



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

## DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

This year's Nominating Committee is charged with identifying candidates to serve on our Vestry and to represent our parish at meetings of the Northeast Mission Area Council. I hope that you are all giving prayerful thought to potential candidates and offering those names to members of the Nominating Committee. This year Becky Everett (chair), Sally Conley, Judy Holmes, Kitty Thomas, and Larry Richmond will present a slate of candidates to be voted upon at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2024.

I want all of you to be present and to be eligible to vote for those who will lead and represent our parish on your behalf. St Christopher's welcomes and cherishes each of you but to be eligible to vote at Annual Meeting, or to participate in certain roles in the parish or Diocese, you must be a member of this parish.

Your baptism must be recorded in our parish register (either because you were baptized here or because your baptismal record has been transferred from the parish where you were baptized to St. Christopher's). This makes you a "baptized member" of St. Christopher's. You are a "communicant" of this parish if you receive communion at least three times during the year.

To vote at Annual Meeting, to hold elected or licensed leadership positions, or to serve on Diocesan committees, you must be a **"confirmed communicant in good standing"**.

To be confirmed means that you have made a mature public affirmation to the Bishop of your faith and commitment to the vows made at your baptism. The Bishop will then lay hands on you and "confirm" your commitment to our Christian faith as a member of the Episcopal Church. If you were baptized and already confirmed by a Bishop in a Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, or other Christian denomination which continues to observe the apostolic succession, you will be "received" and welcomed into the Episcopal Church as a confirmed member.

To be a **"confirmed communicant in good standing"** means that your baptism and confirmation/reception have been recorded in our parish register and that you "for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God".

While this can all sound legalistic, it is intended as a way for us as a community of believers to live out our responsibility for the vows we made at our baptism. We need the loving care and support of each other. We are strengthened in our commitment to those vows by knowing that we belong to the larger, world-wide, Anglican Communion. We are also supported in taking our full share in "the counsels of the Church", whether in voting at Annual Meeting, serving the chalice at Communion, or accepting the call to service on the Vestry or a Diocesan committee.

I have been assured by Eva Cole, Bishop Anne's secretary, that she will make a visit to St. Christopher's in 2024. If you would like to be baptized, received, or confirmed when she comes, please speak to me as soon as possible so that I can be sure that you are well prepared for making that commitment. (If you're not sure whether you are a member of the parish, let's talk! I want every one of you to experience the fullness of what being a member of St. Christopher's can mean in your life.

In Christ's Love,  
Ann+

**NEW BOOK GROUP  
STARTING JAN 4 & 7**

SUNDAYS (9AM)  
THURSDAYS (4PM)

There are 6 chapters.

One chapter will be  
discussed each week.

*Open the Door* by Joyce Rupp



Joyce Rupp  
**OPEN  
THE  
DOOR**  
A JOURNEY TO THE TRUE SELF

"Open the Door is a journey you will not regret!"  
—Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of the Anglican Communion

In attendance: Ann Kidder, Becky Everett, Charlene Currutt, Bruce Long, Matt Vazzana, Rich Radis, Peter Thatcher, Ron Lee, Judy Holmes, Mary Murray

The meeting opened with a prayer at 6:30 pm.

**Treasurer Report:**

Tellerd will no longer be doing payroll. The deadline for paycheck direct deposit is October 12<sup>th</sup>. Mary Murray will determine who will do payroll in the future. She discussed the need for a financial audit every three years. She talked to three different firms and recommended going with NMS, a firm that does a lot of work with non-profit, smaller companies. Bruce moved that we have NMS be the auditor and that Mary Murray negotiate a contract. Becky seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mary talked about the need for the Vestry to discuss a disaster recovery plan. This will be carried out at a future date. Mary talked about the funds in the General Reserves. Some have restricted use while others do not and can be used where needed most.

**Minutes:**

Bruce Long moved to approve the August 30<sup>th</sup> minutes as corrected and was seconded by Charlene Currutt. Motion passed.

**Rector Report:**

Mother Ann gave an update on the Christian Education Director search. She announced that John Irwin is livestreaming the 10:15 Sunday service and then posting it on YouTube. He would still like to upgrade the audio visual system in the guild room. The delegates nominated for Convention are Judy and Peter Holmes and John Irwin. The nominated alternates are Neal and Ron Lee and Becky Everett. Charlene Currutt moved to accept these nominations and was seconded by Bruce Long. Motion passed. While Mother Ann is away, she has lined up coverage for Sunday services as well as pastoral care coverage. Anyone in need of pastoral care should contact the Senior Warden, Becky Everett.

**Junior Warden:**

The rectory steps and railing will be installed during the first week in October. Installation will take 3-5 days. Charlene delivered a tray of cookies/desserts to the Gates Mills Service Dept. to thank them for their help with Rally Sunday.

**Senior Warden:**

The Godly Play curriculum is off to a good start. Dixon Morgan and Mary Podwoski have been getting to know the children over the past couple of weeks and will soon start the lessons. There have been at least two children attending every Sunday. Mary Podwoski has been fully trained in storytelling as well.

**Fun Committee:**

Rally Sunday went very well with close to 50 attendees. Thanks to Ron Lee and his committee as well as Rich Radis for donating the hot dogs and hamburgers. Between the free will offering and the Lee's willingness to cover what was left, no reimbursements were needed for this event.

The next two Vestry meeting dates were decided. The next meeting will be November 8th at 6:30 pm. The meeting after that will be December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

The meeting ended at 7:48 pm with a closing prayer.


**VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

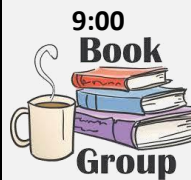

In accordance with our parish by-laws I have, with the Vestry's ratification, appointed a Nominating Committee to identify and nominate members of our parish to serve on the Vestry and as Parish Representatives to our Northeast Mission Area Council.

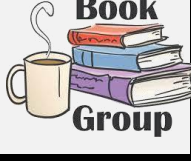
Members of this year's Nominating Committee are:

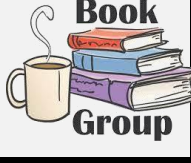
Becky Everett (Chair)	216-409-2370
Sally Conley	440-247-1822
Judy Holmes	216-577-6262
Kitty Thomas	216-215-1317
Larry Richmond	330-221-6968

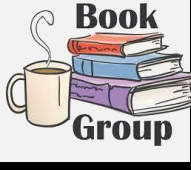
The Nominating Committee is required to complete their work by the middle of January. Once I have received their report and slate of nominees, that information will be communicated to the entire parish and posted publicly until the date of our Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for taking your important part in discerning the leadership of our parish.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 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				
EM: Melanie Reda	John Irwin			4:00 Knitting Group		3:30 Warden's		
LECTOR: Kitty Thomas	Fran Sarkisian, Brian Wright					5:30 Menorrah Lighting		
ALTAR: Sally Conley	Laura Cotton							
USHERS NA	Brian Wright & Nancy Irwin			6:30 PM Grief	6:30 Vestry			
HOSTESSES	Elise Bennett					8:00 AA		

SUNDAY JANUARY 7			MONDAY - 8	TUESDAY - 9	WEDNESDAY-10	THURSDAY- 11	FRIDAY- 12	SATURDAY-13
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist			10:00 Staff				
EM: Melanie Reda	John Irwin							
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Chandler H Everett & Courtney Schmidt							
ALTAR:								
USHERS NA	Brian Wright & Alison Wolf							
HOSTESSES	Nancy Irwin							

SUNDAY JANUARY 14			MONDAY - 15	TUESDAY - 16	WEDNESDAY-17	THURSDAY- 18	FRIDAY- 19	SATURDAY-20
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist			10:00 Staff		4:00 Warden's 5:00 Eve Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Charley Marston	Hayley Kosmatka							
LECTOR: Kitty Thomas	Lucy Lytle & Courtney Schmidt							
ALTAR:								
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Neal Lee			6:30 PM Grief				
HOSTESSES	Sabrina Salerno & Charlene Currutt							

SUNDAY JANUARY 21			MONDAY - 22	TUESDAY - 23	WEDNESDAY-24	THURSDAY- 25	FRIDAY- 26	SATURDAY-27
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist			10:00 Staff		4:00 Warden's 5:00 Eve Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Kitty Thomas	John Irwin							
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Lucy Lytle & Judy Holmes							
ALTAR:								
USHERS NA	Charlene Currutt & Dixon Morgan							
HOSTESSES	Judy Holmes							

SUNDAY JANUARY 28			MONDAY - 29	TUESDAY - 30	WEDNESDAY-31	THURSDAY- 1	FRIDAY- 2	SATURDAY-3
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist			10:00 Staff		4:00 Warden's 5:00 Eve Prayer 8:00 AA		
EM: Charley Marston	John Irwin							
LECTOR: Kitty Thomas	Chandler Everett & Neal Lee							
ALTAR:								
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher			6:30 PM Grief	6:30 Vestry			
HOSTESSES	Sue Marston							

## FLOWER DEDICATIONS NOVEMBER 2023

In loving memory of:

- Ron Miscko from his loving family
- Brian Collins by Nancy & John Irwin
- Tom & Iris Vail by their family
- Matthew Schmidt and William & Eleanor Cole by Daniel & Courtney Schmidt

And in Honor of John & Nancy Irwin's 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.



Two calendars are for sale in the guild room for \$20.

- The photographic monthly wall calendar whose proceeds benefit the Guild outreach
- The daily quote calendar whose proceeds buy bus passes for the men's Shelter.

## HOLIDAY DINNER AT THE MEN'S SHELTER - DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

Please join us for the second annual holiday dinner at the Men's Shelter! Carpools will be leaving St. Christopher's at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, December 13th and returning around 8:00 PM. We will be serving dinner to the shelter residents and spreading some much-needed holiday cheer! If you would like to join us, please let Becky Everett know. It is a lovely evening for all and truly helps to get you in the spirit of the holidays! You can carpool with us or meet us at the shelter.

If you are unable to serve that night but would like to participate somehow, you are more than welcome to make any kind of Christmas cookies and have them at the church by Monday, December 11th. You can put them in the freezer in the basement, labelled "Men's Shelter". Thank you!

A special thanks also goes out to all the people who have volunteered to make the needed casseroles! These, too, need to be at church by Monday, December 11th!

I am grateful for the meaningful relationship we have forged with the shelter, and I am so very grateful for all of you for your year-round support of this vital ministry! It warms my heart and makes me so proud to be a member of our St. Christopher Family! Wishing you a very blessed Christmas!

## DAWN OF A NEW DAY - 2024 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

We are well on our way to our campaign goal of 80 formal pledges and \$185,000 in commitment for 2024 !If you haven't pledged yet, it's not too late! You can pick up a generic pledge card in the narthex or simply call the church office at 440-423-4451 and let Mary Zup know what you would like to pledge, and she will fill out the paperwork! Thank you, in advance, for your commitment!

We are getting to the end of 2023, and I would like to remind you that if you haven't yet fulfilled your pledge for 2023, please mail your check to the church by the end of December so that it can be credited to this year and go towards the 2023 budget! Our treasurer, Mary Murray, has reported that there is close to \$50,000 that needs to come in by the end of December. Please check your records and make sure you are up to date on your commitment. If you have any questions or concerns, please let Mary Zup know. She is always happy to look up your pledge account in our database. We will be sending out final account balances for this year at the beginning of January.

I will continue to give periodic updates to the 2024 Annual Giving Campaign for the rest of this year. Please help us to "light up the steeple" and meet our campaign goals! St. Christopher's is entering this new day filled with optimism, hope and plans for the future of our parish! Please join us!

## LOOK WHERE YOUR MONEY WENT



Some of the major improvements in 2023 that were overseen by your Junior Warden, Charlene Currutt included:

- Upgrade/repair to the rectory and church steps
- New rectory front porch
- New sanitary plumbing
- A Facelift for the church including
  - New exterior paint job
  - New mulch and daylilies
  - New landscaping by the footbridge
- Upgrade to the church wifi
- New water heater at the rectory
- A Safe walkway into God's House (new paver stones)



- 1 Daniel Broome
- 4 Stephen Miscko
- 8 Avery Alatis
- Rosalie Della Ratta
- 9 Irene McMullen
- Luci Schey-Spring
- 11 Morrie Everett
- 14 Emily Morris
- 17 Keri Osolin
- 20 Linda Ventimiglia
- 22 Clara Butler
- Olivia Mlakar
- 23 Marilyn Fisher
- 31 Liz Russo



- 3 Rik Bole
- Griffin Butler
- Tony Lammers
- 7 Becky Everett
- 8 Tom Holmes
- 11 Jim Pender
- 15 Lucy Radis
- 22 Chandler Everett
- 23 Mary Bole
- 25 Brian Murphy
- 30 Peggy Reda



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)

DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024 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 PM Evening Prayer

## **GRIEF GROUP**

### **Zoom Meeting**

DEC 5, 19 & JAN 2, 16, 30

6:30-8:00 PM

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

### **December**

Chocolate/Cookies, Nuts, cake/brownie mix, frosting, powdered milk, graham crackers, pudding

### **January**

Canned meats (ham, tuna, chicken, salmon, stew, chili), Beans, jerky

**Food  
Pantry**



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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 5:00 PM

A non-Eucharistic service, open to anyone experiencing grief or sadness during the holiday season.



DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> MORNING  
4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM & 10:15

HOLY EUCHARIST  
REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES



3:30 p.m. Family Vesper Service with Christmas Carols

8:40 p.m. Organ & Choir Prelude Concert of Christmas Carols & Readings

9:00 p.m. Festive Holy Eucharist, Rite II. Christmas Carols.

NO SERVICES on CHRISTMAS DAY

*In addition to your Christmas Offering, bring a pair of warm socks, mittens, or a hat for the Manger.*