



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER – ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Respectfully submitted by John Irwin

At the last annual meeting on March 3, 2024, I was elected to the Vestry by the parishioners and then elected as the Senior Warden by the Vestry members. Ann Kidder had confidentially revealed to me in November 2023 that she was planning to retire after her many years of service as Rector. She asked me if I would be willing to serve on the Vestry and possibly serve as Senior Warden, because during a time of transition as a parish conducts a search for a successor, the Senior Warden assumes primary responsibility for the management of the parish.

I was honored by her request and I also of course honored her request that this remain confidential until the appropriate time at which she would announce her impending retirement to the parish. That announcement was made first to the Vestry on the evening of June 12, 2024, and immediately thereafter to the entire parish.

After having served as Senior Warden on several previous terms, I was familiar with the responsibilities and the time commitment of that position. I had met with Mother Ann on many occasions, in weekly Wardens meetings, as well as on various other occasions, so I thought I had a fairly good idea of the duties and responsibilities of a Rector. I was wrong. The amount of work, time, devotion and love that a Rector gives to a parish is monumental. Having now seen that myself, as I attempt to manage those responsibilities, I look back with deep gratitude to Ann Kidder for all that she did for us for those 10 years. And, I look forward to the time of our next Rector.

We at St. Christopher are blessed to be able to worship God in an almost fairytale setting. When Ann Kidder and her husband Ted Fletcher came down Old Mill Hill for their first visit to St. Christopher in 2014, Ann told me that her husband remarked, "I think we have just gone through the cabinet, and we are now in Narnia." I'm sure that many of the rest of us feel the same way. Our church is a beautiful, historic building that our predecessors have handed down to us for our use and for our stewardship. But, while our church is a beautiful building, which we preserve and maintain, along with the Rectory, it is the people of this Parish who are the heart of this church. This is what I have learned, and I have seen, every day during this time of Transition.

We have heard from our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, and from the Canon to the Ordinary, The Rev. Jessie G. Dodson, that we are a strong and stable parish. We have a devoted Vestry that oversees the operation of this Parish. We have a staff that includes Yuri McElliott, Mary Zup, Luis, Lucy and Andrea Calvo, Junior Warden: Charlene Currutt, and a Treasure: Mary Murray, all of whom put forth more effort and achieve more for this entire parish than many of us realize. We owe all of them our sincere gratitude. We have innumerable outreach programs, ministries, activities, gatherings, and special events throughout the year that invigorate and hold this parish together, and serve not only the church, but the broader community.

As we proceed with the Transition, our Search Committee is doing the work, again voluminous and unseen, that will, I am confident, lead us to our next Rector. In the meantime, we have engaged Father Richard Israel since August 2024 as our primary supply clergy and for the pastoral care needs of the Parish. The church is the Body of Christ, and this parish is a strong, beating heart. Thanks be to God.

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

2024 STAFF

The Rev. Ann Kidder Rector (Retired AUG 1, 2024)
Yuri Sato McElliott Director of Music/Organist
Mary Zup Parish Administrator
Luis Calvo Sexton, Sunday Porter
Lucy Calvo Churchkeeper
Andria Calvo Nursery Director
Tellerd Organization, Ltd. Bookkeeper

2024 VESTRY

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 resigned 9/24
Larry Richmond Class of 2025 replaced Matt Vazzana 11/24
Rich Radis Class of 2025
John Irwin Class of 2026 Senior Warden & Clerk
Charlene Currutt Class of 2026 Junior Warden
Ronald Lee Class of 2026
Mary Murray Treasurer



DRAFT Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting of The Parish of St. Christopher by-the-River

Held March 3, 2024

Respectfully Submitted, Renee Kolecki, Clerk

Call to Order: 11:34 am

Opening Prayer by Reverend Ann Kidder.

Confirmation of a quorum by Rev. Kidder.

Appointment of a Clerk for this meeting by Rev. Kidder: Renee Kolecki

Bruce Long moved to accept the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes as printed in the Annual Report; Laura Cotton seconded. All approved.

Rector, Rev. Ann Kidder: Recognition of Vestry Members Completing a Term: Becky Everett, six years; Charlene Currutt and Ron Lee, three years.

Nominating Committee Chair, Becky Everett: Presented slate of nominees:

NEMAC: Laura Cotton has been voted in to a two-year term.

Vestry: All nominees were voted in:

Charlene Currutt, three-year term

John Irwin, three-year term

Ron Lee, three-year term

Kitty Thomas (one-year term to complete an unexpired three-year term. Ends March, 2025)

Nomination from the floor: Rich Radis has been voted in for a two-year term to complete an unexpired three-year term; ends at the Annual Meeting in 2026.

Senior Warden (Becky Everett) remarks: St. Christopher BTR is strong. Pledge goal met, fellowship has increased, new members, instituting Godly Play, have support from and for young families, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry partnership is positive, focus on children's development.

Junior Warden (Charlene Currutt) remarks: Physical changes: dishwasher issue resolved, squirrel problem resolved. Decision to replace furnace. This spring and summer: continue to beautify the landscape.

Move to adjourn and dismissal at 11:50 a.m.

Minutes Draft Respectfully submitted by:

Renee Kolecki, Vestry Clerk



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
Respectfully submitted by Charlene Currutt

As 2024 comes to an end, I am pleased to say our church remains healthy and safe! New hand railings have been installed to replace the rotten wooden ones. Inspections have been completed, and no major problems have been noted. We remain so thankful to Lucy and Luis, who continue to keep our church looking fresh and clean.

As a junior warden, you are responsible for both the exterior and interior of a church, including the rectory. Since Mother Ann retired and moved back to Maine, the rehabilitation of our rectory has been quite demanding.

We are thankful to Nancy Irwin for her efforts in coordinating, and covering the cost of eliminating the remaining furniture, removing worn carpet and volumes of discarded items from the rectory garage.

To go forward with any large expense it is protocol to disclose three estimates for a project. The vestry will then vote on the companies taking into consideration the quality and best price. My family will tell you that I love a deal! I am always looking for the best value and the best price. Needless to say, I have enjoyed every minute of this part of my job!

This past Spring and Summer, we were overwhelmed with the grinder issue. It took McHugh Plumbing almost a month of intense 'dirty work' to complete the project. We are very grateful to the Figgie Foundation who purchased two new furnaces and humidifiers for our church.



This fall the rectories three chimneys and roof have been repaired. The squirrels can no longer seek refuge in our buildings! Tree limbs and easy access trees have been removed. With the help of fellow parishioners, we transplanted hostas, planted cypress trees, spread mulch behind the rectory and along the fence edge to the river.

As the weather has closed in, we have turned our focus to the inside of the rectory. Four large rooms on the first level have beautiful sander, stained, and polyurethane floors. They looked incredible! Thanks to the Jackson Flooring Company.

With the help of generous donations, we are very excited to complete many more projects in 2025. I will continue to keep you informed of all the future rectory improvements. Hopefully, all will be completed by late spring. We cannot wait for everyone to see especially our new priest!



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 five daughters here at St. Christopher by the River – Becky Everett, Kathy Pender, Annette Lowe, Debbie Cole and Teri Ianni. 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 right for you.

Please remember that there is a prayer box in the Baptistry where you can place any prayer that you wish. We promise to add those people/prayers to our daily 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?

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 individuals at St. Christopher's, as well as support for one another. May 7th, 2025 will be the Stephen Ministry's anniversary of 8 years since their commissioning. Sadly, the group has lost two dedicated Stephen Ministers in the past three years due to death. We miss them.

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

Stephen ministers provide many hours of emotional and spiritual care to members of our parish, as well as many friends outside of the church. The relationship is personal and confidential.

In the summer of 2024, the Stephen Ministers were commissioned to also be lay eucharist ministers who take communion to those who are unable to come to services on Sunday.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to have been a part of this program and to have spiritual friends who continue their service in our church.

GRIEF GROUP
Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Pender

The Grief Group was formed in the fall of 2019. The group has been open to the community as well as members of St. Christopher's. The group was discontinued in the fall of 2024. I have continued however to send notes and information each month to the group as a support for them. I also continue to talk to those who have been in the group as a support when they need it.

People in the Grief Group have remarked how the support has helped them deal with their painful journey dealing with grief. The group has offered companionship and understanding from others who experience similar challenges that living with grief brings.

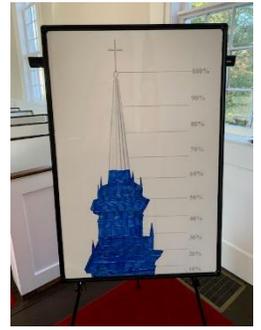
It has been my privilege to be the facilitator of this group of people who are willing to share their stories and feelings that are painful.

2025 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Becky Everett

The 2025 Annual Giving Campaign Team (Becky Everett, Debbie Cole, Laura Cotton, Judy Holmes, Lucy Lytle, Leslie Marting, Kitty Thomas and Kathyn Vilas) is so grateful for the outstanding generosity of the people of St. Christopher's! Our theme this year, From Our Hearts, With Love, was hugely successful, receiving 78 formal pledges for 2025 totaling \$185,000 in financial support! ***We did reach 100%!!***

It is very clear how much we all love St. Christopher's, our beautiful church home, and are dedicated to continuing to support its ministries, people and programs as we seek to spread God's love in the world!



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S FUND REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Kurt Liljedahl

Fund A:

Market value on 12/31/2024: \$2,756,530

Investment and Admin Fees in 2024: \$18,428

Tax Preparation Fee: \$1,050

Fund B:

Market value as of 12/31/2024: \$115,086

Investment and Admin Fees in 2024 \$740

Tax Preparation Fee: \$500

In accordance with the spending policy for the year 2024, the Fund ***distributed a total of \$141,096*** to St. Christopher by-the-River's operating funds. Distributions are made on a quarterly basis.

Total gifts to the fund in 2024 were \$16,203. 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.

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Kitty Thomas

The Rector Search Committee was commissioned on November 24, 2024. It is the job of nine volunteers with the help of two consultants to interview prospective candidates to secure a new Rector for St. Christopher-by-the-River. At this point the committee has met with the two consultants who are guiding them through this process. The committee has met and will have further meetings with the consultants when necessary to interview, discern and pray for the right person who will guide us in worship. They will have 3 meetings with the congregation to ask them what qualities, attributes and experience the future head of our church should embrace. After interviews and group consultation, the Search Committee with the approval of the Bishop, will ask this priest to lead St. Christopher's.

The members of The Search Committee are:

Alison Benek

David Dickenson, Co-chair

James Gallagher

Leslie Marting

Bruce Mavec

Rich Radis

Larry Richmond

Kitty Thomas, co-chair

Alison Wolf



TREASURER'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mary Murray

Support from the congregation remains strong. Although pledge and plate income fell by \$11 thousand year over year, you will recall that we had received two large, unexpected gifts late in 2023. Contributions surpassed budget by 6.4% and provided approximately 60% of total receipts, a healthy percentage for a parish of our size. Support from the St. Christopher Fund has been consistent at 5.25% of the Fund's assets. With strong investment performance combined with reduced operating expenses expected in 2025, we are budgeting a reduction in the percentage distribution from the Fund to a more sustainable 5% level.

Overall, expenses in 2024 were lower than budgeted and lower than the previous year primarily because of Mother Ann's retirement as of August 1 which affected the Rectory operating costs as well as salaries and benefits. While some of the savings went toward supply clergy expense, we also took the opportunity to take care of much needed repair and maintenance work on the Rectory as well as the Church. In general, operating expenses were in line with budget and prior year results. Although we had expected a modest deficit for the year, we instead posted a significant surplus.

Our balance sheet remains strong and liquid.

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual
Pledges and Plate	\$ 218,581	\$ 233,059	\$ 256,988	\$ 277,461	\$ 250,500	\$ 266,872
St. Christopher's Fund	\$ 131,706	\$ 130,942	\$ 139,240	\$ 138,922	\$ 141,096	\$ 141,096
Other Income	\$ 19,217	\$ 61,374	\$ 23,956	\$ 31,278	\$ 30,000	\$ 29,833
Total Receipts	\$ 369,504	\$ 425,375	\$ 420,184	\$ 447,661	\$ 421,596	\$ 437,801

Outside Parish Expenses	\$ 54,559	\$ 53,581	\$ 54,884	\$ 55,731	\$ 58,452	\$ 47,472
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 272,231	\$ 265,816	\$ 270,073	\$ 275,598	\$ 279,616	\$ 217,631
Operating Expenses	\$ 77,932	\$ 71,377	\$ 77,132	\$ 78,329	\$ 88,550	\$ 83,481
Total Expenses	\$ 404,722	\$ 390,774	\$ 402,089	\$ 410,017	\$ 426,618	\$ 348,584

Surplus/Deficit	\$ (35,218)	\$ 34,601	\$ 18,095	\$ 37,644	\$ (5,022)	\$ 89,216
Surplus/Deficit Excluding PPP						
Loan Forgiveness		\$ (8,199)				

Balance Sheet Highlights

Cash and Liquid Invs	\$579,147	\$ 791,645	\$ 666,218	\$ 724,910	\$ 908,682
Current Liabilities	\$119,513	\$ 109,417	\$ 67,489	\$ 80,587	\$ 66,593
Capital and Organ Reserve Funds	\$280,910	\$ 322,341	\$ 288,043	\$ 250,806	\$ 349,070
All Other Reserves	\$ 34,732	\$ 131,044	\$ 129,121	\$ 211,102	\$ 144,166
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$143,993	\$ 228,843	\$ 181,565	\$ 263,002	\$ 348,853



MUSIC REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Yuri Sato McElliott, Director of Music

This year we added a new member to our Adult Choir, Eric Sylor. It is great to have Eric and more sound in both the tenor and bass sections. Also, after a few years of absence following the pandemic, we are delighted that Debbie Cole has returned to the choir, so we now have three sopranos, which is the biggest section in our choir (3 Sopranos, 2 Altos, 2 Tenors and 2 Basses).

I would like to thank all our choir members, Debbie Cole, Becky Everett, Chandler H. Everett, Chandler P. Everett, Cally Hoyt, Lucy Lytle, Sue Marston, Larry Richmond, Tommy Richmond, Fran Sarkisian and Eric Sylor for singing and playing the handchimes for our regular Sunday services, the Bishop's visitation service and for Mother Ann's farewell Sunday service. Sincere thanks also to Becky Everett for playing the Carillon. To all of you, your hard work and unique talents are appreciated by the entire congregation. Thank you very much!

Since we did not have our regular Christmas Eve evening service this year, we added more music during the Advent season. The Adult Choir not only played handchimes, but they also enjoyed playing other instruments (drum, tambourine, bells, etc.) while they sang, and they had a fun time. This year we also added a Christmas Lessons and Hymns service the Sunday after Christmas. I am so grateful to have dedicated and fun people in both the Adult Choir and Handchime choirs. Thank you everybody!

We are always looking for new members to join the Adult Choir, the Handchime Choir, and of course we would love to have children join us to continue our tradition of the 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!



ALTAR GUILD REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Sue Marston

The Altar Guild women are dedicated in their service to the church. They prepare the altar for every Sunday service and also make ready the Visitor Boxes for the Stephen ministers to visit the shut-ins. They help in all weddings, memorial services and baptisms.

Flowers given by the parishioners for the Easter and Christmas services are specially ordered by the Guild. They are used by the Guild to decorate the church for these church seasons. Palms and palm crosses are ordered for Palm Sunday.

Members of the Guild are listed below. In addition, we have four new candidates in training.

Michelle Brocket '23
Sally Conley '09
Laura Cotton '16
Renee Kolecki '19

Lucy Lytle '20
Leslie Marting '20
Neal Lee '16
Sue Marston '91

Carolyn Miscko '93
Courtney Schmidt '19
Alison Wolf '23



DIRECTRESS: Sue Marston
FLOWERS: Carolyn Miscko,
WEDDINGS: Sally Conley, Sue Marston, Lucy Lytle, Neal Lee, Leslie Marting
LINENS: Sally Conley
SUPPLIES: Teri Ianni



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

SUNDAY SERVANTS REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Mary Zup

A special thank you to Father Richard Israel for performing Eucharistic Services for us in the absence of a permanent or interim Rector and for providing pastoral care and home/Eucharistic visits.

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 2024.

LECTORS

Michelle Brockett	Teri Ianni	Dixon Morgan	Gabe Brachna	Neal Lee
Becky Everett	Neal Lee	Kathy Pender	Laura Cotton	Ron Lee
Chandler Everett	Ron Lee	Fran Sarkisian	Charlene	Leslie Marting
Chandler H. Everett	Annette Lowe	Courtney Schmidt	Currutt	Dixon Morgan
James Gallagher	Lucy Lytle	Kitty Thomas	Judy Holmes	Peter Thatcher
Judy Holmes	Charley Marston	Brian Wright	Nancy Irwin	Alison Wolf
			Kurt Liljedahl	Brian Wright

USHERS

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	James Gallagher	Charley Marston	Brian Wright
Becky Everett	John Irwin	Melanie Reda	
Chandler Everett	Hayley Kosmatka	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.

Sally Conley	Becky Everett	Judy Holmes	Kathy Pender
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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 2024 were:

Randy Cole	John Irwin	Hayley Kosmatka	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 men & 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	Neal Lee	Larry Richmond
Laura Cotton	Judy Holmes	Lucy Lytle	Gayle Richmond
Charlene Currutt	Nancy Irwin	Sue Marston	Sabrina Zickel

OUTREACH AT LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY MEN'S SHELTER - 2100 LAKESIDE AVE.

Respectfully Submitted by Deacon Lydia Bailey

In 2024 I am grateful to be serving alongside you, the parishioners of St. Christopher's by the River, as we live into our baptismal covenant of service to those around us. I am especially grateful for collaborating with you on projects at LMM's Men's Shelter.

Your good cheer and open, warm attitude combine with serving lunch monthly at the shelter in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal. On alternate months you also provide food for lunch - no small undertaking for 180 shelter residents.

In 2024 parishioners took part in the pastoral listening program with shelter residents and assisted in the computer lab.

A significant way you have supported the shelter is in monetary and in-kind donations, including a \$2,000 donation from Bargain Box proceeds, hugely impactful in 2024.

St. Christopher's by the River, thank you for how you serve and care, with a sunny hearted, can-do attitude!



WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Sue Marston, Guild President

ALL women who attend St. Christopher's church are members of the Guild. An elected Board conducts the business of the Guild. We look for more participation from our women, so join us for our programs and activities. We do have fun!

Our activities include: maintenance of the Guild room and the church library, tract racks, In-Reach to parishioners in need, Christmas gift program for St. Luke's, up-keep of coffee hour supplies and our twice yearly Bargain Box.

Traditionally we make around \$15,000 - \$18,000/ year from the spring and fall sales. Over 60% of these funds are dispersed to outreach programs. (See below) This is a wonderful way to meet parishioners and contribute to our service work. Join us!

The Guild concluded the year with a well-attended Greens Workshop in early December.



WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by Elise Bennett, Guild Treasurer

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S GUILD 2024 INCOME & DISBURSEMENTS AS OF 12/31/24

	<u>2024 INCOME</u>
<u>INCOME SOURCE</u>	
BARGAIN BOX INCOME	31,230.31
CALENDAR SALES	340.00
STATIONERY SALES	32.00
BANK INTEREST	1.58
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INCOME	31,603.89

INREACH 2024 BALANCE LESS EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS

Guild Inreach Programs	554.81
Guild Room Repairs---Painting etc	167.56
Savings: Guild Rm Carpet	4,623.00
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INREACH BALANCE	5,345.37

OUTREACH 2024 BBOX EXPENSES & 2024 OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS

Bargain Box-2024 Expenses	2,778.64
Cleveland Food Bank	3,000.00
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem	250.00
St. Luke's Episcopal Church -formerly Episc. Westside Ministry	3,000.00
Hospice of the Western Reserve	300.00
New Directions	400.00
WomenSafe	3,000.00
City Mission	1,500.00
Lutheran Ministry	2,000.00
Norma Herr (YMCA)	500.00
Family Promise (aka New Life Community)	200.00
Seeds of Literacy	600.00
Meals on Wheels (2)-Chagrin Falls/Hillcrest)	400.00
The Edna House	500.00
Heifer-Send A Girl to School	600.00
Bellwether Summer Camp	400.00
Teen Challenge of Cleveland	1,000.00
CASA for Kids of Geauga County (Hearts and Hands)	200.00
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OUTREACH EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS	20,628.64
LESS BBox expense (TOTAL DISBURSED EXTERNALLY)	17,850.00

2024 NEMAC Program Report for St. Christopher
Respectfully Submitted by Laura Cotton, Lay Representative, St. Christopher and Linda Sylor,
Nominated Lay Representative, St. Chris for 2025

Background

The 12 parishes of NEMAC — the Northeast Mission Area Council, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio — meet quarterly in person and/or by Zoom. The group considers awarding small Diocese-funded grants for requests submitted by two or more collaborating parishes, and also explores ways to collaborate in support of projects in our mission area. Parish-nominated lay representatives serve a two-year term.

Parish Members

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

Elected Officers, 2024

Chair: Rev. Chris McCann [St. Luke] **Co-Chair:** Peter Batcheller [Lay representative, St. Christopher]

Diocesan Council: Rev. Peter Nielsen [St. Peter] and Rev. Rachel Harrison [St. James], Priest representatives, and Nancy Geiger, [Lay representative, Epiphany]

Treasury: Rev. Rachel Harrison and Darrell Knapp, St. James Treasurer

Secretary: Linda Sylor, January — September [Lay representative, St. James]

Meeting Host and Attendance

We thank Father Jeff Baker, Interim Rector, Deb Zimmerman and Harry Dodds at Grace Church for hosting our three in-person meetings this year. Average meeting attendance was 12. [With no qualifying grant requests or new business, NEMAC opted not to meet in July.]

Grant Approval

<i>Month</i>	<i>Requestors</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>
October	Christ Church, St. Peter	Christmas Meals Program, Gift Bags	\$200	Purchase spices and small kitchen utensils for meal recipients at two sponsored events during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks.

Highlights, 2024 Program Year

Broadening Mission Area Collaboration. At the April meeting, members discussed how to identify expanded opportunities to support a wider range of projects across our parishes, and about possibly collaborating with parishes in other mission areas.

Rev. Audra Abt — new Canon for Innovation and Congregational Development at the Diocese — facilitated a discussion promoting an exchange of ideas. Members described partnership efforts across our own parishes, such as *Guns to Gardens* gun buyback events, the St. James Feeding Program of more than 40 years, an outreach-fostering initiative by St. Hubert and several cross-parish pantry programs.

Rev. Audra encouraged us to continue communicating within and among our member parishes, and to consider making outreach calls. She also pointed out that NEMAC is in an enviable position since our parishes are located within closer geographic proximity than is the case for other Diocese mission areas.

Support for the Integration of Immigrants. Rev. Lisa O’Rear [St. Andrew] partnered with the *Neighbor to Neighbor* program affiliated with *Episcopal Migration Ministries* to identify ways parishes can collaborate with faith communities to provide support to immigrants in our mission area. She and several NEMAC members joined training sessions and discussions to learn about the program. Efforts could include providing support for housing, enrolling children in school, helping adults to learn English, securing employment and supplying assistance accessing other services or resources. Work efforts may continue in 2025 with the potential for Diocesan support.

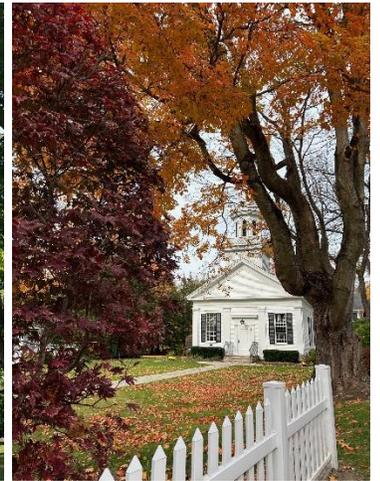
THANK YOU to all those who donated in any way to St. Christopher's in 2024 (listed below). And a special thank you to our 81 pledgers. 85% of those who pledged were able to meet at least 90% of their pledge and 80% of pledgers met or exceeded their pledged amount. We had a few generous givers who significantly increased their pledge to help us meet our overall goal for 2024 and to help fund some needed projects.

AA Riverside Group
Alatis, M. Stacey
Allgood, Mrs. Joan
Alpers, Erica
Amefia, Mr. Djifa & Mrs. Annemarie
Armstrong, Mr. Randall (Randy) & Mrs. Caroline
Bailey, The Rev. Deacon Lydia & Mr. Thomas
Bates, Susan
Bauschard, Laura
Bennett, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Elise C.
Berlin, Ms. Betsy
Bixler, Mrs. Virginia
Blossom, Barbara
Blossom, Mr. C. Perry & Mrs. Pamela (Pam)
Bole, Mr. Richard (Rik) & Mrs. Mary Wick (Mary)
Boswell, Mr. Louis (Lou) & Mrs. Helga
Brachna, Mr. Gabor (Gabe)
Brenner, Mr. Samuel (Sam) & Mrs. Alexendra (Alex)
Brockett, Mr. Gary & Mrs. Michelle
Brown Forward Funeral Home
Burgess, Ms. Meg
Cellura, Ms. Lisa
Champ, Mr. William (Bill)
Cicirello, Mr. Salvatore (Sal) & Mrs. Helen
Cole, Mr. Randall (Randy) & Ms. Deborah S.(Debbie)
Collister, Mr. Daniel (Dan)
Conley, Ms. Sally K.
Costello, Ms. Cindy
Cotton, Miss Laura
Currutt, Mr. Brian & Mrs. Kate
Currutt, Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Charlene
Davis, Ms. Barbara Ann
DeBaz, Dr. Baz & Mrs. Mona
Dickenson, Mr. David, II & Mrs. Frances
Diehl, Mr. Alan & Mrs. Judy
Dolch, Mr. Douglas
Everett, Mr. Chandler H. & Mrs. Marsha
Everett, Mr. Chandler P. & Mrs. Rebecca (Becky)
Everett, Mr. Morris (Morrie) & Mrs. Diana
Figgie Foundation
Fisher, Ms. Marilyn
Flannery, Mr. Patrick & Mrs. Elizabeth
Gallop, Ms. Susan
Gnandt, Mr. Dale
Gray, Mr. Brandon D. & Mrs. Jennifer (Jenny)
Haag, William
Hamilton, Mr. Richard (Rick) & Mrs. Maria
Hauserman, Mr. David (Dave) & Mrs. Darlene
Hellman, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Alyson (Sunny)
Hiltebrant, Ms. Molly & Mr. Stephen
Holmes, Mary
Holmes, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Judy
Horner, Mr. Douglas & Mrs. Carly
Hoyt, Mr. Douglas & Dr. Callum (Cally)
Ianni, Ms. Teri
Ilkanic, Ms. Ellen
Irwin, Dr. John & Mrs. Nancy C.
Jones, Mr. Clarke & Mrs. Whitney
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
Lincoln, Mr. G. Russel (Russ) & Mrs. Connie
Lomas, Mrs. Hope S.
Long, Dr. Bruce
Loose Plate
Lorenz, Mr. Allan & Ms. Loni
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.
Meyers, Mr. Edward (Ed)
Miller, Mr. Chris & Mrs. Stephanie
Miller, Mrs. Barbara W. (Barb)
Miller, Ms. Elizabeth D. (Beth) & Mr. James (Jim)
Miscko, Mrs. Carolyn E.
Mitchell, Mr. James A. & Mrs. Kathi J.
Mitchell, Mr. John & Mrs. Ann
Mlakar, Mr. John (Kyle) & Mrs. Alexandra
Morgan, Mr. Dixon, Jr. & Mrs. Claire
Morris, Mr. Warren & Mrs. Elizabeth (Betsi)
Murray, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Mary G.
Negrelli, Mr. Donald (Don) & Mrs. Virginia (Gini)
Novello, Ms. Nancy
Osolin, Mr. Andrew & Mrs. Keri A.
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)
Radis, Mr. Richard & Mrs. Hayley

Ramsey, Mrs. Jean
 Rankin, Mr. Alfred M. (Jr.) & Mrs. Victoire G.
 Richmond, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Gayle
 Sarkisian, Mrs. Francine (Fran)
 Schmidt, Mr. Daniel & Mrs. Courtney
 Spring, Mr. Bill & Mrs. Luci (Schey)
 Storer, Mrs. Dolores (Dede)
 Sylor, Mr. Eric & Mrs. Linda
 Thatcher, Mr. Peter B.
 The Veale Foundation
 Thomas, Mrs. Katherine W. (Kitty)
 Thorpe, Mrs. Susan (Susie)
 Tuttle, Ms. Jan
 Vail, Mr. Thomas V. H. Sr. (Tom) & Mrs. Iris
 Van Hoek, Mr. Cornelius J. (CJ) & Mrs. Bradley T.



Vary, Mr. Michael & Ms. Jaclyn (Jackie)
 Vazzana, Mr. Matt & Mrs. Jamie
 Vilas, Ms. Kathleen L. (Kathy)
 Visitor, Visitor
 Warren, Mr. Russell (Russ) & Mrs. Doris (Dori)
 Weitzel Family Foundation
 Weitzel, Mrs. Jeanette (Jean)
 West, Mr. John & Mrs. Gail
 Willis, Mr. George E. (Ted)
 Wolf, Mr. David & Mrs. Alison
 Wright, Mr. Brian J.
 Young, Mr. David & Mrs. Judy
 Zickel, Mr. Justin & Ms. Sabrina
 Zup, Mary



St. Chris through the seasons 2024

FLOWER DEDICATIONS FEBRUARY 2025

In Loving memory of

- Their son, Michael, by Jim & Kathy Pender
- Lorinda Nash Collister by Becky & Chandler Everett
- Mark & Paula Ianni by Teri Ianni
- James Gough by the Miscko & Pucell Families

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Pending a vote at
 The Annual Meeting of
 St. Christopher by-the-River
 on March 2, 2025,

the Following Qualified Electors have been nominated to
 serve in the following positions:

Vestry, 3-year term: **Hayley Kosmatka**
 Vestry, 3-year term: **Bruce Long**
 Vestry, 3-year term: **Kitty Thomas**

Vestry, 1-year term: **Larry Richmond**

This is to complete a vacant position expiring in March 2026.

NorthEast Mission Area Council Representative
 (NEMAC), 2-year term: **Linda Sylor**

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

Neal Lee
 Debbie Cole
 Charley Marston
 Judy Holmes
 Larry Richmond

Posted January 15, 2025



1 Ann Michell
 2 Jean Weitzel
 Justin Zickel
 8 Jenessa Thirion
 10 Jolyon Welsh
 12 Peter DeBaz

15 Ron Lee
 16 Chuck Bixler
 Peter Mitchell
 19 Scott Broome
 20 Hannah Thirion
 22 Samantha Berchek
 Crystal Zittkowski
 26 Kitty Thomas
 Daniel Mansfield
 Collin Benek

27 Leslie Marting
 Judy Holmes
 28 Annette Lowe
 29 Anne Barnes
 30 Leland Morris
 31 Matt Vazzana

SUNDAY MARCH 2 -- Fr. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 3	TUESDAY - 4	WEDNESDAY-5	THURSDAY-6	FRIDAY- 7	SATURDAY-8
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist		9:00 Staff	 12:00 7:00			
EM: NA	John Irwin	 ANNUAL MEETING					
LECTOR: NA	Fran Sarkisian & Judy Holmes						
ALTAR: Sally Conley	Leslie Marting						
USHERS NA	Brian Wright & Nancy Irwin						
HOSTESSES	Judy Holmes & Laura Cotton					8:00 AA	

SUNDAY MARCH 9 -- Fr. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 10	TUESDAY - 11	WEDNESDAY-12	THURSDAY-13	FRIDAY- 14	SATURDAY-15
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist		9:00 Staff	10-12 PRESORT	 OFFICE CLOSED		
EM: Charley Marston	Hayley Kosmatka	9:00 Meet with the Search Committee		7:00 Meet with the Search Committee			
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Lucy Lytle & James Gallagher						
ALTAR: Sue Marston	Renee Kolecki						
USHERS NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	Sue Marston						8:00 AA

SUNDAY MARCH 16 - Fr. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 17	TUESDAY - 18	WEDNESDAY-19	THURSDAY-20	FRIDAY- 21	SATURDAY-22
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist		9:00 Staff				
EM: Kitty Thomas	John Irwin / Eric Jayne	Vestry Mtg					
LECTOR: Kathy Pender	Becky Everett & Ron Lee						
ALTAR: Sally Conley	Alison Wolf						
USHERS NA	Leslie Marting & Laura Cotton						
HOSTESSES	Charlene Currutt & Neal Lee					8:00 AA	

SUNDAY MARCH 23 -- Fr. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 24	TUESDAY - 25	WEDNESDAY-26	THURSDAY-27	FRIDAY- 28	SATURDAY-1
8 am	10:15 am		9:00 Staff				
EM: Charley Marston	James Gallagher	11:30 Meet with the Search Committee		10-12 PRESORT			
LECTOR: Teri Ianni	Chandler Everett & Neal Lee						
ALTAR: Teri Ianni	Laura Cotton						
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES	Larry & Gayle Richmond						8:00 AA

SUNDAY MARCH 30 -- Fr. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 31	TUESDAY - 1	WEDNESDAY-2	THURSDAY-3	FRIDAY- 4	SATURDAY-5
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist		9:00 Staff				
EM: Charley Marston	John Irwin	10-12 PRESORT			8:00 AA		
LECTOR: [Redacted]	Chandler Everett Sr., Brian Wright						
ALTAR: Sue Marston	Lucy Lytle						
USHERS NA	Brian Wright & Gabe Brachna						
HOSTESSES	Sabrina Zickel & Becky Everett						



Food Pantry Breakfast

- Dry Cereal
- Oatmeal (regular/instant)
- Breakfast bars
- Protein Bars

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:

February 23 Morning Prayer

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

Parish Office

Mary Zup

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

440-423-4451

stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

MARCH 2025 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River



MARCH 2

ONE SERVICE: 10:15

**ANNUAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING**

PLEASE JOIN US!

Thank you to our outgoing Vestry Members, Peter Thatcher, Bruce Long and Kitty Thomas for their years of service. Though we will welcome Kitty and Bruce back pending congregational voting at the annual meeting!

NOTE: There was no Vestry meeting in December



MARCH 5

12:00 PM

7:00 PM

**Holy Eucharist
Imposition of
Ashes**

12:00

EM: Chandler Everett

ALTAR: Sally Conley

7:00

John Irwin

Sue Marston

8AM LECTORS & FLOWER DONORS

Please contact the office to be a reader at 8AM Services, or if you can donate flowers for one of these Sundays:

- May 4
- June 15
- August 31

