



ST. CHRISTOPHER BY THE RIVER

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

A chill is in the air, the leaves are starting to turn, and October is officially here. With all of these changes, it can only mean one thing: stewardship season is upon us. And while we devote a whole season (4-6 weeks) focusing on stewardship, it is important to remember that we ritually reenact the core tenant of stewardship every single Sunday of the year. As liturgical Christians, all that we do in the liturgy (our worship) is intentional, and this is true for our ritual acknowledgement of this core tenant of stewardship. The core tenant of stewardship is this: all that we have and do and share comes from God. This tenant is reenacted every Sunday when our gifts are brought forward just before the Eucharistic Prayer- our gifts of bread and wine, tithes and financial offerings, as well as our donations to the local food bank. The Rite 1 service not only reenacts this core tenant of stewardship but also puts language to the ritual. As the gifts are brought forward, we say in the Rite 1 service, "All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given thee."

In this action and in these words, we acknowledge that nothing we have is really our own, for all that we have comes from God. We simply "steward" what we have been given, and with the stewardship of all that we have been given comes responsibility. We give back to God what God has so abundantly given to us.

During stewardship season, I want to point out a few things that we will do, with intention, to mark this time. First, this Sunday will be our stewardship kickoff day. Throughout the season, we will hear from folks (veterans and newcomers, alike) about what our spiritual community means to them. There will also be a whiteboard set up in the Guild Room for you to write something- a word or two- about what St. Christopher's means to you. We will also continue our Adult Forums through October discerning together our common values and purpose as a parish. We will gather at the end of stewardship season on November 14 for a Harvest Home Supper and Ingathering, offering our thanks as a community for all God has given us and celebrating with joy the abundance we have been given. Finally, at both services on the following day, November 15, we will bless all pledges as a symbol of our commitment to stewarding all the gifts God has given us.

I pray that you will prayerfully consider deepening your commitment to St. Christopher's in the coming year- in whatever way this means a deeper commitment for you. I am thrilled to be journeying with you during this time, and I am excited to see what God has in store for us in the time to come.

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given thee.

Faithfully,

Fr. Gabriel ✠.

1 Brooklyn Osolin
Lindsey McMillion
2 Elise Bennett
5 Richard Beeman
6 Polly Bixler
7 Parker Selman
10 Baz DeBaz
13 Tillie Malm
15 Mike Klinginsmith



16 Gretchen Fisher
Douglas Dolch
18 Jenna Vandertill
19 Ralph Della Ratta
21 Sean McMillion
26 John McElliott
Britni Ventimiglia
28 Margot Hoeflinger

Dear Friends,

The Daughters of the King from St. Christopher's would like to sponsor a collection of items needed by Malachi House. Malachi House was founded in 1987 through a pioneering effort to serve terminally ill homeless individuals. The inspiration for the House came from co-founders Fr. Paul Fritz and Catherine "Kaki" O'Neill, who often encountered homeless individuals dying in unsuitable places within the city. Malachi House opened its doors in 1988. For nearly 40 years, Malachi House has served more than 2,800 residents who would otherwise die alone.



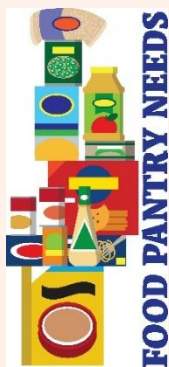
Malachi House does not receive any kind of government funding; they rely solely upon the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations. Malachi House maintains a pure mission: to meet their residents' immediate and basic human needs of food, shelter, clothing and comfort. In addition, their care is supplemented with pet, music, and art therapists who come from all over the community to enhance the residents' quality of life. Care at Malachi House is designed to ensure that one's final days are as comfortable as possible, emphasizing dignity and respect for the individual until the end of natural life.

For the month of October, we will be collecting items for resident needs. The following are items that are needed:

- **Antiperspirant or Deodorant**
- **Hand/Body Lotion**
- **Liquid Body Wash**
- **Mouth Wash**
- **Soft Bristle Hair Brushes**

Items can be placed in a labeled plastic bin in the guild room. The Daughters of the King encourage you to look into your hearts and give what you can to make the last days of these Beloved people as comfortable and blessed as possible. Your donations will, most surely, bring this needed peace and rest to them. Thank you for donating for this awesome cause!

Our final collection date will be All Saints' Day, which is Sunday, November 1st! Father Gabriel will bless them before we deliver them to Malachi House!



We are also still collecting for the local food pantry this month:

PANTRY STAPLES

- Flour,
- Sugar / Brown Sugar / Powdered Sugar
- Salt, Pepper and any Spices
- Baking soda/powder
- Chocolate chips
- Oil
- Chicken/beef stock

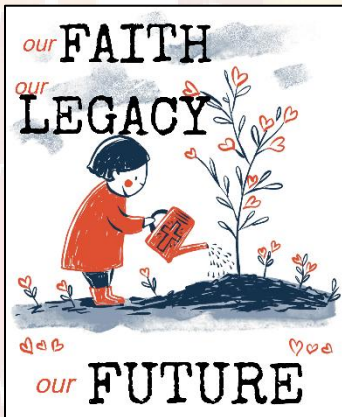
FLOWER DEDICATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2026

In loving memory of:

- Dove & Harvey Schluter & Pamela Kunkemueller by Randy & Debbie Cole
- Sarah Christy Dickenson and Jeffrey R. Cudlip by Frances & David Dickenson
- Irene & Merle Reynolds and Fred Bixler by Polly Bixler
- Jayme B. Feeney and Elizabeth Bingham Blossom by Brbara D. Blossom

2027 ANNUAL GIVING



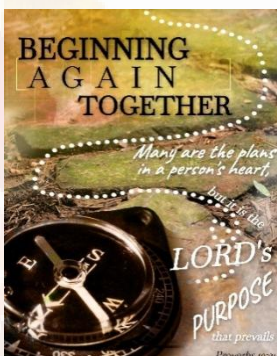
October 1, 2026 is the official launch date for our 2027 Annual Giving Campaign! Our theme, “Our Faith, Our Legacy, Our Future” reminds us that everything we enjoy today – this community, this space, this spirit – is a gift. It was built by the sacrifice of those who came before us, and it is sustained by the grace of God. But we are not meant to be just consumers of these blessings; we are called to be stewards of them.

With this in mind, please pledge your support for the coming year. Our goal for the 2027 Annual Giving Campaign \$195,000! Help us impact our ability to preserve our heritage and expand our reach so that we can make a lasting investment in the lives that will be transformed today and tomorrow. You can do this by submitting your formal pledge **NOW! The official campaign runs from October 1 – November 15. We are asking that each of you maintain, and possibly increase, your current level of financial support!!**

Thank you all for your past, present, and future support of St. Christopher by the River. Let us step forward with generous hearts and clear vision as we strive to protect our faith, honor our legacy, and boldly fund our future!

HOME HARVEST & IN GATHERING SUPPER

Save the date! **Saturday November 14th** we will celebrate Fall in all its glory: the harvest, our thanksgivings and gratitude and our in gathering finale. We will gather from 6-9. More details to come later this month, but put this event you won't want to miss on your calendar!



ADULT FORUM CONTINUES THROUGH OCT 25

Our adult forum series, “Discerning our Values and Purpose” continues this month on Sundays at 9 a.m. This is the beginning stage of some strategic planning we will do together, setting some goals for ourselves to accomplish in the coming couple of years.

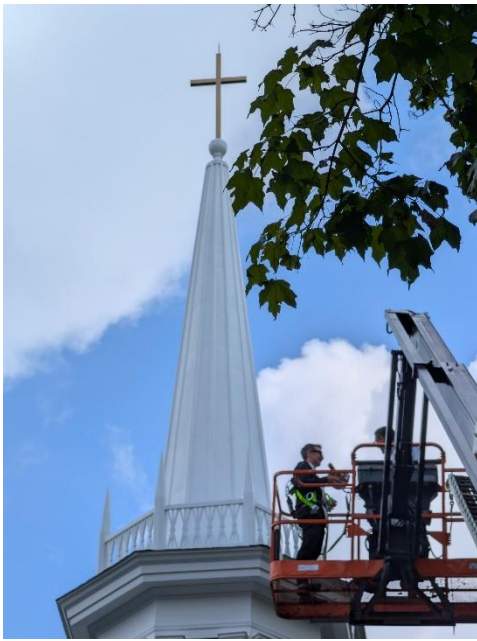
Please plan to attend these forums, as this work of listening, sharing, and discerning our values and purpose is work for all of us. It is shared because we are all one in Christ!



Hi everyone,

I'm excited to share our latest parish update, because this past month at Saint Christopher's has truly been a season of celebration. We began with a beautiful service celebrating Father Gabriel's new ministry, with our bishop, the Reverend Anne B. Jolly along with Canon Jessie Dodson presiding. During the same service, Henry Taylor was baptized, and Michelle Brockett was inducted into the Daughters of the King. It was a joyful day of welcome, commitment, and blessing. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Laura Cotton for organizing our celebration on the rectory lawn. Many parish members pitched in to help, and we are grateful for everyone who contributed to making the day special.





We are also thrilled to announce that our steeple refurbishment is complete. Charlene Currutt, our junior warden, led this project and is pleased to share that we have raised \$80,000 toward the \$95,000 goal. Father Gabriel even donned a harness and rode the lift to the top of the steeple to bless it. Following the blessing, we continued the festivities with Rally Sunday and an elegant coffee hour.



Finally, hats off to our Women's Guild. Sue Marston and Carolyn Misco, with tireless help from Allison Benek and many more, produced an incredibly successful Bargain Box sale. They raised \$24,000, all of which will support our neighbor outreach programs.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this month so meaningful. Your generosity, service, and spirit continue to strengthen our parish community.



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

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

The Rev. Gabriel M. 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

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

Parish Office

Staffed T-W TH 9:00-5:00

440-423-4451

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COMING UP...

Oct 4, Annual Giving Campaign Launch

Oct 4 at 4PM, Blessing of the Animals,

October 11 at Noon, Blessing of the Beagles

Nov 1 All Saints Day Remembrances.

