



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Things are moving along well during our Transition as we search for the next Rector. Kitty Thomas and the other members of the Search Committee have accomplished much during this complex process. They have conducted three parish meetings to hear many members of the congregation exchange their thoughts and hopes about the next Rector. These meetings were video recorded and are available on the St. Christopher by the River YouTube channel. If you were not able to attend one of these meetings, please contact any member of the Search Committee to express your own thoughts about what you are hoping to see in the next Rector.

The Search Committee has also been working on the preparation of the Parish Profile booklet. This is a multipage illustrated description of our parish, and it serves as one of the major components of the information that is used by the diocese as it conducts a nationwide search for eligible candidates. Members of the Search Committee wrote the essays and articles that describe the parish and many photographs of our gatherings and activities were provided by parishioners to show who we are and what we do. This booklet is a crucial part of the search because it represents the first substantive and detailed information that possible candidates will see and consider in their decisions about where to serve an Episcopal community in their next calling. Our profile booklet is currently being finalized by a graphics designer and then after final approval will be sent to the printer. We plan to obtain a number of copies of this booklet which can be used over the months and years to come as an introduction to new members and visitors.

Meanwhile, our financial circumstances remain very good. This is thanks to the devotion and generosity of all of the members of this parish in their annual giving and in the additional donations made by others throughout the year. This has enabled us to make a major investment in the Rectory, to improve and update the entire residence, and our Junior Warden, Charlene has been working tirelessly on this project. Please thank her!

Our Treasurer Mary Murray, who has served for 10 years in that role, has indicated that the time has come for her to step aside. The Treasurer of the parish is an important member of our leadership and is responsible for overseeing our expenditures, our budgetary process and our overall financial management. I am pleased to be able to report that parishioner Rick Hamilton has indicated his willingness to take over this position as Mary Murray's successor. Rick has great experience in the financial world with various businesses and he has even served as a treasurer for nonprofit organizations, so he undoubtedly is well-qualified to assume these responsibilities. Mary Murray will work with Rick Hamilton over the next few months to make the succession smooth and I am sure that it will be.

For many years we have used an outside firm to manage our bookkeeping and accounting needs, but that firm now has indicated they are moving in a different direction. As a result, under the guidance of Mary Murray, we have planned to bring those functions in-house which will smooth, speed and generally facilitate all of our financial activities. We are making arrangements to how to hire a qualified individual to serve as a part-time bookkeeper to work with Mary Murray, Mary Zup and Rick Hamilton to take over these responsibilities. I believe that this change will lead to much more efficient and simpler process for our financial transactions and records.

During this Lenten season I hope that all of us are taking the time to meditate upon our relationships with God and with our neighbors, to continue our regular attendance at worship, and our own study of Scripture. We are fortunate to be able to plan for many of our customary Holy Week activities and services and we are blessed to have Fr. Richard Israel as our supply clergy and our Deacon Lydia Bailey throughout this time of transition. Further news will be available throughout Lent and Holy Week via our FlockNotes.

As always, I encourage everyone to reach out, not only to the Search Committee regarding the Transition, but also to any member of the Vestry, your elected representatives, with any suggestions or concerns you may have regarding St. Christopher by the River.

Respectfully submitted

John R Irwin, M.D.

Senior Warden

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

MARCH 2025

In loving memory of:

- Ted Ramsey by Jean Ramsey
 - Gwen, Tom & Colette Cooper by Elise & Larry Bennett
 - Rev. Rodney C. Shoemaker, Ph.D. by Annette Lowe & Douglas Dolch
 - Helmut & Marcia Alpers by Erica Alpers
- And in Honor of Mother Ann's birthday by Leslie & Michael Marting.

Note: There was no meeting in December due to lack of a quorum.

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

Dr. Irwin declared a quorum was present and opened the meeting with a prayer at 11:40 AM. Dr. Irwin served as Acting Clerk.

Previous Minutes

The draft minutes of the Vestry meeting on November 24, 2025, were then presented. Upon motion duly made and seconded, and following discussion, the minutes were approved with one modification to the description of the Rectory windows that were discussed. The windows that need to be replaced are not “storm windows” but entire new window replacements.

The draft minutes of the Vestry meeting on December 15, 2025, were then presented. Upon motion duly made and seconded, and following discussion, the minutes were approved as drafted.

Financial Statements

Year-end financials are pending awaiting the completion of the triennial audit. A discussion followed regarding the decision of the parish Treasurer, Mary Murray to retire after nearly 10 years of devoted service in this position. A search is being conducted for a successor to Ms. Murray and also for a qualified Bookkeeper to work in the parish office part time to manage the necessary financial records and transactions. That task has for many years been handled by an outside firm, and that firm and our Treasurer have recommended that we have an in-house part-time Bookkeeper.

Junior Warden Report

The Junior Warden reported on the ongoing restoration projects in the Rectory. The first item in this regard was the replacement of the very aged and worn carpeting in the Rectory. The best bid was from Marshall carpet, the same company that has provided carpeting in the nave and sanctuary. The Marshall bid was \$1500 lower than the other bid and since St. Christopher has a long-standing relationship with Marshall carpet, the Junior Warden strongly recommended that company. On motion duly made and seconded, after full discussion, the Vestry approved that contract.

The next project was the replacement of seven windows in the upstairs back of the Rectory. The Village of Gates Mills has specific and strict requirements for the replacement of windows, the appearance of which must be kept consistent with the architecture of the historic area of Gates Mills. After contacting several window replacement companies only one was able to fulfill the specific needs of the Rectory and the Village. This was Progressive Building Supply and they bid \$7608.34. The Junior Warden recommended that we proceed with this vendor. On motion duly made and seconded, followed by discussion, this contract was also approved.

A final Rectory project discussed during today’s meeting was the rehabilitation of the bathrooms. All three bathrooms need serious cleaning, painting and the upstairs bathroom in particular needs a major update. That bathroom has an ancient iron bathtub which needs to be replaced. The Junior Warden is searching for contractors and bids and she will report further at the next meeting.

Senior Warden Report

The Senior Warden made brief remarks regarding the status of the Transition and the Search Committee. The Rev. Jessie Dodson, Canon to the Ordinary will celebrate Eucharist with us next Sunday, January 19, 2025. Following that service, she will meet with all parishioners in the Fellowship Hall for her presentation on Congregational Development and the Transition. There being no further business to come before the Vestry at this time, on motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned and Dr. Irwin led a Closing Prayer at 12:31 PM.

VESTRY

Treasurer: Mary Murray

Class of 2025

Larry Richmond
Judy Holmes
Rich Radis

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

Hayley Kosmatka
Bruce Long
Kitty Thomas

NEMAC Representative

Laura Cotton
Linda Saylor



- 1 Sally Conley
- Pauline Marting
- Connor McMillion
- Hayley Kosmatka
- 5 Larry Murray
- 6 Kathi Mitchell
- 7 Brian Wright
- 8 Kathy Vilas
- 11 William Richmond
- 14 Lou Boswell
- 22 Patrick Hoeflinger
- 23 Ed Meyers
- 25 Susan Bates
- 26 Neal Repko
- 29 Daniel Collister

Present: Ms. Charlene Currutt, Dr. John Irwin, Ms. Judy Holmes, Mr. Ron Lee, and Mr. Peter Thatcher.

Dr. Irwin declared a forum was present and opened the meeting with a prayer at 11:24 AM. Dr. Irwin served as Acting Clerk.

Special Meeting Certification of Unanimous Waiver of Seven Day Notice

Dr. Irwin, in his capacity as Acting Clerk, reported that he had received in writing from all members of the Vestry, consent to waive the seven-day notice requirement for a Special Meeting of the Vestry, as stipulated in the Code of Regulations. With that waiver, this Special Meeting was authorized to proceed with the business before it.

Junior Warden Report

The Junior Warden reported that she had requested this Special Meeting to deal with a singular Rectory contractor project. Specifically, the project involves the rehabilitation and updating of the upstairs bathroom in the Rectory. This bathroom contains an iron bathtub that, because of its age and deteriorated condition, is both unusable and dangerous. This item must be replaced and the rest of this bathroom updated before any candidate to serve as our next Rector might be offered a tour of the Rectory. If, for whatever reason, the next Rector chooses not to use the Rectory as his or her residence, we would then lease the Rectory to suitable tenants, as we have done several times in the past.

The Junior Warden reported her vetting and negotiations with different contractors to undertake this project. Based upon her efforts, she has recommended that we approve a bid from Re-Bath. A copy of said proposal was presented as an exhibit during this meeting. The issue which requires prompt action is that this contractor is booked out for the next two months and if this job is to be done in a timely fashion, the contract needs to be approved as soon as possible.

On motion duly made and seconded, an extensive discussion ensued whereupon all Vestry Members present voted to approve this contract and proceed with necessary payment arrangements.

Closing

There being no further business to come before this Special Meeting, Dr. Irwin led a closing prayer, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

The next Meeting of the Vestry will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 11:30 AM in the Children's Chapel.

BARGAIN BOX

PLEASE JOIN US! SUNDAY, APRIL 13



To acquaint some of our new and even some long-timers to the sale that is Bargain Box, *the Palm Sunday Coffee Hour will be held in the Fellowship Hall and all items on display will be available for SALE!*

You will find housewares galore, beautiful linens, books, furniture, holiday decorations and more. Our big feature this sale is the wonderful collection of children's clothing from newborn to toddler sizes.



This is an event you won't want to miss. Join us for an EYE OPENING experience.

PUBLIC SALE

APRIL 25, 9-4

Early Entrance
@ 8:00 for \$10



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Church Profile is with the graphic artist undergoing design and set up. We don't have an estimate yet on how long this will take. When that is complete, it will be sent to a printer.

The 3 Rector search meetings went well with the third one this past Sunday being the most populated. At every meeting it was a joy to listen to everyone's concerns as most participated enthusiastically. Our members really care not only for the church, but about each other. The concerns were/are heartfelt, appropriate and encouraging. I am honored to be part of this search and have never seen this congregation so energetic and positive. I do think the rector we receive is lucky to have so many caring and devoted parishioners.

There is no deadline for the three-question surveys. All comments are important to review and consider.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Currutt, Junior Warden

Another busy month, but we are ALMOST THERE.

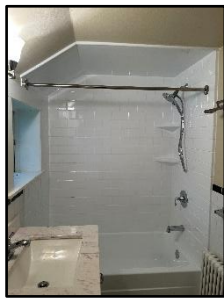


All 3 bathrooms have been updated and painted by our favorite painter and parishioner - Larry Richmond! The old cast iron tub was removed and ReBath did an amazing transformation on tub and shower!

THANKS to our "parish cleaning crew": Allison Benek, Joe and Lisa Cellura, Hannah Adrian, and yours truly who scoured and scrubbed baths, kitchen, and laundry room.



We can all breathe easier with clean air ducts! Duct Works did a thorough job.



When Luis added special lighting to the garage and basement, we were surprised to see so many objects that needed to be removed!



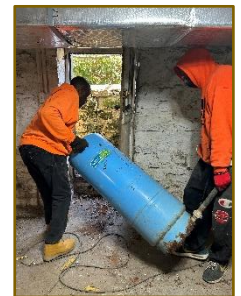
Thank you, Nancy Irwin

who orchestrated this.

It is a treat to walk on the carpeting that Marshall Flooring installed!



We now have a new washer, dryer, and stove purchased from Bloom Bros.




The upstairs windows will now open and close, thank you Progressive Bldg. company who installed new windows.

SOON we will be able to celebrate the finished rehab job on our sparkling clean sun porch! Thank you, Andrea and Lucy, for all your hard work!





When you drive by the rectory you will see a pristine garage door by Precision.

Mc Hugh plumbing and Burton sheet Metal also have been busy solving problems with the basement plumbing and boilers issues.

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	Hayley Kosmatka					8:00 AA	
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Chandler Everett Sr. & Brian Wright						
ALTAR: Sue Marston	Lucy Lytle						
USHERS NA	Brian Wright & Gabe Brachna						
HOSTESSES	Sabrina Zickel & Becky Everett						

SUNDAY APRIL 6 -- Fr. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 7	TUESDAY - 8	WEDNESDAY-9	THURSDAY-10	FRIDAY- 11	SATURDAY-12
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist	10-12 PRESORT	9:00 Staff				
EM: Kitty Thomas	John Irwin		10-12 PRESORT	10-12 PRESORT	10-12 PRESORT	10-12 PRESORT	
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Fran Sarkisian & Courtney Schmidt						
ALTAR: Sally Conley	Courtney Schmidt						
USHERS NA	Brian Wright & Leslie Marting						
HOSTESSES	Nancy Irwin				8:00 AA		

SUNDAY APRIL 13 -- Fr. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 14	TUESDAY - 15	WEDNESDAY-16	THURSDAY-17	FRIDAY- 18	SATURDAY-19
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist		9:00 Staff		 5:30 8:00 AA	 12:00 7:00	
EM: Charley Marston	Hayley Kosmatka						
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Chandler Everett Sr. & James Gallagher						
ALTAR: Teri I anni	Lucy Lytle						
USHERS NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	The Guild						

SUNDAY APRIL 20 – EASTER – FR. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 21	TUESDAY - 22	WEDNESDAY-23	THURSDAY-24	FRIDAY- 25	SATURDAY-26
9 am	11 am		9:00 Staff			8-4	
EM: Kitty Thomas	John Irwin						
LECTOR: Annette Lowe	Lucy Lytle & Courtney Schmidt						
ALTAR: Sue Marston	Courtney Schmidt						
USHERS NA	Charlene Currutt & Nancy Irwin						
HOSTESSES	NONE						

SUNDAY APRIL 27 -- Fr. Richard Israel		MONDAY - 28	TUESDAY - 29	WEDNESDAY-30	THURSDAY- 1	FRIDAY- 2	SATURDAY-3
8 am Holy Eucharist	10:15 am Holy Eucharist		9:00 Staff				
EM: Charley Marston	James Gallagher					8:00 AA	
LECTOR: Michelle Brockett	Becky Everett & Ron Lee						
ALTAR: Teri Ianni	Neal Lee						
USHERS NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES	Becky Everett & Judy Holmes						

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:
None

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

Parish Office

Mary Zup

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

440-423-4451

stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

APRIL 2025 Newsletter

St. Christopher by-the-River

**Food
Pantry**



- Canned fruits
- Unsweetened apple sauce
- Canned vegetables (including tomatoes and tomato sauce)
- Sauerkraut

BARGAN BOX SALE

APRIL 25, 9-4

Early Entrance
@ 8:00 for \$10

**PARISHIONER
PRESALE
SUNDAY
APRIL 13**



**APRIL 20
Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM
11:00 AM**



**Agapè
Feast**

**5:30 PM
APRIL 17**



12:00 7:00
EM: Kitty Thomas John Irwin
Lector: Annette Lowe TBD