



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

By now you may have heard that I spent last weekend in Hillcrest Hospital. I am home now, and all is well, but I have decided to share my story with you, both to relieve any anxiety that you may be feeling and also to offer “a word to the wise” from my experience.

Last Friday as I drove down Gates Mills Boulevard, much to my surprise, I lost consciousness and drove up over the curb and onto the grass median. I regained consciousness as the car bumped and then came to a stop. “What happened?!?” I’m grateful to tell you that no one was injured in this incident but that question, “What happened?” was important and needed an answer. Thankfully, a Gates Mills police officer happened to be just on the other side of the Boulevard, and he immediately came to check on me. He gave me a ride to Hillcrest E.R. and the search for an answer to “What happened?” began.

Any of you who have spent time in an E.R. waiting room knows what comes next. People are seen in order of the severity of their injury or illness, and it often takes many hours to be seen. I called our Sr. Warden and Becky came right over to be with me, arriving with a chicken salad sandwich and a Ziplock bag of cherry tomatoes. After a couple of hours, the search for an answer began. Blood pressure and an EKG were taken, and blood was drawn. Eventually there was a chest x-ray, a CAT-scan of my head, and a continuous EKG and Blood pressure monitoring. Finally, I was admitted and rolled up to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for continued observation (and more blood was drawn...)

The next day, as various test results rolled in, the results read “normal” “normal” “normal” ....

A doctor arrived at one point and looked closely at me while saying with a tone of some surprise, “You are a **very** healthy person!” One final test to go, which couldn’t happen until Sunday morning: a sonogram of my heart. That, too, was normal. So, “What happened?” The official conclusion is that I was dehydrated! I have been busy over the past few weeks and, clearly, had not been drinking enough water. Friday afternoon my body simply reached a tipping point and sent me a message that I couldn’t ignore.

As you may imagine, although I have been declared healthy, and am now making sure that I get my recommended eight, eight-ounce glasses of water a day; I feel anxious about getting behind the wheel of a car quite yet. Thanks to Chandler and Becky Everett, my car has been checked over by my mechanic and Nancy Novello will be my chauffeur to get my car back to Gates Mills. Randy and Debbie Cole are ferrying me to see my regular doctor for a follow-up appointment this week. And I will still be able to spend October in Maine thanks to our son, William, who will fly in from D.C. and take care of the driving for me.

Paul talked about the importance of “the Body” with its many parts, each supporting and helping the other parts; especially those who are weaker. This week I experienced receiving the love, care, and prayers of so many of you. He said that the members of the Body, though many, are One Body. You incarnated that for me this week. Thank you!

I know that with the passage of time, I will regain my confidence and will feel safe to drive once more. So, I look forward to seeing all of you in November as we turn toward the final weeks of the “Green Season” and prepare to greet Advent once more.

I promised you “a word to the wise” at the beginning of my story. **Drink water!** If you need to, make hash marks to keep track of how many glasses you have had. Apparently, once we pass the magic age of fifty years, our ability to notice that we are thirsty diminishes. So, pay extra attention to drinking plenty of water!

With love and gratitude,

Ann+



Mother Ann will be out of the office for a much-needed respite for the month of October. We will welcome her back on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Guest preachers are listed in the calendar.

**In attendance:** Becky Everett, Reverend Ann Kidder, Peter Thatcher, Ron Lee, Judy Holmes, Renee Kolecki, Bruce Long. **Absent:** Charlene Currutt, Matt Vazzana.

**Meeting opened** at 6:33p.m. with a prayer.

**June 28<sup>th</sup> Minutes:** Becky moved to accept June Vestry Minutes as corrected. Peter seconded and the motion passed.

**Budget Report:** The June Budget report was accepted as presented.

**Rector's Report:** The Christian Education Director position has been posted on the Diocesan weekly "What's New in the Diocese" and will soon also be posted to area colleges that offer degrees in Early Childhood Education. We have two parishioners who are willing to serve as Storyteller and as Greeter until we have filled the position.

**Open Vestry Position to be filled *pro-tem*:** The Vestry unanimously approved a prioritized list of 5 candidates to fill the present vacancy through next Annual Meeting and authorized the Rector to fill the position. She will email the Vestry with the results.

**Senior Warden's Report:** The "Next Gen" party was a great success and folks want to do this again. There are photos from the party on the Christian Ed. bulletin board in the hall.

We will not be attending a Captain's game this year as there was not enough interest.

On behalf of the Jr. Warden, Becky presented two bids to replace the Rectory front steps. (We were not able to get a third bid.) After some discussion, the Vestry unanimously voted to accept the bid submitted by Skybridge. Work to be done while the Rector is on vacation in Maine this October.

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

The meeting closed with a prayer at 7:10 p.m.

### FLOWER DEDICATIONS

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

In loving memory of:

- Beverly Thoms & Barry Berlin by Betsy Berlin
- Bob "Tiger" Malm and granddaughter Erin Malm by Tillie Malm
- Sarah Christy Dickenson and Jeffrey R. Cudlip by Frances and David Dickenson
- Irene & Merle Reynolds and Fred Bixler by Polly Bixler.



- 1 Bruce Long  
Lindsey McMillion  
Brooklyn Osolin
- 2 Elise Bennett  
Bonnie Humphrey
- 6 Polly Bixler
- 7 Parker Selman
- 10 Baz DeBaz
- 13 Tillie Malm
- 14 Kerry Gnandt

- 15 Mike Klinginsmith
- 16 Gretchen Fisher
- 18 Jenna Vandertill
- 19 Ralph DellaRatta
- 21 Sean McMillion
- 26 John McElliott  
Britni Ventimiglia
- 28 Margot Hoeflinger

## Stewardship

Becky & Chadler Everett

October 3, 2023 is the official launch date for the 2023 – 2024 Annual Giving Campaign! Our theme, “The Dawn of a New Day”, is an accurate representation of the positive, new energy that the Holy Spirit has brought to St. Christopher’s! We have welcomed many new families into our parish. We have started a Godly Play curriculum with our youngest parishioners. We continue to have strong and vibrant outreach ministries, and many current church members are taking on increased responsibilities within our Sunday Servant ministries. St. Christopher’s has rounded a bend and is surging forward to greet all the exciting opportunities that are coming our way! **Please help us to continue on this positive and productive path by pledging your support for the coming year. Our goal for the 2023 – 2024 Annual Giving Campaign is 80 formal pledges totaling \$185,000!** The success of last year’s campaign has helped to lead us to the positive place we are now. Help us to continue our journey on this road to the hopeful, positive future which the Holy Spirit has in store for us by submitting your formal pledge NOW! **The official campaign runs from October 3 – November 15. We are asking that each of you maintain, and possibly increase, your current level of financial support.**

This year, any formal pledge that gets to the church office by noon on November 1, 2023, will automatically enter that individual/family into a drawing for two incredible prizes! **The first is a \$100 gift certificate to Sara’s Place** located right over the bridge from the church. **The second prize is a set of two tickets to the Playhouse Square Broadway Series show, Funny Girl, which will be in town in February 2024.** This prize also includes free parking at the Playhouse Square garage. The drawing for these two prizes will be Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:15 AM service. **You must be present at the 8:00 AM or 10:15 AM service that day to be eligible for the drawing!**

Thank you all for your past, present, and future support of St. Christopher’s – a church that we all love and would like to see continue on this positive path! Let’s all join together and enter this “Dawn of a New Day” with excitement, enthusiasm and love for our church home and for each other!

## Phone # Correction for Marilyn Fisher

Marilyn’s phone number was incorrect in the new directory. Please make a note of the correct #: 440-857-3670.

## Forward Day by Day Available

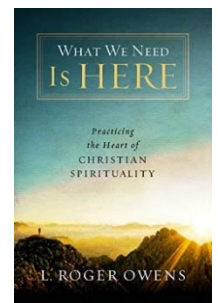
Nov-Dec Jan Day by Day devotional is available. Call the office if you need one mailed to you.

## Adult Forum

### Sundays at 9 AM

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

October 1	Chapter 3
October 8	Chapter 4
October 15	Chapter 5
October 22	Chapter 6
October 29	Chapter 7 & In Closing



## COMMUNITY: Chili CookOff



Please Join Us for a New Village Tradition  
Sunday, October 22 at The Community House  
from 11 am – 1 pm



Sample delicious chilis while voting for entries from your favorite village groups:

- The Community Club
- The Friends of the GM Library
- The Garden Club
- The Historical Society
- The Improvement Society
- The Land Conservancy
- The Players
- GM Elementary School's
- Parent-Teacher Club

Proudly sponsored by:

BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY  
HOMESERVICES  
PROFESSIONAL  
REALTY

THE  
TASK TEAM  
REALTORS

**\$10 entrance fee includes 2 samples at each station**


Tickets may be purchased at the door or  
online at [gatesmillsplayers.com](http://gatesmillsplayers.com)





# Rally Day Picnic!

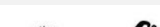


SUNDAY OCTOBER 1 – Morning Prayer		MONDAY - 2	TUESDAY - 3	WEDNESDAY-4	THURSDAY-5	FRIDAY- 6	SATURDAY-7
8 am	10:15 am	9AM Book Group	4:00 Knitting Group		8:00 AA		
EM: Becky Everett	John Irwin						
LECTOR: Kitty Thomas	Brian Wright & Lucy Lytle						
ALTAR: Teri Ianni	Carolyn Misco						
USHERS: NA	Brian Wright & Nancy Irwin						
HOSTESSES Charlene Currutt							

SUNDAY OCTOBER 8 - Guest Preacher Roseanne Lonsway		MONDAY - 9	TUESDAY 10	WEDNESDAY-11	THURSDAY- 12	FRIDAY- 13	SATURDAY- 14
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9:30 Stephen Ministry	6:30 PM Grief		8:00 AA		
EM: Becky Everett	Haley Kosmatka, Charley Marston						
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Ron Lee, Chandler H Everett						
ALTAR: Michelle Brockett	Courtney Schmidt						
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	Sue Marston						

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 – Morning Prayer		MONDAY - 16	TUESDAY - 17	WEDNESDAY-18	THURSDAY- 19	FRIDAY- 20	SATURDAY-21
8 am	10:15 am				8:00 AA		
EM: Becky Everett	Charley Marston						
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Fran Sarkisian & Neal Lee						
ALTAR: Sue Marston	Renee Kolecki						
USHERS NA	Kurt Liljedahl & Alison Wolf						
HOSTESSES	Elise Bennett						

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22 – Guest Preacher Richard Israel		MONDAY - 23	TUESDAY - 24	WEDNESDAY-25	THURSDAY- 26	FRIDAY- 27	SATURDAY-28	
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist				8:00 AA			
EM: Melanie Reda	John Irwin							9AM Book Group
LECTOR: Michelle Brockett	Ron Lee & Chandler Everett							
ALTAR: Sally Conley	Neal Lee							
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher							
HOSTESSES	Heidi Schmidt							
			6:30 PM Grief	6:30 Vestry				

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29 – Guest Preacher Richard Israel		MONDAY - 30	TUESDAY - 31	WEDNESDAY-1	THURSDAY- 2	FRIDAY- 3	SATURDAY-4
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	9AM Book Group	 <b>10:00 Staff</b>		<b>3:30 Warden's</b> <b>5:00 Rehearsal</b>  8:00 AA	<b>4:00</b> <b>WEDDING</b>	
<b>EM:</b> Becky Everett	John Irwin						
<b>LECTOR:</b> Kitty Thomas	Chandler Everett & Judy Holmes						
<b>ALTAR:</b> Teri Ianni	Renee Kolecki						
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Leslie Marting & Alison Wolf						
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Laura Cotton						

## 10:00 Staff

3:30 Warden's  
5:00 Rehearsal

8:00 AA

4:00  
WEDDING



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)

OCTOBER 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**

**No Evening Prayer in October**

## **GRIEF GROUP**

**Zoom Meeting**

**OCT 10 & 24**

**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**



**Don't Forget to pick up your copy of the new directory!! There have been a lot of updates. They are in the Narthex. There's one with your name on it!**



Flour, Sugar, Brown Sugar, Salt, Pepper,  
Oil, Spices, chicken/beef stock,  
chocolate chips, baking soda/powder.