ST. CHRISTOPHER BY THE RIVER

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parishioners,

Earlier this month, the August 14th FlockNote contained a letter from Mother Ann regarding contact. As she said in that letter, she proposed that we extend our period of suspension of communication with her until we have been able to welcome a new priest. Our bishop has recommended this, and I of course fully agree. I am hopeful that our period of transition, as we search for our next Rector, will soon be coming to an end, but in the meantime, I think it is best to allow the process to continue in the fashion and with the parameters established by our Bishop. I know that many of us are looking forward to the time when we can communicate with Mother Ann to express our best wishes and our affection for her. That time will come in God's good graces.

Meanwhile, with our new Treasurer and our new Bookkeeper and with the streamlining of all our accounting procedures, and, most importantly, with the continued generous support of the parishioners themselves, our church remains in good financial soundness. We will be starting our Annual Giving Campaign shortly and I am confident that, once again, we will meet our target goal and therefore be able to continue all our activities and ministries. I and the entire Vestry thank each and every one of you for your ongoing, faithful support of this church.

Respectfully, John R. Irwin, M.D.

FOOD PANTRY SEPTEMBER

Dry Pasta, Sauce (preferably no glass),
mac n Cheese, Ramen, etc.

A big thank you to Kitty and Linda for their help in gathering all the updates for the directory. August has been a very busy month in the office, especially as we transitioned over the last few months to a new treasurer, a new bookkeeper, and trying to get all processes on line!

I hope to have the time to get all the updates entered and the directories printed within the next couple of weeks. After that, we will invite people interested to set up a log in for the digital directory.

VESTRY MEETING – JULY 20, 2025

Present: Dr. John Irwin, Dr. Hayley Kosmatka, Ms. Charlene Currutt, 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 11:30 AM. Dr. Irwin served as Clerk.

Previous Minutes

The draft minutes of the Vestry meetings on June 15, 2025, were then presented. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lee seconded by Ms. Thomas, and following discussion, and motion to amend the minutes with corrections offered by Mr. Lee, the minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer Report

Mr. Richard A. Hamilton, Treasurer, provided a brief overview of his life experiences. He and his wife have lived in Pepper Pike for nearly 30 years where they raised their three children now ages 21, 22 and 25. Mr. Hamilton worked at National City Bank, at PNC Bank and at Toronto Dominion Bank, and he has had experience serving as a Treasurer for other nonprofit institutions.

Mr. Hamilton then reviewed the most recent financials which showed current assets of $864,000 with no liabilities.

In addition, we have substantial funds in what may be referred to as our Endowment, totaling slightly over $2 million.

Our cash flow situation is also good. The church is running under budget, with a positive variance in revenue to date of $27,000.

In summary, we are in a very sound financial position, a factor which should make St. Christopher very attractive and competitive in the nationwide search for a new Rector.

Senior Warden Report

Dr. Irwin reported on the project to place an historical marker plaque in the nave in recognition and appreciation of the Rev. Ann Kidder. The design and the wording of the proposed plaque were distributed as exhibits. By voice consensus the Vestry approved this project and Dr. Irwin will make the arrangements for the production of the plaque.

The upcoming annual diocesan convention this year will be held on November 14 and 15 in Wooster, Ohio. Each parish in the diocese is invited to appoint three lay voting delegates and two nonvoting lay alternate delegates who may serve in the event that a voting delegate is unavailable at the time of the convention meeting. The Vestry selected Dr. Irwin and Dr. Kosmatka to serve as two of the voting delegates, with the suggestion that James Gallagher be asked to serve as the third voting delegate. Dr. Irwin will also seek alternate delegates from among the general Communicants in Good Standing.

Junior Warden Report

The Junior Warden, Charlene Currutt, then reported upon two major projects left to be completed, the first the repair and replacement of the front steps of the church door. The stone of that entranceway is deteriorating, with one area of the sedimentary sandstone significantly delaminating.

The bricks surrounding the entranceway on the bridge side of the church are deteriorating and also need to be replaced/repaired. The Junior Warden has negotiated with multiple contractors on both of these projects and the Vestry authorized her to proceed with the selection of the contractor that she believes will provide the best service for both appearance and longevity along with the best price. She will proceed accordingly.

The Junior Warden also reported that the large concrete slab behind the rectory house garage needs to be repositioned to drain water away from the bottom of the adjacent door rather than toward that door, resulting in pooling of the water and damage to the doorway. She will explore this further and report at the next Meeting.

Search Committee Report

Ms. Thomas then provided an update as to the status of the ongoing Search for the next Rector. The search committee is continuing to coordinate with the Bishop and the Canon as they engage in the preliminary vetting of potential candidates. Arrangements will be made for Canon Dodson to return to St. Christopher to conduct a service and to update the entire parish as to the status of the Search and the Transition. However, because of her heavy schedule, she may not be available to join us until sometime in October or November.

Ms. Thomas also reported on the new Parish Directory both the printed version and the online version, which are being updated now and should be available in September. Linda Syler is working closely with the office staff and Ms. Thomas on this project.

Ron Lee Report

Mr. Lee was then called upon to report regarding plans for the Rally Sunday on September 7. This annual event will be held as before as a picnic, weather permitting outside, otherwise in the Fellowship Hall. Announcements on the bulletin board, in FlockNote's and during services will be made as the time approaches.

In addition, plans are being made to have a Clambake this autumn, the details of which will also be publicized as the time approaches. Mr. Radis is coordinating with Mr. Lee on this project.

Dr. Kosmatka Report

Dr. Kosmatka then reported on her follow-up activities regarding the diocesan survey of LGBTQ+ matters among all parishes. On behalf of St. Christopher, Dr. Kosmatka will respond that we are a welcoming, inclusive parish and we are awaiting the arrival of our next Rector before finalizing the details of our position statements.

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 12:44 PM.

The next Vestry meeting will be held following the 10:15 AM service on Sunday, August 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

John R Irwin, M.D., Sr. Warden and Clerk.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS
AUGUST 2025

In loving memory of:

- The Kloppenburg & Conley Families by Sally Conley.
- Our parents, Salvatore & Helen Cicirello by Nancy Cicirello, Barbara Korn, Joanne Kochuk and Helen Cicirello
- Paula & Mark Ianni by Teri Ianni
- Stuart & Shiela Baters by Susan, Ian & Brian Bates
- Barbara Bruch Nash and John Franklin Nash by Lucy Lytle

COOKIE MAKERS NEEDED

St. Christophers continues to support the LMM Men's Shelter by providing six casseroles and as many cookies as we can on the third Wednesday of every other month, and we can always use more volunteers to help with this project.

The casserole recipes, which are provided by the St. Paul's coordinator a week or two before the date needed, are very simple with a minimum number of ingredients-- you don't have to be a "chef" to put them together! They're unbaked and put in the church freezer by the specified date.

For cookies, any flavor or type is welcome, and they also can be left in the church freezer anytime you're baking and have a dozen or two extras to donate. Just label them "LMSM" and place in one of the downstairs freezers. Also, anyone who would like to join St. Paul's volunteers in serving lunch that month is encouraged to do so.

If interested in providing a casserole or cookies for this wonderful outreach opportunity, or if you have any questions, please contact Neal Lee—

(214)356-4909 or
neallee15487@gmail.com

lmm lutheran metropolitan ministry
listening. serving. empowering.

It's BARGAIN BOX month!

PRESORTS

SEP 08	**MONDAY**	**9-12**
SEP 10	**WEDNESDAY**	**9-12**
SEP 15	**MONDAY**	**9-12**
SEP 19	**FRIDAY**	**9-12**

THE WEEK OF BARGAN BOX

SEP 22	**MONDAY**	**10-2**
SEP 23	**TUESDAY**	**10-2**
SEP 24	**WEDNESDAY**	**10-2**
SEP 26	**FRIDAY**	**8-?**

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 4th - 12:00

Bring your pets or pictures of your pets to receive a blessing from Father Rich on the Feast of St. Francis!

The Blessing of the Hunt (Beagles) will be Sunday, October 5th at noon.

COFFEE HOUR needs you!

We are looking for a few more people willing to be hostesses for Sunday morning coffee hour. All you need to do is provide a few snacks and be on hand to help serve the tea. We provide the drinks and clean up!

CLAMBAKE is Coming!

Mark your calendars for November 8th….we are working through the details and hope we can pull it all together, so please save the date!

SUNDAY AUGUST 31		MONDAY - 1	TUESDAY - 2	WEDNESDAY-3	THURSDAY-4	FRIDAY- 5	SATURDAY-6
	8 am Holy Eucharist / **10:15 am Holy Eucharist**		9:00 Staff Meeting		OFFICE CLOSED		
EM:	Charley Marston / Hayley Kosmatka						
LECTOR:	Michelle Brockett / Becky & Chandler Everett						
ALTAR:	Sue Marston / Leslie Marting						
USHERS	NA / Judy Holmes & Gabe Brachna				8:00 AA		
HOSTESSES	Lucy Lytle						

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7 – Rev Rose Anne Lonsway		MONDAY - 8	TUESDAY - 9	WEDNESDAY-10	THURSDAY- 11	FRIDAY- 12	SATURDAY- 13
	8 am Holy Eucharist / **10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	PRESORT 9-12	9:00 Staff Meeting	PRESORT 9-12			
EM:	NA / John Irwin						
LECTOR:	NA / Fran Sarkisian & Dixon Morgan						
ALTAR:	Michelle Brockett / Lucy Lytle						
USHERS	NA / Brian Wright & Dixon Morgan				8:00 AA		
HOSTESSES	** PICNIC **						

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14		MONDAY - 15	TUESDAY - 16	WEDNESDAY-17	THURSDAY- 18	FRIDAY- 19	SATURDAY-20
	8 am Holy Eucharist / **10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	PRESORT 9-12	9:00 Staff Meeting		**10AM DOK**	PRESORT 9-12	
EM:	Charley Marston / Hayley Kosmatka						
LECTOR:	Kathy Pender / Lucy Lytle & James Gallagher						
ALTAR:	Sally Conley / Renee Kolecki						
USHERS	NA / Gabe Brachna & Dixon Morgan				8:00 AA		
HOSTESSES	Becky Everett						

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 – Rev Dan Schoonmaker		MONDAY - 22	TUESDAY - 23	WEDNESDAY-24	THURSDAY- 25	FRIDAY- 26	SATURDAY-27
	8 am Holy Eucharist / **10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	BB Set Up 10-2	9:00 Staff Meeting BB Set Up 10-2	BB Set Up 10-2			
EM:	Charley Marston / Brian Wright						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe / Chandler Everett & Cally Hoyt						
ALTAR:	Sue Marston / Laura Cotton						
USHERS	NA / Leslie Marting & Kurt Liljedahl				8:00 AA		
HOSTESSES	Neal Lee						

Meeting

Bargain Box 8-4

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28		MONDAY – 29	TUESDAY - 30	WEDNESDAY-1	THURSDAY- 2	FRIDAY- 3	SATURDAY-4
	8 am Holy Eucharist / **10:15 am Holy Eucharist**		9:00 Staff Meeting				12:00
EM:	Charley Marston / James Gallagher						
LECTOR:	Kathy Pender / Fran Sarkisian & Courtney Schmidt						
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni / Leslie Marting						
USHERS	NA / Gabe Brachna & Peter Thatcher				8:00 AA		
HOSTESSES	Nancy Irwin						

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

Find our weekly worship on YouTube.

Parish Office
Staffed T-W-TH 8:30-2:30
440-423-4451
stchrisbytheriver@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2025 Newsletter

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

New prayer list

Starting Sep 7, we will be refreshing our prayer list. If you have someone on the prayer list and would like them to be continued to be prayed for, please email or call the office to let us know.

Sunday September 7th @ 11:15

Bring a dessert or side dish.
Burgers, hot dogs and drinks provided.

Please sign up on the bulletin board, call the office or use Sign Up Genius!