



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

In the Gospel According to Luke (Chapter 22, verses 24-28) Jesus offers a final teaching in response to the disciples arguing about which of them would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”

St. Christopher's is a community of people following Jesus, loving one another, and seeking out ways to serve in His name. A few years ago, I asked the Vestry what they would like St. Christopher's to be known for within the next five years. “Service!” came the almost immediate response. In those intervening years we have expanded the types of service that we offer. Service is another way that we practice good stewardship of the resources that God has given to us. Those resources are usually summed up as “Time, Talent, and Treasure”. Your annual pledged financial support of St. Christopher's operating budget provides the physical place and the staffing that makes all the other ways of serving possible. We serve the neighborhood by providing a pick-up site for Rainbow Farms CSA program. Through our building, we serve the meeting space needs of the Riverside AA group, which began at St. Christopher's over fifty years ago. It takes time, talent, **and** treasure(s) to hold the Bargain Box sale each year., which benefits thousands of sale day shoppers. The funds raised then support dozens of area non-profits benefiting women and children. You give generously of time and talent through baking or serving meals at the Men's Shelter, helping to landscape new housing for families transitioning out of shelters, and sharing your favorite quotes for a Day-By-Day calendar to raise money for bus tickets for Shelter residents. Your eyes, ears, and hearts seem to always be attentive to the needs of others. You are quick to respond with “how can we help” when a new need is presented. I do believe that Jesus would be pleased.

Another area of service, which we tend to not recognize as quickly, is service within and to our parish. Here is a partial list: Office and Newsletter volunteers, Choir members, Nursery and Sunday School assistants, Lectors, Lay Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Stephen Ministers, Daughters of The King, Vestry Members and Officers, Mission Area Council Representatives, Coffee Hour Hosts, Ushers and Greeters, Altar Guild Members. All these forms of service are vital, as we worship God, grow in our faith, and experience the joys of being a community grounded in Love. If you are already serving in one or more of these ways, thank you!

### **We need three to four additional volunteers to serve as Eucharistic Ministers during worship.**

We would also love to add some more Greeters and Ushers, Lectors, Coffee Hour Hosts, and Altar Guild Members. Please consider serving in one of these ways. I can answer any questions you may have as well as show you how to serve in these roles. I am grateful for those already serving and hope that we can lighten your time commitment a bit by adding to your numbers.

I truly believe that God always provides for the needs of God's Church so that we can respond fully to Jesus' call to follow him in serving and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

In God's Love,

Ann+

# VESTRY RETREAT MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2023,

by Renee Kolecki

Members in attendance: Reverend Ann Kidder, Peter Thatcher, Bruce Long, Becky Everett, Matt Vazzano, Judy Holmes, Renee Kolecki, Barbara Pesuit.

The Vestry gathered for the annual Retreat to welcome new members and to set the agenda for the coming year. Outgoing Junior Warden arranged for lunch and meeting space at The Hunt Club.

The meeting was called to order at noon. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

Mother Ann shared these guiding thoughts:

1. Vote your conscience
2. Support the decision of the Vestry, even if you don't agree.
3. Conversation about Vestry items will take place during Vestry meetings and outside discussion should be avoided.

Vestry members introduced themselves during lunch and then engaged in an icebreaker activity to share thoughts on Episcopal Questions, Episcopal Answers. Mother Ann led a summary discussion of Vestry Norms to orient members

Two items needed a vote of Vestry members:

Becky moved to approved Minutes from March 1<sup>st</sup> Vestry meeting and Renee seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the minutes.

Becky moved to approve Minutes as corrected from March 5, 2023 meeting. Bruce seconded the motion and all approved the corrected minutes.

Mother Ann explained the Safe Church information about the "Duty to Report" and indicated the Vestry might be included.

Mother Ann led a discussion of:

St. Christopher's strengths:

Service is identified as an important strength, but also included are: Leadership, pastoral care ministry, stewardship, intra-parish milieu, outreach to community, physical setting, financially strong, ability to creatively solve challenges.

What needs our attention and energy this year:

- Children's Education/Christian Formation. Ideas discussed included:

Community-building, intentionally choosing activities that are family-friendly, include Senior members.

- Discussed "On Sacred Ground" re Adult Faith Formation.
- Improved event-planning (annual calendar.)
- Develop a tradition of regular events.

In five years, what do we want to be known for?

Committees to address needs:

- Next Gen Club: Becky, Matt, Charlene, and Barb
- Fun/Welcoming Committee: Bruce, Peter, Ron, Judy, Renee
  - Welcome Packet
  - List of new people
  - Parish event 4-6x/year
  - Need to ask other parishioners for help. Ask directly vs. sign-ups.

Mother Ann thanked the Vestry for their time and energy and ended with a prayer. Ended at 4pm.

Mother Ann concluded the retreat with a prayer after a motion, second and vote to end the meeting.

Present: Ann Kidder, Ron Neal, Bruce Long, Barb Pesuit, Peter Thatcher, Renee Kolecki, Becky Everett, and Judy Holmes

Meeting came to order at 6:30 pm; Mother Ann opened with a prayer.

Mother Ann proposed postponing review of minutes from Vestry Retreat until next month. Also explained that the January 2022 numbers were used in the January 2023 Financial report and will be adjusted to reflect the appropriate data.

Mother Ann stated that Parishioner John Irwin and his brother would like to establish a memorial fund in honor of their sister, Suzanne Irwin, to update the church's audio equipment. The Irwin's will initiate the fund with seed money and invite others to donate; any memorial donations in Suzanne's name will also be turned over to the fund. Bruce moved to accept the memorial gift to update audio equipment and Barb seconded. No discussion or opposition and the motion passed.

Mother Ann explained that church members are working to have church silver appraised. Sue Marston informed Mother Ann that the silver has not been appraised in decades, possibly since the 70's or 80's and the true value might not be adhered to for insurance purposes; also, previous appraisal doesn't include current acquisitions. Sally Conley sought resources to appraise silver; contacted other parishioners, antique dealers and jewelers. Bridget McWilliams was identified as the most qualified and likely, the best price. She charges \$150/hour, but will work with the church. She lives in Gates Mills and will appraise the items at the church. Her work is USPAP compliant (industry standard/IRS standard.) Ron moved to proceed with appraisal of silver and Renee seconded the motion. Vestry passed motion.

Two weeks ago, the Rectory had no hot water, per Mother Ann. Burton Sheet Metal and Luis checked the tank and recommended replacing the 20-year-old tank. A plumber was called on Sunday when the tank went out again. Determined a leak extinguishes the pilot light. Jr. Warden, Charlene, was aware of the first incident and suggested a new tank if it happened again. Charley Marston, in the role of substitute Jr. Warden, found that a 40-50 gallon tank, which would be sufficient for a family, should this be the case in the future, would cost \$1800 installed and would be done in two weeks. Capital funds, not operating funds, would be used for the purchase.

Becky typed up information re The Sacred Ground Program and the overview will be available in the Narthex. Pastors from Kirtland and Chagrin Falls are interested in sponsoring/sharing the program, possibly to begin in summer. Decisions to be made about where to meet and number of sessions; suggested to streamline number of sessions to recruit more people.

Vestry members and Mother Ann thanked Becky who transcribed notes from the Vestry Retreat. It was noted that committee meetings were not scheduled at the Vestry Retreat. The Fun Committee planned to meet for their initial meeting tonight following the Vestry meeting. The Next Gen Club will meet another time, as Matt, the convener, is not available tonight.

Wardens have discussed security plan and need for active shooter plan/training. Mother Ann reminded members that she forwarded an email with a direct link for Safe Church training ([safechurch@dohio.org](mailto:safechurch@dohio.org)). Completing training results in certificate that is good for three years. Mother Ann needs copy of certificate. If anyone has any triggering concerns from video, talk to Mother Ann. Could trigger those who have experienced violence.

Next Vestry Meeting, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm and closed with a prayer.

## **FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

**APRIL 2023**

**In loving memory of:**

- Our parents by Ted Fletcher & Mother Ann Kidder
- Joan, Arthur, John, and Garrett Hellman by Peter & Sunnie Hellman
- William Lorom and William Lawrence Doerr by Kathy & Jim Mitchell
- Katherine & Lee Chilcote and Margaret & Marc Pender by Kathy & Jim Pender

**NEMAC: JANUARY 23, 2023 MEETING MINUTES (abridged) by Linda Webb, Attended by Laura Cotton & Peter Batcheller****Financial Report, P. Nielsen**

—Initial Transfer to St. Peter Church [For Use by NEMAC]	\$1,750.33
—Received from the Diocese for like use in early April, 2022	\$3,000.00
—Total available from Diocesan Funds for approved uses 2022	\$4,750.33

**Disbursements:**

—Apr. '22: Guns to Gardens, Epiphany	\$2,000.00
—Dec. '22: Christ Church, Geneva: Christmas Dinner w/St. Peter Church, Ashtabula	\$400.00

**Balance Available as of 12/31/2022** **\$2,350.33**

To date, NEMAC has not requested 2023 Diocese funding. A balance of \$3,000.00 is the norm for annual use. Therefore, any request made at this time may be fulfilled only in the amount of \$649.67. [More could be possible, but only at the discretion of the Diocesan treasurer.]

**Diocesan Council Report, P. Nielsen**

Diocesan Council is reviewing its mission statement. Work on a financial audit continues. There are currently no role vacancies on Council.

**Proceedings: New Business****Mission-Area Discussion and Visioning, C. McCann**

Rev. Albert Jennings began a conversation in his mission area, suggesting that the group "...imagine that we are like a parish. What would life would be like?" What would bring the group or several parishes closer through shared ministries? Chris asked us:

—Is our group willing to have a "wondering" conversation?—Can we dream about what we could be as a mission area?

Summary of discussion contributions:

- How can we learn more about helping with feeding programs? St. Peter has a feeding program. Perhaps an Ashtabula church could form a cooking team, providing meals once/month. People could bring food prepared at home — or cook on site.
- Perhaps St. James could benefit from this type of collaborating for feeding programs.
- In ministry discernment, we struggle to find unique, concrete ways to handle formation. Whom of us has a background in discernment? Note: The Diocese has a formation coordinator.
- Ten people might interpret the same passage in Ephesians differently. Worshipers aren't all used to the basics; how to read the bible — or how to pray. We should dream as broadly as possible regarding discernment and formation. Perhaps a collaboration in support of Bible study?
- How about funding for an area-wide or two-parish collaboration during a "discernment evening"? What efforts are needed? How do we imagine possibilities throughout the year?
- The recent gun buyback programs were successful. Could participation be expanded?
- People might want to connect through a NEMAC mission-area Council.
- Grace and Epiphany collaborated to offer a Sacred Ground program, benefitting both parishes.
- Epiphany hopes to offer a day-long lay worship leader training session this spring; discernment is needed. What's been done in the past? Could others provide leadership and collaboration?
- Many that worship in an Episcopal parish are not lifetime church members.
- There is a dearth of knowledge about the BCP. During Lent, the Book was used at Grace rather than a bulletin. [Others echoed this use practice.]
- Knowledge about the BCP should be developed.
- The training provided through the EFM programs has been very valuable.
- From one attending St. Paul, Cleveland Heights in years past; 20-minute informational sessions followed the service. Topics included how the church architecture resembled a ship, getting to know the music and choir, the value of the BCP, insights about terms such as "holy catholic church", genuflection and kneeling — and the importance of pre- Communion prayers.
- As a former Lutheran Bishop, now as an interim Episcopal rector, a deep dive into the BCP has been needed. It's valuable to read excerpts from the BCP during sermons.
- Docent Bill Fuller led a tour at Cleveland Museum of Art for Ashtabula area clergy. There was meaningful conversation about biblical theology. Bill could be a valuable resource. Could an activity such as this be attractive for our members?
- The husband of Deacon Lydia Bailey works at the Cleveland Art Museum. Lydia could be a valuable resource to our group.
- A tour about the history of our parishes could be valuable. St. Peter has a book documenting their 200th year activities. St. Peter and St. James share a founding rector.

Chris asked the group to keep ideas flowing for discussion at the next meeting.

### ***LAE [Los Amigos Episcopales] NEMAC Grant Request***

Deacon Al Muller submitted a grant request for \$4,000 on 11/17. [NEMAC approved grants for LAE on October 2020 for \$1,500 — and on October 2021 for \$3,000.] Discussion:

- LAE is its own ongoing mission entity, not a part of the Diocese
- Our fund balance is insufficient to cover the amount; NEMAC could decline the request.

Motion: For reasons discussed, move to decline to approve the LAE grant request.

*Peter Nielsen; Second: Nancy Geiger. Passed*

### **Proceedings: On-Going Business**

#### ***Anti-Racism*** Discussion and Updates:

- When fostering anti-racism, the concept of civil discourse is an important element.
- Civil discourse represents the ability to talk with others without raising voices — or changing others' minds.

Information about a no-fee civil discourse training program from ChurchNext is available at the Diocese website. Sacred Ground and the concept of civil discourse will be a topic at Convocation.

#### ***Human Trafficking Report and Discussion***

A report about the meeting of the Lake County Collaborative to End Human Trafficking attended by Cathy Pelton and Laura Nielsen, January 19 at St. Hubert.

- Terrence Carr, Outreach and Education Coordinator, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission discussed human trafficking in the workforce. He cited an EEOC case — No. 3:11-cv-00041-CRW-TJS — filed on behalf of 32 men with intellectual disabilities subjected to severe abuse and discrimination over a long period at a poultry processing plant. This case is an example of similar types of mis-treatment from which human trafficking victims suffer.
- Sergeant Jerrold Infalvi, Lake County Sheriff's Office community outreach liaison discussed the importance of keeping people aware of neighborhood security concerns — and tips for proactive approaches to neighborhood involvement in security awareness. The Lake County Sheriff's Office collaborates with other agencies and has a SORN (Sexual Offenders) unit. Follow-up visits are made after an overdose incident or sexual offense to determine if the victim is being forced down a Human Trafficking path. Gas stations and hotels are watched. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 15, 1:00 p.m. at St. Hubert.

Discussion:

- An anti-human trafficking initiative might be a good collaborative effort for our group; outreach and hands-on efforts are needed.
- The diocese does have an anti-human trafficking task force — and is working on a collaborative effort throughout the province.
- Several noted that evidence of human trafficking is not evident at all parishes, however there was agreement that this is still an important, worthwhile issue to pursue.
- There are resources and options for collaboration; we can come together to work on these.
- At the "On the ground" level, there are complex safety issues.

Additionally:

- Laura Cotton noted that the St. Christopher Guild sponsored a program in support of the Rene Jones Empowerment Center. 75 people attended. The Guild sends funds annually to the group.
- Cheryl Gray provided a recap of more recent anti-trafficking events and efforts.

### **Proceedings: *A Word from the Parishes***

**St. Hubert.** Community outreach efforts include a program for kids on dialysis, card groups for parish shut ins — and visits to a nearby nursing home. A Birthright program is beginning in February. A Pack-n-Play play yard was purchased. Donations will be taken to a location in Mentor.

**St. James.** The parish profile information for prospective priest candidates is posted on the parish web site; one mock interview was completed. The search committee is ready to begin interviewing.

**St. Luke.** A Lenten retreat is planned for Passiontide, led by Christopher Snook of Halifax, Nova Scotia; the topic is "Normative Practices for Christian Life". March 24 features a lecture; on March 25 the Feast of Annunciation will be celebrated, concluding with Evensong — and a Eucharist service on Sunday. Please see the parish web site soon for no-fee registration information.

**St. Peter.** Over 200 Christmas family meals were provided by St. Peter and Christ Church along with an Advent book study session. Ashtabula Methodist and Baptist churches participated. A December Blue Christmas service was held. 105 takeout meals were provided at the last St. Peter meal event. Meals are provided once monthly by Catholic and Baptist church members.



## Adult Forum

Thursdays at 4 PM

Sundays at 9 AM

The last Faith Talk Adult Forum will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> discussing the Hebrew Scriptures in Regards to the Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

We will then take a break until June. Look for a new book/series to start June 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Mother's Day!



Calling All Children (any age) and Grandchildren too...

**You are invited to come make your MOM a gift for Mother's Day on May 14.** We will meet in the nursery during the 10:15 service. There will be snacks, crafts, and fun for everyone! Hope to see you.

## Birthdays

- 1 Finley McMillion
- 4 Larry Smith
- 5 Jean Ramsey  
Denise Weber
- 6 Whit Champ
- 7 James LaMantia
- 8 Charlene Currutt  
Lena DeBaz  
Dan McMullen
- 9 Jennifer Blossom
- 11 Nancy Clark
- 13 Renee Kolecki
- 14 Whitney Cole  
Gladys Loth
- 15 Teri Ianni
- 16 Russ Lincoln
- 17 Brandon Gray
- 19 Ryan Zittkowski
- 20 Stella Schmidt
- 22 Barbara Scovil



## DAY by DAY Calendars

### *Available to Order*

The 2024 Day by Day calendars that all of you helped to create will be available for purchase in the guild room starting Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> after both the 8am and 10:15 am services. The cost of each calendar is \$30.00, with 100% of the proceeds going toward the purchase of daily bus passes for our friends at the men's shelter.

If you would like to sign up ahead of May 28<sup>th</sup> to reserve your copy(s) of the calendar, there will be a sign up sheet on the parish bulletin board. In addition, a sign up option will go out in the Weekly News & Notes. We will accept cash and/or checks made out to St. Christopher by the River. If writing a check, please write *calendar* in the memo line of the check.

We have a total of 100 calendars available for sale at this time and will print additional copies if we sell out. I am so excited to, finally, be able to distribute these calendars, and I thank you all for your support and enthusiasm as we kick off this new project. Please call Becky Everett at (216)409-2370 with any questions!

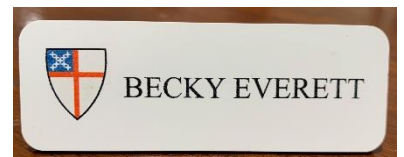
## Food Pantry May

PB&J (preferably no glass), Biscuit & Pancake Mixes, Crackers, honey, bread.


## Name Tags **LAST CALL - \$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.





SUNDAY MAY 14 – Eva Ellis organist				MONDAY - 15	TUESDAY - 16	WEDNESDAY-17	THURSDAY- 18	FRIDAY- 19	SATURDAY-20
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	<div>Last Day of Choir</div> <div></div>	MOTHER ANN ON VACATION						
EM: NEEDED	Eric Jayne & John Irwin								
LECTOR: Michelle Brockett	Chandler Everett & Chandler Everett								
ALTAR: Sue Marston	Lucy Lytle								
USHERS NA	Ron & Neal Lee								
HOSTESSES	Nancy Irwin								
						8:00 AA	MEMORIAL 4:00 Suzanne (Irwin) Emerson		

SUNDAY MAY 28 – Eva Ellis organist				MONDAY - 29	TUESDAY - 30	WEDNESDAY-31	THURSDAY- 1	FRIDAY- 2	SATURDAY-3
8 am Holy Eucharist		10:15 am Holy Eucharist			10:00 Staff Meeting		3:00 Warden's 4:00 Book Group 5:00 Evening Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:	Melanie Reda	Becky Everett							
LECTOR:	Kitty Thomas	Dixon Morgan & Lucy Lytle							
ALTAR:	Sally Conley	Leslie Marting							
USHERS	NA	Leslie Marting & Peter Thatcher							
HOSTESSES	Charlene Currutt								

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)

MAY 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**

**MAY 9 & 23**

**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.**

See inside.

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



Join us for a special coffee hour thanking Melanie and Peggy Reda for their many, many years of service to our children as they celebrate their retirement from Children's Ministries this Sunday, April 30.