



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Nothing in the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life indicates that he intended to start a new religion. Everything that has come down to us of what he said and did points in the direction of a desire to reorient peoples' lives. This reorientation had everything to do with how people lived in relationship with God and with each other. That reorientation of how to live continues to form and shape us as Christians. Through Jesus' teachings about God, whom he knew as "Father", a distant and formal relationship of awe, fear, and appeasement was transformed into an intimate family relationship of trust and love. That shift in understanding our relationship with God inevitably also transforms how we see each other. If our relationship with God is familial, then we must be family to each other as well. When Jesus's disciples asked him to teach them to pray, the first words of that prayer were "Our Father". **Our Father.** We are to be family to each other.

The rapid spread of Christianity, which in its earliest years was called The Way, was driven largely by the extraordinarily different way that followers of Jesus lived. They took care of their orphans and widows. They did not make social distinctions between rich and poor, male, or female, free or enslaved. When early faith communities fell short in following The Way, Paul, and Peter, among other early Christian leaders, were quick to reprimand their behaviors and to reorient them to their true identity as brothers and sisters.

The family nature of Christian communities, including our own branch of the family here at St. Christopher's, continues to be the first and most noticeable aspect of our faith for people new to our parish. When we welcome each other warmly and sincerely, when we take actions rooted in compassionate concern for others, when we treat everyone with respect, we follow Jesus in ways that often speak louder than words.

We live in a time when multiply generations of families are scattered across regions or countries. We live in a time when the working lives of individuals no longer are tied to one company and a "family" of co-workers. We live in a time when what divides us seems to be overtaking all that used to unite us. In the face of these challenges, we matter. St. Christopher's matters. When we come together to worship, to work, or to play – we undo in small but vitally important ways, all the impoverishing aspects of our present world.

Jesus' resurrection was, and is, the confirmation of all that he taught us about who God is and about who we really are in relationship with God and with each other. In this season of the Church Year, Jesus' resurrection at Easter leads directly toward the gift of God's Holy Spirit at the Feast of Pentecost. The same gift received by the first people of The Way is also given to us at our baptisms and it is the Spirit that is our source of unity with God and with each other.

May all whom we encounter find St. Christopher's to be a true family; people of The Way who have reoriented their lives and who live in true community with God and with each other.

God's Blessings Always,

Ann+

VESTRY MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2023, 6:00 PM

by Becky Everett

Present: Ann Kidder, Becky Everett, Mary Murray, Charlie Marston, Charlene Currutt, Peter Thatcher, Renee Kolecki, Ron Lee, Bruce Long, Judy Holmes.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. Mother Ann led an opening prayer.

Ron moved the minutes be approved as corrected. Peter Thatcher seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mary Murray gave a report on finances for 2022. Overall, the numbers are ahead of the expected budget. This is due to income which was higher than expected and a small treasurer error. She encouraged the church to continuously strive to have 2/3 of the budget be covered by money raised from pledges. Mary said that Lucy Lytle, this year's stewardship chair did a great job helping us to reach our stewardship goals.

With regard to the 2023 Budget, Mary feels comfortable with our increase in pledges as well as the special gifts that have come from People who don't pledge. There will be, generally, a 5% increase in pay for the entire staff. Even with this added increase, the church will carry an \$8700 deficit for 2023 which includes using \$10,000 from the Feller Fund. Charlie Marston moved approval of the 2023 budget as presented by our treasurer, Mary Murray, which includes changes in our employees' wages effective with the next pay period. Becky Everett seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.

Ron Lee announced the Pancake Breakfast which will take place after the 10:15 A.M. service on February 19, 2023. Traditionally, this has been run by the men in the parish, but he will accept help from anyone interested. The vestry will help as needed, and they will make phone calls to all our new members/families, inviting them to join us. Announcements will be in the February Newsletter and the weekly News & Notes.

Charlie Marston gave the Junior Warden's Report. He said the lectern will be lowered about 4 inches so that all lectors can be seen by the congregation. A contract has been signed with Gillmore Security, effective March 1, 2023. He reminded us that there are a number of projects set up for this spring – the leveling of stones on the walkways, replacement/repair of the stairs on the rectory side of the church, painting of selected exterior sides of the church, and replacement of the rectory entrance steps, to name a few.

The next Vestry meeting will be Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. due to the Ash Wednesday service being on our regularly scheduled date. Ann will email a description of all the vestry officer roles for vestry members to study and consider. She will follow up with phone calls to vestry members. The Annual Vestry Retreat will be March 12th after the 10:15A.M. service at the Chagrin Valley Hunt Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M. after a closing prayer.

VESTRY MINUTES

MARCH 1, 2023, 6:00 PM

by Mary Holmes

In attendance: Mother Ann Kidder, Becky Everett, Mary Holmes, Renee Kolecki, Ron Lee, Bruce Long, Charley Marston, Peter Thatcher and Mary Murray, Treasurer

Mother Ann opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the January 25, 2023 Vestry Meeting were approved.

January 2023 Financial Report:

Mary Murray presented the results for the first month of the year. There were no remarks or questions.

Sr. Warden:

Ron reported that the pancake breakfast was a great success. Over 70 people attended along with a large crew of helpers in the kitchen. Donations and financial support from the Lees covered the cost of the food and

drinks. Mother Ann remarked that she saw several families there who had been on the call list. Everyone agreed that making those calls was definitely a worthwhile effort.

Jr. Warden Updates:

Charley stated that the exterior painting will begin as soon as warmer weather arrives.

David Novack will be cutting off 3-4 inches from the lecturn stand in the sanctuary so that everyone will be able to see over the lecturn when reading lessons each Sunday without the need for the stool.

Our new security provider, Gillmore Security, is currently addressing security and elevator malfunctions. Becky commented that she was impressed with their courtesy and professionalism while communicating with the office.

Charley reported that the Davey Tree Company gave an estimate to create a plan for the restoration of the river bank behind the church. Given the amount of that estimate, Charley recommends that we rely on the village to bring in landfill (which they will do at no charge) and volunteers to plant appropriate vegetation to cover the bank.

Rector's Report:

The Vestry reviewed the parochial report prepared by Mother Ann and voted unanimously to accept it. Given that the clerk of the Vestry is not available to sign the report, the Vestry approved a motion to elect Becky Everett as clerk pro tem to sign the report.

Mother Ann reminded us that the Annual Meeting of the Parish will follow immediately after the 10:15 service this coming Sunday, March 5, 2023 in the sanctuary. There will be a brief meeting of the new Vestry in Mother Ann's office after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting to decide dates for Vestry meetings. **Please bring your calendars.**

The Vestry retreat will be held at the Hunt Club (across from the church) on March 12 from 12:00 to 4:00. The retreat will be in the library on the first floor and lunch will be provided. The cost of the lunch is \$25 per person. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the cost of the lunch should pay the church. The church will reimburse Charley Marston who made the arrangements with the Hunt Club.

Vestry motion:

The Vestry passed a motion to express gratitude and appreciation to Mary Holmes, Judy Holmes and Charley Marston for their work on the Vestry as their terms end.

Mother Ann closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: Vestry Retreat, March 12 at the Hunt Club from 12:00 to 4:00

Future Agenda Items:

Sound/Recording System for the Church and the Guild Room

"Safe Church" Requirements

Faith Formation Update: Children, Youth, and Adults

SPECIAL VESTRY MINUTES MARCH 5, 2023

by Becky Everett

SPECIAL VESTRY MEETING –following the Annual Meeting

Present: Mother Ann, Becky Everett, Barb Pesuit, Renee Kolecki, Peter Thatcher, Matt Vazzana, Ron Lee, Bruce Long.

Mother Ann opened the special vestry meeting with a prayer at 11:50 AM. A clerk *pro-tem*, Becky Everett, was appointed.

Mother Ann explained that she had spoken to all current vestry members about considering one of the officer positions. Becky Everett was willing to be Senior Warden, Charlene Currutt was willing to be Junior Warden, and Renee Kolecki was willing to be Clerk. Mary Murray has agreed to stay on as treasurer. Renee moved to accept the nominations as presented and was seconded by Matt Vazzana. The motion passed. Barb Pesuit asked for descriptions of each officer's duties.

Mother Ann thanked Ron Lee for his past year of service as Senior Warden. She wished him well with his recent hip replacement. Bruce Long led the Vestry in a loud *hip, hip hooray!*

A motion was made to authorize the Rector, Senior Warden and Treasurer to sign checks. A motion was made to authorize the Senior Warden to enter into legal agreements on behalf of the Parish. Both motions passed with a unanimous vote.

The Vestry Retreat will be March 12, 2023 from 12:00 – 4:00 PM at the Chagrin Valley Hunt Club thanks to Charley Marston's sponsorship. The Vestry meetings will be the last Wednesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. These meetings will continue to be hybrid meetings with the dates/time being adjusted as needed.

Mother Ann led us in a closing prayer at 12:05 PM.



God willing and the people consenting,

The Reverend Anne B. Jolly

will be ordained and consecrated a Bishop in the
one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
and Bishop Coadjutor of The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

**Saturday, April 29, 2023
11 o'clock in the morning**

The Right Reverend Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. and the Standing Committee
request the honor of your presence at

Cleveland Public Auditorium
500 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Chief Consecrator and Preacher:
The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church

Reception to follow.

Deacons and Priests: Cassock, surplice, red stole
Attending Bishops: Rochet, chimere, tippet
Co-Consecrators: Cope, red stole, mitre

Details and RSVP (by April 11): dohio.org/consecration



Faith Formation



Sunday, April 9, 2023
(after the 11 a.m. service)

All children up to 12 are invited to join the Easter Egg Hunt immediately after the 11 am service on Sunday, April 9th! There will be prizes for all participants and light refreshments for the children!

Baskets can be borrowed for the hunt. The Easter Bunny would be glad to provide the baskets!

Don't miss this happy event!!! Helpful parents and teens are welcome to assist in the hunt!!

FLOWER DEDICATIONS **MARCH 2023**

In loving memory of:

- Donald A. Ferguson by Jean and Ted Ramsey
- Alice & Bruce Bennett, Frances and Herbert Cooper by Elise and Larry Bennett
- Ervin & Beulah Fisher, Roselind & Jack Esmond, Fred & Linda Buchler by Marilyn Fisher and Michael Buchler

And in honor of Mary & Tom Holmes loving daughters and their beautiful families.

From our Senior Warden

I am so honored and humbled to have been elected to the role of Senior Warden by the Vestry! I look forward to an exciting, upcoming year ahead, and I am thankful to be working with such a stellar Vestry and new Junior Warden, Charlene Currutt!

The new Vestry met March 12, 2023 at our annual Vestry retreat. This is a time for the new and current Vestry members to begin to get to know each other and develop a vision for what they would like to work on in the upcoming year. We identified what we see as the strengths of St. Christopher's as well as the areas that need our attention.

Strengths included the leadership at the church, service/outreach, being financially secure, and being friendly and welcoming. There were two areas to which we plan on give our attention: Children's Faith Formation as well as building the next generation of the Parish, and improving the number and variety of fellowship/social events for the entire parish. We have decided to form two groups to address these issues. There will be vestry members in each group, but parish members are equally important. Please look for upcoming announcements regarding these two very important ministry opportunities!

Finally, we discussed what we would like St. Christopher's to be known for in five years. We want St. Christopher's to be fun and welcoming, active in the greater community, be inclusive in every aspect, and continue to be dedicated to service/outreach. We want people to think/know that "there is a lot going on there" that will draw them to our beautiful, church home.

I am so encouraged and motivated by the energy I see at our church. The Holy Spirit has been and will continue to be helping us along the way. I give thanks every day for the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. I also am so very grateful to be a member of the St. Christopher family and join with you in looking forward to what is to come in the following year!

~Becky Everett

Adult Forum

Thursdays at 4 PM

Sundays at 9 AM

On March 23/26, we started a short series leading up to Easter titled, "Why the Crucifixion". Why was the Crucifixion necessary? We will study and discuss looking at the question of why Jesus' death by crucifixion was necessary. We will gather in the Guild Room to explore the Crucifixion and death of Jesus from three different perspectives or lenses. There is no book needed for this discussion.

Mar 30/Apr 2: The Crucifixion

Apr 6/9 - Off (Easter)

Apr 13/16: The Resurrection

Next Book/Discussion TBA.

Bargain Box Pre-Sorts

When attending Bargain Box presorts, please be sure to dress appropriately. If you have any questions, please call Melanie Reda or direct them to GMBargainBox@gmail.com

Wed, April 5th 5-7pm

Sunday, April 16th after service for an hour

Wed, April 19th 10am-12pm

A huge thank you to everyone willing to lend a hand. We're looking forward to hosting this year's Bargain Box sale on Friday, September 29th.

Melanie Reda

Phone: 440-773-4976

Email: melanie.reda@gmail.com

Name Tags - \$10

If you missed out in the first round, now is your chance! We are taking orders for more name tags. Please call or email the office or let Mother Ann know if you would like to order one.

Cost is \$10 and you may put cash or check in an envelope and drop it in the collection plate or mailed to the office - clearly marked for name tag payment.



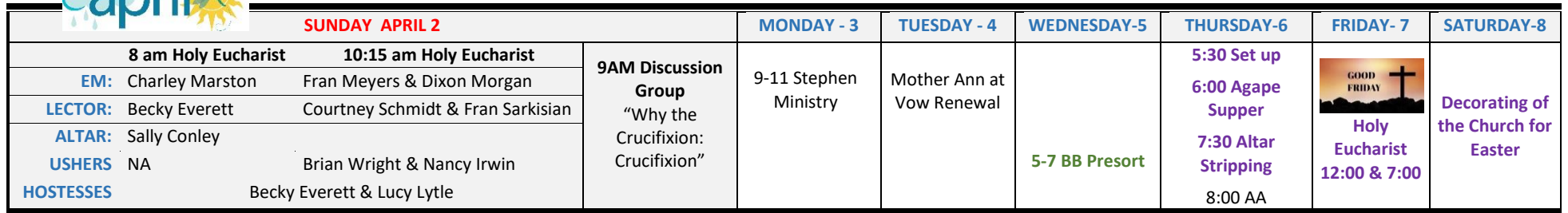
Food Pantry April

Canned fruits and vegetables (including tomatoes and tomato sauce), unsweetened apple sauce.

Birthdays

- 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
- PJ Hoeflinger
- 23 Ed Meyers
- 24 Claire Murray
- 27 Judy Eakin
- Suzanne Murray
- 28 Diana Treco
- 29 Dan Collister
- 30 Beth Miller





SUNDAY APRIL 16			MONDAY - 17	TUESDAY - 18	WEDNESDAY-19	THURSDAY- 20	FRIDAY- 21	SATURDAY-22
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9AM Discussion Group “Why the Crucifixion: Resurrection” BB Presort	9-11 Stephen Ministry	10:00 Staff Meeting	10-12 BB Presort	3:00 Warden’s Meeting 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Melanie Reda	Eric Jayne							
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Dixon Morgan & Lucy Lytle							
ALTAR: Teri Ianni								
USHERS NA	Dixon Morgan							
HOSTESSES	Nancy Irwin							

SUNDAY APRIL 30		MONDAY - 1	TUESDAY - 2	WEDNESDAY-3	THURSDAY- 4	FRIDAY- 5	SATURDAY-6
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	OFFICE OPEN 11-3 9-11 Stephen Ministry			OFFICE CLOSED 3:00 Warden's 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Charley Marston	Dale Gnandt						
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Renee Kolecki & Lucy Lytle						
ALTAR: Sue Marston							
USHERS NA	Kurt Liljedahl						
HOSTESSES	Charlene Currutt a& Neal Lee						

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 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

GRIEF GROUP

Zoom Meeting

APRIL 11 & 25

6:30-8:00 PM

To attend, please contact Kathy Pender:
440-463-7378 or kp@momshrink.com

BOOK GROUPS

Thursdays 4:00 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

See inside.

St. Christopher by-the-River

