

ST. CHRISTOPHER BY THE RIVER

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

The month of November is well-known as the month of gratitude, as the holiday of Thanksgiving Day falls every year on the third Thursday of the month. Social media feeds are usually full of many folks doing the "30 Days of Gratitude Challenge" where one uploads a different post each day during the month of November with something or someone they are grateful for. Many of us will go around the dinner table on Thanksgiving evening offering some things for which we give thanks.

While the Thanksgiving holiday turns our attention each year during November to gratitude, orienting our hearts toward thanksgiving is something we Episcopalians actually do every time we gather for worship. Did you know that the word Eucharist that we use to title our gathering for worship comes from the Greek word *eucharistia* (εὐχαριστία)? We might start saying that we offer Rite 1 and Rite 2 Holy Thanksgivings on Sundays instead of Holy Eucharists. We get this word "eucharist" from Paul's writings about communion from one of his letters to the Church in Corinth. He writes that Jesus took bread, *gave thanks*, broke it, and said, "This is my body." Thanksgiving, then, is not only the center of our worship as Episcopalians, but it is also the model that Jesus taught us on the night he offered himself to use as spiritual food at the Last Supper.

As our hearts turn toward gratitude in November, I invite to reflect on things we are thankful for every time we gather for worship. Everytime the bread and wine are offered at the altar and Jesus's words of institution are recited, let us turn our hearts and minds toward thanksgiving for all of God's gifts to us. One such opportunity will be at a Thanksgiving Eve Holy Eucharist on November 25 at 6 p.m. There is not a greater way to being the Thanksgiving holiday than to first celebrate our own thanksgiving to God in the Holy Eucharist.

Earlier in the month on November 14-15, we will also celebrate our thankfulness for the completion of this year's stewardship campaign. We will begin the celebrations with a Home Harvest and Ingathering Supper at 6 p.m. on November 14. More details on that supper are coming soon. The weekend will then conclude with a special blessing of all the pledges at both services on November 15. I am so grateful to all of you who have already pledged and who will pledge to carry on the ministry of St. Christopher by the River, and I look forward to a weekend of gratitude and celebration at the conclusion of the stewardship campaign.

God has given us all so much, and I am grateful to journey with you, observing and partaking in so many gifts. May God fill our hearts with gratitude this season and all seasons!

Yours,
Gabriel+

2 Don Negrelli
Linda Sylor
3 Dennis Currutt
5 Michael Marting
7 Kathy Pender
13 Yuri McElliott
Kylie Wright
14 Hope Lomas
Betsi Morris



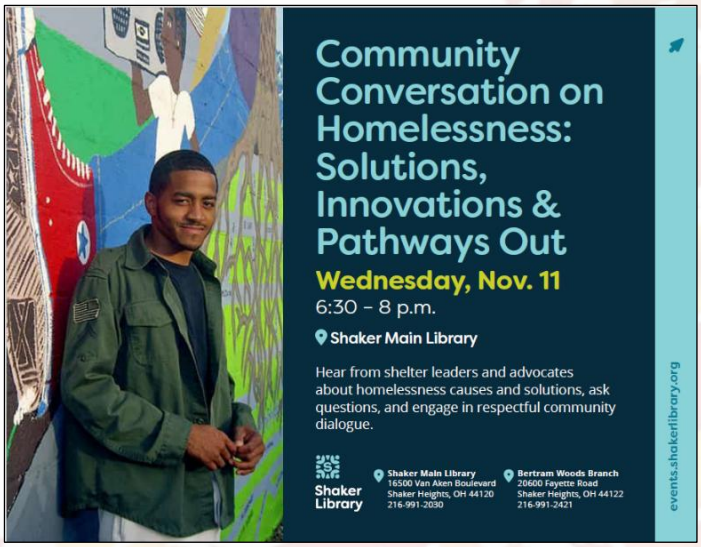
16 Andrew Everett
Alexandra Wolf
17 Susie Thorpe
18 Sue Marston
23 Will Barnes
27 Carolyn Miscko
30 Lucy Lytle

PORTRAITS OF HOMELESSNESS

The exhibit began Friday, Oct 16 with community conversation and open mic poetry sessions in November. Conversation is with community leaders in Shaker Heights, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, and LMM -on causes & solutions to_homelessness; ask questions, engage in community dialogue. The 2 Portraits collections were created by me, and I'll be part of the panel. Thank you! Deacon Lydia





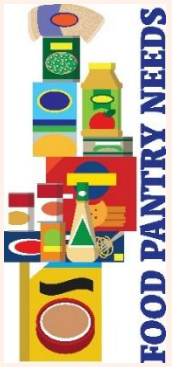


FLOWER DEDICATIONS
OCTOBER 2026

In loving memory of:

- Bob Trebar by Renee Kolecki
- Robert & Virginia Chase by Sue & Charley Marston
- Bonnie Gepfert by Leslie & Michael Marting

With gratitude for our many blessings by Michelle & Gary Brockett



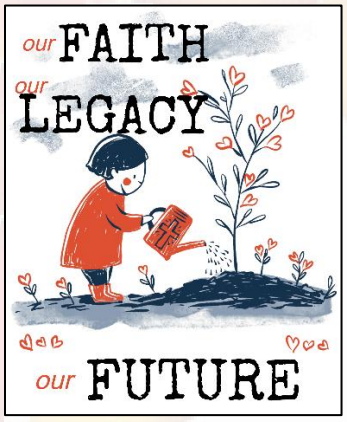
We are also still collecting for the local food pantry this month:

PANTRY STAPLES

- Soup, Rice (white, brown, side dish like rice a roni), Instant Potatoes (mashed, au gratin, scalloped), Tortillas
- Stuffing/Canned gravy

The Pantry is always in CONSTANT need of Hearty Soups, Stews and Chilis – things with good protein.

2027 ANNUAL GIVING



My husband and I have been members of St. Christopher's for almost twenty-seven years. When I first walked through those doors all those years ago, I may have looked a little different, my life looked a little different, and truth be told, the church looked a little different too. But the one thing that has never changed is the warmth, the spirit, and the presence of God in this community.

Our theme for this year's annual giving campaign, Our Faith, Our Legacy, Our Future, carries a great amount of weight for me. When I think about legacy, I think about the giants of faith who came before us. I remember the people who taught my children in Sunday school. I remember the saints who sat in the pews, who prayed over this community during difficult times, and who gave selflessly out of their own pockets to ensure that this church would stand strong. We are sitting in the shade of trees we did not plant. We are here because of their legacy. But legacy is not a monument to look back at; it is a momentum that propels us forward. The people who built this church weren't just thinking about themselves. They were thinking about us. They had faith to see a future they might never fully witness.

Now it is our turn. Stewardship isn't about paying church bills. It is about keeping our covenant with the past and building our bridge to the future. When we fill out our pledge cards this year, I hope we aren't doing it out of a sense of obligation or routine. We are doing it as an act of faith. We are doing it because we want to ensure that twenty, thirty, or fifty years from now, a young family or a person searching for hope can walk through our doors and find the exact same grace, comfort, and vibrant community that we found. Our giving funds the future, the ministries, the community outreach, the music, the quiet moments of pastoral care, and the loud celebrations of life.

If you have been here as long as I have, or even longer as in many of your cases, I want to thank you for the legacy you've already built – and I invite you to join me in taking another bold step of faith for the next generation. If you are new to our family, I invite you to plant your roots deep here. Join us in building a future of which we can all be proud. Thank you for your love, your devotion, and your shared faith in what God is doing next in our home!

HOME HARVEST & IN GATHERING SUPPER: *NOVEMBER 14, 6-9 PM*



Come One, Come All! Join us to Give Gratitude & Thanksgivings and to celebrate the 'Fall Harvest' as we bring ***'Our Faith, Our Legacy, Our Future'*** in-gathering to a finale.

The church will be providing Ham, Apple Cider & Water (BYOB), Rolls/Butter, and Pumpkin and Apple pies.

We are asking you to sign up to bring an Appetizer or Side Dish. Please sign up in Flocknote, or on the church bulletin board, or by calling or emailing the office.

Contact Nancy Irwin or Charlene Currutt with any questions! We are excited to celebrate with you!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AND BEAGLES





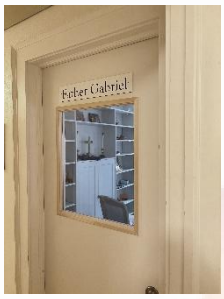

Father Gabriel sure had a whole lot of fun at his first Blessing of the Animals on October 4 followed by the Blessing of the Beagles on October 11. There was beautiful weather for both!

JUNIOR WARDEN



The Junior Warden's job is never done! Safe Church has required us to install a window into our priests' door.

Father Gabriel…. be prepared ….
we are now watching you! 😉



DIOCESAN CONVENTION



A tip of the hat to our parishioners who are taking their time to attend the Annual Diocesan Convention on behalf of Saint Christopher's. Pray for them as they help to discern and vote on matters at hand Nov 20-21. Thanks to Henry Taylor, Hayley Kosmatka, James Gallagher (and Sara!), John Irwin and of course Father Gabriel.

PO BOX CHANGE!!!



It has finally happened! We now have an ACTUAL Mailbox! It sits at the end of the driveway at the Rectory. Since we can now have mail delivered to us, we are going to relinquish our PO BOX (and the associated cost!). So, please make a note that our address will simply be 7601 Old Mill Rd., Gates Mills, OH 44040. Please stop using the PO BOX number. As we know this may take some time, mail will be forwarded to us, but eventually you will receive returned mail if addressed to the PO Box.



COMING UP IN DECEMBER

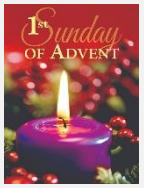
A Blue Christmas service will be held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, December 17. Our Christmas Services will be on Christmas Eve only at 3:00 and 9:00. More details on the Advent and Christmas Season along with the opportunity to donate toward the Christmas flowers will be sent out shortly before Thanksgiving.

SUNDAY NOVMBER 1				MONDAY - 2	TUESDAY - 3	WEDNESDAY-4	THURSDAY-5	FRIDAY- 6	SATURDAY-7
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**		12-4 Home School Group	9:00 Staff	10:00 Finance	8:00 AA		
EM:	Charley Marston	John Irwin							
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe	Becky Everett & Brian Wright							
ALTAR:	Teri Ianni	Alison Wolf							
USHERS	NA	Brian Wright & Gabe Brachna							
HOSTESSES	Kathy Pender & Becky Everett								

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8			MONDAY - 9	TUESDAY - 10	WEDNESDAY-11	THURSDAY- 12	FRIDAY- 13	SATURDAY- 14
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	12-4 Home School Group	9:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Centering Prayer	10:00 Finance	8:00 AA		 6-9 PM HOME HARVEST SUPPER
EM:	Kitty Thomas	Hayley Kosmatka						
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Fran Sarkisian & Ron Lee						
ALTAR:	Sally Conley	Leslie Marting						
USHERS	NA	Ron & Neal Lee						
HOSTESSES	Charlene Currutt							

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15			MONDAY - 16	TUESDAY - 17	WEDNESDAY-18	THURSDAY- 19	FRIDAY- 20	SATURDAY-21
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	12-4 Home School Group	9:00 Staff Meeting	10:00 Finance	8:00 AA	DIOCESAN CONVENTION	
EM:	Judith Bryan	Brian Wright						
LECTOR:	Rick Bryan	Chandler Everett Sr & Judy Holmes						
ALTAR:	Patty Grebenc	Laura Cotton						
USHERS	NA	Leslie Marting & Judy Holmes						
HOSTESSES		Sue Marston						

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22			MONDAY - 23	TUESDAY - 24	WEDNESDAY-25	THURSDAY- 26	FRIDAY- 27	SATURDAY-28
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**	12-4 Home School Group	6:00 Centering Prayer	OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service	 8:00 AA		
EM:	Kitty Thomas	James Gallagher						
LECTOR:	Annette Lowe	Lucy Lytle & Neal Lee						
ALTAR:	Sally Conley	Linda & Eric Sylor						
USHERS	NA	Ron Lee & Peter Thatcher						
HOSTESSES		Laura Cotton						

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29			MONDAY - 30	TUESDAY - 1	WEDNESDAY-2	THURSDAY- 3	FRIDAY-4	SATURDAY-5
	8 am Holy Eucharist	**10:15 am Holy Eucharist**		12-4 Home School Group	9:00 Staff Meeting	10:00 Finance	8:00 AA	Fr. Gabriel at Bellwether for Leadership Retreat
EM:	Charley Marston	John Irwin						
LECTOR:	Teri Ianni	Fran Sarkisian & Chandler Everett						
ALTAR:	Sue Marston	Alison Wolf						
USHERS	NA	Alison Wolf & Charlene Currutt						
HOSTESSES		Elise Bennett						

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 IN NOVEMBER…

Nov 1 All Saints Day - Remembrances
Nov 14, 6-9 PM Home Harvest and In Gathering Supper
Nov 25 6:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov 29 First Sunday of Advent



