



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

DECEMBER 2024-JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

As we come to the beginning of a new Church Year and draw near to the end of our calendar year, we remain steadfast and active in our worship of God, our services and ministries to the community, and our love of one another at St. Christopher by the River.

We face the challenge of searching for our next Rector, but all of that is going well. We have formed and commissioned a broadly representative Search Committee composed of longtime members, new members, men, and women, reflecting the breadth and depth of our congregation. I am confident that our search Committee, under the guidance of our Search Consultants and our Bishop and the Canon to the Ordinary will result in our obtaining another devout, skillful, gracious and inspirational Rector. Please take every opportunity to speak with members of the Search Committee, whose names and photos are posted on the bulletin board and in our various publications, to express your wishes, hopes, desires, preferences, and needs about a new Rector.

Meanwhile our financial circumstances remain good. Our annual giving campaign has proceeded well, although I hope that in the last weeks of this year additional pledges will come in, allowing us to achieve 100% of our goal.

We have made much progress in the last several months in beginning the restoration of the Rectory. Our Junior Warden has been unbelievably busy dealing with contractors of all types and specialties to give this 174-year-old building the love and attention that it needs. We want to make that residence an attractive, comfortable and updated living space for our next Rector.

Our multiple ministries, including the Women's Guild, Bargain Box, Daughters of the King, our participation in the Lutheran Men's Shelter, and our Eucharistic Visitors have all continued unabated.

We have also been very blessed to have Supply Clergy, including especially Richard Israel and Rose Ann Lonsway, to serve as our clerical and liturgical leaders and pastoral caregivers during this time of transition. We owe much to them and look forward to their continued participation with us through the remainder of our Transition.

Lastly, we should all give great thanks to the members of our staff upon whose shoulders additional burdens have fallen during the absence of a Rector. All of our staff, Yuri McElliott, Mary Zup, Lucy, Luis and Andria Calvo, Becky Everett, our unpaid office volunteer who spends much of her life working in our office with Mary Zup, our Treasurer, Marry Murray, who labors endlessly in the deep background, keeping our finances in order, and our Junior Warden, Charlene Currutt, who has assumed essentially a full time job, caring for two very old, very beautiful, and very historic buildings. Please express your gratitude to all of them. The amount and quality of the work they do for us is truly remarkable. We could not survive without these wonderful people.

We look forward to the coming birth of our Lord through the celebration of this Advent season, as well as the coming new year with hope, faith and dedication.

Respectfully submitted

John R Irwin M.D.



Larry Richmond with Bishop Anne Jolly at the Annual Convention.

Present: Ms. Charlene Currutt, Dr. John Irwin, Ms. Judy Holmes, Dr. Bruce Long, Mr. Ron Lee, Mr. Richard Radis, and Ms. Kitty Thomas.

Dr. Irwin declared a forum was present and opened the meeting with a prayer at 7 PM. Dr. Irwin served as Acting Clerk.

Previous Minutes

The draft minutes of the Vestry meeting on August 28, 2024, were then reviewed. Upon motion, the minutes were approved as drafted.

Financial Statements

The July 2024 financial statements are not yet ready for distribution, so a review of them was deferred until the next Vestry meeting.

Junior Warden Report

The Junior Warden then reported that we are awaiting a return visit from Bob McCue, the plumber, to assess the drainage issue on the east side of the church. The solution to the seepage of water into the church basement, especially around the electrical panels, may be related either to a blocked drain from the gutters or the need for additional drainage pipes.

Ms. Currutt then reported on a number of projects ongoing in the rectory, including the recent removal of trees and stumps behind it. She received a contract for repairing the rectory roof and chimneys. These will cost less than \$2500 and do not require vestry approval.

The largest item at present relates to repairing the wood floors on the first level of the rectory. These need to be sanded, stained, and covered with polyurethane, and these estimates are all in the neighborhood of \$6000-\$10,000. The recommended contract was with Hardwood Floors by Jackson at a total cost of \$7200.80, and on motion duly made and seconded, that contract was approved.

The remaining major expense for the moment will be painting the interior of the rectory. We are waiting for the final estimates from three painters. These estimates will probably be around \$25,000.

Senior Warden Report

The Senior Warden reported that Vestry Member Matt Vazanna has indicated his desire to resign from the Vestry because of work and family commitments. On motion duly made and seconded, his resignation was, regrettably, accepted with our very best wishes to him and his family and with the hope that he and his family will continue to worship with us and continue to be part of our parish family.

The Senior Warden discussed the application of the Code of Regulations, Article III, which sets forth the procedures for filling a vacancy in the Vestry by a Qualified Elector. The Senior Warden will identify an individual to fill this vacancy and present that person's name to the Vestry at its next meeting for approval.

The Search Committee Formation Group has returned with recommendations for appointing nine individuals to serve on the Search Committee. The proposed membership includes the following:

David Dickenson, cochair	Bruce Mavec	Alison Wolf
Kitty Thomas, cochair	Richard Radis	Leslie Marting
Alison Benek	Larry Richmond	James Gallagher

Three parishioners, John Irwin, Kitty Thomas, and Larry Richmond, have been selected to serve as certified voting lay delegates to the diocesan convention on November 8 and 9, 2024. On motion duly made and seconded, those appointments were approved.

A general discussion then evolved regarding the church's security arrangements, including replacing key cylinders in the church doors and changing the pattern of nighttime lighting around the church. Dr. Bruce Long will continue to research possible technological additions to the church, such as video cameras.

There being no further business to come before the Vestry this evening, Dr. Irwin offered a closing prayer, and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting of the Vestry is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 7 PM in the Guild Room.

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Rector Search Committee is now fully commissioned to begin their work in finding the best possible Rector for St. Christopher's. With the holidays in full swing now I ask your patience for time. We will begin seriously after Jan. 1st. Our consultants have encouraged us we need full attention and concentration to this search. They understand that to delay one month is a good idea so we can more fully focus. I ask your patience.

As we progress, we will update our "Church Profile" a pamphlet explaining who we are, our history, community, hopes, pictures, preferences, etc. This will be given to prospective candidates. We also will get a 100 question "Survey" that all parishioners are encouraged to answer. This is will be your way to articulate and stress your preferences for the best qualities you want to see in your new rector.

I will update you as we continue. Meanwhile enjoy your holidays. Christmas is such a glorious time. I thank God every day he sent is Jesus Christ our savior and redeemer. Peace ~ Kitty



Kitty Thomas
Co-Chair



David Dickenson
Co-Chair



Alison
Wolf



James
Gallagher



Bruce
Mavec



Larry
Richmond



Leslie
Marting



Alison
Benek



Richard
Radis



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:

Neal Lee	214-356-4909
Debbie Cole	440-247-2263
Charley Marston	440-423-4759
Judy Holmes	216-577-6262
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 2nd, 2025. Thank you for taking your important part in discerning the leadership of our parish.

In Peace,
John Irwin
Senior Warden

2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

THANK YOU to all of you who have heeded the call and returned your 2025 Annual Giving pledge cards!

Anderson, Rev. Mary Sterrett
Barnes, Mr. William, IV (Will) & Mrs. Anne
Batcheller, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Sandra (Sandy)
Beeman, Mr. Richard E.
Bennett, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Elise C.
Bixler, Mr. Charles F., IV (Chuck) & Mrs. Donna
Bixler, Mrs. Virginia (Polly)
Brachna, Mr. Gabor (Gabe)
Brockett, Mr. Gary & Mrs. Michelle
Burgess, Ms. Meg
Butler, Mr. J. C. & Mrs. Helen Rankin
Cicirello, Mr. Salvatore (Sal) & Mrs. Helen
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, Ms. Virginia
Fisher, Ms. Marilyn
Gallagher, Mr. James & Mrs. Sara
Gallop, Ms. Susan
Hamilton, Mr. Richard (Rick) & Mrs. Maria
Hoyt, Mr. Douglas & Dr. Callum (Cally)
Ianni, Ms. Teri
Ilkanic, Ms. Ellen
Irwin, Dr. John & Mrs. Nancy C.
Kendrick, Ms. Eleanor (Ellie)
Klinginsmith, Michael (Mike) & Dr. Gretchen Fisher
Kolecki, Ms. Renee
Langmack, Mr. Clark

Lee, Mr. Ron & Mrs. Cornelia
Liljedahl, Mr. Kurt & Mrs. Mary Anne
Long, Dr. Bruce
Lowe, Ms. Annette
Lytle, Ms. Lucy
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)
Miscsko, Mrs. Carolyn E.
Mitchell, Mr. James A. & Mrs. Kathi J.
Mitchell, Mr. John & Mrs. Ann
Morgan, Mr. Dixon, Jr. & Mrs. Claire
Pender, Mr. James (Jim) & Mrs. Katherine (Kathy)
Pesuit, Mr. Craig & Mrs. Barb
Pistell, Mr. Timothy (Tim) & Mrs. Linda (Lynn)
Podwoski, Ms. Mary
Ramsey, Mrs. Jean
Reynolds, Mr. A. William (Bill)
Richmond, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Gayle
Sarkisian, Mrs. Francine (Fran)
Spring, Mr. Bill & Mrs. Luci (Schey)
Sylor, Mr. Eric & Mrs. Linda
Thatcher, Mr. Peter B.
Thomas, Mrs. Katherine W. (Kitty)
Treco, Mrs. Diana D.
Ventimiglia, Ms. Linda
Vilas, Ms. Kathleen L. (Kathy)
Warren, Mr. Russell (Russ) & Mrs. Doris (Dori)
West, Mr. John & Mrs. Gail
Wolf, Mr. David & Mrs. Alison
Zup, Mary



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

St. Christopher by-the-River Episcopal Church 2025 Annual Giving Campaign

"Let all that you do be done in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14



In gratitude for God's gifts and in support of St. Christopher's ministries, in 2025, I/we plan to give

\$ _____ .



I/we have included St. Christopher by-the-River in my/our will or estate plans

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

RECTORY RENOVATIONPhase ONE completed!

Jackson flooring finished this past week. Unfortunately, we encountered a challenge as our ancient radiators in the rectory sprung a leak at the base. Thankfully, Burton Sheet Metal came to the rescue and prevented further water damage to the newly sanded floors!



The Rectory sunporch has also been in the process of a facelift. Special thanks to Lucy and Andrea for their efforts! And Luis has been hard at work, as always. He is continually improving the looks and functionality of our church. He recently repaired, painted, and added new hooks to the children's chapel hall, replaced the faucet in the guild room kitchen, and hung our new man doors in the rectory. Thank you, Luis!



Another big thank you goes to Mary Murray. She has had to deal with several of these complicated invoices concerning repairs and improvements, not only the rectory, but also our beloved St Christopher 's church! Thank you again Mary for all your donated time.

I cannot finish my newsletter without THANKING our secretary Mary Zup! She has been my right-hand man and has helped me through so many of my junior warden catastrophes 🤪 thank you!



Phase TWO will begin this coming, January...

Interior repairs and painting of the entire rectory from floor to ceiling will be completed by Best Buy Painting.

Respectfully, and thankfully submitted,
Charlene Currutt
Junior Warden

NEED NEW COORDINATOR FOR MEN'S SHELTER

I would like to thank all of our parishioners who are volunteering to make casseroles and bake cookies for the holiday dinner at the Men's shelter next weekend! It is much appreciated!

During all the years I have asked for your dedication to this important ministry, all of you have continually stepped up in many different ways to make a difference in the lives of our friends at LMM! Thank you all!

I would like to take this opportunity to let all of you know that, after much thought and listening to the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit, I have decided it is time to step down from my role of coordinating St. Christopher volunteers for our monthly lunch service at LMM. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time volunteering, trying to make a difference in the lives of others, but I feel I have done what I can do, and I feel it's time for someone else to step into the role. I will be stepping down in January and am open to talking with anyone who feels they are being called to this ministry. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me and I will put you in touch with Lydia Bailey and Adam Blackman, the coordinator at St. Paul's!

I wish you all the most blessed holiday season, and a very Happy New Year!
~Becky Everett

Dear Becky,

You have been more than a bright light of the meal program- you have been a leader guiding all of us these past years so that the partnership between St. Christopher's, St. Paul's, and LMM Men's Shelter has flourished.

Thank you for your big hearted, no-nonsense approach that has caused Leon Geraldo, kitchen supervisor, to name you "Boss Lady."

I will personally miss your presence in this program.

And now looking for the next leading of the Holy Spirit,

Lydia+



VESTRY

Treasurer: Mary Murray

Class of 2024

Bruce Long
Peter Thatcher
Kitty Thomas

Class of 2025

Larry Richmond
Judy Holmes
Rich Radis

Class of 2026

Charlene Currutt (Junior Warden)
John Irwin (Senior Warden/Clerk)
Ron Lee

NEMAC Representative

Laura Cotton

FLOWER DEDICATIONS NOVEMBER 2024

In loving memory of:

- Howard & Helen Cadiou by Carolyn Misco
- Beverly, Thomas and Barry Berlin by Betsy Berlin
- William & Elenor Cole and Harold & Dorothy Oren by Daniel & Courtney Schmidt

Flowers were given by John & Nancy Irwin in honor of their 21st wedding Anniversary.

BOAR'S HEAD AND YULE LOG FESTIVAL

All are invited to attend the 62nd Presentation of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival on **Saturday, December 28**, at 2:00 & 4:30 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral.

Performances are open to the public and there is no ticketing.

The Festival, a volunteer production, is a multi-sensory Elizabethan Christmas experience with pageantry and music that celebrates the light of Christ coming into the world.

To learn more or volunteer, visit the [website](#) or call 216.774.0436.



The Church Of England celebrates Twelfth Night on the 5th of January, and "refers to the night before Epiphany, the day when the nativity story tells us that the wise men visited the infant Jesus". Food and drink are the center of the celebrations in modern times.

The Vestry of St. Christopher by-the-River invites you to join us for a

Twelfth Night Celebration
Saturday, January 4, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm

- Kid-friendly pizza, wassail, beer, wine, and soft drinks will be served.
- Please bring a heavy appetizer or dessert to share.
- Comfortable, Festive Holiday Attire.
- Children are most welcome.

We look forward to meeting and gathering with new and longtime members.

Please **RSVP** through the weekly Flocknote email or call (440-423-4451) the church during office hours **by Sunday, December 31, 2024**

FLOWER DONORS

We have several openings for flower donors. If you'd like to be a Sunday flower donor, please contact the office:

- March 23 (Greens)
- May 4
- June 15
- August 31

LECTORS

Lectors are needed, especially for the 8 AM service. If you could volunteer to be a reader, please contact the office. Readings are provided ahead of time.

INTERCESSORY LIST

Starting with the beginning of Advent, we have reset the intercessory list. To add someone, please email the office of let Becky know on Sunday.




- 1 Danny Broome
- 4 Stephen Miscko
- 7 Presley Lammers
- 8 Avery Alatis
- Rosalie Della Ratta

- 8 Victoria Vary
- 9 Irene McMullen
- Luci Spring
- 11 Morrie Everett
- 14 Emily Morris
- 17 Keri Osolin
- 19 Neal Lee
- 20 Linda Ventimiglia
- 22 Clara Butler
- Olivia Mlakar
- 23 Marilyn Fisher
- 25 JESUS



- 3 Rik Bole
- Griffin Butler
- Tony Lammers
- 5 Margaret Douglas
- 7 Becky Everett
- 11 Jim Pender
- 15 Lucy Radis
- 22 Chandler Everett
- 23 Mary Wick Bole
- 25 Brian Murphy
- 30 Peggy Reda

SUNDAY JANUARY 12 --		MONDAY - 13	TUESDAY - 14	WEDNESDAY-15	THURSDAY-16	FRIDAY- 17	SATURDAY-18
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
EM: Kitty Thomas	Hayley Kosmatka						
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Becky Everett & Judy Holmes						
ALTAR:							
USHERS NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	Elise Bennett				8:00 AA		
SUNDAY JANUARY 19 --		MONDAY - 20	TUESDAY - 21	WEDNESDAY-22	THURSDAY-23	FRIDAY- 24	SATURDAY-25
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
EM: Charley Marston	Randy Cole & Eric Jayne				9:00 Staff		
LECTOR: Kathy Pender	Chandler Everett & Judy Holmes						
ALTAR:							
USHERS NA	Leslie Marting & Judy Holmes						
HOSTESSES	Sue Marston				8:00 AA		
SUNDAY JANUARY 26 --		MONDAY - 27	TUESDAY - 28	WEDNESDAY-29	THURSDAY-30	FRIDAY- 31	SATURDAY-1
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
EM: Kitty Thomas	James Gallagher						
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Chandler Everett Sr. & Neal Lee						
ALTAR:							
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES	Laura Cotton				8:00 AA		
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2 --		MONDAY - 3	TUESDAY - 4	WEDNESDAY-5	THURSDAY-6	FRIDAY- 7	SATURDAY-8
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist						
EM: Charley Marston	John Irwin						
LECTOR: [Redacted]	Fran Sarkisian & Brian Wright					9:00 Staff	
ALTAR:							
USHERS NA	Brian Wright & Gabe Brachna						
HOSTESSES	Neal Lee					8:00 AA	

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Anyone interested in weekly offering envelopes, please contact Mary in the office. If you would like just a handful of undated offering envelopes, we would be happy to send them to you with your number / name written on them as this helps Mary in the office with processing checks from each Sunday.



January

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

December

- Chocolate / Cookies
- Nuts
- Cake/brownie mix,
- Frosting
- Powdered milk,
- Graham crackers
- Pudding



Photographic monthly wall calendars are for sale in the Guild Room for \$20.

All proceeds benefit the Guild Outreach Program.

ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.stchrisbytheriver.org

7601 Old Mill Rd.
PO Box 519
Gates Mills OH 44040

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:15 AM Holy Eucharistic Rite II

Childcare available at the 10:15 service.

Exceptions:

Dec 29th Christmas Lessons & Carols

Find our weekly worship on [YouTube](#).

Parish Office

Mary Zup

Staffed T-W-Th 8:30-2:30

440-423-4451

stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025 Newsletter

Other Christmas Services in the area:

Trinity Cathedral

Christmas Eve 5 - 7:30 pm
10 - 11:59 pm

Christmas Day 10-11 am

St. Paul's - Cleveland Heights

Christmas Eve

1:30 pm Eucharist & Young Family service
4:00 pm Eucharist & Christmas Pageant
9:00 pm Christmas Lessons & Carols
10:30 pm Festival Eucharist

Christmas Day

10:00 am Eucharist

St. Bartholomew's

Christmas Eve 5:00 pm
Christmas Day 9:30 am

St. Christopher by-the-River



Even though we do not have a Christmas Eve Eucharist service this year, both the adult choir and the handchime choir have been working very hard on music for the season. I hope everyone will enjoy the special music that we are preparing for Advent and the Sunday after Christmas.

December 15 Advent Lessons and Hymns

December 22 Prelude music by our Handchime choir

December 29 Christmas Lessons and Hymns

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas!