



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

First, thank you so much for your many kind words of congratulation on the thirtieth anniversary of my ordination. The celebratory coffee hour was such a lovely surprise, as was the beautiful silver cross & heart with a pearl (the traditional 30-year gem) at the center! I am so moved by your love. “Thank you” seems to fall short of expressing my appreciation for all that you did to mark this occasion in my life. I have been your priest for ten years, which seems impossible to me. It feels as though I have always been with you, yet the years have flown by so fast!



Last Sunday, I talked about learning to “think theologically” when going about our daily lives. I try to model this for you when I share a story from my own life or our present world that seems to connect with the scripture readings for that Sunday. It is easier to do than you might think. The first step is to put yourself in the Biblical picture, if it’s a Gospel story which character feels most familiar to you? Why? If it’s a passage from one of the Epistles, does it remind you of something you are experiencing now?

Let me give you an example. “And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’” (Matthew 13:52) One of the joys of my long pastorate is having the opportunity to truly know you “old treasures”; you who love and have served the parish over many years and welcoming you “new treasures” who have now begun to arrive with your young children.

This fall we will offer these newest and youngest treasures an opportunity to learn to think theologically, even at their young age, through a Christian education program called “Godly Play”. Each Sunday the children will gather with the Storyteller to hear a story from the Bible, told with the help of beautiful story aids. The children are then invited to ask and respond to “wondering questions”. (I wonder what it was like to be in a big boat with all those animals for so long! I wonder what it was like to catch so many fish that the net broke! Etc.) Children then have an opportunity to respond to the story through play; perhaps by playing with the story aids, perhaps by making art. Through this way of learning, the children put themselves into the Bible stories and begin to form their own relationship with God at an age-appropriate level for each child. On Rally Sunday we will have a Church School Open House so that you can see all the lovely Godly Play materials, which we have thanks to the generosity of St. Andrew’s in Mentor.

You too can ask “wondering questions” when you hear the Sunday lections. You too can find the connections between scripture and your own lives. In Paul’s letter to the Hebrews (4:12) he said that the word of God is living and active. The passage is about discernment, even at the level of our souls, but it also highlights an important truth. God’s word continues to be relevant for each generation; it is not “dead history” but is a continuing and active agent in our daily lives.

“Put yourself in the picture” and you will discover that you also have treasures old and new to bring out of storage and enjoy as you begin a new day.

With much love for you all,

Ann+

Meeting was called to order at 6:33. Mother Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

In attendance: Charlene Currutt, Ron Lee, Bruce Long, Matt Vezzano, Becky Everett, Judy Holmes, Peter Thatcher, Renee Kolecki, Barb Pesuit, Reverend Ann Kidder

March 12, 2023, minutes were reviewed; Becky moved to approve minutes with corrections and Peter seconded.

March 29 minutes were reviewed; Becky moved to accept minutes and Charlene seconded.

Financial Report: Mother Ann recommended comparing columns from last year with current year. Expenditures looked good. Rectory property taxes increased this year to \$900+ from approximately \$1900 last year.

Staff changes: Announced in church last week. Andria Calvo, daughter of Lucy and Luis, church employees, will provide nursery coverage from 10:00 am to noon, beginning first Sunday in May through Rally Sunday.

Peggy Reda, who is retiring and Melanie Reda, who has many responsibilities, will continue with other church activities, such as Bargain Box and Eucharistic ministry.

St. Chris will hire someone to fill a position to provide "Godly Play" program and may invite a congregation member to assist. Mother Ann suggested proposing a committee to write a job description which will be advertised through Diocese. Ann, Becky, Matt and three parishioners with young children will make up the committee. Suggestions for the committee include AnnMarie Amefia, Haley Kosmatka, and Rich Radis.

Plan is to hire someone by mid-August and have them in place by Rally Sunday. The ideal candidate will have experience or training.

Mother Ann summarized Jolyon Welsh's resignation based on guidance from Bill Powell, an attorney for the Diocese and John Irwin. Both Jr. and Sr. Wardens were present in office to witness conversation with Mr. Welsh. The complaint was reviewed, and Mr. Welsh was offered an opportunity to resign, which would be accepted and a letter summarizing duties and tasks dates of employment, number of hours per week and a note stating he was always on time, would be provided. He will receive a two-week paycheck.

Lucy and Luis are willing to do the Sunday Porter's duties if no one else is hired. Ron moved to approve extending two hours each to Lucy and Luis to cover duties (from 16 hours each/week to 18 hours each/week.) No benefits are provided; Barb seconded the motion and it passed.

Mother Ann has a date set to meet with two rectors to plan for the Sacred Ground program.

Safe Church certification: Several members, including Becky, Mother Ann and Renee registered but did not receive any further information. Peter called Eric Travis directly at the number provided (216-771-4815.) He completed the training in approximately 2.5 hours.

Vestry members agreed to change the next Vestry meeting to May 24th, due to the proximity of last Wednesday in May to Memorial Day holiday.

Becky encouraged as many members as possible to attend the reception for Peggy and Melanie following 10:15 service on Sunday, April 30th. A gift card for \$100 to Sara's Place will be given to Peggy. Charlene will purchase a cake and regular coffee/tea service will be provided.

Becky explained that in celebration of the successful Stewardship campaign, she would provide a carillon concert, tentatively scheduled for June 11th at noon with a rain date of June 18th. She asked for one or two people from Vestry to organize what needs to be done. Lucy Lytle offered to help but not chair a committee. Can ask parishioners for help. Suggestions include lawn games for kids, extended, nicer coffee hour, fellowship. The concert will be 30 minutes. The community will be informed via the Pink Sheet. Vestry can be involved, but not necessarily do all the work. Fun Committee can identify others to help.

St. Christopher by-the-River received information regarding Lake County Captains Faith Nights, which are June 13th, July 14th and August 13th (4pm.) with 8/13 discussed as best date. Benefits include reduced ticket prices, pavilion seating to watch game and specific food choices. Need to survey church members, possibly via News & Notes, to determine level of interest. Twenty-five people minimum would be required to attend for the pavilion but could also just purchase a block of tickets.

Junior Warden's Report: Wiring in choir loft for audio and WIFI has been done.

Front porch and side steps closest to Rectory have been repaired. Walkway stones have been ordered. Railing on the side will be done in two weeks. Other railings will be evaluated later.

No mulch has been purchased for several years. Two estimates have been received. Can purchase from Bremec's and place it ourselves, but it is a lot of work. Abates Nursery costs the same as Bremec's but they would drop it off, edge the beds, spread the mulch and weed.

Paint is peeling everywhere. Per Charlie, \$19K to do exterior painting and would be broken into sections, however we can get a \$1660.00 discount if the job is completed all at once.

Defibrillator training: Gates Mills Fire Dept. would provide a quick review on CPR and defib. Vestry members and ushers should be trained. Potential dates will be shared.

Gutters are overflowing; not cleaned since 2021. Charlene consulted with person who did it previously and asked to be added to their list.

Per Charlie: Painting and landscaping have been approved by Vestry.

Charlene is concerned that proposal didn't mention drainage. Controlling erosion is most important; stonework to decrease incline. Two stack pipes needed and plumbers attention to snake out. \$3525 for stonework, gravel walk, planting and soil. \$2500 with drainage and erosion control. If parishioners purchase plants and plant will be easy to manage. \$1000+ Master gardeners and others have expressed interest in helping.

Becky moved to accept \$3525 quote from Frieden landscaping, inc and go with plan of terracing and steps. Renee seconded. Ron believes it will be more attractive for church grounds and will substantially support the land. Matt agrees in order to prevent future erosion as it could get worse over time. Will be saving money by doing paving project all at once. Motion passed.

Becky acknowledged Charlene's dedication and thoroughness with researching the information for these projects.

Judy Holmes mentioned the spraying of chemical fertilizer at the church. Cost of fertilizer has increased. Can we consider non-toxic or organic option such as Good Nature. Concern about look of property. Ann suggests that Jr. Warden talk with Luis and at warden meeting and research issue and options.

Next Gen Committee meeting (Matt): ID 3-4 activities to assist in recruiting and retaining young families. Idea or theme. Involvement of younger parishioners and add activities to existing events as well as stand-alone events and those that aren't holiday-based:

- Easter egg hunt
- Ice cream social
- Christian education (meet and greet new director)
- Sundae Sundays
- Walk in 4th of July parade with a St. Chris banner
- Keep message out there/advertise nursery. "Small but mighty."
- Next Gen committee will attend the Fun Committee meeting.

Mother's Day, May 14th: Baptism of new family.

In today's newsletter, calling all children of any age, invited to come and make a gift for your mom. Snacks and crafts during 10:15 service.

Parish Pentecost picnic in Marston park. Not necessarily on Pentecost this year.

Reviewed Peter's ad in the Chagrin Valley Times for Easter.

Meeting adjourned with a prayer at 8:06 .

Vestry Minutes

May 24, 2023

Renee Kolecki

Present: Judy Holmes, Becky Everett, Mother Ann, Peter Thatcher, Matt Vazzana, Charlene Currutt, Bruce Long, Renee Kolecki, Ron Lee

Meeting started at 6:34pm; opened with a prayer.

Reviewed minutes from April meeting. Becky moved to approve minutes as corrected. Ron seconded and the motion passed.

The April Budget Report was not received at the time of this meeting.

Rector's Report:

Barb Pesuit had to resign from the Vestry due to family health issues. Per the Bylaws, the Vestry must nominate and elect a person to fill Barb's position. Will address it during the next Vestry meeting in June. Members were asked to consider possible nominees, keeping in mind the mission of the Vestry.

The following parishioners were asked to serve on the committee charged with hiring the next Christian Education Leader: Becky Everett, Matt Vazzana, Rich Radis, AnneMarie Amefia, and Haley Kosmatka.

Re the Sacred Ground discussion, two colleagues have decided not to participate in a joint offering of the program based on reported negative experiences of other colleagues. Diocese is encouraging program implementation to educate parishioners on structural racism; must answer annually via the parochial report what they are doing to address this. Will remain open to options, other ways to address the issues, eg book discussions.

Vestry members were reminded to complete Safe Church training; some have completed it; reminded to print certificate and submit to Mother Ann.

Request from Mother Ann to add an item for discussion that is not on meeting agenda. Mother Ann asked to use comp time and some of her continuing education time to cover for the two weeks of her daughter's graduation, when she was away from the office. Vestry unanimously agreed.

Sacristy silver appraisal has been completed. Replacement value is \$23,000.

Sr. Warden's Report:

Day by Day calendars will be sold for \$30 each, starting Sundays and at picnic. If all sell, \$600 in daily bus passes will be purchased for Lutheran's Men's Shelter.

Carillon concert has been changed to June 18th/Rain date June 25th. Will be 30 minutes.

Junior Warden's Report:

Men's restroom is still out of commission, but hopefully will be done this week. Pipes replaced by PVC. Had asbestos in them. Tree roots infiltrated pipes. Verbal estimate of \$6,500 to \$9,000 for work. We are submitting an insurance claim.

Front walk update: Mason is waiting to receive stones.

Flower beds will be edged and mulched by May 31st. Cost is \$800-\$900.

Defibrillator refresher training for ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and Vestry members by Gates Mills FD will take place on June 25th at 9 am. If needed, another session may be added at the end of July. Char will notify those who need to be trained and a reminder will be placed in News & Notes.

Church painting update: Back addition to the church will not be painted as the condition is not bad and would be a lot of money at this time. Several sources were considered to pay for painting of church. Following discussion, Bruce moved to pay for the painting (a capital expenditure) out of our capital fund. Becky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Fun Committee Report from Ron Lee:

Picnic update: All is ready to go for June 4th picnic. Twenty-seven people have signed up so far. To promote, Bruce will announce Sunday at 10:15am. Chicken will be purchased. Free will offerings would be welcome.

Per Becky, the Next Gen committee will call families with young children to remind. Per Matt, personal outreach is important to do.

Meeting ended with a prayer at 7:55pm.



Food Pantry August

School Supplies! Pens, Pencils, rulers, glue, markers, notebooks, colored pencils, tape, etc. etc. etc.!

Eucharistic Minister Needed!

Since Covid, we have not recovered with many Eucharistic Ministers to help support our worship on Sunday Mornings. Multiple factors have caused previous Eucharistic Ministers to retire from their volunteering. We thank Dale Gndt, Beth Miller, Fran Meyers, Randy Cole, and Peter Batcheller for their years of dedicated service. We have welcomed Eric Jayne as a new EM, but we could definitely use a few more trained volunteers. Ideally, we would schedule you one Sunday a month. Please prayerfully consider if you might be called to take on this role and contact Mother Ann for more information or training. Thank you!

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

JUNE & JULY 2023

In loving memory of:

- John & Barbara Nash by Dan & Rindy Collister
- Ruth & Art Collins, June & Jim Irwin and our beloved friend Jack Auble by John & Nancy Irwin
- Bill & Dave Hauserman and Louis La Riche and Bill McCoy by Dave & Darlene Hauserman
- Brooke & Virginia Mallory, Tina Mallory & Alberta N Day, Edward & Ann Meyers by Edward & Frances Meyers.
- Helmut Alpers by Marcia Alpers & Family
- Contance & Mauro Novello and Suzy Novello by Nancy Novello
- Suzanne Gepfert & Margaret 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 & MaryAnne Liljedahl
- Laura & Ed Cole and Dove & Harvey Schluter and Pam Kunkemueller by Debbie, Randy & Whitney Cole.

Directory!

The directory is currently being updated and printed copies should be available by Rally Sunday for you to pick up. We are also working on getting online access to our directory and hope to roll that out this fall. It will be private with access only to members and individually password protected.

Bargain Box

Below is the slated Bargain Box presort schedule for the rest of the summer and into fall.

Tuesday August 8	5-7pm
Thursday August 10	10-12pm
Wednesday August 16	5-7pm
Monday August 21	5-7pm
Thursday August 24	10-12pm
Wednesday August 30	10-12pm
Wednesday September 6	10-12pm
Tuesday September 12	5-7pm
Thursday September 14	10-12pm
Monday September 18	5-7pm
Tuesday September 19	10-12pm
Wednesday September 20	5-7pm
Thursday September 21	10-12pm

This schedule brings us to the week before the Bargain Box Sale. As we get closer, we'll take a look at what the sale requires for setup. If you have any questions, please let me know. Even if you can only come for a short time, it is still helpful! Melanie Reda 440-773-4976



1 Carol Smith
6 Cecile Murray
8 Donna Bixler

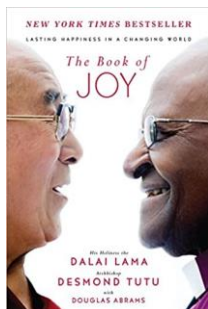
13 Jeff Eakin
14 Patrick Hoeflinger
15 Peter Batcheller
16 Mary Murray
22 Luke Mitchell
24 Charlie Broom
Warren Morris
27 Brook Vazzana
28 John Weber
31 Jane Chisholm

Adult Forum

Thursdays at 4 PM

Sundays at 9 AM

We are finishing up *The Book of Joy* in August. For these weeks, choose a practice for the week and then share your experience.



August 3 & 6 Pages— 311-328

August 10 & 13 Pages— 329-334

August 17 & 20 Pages— 335-342

August 24 & 27 Pages— 342-354

After Rally Day, watch for the next book/discussion series.

New Prayer Shawl Ministry

*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*



If you like to knit or crochet or would like to learn how, please join us in the guild room the first Tuesday of every month at 4 PM for an hour or so of needlework

fun as we make prayer shawls for parishioners, friends at the shelter and friends beyond! Bring your crochet hooks, knitting needles and stashes of yarn! Patterns will be available! And if you have a project you are working on already, please join us as well! We'd love to see you! The first meeting will be August 1st at 4 PM! See you then!



Rally Day – Save the Date

Coming up September 10th! Watch for information regarding Rally Day and picnic in the next Newsletter. Want to help? Contact Becky Everett!

Christian Education Director

We are looking to hire a new Christian Education Director. If you would like to read the job description or know someone who might be interested, click [here](#) for more information and how to apply.

Welcome to our Young Families

I would like to thank all the families that came to our young families get together this past Friday night! Between the adults and children, who went back and forth from the nursery to the guild room, a fun time was had by all! The children had a great time playing with just about every toy in the nursery as they got to know each other. The adults had an equally enjoyable time getting to know each other as they chatted with each other and shared a little about themselves. Smiles and laughter were very apparent everywhere, and it was so nice to see the nursery full of young children once again! I look forward to many more events like this as we welcome this next generation of friends into our parish! Please be sure to check out the photos from this event on the bulletin board in the hallway going to the guild room!

~Becky Everett, Senior Warden

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 8:30-2:30

440-423-4451

stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

AUGUST 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

AUG 8 & 22
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



**Congratulations
to Mother Ann's
30 years in
Ministry!**



**Enjoying the
Carillon Concert
in June!**



8:30 – 2:30

TUES & WED only