



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Last week I received confirmation that Bishop Anne Jolly will make an official visitation to St. Christopher's on Sunday, May 5th. I am so pleased that those of you wishing to be baptized, received, or confirmed will be able to share that experience here in your home parish surrounded and supported by your parish family. I will share more details and information with you when we are a bit closer to her May visit, but I wanted all of you to put Sunday, May 5th, on your calendars. Our Diocese is so blessed to have her as our Bishop, and I want you all to have the joy of meeting her while she is with us on that day. Although May 5th feels quite far in the future, three-plus months away, the time will fly by quickly.

Ash Wednesday comes early this year on February 14th. We will, of course, have our usual Ash Wednesday services at 12:15 and 6:00 p.m., with the imposition of ashes for those who desire. During the Season of Lent, we will be returning to our (pre-Covid) practice of sharing simple suppers on Wednesday evenings. There is an article in this newsletter with dates and details about those suppers so please be sure to mark your calendars for those events as well.

Some people love Lent, others not so much. Wherever you find yourself on the spectrum of feelings about those forty days and forty nights, give some thought to how you intend to experience this season in the Church year. Make a conscious decision, perhaps even write down what you intend to do (or not do) on your journey through Lent.

The purpose of a "Lenten discipline" is to be honest with ourselves about the patterns of thought or behavior that interfere with our relationship with God and with others. Jesus said that he came that we might "have life and have it abundantly". The best Lenten practice that you can commit to will be the one that opens you more fully to the love, joy, fellowship and "abundance" that Jesus has promised us when we open ourselves to receive all that he offers us. Following through on your chosen Lenten discipline may be challenging, even a struggle at times, but it should not feel oppressive.

One way to identify what you want to do for Lent is to ask questions like these: What thought patterns or behaviors keep you from being fully who you truly are? How might God, who loves you, long for you to be the person you were created to be? Would that mean adding something to your life? (Being intentional about seeing friends, volunteering, learning a new skill, practicing a skill you already have?) Would that mean simplifying and quieting your life in some way? (Saying "no" instead of that automatic "yes" that has overfilled your life? Going for a daily walk or taking time to listen to some music?) We are all learning what it means to be a beloved child of God and we all grow, sometimes in fits and starts, into what Paul called "the full stature of Christ." So don't be discouraged about Lent, jump in feet first and start paddling. We will all reach the further shore and rejoice in Christ's resurrection; the promise that we, too, shall rise and enter into the fullness of eternal and abundant life.

May God give you your best Lent ever,

Ann+

In attendance: Reverend Ann Kidder, Peter Thatcher, Becky Everett, Bruce Long, Charlene Currett, Renee Kolecki

Mother Ann opened meeting with Prayer at 6:33pm.

Approval of September 27 Vestry Meeting Minutes: Becky moved to accept minutes; Peter seconded the motion. All agreed, no discussion. Motion passed to accept minutes.

September Financial Report: Don't have numbers yet.

Rector's Report:

Ratification of Nominating Committee: Renee moved to approve nominating committee slate; Peter seconded. All agreed to ratify nominating committee members:

Becky Everett (as outgoing Sr. Warden)

Judy Holmes (Vestry member)

Kitty Thomas (Parishoner)

Sally Conley (Parishoner)

Larry Richmond (Parishoner)

Approval of new payroll vendor: new CPA firm for payroll, Patriot, recommended by C. Tellard and reviewed by Mary Murray.

Contract approval needed:

Becky moved to authorize contract; Char seconded and motion passed with all in agreement.

Update re. search for Christian Education Director: no applications received from Handshake. New families seem to be trailing off. In new year, Rector will meet with new families to determine best time for them to meet and support them to share faith with their kids. Had been positivity about Godly Play. There are materials to use at home.

Sr. Warden: Update - Annual Giving Campaign:

Eight more pledges have been submitted; 60/80 for 75% of goal, including nine new donors. Two weeks plus for parishioners to pledge toward annual campaign; November 15th is last official week, but donations will be accepted toward campaign goal until first week of January. Raffle winners were present at each service.

Jr. Warden: Updates –

Up-to-date on Fire Safety after replacing five outdated fire extinguishers.

Bridge Garden Landscaping by bridge; donated plants. Increased beauty of St. Christopher.

Skybridge fixed rectory front steps and railing and steps from Church to path. Work is covered by lifetime guarantee.

Fellowship Hall Ceiling: pipe above refrigerator is leaking. Char is calling plumbers.

Church Sign at Mayfield & River Road intersection: had been hanging, not readable. Has been repaired.

Meeting ended with Closing Prayer at 7:24pm.

Future Agenda Items:

Security Plan for St. Christopher's (Wardens): Becky and Char will place call to Chief of Police. Consider locking side doors from outside once service begins.

Next Vestry Meeting: Wednesday, December 6th



Thank you to all the people listed on this page who so graciously participated in the 2024 Annual Giving Campaign! It was a huge success, and the money pledged helps us enter “The Dawn of a New Day” with so much hope and anticipation for where the Holy Spirit is leading us! We are so grateful for your support!

Alatis, M. Stacey
Allgood, Mrs. Joan
Anderson, Rev. Mary Sterrett
Barnes, Mr. William, IV (Will) & Mrs. Anne
Batcheller, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Sandra (Sandy)
Bennett, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Elise C.
Bixler, Mr. Charles F., IV (Chuck) & Mrs. Donna
Bixler, Mrs. Virginia
Blossom, Barbara
Bole, Mr. Richard (Rik) & Mrs. Mary Wick (Mary)
Boswell, Mr. Louis (Lou) & Mrs. Helga
Brachna, Mr. Gabor (Gabe)
Brockett, Mr. Gary & Mrs. Michelle
Cicirello, Mr. Salvatore (Sal) & Mrs. Helen
Cole, Mr. Randall (Randy) & Ms. Deborah S. (Debbie)
Collister, Mr. Daniel (Dan)
Conley, Ms. Sally K.
Cotton, Miss Laura
Currutt, Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Charlene
Davis, Ms. Barbara Ann
Dickenson, Mr. David, II & Mrs. Frances
Dolch, Mr. Douglas
Everett, Mr. Chandler H. & Mrs. Marsha
Everett, Mr. Chandler P. & Mrs. Rebecca (Becky)
Everett, Mr. Morris (Morrie) & Mrs. Diana
Gallagher, Mr. James & Mrs. Sara
Gallop, Ms. Susan
Gray, Mr. Brandon D. & Mrs. Jennifer (Jenny)
Holmes, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Judy
Hoyt, Mr. Douglas & Dr. Callum (Cally)
Ianni, Ms. Teri
Ilkanic, Ms. Ellen
Irwin, Dr. John & Mrs. Nancy C

Kendrick, Ms. Eleanor (Ellie)
Kidder, The Rev. Ann & Mr. Theodore G. (Ted)
Klinginsmith, Michael (Mike) & Dr. Gretchen Fisher
Kolecki, Ms. Renee
Kosmatka, Ms. Hayley & Ms. Allison Smith
Langmack, Mr. Clark
Lee, Mr. Ron & Mrs. Cornelia
Liljedahl, Mr. Kurt & Mrs. Mary Anne
Lomas, Mrs. Hope S.
Long, Dr. Bruce
Lorenz, Mr. Allan & Ms. Loni
Lowe, Ms. Annette
Lytle, Ms. Lucy
Malm, Mrs. Tillie
Marston, Mr. Charles S. (Charley) & Mrs. Susan C.
Marting, Mr. Michael & Mrs. Leslie
Mavec, Mr. Bruce & Mrs. Ellen
McMullen, Mr. Daniel J. & Mrs. Irene H.
Miller, Mr. Chris & Mrs. Stephanie
Miller, Mrs. Barbara W. (Barb)
Miscko, Mrs. Carolyn E.
Mitchell, Mr. James A. & Mrs. Kathi J.
Mlakar, Mr. John (Kyle) & Mrs. Alexandra
Morgan, Mr. Dixon, Jr. & Mrs. Claire
Negrelli, Mr. Donald (Don) & Mrs. Virginia (Gini)
Novello, Ms. Nancy
Pender, Mr. James (Jim) & Mrs. Katherine (Kathy)
Pesuit, Mr. Craig & Mrs. Barb
Petrov, Mr. Daniel (Dan)
Pistell, Mr. Timothy (Tim) & Mrs. Linda (Lynn)
Podwoski, Ms. Mary
Pucell, Mr. Anthony (Tony) & Ms. Christina (Chris)
Richmond, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Gayle
Sarkisian, Mrs. Francine (Fran)
Scaminace, Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Cindy
Schmidt, Mr. Daniel & Mrs. Courtney
Spring, Mr. Bill & Mrs. Luci (Schey)
Thatcher, Mr. Peter B.
Thomas, Mrs. Katherine W. (Kitty)
Treco, Mrs. Diana D.
Van Hoek, Mr. Cornelius J. (CJ) & Mrs. Bradley T.
Vazzana, Mr. Matt & Mrs. Jamie
Ventimiglia, Ms. Linda
Vilas, Ms. Kathleen L. (Kathy)
Warren, Mr. Russell (Russ) & Mrs. Doris (Dori)
Weitzel Family Foundation
Wolf, Mr. David & Mrs. Alison
Zup, Mary

Vestry Nominations

Pending a vote at the Annual Meeting of St. Christopher by-the-River on March 3, 2024, the Following Qualified Electors have been nominated to serve in the following positions:

Vestry, 3-year term: **Charlene Currutt**

Vestry, 3-year term: **Ron Lee**

Vestry, 3-year term: **John Irwin**

Vestry, 1-year term: **Kitty Thomas**

(This is to complete a vacant position, expiring in March 2025)

Northeast Mission Area Council

Representative, 2-year term: **Laura Cotton**

Please thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their faithful work.

Becky Everett, Chair

Larry Richmond

Kitty Thomas

Judy Holmes

Sally Conley

Annual Meeting!

Put it on your calendar! One service only on **MARCH 3rd** at 10:15 AM with the annual meeting immediately following.

Ramsey Phone#

Jean Ramsey would like you to know that she has a new phone number. She can be reached at 440-893-9907.

Food Pantry Donations

Kids snacks: 100% juice boxes, granola bars, pretzels, raisins, goldfish



Book Group

We are finishing Our discussion of Open the Door with the last two chapters;

Thursdays, Feb 1 & 8 at 4 PM

Sundays, Feb 4 & 11 at 9AM

Starting with Lent, Mother Ann and Deacon Lydia Bailey will lead a discussion using material from *The Celebration of Discipline* by Richard J. Foster. No book purchase is necessary. These discussions will be during Lent on:

Sundays, Feb 18, 25, Mar 3, 10, 17 at 9AM

Wednesdays, Feb 28, Mar 6, 13, 20

(with the simple suppers)

Simple Suppers RETURN!



We will, once again, be hosting Lenten simple suppers this

year. They will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM in the Fellowship Hall at St. Christopher's. The dates are as follows: February 28th, March 6th, March 13th and March 20th. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Parish bulletin board where you can indicate that you are attending and/or whether you will provide soup or salad. Please remember that these are "simple" suppers. We will provide ice water for the beverage, and there will be no dessert.

Each week there will be a thoughtful discussion on material from *The Celebration of Discipline* by Richard J. Foster. No book purchase is necessary.

It will be a lovely opportunity to share time with other parishioners, enjoy good food, and participate in good conversations! Hope to see you there!



PARISH UPDATES

Pancake Breakfast!!



Sunday, February 11, we will have a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:15 service as the coming Lenten season approaches.

John Irwin and Charley Marston will lead a crew of

volunteers in preparing and serving pancakes and sausages. It is an excellent opportunity for all members of our parish community, young and old, to gather and socialize.

Please sign up to attend via flocknote through an upcoming 'News and Notes' or call the church office with the number of family members you expect to attend. Your early RSVP will be helpful in allowing us to procure ample supplies. See you then!

february BIRTHDAYS

- 2** Mona DeBaz
Dixon Morgan
James Richmond
- 4** Marshall Rankin
- 5** Eleanor Jones
- 6** Michael Marting
- 7** Rebecca Wolf
Peter Thatcher
- 8** Anne Lammers
- 9** Karee Weikel-Broome
- 11** Thomas Bailey
- 12** Olivia Misco
Barb Pesuit
- 24** Anna Klinginsmith



FLOWER DEDICATIONS DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

In loving memory of:

- Linda Matthews Costello by Cindy Costello
- Joyce & Dick Williams, Quarrier B. Cook and Robert Jones by Whitney Jones
- George & Eleanor Pesuit, Marion Scobee, Karen Vaccariello by Barb & Craig Pesuit
- William & Eleanor Calfee by Brian and Cindy Murphy
- Sarah C. Dickenson and Jeffrey R. Cudlip by Frances & David Dickenson
- Charles Klinginsmith by Anna & Lily Klinginsmith
- Bruce W. Thomas by Kitty Thomas

DIOCESE

Bellwether Farm

There are many fun and exciting events coming up this year at the Farm. Here are a few. Check out their [calendar](#) to see what's coming.

FEB 16 & 17

Valentine's Dinner Retreat

A special farm-to-table dinner to celebrate love! Opportunity to make it a weekend: spend the night after dinner and have brunch!

FEB 17

Yoga Day at Bellwether Farm

Move your body and warm your soul with a one-day yoga retreat.

MAR 09

Summer Camp Open House

Come tour Bellwether Farm to see where your campers will eat, sleep, and play.

Minutes, NEMAC Meeting, Monday January 15, 2024 (R0)

Attendance

[Zoom Only] Epiphany: Nancy Geiger; **Grace:** Elizabeth Estep; **St. Andrew:** Rev. Lisa O'Rear, Andy Spiesman; **St. Christopher:** Peter Batcheller; **St. Hubert:** Diane Hunt; **St. James:** Eric Sylor, Linda Sylor; **St. Luke:** Rev. Chris McCann; **St. Martin:** Cheryl Gray; **St. Peter:** Laura Nielsen, Cathy Pelton

Openings

Prayer. Lisa led us in prayer celebrating our collaborative work, inspiration, energy and hope.

Minutes. Moved: Approve the minutes as presented, Laura N.; Seconded, Diane H. > Carried.

Financial Report [L. Sylor]. The January 2024 balance of \$1,600.33 reflects the debit of \$250 for the Christ church Christmas gift bags. Thanks to Chris for finding us a new treasurer, and to St. James for agreeing to assume treasurer responsibilities for 2024.

New and Other Business

Update, "Neighbor to Neighbor" Program [L. O'Rear]. Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) directly trains and provides ongoing support to faith communities serving as sponsors for asylum seekers. [See [Episcopal Migration Ministries | Making a Difference](#).] Our next step is canvassing organizations in greater Cleveland and Lake County about immigration support activities and events. A Lake County Catholic parish that provides asylum seeker support can also be a resource. Lisa will report on local initiatives and NEMAC member interest at our April 9th meeting. The next Neighbor-to-Neighbor meeting will be held after Ash Wednesday.

A Word From Our Parishes

Epiphany. A new Ukrainian organist began work in December. She will have fellow Ukrainians in the area thanks to immigration sponsorship by Lady of the Lake Catholic church. Epiphany is discerning the value of the Community Meal they offer on Sundays at 1:00 p.m., co-sponsored with St. Bart. Chris noted that St. Luke is experiencing success with their program that is held immediately after their Eucharist service.

Grace. Bishop Ann will visit the parish on April 21. She will confirm new members, receive those new to the Episcopal Church — and accept those wishing to renew their baptismal vows.

St. Andrew. The church celebrated their largest ever Christmas service attendance. Seven new members will soon be received. Bishop Ann visits in June. Thanks to Andy Spiesman for maintaining our NEMAC Facebook page. Contact him to post parish news/promos: andrewspiesman@gmail.com or by text to 440-413-6671.

St. Christopher. Day-by-day calendars at \$20/each are for sale in support of the purchase of bus passes for Lutheran Men's Ministry residents to commute to work. There was a great turnout for the Christmas Eve services. On January 6th, the parish enjoyed a wonderful 12th night wassail party. [Updates were submitted by Laura Cotton prior to the meeting.]

St. Hubert. Fr. Dan Schoonmaker will retire effective February 11. The parish has some newer people, now attending regularly. A committee is exploring outreach efforts; what's working, and what to consider changing. One organization on the outreach list is Project Hope.

St. James. The parish kicked off its bicentennial year celebrations with three events the weekend of November 17. Rev. Canon Patricia Powers keynoted a dinner with more than 70 participants. Events will continue each month through November 2024, culminating with a closing dinner. Please see <https://stjamesoh.org/bicentennial-2024> for January and February events.

St. Luke. The organ has been renovated. Jean Spangler has retired; a new organist has been hired. The Christmas day service had the largest attendance since Chris began as rector.

St. Martin. Valentine cards are being prepared for members of the armed forces.

St. Peter. The annual Christmas Dinner Giveaway on Dec. 22 was a big success. The Ashtabula County Choral Music Society performed at Christmas Eve services. The Tuesday evening Food Pantry continues providing groceries and a hot meal. St. Peter is supporting the Sub Zero Mission by donating cold weather items such as hats, gloves and sleeping bags to veterans and others. [This could be a NEMAC collaborative mission model.]

Closings

2024 Meetings. Tuesday, Apr. 9; Wednesday, Jul. 17 and Thursday, Oct. 24.

Prayer. Chris led us in our closing prayer.

Adjournment. The meeting concluded at 6:31 p.m.

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-Th 8:30-2:30

440-423-4451

stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

February 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 p.m. Evening Prayer

GRIEF GROUP

Zoom Meeting

FEBRUARY 13 & 27

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

SUNDAY, FEB 11:

Pancake Breakfast

Please RSVP



WED, FEB 14

12:15 PM

6:00 PM

Ash Wednesday
SCHEDULE!

WEDNESDAYS

FEB 28, MAR 6, 13, 20

6-8 PM, Please sign up



SUNDAY, MAR 3

Annual Meeting,

One Service only

@ 10:15 a.m.

