ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER/ANNUAL REPORT

RECTOR'S REPORT
Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Gabriel M. Lawrence

Dear St. Christopher's,

I am thrilled to submit this report as your new priest-in-charge. A month into my ministry here, my offering will be shorter than reports for future years, but know that my heart is so, so full. I am grateful, too, for how full this first month has been. In my first twenty-eight days with you, we have had strong engagement in worship, a joyful baptism, a delicious pancake breakfast, and a prayerful start to Lent on Ash Wednesday. I have shared coffee or a meal with many of you, and I have made a few calls on parishioners who are home-bound. St. Christopher's might be a small village parish, but there is a lot of joy and energy here. I am thrilled to join in on that joy and energy with you!

I have to express deep gratitude to everyone who led the parish during the time of transition before my arrival. I am grateful to Bishop Jolly, Canon Jessie Dodson, John, our Senior Warden (canonical authority during the absence of a rector), Charlene, our Junior Warden, the Vestry, the Search Committee (chaired by Kitty Thomas), supply clergy (especially Rev. Richard Israel), and all of you who continued to engage in the ongoing ministry of this place. There is a deep commitment to community at St. Christopher's, and you did not lose sight of that in the transition. You stayed closely-knit as the work of the Church continued, and that deep commitment to community has made my job of onboarding so easy and smooth. Supporting this commitment to community and growing the healthy community that already exists will be central to my ministry with you. I truly believe we have much to offer the beautiful village that surrounds us, and we begin his work on strong-footing.

I am excited as we look to the future together, too. In 2027, St. Christopher's will celebrate its centennial year as an Episcopal congregation. This major milestone marks one hundred years that this parish has been a presence of God's love in this community of Gates Mills. I hope that there will be many ways that we will celebrate our centennial next year, and so 2026 will provide us time to get ready for those celebrations. The centennial celebrations will culminate in Bishop Jolly being with us for a special service (complete with baptisms, confirmations, and receptions!) on our patronal feast, July 25, 2027, St. Christopher's Day. Look for more information throughout 2026 on ways that you can be involved in preparations for the centennial celebrations.

I believe that the Church, perhaps now more than ever, has an important gift to offer our hurting world: the balm of God's grace, mercy, and love. St. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours." We gather week after week to be nourished by God's grace so that we can then accomplish the work of being Christ's body in the world. I can't tell you how excited I am to be doing this work with you. I look to the future with excitement for all that God is doing and is going to do in our midst.

Glory to God whose power working in us can do more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus.

Journeying with you,

Fr. Gabriel †

2025 STAFF

Mary Zup	Parish Administrator
Yuri Sato McElliott	Director of Music/Organist
Luis Calvo	Sexton, Sunday Porter
Lucy Calvo	Churchkeeper
Andria Calvo	Nursery Director
Tellerd Organization, Ltd.	Bookkeeper (thru March 31, 2025)
Patricia Paczos	Bookkeeper (begin April 1, 2025)
Becky Everett	Volunteer Office Support
Rev. Lydia Bailey	Deacon
Fr. Richard Israel	Supply Clergy, Pastoral Care

2025 VESTRY

Judy Holmes	Class of 2025
Larry Richmond	Class of 2025 resigned 9/2024
Linda Sylor	*Class of 2025 replaced Larry Richmond*
Rich Radis	Class of 2025 resigned 9/2024
Brian Wright	*Class of 2025 replaced Rich Radis*
John Irwin	Class of 2026 Senior Warden & Clerk
Charlene Currutt	Class of 2026 Junior Warden
Ronald Lee	Class of 2026
Hayley Kosmatka	Class of 2027
Bruce Long	Class of 2027
Kitty Thomas	Class of 2027
Mary Murray	Treasurer (thru March 31, 2025)
Rick Hamilton	Treasurer (begin April 1, 2025)

DRAFT Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of The Parish of St. Christopher by the River
Held March 2, 2025
Respectfully Submitted, Linda Sylor

Openings

Call to Order. John Irwin, Senior Warden, convened the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Opening Prayer. The Reverend Deacon Lydia Bailey delivered our prayer.

Quorum. John confirmed that with more than 20 members present, there was a quorum.

Appointment of a Clerk. Linda Sylor volunteered. *On a motion duly made to approve the volunteer meeting clerk, following discussion, the motion was approved by voice vote.*

Appreciation. John thanked Rev. Richard Israel who serves as our primary supply and pastoral clergy.

Minutes and Volunteer Service

Minutes. *On a motion duly made to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes and seconded, following discussion, the motion was approved by voice vote.*

Recognition. John thanked several members for their leadership service.

—Vestry, Class of 2024: Bruce Long, Peter Thatcher, Kitty Thomas — and Renee Kolecki

—Junior Warden Efforts: Charlene Currutt

—Outgoing Treasurer: Mary Murray

Nominations, Vestry and NEMAC

The Committee member nominations are *Vestry*, Hayley Kosmatka, Bruce Long and Kitty Thomas (Three-year terms) — and *NEMAC*, Linda Sylor (Two-year term).

Moved: Approve the nominations for the three Vestry members and the NEMAC representative, Charlene Currutt; Seconded, Rik Bole > Carried

We thank Neal Lee, Debbie Cole, Charley Marston, Judy Holmes and Larry Richmond for their nominations work.

Updates, Rectory Refurbishment, Jr. Warden

—Bathrooms. With improvements now complete, all three have been painted by Larry Richmond.

—Hardwood Floors. Refinishing of the four rooms with wooden floors is finished.

—Other Floors. The carpeting will be installed on April 13 thanks to donations and rector's salary funds.

—Cleaning. Several parishioners have spent time cleaning the rectory.

—Exterior. A new garage door was recently installed.

Updates, Rector Search, Search Committee

Chair Kitty Thomas reminded us about the March meetings at church to gather input about the traits and characteristics we seek in a new rector based on answers to just three questions. Dates: Sunday, 3/9, 9:00 a.m. (Between services); Wednesday, 3/12, 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, 3/23, 11:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour

We thank Judy Holmes (With contributions from Laura Cotton, Neal Lee and Nancy Irwin) for hosting an upgraded coffee hour.

Adjournment and Dismissal

Moved: Adjourn the 2024 Annual Meeting, Rik Bole; Seconded, John Mitchell > Carried

The meeting concluded at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Sylor, St. James Member

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
Respectfully submitted by John R. Irwin, JD, M.D.

Dear Parishioners,

Over the past nearly 20 years, I have had the honor of being elected to the Vestry several times. During those terms, I have had the further honor to be elected to serve as Senior Warden. I held these positions during the tenure of both Conrad Selnick and Ann Kidder. I worked closely and productively with both Rectors, meeting with them regularly and sharing in the responsibilities of leading this Parish. Notwithstanding all of that experience, it truly was not until I began serving as Senior Warden during our recent time of transition that I learned firsthand the seemingly endless amount of nearly full-time work that is involved in serving this Parish as a replacement for almost all the duties of a Rector or a Priest in charge, with the exception of liturgical and pastoral care. You don't really know what a person does until you have to replace them yourself.

This has been a truly eye-opening experience and has given me a deeper understanding and greater respect than ever before for the duties of a priest. I am pleased to hand over all of those responsibilities to our new priest-in-charge, Father Gabriel Lawrence. I am certain he will meet and exceed all of our expectations. Perhaps no one welcomes him to this Parish more than I.

With that said, I also feel a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude for everyone in this Parish who contributed so much of themselves, their time, devotion, and money to keep St. Christopher by the River running at full speed for the last 18 months. I begin, of course, by thanking all members of the Vestry over the past months for their continued diligent service to the Parish, guiding it well and ensuring we could continue all of our internal and outreach ministries throughout this time.

In particular, I thank our Junior Warden, Charlene Currutt, who labored so much and achieved so much during this time, particularly the fantastic restoration of the Rectory. Her ability to identify the appropriate vendors, tradesmen, artisans, and others, and to negotiate the most favorable terms, was truly astounding. We owe her greatly.

In addition, all members of our staff, Mary Zup, Luis, Lucy, and Andrea Calvo, and our new in-house bookkeeper, Patti Paczos, have kept our historic, beautiful buildings in fine shape and our finances in good order. Parishioner Richard Hamilton has assumed the role of Treasurer, working closely with the Vestry and our office staff to manage our finances.

We may all remember that our Bishop and the Canon to the Ordinary expressed confidence in this Parish, describing it as stable, and I believe the Parish demonstrated that stability throughout the long transition. The Women's Guild, Bargain Box, the Altar Guild, and all of our various outreach programs continued unabated during the transition. The Annual Giving Campaign, under the guidance of Becky Everett, again met its goal. Our primary supply clergy, Father Richard Israel, supplemented on occasion by Mother Rose Ann Lonsway and Father Dan Schoonmaker, worked closely with our office staff and our music director, Yuri McElliott, to continue our liturgical services. At the same time, Father Israel managed the pastoral needs of our Parish.

In the midst of all this, Kitty Thomas and the members of the Search Committee completed their labors, including producing the Parish Profile. They coordinated with Canon Jessie Dodson and our Bishop to lead us to our Priest-in-Charge, Father Gabriel. Meanwhile, Vestry member Haley Kosmatka chaired the Nominating Committee and produced the slate of nominees for this annual meeting.

All of this demonstrates that the Parish has remained, across all dimensions, as active as before the transition. I think that is a remarkable testament to the stability of St. Christopher by the River and to our collective devotion to this church. Please express your thanks and gratitude to these people and, in fact, to all of us, each and every one, for keeping our church healthy and prosperous.

It is truly an honor to be part of this Community of God.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
Respectfully submitted by Charlene Currutt

This is my third annual report as your Junior Warden—hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. As always, I would like to acknowledge the great job that Lucy and Luis do in maintaining our Church. I also cannot forget Mary, she is always there when I need her support!

Over the past year, thanks to the generosity and support of our parish community, we've been able to complete several important improvements to our buildings and grounds.

Church Improvements

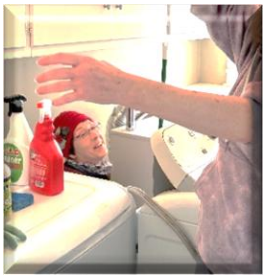
This fall, we installed a new sandstone front porch, giving the church a safe and welcoming entrance. We also replaced the deteriorating retaining wall along the fire-lane side of the building, ensuring both safety and long-term stability.

Rectory Renovations

I'm happy to share that the rectory is finally complete. It has been a major project, and the transformation is remarkable. A full list of updates and photos can be found in the scrapbook in the Guild Room, but here are some of the key improvements:

- Complete interior painting by Best Buy Painting
- Exterior painting of the west side and sun porch by Nick Bryan Company
- New carpeting in all bedrooms and hallways installed by Marshalls Carpet
- New windows throughout the rectory from Progressive Building Supply
- Updates to all three bathrooms, including a full remodel of the upstairs master bath by ReBath
- New appliances from Bloom Brothers

With these upgrades, the rectory is now fully refreshed and ready—providing Father Gabriel with a comfortable, welcoming home.



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?

VESTRY

Treasurer: Rick Hamilton

Class of 2025
Judy Holmes
Linda Sylor (Rich Radis replacement)
Brian Wright (Larry Richmond replacement)

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

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Thank you to our outgoing Vestry member Judy Holmes for her years of service.

Pending a vote at
The Annual Meeting of
St. Christopher by the River
on March 1, 2026,

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

Vestry, 3-year term: **James Gallagher**
Vestry, 3-year term: **Brian Wright**
Vestry, 3-year term: **Linda Sylor**

Northeast Mission Area Council Representative (NEMAC), 2-year term (2026-2028): **Laura Cotton**

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

Hayley Kosmatka
Charlene Currutt
Becky Everett
Charley Marston
Kitty Thomas

Posted January 20, 2026

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Kitty Thomas

July, 2025 — St. Christopher's Church Profile was updated by the Search Committee. Print Design was by Wendy J. Donkin, Small Seeds Designs. Printing done by Morgan Litho, 4101 Common Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44103. The Profile booklet including print and colorful pictures was 20 pages, and 100 copies were made.

Oct. 9, 2025 — Father Gabriel Michael Lawrence after being impressed viewing the Profile wrote to Canon Jesse Dodson discerning a call to contact St. Christopher's to learn more about the parish, members and activities.

Oct..16, 2025 — Jesse Dodson met with the Search Committee to tell them more about Father Gabriel and why she as well as Bishop Jolly thought he was an ideal candidate for St. Christopher's next Priest-in-Charge. She explained his background, interests and strengths

Nov. 3, 2025 — Jesse Dodson forwarded lots of information about Father Gabriel for the Search Committee to review. Included were his education, experience, certification, skills, diocesan service and community involvement. The Oct. 9th letter from Father Gabriel to Jesse showing strong interest was included. Also listed were Father Gabriel's videos of sermons and informal talks. References were also of interest to the Search Committee.

Nov. 5, 2025 — Father Gabriel met for one hour at Jesse's request for a first interview with the Search Committee

Nov. 14, 2025 — The Search Committee met with the Vestry for lunch and introduced Father Gabriel to them. The Vestry asked him lots of questions. It was a very meaningful lunch. He was engaging, relaxed and answered all questions appropriately

Nov. 23, 2025 — Each member of the Search Committee wrote a paragraph explaining why each thought Father Gabriel would be a good Priest-in-Charge for St. Christopher by the River. These statements were compiled into a report given to each Vestry member to read and digest. Then a vote was made by the Vestry to approve or disapprove of Father Gabriel as our next Priest-in- Charge. It was unanimous in favor of Father Gabriel to become our next Priest-in-Charge.

Dec.5, 2025 — The Search Committee's job ended. John Irwin, Senior Warden received a blessing from Bishop Jolly. He then offered Father Gabriel the position of Priest-in-Charge for a 3-year term. A "Letter of Agreement" was signed by The Senior Warden and Father Gabriel

Jan.9, 2026 — Father Gabriel moves into the St. Christopher's Rectory

Feb1, 2026 — Father Gabriel conducts his first service at St. Christopher by the River

The members of The Search Committee are:

Alison Benek	James Gallagher	Bruce Mavec
David Dickenson, Co-chair	Leslie Marting	Kitty Thomas, co-chair
		Alison Wolf

STEPHEN MINISTRY & GRIEF GROUP REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Pender

Currently the Stephen Ministry and the Grief Group are not active although the Stephen Ministers are served as lay visiting Eucharist ministers. Kathy Pender continues to send notes to the Grief Group each month.

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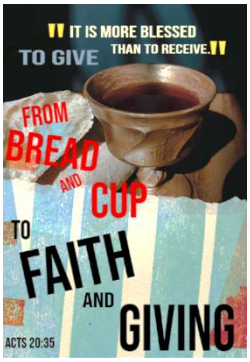
2026 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Becky Everett



The 2026 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 Bread and Wine to Faith and Giving**, was hugely successful, receiving $187,291.00 in pledged financial support!

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 12/31/2025: $3,028,275
Investment and Admin Fees in 2025: $20,272
Tax Preparation Fee: $1,050

Fund B:
Market value as of 12/31/2025: $127,000
Investment and Admin Fees in 2025 $800
Tax Preparation Fee: $500

In accordance with the spending policy for the year 2025, the Fund ***distributed a total of $132,722*** to St. Christopher by-the-River's operating funds. Distributions are made on a quarterly basis.

Total gifts to the fund in 2025 were $10,000. 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Richard A. Hamilton

Support from the community remains strong with total congregational support exceeding both 2024 levels and the 2025 budget [(1)]. Plate and special gift giving were consistent year over year and in line with budget expectations. Congregational support remains at nearly 60% of total receipts, a healthy percentage for a parish of our size. Support from the St. Christopher Fund was 5.0% of the Fund's assets in 2025 and is expected to remain at this level due to strong market performance and the desire to grow the endowment.

Overall, expenses in 2025 were lower than budgeted and lower than prior year primarily because of Mother Ann's retirement as of August 1, 2024, which affected the Rectory operating costs as well as salaries and benefits in 2025. Lower than expected reliance upon contractors also led to a favorable personnel expense budget variance. Finally, the Diocesan assessment was lower than budget and prior year due to the lower overall operating expenses. For the year, we posted a strong surplus. Our balance sheet remains strong and liquid.

For fiscal year 2026, total expenses are projected to be approximately $25K higher than 2025 driven primarily by higher personnel, property, and assessment expenses.

1) $30K of the $185K in 2026 pledge commitments were received in 2025 and will be reflected in the 2026 financial statements.

Operating Activities - Unaudited

Income	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Pledge Giving	$ 185,600	$ 189,891	$ 196,453	$ 189,612	$ 185,500	$ 186,291
Non-pledge Giving	$ 41,920	$ 56,323	$ 41,017	$ 43,848	$ 15,000	$ 71,832
Plate Offerings and Special Gifts	$ 13,875	$ 14,243	$ 12,287	$ 12,649	$ 13,000	$ 13,400
Outreach Received & Other	$ 1,629	$ 2,117	$ 1,747	$ 10,716	$ 2,000	$ 1,800
Total Congregational Support	**$ 243,024**	**$ 262,574**	**$ 251,504**	**$ 256,824**	**$ 215,500**	**$ 273,323**
Total Grants	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**
St. Christophers Funds (A/B)	$ 139,240	$ 138,922	$ 141,096	$ 132,722	$ 132,722	$ 138,900
Church Investments	$ 17,920	$ 26,165	$ 25,201	$ 31,313	$ 26,000	$ 33,600
Total Investment Support	**$ 157,160**	**$ 165,087**	**$ 166,297**	**$ 164,035**	**$ 158,722**	**$ 172,500**
Total Income	**$ 420,184**	**$ 447,661**	**$ 437,800**	**$ 440,859**	**$ 394,222**	**$ 465,823**
Expenses						
Worship & Programming	$ 2,536	$ 3,245	$ 3,110	$ 1,997	$ 3,250	$ 3,350
Personnel	$ 272,023	$ 280,243	$ 219,853	$ 166,949	$ 187,435	$ 313,604
Adminstration	$ 31,217	$ 31,948	$ 36,622	$ 40,003	$ 38,650	$ 37,800
Total Plant, Property and Equipment	$ 41,428	$ 38,851	$ 41,527	$ 40,002	$ 39,000	$ 45,686
Total Outreach & Congregational Care	$ 2,555	$ 2,111	$ 2,205	$ 3,116	$ 2,000	$ 2,800
Diocesan Assessment	$ 52,329	$ 53,620	$ 45,267	$ 34,404	$ 37,484	$ 62,583
Total Expenses	**$ 402,088**	**$ 410,017**	**$ 348,584**	**$ 286,472**	**$ 307,819**	**$ 465,823**
Surplus/Deficit	**$ 18,096**	**$ 37,644**	**$ 89,216**	**$ 154,387**	**$ 86,403**	**$ -**
Congregational Support	58%	59%	57%	58%	55%	59%

	As of 12/31			
Balance Sheet Highlights	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Cash and Liquid Investments	$ 666,218	$ 724,910	$ 908,682	$ 1,019,902
Current Liabilities	$ 67,489	$ 80,587	$ 66,593	$ 31,636
Capital and Organ Reserve Funds	$ 288,043	$ 250,806	$ 349,070	$ 350,119
All Other Reserves	$ 129,121	$ 211,102	$ 144,166	$ 148,608
Unrestricted Net Assets	**$ 181,565**	**$ 263,002**	**$ 348,853**	**$ 489,539**

MUSIC REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Yuri Sato McElliott, Director of Music

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 and Linda Sylor for singing and playing the handchimes for our regular Sunday services and for Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, the Richmond family moved away, and we are very sad to loose them. They were not only great singers but wonderful fun people. We miss them very much but we wish them good luck at their new church. The good news is that Linda Sylor joined our alto section and we are very happy to have another alto. To all of you; your hard work and unique talents are appreciated by the entire congregation. Thank you very much!

Sincere thanks also to Becky Everett for playing the Carillon so beautifully throughout the year.

I would also like to thank Eva Ellis for playing and directing the choir when I am away. I know that the choir and congregation wholeheartedly join me in those thanks. Eva always brings gentleness and wonderful musicianship. We feel very blessed to work with her.

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 interested at any level, 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 Guild members prepare and dismantle the altar for every church service. This includes Sunday worship, weddings, baptisms and memorial services. We also prepare the Visitor's Boxes for Stephen Ministers to visit shut-ins.

We order the flowers and decorate the church at Christmas and Easter. We order the flowers for ordinary Sundays and deliver flowers to parishioners who are sick, homebound, or simply need a little pick me up in their day. We also coordinate the palms for Palm Sunday.

A special thank you to Luis Calvo and Sally Conley for the redecorating and painting of the sacristy this year. It has made the sacristy a special place.

Members of the Guild are listed below. In addition, we welcome Patty Grebenc as trainee for altar services.

Michelle Brocket '23
Sally Conley '09
Laura Cotton '16
Chandler Everett '25
Ginny Everett '25
Renee Kolecki '19
Lucy Lytle '20
Leslie Marting '20
Teri Ianni '16
Neal Lee '16
Sue Marston '91
Carolyn Miscko '93
Courtney Schmidt '19
Linda Sylor '25
Alison Wolf '23

Emeritus Members:
Polly Bixler '95

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

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 Rector and for providing pastoral care and home/Eucharistic visits. Also performing Holy Eucharist services for us this past year were The Rev. Dan Schoonmaker, The Rev. Rose Ann Lonsway, Canon Jesse Dodson (one service) and the Rev. Rosalind Hughes (Christmas Services).

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 2025.

LECTORS

Michelle Brockett
Becky Everett
Chandler Everett
Chandler H. Everett
James Gallagher
Judy Holmes
Cally Hoyt
Teri Ianni
John Irwin
Neal Lee
Ron Lee
Annette Lowe
Lucy Lytle
Charley Marston
Dixon Morgan
Kathy Pender
Fran Sarkisian
Courtney Schmidt
Eric Sylor
Linda Sylor
Kitty Thomas
Brian Wright

USHERS

Gabe Brachna
Laura Cotton
Charlene Currutt
Judy Holmes
Nancy Irwin
Kurt Liljedahl
Neal Lee
Ron Lee
Charley Marston
Leslie Marting
Dixon Morgan
Peter Thatcher
Alison Wolf
Brian Wright

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.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers are licensed to serve the Chalice at Communion during services of public worship.

Becky Everett
Chandler Everett
James Gallagher
John Irwin
Hayley Kosmatka
Charley Marston
Kitty Thomas
Brian Wright

EUCHARISTIC 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

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 2025 were:

Becky Everett
John Irwin
Hayley Kosmatka
Charley Marston

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 are able to support this ministry and volunteer for a Sunday or two.

Elise Bennett
Laura Cotton
Charlene Currutt
Becky Everett
Judy Holmes
Nancy Irwin
Neal Lee
Lucy Lytle
Sue Marston
Kathy Pender
Larry Richmond
Gayle Richmond

OUTREACH AT LMM MEN'S SHELTER - 2100 LAKESIDE AVE.
Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Deacon Lydia Bailey

In 2025 and going into 2026 I am grateful to be serving with 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 Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry 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' s. On alternate months you also provide homemade casseroles and cookies for lunch - no small undertaking for 180 shelter residents. Then in December you team with St. Paul's to provide a Holiday dinner enough for 380 residents. Thank you for such loyal, careful support of this ministry throughout the year.

In 2025 parishioners also 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 $2,500 donation from Bargain Box proceeds - hugely impactful for months ahead.

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

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Sue Marston, Guild President

ALL women who attend St. Christopher Church are members of the Guild. An elected Board of 13 women conducts the business of the Guild. We are always looking for new Board members, so let us know if interested.

We had three focuses this year: the. Spring and fall Bargain Box sales and St. Luke's Christmas Gift program. The Bargain Box income from both sales was around $30,000, 60% of which was dispersed to outreach programs.

We sort and price donated items through- out the year. Join us for a morning of comraderie!

The St. Luke's' gift program was well received by the parishioners, and we donated many gifts to the event.

WOMEN'S GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT
Respectfully Submitted by Elise Bennett, Guild Treasurer

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S GUILD 2025 INCOME & DISBURSEMENTS		
INCOME SOURCE		
BARGAIN BOX		33,404.60
CALENDAR SALES		260.00
STATIONERY SALES		-
BANK INTEREST		2.54
	INCOME	**33,667.14**
INREACH 2025 BALANCE LESS EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS		
Guild Inreach Programs		291.74
Guild Room Repairs---Painting etc		500.00
Savings: Guild Rm Carpet		5,623.00
	INREACH BALANCE	**6,414.74**
OUTREACH 2025 OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS & BBOX EXPENSES		
Cleveland Food Bank		3,500.00
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		500.00
WomenSafe		3,000.00
City Mission		2,000.00
Lutheran Ministry		2,500.00
Norma Herr (YMCA)		500.00
Family Promise (aka New Life Community)		400.00
Seeds of Literacy		600.00
Meals on Wheels (2)-Chagrin Falls/Hillcrest)		800.00
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)		300.00
Ronald McDonald House		500.00
	TOTAL DIBURSEMENTS TO CHARITIES	**20,650.00**
	BARGAIN BOX 2025 EXPENSES	2,299.80
TOTAL OUTREACH EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS		**22,949.80**

NEMAC 2025 Program Report for the St. Christopher Annual Meeting

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, and socially. Parish-nominated lay representatives serve a two-year term.

NEMAC Parishes

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, 2025

Chair: Rev. Lisa O'Rear [St. Andrew/Epiphany] Co-Chair: Sandy Pavic, [Lay representative, Christ Church]

Diocesan Council: Rev. Chris McCann [St. Luke] and Rev. Rachel Harrison [St. James], Priest representatives, — and Nancy Geiger, lay representative [Epiphany]

Secretary: Andy Spiesman [St. Andrew]

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

Meeting Host and Attendance

We thank Rev. Lisa O'Rear, St. Andrew for hosting our quarterly meetings this year.

Average meeting attendance for the four meetings was 9.

Grants Approved

Month	*Requestors*	*Purpose*	*Amount*	*Description*
July	St. Luke & NEMAC parishes	Christianity Explored	$500	An eight-week, interactive course exploring the gospel of Mark [With formation opportunities]
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.

Note: No other grant requests were submitted in 2025.

Highlights, 2025 Program Year

- Rep Sandy Pavick, Christ Church assumed responsibility for postings in our Google NEMAC Event Calendar.
- A Potluck for NEMAC members and their families was held on Saturday, May 3 at St. Andrew.
- Several suggestions for NEMAC parish collaborative events were made and discussed. The group hoped to plan for and hold these events in 2026. Ideas included a "Rise Against Hunger" food packaging initiative, a chili cookoff, a Guns to Gardens regional event, a plant swap paired with a Guns to Gardens event — and a Lake County Captains game.
- St. Andrew and Epiphany entered into a shared ministry beginning at the Easter period, this under the leadership of Rev. Lisa O'Rear.
- Unfortunately, due to federal funding cuts, in 2025, it was not possible for the Diocese to continue "Neighbor to Neighbor" program activities sponsored by Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), and being spearheaded by Rev. Lisa O'Rear, St. Andrew. Several NEMAC members had hoped to attend program training sessions in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,Linda Sylor and Laura Cotton, NEMAC Lay Representatives, St. Christopher

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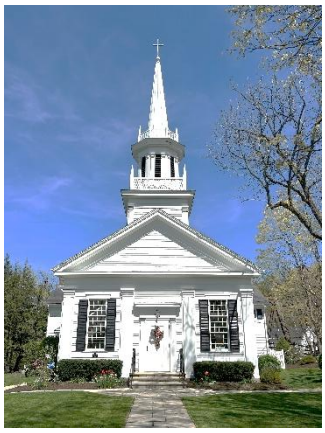
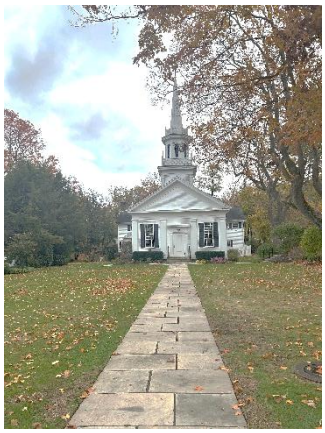
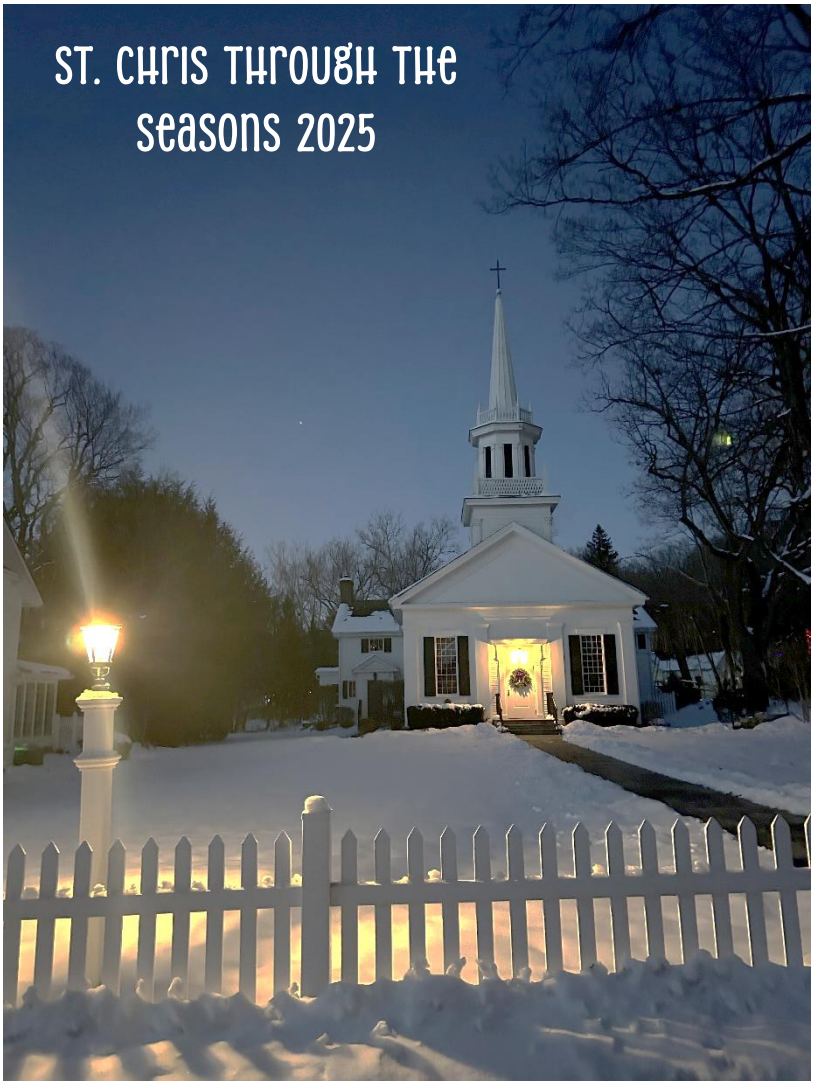
THANK YOU to all those who donated in any way to St. Christopher's in 2025 *(contributions toward 2025 pledges and/or donations received 1/1/25-12/31/25*). And a special thank you to our 79 pledgers – marked with an * below.

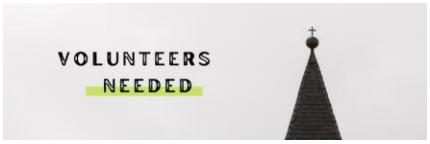
AA Riverside Group
*Alatis, M. Stacey
Allgood, Mrs. Joan
Alpers, Erica
Amefia, Mr. Djifa & Mrs. Annemarie
*Anderson, Rev. Mary Sterrett
Armstrong, Mr. Randall (Randy) & Mrs. Caroline
*Barnes, Mr. William, IV (Will) & Mrs. Anne
*Batcheller, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Sandra (Sandy)
Bates, Susan
Bauschard, Ms. Laura
*Beeman, Mr. Richard E.
Benek, Mrs. Alison W.
*Bennett, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Elise C.
Berlin, Ms. Betsy
*Bixler, Mr. Charles F., IV (Chuck) & Mrs. Donna
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
*Burgess, Dr. Margaret & Mr. Jeffrey
*Butler, Mr. J. C. & Mrs. Helen Rankin
*Cellura, Ms. Lisa
*Cicirello, Mr. Salvatore (Sal) & Mrs. Helen
Cole, Mr. Randall (Randy) & Ms. Deborah S.(Debbie)
*Collister, Mr. Daniel (Dan)
*Conley, Ms. Sally K.
Costello, Ms. Cynthia & Mr. Ted Mandes
*Cotton, Miss Laura
Currutt, Mr. Brian & Mrs. Kate
*Currutt, Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Charlene
*Davis, Ms. Barbara Ann
*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
*Everett, Ms. Virginia
*Fisher, Ms. Marilyn
*Gallagher, Mr. James & Mrs. Sara
*Gallop, Ms. Susan
Gelbach, Robert
Gnandt, Mr. Dale
Grebenc, Ms. Patricia (Patty)
Haag, William & Suzette
*Hamilton, Mr. Richard (Rick) & Mrs. Maria
Hellman, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Alyson (Sunnie)
*Hiltebrant, Ms. Molly & Mr. Stephen
*Holmes, Mr. Peter & Mrs. Judy
Horner, Mr. Douglas (Doug) & Mrs. Mary
*Hoyt, Mr. Douglas & Dr. Callum (Cally)
*Ianni, Ms. Teri
*Ilkanic, Ms. Ellen
*Irwin, Dr. John & Mrs. Nancy C.
*Kendrick, Ms. Eleanor (Ellie)
*Klinginsmith, Michael (Mike) & Dr. Gretchen Fisher
*Kolecki, Ms. Renee
*Kosmatka, Dr. Hayley & Smith, Ms. Allison
*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
*Lowe, Ms. Annette
*Lytle, Ms. Lucy
Manning, Dr. Robert & Mrs. Lisa Alpers
*Marston, Mr. Charles S. (Charley) & Mrs. Susan (Sue)
*Marting, Mr. Michael & Mrs. Leslie
*Mavec, Mr. Bruce & Mrs. Ellen
McElliott, Mrs. Yuri S. & Mr. John
*McMullen, Mr. Daniel J. & Mrs. Irene H.
Meyers, Mr. Edward (Ed)
*Miller, Mr. Chris & Mrs. Stephanie
*Miller, Mrs. Barbara W. (Barb)
*Miscko, Mrs. Carolyn E.
*Mitchell, Mr. James A. & Mrs. Kathi J.
*Mitchell, Mr. John & Mrs. Ann
*Morgan, Mr. Dixon, Jr. & Mrs. Claire
Morris, Mr. Warren & Mrs. Elizabeth (Betsi)
Murphy, Mr. Brian & Mrs. Cynthia P. (Cindy)
Murray, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Mary G.
Negrelli, Mr. Donald (Don) & Mrs. Virginia (Gini)

Novello, Ms. Nancy
*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
*Ramsey, Mrs. Jean
Rankin, Mr. Alfred M. (Jr.) & Mrs. Victoire G.
*Reynolds, Mr. A. William (Bill)
*Richmond, Mr. Lawrence (Larry) & Mrs. Gayle
Sarkisian, Mr. Stuart
*Sarkisian, Mrs. Francine (Fran)
Schmidt, Mr. Daniel & Mrs. Courtney
Schoonmaker, Daniel & Altiere, John
*Spring, Mr. Bill & Mrs. Luci (Schey)
*Stafford, Mr. Jim
Storer, Mrs. Dolores (Dede)
*Sylor, Mr. Eric & Mrs. Linda
Taylor, Mr. Henry & Ms. Hannah Adrian
*Thatcher, Mr. Peter B.
The Cleveland Foundation
The Veale Foundation
*Thomas, Mrs. Katherine W. (Kitty)
Thorpe, Mrs. Susan (Susie)
*Treco, Ms. Diana
*Van Hoek, Mr. Cornelius J. (CJ) & Mrs. Bradley T.
Vary, Mr. Michael & Ms. Jaclyn (Jackie)
*Vazzana, Mr. Matt & Mrs. Jamie
*Ventimiglia, Ms. Linda
*Vilas, Ms. Kathleen L. (Kathy)
*Warren, Mr. Russell (Russ)
Weitzel Family Foundation
Weitzel, Mrs. Jeanette (Jean)
*West, Mr. John & Mrs. Gail
*Wolf, Mr. David & Mrs. Alison
Wright, Mr. Brian J.
Young, Mr. David & Mrs. Judy
*Zup, Mary







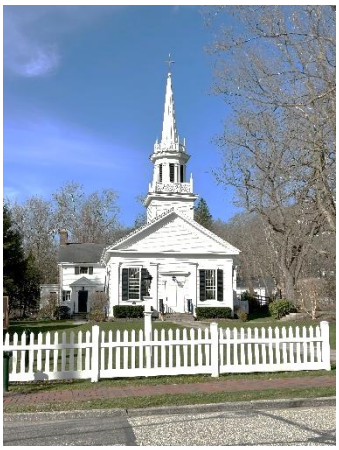


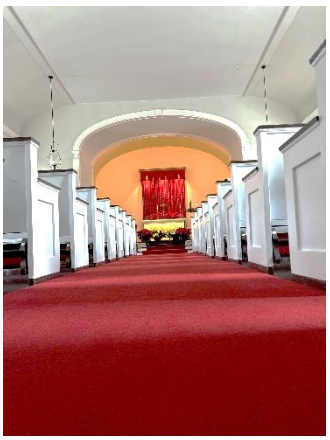
We are in need of servants for **Good Friday Services**. If you are able to Lector, Usher, or be a Eucharistic Minister, please contact the office.

NAME TAGS

Please inform the office if you need a name tag. We will be placing an order around the 15 of March. Please be sure to include exactly how you want your name to appear on the name tag.

1 Ann Michell
2 Jean Weitzel
Justin Zickel
4 Reed Stith
8 Jenessa Thirion
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
Collin Benek
27 Leslie Marting
Judy Holmes
28 Annette Lowe
29 Anne Barnes
30 Leland Morris
31 Emery Vazzana





HOLY WEEK

at St. Christopher by the River

PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 29
8:00 AM – HOLY EUCHARIST with Procession of Palms
10:15 AM – HOLY EUCHARIST with Procession of Palms

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 2
5:30 PM – SET UP
6:00 PM – AGAPE SUPPER in Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM – CLEAN UP
7:30 PM – STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR & PRAYERS

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 3
12:00 PM – PROPER LITURGY
with Eucharist from the Reserve Sacrament
7:00 PM – PROPER LITURGY
with Eucharist from the Reserve Sacrament

HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 4
8:00 PM – DIOCESAN GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
at Trinity Cathedral

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 5
9:00 AM – FESTAL HOLY EUCHARIST
10:20 AM – EASTER EGG HUNT
11:00 AM – FESTAL HOLY EUCHARIST

FLOWER DEDICATIONS FEBRUARY 2026

In loving memory of:

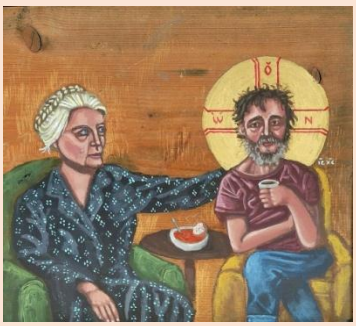
- Michael Pender by Jim & Kathy Pender
- Janet Hargrave and Sal & Helen Cicirello by Becky and Chandler Everett
- Mark & Paula Ianni by Teri Ianni
- James Gough by the Miscko & Pucell Families

MARCH 8, 15, 22 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY FORUM

I am delighted to join you in ministry! As we begin journeying together, I am inviting you to a Lenten forum that I will host on Sunday mornings between the two services. I want these weekly forums to accomplish two things. First, as the new one in your midst, I want to create intentional space for us to get to know each other. Second, through exploring themes of discernment, hope, and community, I want us to listen for where the Holy Spirit might be calling us in our work together. Through small-group discussions and storytelling, we will listen for God's voice together.

MARCH 11 - 10:00 AM



Please join us for a Lenten study hosted by the Women's Guild on Wednesday, March 11 at 10am. Fr. Gabriel will be leading a short study on the life and work of Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. **All are welcome!**

In March and April we welcome a local Home School group into our space as they practice for a theater production. If you happen to see them, please say hi and welcome them to St. Chris! They will be here most M-W-F afternoons.

MARCH 12 - 6:00 PM

Portraits of Strength: Stories of Redemption

This display, created by Deacon Lydia Bailey, will be at Church of the Western Reserve **March 12-April 9**. It is a collection of photographs & stories of those who work at LMM Men's Shelter and the "radical hospitality" they display in working with those who are homeless.

On March 12 Deacon Lydia Bailey will speak at their Lent Soup and Speaker Series

6:00 - 6:30 PM Presentation by Lydia Bailey
6:30 - 7:00 PM Soup & Bread Supper

Church of the Western Reserve - Firelands Room
30500 Fairmount Boulevard
Pepper Pike OH 44124
Photos & excerpts from their full stories can now be seen on YouTube at Portraits of Strength: https://youtu.be/VhVSEjn1pE0

SUNDAY MARCH 1			MONDAY - 2	TUESDAY - 3	WEDNESDAY-4	THURSDAY-5	FRIDAY- 6	SATURDAY-7
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**						
EM:	NO SERVICE	John Irwin	1-3 HS Theater	9:00 Staff	10:00 Finance 10:00 DOK		1-3 HS Theater	
LECTOR:	NO SERVICE	Linda Sylor & Curtney Schmidt						
ALTAR:	Sue Marston	Leslie Marting			1-3 HS Theater			
USHERS	NA	Brian Wright & Charlene Currutt						
HOSTESSES		Sue Marston				8:00 AA		

SUNDAY MARCH 8			MONDAY - 9	TUESDAY - 10	WEDNESDAY-11	THURSDAY-12	FRIDAY- 13	SATURDAY-14
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**						
EM:	Kitty Thomas	Hayley Kosmatka			10:00 Finance			
LECTOR:	Kathy Pender	Fran Sarkisian & Courtney Schmidt			**10:00 Dorothy Day Study**			
ALTAR:	Sue Marston	Renee Kolecki	1-3 HS Theater	9:00 Staff			1-3 HS Theater	
USHERS	NA	Ron & Neal Lee			1-3 HS Theater			
HOSTESSES		Elise Bennett				8:00 AA		

9:00 Forum

SUNDAY MARCH 15			MONDAY - 16	TUESDAY - 17	WEDNESDAY-18	THURSDAY-19	FRIDAY- 20	SATURDAY-21
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**						
EM:	Kitty Thomas	Brian Wright		9:00 Staff	10:00 Finance			
LECTOR:	Kitty Thomas	Cally Hoyt & Becky Everett						
ALTAR:	Sally Conley	Linda & Eric Sylor	1-3 HS Theater		1-3 HS Theater		1-3 HS Theater	
USHERS	NA	Leslie Marting & Gabe Brachna						
HOSTESSES		Kathy Pender				8:00 AA		

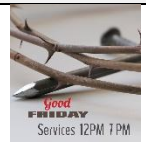
9:00 Forum

SUNDAY MARCH 22			MONDAY - 23	TUESDAY - 24	WEDNESDAY-25	THURSDAY-26	FRIDAY- 27	SATURDAY-28
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**						
EM:	Becky Everett	James Gallagher		9:00 Staff	10:00 Finance			
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Eric Sylor & Ron Lee						
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni	Laura Cotton	1-3 HS Theater		1-3 HS Theater		1-3 HS Theater	
USHERS	NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES		Neal Lee				8:00 AA		

9:00 Forum

11:15 Vestry Mtg

SUNDAY MARCH 29			MONDAY - 30	TUESDAY - 31	WEDNESDAY-1	THURSDAY-2	FRIDAY-3	SATURDAY-4
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**						
EM:	Charley Marston	Hayley Kosmatka		9:00 Staff	10:00 Finance			
LECTOR:	Kitty Thomas	Chandler Everet Sr. &Brian Wright						8:00 pm Easter Vigil @ Trinity
ALTAR:	Sue Marston	Laura Cotton	1-3 HS Theater		1-3 HS Theater		**12:00**	
USHERS	NA	Brian Wright & Gabe Brachna					**7:00**	
HOSTESSES		Nancy Irwin				8:00 AA		



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY-THE-RIVER EPISCOPAL CHURCH
www.stchrisbytheriver.org

7601 Old Mill Rd.
PO Box 519
Gates Mills OH 44040

The Rev. Gabriel Lawrence, Priest-in-Charge
440-745-3238
stchris.fathergabriel@gmail.com

Sunday Services
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:15 AM Holy Eucharistic Rite II
Childcare available at the 10:15 service.

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 2026 Newsletter

St. Christopher by the River

ADULT FORUM WITH FR. GABRIEL

SUNDAYS 9:00 AM

MAR 8, 15, 22

APRIL 2

Agapé Feast

5:30 PM

APRIL 3

MARCH 1st NO 8AM SERVICE

DURING THE 10:15 SERVICE

APRIL 5
Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM
11:00 AM