite flat with only modest increases recently. One reason is that during the past 5 years, cost-of-living pay increases for our staff have been minimal, if at all. At this point in the year, we believe that, even though some uncertainty remains, we will finish the year with only a small deficit.

Unfortunately, **annual giving to St. Christopher's has been declining for quite a while**, mainly due to the death or departure of parishioners. Additionally, **almost 50% of our current parishioners donate the same amount or less than they did 5 years ago**. We estimate that at present there are 110 donating individuals/families, and the **average donation is \$1,900**. While **45% of our income comes from 10% of our donors**, with gifts between \$4,000 and \$15,000, we recognise that each and every gift is important and vital to our ability to do the many things that we do.

Fortunately, over the past 30 years, there were times when our income exceeded our expenses. A portion of those savings were invested in the stock market and have grown nicely. In addition, many years ago the people of St. Christopher's were wise enough to create the *St Christopher's Fund*. This is separate from the Church's balance sheet and has its own set of by-laws and board of trustees. Thanks to their investments and additional gifts, the value of the Fund has grown in value to over \$2.5 million. The trustees have a goal of distributing to the parish 5% of the average value of the fund over the last 12 quarters. It has been at 5.25% recently. The result is that St. Christopher's has the ability to sustain *small* deficits for a while but not significant, ongoing deficits.

Throughout the life of our parish, many people have left bequests to the Church. Historically, memorial gifts in excess of \$1,000 have been deposited in the St Christopher's Fund. If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider a bequest the next time you review your estate plans. There are numerous ways to make a gift to St Christopher's. In July, Charley Marston attended a presentation delivered by the Episcopal Diocese about legacy giving. If you have an interest in understanding these strategies, please contact Charley.

In conclusion, while St. Christopher's remains one of the financially stronger churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, like most organizations, we are constrained in our ability to meet our goals, particularly in two areas. Most of our outreach programs are funded by the huge effort of our Bargain Box volunteers and the Women's Guild. We believe there is much more we can do in this area. More importantly, each year we seek to give our staff wage increases only to find that, without an increase in our annual donations, we have to defer this necessity year after year. We hope that in 2023, we will not have to defer wage increases again. When you receive our annual appeal under the leadership of this year's *Annual Giving Campaign Chair* Lucy Lytle, please recognize that an increase in annual gifts from everyone--especially from those of us who have not increased our donation in recent years--will give your treasurer, your vestry, Mother Ann and our staff the help and support they need to make 2023 another great year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lee  
Senior Warden

Charley Marston,  
Junior Warden

### Food Pantry Donations

- Dry Pasta
- Mac N Cheese
- Ramen
- Sauce (no glass if possible)
- Grated Cheese



## QUOTES!



WE NEED YOUR FAVORITE QUOTES!! St. Christopher's will be producing its own Day by Day calendar next year! Sales from this calendar will benefit the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter. We will be purchasing RTA day passes which are sorely needed for residents to get to appointments, job interviews etc. Please submit your quotes by calling the church office at 440-423-4451 or writing them on the note cards available in the basket in the narthex at church! We have already received about 1/3 of the quotes we need, so keep it going! Thank you for your help and participation in this important ministry!

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Faith Formation ( Church School and Nursery)

We hope to see everyone on Rally Day, Sunday, September 11th! Please look for the Church School table with balloons!

We will have registration and a special surprise for all the children. Families are invited to register for church school and/or nursery and then have a tour of the nursery and classrooms with Miss Melanie or Mrs. Reda.

Schedule for 2022-2023

Infants and toddlers are welcome to visit or stay in the nursery on the first floor during the 10:15 am Sunday services, attended by Nursery Director, Melanie Reda. All school-aged children are welcome to participate in our Sunday School program during the 10:15 am Sunday Services, led by Faith Development Director, Peggy Reda.

Special Events have been planned for the church seasons. Watch for announcements at Rally Day and in future newsletters.

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>



**ONE SERVICE ONLY – 10:15**

RSVP on line or call the office!

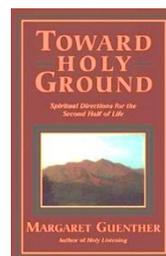
Sunday, September 11, is Rally Day and we're having a picnic, with the opportunity to enjoy old and new friendships at St. Christopher's. And it's also a day recognizing a fresh beginning of all the activities of a new fall season. It's a great time to consider how these activities can impact each of us in our lives at St. Christopher's. What are we called to do? What might be challenging but meaningful? How can we use these opportunities to benefit the church, the community, and our own lives? We've put together a summary of all the activities and offerings for the coming year. Many of you are already involved with some of them but we hope everyone will find something new which will be challenging and rewarding. Rally Day is a fun experience, so, since there is no 8:00 service we hope everyone will plan to attend the 10:15 service and join us for a cookout shortly thereafter. ~ R. Lee

## BOOK GROUPS

Book groups start up again this September. We are reading *Toward Holy Ground* by Margaret Guenther. Meetings will be:

**THURSDAYS 4 PM**  
**SUNDAYS 9 AM**

September 1 & 4: Chapter 1  
September 8 & 11: No Book Group  
September 15 & 18: Chapter 2  
September 22 & 25: No Book Group  
September 29 & Oct 2: Chapter 3



			TUESDAY -30	WEDNESDAY-31	THURSDAY-1	FRIDAY-2	SATURDAY-3
			6:30 PM Grief		4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		3:00 Wedding

<b>SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4</b>		MONDAY - 5	TUESDAY - 6	WEDNESDAY- 7	THURSDAY- 8	FRIDAY- 9	SATURDAY- 10
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9AM Book Group	10:00 Staff Meeting		5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Charley Marston	John Irwin						
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Brian Wright & Lucy Lytle						
ALTAR: Sue Marston	Leslie Marting						
USHERS NA	Brian Wright						
HOSTESSES	Sue Marston						

<b>SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11</b>		MONDAY - 12	TUESDAY - 13	WEDNESDAY-14	THURSDAY- 15	FRIDAY- 16	SATURDAY-17
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist		10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Grief		4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: NO SERVICE	Fran Meyers						
LECTOR: NO SERVICE	Judy Holmes & Courtney Schmidt						
ALTAR: NO SERVICE	Mary Murray						
USHERS NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	Picnic						

<b>SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18</b>		MONDAY - 19	TUESDAY - 20	WEDNESDAY-21	THURSDAY- 22	FRIDAY- 23	SATURDAY-24
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9AM Book Group	1:00 Stephen Ministry		5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		10-12 Young Adult Meet Up
EM: Melanie Reda	Dale Gndt						
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Dixon Morgan & Fran Sarkisian						
ALTAR: Sally Conley	Lucy Lytle						
USHERS NA	Kurt Liljedahl & Dixon Morgan						
HOSTESSES	Mary Murray & Charlene Currutt						

<b>SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25</b>		MONDAY - 26	TUESDAY - 27	WEDNESDAY-28	THURSDAY- 29	FRIDAY- 30	SATURDAY-1
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	SET UP SUNDAY!	10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Grief	11 AM BB Healing Service 6:00 PM Vestry	4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Charley Marston	John Irwin						
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Neal Lee & Becky Everett						
ALTAR: Sally Conley	Neal Lee						
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES	SET UP SUNDAY						

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

7601 Old Mill Rd.  
PO Box 519  
Gates Mills OH 44040

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-Th 8:30-2:30**  
**440-423-4451**  
[stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com)

SEPTEMBER 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.

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

*See Inside for details.*

**Grief Group ZOOM Meeting**

**SEPTEMBER 13 & 27**

**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)



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

**One service at 10:15.**

**Picnic immediately after service.**

**Bring a dish or dessert to share.**

**Please RSVP**



Set up Sunday will be September 25<sup>th</sup>

The sale is FRIDAY September 30<sup>th</sup>

Sale runs 9-4, with early entry at 8 a.m. for \$10.