



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

I honestly don't know where the month of April went! We are hurtling through The Great Fifty Days of Easter; the season in our church year when we live with the vividness of Christ's resurrection in the forefront of our worship and our daily lives. One of my favorite Easter Hymns is number 204. The tune is a medieval French carol, *Noel nouvelet*, and the words are by John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958). We rarely sing it, perhaps because it is written in a minor key, but there is something about the tune and the words in concert that lift my heart toward God's promise to us all of life that transcends, indeed over comes, death.

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,  
Thinking that never he would wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain,  
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Thy touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Here in the northern hemisphere, we see signs of new life breaking forth all around us. The season of Spring is particularly welcome in northeast Ohio, even in the wake of a mild winter. The divine calling forth of new life, in nature and in us, is a gift given with generosity and love. How are the fields of your heart? Are you "wintery"? Do you need the touch of God's lifegiving love?

The seventh chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew is a series of Jesus' wisdom saying. Verses seven and eight are an encouragement to be persistent in our desire and longing for receiving all that God would give to us. "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

Whatever the present "season" of your heart, be persistent in asking, seeking, knocking. God will respond in ways that perhaps only you will recognize. The Love that chose to become One with us in the birth and death of Jesus Christ has made us One with him in his resurrection.

May Easter joy fill your hearts,

Ann+

## VESTRY UPDATES

**MINUTES FEB 21**

**Ron Lee (substitute clerk)**

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

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

Draft minutes of the January 17 Vestry meeting were reviewed, and a number of corrections and clarifications identified. Becky moved to accept the corrected minutes. Ron Lee seconded the motion, and the motion was passed with no one opposed.

Charlene made an extensive report on several maintenance issues:

1. The costs of repairs to the Fellowship Hall dishwasher of \$240 and the cost of the regulator.
2. The need to replace the ailing 25 -30-year-old furnace: Charlene has procured three bids to replace it from Nolan, WF Hann, and Burton Sheetmetal. Burton Sheet Metal's bid was the lowest at \$7,200. dollars. Bruce expressed concern about the reported short 5-year warranty for the furnace proposed; however, all three vendors utilized the same unit in their respective bids so there appears to be few alternatives for that style furnace. It was reported that the new unit would be significantly more efficient than the old unit. A possibility was mentioned that the Figgie Foundation might consider the funding for it. However, since a new furnace is required, it was decided to proceed with the procurement in any case. It was reported that Burton Sheetmetal has been a very responsive and effective vendor at St, Christopher's. Becky made a motion, seconded by Ron, that we proceed with the procurement from Burton Sheetmetal. The motion passed unanimously.
3. A service call was necessary to address a squirrel infiltration at both the Rectory and the back of the Church. Adjustments and repairs were done and the problem seems solved for the moment.

Mary Murray, the Church treasurer, attended the meeting to participate in the review of the 2023 Parochial Report due to be delivered to the Diocese by March 1, as well as presenting the year-end financials. Mary reported the financial state of the church to be strong, particularly with the positive returns realized from some of the investment funds held by the Church. Bruce made a motion seconded by Becky to ratify the Parochial Report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Parochial Report to the Diocese requires the signature of the Rector, the Treasurer, and the Clerk of the Vestry. Since Renee was not in attendance at the meeting, Becky was approved by the Vestry as pro tem Secretary so that she can sign for Renee.

Becky reported that she is preparing a parish event guideline document to assist in preparing for holding special events at the church. She also spoke with the Gates Mill Chief of Police who responded positively to their department's ability to aid in the development of a security plan for St. Christopher's.

Mother Ann thanked those who have completed their term of service on the Vestry and particularly cited Becky for her consecutive six years of service during which she made extensive contributions and served terms as both Junior and Senior Warden. Bruce suggested that her contributions be recognized at a special Coffee Hour gathering. The recommendation was heartily endorsed by the full Vestry.

The next Vestry meeting is March 3<sup>rd</sup> after the Annual Meeting. The reconstituting of the Vestry will be done, and the Vestry schedule laid out for the coming year. Mother Ann asked everyone to bring their calendars.

Future agenda items:

- New Vestry organization and schedule
- Security/safety plan
- Guidelines for parish events
- Furnace update

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 7: 33 pm.

St. Christopher-by-the-River Episcopal Church  
Special Vestry Meeting  
March 3, 2024

Prepared by: Matt Vazzana, Clerk *pro tem*

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**Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Matt Vazzana, Kitty Thomas, Rich Radis, Ron Lee, Bruce Long, Peter Thatcher, John Irwin, and Judy Holmes

Members Present via Videoconference: None.

Members Absent: Charlene Currutt

*Meeting was called to order at 11:58 AM.*

**I. Opening Prayer** by Mother Ann

**II. Appointment of Clerk *pro tem***

Matt Vazzana was unanimously selected as the Clerk *pro tem* for the Special Vestry Meeting.

**III. Nominations and Elections of Vestry Officers**

John Irwin was nominated for the position of Senior Warden by Bruce Long. Nomination seconded by Ron Lee.

Charlene Currutt was nominated for the position of Junior Warden by Peter Thatcher. Nomination seconded by Rich Radis.

Matt Vazzana was nominated for the position of Clerk by Bruce Long. Nomination seconded by Judy Holmes.

Mary Murray was nominated for the position of Treasurer by John Irwin. Nomination seconded by Rich Radis.

The above four officer nominations were voted on collectively and passed unanimously by voice vote.

**IV. Determine Day and Time of Regular Vestry Meeting**

The Vestry collectively agreed to hold Vestry Meetings for calendar year 2024 on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

**V. Authorization of Rector, Sr. Warden, and Treasurer to sign checks**

Peter Thatcher moved to authorize the Rector, Sr. Warden, and Treasurer to sign checks on behalf of the Church. Motion seconded by Bruce Long. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**VI. Authorization of Sr. Warden to enter into legal agreements on behalf of the Parish**

Matt Vazzana moved to authorize the Sr. Warden to enter into legal agreements on behalf of the Church. Motion seconded by Ron Lee. Upon voice vote, motion passed.

**VII. Closing Prayer** by Mother Ann

*Meeting was adjourned at 12:09 PM.*

*Next Vestry Meeting Scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.*

## PARISH UPDATES

### Christ who comes in the distressing disguise of the stranger...

I just love the Easter stories in which the disciples encounter the Risen Lord, especially the story of walking the road to Emmaus on that very first Easter morning when they encounter a stranger. (Luke 24:13-35) I like the small details - how the stranger comes alongside them, falls in step so naturally with them, as happens in our own chance encounters.

At first it seemed like the person who met them on the road was completely out of it. *"Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place...?"* So, they filled the stranger in about the previous week and the death of Jesus. *Note:* the disciples could have rebuffed him, as we are prone to do when someone a little different comes our way. By filling him in, the disciples put the stranger on equal footing with themselves...a beautiful touch of hospitality.

As it turned out, "the stranger" knew a bunch when he was allowed to take part in their conversation. He recalled all the way back to Moses and through the prophets and interpreted the meaning to the present. In the process, the stranger gave the disciples something they desperately needed. *Note:* I can't count the number of times I've seriously underestimated someone.

Then the disciples did a second, most open-hearted act of hospitality, inviting this stranger to stay with them as it was almost night.

*"When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened..."*

Oh! As readers, do we not feel the sense of mystery, awe, and peace of Christ coming close in this one line?

The Walk to Emmaus story was *then*, but here we are *now*. In our most everyday lives, may we *also* be open to Christ who approaches us yet, in the most unassuming guise of a stranger!

---Easter peace to you! Deacon Lydia Bailey

### Food Pantry Donations

PB&J (preferably no glass),  
Biscuit & Pancake Mixes,  
Crackers, honey, bread



**Adult Forum resumes in June.**  
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**Evening Prayer resumes in Sept.**



- 1 Finley McMillion
- 4 Larry Smith
- 5 Bridget Manning  
Jean Ramsey  
Denise Weber
- 6 Whit Champ
- 8 Charlene Currutt  
Dan McMullen
- 9 Jennifer Blossom
- 13 Renee Kolecki
- 14 Whitney Cole  
Gladys Loth
- 15 Teri Ianni
- 16 Russ Lincoln
- 17 Brandon Gray
- 19 Ryan Zittkowski
- 20 Stella Schmidt
- 22 Barbara Scovil

### FLOWER DEDICATIONS APRIL 2024


#### In loving memory of:


- Merna & Madeleine Mitchell and Jean Doerr by Kathi & Jim Mitchell
- Marcia & Helmut Alpers by Erica Alpers
- Ron Miscko by his loving family
- And to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Coty, Hank, Heather, Rob & Wesley's birthdays by their Aunt Laurie Cotton.




Our Neighbor's Cloak, an outreach ministry of St. Luke's in Cleveland, has put out a request for men's BOXER BRIEFS throughout the season of Easter. We support St. Luke's outreach ministries with our first Sunday of the month undesignated plate donations also. This supports not only


Our Neighbor's Cloak, but also their Community Meal and mobile food pantry, reaching many, many people in need in the local community. **They are currently in need of size S-M-L-XL BOXER BRIEFS** (NOT boxers and NOT briefs). They say that men come in once weekly to change their underwear and throw away the one their wearing and put on one new one which they will wear for a week. St. Luke's has already purchased some but could use neighboring parish support to refill their stocks. Thank you!

<b>SUNDAY APRIL 28</b>			<b>MONDAY - 29</b>	<b>TUESDAY - 30</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY-1</b>	<b>THURSDAY-2</b>	<b>FRIDAY- 3</b>	<b>SATURDAY-4</b>
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>9AM Adult Forum</b>		10:00 Staff Meeting				
<b>EM:</b> Kitty Thomas	James Gallagher							
<b>LECTOR:</b> Teri Ianni	Fran Sarkisian & Neal Lee							
<b>ALTAR:</b> Teri Ianni	Lucy Lytle							
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher							
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Sue Marston					8:00 AA		

<b>SUNDAY MAY 5 – BISHOP'S VISIT</b>			<b>MONDAY - 6</b>	<b>TUESDAY - 7</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY-8</b>	<b>THURSDAY- 9</b>	<b>FRIDAY- 10</b>	<b>SATURDAY- 11</b>
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>			10:00 Staff Meeting				
<b>EM:</b> NO SERVICE	John Irwin							
<b>LECTOR:</b> NO SERVICE	Becky Everett & Brian Wright							
<b>ALTAR:</b>	Laura Cotton							
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Brian Wright & Nancy Irwin							
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Becky Everett & Lucy Lytle			6:30 PM Grief		8:00 AA		

<b>SUNDAY MAY 12</b>			<b>MONDAY - 13</b>	<b>TUESDAY - 14</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY-15</b>	<b>THURSDAY- 16</b>	<b>FRIDAY- 17</b>	<b>SATURDAY-18</b>
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>			10:00 Staff Meeting				
<b>EM:</b> Charley Marston	Hayley Kosmatka							
<b>LECTOR:</b> Teri Ianni	Chandler Everett Sr. & Fran Sarkisian							
<b>ALTAR:</b> Teri Ianni	Alison Wolf							
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Ron & Neal Lee							
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Charlene Currutt					8:00 AA		11:00 Vail Memorial

<b>SUNDAY MAY 19</b>			<b>MONDAY - 20</b>	<b>TUESDAY - 21</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY-22</b>	<b>THURSDAY- 23</b>	<b>FRIDAY- 24</b>	<b>SATURDAY-25</b>
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>							
<b>EM:</b> Charley Marston	Randy Cole & Eric Jayne				<b>Mother Ann @ Clergy Conference</b>			
<b>LECTOR:</b> Annette Lowe	Fran Sarkisian & James Gallagher							
<b>ALTAR:</b> Teri Ianni	Alison Wolf					Wedding Rehearsal		
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Kurt Liljedahl & Dixon Morgan						5:30 Wedding	
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Elise Bennett			6:30 PM Grief		8:00 AA		

<b>SUNDAY MAY 26</b>			<b>MONDAY - 27</b>	<b>TUESDAY - 28</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY-29</b>	<b>THURSDAY- 30</b>	<b>FRIDAY- 31</b>	<b>SATURDAY- 1</b>
<b>8 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:15 am Holy Eucharist</b>			10:00 Staff Meeting				
<b>EM:</b> Kitty Thomas	James Gallagher							
<b>LECTOR:</b> Teri Ianni	Ron Lee & Neal Lee							
<b>ALTAR:</b> Sally Conley	Leslie Marting							
<b>USHERS</b> NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher							
<b>HOSTESSES</b>	Neal Lee				7:00 Vestry	8:00 AA		

ST. CHRISTOPHER  
BY-THE-RIVER  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
[www.stchrisbytheriver.org](http://www.stchrisbytheriver.org)

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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)

May 2024 Newsletter

**2024 Vestry**

John Irwin (2026) Sr. Warden  
Charlene Currutt (2026) Jr. Warden  
Bruce Long (2024)  
Peter Thatcher (2024)  
Kitty Thomas (2024)  
Judy Holmes (2025)  
Matt Vazzana (2025) Clerk  
Rich Radis (2025)  
Ron Lee (2026)

**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**

**Evening Prayer will resume  
after Labor Day**

**GRIEF GROUP**

**Zoom Meeting**

**MAY 7 & 21**

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

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

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



**SUNDAY MAY 5**  
**One Service @ 10:15**

**DON'T MISS IT!**