



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

MARCH 2024 ANNUAL REPORT NEWSLETTER

RECTOR'S REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Mother Ann Kidder

2023 may have been the busiest, and most emotionally full, year that I have experienced in my time as your Rector. Attendance was noticeably up, thanks to our ability to finally have a year of worship and activities uninterrupted by the Covid pandemic. Total Sunday worship attendance for 2023 was 3,301 in-person. Thanks to John Irwin providing us with both live-streaming and recorded services, there were at least an additional 1,622 worshipers who joined us online. (We are only able to count online “views” as we have no way to determine how many individuals each “view” includes.) It was a banner year! This was driven home for me when 80 people came to the 8:30 Christmas Eve service. The last time that we had anywhere near that attendance was in 2018, two years before the pandemic. While attendance numbers might be boring for you to read, they are important as an indication of the overall health and vitality of our parish. After two years of pandemic shutdowns, and a slow reentry to “normalcy” in 2022, I can confidently say we are back! Our theme for the 2024 annual giving campaign, “The Dawn of a New Day” is very apt.

Ever since Easter Sunday, 2022, the parish has experienced an influx folks who have come to call St. Christopher’s “home”. About half of our new friends simply joined us for worship on a Sunday morning – and then kept coming back. Among those new friends is the Richards family. Larry, Gayle, Tommy, William, and James officially transferred their membership to St. Christopher’s in 2023. To all our new friends, please know that whether you are an official “member” or not, we are so glad you are here!

The other source of growth in our parish has resulted from the many weddings that take place at St. Christopher’s. In 2023 we recorded the marriages of Ben and Jenna Vandertill, Mark and Michele Hatfield, and Andrew and Elizabeth Short who were all either new to St. Christopher’s or had a historical connection to the parish. Weddings are always a joyful event but are particularly so when we already know the couple. In 2023 I had the joy of officiating at the weddings of Clay McMullen and Michelle Benz, Brandon Gray and Jenny Fullum, and Katie Everett and Jacob Halperin-Loche.

Sadly, in 2023 we experienced the deaths of too many long-time, deeply loved, parishioners.

Ron Miscko, Bill McCoy, Joanne Reynolds, Ted Ramsey, Bruce Thomas, Lydia Zimmerman, Marcia Alpers, Rindy Collister, and Thom and Iris Vail all died in 2023. They left behind gaping holes in our hearts and memories that we continue to cherish. I also buried Charlotte Iafeliece, Elaine Pace, Judith Higbee, Donald Stonefeld, Michael Authon, and Beatrice Steif. Some had a historical relationship to St. Christopher’s, and some simply needed a Christian burial but all of them were beloved children of God. I am particularly grateful for having been able to offer the Last Rites of the Church to Suzanne Irwin Emerson, Bill McCoy, Ted Ramsey, Marcia Alpers, and Mimi Nook.

I was able to bless the home of Haley Kosmatka, Allison Smith, and Madeleine in February. In December, I blessed Barbara Blossom’s new home. House blessings are lovely – and a nice excuse for a party. Let me know if you would like me to bless your home. Additional blessings in 2023 were: the Historical Society’s groundbreaking, the Hunt Club’s beagle pack, your beloved animals, and a memorial bench for Ron Miscko.

The reality of parish life is that it holds the fullness of what it means to be human, both the joys and the sorrows. Despite so many deaths among us, 2023 held many joyful moments as well. We welcomed another generation of the LaMantia family in March when we baptized four of Jim and Pam’s grandchildren; James John LaMantia, Abigail Nina McNelly, Christopher Andrew McNelly, Jr., and Nora Frances Sherwin. May saw the baptisms of Riley Elizabeth Brenner whose family is new to St. Christopher’s, and Olivia Koldenhoven, John Irwin’s grandniece. Olivia Kaya Mlakar was baptized in August and, adding to the excitement of Rally Sunday, Christopher Logan Miller was baptized on September 10th. (Logan is looking forward to being confirmed by Bishop Jolly when she visits us on May 5th.)

Our long-time Sunday Porter, Jolyon Welsh, also resigned in 2023. Thankfully, Lucy and Luis Calvo were able and willing to add those Sunday Porter duties to what they were already doing on Sunday mornings at St. Christopher's. Lucy and Luis, thank you for your genuine love and care for our parish.

An important part of our faith lives is nurturing our knowledge and love of God and practicing bringing that relationship with the Holy One into our human daily lives and relationships. This is an all ages and whole life process. For many years, Peggy Reda led our Church School program with great success, and we were blessed to have her daughter, Melanie Reda, in charge of Nursery Care for those too young to participate in a formal class. In recent years, our older Church School participants have "aged out" into a variety of school, family, and sport team activities that often take place on Sunday mornings. Our current children are primarily under four years of age. Peggy, accurately I think, saw this moment in our parish life as a closing of one chapter and the opening of another. She decided that it was time to retire. Melanie had taken on the leadership of our Bargain Box sale program and was feeling stretched for time and energy, so she joined her mother in offering her resignation. I reluctantly accepted their decisions and we celebrated and gave thanks for their many years of service at a festive Coffee Hour.

I firmly believe that God provides for the needs of God's church and so, Dixon Morgan and Mary Podowski have stepped forward to provide our children with the opportunity to learn about God's love for them through the Godly Play approach to Christian faith formation. Since the children are still a bit too young for even that amount of structure, Andrea Calvo is currently providing Sunday Nursery Care for our youngest members. We are so grateful. Thank you!

Our adult formation occurs primarily on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and on Thursday afternoons at 4:00. Our focus since Covid has been on the development of our inner life and the inevitable transformation we experience through the Holy Spirit's presence and action. In 2023 we read and discussed the following books: "Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices" by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe, "The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully" by Joan Chittester, "The Book of Joy" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, and "What We Need is Here" by J. Roger Owens. Additionally, between Easter and Pentecost, I led a three-part series on the Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection. I encourage you all to join us in our current series about Spiritual Gifts (Wednesdays during our Simple Suppers and Sundays at 9:00)

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank our Staff, who make so much of what we do as a parish possible. Deacon Lydia Bailey, Music Director and Organist, Yuri McElliott, Parish Administrator, Mary Zup, Church Keeper Lucy Calvo, Sexton Luis Calvo, Nursery Director Andrea Calvo, Office Volunteer Becky Everett and Livestream Maestro John Irwin all give generously of their time and love for this parish. Thank you all so much! Our Wardens, Becky Everett and Charlene Currutt, Treasurer Mary Murray, Clerk Renee Kolecki, and Vestry Members Ron Lee, Peter Thatcher, Judy Holmes, Bruce Long, Matt Vazzana, and Rich Radis have been wonderful partners with me in the leadership that is so important for the parish's effectiveness for ministry. I am grateful to serve alongside all of you.

Please join me in thanking our Sr. Warden Becky Everett for her leadership over two full Vestry terms, a total of six years! Our bylaws require her to step away from Vestry service for at least one year. She has been a magnificent Vestry Member, Jr. Warden, and Sr. Warden over those six years. Thank you, Becky, for your wisdom, guidance, trust in God, and good humor. I will miss working with you, but you deserve a break! Enjoy all your new free time with family and friends – but don't be a stranger! I look forward to seeing you around the Office, hearing you in the Choir, and seeing you at the Altar. May God bless you for all that you have given in service to our parish.

All of you have a part in the life and ministry of this parish and we would not be St. Christopher's without you. Thank you to all of you: Women's Guild, Altar Guild, Coffee Hour Hosts, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Lectors, Shelter Lunch Bakers and Servers, Choir, Hand Chime Choir, Ushers and Greeters, Godly Play Leaders, Bargain Box Worker Bees. We need and appreciate each and all of you. Thank you for loving God, loving your neighbor, and changing the world!

With love and admiration,

Ann+

2023 STAFF

The Rev. Ann Kidder	Rector
Yuri Sato McElliott	Director of Music/Organist
Mary Zup	Parish Administrator
Luis Calvo	Sexton, Sunday Porter
Lucy Calvo	Churchkeeper
Peggy Reda	Director of Faith Development (thru 4/30)
Melanie Reda	Nursery Director (thru 4/16)
Andria Calvo	Nursery Director (started 5/7)
Jolyon Welsh	Sunday Porter (thru 4/20)
Tellerd Organization, Ltd.	Bookkeeper

2023 VESTRY

Becky Everett	Class of 2023 Senior Warden
Charlene Currutt	Class of 2023 Junior Warden
Ronald Lee	Class of 2023
Renee Kolecki	Class of 2024
Bruce Long	Class of 2024
Peter Thatcher	Class of 2024
Judy Holmes	Class of 2025
Matt Vazzana	Class of 2025
Barb Pesuit	Class of 2025 Resigned May 2023
Rich Radis	Class of 2025 Replaced Barb Pesuit
Mary Murray	Treasurer



Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of The Parish of St. Christopher by-the-River
Held March 5, 2023
Respectfully Submitted, Becky Everett, Clerk pro-tem

The Annual Meeting of St. Christopher by the River was called to order by Mother Ann at 11:18 AM. Mother Ann led the opening prayer.

Becky Everett was appointed clerk *pro-tem*. A quorum of communicants in good standing was confirmed. Rik Bole moved to accept the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting and was seconded. The motion passed.

Mother Ann summarized the state of the parish from the Annual Report. She thanked the staff for their dedication and hard work, and she thanked the off going Vestry members, Judy Holmes, Mary Holmes and Charley Marston, as well as the off going NEMAC representative, Laura Cotton.

Mary Murray provided a quick financial review of the past year which was very positive.

Both Judy Holmes and Laura Cotton have said they will continue on in their respective roles.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Nominating Committees slate of officers:

Judy Holmes, Barb Pesuit and Matt Vazzana for 3 year terms on Vestry

Charlene Currutt for a one year term on Vestry, completing Sandy Redmond's unfinished term.

Laura Cotton for a two year term as the parish's representative on NEMAC.

The Motion passed.

New Vestry Members will attend a brief vestry meeting in the parish office immediately following the Annual Meeting. There was a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 11:35 AM. A dismissal by Deacon Lydia Bailey followed.



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Charlene Currutt

I would like to start my junior warden's annual report by informing you how safe our church is for you. Every year there are many, many inspections, and maintenance and repairs happening. Just to name a few of our annual inspections:

- Fire extinguishers
- Fire alarms & sprinklers
- Boilers and furnaces
- Elevator
- Air conditioners

SPRING of 2023 began by giving GODS HOUSE a facelift!

- A fresh coat of paint not only to church but including gutters and downspouts.
- Reconstruction of the church entrance, rectory side: porch, stairs, railings, and walkways.
- New sanitation PVC installed.
- Erosion control along with spectacular landscaping near the footbridge.

SUMMER continued to keep our parishioners busy with enhancing the flower beds and transplanting.

This FALL a new front porch and railings were installed at the rectory. It is now safe to knock on Mother Anns front door!



I cannot complete my annual report without thanking and singing praise to our CHURCH CAREGIVERS, Lucy and Luis Calvo. We notice the big and little things you do!



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Becky Everett

2023 has been quite a busy year. We began with a Vestry Retreat where the Vestry identified the strengths of St. Christopher's – leadership, service and outreach being at the top. The Vestry wanted to concentrate on children's faith formation as well as building the next generation of the parish. The importance of improving fellowship events was also emphasized.

The 2024 Day by Day calendars to benefit the Men's Shelter were printed and sales began in the summer. They continued through the rest of the year. To date, St. Christopher's has donated close to \$2000 to the Men's Shelter to purchase daily RTA bus passes! Thank you to all who gave favorite quotes to fill the calendar as well as everyone who purchased these calendars! Gratitude also goes out to all who were involved with the Holiday Dinner at LMM in December. Between the making of casseroles, the baking of cookies and serving the meal at the shelter, there were many volunteers who gave their time and talents to this special ministry.

With emphasis being placed on children's faith formation, Godly Play materials were purchased and a classroom on the second floor is now dedicated to this program. Godly Play allows children to explore the mystery of God's presence in their lives by listening to Bible stories, wondering and playing with the materials.

With Peggy and Melanie Reda retiring from their many wonderful years of service with our children, St. Christopher's began searching for a new Christian Education Director. We spoke with many of the young families to find out what they wanted for their children when it came to faith development. We have not found an individual to fill this position yet, but two wonderful parishioners volunteered to be trained in the Godly Play curriculum and spent some time in the nursery with a few of our youngest parishioners last Fall. With the crazy demands of life that our families have to face, we have not gotten the regular attendance at Sunday School that we had anticipated, but we are dedicated to finding out how we can best support our young families.



We had a number of Fellowship events this year! The Pentecost Picnic last Spring at Marston Park was a huge success as was Rally Sunday this past September! The recent Twelfth Night Party held in our Fellowship Hall at St. Christopher's this past January was lovely, and many people attended and enjoyed delicious food and meaningful fellowship! The Pancake Breakfast is as popular as ever, and, finally, Lenten Simple Suppers are back during Lent after having been absent for a few years due to Covid. These are always enjoyable evenings with various themes for discussion during dinner.



It has been a very rewarding year working with our outstanding Junior Warden, Charlene Currutt. She led us through a very busy year of capitol projects and various repairs and improvements. Her dedication is unmatched and her love for this church and this community is very evident! It has been my honor to work with her this past year, and I have no doubt of her continued dedication to this parish.

Lastly, I would like to say what a joy it has been to know and work with Mother Ann over the past 6 years on Vestry. Her steady leadership, her unending love for this parish, her nurturing counsel, and her reassuring smile and presence have been invaluable to me and the parish as a whole! We have grown by leaps and bounds since she walked through our doors 10 years ago, and she has helped us reach the point where we are at now – about to enter into a new day and embark on a promising period of growth and development that is very exciting!

MUSIC REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Yuri Sato McElliott, Director of Music

This year, our exciting news was that we got three new members to our choir!

Larry and Tommy(father and son) Richmond joined us and we have fuller sound on men's section. Cally Hoyt joined us and now we are double in soprano section! It has been such a delight to have them to our choir family.

I would like to thank all of our choir members, Becky Everett, Chandler H. Everett, Chandler P. Everett, Cally Hoyt, Lucy Lytle, Sue Marston, Larry Richmond, Tommy Richmond, Fran Sarkisian and Gretchen Fisher for singing and playing the hand chimes for Sunday services and especially Easter and Christmas Eve. Thanks to Becky Everett for playing the Carillon. Your hard work and unique talents are appreciated by the entire congregation. Thank you very much everybody.



Our Christmas Eve service was very exciting. Not only our adult and hand chime choirs but Chandler Everett, Lucy Lytle and Randy Cole's reading added more exciting for the choir prelude music. And a Trumpet player, Dan McGinley (grandson of Neal and Ron Lee) was fantastic adding more joyful sounds to the festive Christmas Hymns! Thank you all.

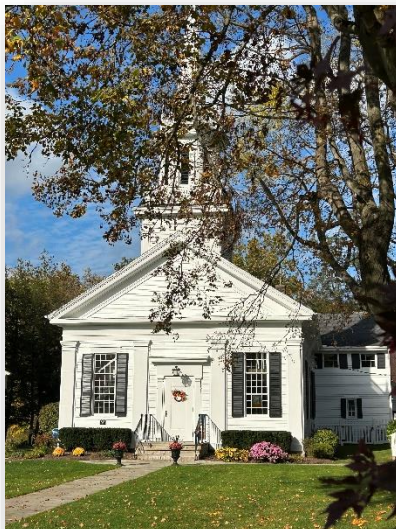
We are always looking for new members to join the Adult Choir, Hand chime choir, and Junior Choir. If you are at all interested, please contact me. In addition, if you play a musical instrument, we would love to have you join us!

2023 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Becky Everett

The 2024 Annual Giving Campaign Team (Becky Everett, Debbie Cole, Laura Cotton, Judy Holmes, Lucy Lytle, Leslie Marting, Barb Pesuit, Kitty Thomas, Jan Tuttle and Kathy Vilas) is so grateful for the outstanding generosity of the people of St. Christopher's! The church has received 80 pledges for 2024 totaling more than \$185,000! Our "Dawn of a New Day" promises to be spectacular as we continue to move forward following the Holy Spirit wherever She leads!

As promised, Becky Everett will give a carillon concert sometime this spring or summer to celebrate St. Christopher's reaching both its pledge goal of 80 formal pledges as well as the goal of \$185,000 in financial support!



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S FUND REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Kurt Liljedahl

Fund A:

Market value on 12/31/2023: \$2,588,323.31
Investment and Admin Fees in 2023: \$16,855.53
Tax Preparation Fee: \$1,000

Fund B:

Market value as of 12/31/2023: \$100,636.47
Investment and Admin Fees in 2023 \$640.26
Tax Preparation Fee: \$1000

In accordance with the spending policy for the year 2023, the Fund *distributed a total of \$138,921.64* to St. Christopher by-the-River's operating funds. Distributions are made on a quarterly basis.

Total gifts to the fund in 2023 were \$6,470. We wish to recognize and thank our donors for their generous support. Their kindness will have a major impact on the financial security of St. Christopher by-the-River.

Those interested in including St. Christopher's Fund in their charitable contributions and/or estate plans should contact Charley Marston, Treasurer of St. Christopher Fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mary Murray

Support from the congregation has increased for the third year in a row after the pandemic-related trough of 2020. Although we had forecast a small deficit for the year, we received two significant, unbudgeted gifts in late December that provided a surplus of over \$37 thousand. In addition, pledge activity was very strong this past Fall, and we are confident that this will help us manage an expected increased expense load in 2024. Support from the St. Christopher Fund has been consistent.

On the expense side, we provided raises for all staff although these took place slightly later than budgeted, and our utilities expenses were not as high as we had conservatively estimated. These 'savings' were offset by other expenses that primarily reflected higher usage of the church, and actual expenses came in very close to budget.

Our balance sheet remains strong and liquid.

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Pledges and Plate	\$ 248,276	\$ 218,581	\$ 233,059	\$ 256,988	\$ 240,000	\$ 277,461	\$ 250,500
St. Christopher's Fund	\$ 127,612	\$ 131,706	\$ 130,942	\$ 139,240	\$ 139,000	\$ 138,922	\$ 141,096
Other Income	\$ 22,735	\$ 19,217	\$ 61,374	\$ 23,956	\$ 31,500	\$ 31,278	\$ 30,000
Total Receipts	\$ 398,623	\$ 369,504	\$ 425,375	\$ 420,184	\$ 410,500	\$ 447,661	\$ 421,596
Outside Parish Expenses	\$ 54,319	\$ 54,559	\$ 53,581	\$ 54,884	\$ 57,690	\$ 55,731	\$ 58,452
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 266,665	\$ 272,231	\$ 265,816	\$ 270,073	\$ 279,184	\$ 275,598	\$ 279,616
Operating Expenses	\$ 76,165	\$ 77,932	\$ 71,377	\$ 77,132	\$ 82,340	\$ 78,329	\$ 88,550
Total Expenses	\$ 397,149	\$ 404,722	\$ 390,774	\$ 402,089	\$ 419,214	\$ 410,017	\$ 426,618
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 1,474	\$ (35,218)	\$ 34,601	\$ 18,095	\$ (8,714)	\$ 37,644	\$ (5,022)
Surplus/Deficit Excluding PPP Loan Forgiveness			\$ (8,199)				

Balance Sheet Highlights

Cash and Liquid Invs	\$545,597	\$579,147	\$ 791,645	\$ 666,218
Current Liabilities	\$ 60,761	\$119,513	\$ 109,417	\$ 67,489
Capital and Organ Reserve Funds	\$269,101	\$280,910	\$ 322,341	\$ 288,043
All Other Reserves	\$ 51,492	\$ 34,732	\$ 131,044	\$ 129,121
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$164,244	\$143,993	\$ 228,843	\$ 181,565

\$ 724,910
\$ 80,587
\$ 250,806
\$ 211,102
\$ 263,002

ALTAR GUILD REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Sue Marston

The Altar Guild membership is comprised of the women listed below who prepare the altar each Sunday and for all weddings and funerals.

Prior to the Christmas and Easter services, we decorate the church with flowers donated by the church members. Palm crosses are provided for Palm Sunday.

The Altar Guild women are dedicated in their service to the church. We appreciate the time and talent they give.

Michelle Brocket '23	Teri Ianni '16
Sally Conley '09	Neal Lee '16
Laura Cotton '16	Sue Marston '91
Renee Kolecki '19	Carolyn Miscsko '93
Lucy Lytle '20	Courtney Schmidt '19
Leslie Marting '20	Alison Wolf '23

DIRECTORESS:	Sue Marston
FLOWERS:	Carolyn Miscsko,
WEDDINGS:	Sally Conley, Sue Marston, Lucy Lytle
LINENS:	Sally Conley

Emeritus Members: Polly Bixler '95, Helen Cicirello '85



ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
Respectfully Submitted by Becky Everett

The Daughters of the King is an order whose members undertake a Rule of Life which incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. Each Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. We are also dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of the parish.

We have four Daughters here at St. Christopher by the River. Becky Everett, Kathy Pender, Annette Lowe and Debbie Cole. We would welcome anyone who has an interest in becoming a Daughter. Please feel free to contact any one of us. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have and help you to determine if this group is the right one for you.

Please remember that there is a prayer box in the narthex where you can place any prayer(s) you wish. We promise to add those people/prayers to our daily prayer list, keeping the request totally confidential.

If you are looking to enhance your spiritual life and gain a devoted, caring sisterhood, please consider joining our order. The following is the Motto of the Order:

For His Sake...

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?

SUNDAY SERVANTS REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mary Zup

A special thank you to John Irwin for the recording, editing, and posting of weekly services online. We thank all the Parishioners who were involved in our Church Services in 2023.

LECTORS

Michelle Brockett	Teri Ianni	Charley Marston
Becky Everett	John Irwin	Dixon Morgan
Chandler Everett	Renee Kolecki	Fran Sarkisian
Chandler H. Everett	Neal Lee	Courtney Schmidt
Jaes Gallagher	Ron Lee	Kitty Thomas
Judy Holmes	Annette Lowe	Brian Wright
	Lucy Lytle	

USHERS

Laura Cotton
Charlene Currutt
Nancy Irwin
Kurt Liljedahl
Neal Lee
Ron Lee
Leslie Marting
Dixon Morgan
Peter Thatcher
Alison Wolf
Brian Wright

The following ministries require training by the Rector, or diocesan approved trainer, and a license from the Bishop of Ohio to serve for three-year terms. Those licensed serve at the direction, and under the supervision of, the Rector.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers are licensed to serve the Chalice at Communion during services of public worship.

Randy Cole	Dale Gndt	Hayley Kosmatka	Dixon Morgan
Becky Everett	John Irwin	Charley Marston	Melanie Reda
Chandler Everett	Eric Jayne	Fran Meyers	Kitty Thomas

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

Eucharistic Visitors are licensed to administer Communion, with previously consecrated bread and wine, to baptized members of the parish who are unable to attend public worship. Mother Ann provided all home communions during 2023.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship Leaders are licensed to officiate at non-Eucharistic public worship services, in the parish and at outside institutions. Serving as worship leaders in 2023 were:

John Irwin Charley Marston Becky Everett

HOSTESS REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Zup

Thank you to those who provided their time and savories & sweets for coffee hour. These women volunteer to do this anywhere from four to EIGHT times a year in order to bring you coffee hour. Please contact the office if you would like to support this ministry and volunteer for a Sunday or two.

Elise Bennett	Becky Everett	Nancy Irwin	Sue Marston
Laura Cotton	Judy Holmes	Neal Lee	Mary Murray
Charlene Currutt	Mary Holmes	Lucy Lytle	Sabrina Salerno
			Heidi Schmidt

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Sue Marston, Guild President

The Women's Guild is comprised of ALL women of the church. Every woman is a member and hopefully will be active in the projects and activities during the coming year. We need your ideas and participation.

Activities planned by the Guild Board during 2023 were:

1. March – A wonderful Lenten program at trinity Cathedral
2. September – a successful Bargain Box under the new leadership of Melanie Reda. Outreach donations made from our profits are listed below.
3. November – a visit to the beautiful creche display held by Church of the Latter-Day Saints in Kirtland
4. December – assistance with the Christmas backpacks for Episcopal Westside Ministries funded and organized by Randy & Debbie Cole.



Thank you to all volunteers who aid the Guild throughout the year in carrying out its mission.

WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Elise Bennett, Guild Treasurer

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S GUILD 2023 INCOME & DISBURSEMENTS AS OF 12/31/23

		<u>2023 INCOME</u>
<u>INCOME SOURCE</u>		
BARGAIN BOX INCOME		14,631.02
CALENDAR SALES		160.00
STATIONERY SALES		26.00
BANK INTEREST		0.82
	INCOME	\$ 14,817.84
<u>INREACH 2023 LESS EXPENSES/ DISBURSEMENTS</u>		
Guild Inreach Programs		716.74
Guild Room Repairs---Painting etc		567.56
Savings: Guild Rm Carpet		2,000.00
	INREACH BALANCE	\$ 3,284.30
<u>OUTREACH 2023 EXPENSES/ DISBURSEMENTS</u>		
Bargain Box		2,737.69
Cleveland Food Bank		1,750.00
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem		250.00
St. Luke's Epsicopal Church -formerly Episc. Westside Ministry		2,500.00
Gathering Place		300.00
Hospice		300.00
New Directions		400.00
WomenSafe		500.00
City Mission		1,000.00
Lutheran Ministry		2,000.00
	OUTREACH EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 11,737.69

STEPHEN MINISTRY REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Pender

“Love one another ---as I have loved you.”
-John 13:34

The Stephen Ministry continues to provide Christian care to parishers at St. Christopher's , as well as support to one another in the group.

May 7th 2024 will be the Stephen Ministry's anniversary of 7 years since their commissioning. Sadly , the group has lost two dedicated Stephen Ministers in the past two years due to death.. We miss them at our meetings and discussions.

This group has given companionship and loving care to several St. Christopher's members as well as to those in the community. Individuals who may be experiencing loneliness, grief, illness , loss of a job , a change in their living arrangement , or other reasons have had the opportunity to have a Stephen Minister be a friend by their side when needed,

Stephen Ministers provide many hours of emotional and spiritual care to members of our parish , as well as friends outside of church. These relationships are personal and confidential. Periodically the group meets with Mother Ann to update her on what the program is experiencing during the year.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to facilitate this program and to have spiritual friends continue to be with me in this journey.

GRIEF GROUP
Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Pender

The Grief Support Group has continued to meet on Tuesday evenings as scheduled on Zoom from 6:60-8:00 pm. This group is offered on two Tuesdays a month on Zoom from 6:30 pm -8:00 pm. The group is offered to members of St. Christopher's parish as well as the community. The dates and times are posted in the church newsletter.

After a loss in one's life, people experience a wide variety of feelings and emotions. These ever-changing emotions can catch us off guard, causing us to often act differently than we are used to and to have feelings we often do not understand.

The group of men and women offers companionship and understanding from one another as they share their painful journey of grieving. Educational materials are offered to help the group understand some of the emotions and behaviors that they are experiencing. Sharing their own experiences with others helps them in the healing process.

It has been my privilege to be the facilitator of this group of people who have the courage to share their stories and feelings that are painful.



2023 NEMAC Annual Report
Respectfully Submitted by Linda Sylor, NEMAC Secretary

Background

Purpose. NEMAC — Northeast Mission Area Council — meets quarterly to consider awarding small mission grant requests from two or more collaborating parishes. NEMAC lay reps serve a two-year term.

Member Parishes. *Christ Church*, Geneva; *Epiphany*, Euclid; *Good Shepherd*, Lyndhurst; *Grace*, Willoughby; *St. Andrew*, Mentor; *St. Bart*, Mayfield Village; *St. Christopher*, Gates Mills; *St. Hubert*, Kirtland Hills; *St. James*, Painesville; *St. Luke*, Chardon; *St. Martin*, Chagrin Falls; *St. Peter*, Ashtabula.

Meetings and Attendance. We thank Mother Rose Anne Lonsway, Father Jeff Baker and Elizabeth Estep at Grace Church for hosting three meetings this year. Average meeting attendance this year was 15.

Leadership Roles

Father Chris McCann, St. Luke and Peter Batcheller, St. Christopher served as chair and co-chair. Father Peter Nielsen handled our treasury — and was our Diocesan Council representative. Nancy Geiger, Epiphany, Diocesan Council also provided reporting. Thank you, all! [Note: As of January 15, 2024, St. James will provide treasurer services for NEMAC. Thank you, Mother Rachel — and Darrell Knapp!]

Grants Approved

<i>Month</i>	<i>Requestors</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
Jul.	St. Martin, St. Hubert	Striving for Hope Walk/Donations	\$500	Walk proceeds to support a spiritual retreat for victims of human trafficking, sponsored by the Renee Jones Empowerment Center.
Oct.	Christ Church, St. Peter	Christmas Meals Program Gift Bags	\$250	Purchase of food and small holiday treats in gift bags for meal recipients Christmas week.
		Total	\$750.00	

NEMAC Group Collaboration Mission Considerations

During the year, we discussed finding opportunities to collaborate as a mission-wide area group in support of a common project. Programs such as Neighbor-to-Neighbor from The Episcopal Foundation and/or other northeast Ohio non-profit organization opportunities will be explored beginning with our April 2024 meeting.



OUTREACH AT LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY

Respectfully Submitted by Deacon Lydia Bailey

I am so grateful for this parish, how you have been an ongoing presence at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men's Shelter since 2017. A big step forward was when the Women's Guild began serving lunch in 2018 and others came on board for an art workshop, poetry, and the listening program. Beginning in 2022 St. Christopher's has teamed with St. Paul's Episcopal to serve lunch on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Every other month our parishes join in providing the food as well. Beginning in 2023 both parishes have also hosted a large evening meal in December, no small feat for up to 350 shelter residents.

In 2023 parishioners created a Day-by-Day calendar for 2024, your daily quotes combining with quotes from shelter residents. This creative effort raised \$1,971 from calendar sales with all proceeds going to the shelter for bus passes for shelter residents.

Bargain Box in 2023 continued to be an extraordinarily successful parish effort, with a \$2,000 check given to the Housing & Shelter branch of LMM, for the renovation of more affordable homes for families transitioning out of homelessness.

\$701.00 (to be exact!) was donated by Addie's Cup in Gates Mills to St. Christopher's, the proceeds of last September's tips. This parish generously passed this on directly to the shelter for purchase of winter boots for shelter residents.

Thank you to everyone. What you have done here at the shelter is a powerful image for the vocation of Christian service, living into our identity as a parish that serves.

THANK YOU to all those who donated in any way to St. Christopher's in 2023:

AA
Mr. M. Stacey Alatis
Mrs. Joan Allgood
Ms. Marcia Alpers
Mr. & Mrs. Djifa Amefia
The Rev Mary Sterrett Anderson
The Rev. Deacon Lydia Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. William Barnes, IV
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Batcheller
Mr. W. Stuart Bates
Mrs. Jane Battles
Ms. Laura Bauschard
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bennett
Ms. Betsy Berlin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Bixler IV
Mrs. Polly Bixler
Mr. Barbara Blossom
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bole
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Boswell
Mr. Gabor Brachna
Mr. & Mrs. Sam & Alex Brenner
Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Michelle Brockett
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Broome

Ms. Meg Burgess
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Butler
Ms. Lisa Cellura
Mr. Bill Champ
Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Cicirello
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Cole
Mr. Dan Collister
Ms. Sally Conley
Ms. Cindy Costello-Mandes
Miss Laura Cotton
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Currutt
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Currutt
Ms. Barbara Ann Davis
Dr. & Mrs. Baz & Mona DeBaz
Mr. & Mrs. David Dickenson II
Mr. Douglas Dolch
Mr. & Mrs. Chandler Everett
Mr. & Mrs. Chandler & Becky Everett
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Everett
Ms. Marilyn Fisher
Ms. Susan Gallop
Mr. Dale Gnantt
Ms. Katharine Goss

Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Gray
Mr. & Ms. Mark & Michelle Hatfield
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hauserman
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hellman
Mr. & Ms. Stephen Hildebrandt
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Holmes
Mr. Tom Holmes
Mr. Douglas & Dr. McCallum Hoyt
Mrs. Marguerite Humphrey
Ms. Teri Ianni
Ms. Ellen Ilkanic
Dr. & Mrs. John & Nancy Irwin
Mr. & Mrs. Clarke Jones
Ms. Ellie Kendrick
The Rev. & Mr. Ann Kidder & Ted Fletcher
The Klinginsmith Family
Ms. Renee Kolecki
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lafave & Ms. Victoria Mills
Mr. & Mrs. James LaMantia
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Lammers
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Liljedahl
Mr. & Mrs. Jon & Ginny Lindseth
Mr. & Mrs. G. Russel Lincoln
Ms. Madision Littlejohn
Mrs. Hope Lomas
Dr. Bruce Long
Ms. Loni Lorenz
Mrs. Gladys Loth
Ms. Annette Lowe
Ms. Lucy Lytle
Mrs. Tillie Malm
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Manning
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Marston
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Marting
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce & Ellen Mavec
Mr. William McCoy
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. McMullen
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Meyers
Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Stephanie Miller
Mrs. Barbara W. Miller
Mr. & Ms. James Miller
Mrs. Carolyn Miscko
Mr. & Mrs. James Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. John Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Mlakar
Mr. & Mrs. Dixon Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Murphy

Mr. & Mrs. Larry & Mary Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Negrelli
Mrs. Joseph Nook
Ms. Nancy Novello
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Osolin
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pender
Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Barb Pesuit
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Pistell
Ms. Mary Podwoski
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Pucell
Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Hayley Radis
Mrs. Jean Ramsey
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Rankin
Mrs. Peggy A. Reda
Mr. Bill Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. George Richards
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Richmond
Mrs. Francine Sarkisian
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Scaminace
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel & Courtney Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. William Spring
Mr. Jim Stafford
Mrs. Dolores Storer
Ms. & Mr. Linda & Eric Saylor
Mr. Peter B. Thatcher
The Veale Foundation
Mrs. Kitty Thomas
Mrs. Elizabeth Tone
Ms. Jan Tuttle
Mrs. Iris Vail
Mr. Thomas V. H. Vail Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius J. Van Hoek
Mr. & Mrs. Bennett Vandertill
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vary
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Vazzana
Ms. Linda Ventimiglia
Ms. Kathleen L. Vilas
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Warren
Weitzel Family Foundation
Mrs. Jean Weitzel
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Wenham
Mr. & Mrs. John & Gail West
Mr. & Mrs. David & Alison Wolf
Mr. Brian Wright
Mr. & Mrs. David Young
Mr. Justin Zickel & Ms. Sabrina Salerno
Mrs. Mary Zup

Opening Prayer: 6:31pm..

In attendance: Reverend Ann Kidder, Ron Lee, Becky Everett, Peter Thatcher, Judy Holmes, Rich Radis, Renee Kolecki

Reviewed minutes; Ron moved to accept November minutes as corrected; Becky seconded the motion and all approved. No discussion.

Rector's Report: No End of month financial report from Tellard.

Senior Warden's Report:

Review of Vestry nominations. Will meet Dec. 17th to discuss positions. Rector provided list of those members in good standing/eligible to be nominated. This will be completed by January 18, 2024:

Ron and Char are eligible for second three- year terms.

One nomination is needed to complete the final year of Renee's three-year term. Rich completed first year of Barb P.'s term and will be nominated to fill the remaining two-years of her three-year term. Laura Cotton agreed to be nominated for NMAC.

Stewardship update: pledges are slowing down, but still trickling in. Goal is \$185K, but is a stretch goal. \$165, 000 has been pledged, which is close to last year's goal.

Building and grounds update (Char's report.):

Rectory steps have been finished. Same company was to do railing, but hasn't yet responded. Railing not included in the price of the steps. Char found another company and will meet to discuss.

A leak in the Fellowship Hall has been repaired. Luis was able to do it inexpensively.

Fun Committee Report: Twelfth Night Party.

Food assignments have been delegated. Nancy Irwin is part of the planning committee.

Char would like hard copy invites to be mailed via USPS. Char would print invitations and mail. Ron agrees with hard-copy invitation and Flocknote. Announcements will be made in Church.

Regarding expense coverage, contact Mary Zup to see balance for Special Events line item in budget. Would be last expense of 2023 or first of 2024.

Mother Ann cautioned against asking parents to plan Christian Ed/activities. Rich suggested coloring as not much would be needed or required to prepare; paper crowns and poppers were also suggested.

Will have cake with a prize; perhaps we will have a smaller cake for children.

Ron suggested all parishioners should be invited to bring food to event.

Meeting ended with a prayer at 7:13pm.

Next meeting: January 17th at 6:30pm.

In attendance: Reverend Ann Kidder, Becky Everett, Charlene Currutt, Ron Neal, Bruce Long, Rich Radis, Judy Holmes, Peter Thatcher, Renee Kolecki, Mary Murray

Reverend Ann Kidder opened meeting with a prayer at 6:30 pm.

December Vestry minutes: Becky moved to accept minutes as corrected and Peter seconded. All approved, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mary Murray attended the meeting to review and answer questions regarding the proposed 2024 budget.

Becky moved to approve the 2024 Operating Budget as presented. Ron seconded. All approved, no opposition. Motion passed.

Rector's Report: Mother Ann shared that the Parochial Report is due March 1st and must be ratified at the next meeting, signed by the Clerk and submitted by 3-1-24. Tonight, Mother Ann will email short-answer questions to Vestry members who are to respond and email back; she will compile answers.

Senior Warden's Report: Report of the Nominating Committee has been posted:

Ron Lee and Charlene Currutt are nominated for second three-year term;

John Irwin has been nominated for a three-year term.

Rich Radis is being nominated for a two-year term to complete an unexpired three-year term.

Kitty Thomas is being nominated for a one-year term to complete an unexpired three-year term.

Laura Cotton has been nominated for NEMAC.

Becky expresses thanks to all on the committee.

Pancake breakfast will be held Sunday, February 11th after the 10:15 service. John Irwin and Charley Marston will oversee the event. If any Vestry men are interested in helping, contact them. Ron will provide names of people who have helped in the past.

Lenten Simple Suppers, previously well-attended but discontinued since Covid, will be up and running this year. There will be four Wednesday suppers, beginning February 28th from 6pm-7:30. Soup, salad and attendance sign-up sheets will be posted.

An Agape meal will be held on Maundy Thursday; a separate sign-up sheet will be provided.

Suggestion for "gratitude gifts." Checks of any amount, given to the Church as a reflection of gratitude for something in parishioners' lives. Will go toward operating expenses and will be brought to the altar during the announcements to be blessed. Will further discuss in February.

Junior Warden's Report: Furnace, which was recently repaired, is 25+ years old; had a warranty for ten years. The Junior Warden will obtain 3 estimates for possible replacement of the furnace.

The dishwasher in the Fellowship Hall also needs to be replaced. Water temperature does not heat enough to sanitize dishes. Commercial unit is not needed. John Irwin and Char Currutt will meet with Bloom Brothers to discuss possibilities.

Future Agenda items:

- Ratify Parochial report
- Guidelines for parish events
- Security/safety plan
- Dishwasher update

Meeting adjourned with a prayer at 7:31pm

Adult Forum/ SIMPLE SUPPERS

Throughout Lent, we will be discussing our spiritual gifts. Each Sunday, an activity will be presented and each Wednesday, with the Simple Supper, a follow up discussion will take place.



Simple Suppers (Soup and Salad only) will be held four Wednesdays (Feb 28, Mar 6, 13, 20)

in Lent. Please sign up on the bulletin board (or call the office) if you plan on attending and indicate if you can provide the soup or salad for that week.

Bargain Box Pre-Sorts

MON, March 4th 9:30-11:30

MON, March 11th 9:30-11:30

WED, March 27th 9:30-11:30

Bargain Box will be held, Friday, April 26th.



- 1 Ann Mitchell
- 2 Jean Weitzel
Justin Zickel
- 10 Jolyon Welsh
- 12 Peter DeBaz
- 15 Caroline Jones
Clarke Jones
- 16 Chuck Bixler
Peter Mitchell
- 19 Scott Broome
- 20 Ann Kidder
- 22 Crystal Zittkowski
- 26 Kitty Thomas
- 27 Judy Holmes
Leslie Marting
- 28 Annette Lowe
- 29 Anne Barnes
- 30 Leland Morris
- 31 Emery Vazzana

Food Pantry March



Dry Cereal,
Oatmeal (regular/instant)
Breakfast bars



FLOWER DEDICATIONS FEBRUARY 2024

In loving memory of:

- Michael Pender by his parents, Kathy & Jim Pender
- Rindy Collister & Janet Hargrave by Becky & Chandler Everett
- Mark & Paula Ianni by Teri Ianni
- James Gough by The Misco & Pucell Families

SUNDAY MARCH 3			MONDAY - 4	TUESDAY - 5	WEDNESDAY-6	THURSDAY-7	FRIDAY- 8	SATURDAY-9
8 am Holy Eucharist 10:15 am Holy Eucharist		9AM Adult Forum 	Mother Ann Vacation					
EM: NO SERVICE	John Irwin		OFFICE OPEN 11-3 9:30-11:30 BB Presort	4:00 Prayer Shawl Group	6-8 Simple Supper	OFFICE CLOSED		
LECTOR: NO SERVICE	Fran Sarkisian & Brian Wright							
ALTAR: Sally Conley	Carolyn Misco							
USHERS NA	Brian Wright & Nancy Irwin							
HOSTESSES	Nancy Irwin & Neal Lee				8:00 AA			

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

March 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

MARCH 12 & 26

6:30-8:00 PM

To attend, please contact Kathy Pender:
440-463-7378 or kp@momshrink.com

Adult FORUM

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

See inside.

St. Christopher by-the-River

SUN, MAR 3

One Service only @ 10:15 a.m



Lent

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

WED, MAR 6, 13, 20

Soup Suppers – 6-8PM



MAUNDY THURSDAY, MAR 28

5:30 PM– Agape Supper

GOOD FRIDAY, MAR 29

12:00 PM – Holy Eucharist

7:00 PM– Holy Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY, MAR 31

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist

Easter Egg Hunt!