



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

DECEMBER 2022 / JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday was the First Sunday in Advent and the beginning of “Year A” in our Sunday Lectionary readings. The Episcopal Church, along with nearly all other mainline Christian denominations share a common three-year cycle of scripture readings for each Sunday. This pattern of set scripture readings during public worship has its roots in Jewish practice reaching back at least to the time of Jesus’ public ministry and it continues today.

You can see an example of this in the Gospel According to Luke. (Chapter 4, Verses 16-19)

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Jesus’ commentary or teaching on this passage begins “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” In this moment, Jesus claims his divinely appointed identity as God’s anointed, the Messiah. Anointing was reserved for prophets and kings. It was understood to be an expression of God’s indwelling Spirit, empowering the anointed one to carry out God’s work in the world, whether by ruling and leading God’s people or by being a true and faithful speaker to the people on behalf of God. Now Jesus claims that Spirit-derived power as his own.

- To bring good news to the poor
- To proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind
- To let the oppressed go free
- To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

Through our baptisms we share in the same divine anointing with God’s Holy Spirit, whose purpose for the world remains the same. We too are empowered by the Spirit to transform the world. Poverty, oppression, captivity, and blindness can take many forms. We are to be a people who bring good news to those who need it by whatever means are available to us. Each Sunday, and all the days between in this new “Year A” may we individually and together find new and creative ways to “proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

May this new year be filled with God’s Blessings and Peace for us all,

Ann+

# VESTRY MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 6PM

by Mary Holmes

In attendance (via Zoom): Mother Ann Kidder, Becky Everett, Mary Holmes, Renee Kolecki, Ron Lee, Bruce Long, Peter Thatcher, Charley Marston, Judy Holmes

Mother Ann opened the meeting with prayer

The August 31, 2022, minutes of the Vestry Meeting were reviewed and corrections made. The minutes were approved as amended.

Charlene Currutt has agreed to serve on the Vestry to complete the term of Sandy Redmond. She was elected by unanimous vote.

## **June Budget Report:**

Mary Murray was not able to attend the meeting, but sent a report that Mother Ann shared with us. Mary also reported to Mother Ann that the annual audit of our financial reports was completed by Mary and reviewed by Mother Ann. The Vestry acknowledged the extra effort Mary Murray extended to complete the audit.

The Vestry unanimously elected Mary Holmes, Judy Holmes and John Irwin to be delegates to Convention with Becky Everett, Dixon Morgan and Neal Lee as alternates.

Update regarding advertising:

The ad we placed with the Chagrin Valley Times ran every week in July and August. A larger ad to invite people to Rally Sunday on September 11<sup>th</sup> ran once. The Vestry approved running an ad in October and re-evaluating at the next Vestry meeting.

## **Jr. Warden Updates:**

The sewer pipe running behind the church evidently collapsed and was leaking water into the river and backing up into the church and Molly Nook's house. Charley hired a company that repaired the pipe, but also tore out all of the vegetation on the bank. This area is now just mud and has been covered with plastic to prevent erosion. It will be replanted in the spring.

Best Buy Painting provided the best bid to paint the areas of the church (bridge side and front) that need it the most. They will begin work either this fall or next spring.

David Novak repaired the front steps of the church. He is seeking a quote to compete with the quote from Skybridge Masonry for the step repair at the Rectory.

The alarm system continues to malfunction and American Security, the company that provide the system cannot find the problem. Charley is looking into finding an alternative security company.

## **Rector's Report:**

The Christian Formation committee met and Peggy Reda offered to lead four family workshops that include the children, rather than offering a weekly Sunday school. The first meeting was the Rally Sunday. The next will be an advent workshop. Melanie will continue to staff the nursery during the 10:15 service.

Mother Ann held a meetup for parents of young children and those couples who have married at the church since 2017 or planned to be married soon. There were 9 adults and 3 children in attendance. They were excited about the prospect of the church adopting Godly Play, a Montessori-based curriculum for young children, starting in the fall of 2024. They would like to meet again.

Mother Ann reminded us that our last visit by Bishop Hollingsworth will be at the 10:15 service on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Several people have expressed interest in being received into the church at that time.

Peter Thatcher expressed thanks on behalf of the Vestry to Ron Lee for organizing a successful Rally Sunday.

Mother Ann closed the meeting with prayer.

## **Next Meeting: October 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – Guild Room and Zoom**

Future agenda items: Updates from Stewardship, Fellowship and Service, Detailed discussion of the three candidates for the future Bishop of Ohio



Almighty God,

In the name of the Father,  
open me and fill me with Your grace,  
that I, like Mary, may say the impossible "yes."

In the name of the Son,

Open my heart that I may see Christ in all people  
and say the improbable "yes."

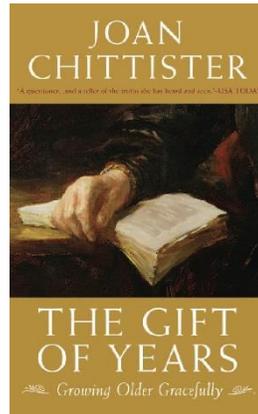
In the name of the Holy Spirit,

Open my mind that I may abandon my quest for control  
and say the emphatic "yes."

Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Fill me, mind, body and spirit, that yes,  
I say yes

*A Prayer shared by the Daughters of the King*



### Book Group

Starting Thursday,  
January 5 and Sunday,  
January 8, we begin a  
new book, *The Gift of  
Years* by Joan Chittister.

Join us either day to  
discuss the introduction.



For those experiencing grief, loss or hardship, the Christmas season is far from the most wonderful time of the year. Typical holiday festivities—merry carol singing, decorating, gathering with family in purchasing gifts, emphasize joy and cheer, and little room for pain and grief.

In response some churches offer a special service that accommodate those for whom the season is trying and difficult. This service, called **Blue Christmas**, emphasizes the pain of loss felt by many at this time of year and offers a somber, gentle space to gather.

The service is very important to many, as it gives them permission to grieve openly, offers hope and comfort—consolation that they are not alone in their grief—and that others care. It is a quiet time for meditation and reflection.

The service is open to anyone who needs it regardless of denomination. It can be any kind of loss that one is grieving- A loss of a child, loss of a job, loss of a marriage--- a loss that creates a hole in our life

Grieving with others is so valuable because one will be offered empathy, comfort, prayer, scripture, and temporary or long-term relationship.

## DECEMBER Birthdays

- 1 Danny Broome
- 4 Stephen Miscko
- 5 Rindy Collister
- 7 Kate LaMantia  
Presley Lammers
- 8 Avery Alatis  
Rosalie Della Ratta
- 9 Irene McMullen  
Luci Schey-Spring
- 10 Bill McCoy
- 11 Morrie Everett
- 14 Emily Morris
- 17 Keri Osolin
- 20 Linda Ventimiglia
- 22 Clara Butler
- 23 Marilyn Fisher
- 30 Sandra Redmond
- 31 Liz Russo

## JANUARY Birthdays

- 1 Maxwell Amefia  
Franco Amefia  
Joe Scaminace
- 3 Rik Bole  
Griffin Butler  
Tony Lammers
- 7 Becky Everett
- 8 Tom Holmes
- 11 Jim Pender
- 15 Lucy Radis
- 22 Chandler Everett
- 23 Mary Bole
- 25 Brian Murphy
- 30 Peggy Reda



### A TRADITION CONTINUES

For more than 70 years, St Christopher by-the-River has had an afternoon service on Christmas Eve. Following the service, the congregation then crossed the street to the Polo Field and greeted other villagers around a huge tree and bonfire while Santa Claus met the children. Upon arriving, one found Judy Bell (who lived in the house next to the church towards the bridge), Bunny Marston, and other church members passing out hot dogs and refreshments. That celebration has been, and continues to be, sponsored by 'The Judy Bell Fund' and the Gates Mills Improvement Society. The tradition continues. This December 24<sup>th</sup>, the service begins at 3:30 and Santa arrives around 4:00. Sue and others will be serving the traditional goodies and I will be organizing the horse and carriage rides. All are welcome. PS If you can't make the 3:30, I'll see you that evening at 9:00 or on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

~Charley Marston

St. Christopher Delegates at the annual convention in November



### Annual Giving Campaign

### Annual Giving Campaign Week 7 Update

Our annual giving campaign had a good, solid final week. We received 3 more pledges for a total commitment this week of \$6,000 for next year.

Our "official" annual giving campaign ended on November 15<sup>th</sup>, but Lucy Lytle expects that we'll continue to receive pledge cards through the end of the calendar year, so we'll continue to keep you posted through December.

Campaign Goals	Total Through Week 7	% of Goal
80 pledges	64 pledges	80%
\$165,000	\$150,860	91.4%

During the campaign overall, 68.75% of all of our donors for next year increased their gifts from last year and 28.1% kept their gifts at the same level.

Lucy compared the total amount pledged by all of our donors so far for 2023 to the amount the same donors pledged for 2022, and these new commitments are \$24,605 (19.48%) higher than last year.

We are so close to our goal, but we need everyone's help to cross the finish line! We still need 16 parishioners to pledge an additional \$14,140 to support St. Christopher's in 2023—and we need those commitments soon. Even if you haven't pledged in the past, if you know what you are likely to give to the church next year, please send your pledge card in now so our vestry can prepare a realistic budget. Thank you so much for your support and best wishes for a joyful Christmas Season with family and friends!

### FLOWER DEDICATIONS NOVEMBER 2022

#### In loving memory of:

- Howard & Helen Cadiou by Carolyn & Ron Misco
- Delia White Vail and Herman Lansing Vail by Thomas V.H. & Iris Vail
- Matthew Schmidt and Jim Hubner by Daniel & Courtney Schmidt

And in honor of John and Nancy Irwin's wedding anniversary.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4		MONDAY - 5	TUESDAY - 6	WEDNESDAY-7	THURSDAY-8	FRIDAY-9	SATURDAY-10
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	9AM Book Group Chpt 6	10:00 Staff Meeting  6:30 PM Grief		5:00 Evening Prayer  8:00 AA		
<b>EM:</b> Charley Marston	Dale Gndt						
<b>LECTOR:</b> Annette Lowe	Dixon Morgan & Judy Holmes						
<b>ALTAR:</b> Sue Marston	Lucy Lytle						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Brian Wright						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Mary Murray & Nancy Irwin						

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11		MONDAY - 12	TUESDAY - 13	WEDNESDAY-14	THURSDAY- 15	FRIDAY- 16	SATURDAY- 17
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	10:30 Stephen Ministry @ Pender's	10:00 Staff Meeting	4:30 LMMM Holiday Feast	5:00 Evening Prayer  8:00 AA		5:00 Blue Christmas
<b>EM:</b> Melanie Reda	John Irwin						
<b>LECTOR:</b> Teri Ianni	Chandler Everett & Lucy Lytle						
<b>ALTAR:</b> Sally Conley	Carolyn Miscko						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Laura Cotton						

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18		MONDAY - 19	TUESDAY - 20	WEDNESDAY-21	THURSDAY- 22	FRIDAY- 23	SATURDAY-24
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	11:15 Journey to Bethlehem	10:00 Staff Meeting  6:30 PM Grief		OFFICE CLOSED Church Decorating for Christmas 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		3:30 Family Vespers 8:40 Prelude Concert 9:00 Holy Eucharist
<b>EM:</b> Charley Marston	Fran Meyers						
<b>LECTOR:</b> Annette Lowe	Courtney Schmidt & C H Everett Sr						
<b>ALTAR:</b> Teri Ianni	TBA						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Kurt Liljedahl & Dixon Morgan						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Judy Holmes & Becky Everett						

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25		MONDAY - 26	TUESDAY - 27	WEDNESDAY-28	THURSDAY- 29	FRIDAY- 30	SATURDAY-31
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>			OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 Wedding Rehearsal  6:00 Vestry	5:00 Wedding  8:00 AA		
<b>EM:</b> NO SERVICE	Becky Everett						
<b>LECTOR:</b> NO SERVICE	Chandler Everett						
<b>ALTAR:</b> NO SERVICE	TBA						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Chandler Everett						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	NO COFFEE HOUR						

SUNDAY JANUARY 1		MONDAY - 2	TUESDAY - 3	WEDNESDAY-4	THURSDAY- 5	FRIDAY- 6	SATURDAY-7
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>		10:00 Staff Meeting  6:30 PM Grief		4:00 Book Group Introduction 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
<b>EM:</b> Melanie Reda	Dale Gndt						
<b>LECTOR:</b> TBA	Becky Everett & Brian Wright						
<b>ALTAR:</b> TBA	TBA						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Brian Wright						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	NO COFFEE HOUR						

SUNDAY JANUARY 8		MONDAY - 9	TUESDAY - 10	WEDNESDAY-11	THURSDAY- 12	FRIDAY- 13	SATURDAY-14
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9:00 Book Group Introduction	10:00 Staff Meeting		4:00 Book Group Chpt 1 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Becky Everett	John Irwin						
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Chandler Everett & Fran Sarkisian						
ALTAR: TBA	TBA						
USHERS NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	Elise Bennett & Mary Murray						

SUNDAY JANUARY 15		MONDAY - 16	TUESDAY - 17	WEDNESDAY-18	THURSDAY- 19	FRIDAY- 20	SATURDAY-21
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9:00 Book Group Chapter 1	10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Grief		4:00 Book Group Chpt 2 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Melanie Reda	Fran Meyers						
LECTOR: TBA	Ron Lee & Lucy Lytle						
ALTAR: TBA	TBA						
USHERS NA	Kurt Lijedahl						
HOSTESSES	Sue Marston						

SUNDAY JANUARY 22		MONDAY - 23	TUESDAY - 24	WEDNESDAY-25	THURSDAY- 26	FRIDAY- 27	SATURDAY-28
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9:00 Book Group Chapter 2	10:00 Staff Meeting	6:00 PM Vestry	4:00 Book Group Chpt 3 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Becky Everett	John Irwin						
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Neal Lee & Judy Holmes						
ALTAR: TBA	TBA						
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES	Neal Lee & Lucy Lytle						

SUNDAY JANUARY 29		MONDAY - 30	TUESDAY - 31	WEDNESDAY-1	THURSDAY- 2	FRIDAY- 3	SATURDAY-4
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9:00 Book Group Chapter 3	10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Grief		4:00 Book Group Chpt 4 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Charley Marston	John Irwin						
LECTOR: TBA	Judy Holmes & Lucy Lytle						
ALTAR: TBA	TBA						
USHERS NA	TBA						
HOSTESSES	Charlene Currutt & Laura Cotton						



Bishop Mark Hollingsworth Jr. and newly baptized Douglas Milligan Horner III ("Tripp") on Sunday, November 20th.

## Food Pantry Donations

### DECEMBER

- New or gently used Coats, Jackets and sweatshirts

### JANUARY

- Canned meats (ham, tuna, chicken, salmon, stew, chili), Beans, jerky

## Opportunity to Serve!

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, a big group of volunteers will be traveling to the Men's Shelter to serve a holiday meal and celebrate the season with all the shelter residents. We will be providing turkey casseroles, candied yam casseroles, side dishes and holiday cookies for dessert. Any and all of you are welcome to attend as well! Please contact Becky Everett (216-409-2370) if you would like to come.

We will be serving dinner, enjoying holiday music, and celebrating the season from **5:30 – 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights**, will also be coming with their volunteers! This night promises to be one of the best of this holiday season! See you there!!

## We did it!

We have collected enough quotes to fill our 2024 calendar! Thank you all so much for the wonderful quotes and sayings. We are in the process of developing an Excel spreadsheet which will then be sent to the printer, and our calendars will become a reality! Because an anonymous donor paid for all our start-up costs, 100%, **yes 100%**, of the proceeds from the sale of the calendar will be used to purchase daily RTA passes for our friends at the Men's Shelter! None of this would have been possible without all of us working together. THANK YOU!



## Journey to Bethlehem



This Advent season we'd like to invite everyone to gather in fellowship for a Journey to Bethlehem. We will learn about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and just like in the Nativity story the symbols they encountered along the way. These symbols are still used today to adorn our homes for the Christmas season and hold meaning in our Christian faith in addition to looking pretty on the tree. Journey to Bethlehem will be held in the **Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:15am service on Sunday, December 18th**. All are welcome to join us for coffee hour, Christmas cookies!, activities, and celebration. Registration is requested to ensure adequate supplies are available for the crafts. Anyone interested in volunteering to help is asked to contact Melanie Reda (440-773-4976) and/or Peggy Reda (440-773-2518) directly.

## Advent Wreaths

Thank you to everyone who joined us on the first Sunday of Advent to create a beautiful wreath of their own! We had a wonderful time of creativity and conversation, including families, children, adults and lots of fun! We hope you can join us next year!! See the pictures of the many talented artists and their Advent Wreath.



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)

DEC 2022 – JAN 2023 Newsletter

## **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**  
*(Not being held on Dec 29)*

## **GRIEF GROUP**

**Zoom Meeting**

**DECEMBER 6 & 20**

**6:30-8:00 PM**

To attend, please contact Kathy Pender:  
440-463-7378 or [kp@momshrink.com](mailto:kp@momshrink.com)

## **BOOK GROUPS**

**Thursdays 4:00 p.m.**

**Sundays 9:00 a.m.**

Resuming in January with our new  
book. See inside.

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

**SATURDAY, DEC 17**

**5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas**



**SATURDAY, DEC 24**

**3:30 Family Vespers**

**8:40 p.m. Prelude Concert**

**9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist**

**SUNDAY, DEC 25**

**10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Dear Member of St. Christopher's,

At Christmas the church looks beautiful with the greens and flowers set off so wonderfully by the simple colors and lines of this classic building. It is a glorious and fitting way to help celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



You are invited to honor or remember loved ones through these flowers and with their names recorded in the Christmas bulletin. Some of you have generously been doing this through particular pieces of our Christmas decorations such as trees and wreaths, and we thank you as you are able to continue that tradition. In addition to those special gifts, everyone in the congregation is invited to commemorate loved ones in the flowers and decorations throughout the church.

- The suggested donation to the Christmas Flower Fund is \$25.00.
- Please complete this form and **return it** with the donation you are able to make **by Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- Please make checks payable to St. Christopher's and note 'Christmas Flowers' in the memo.
- For all responses received after December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will do our best to include them in the Christmas bulletins.

Yours in Christ,

Carolyn Miscko & The Christmas Flower Committee

*Please complete this form and return it to the church office  
or mail to PO Box 519 Gates Mills 44040 by Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.*

***The flowers throughout the church are given to the glory of God and...***

Given in faithful thanksgiving *(for no one specific to be named)*

in loving memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(intended for deceased loved ones)*

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(intended for honoring living loved ones or blessings)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(how your name will appear in bulletin)*

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



# Journey to Bethlehem

Please RSVP

Sunday, December 18th, 2022

Immediately following the 10:15am Service in the Fellowship Hall

As we continue our Faith Development Program, we will be exploring the symbols of the Christmas season and what they mean to us as Christians. Crafts and activities are designed for school-age children. Though, we welcome everyone to this intergenerational event, celebrating and sharing in fellowship. Please fill in the form below so we adequately prepare for everyone's attendance.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Best contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

How many individuals will be attending in your party? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to bring some Christmas cookies to share? \_\_\_\_\_

Registration forms are due no later than Wednesday, December 15, 2022 to the church office, PO Box 519, Gates Mills, Ohio 44040. *Due to attendance and scheduling limitations, we will not have a Christmas Pageant this year.*