



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

As the weather has shifted lately from full summer to intimations of autumn, I have found myself thinking about the variety of times and seasons in our lives. As Alice and I returned from our walk this morning, this phrase from a Joni Mitchell song ran through my head: “and the seasons, they go round and round” – so very true. And as the lyrics make so clear, there is no going backward in time. We often think of time as linear, but it is cyclical. For the most part, it follows a spiraling path through our lives and so we often have the sense of coming around to an old familiar place where we have been before.

We are about to begin “the program year” on September 10<sup>th</sup> – Rally Sunday. It begins a new season of our life in the parish by regathering (rallying) to reconnect with each other after scattering to a variety of places and activities over the summer months. Yet this is also the moment in the “Church Year” when our lectionary readings each Sunday move us toward the looming end of one liturgical cycle and toward the beginning of a new Church Year on Advent I. There is also, of course, another time cycle – Stewardship – our Annual Giving campaign in support of our 2024 operating budget. That’s just in the context of our parish life.

Our personal lives are no different. This Church Year has been particularly full of important moments in our individual lives. The deaths, marriages, and baptisms that many of you have experienced since Advent I in 2022 all marked moments of permanent change in your lives. Moments when our individual journeys through the spiral of time came into focus in an intensely personal way.

We recently finished reading and discussing “The Book of Joy” – a conversation between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. A point that they repeatedly returned to, was the importance of cultivating a practice of gratitude in our daily lives. This is so very true! To experience a feeling of gratitude, we need to become conscious of the blessings within each day. That practice of being conscious – of noticing and appreciating – places us firmly in the present moment. The past is composed of memories and the future lives only in our imagination. This present moment is the only reality that exists.

As our parish and personal seasons continue to shift, I invite you to take a moment or two each day to name what has been good and to say “thank you” to God who is the true giver of the blessings in our lives. It is gratitude (not hoeing out our closets) that sparks true joy in our lives. I wish true joy for all of you. You spark joy in me – every day!

With my love and gratitude,

Ann+

**In attendance:** Becky Everett, Reverend Ann Kidder, Charlene Currutt, Peter Thatcher, Ron Lee, Judy Holmes, Renee Kolecki

**Meeting opened** at 6:33p.m. with a prayer. Becky moved to accept May Vestry Minutes as corrected. Peter seconded and the motion passed.

**Rector's Report:**

Reviewed parts one, two & three of the 2022 audit report prepared by Mary Murray with assistance of parishioner Brian Wright.

Looking into possibilities to conduct an external audit.

Becky moved to accept the audit that Mary Murray submitted and recommendations she suggested. Charlene seconded. The Vestry unanimously approved the 2022 Audit report with recommendations.

May budget income is up \$20,000 from last year. Everything looks good.

Twenty-six pay period system; two times per year there are three pay periods.

Insurance line under operating expenses reflects bookkeeping issue, not money issue.

Updates regarding Christian Education Director: google docs description will be posted on

Diocesan website weekly "What's New in Diocese" and area college sites that offer degrees in Early Childhood Education.

Vestry input:

Salary range, part time, 10-15 hours per week, less time in summer, but for special preparation for upcoming school year, \$10-12K annually. Hired on an hourly-rate basis.

Becky moved that we propose a salary range of hiring of new Christian Education Director

Peter seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

We need to identify two people to fill position for Vestry; can consider options and vote in July meeting.

Mother Ann asked Vestry members to email her with suggestions but asked that members do not ask anyone specifically.

The Vestry appointment will extend until the next annual meeting.

**Senior Warden's Report:**

Attended Clericus meeting a month ago. Rector at St. Andrews stated they have no need for their Godly Play materials that provides education through middle school-age and offered the materials for free. An anonymous donor offered \$3k for purchase of materials and we may have \$1500 available. Would like to offer St. Andrews the money for materials and bookshelves, which is less than we would have had to pay if buying it outright. No annual cost.

Charlene proposed we use \$4500 for Godly Play (see amounts above;) Ron seconded.

No discussion. All approved.

**Junior Warden's Report:**

Charlene thanked those who attended the defibrillator review and stated we will have another session in Fall, 2023 for those who couldn't make it. Will order trauma scissors as recommended by instructor.

Dennis Farmer completed work on walkways. Will fill spaces between stones with poly-sand to keep stones in place and reduce weeds. Per Becky, projects are a safety necessity.

Peter moved to authorize payment for gator dust/poly-sand. Becky seconded and all approved.

Char received a call from Charley Marston. Charley wants to decorate the front of church for July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next Gen Committee Report:**

Event July 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm for young families and couples involved in church. “Let’s Meet” social event in Guild Room and nursery will be open. Heavy hors d’oeuvres and child-friendly food will be served. Idea started at the Pentecost picnic. If any Vestry members (Next Gen) are interested in attending, let Becky know. Per Mother Ann, there is money available for food.

### **Fun Committee Report:**

Seeking details for the Lake County Captains baseball game.

August 13<sup>th</sup> is third summer Faith Night.

Mary Zup will post survey in Flocknote when she returns from vacation asking for those interested respond with anticipated number of tickets. Mary will be on vacation next week and returns July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Will be announced at 10:15 service.

Forty-five people attended the Pentecost picnic. People stayed longer than last year. \$200 in expenses. \$39 donation.

Next Vestry meeting is July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 7:18 p.m.

## **FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

**AUGUST 2023**

**In loving memory of:**

- All my family by Sally Conley
- Our parents, William & Mary Cicirello and John & Helen Stanislaw by Sal & Helen Cicirello
- Paula & Mark Ianni and Gwen Cooper by Teri Ianni
- Linda Costello, Janet Hargrave, Harriet Leedy and Ron Misco by Jane & Ramon Battles
- Sheila Bates by Stuart Bates and his children, Ian, Susan & Brian.



More  
Improvements  
this summer!



## 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.

## Directory!

There is a sample directory in the narthex and Guild Room. Please take a look at your entry and mark any corrections with the RED pen. Final directories will be printed right after Labor Day and distributed at the Rally Day picnic.

## New 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!



## Food Pantry September



Dry Pasta , Sauce (no glass), Mac N Cheese, Ramen, Chef Boyardee

## Blessing of the Animals



September 17, 12:00 PM

Bring your pet (of any kind) to be blessed on the front lawn by Mother Ann.

## Blessing of the Beagles



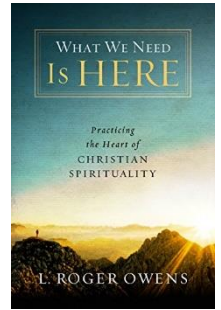
September 24, 12:00 PM

Mother Ann will be blessing the beagles on the front lawn on Sep 24.

## Adult Forum

### Sundays at 9 AM

Our next discussion will be What We Need Is Here by J. Roger Owens. You may order a book from Amazon or find it at your favorite bookstore!



September 17	Intro + Chapter 1
September 24	Chapter 2
October 1	Chapter 3
October 8	Chapter 4
October 15	Chapter 5
October 22	Chapter 6
October 29	Chapter 7 & In Closing

## Birthdays



### BIRTHDAYS

1 Betty Tone  
3 Stacey Misco  
4 Debbie Cole  
7 Lily Klinginsmith  
8 Alison Sleman  
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 Gndt  
25 Melanie Reda  
29 Hudson Champ  
Bennet Vandertill

## DIOCESE: Seating of the Bishop



You are invited to join us for one of the most unique, festive and joyful traditions in the Episcopal Church, the Recognition and Investiture of a Diocesan Bishop on Sep 9<sup>th</sup>. One of our most important things we can do as members of a Cathedral is to provide an enthusiastic audience for this important event.

During the service, the bishop will knock on our doors and be formally seated in the cathedra (the chair of the bishop) from which our cathedral takes its name. You won't want to miss this memorable day in the life of the Cathedral and the Diocese.

## Bargain Box Work Days

Below are the remaining Bargain Box presorts.

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



Even if you can only come for a short time, it is still helpful! Melanie Reda 440-773-4976

### WEEK OF BARGAIN BOX:

Sunday, September 24	following 10:15am service until 12:30 pm (lunch following!) <i>NEW!!! Anyone who helps on setup Sunday will be entered in a raffle for 3 different gift baskets!!!</i>
Monday, September 25	9-12 (lunch following)
Tuesday, September 26	9-12 (lunch following) 12-4pm (if setup is complete, volunteer presale)
Wednesday, September 27	9-11am (volunteer presale) 11am Communion & Blessing with Mother Ann 12pm (lunch & auction) 12(ish)-6pm (volunteer presale & auction checkout)
Thursday, September 28	CLOSED

### DAY OF THE SALE, FRIDAY SEP 29:


7:30am	Volunteer Arrivals
8am	Doors Open
9-4pm	Bargain Box Sale!
4-7pm	Clean-up, Donation pickups


<b>SATURDAY, SEP 30</b>	9-11am	Donation pickups/Final Cleanup
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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3			MONDAY - 4	TUESDAY - 5	WEDNESDAY-6	THURSDAY-7	FRIDAY- 8	SATURDAY-9
8 am Holy Eucharist		10:15 am Holy Eucharist		10:00 Staff Meeting	10-12 Presort	4:00 Warden's 5:00 Eve. Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM:	Charley Marston	Becky Everett						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe	Lucy Lytle & Chandler H. Everett		4:00 Knitting Group				
ALTAR:	Sue Marston	Lucy Lytle						
USHERS	NA	Brian Wright & Charlene Currutt		6:30 PM Grief				
HOSTESSES		Nancy Irwin						

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10				MONDAY - 1	TUESDAY 12	WEDNESDAY-13	THURSDAY- 14	FRIDAY- 15	SATURDAY- 16
8 am Holy Eucharist		10:15 am Holy Eucharist			10:00 Staff Meeting		10-12 Presort		
EM:	NONE	John Irwin							
LECTOR:	NONE	Courtney Schmidt & Fran Sarkisian							
ALTAR:	NONE	Neal Lee							
USHERS	NA	Ron Lee & Charlene Currutt							
HOSTESSES		PICNIC							

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17			MONDAY - 18	TUESDAY - 19	WEDNESDAY-20	THURSDAY- 21	FRIDAY- 22	SATURDAY-23
8 am Holy Eucharist		10:15 am Holy Eucharist	<div>9AM Book Group</div> <div></div> <div>12:00</div>	10-12 Presort	<div>10:00 Staff Meeting</div> <div>6:30 PM Grief</div>	<div>10-12 Presort</div> <div>4:00 Warden's</div> <div>5:00 Eve. Prayer</div> <div>8:00 AA</div>		
EM:	Becky Everett	John Irwin						
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Dixon Morgan & Chandler Everett						
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni	Leslie Marting						
USHERS	NA	Dixon Morgan & Kurt Liljedahl						
HOSTESSES		Mary Murray						

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24			MONDAY - 25	TUESDAY - 26	WEDNESDAY-27	THURSDAY- 28	FRIDAY- 29	SATURDAY-30
8 am Holy Eucharist		10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9AM Book Group  12:00 Blessing of the Beagles <b>BARGAIN BOX SET UP</b>	9-12 BB Set Up	9-12 BB Set Up	9-11 BB Set Up 11:00 – Healing Service 12:00 Lunch & Auction 12-6 Presale 6:30 Vestry	4:00 Warden's 5:00 Eve. Prayer 8:00 AA	
EM:	Becky Everett	John Irwin			10:00 Staff Meeting		Bargain Box 8-4	Bargain Box Clean Up 9-11
LECTOR:	Michelle Brockett	Judy Holmes & John Irwin					Clean Up 4-7	
ALTAR:	Sue Marston	Renee Kolecki						
USHERS	NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES		Neal Lee & Judy Holmes						

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1			MONDAY - 2	TUESDAY - 3	WEDNESDAY-4	THURSDAY- 5	FRIDAY- 6	SATURDAY-7
8 am Holy Eucharist		10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9AM Book Group					
EM:	Becky Everett	Charley Marston						
LECTOR:	Kitty Thomas	Brian Wright & Lucy Lytle						
ALTAR:				4:00 Knitting Group				
USHERS	NA	Brian Wright & Nancy Irwin				8:00 AA		
HOSTESSES		Charlene Currutt						



Sunday, September 10, is Rally Day and we're having a picnic! More importantly, however, Rally Day is the kickoff of the fall season of the church year and the resumption of activities that, to some extent, have been in abeyance over the summer months. It will be great to have the choir back making their contribution to our Sunday services! And parents and children will have the chance to see the new Godly Play classroom and meet their teachers!

It is also a time to consider our personal involvement and contributions to the many functions at St. Christopher's from worship to outreach. Enjoy the picnic and consider ways you will help carry forward St. Christopher's mission in the coming year!

Details of the picnic which have been announced via News and Notes are:

- On the Parish grounds after the 10:15 service Sunday, September 10.
- Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided.
- Attendees are asked to bring side dishes, salads, or desserts as you choose.
- Please sign up by Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> via Flock Note or by calling the church office (440-423-4451) so we have an approximate headcount for supplies.



St. Christopher Fox's Bargain Box Sale will take place on the last Friday in September.

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

9am to 4pm

Have the First Look, First Choice, First Purchase! **EARLY BIRD ACCESS** to the first 50 guests @ \$10 each starting at 8am September 29<sup>th</sup>.

This year, we have some amazing and plentiful offerings which feature **NEW WITH TAGS**, men's business apparel, dressers, bed frame, kitchen hutch, chairs, large and small wall art, and Christmas decor in addition to our regular departments of men's, women's, and children's clothing, accessories, children's toys, housewares, books & CDs, linens, and Unique Boutique.

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SOME CHANGES and NEW PRICING!**

The proceeds of this amazing sale are donated annually to various charities in Northeast Ohio communities. Walk away with treasure of your own and know that you'll also be helping support other families and causes in Northeast Ohio.

***\*\*We welcome clean, gently used donations throughout the year, all the way up to the day of the sale. Drop-off can be made in the designated bin on the east side of the church near the Gates Mills footbridge or inside the church during open hours.***

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 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**

**SEP 5 & 19**

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

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

## **BOOK GROUPS**

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

See inside.

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



**Bargain Box is this month. Your help is needed! See inside for details on all work days**



**On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be ONE SERVICE at 10:15**

**This is Rally Sunday. See inside for picnic details!**