



# ST. CHRISTOPHER BY THE RIVER

## JUNE/JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

I am pleased to be able to report that we are doing well as a parish in all respects. We remain financially sound, and we are progressing through the process of reorganizing our financial team. After many, many years of dedicated volunteer service to this parish, our treasurer Mary Murray has decided the time has come for her to step down from this important position. For a long time, we used the services of a CPA firm to do our bookkeeping and prepare our financial records. Based upon the advice and guidance of Mary Murray, we have hired an experienced bookkeeper, Patti Paczos, on a part-time basis to streamline the handling of the multiple steps involved in the record-keeping and accounting of our income, our expenses, and the preparation of our financial reports. In performing these duties in-house, Patti will work in coordination with our office administrator, Mary Zup. Mary Murray is presently working with another parishioner, Rick Hamilton, also an experienced business person, to make a smooth transition from Mary to Rick as our next Treasurer, which position is the chief financial officer of this parish. In recognition of Mary's long and admirable service to the parish, the Vestry is planning an appropriate event to express our appreciation and gratitude. The details of the event will be announced soon.

Liturgically and pastorally, we continue to benefit from the dedicated attention of our supply clergy, Fr. Richard Israel. Ever since the pandemic and Mother Ann's sabbatical time, and now through our transition, Fr. Richard has served us and has provided his spiritual guidance, continued our biblical and liturgical education, and maintained the pastoral services of St. Christopher, skillfully and compassionately. We always owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Meanwhile, the Search Committee has been diligent and industrious in its efforts, working under the guidance of the diocese and in particular the Canon to the Ordinary, Rev. Jessie Dodson. Like so many other activities in any organization, a great deal of energy is spent in the background. The Committee has finished the preparation of the parish profile booklet. This beautifully illustrated and detailed description of St. Christopher is one of the primary tools used in the search process. Copies of this booklet are distributed nationally by the Diocese to show potential Rector candidates the beauty, the history, the charm, the mission, and the wonderful spirit and devotion to God and community of this parish.

We have arranged for a number of extra copies of the booklet to be printed for our own use. These will be made available to visitors with the hope that this additional information, beyond their own attendance at our services, may help encourage those visitors to find a regular home with us at St. Christopher. We will place few copies of the booklet in the Guild room as display items, but we ask that parishioners not take those but instead allow them to stay in the Guild room so that everyone can see them. If you would like a copy, we will make arrangements for the booklet in electronic form to be downloadable from the Newsletter and/or FlockNote.

The Search Committee put a tremendous amount of work into this publication, so please thank them all for this effort. It is a central element of the entire search process, and I think the result of the Committee's work in preparing this booklet will be a significant component of our success in finding our next Rector.

As we move into the summer season, I look forward to seeing everyone at church, especially on those beautiful summer days when we can enjoy our coffee hour outside. We have a wonderful event coming up on Pentecost where, once again, Ron Lee and others are making all the arrangements for a special picnic in Marston Park. Please do not miss that event!

Respectfully,

John R. Irwin, M.D.

## St. Christopher by the River Vestry Meeting – March 16, 2025

Present: Dr. John Irwin, Ms. Charlene Currutt, Mr. Ron Lee, Mr. Larry Richmond, Ms. Kitty Thomas.

### Opening Prayer

Dr. Irwin declared a quorum was present, offered an opening prayer and called the meeting to order at 11:30AM.

### AI Summary

The meeting discussed various church activities and updates. Dr. Irwin confirmed a quorum with five members present. The minutes from previous meetings were approved. Charlene Currutt reported on recent renovations, including a 12-hour carpet installation and a furnace leak issue. A leak in the ceiling was identified, and a chimney issue was noted. The group also discussed upcoming events and tasks, including a potential workday for basement cleaning.

### Action Items

- [ ] Follow up with the plumber to fix the leak in the furnace
- [ ] Arrange for the windows to be repaired
- [ ] Organize a work day to clean and address any issues in the basement

### Outline

#### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Housing Allowance

- Dr. Irwin initiates the meeting, noting the presence of five people, which is sufficient for a quorum.
- The minutes from the February 16 regular meeting and the meeting after the annual meeting are approved.
- Dr. Irwin mentions the importance of the minutes for Father Richard Israel, who needs documentation for his housing allowance.

#### Charlene Currutt's Report on Church Renovations

- Charlene Currutt provides an update on the carpet installation, which took 12 hours & involved every closet.
- Charlene Currutt mentions a leak in the furnace, which was reported to Bob McHugh, who has not yet responded.
- Burton Sheet Metal was called to fix the issue, but they could not fix the problem, suggesting it might be a plumbing issue.

#### Basement and Window Issues

- Charlene Currutt discusses the need for a plumber to fix the furnace leak, mentioning the plumber's busy schedule.
- The windows in the back porch need repair, and a former Pella employee has been contacted to fix them.
- Shoe covers will be placed at the front door, and keys have been made for access to the rectory.
- A leak in the ceiling of the rectory was identified, and a panel was left open to allow air drying.

#### Mold and Radon Checks

- Charlene Currutt expresses confidence that there is no mold in the basement.
- Nancy Irwin has arranged for the removal of garbage from the rectory garage and basement.
- Charlene Currutt suggests a workday to clean the basement, provided it is safe.

#### Plumbing and Maintenance Issues

- Charlene Currutt has been managing the plumbing issues and suggests emailing a plumber's contact information to Dr. Irwin
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn, which is approved.
- The group takes a group photo in front of the altar.

### Closing Prayer

Dr. Irwin offered a closing prayer, and 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 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, John R Irwin, M.D., Acting Clerk.

*John R. Irwin, M.D.*

## St. Christopher by the River Vestry Meeting

April 20, 2025

On March 2, 2025, following the annual meeting of the parish, the Vestry adopted a policy scheduling Vestry meeting on the third Sunday of each month immediately following the conclusion of the 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist service. However, since this year the April meeting fell on Easter, the Vestry was canvassed by email to determine the availability of members to meet on April 20, 2025.

Many members reported having family plans immediately following the 10:15 AM Easter service and given that a quorum would not be present, the Wardens agreed to cancel the April 20, 2025 Vestry meeting and defer all pending business to the next regularly scheduled meeting date of May 18, 2025.

*John R. Irwin M.D.*

Respectfully submitted,  
John R Irwin, M.D., Acting Clerk.



## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

A very important part of the search process has been completed. Our Church Profile is now finished! Thank you so much to Kitty and the committee for all their hard work on this.

The profile has up to date information about our activities, community and services. It is available on our church website [here](#) as well as on the National Episcopal job site for candidates and possible priests in charge to view.

There will be several copies available in the Narthex and Guild Room for you to view and enjoy. Take a moment to sit and look through one. The pictures tell a story on their own. We hope you enjoy and are proud of our accomplishments.

We ask that you leave the copies here at the church. We would like these copies to be available for visitors and possible new members who want to learn more about us.

~Kitty Thomas

## FIRST SUNDAY COLLECTION



Each month on the first Sunday here at St. Christopher's, all undesignated (cash) donations put in the plate are donated to our sister church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church located on the West Side of Cleveland in support of their outreach ministries. They provide a weekly community meal and twice a month deliver fresh produce through their Mobile Pantry. They also distribute clothing to those in need through their program 'Our Neighbor's Cloak'. In 2024, we donated a total of \$1742.00 to support these ministries.





## FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

~Charlene Currutt



I cannot believe it is time for another monthly newsletter! In thinking about our parish and the people who help that are never thanked enough... Charley Marston pops into my mind! Not only has he been a junior warden a while back, but he has also been instrumental in seeking financial aid from the Figgie Foundation and also is on our finance committee. The most important thing to me as junior warden is that Charley has volunteered to be our "Cardboard caretaker". Thank you, Charley from the bottom of our cardboard bin!



I attempted to stage a few of the rooms, using some purchases from bargain box. Thanks to the special finds they made everything look more appealing!

Finally, our open house on May 25 was a huge success! Many people had no idea how large of a home the rectory really is. They were also impressed by what good condition this 174-year-old home is and how inviting it would be to live there!



Also special thanks to Alison, Hannah, and Lisa, who were able to help with the rectory's final touches!



## FOOD PANTRY JUNE



**Cereal!!!!**

No Cheerios!  
Breakfast Bars  
Oatmeal Packs  
Toaster Pastries

## FOOD PANTRY JULY

Paper goods – Toilet Paper, feminine products, napkins, paper towels, tissues, laundry detergent, dish soap





Join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual St. Christopher's Pentecost picnic at Marston Park, across the river from the church, after the 10:15 service on June 8<sup>th</sup>! It's a semi-potluck event, with fried chicken provided and attendees being asked to bring a side dish or a dessert. Iced tea, lemonade and water will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own soft drinks, wine, or beer if desired.

The park is a beautiful setting with playground equipment, a walking trail, bocce ball courts, and tennis/ pickle ball courts.

Wear appropriate casual picnic attire to the service.

Please RSVP via Flock Note or by calling Mary at the church as soon as possible so that we can have an approximate head count for ordering chicken.



If you know you have an updated phone number, email or address – or if your family has grown since our last update, please email or call the office.

**OR**

Soon, there will be a paper listing in the narthex and the Guild Room for you to review and mark up with any corrections.

We are also working on getting a secure, online directory with member only electronic login access so you may access addresses and phone numbers from your computer or phone and will then always have the latest information. We hope to have that available by the end of the summer. When this happens, we will be asking you to put photos in with your listing, so we all can know who our fellow parishioners are even if they attend at a different time than we do.

## FLOWER DEDICATIONS

**MAY 2025**

**In loving memory of:**

- Those individuals and families who continue to grieve for their loved ones by Kathy & Jim Pender.
- Sarah Christy Dickenson and Jeffrey Rockwell Cudlip by Frances & David Dickenson
- Michael Pender by his parents, Jim & Kathy Pender

And to the Glory of God by  
Annette Lowe and Doug Dolch.

- 1 Sandy Batcheller  
Clay McMullen
- 3 Alison Benek  
Chris Pucell  
Lydia Bailey
- 5 Diana Everett  
Stephen Morris
- 8 Elisabeth Blossom
- 11 Joan Allgood
- 12 Elise Champ
- 21 Bill Reynolds
- 23 Katie Everett  
Jay Lammers
- 30 Larry Richmond



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



- 1 Claire Morgan
- 2 Frank Ventimiglia
- 11 Charley Marston
- 13 Nancy Irwin

- 18 Frances Dickenson  
John Irwin  
Jim Mitchell
- 21 Connie Lincoln
- 22 Randy Cole  
Barb Miller  
Gini Negrelli
- 23 Anderson Osolin
- 25 Riley Brenner
- 26 Joyce Welsh
- 27 Sabrina Salerno







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

7601 Old Mill Rd.  
PO Box 519  
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 8:30-2:30**

**440-423-4451**

[stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com](mailto:stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com)

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**St. Christopher by the River**

**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](#)



**Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>**

**11:15**

**Bring a dessert or  
side dish**



**JUN – JUL - AUG**

**8:30 – 3:30**

**TUES & WED only**