ST. CHRISTOPHER BY THE RIVER

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

For many years, we have stated our Mission Statement as follows: “The mission of the Parish of St. Christopher by the River is to know God and make God known by: worshipping in the Anglican tradition; sharing Christ; helping our neighbors; and practicing good stewardship.”

As a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, we are also committed to the following prayerful guidance and vision statement of our Bishop, The Rt. Rev Anne B. Jolly.

“Connected in Beloved Community, we seek to be faithful, healthy, effective, and sustainable sharers of the transformative love of Jesus.

Both of these statements —our shared goals —conclude by expressing our devotion to good stewardship. We are presently engaged in one of the primary activities of good stewardship, the Annual Giving Campaign. Over 60% of our income comes from this Campaign. Our parishioners have always been dutifully generous in contributing to this church to continue its many services, ministries, and, of course, stewardship.

We are the heirs of magnificent gifts of property. Our church sits on consecrated ground in the middle of a classically beautiful village. Our buildings, both the church itself and the adjacent Rectory, are truly gorgeous examples of Greek revival architecture and Connecticut River homes. Both buildings were constructed in the early 1850s by the founder of Gates Mills, Holsey Gates, when he, his family, and other brave pioneers settled here in what is still known as the Connecticut Western Reserve. From colonial times, when the original colonies laid claim to lands far to the west, this area was considered part of Connecticut.

Mr. Gates and the early settlers dug a millrace from the Chagrin River, flowing behind what is now the Hunt Club and thence onward to reconnect with the river. Several mills were then built, among which was a lumber mill that produced the heavy timber of this church and the Rectory.

As expected, 170-year-old buildings require significant ongoing maintenance. We have just completed considerable work on the Rectory—from top to bottom, literally, from basement to roof, inside and out—to update, brighten, and modernize this beautiful home. We hope that our next Rector and family will choose to live in the Rectory and become Villagers in this lovely community.

Our Junior Warden, Charlene Currett, has worked with unbelievable energy and skill to manage this massive restoration project. She has prepared a book containing many photographs and details regarding the project. This book is in the Guild room, so please take time to admire what has been done.

Please also thank Charlene for what she has accomplished in fulfilling a significant aspect of our Stewardship responsibilities: maintaining and preserving these priceless structures we have inherited. There are many, many other responsibilities that we, a parish, have, and we are blessed to have among all of our parishioners such generosity and devotion to this church that we, like all those who came before us, can pass everything we have to those who follow us.

John R. Lewis M.D.

September 21, 2025
Present: Ms. Charlene Currutt, Dr. John Irwin, and Ms. Kitty Thomas.

At 11:30 AM Dr. Irwin declared a forum would not be present this morning. A brief general discussion among those present ensued regarding different matters, but since no formal action could be taken, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2025 following the 10:15 AM service.

August 17, 2025
Present: Ms. Charlene Currutt, Ms. Judy Holmes, Dr. John Irwin, Dr. Hayley Kosmatka, Dr. Bruce Long, Mr. Ron Lee, and Ms. Kitty Thomas.

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

Previous Minutes
The draft minutes of the Vestry meeting on July 20, 2025, were then presented. Upon motion duly made and seconded, and following discussion and several corrections offered by Mr. Lee, the minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report
Mr. Hamilton then presented his financial reports which show that we are in sound financial condition. Our expenditures have been significantly less than what was budgeted and that has left us in a positive balance situation.

Mr. Hamilton also commented upon a graph in the financial statements that revealed that about 60% of the church's budget comes directly from parishioners.

Senior Warden Report
Dr. Irwin discussed the need to appoint convention delegates. Dr. Irwin, Dr. Kosmatka and parishioner James Gallagher will be the voting delegates. Dr. Irwin is still seeking to identify a parishioner willing to serve as an alternate delegate.

Junior Warden Report
Ms. Currutt summarized the status of several projects including the replacement of the front steps of the church, the repair of the brick work around the entrance on the fire lane side of the church, the periodic required flushing and cleaning of the grinder, and finally the repositioning of a concrete slab in front of the doors at the rear of the rectory garage to prevent damage to the doors because of water accumulation.

Search Committee Report
Ms. Thomas reported on the status of the Search, noting that four other Episcopal churches in our area have been successful in finding new Rectors. Our search is continuing, and we all should remain optimistic. Ms. Thomas also discussed updates to the Parish Directory, both the printed version and the online version. Parishioner Linda Sylor is working with Mary Zup on both of these endeavors.

Event Planning
Mr. Lee discussed the planning for the upcoming Rally Sunday, which as before will be hot dogs and hamburgers with side dishes and desserts to be brought in by the parishioners. This event is scheduled for September 7, 2025, either outdoors or indoors, depending upon the weather.

Mr. Lee further reported on the possibility of an autumnal Clam Bake, but a specific date and a caterer have not yet been determined.

New business
One member of the vestry discussed a personal concern, and all members of the Vestry offered their sincere support to that fellow member.

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 12:26 PM.

John R. Irwin M.D.

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

The first weekend of October brought our annual Blessing of the animals right on the Feast of St. Francis (patron saint to animals) and was followed on Sunday October 5th with the Blessing of the Beagles for our friends at the Hunt Club.

Church BIOGRAPHY (BIO) for a new Rector

In preparation for the (hopefully) soon coming of a new Rector, Linda Sylor and Kitty Thomas are preparing a document to be shared with the new Priest only. This would include information on each family with details that could contain information like your profession, pets, hobbies, areas you serve or have served at this (or previous) churches, pictures of you and your family, any special skills (woodworking, instruments you play, gardener, technology, etc.), your baptism, confirmation and wedding dates….really anything (and only what) you would like to share.

We believe having this ready to hand a new priest will help them not only get to know the people of this parish but also make it easier to put faces and names together and will be useful to refresh after each Sunday of meeting new people upon new people! (We ALL know how we forget names as soon as someone introduces themselves!)

Linda will be putting together a short 'questionnaire' to hand out and will be asking anyone interested in being included in the BIO to fill it out and return it to the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, Linda or Kitty. This will not be a public document. It is meant only to welcome and support our new priest.

MINUTES, NEMAC (Northeast Mission Area Council) Meeting, October 16, 2025

Attending In-Person: Christ Church: Sandy Pavick (Co-Chair); St. Andrew: Rev. Lisa O'Rear (Co-Chair), Andrew Spiesman (Secretary). **By Zoom:** St. Christopher: Laura Cotton, Linda Sylor; Epiphany: Nancy Geiger; St. Martin: Cheryl Gray; St. James: Rev. Rachel Jagielski Harrison; St. Luke: Rev. Chris McCann; St. Peter: Ellice Nielsen

OPENINGS

The meeting began with a prayer at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes, August 5, 2025 Meeting. *Moved,* Sandy Pavick; *Second,* Rev. Chris McCann. Approved as submitted.

Finance Report. No report was available. A $500 grant was approved on August 16. (See "Evangelism", below.)

NEW BUSINESS

Funding Requests. Christ Church and St. Peter requested $500 to purchase spices for the annual Christmas Food Distribution. *Moved*, Andrew Spiesman; *Second,* Cheryl Gray. The motion passed unanimously.

Zoom Pro Account. A request was made to purchase this for NEMAC use. Rev. Rachel Jagielski Harrison and Rev. Chris McCann have accounts which NEMAC may use for future meetings. Rev. Lisa O'Rear will coordinate to schedule future NEMAC Zoom meetings through these accounts.

OLD BUSINESS

***Evangelism/Formation study of the Gospel of Mark*.** Rev. Chris McCann reported on the Christianity Explored project for which NEMAC approved $500 funding in July. The program is in progress at St. Luke Chardon (5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, potluck and study) and Celebration Lutheran Church (Wednesdays at noon). Rev. Chris co-facilitates with Pastor Marilyn Matevia (Celebration Lutheran Church) and Paul Barbins.

***NEMAC Events*.** Sandy Pavick shared some of the events NEMAC is considering for 2026; a *Rise Against Hunger* food packaging event, a chili cook-off and a Lake County Captains game outing.

***NEMAC Racial Reconciliation training*.** Rev. Lisa O'Rear (St. Andrew/Epiphany) discussed scheduling this program. Both parishes are interested. It might be beneficial to offer the program to the ten NEMAC parishes in one location. It is encouraged for NEMAC representatives, but not required. If interested, please contact Rev. Lisa at revlisastandrew@gmail.com. The training is available online through the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Sign up is through their website (diosohio.org), however there is a wait list.

***NEMAC Calendar*.** Sandy Pavick reminded all to add their parish events to our shared Google calendar.

2026 Meeting Schedule. Sandy Pavick shared these dates: **Tuesday, January 20; Wednesday, April 22; Thursday, July 23; and Monday, October 19.** Rev. Chris reminded us that NEMAC officers serve a three year term.

PARISH UPDATES

St. Martin. The August 2nd Striving for Hope Walk, sponsored by the Episcopal Human Trafficking Committee, raised $430 for the Renee Jones Empowerment Center. Rev. Anna Sutterisch is the new parish priest. There is new energy at the church resulting in several events, including concerts, outdoor worship and a parish picnic.

St. Peter. In October and November, the church is hosting a Blanket & Linen Drive. Their second annual Winter Photography Show is November 1 from Noon – 4:00 p.m. A Christmas Dinner giveaway for neighbors in need on will be hosted on Tuesday, December 23.

Epiphany. Each fifth Sunday, Epiphany and St. Andres combine for a shared Holy Eucharist; this is working well. On Sunday, November 30, the service will be at St. Andrew in celebration of the feast of St. Andrew. The two parishes held a joint Vestry Retreat to begin the Neighborhood Mapping Project. Through this initiative, each parish will learn more about their neighbors and community and hopefully develop new ministries — and new connections.

St. Andrew. The parish is hosting singer-songwriter Sarah McQuaid in concert on Sunday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. (Suggested donation, $20). On December 6 at 7:00 p.m., the Jingle Bell Jam will feature Christmas music performed by area musicians. A freewill offering will benefit the St. Andrew Food Pantry. All are welcome.

St. James. The St. James Feeding Center has partnered with Harvey High School students who use the St. James kitchen for a cooking class, then provide the Feeding Center with help. The Feeding Center is looking for volunteers to help cook and serve on Thanksgiving. There will be a parish Thanksgiving potluck on Nov 8.

St. Christopher. The Bargain Box sale on September 26th was a success. The Spring 2026 sale will feature housewares and the Fall 2026 sale will include clothing. They are thinking of adjusting the sale schedule from Friday only to start Friday afternoon and finish at noon Saturday. Upon discovering other NEMAC church sales, Laura plans to reach out to other parishes to share information and learn from each other. The search for a new Rector continues.

St. Luke. The Christianity Explored project continues through the fall. The parish celebrated the Feast of St. Luke on October 19. St. Luke's will mark their 65th Anniversary on October 28. The Rt. Rev. Anne Jolly, Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, will visit the parish on November 23 to lead a Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Christ Church. The church will have a bake sale at the Geneva Community Ghoul fest on October 18. The annual Holiday Ticket Auction is coming soon. Tickets for over 100 items including gift cards, gift baskets, fishing charters and other items can be purchased on October 24, with the event and drawing held on Saturday, November 15. Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway is serving as a permanent supply priest two Sundays each month.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT

The Council is reviewing the2026 budget that will be presented at the Diocese of Ohio convention in November.

CLOSINGS

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in-person at St. Andrew or online via Zoom.

A closing prayer was shared. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Andrew Spiesman, Secretary, NEMAC

FLOWER DEDICATIONS
OCTOBER 2025

In loving memory of:

- Jane 'Fig' Bauschard & Richard Bauschard by Laura Bauschard
- Bob Trebar by Renee Kolecki
- Robert & Virginia Chase by Charley & Sue Marston
- Bonnie Gepfert by Leslie & Michael Marting

From your Jr. Warden

As you can see by all the photos, it's been another extremely busy month!

I am pleased to say that we have an excellent Amish company who we work with to do heavy repairs on the rectory. Tare Creek Owned by Mark has been incredibly helpful and honest. He and his team have been able to replace multiple rotten boards in the back of the rectory and paint the entire backside near the kitchen. They have been able to repair a separated eve and gutter from the sun porch and stabilize, repair, and paint it. They also were able to resurrect a storm door that was found in the garage and now placed on the front door of the rectory.

You may notice pictures of our basement in the rectory. I was able to find a company that was willing to accept the challenge of cleaning this basement! Rays cleaning company worked six hours removing multiple cobwebs, years and years of soot, crumbling rock and tons of dirt! They not only scrubbed but sanitized all the ceilings walls and floors. The good report is there was absolutely no mold or any sign of any other issues.

Our little Church squirrels have also found another entrance into our steeple. You will see the pictures and note that the tree branches were giving them easy access to escape the cold. There were also pictures, including tree branches that are intertwined with our electrical wires. Brian Morton tree company was able to come immediately and remove those branches.

I think that's it for now. We'll keep you posted and any further activity.

Respectfully submitted, your junior warden, ***~Charlene Currutt***

NOVEMBER

Soup

Rice (*any varieties*)

Instant Potatoes (*any varieties*)

Stuffing Mix

Tortillas

Canned Gravy

2 Don Negrelli
Linda Sylor
3 Dennis Currutt
5 Michael Marting
7 Kathy Pender
13 Yuri McElliot
Tim Thirion
14 Hope Lomas
Betsi Morris
16 Andrew Everett
Alexandra Wolf
17 Susie Thorpe
18 Sue Marston
23 Will Barnes
27 Carolyn Miscko
Caleb Thirion
30 Lucy Lytle

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 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 Meeting	10:00 Finance Meeting			
EM:	Charley Marston	Hayley Kosmatka						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe	Cally Hoyt & Courtney Schmidt		**4:00 Prayer Shawl**				
ALTAR:	Sue Marston	Neal Lee						
USHERS	NA	Brian Wright & Charlene Currutt						
HOSTESSES		Sue Marston				8:00 AA		

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 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 Meeting	10:00 Finance Meeting	**OFFICE CLOSED**	**CONVENTION**	
EM:	Charley Marston	John Irwin			**11:00 FUNERAL**		Delegates: Kosmatka, Gallagher, Irwin	
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Eric Sylor & Neal Lee						
ALTAR:	Sally Conley	Leslie Marting			**OFFICE CLOSED 11:30-2:30**			
USHERS	NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES		Judy Holmes				8:00 AA		

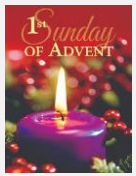
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16 – Fr. Richard Israel			MONDAY - 17	TUESDAY - 18	WEDNESDAY-19	THURSDAY- 20	FRIDAY- 21	SATURDAY-22
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**		9:00 Staff Meeting	10:00 Finance Meeting			
EM:	Charley Marston	Brian Wright						
LECTOR:	Kathy Pender	Becky Everett & James Gallagher						
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni	Ginny & Chandler Everett						
USHERS	NA	Leslie Marting & Judy Holmes						
HOSTESSES		Laura Cotton				8:00 AA		

VESTRY

Meeting

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23			MONDAY - 24	TUESDAY - 25	WEDNESDAY-26	THURSDAY- 27	FRIDAY- 28	SATURDAY-29
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**		9:00 Staff Meeting	10:00 Finance Meeting	**OFFICE CLOSED**		
EM:	Kitty Thomas	James Gallagher						
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Chandler Everett Sr. & Ron Lee						
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni	Ginny & Chandler Everett						
USHERS	NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES		Neal Lee				8:00 AA		

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30 – Rev Dan Schoonmaker			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	10:00 Finance Meeting			
EM:	Charley Marston	John Irwin						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe	Lucy Lytle & Courtney Schmidt						
ALTAR:	Sue Marston	Alison Wolf						
USHERS	NA	Judy Holmes & Charlene Currutt						
HOSTESSES		Becky Everett				8:00 AA		



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

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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

Please pick yours up in the Narthex.

Around the first of the year, we will mail any directories still remaining.