

The Lantern of
Saint Christopher
Lighting the Way for Christ

February 2018

Volume CLXX



From the Pastor
Gregory P. Sammons +

Dear St. Christopher's Family,

As I write this in late January, it is 40 degrees and the snow of early January is gone. But I am sure that by the time you receive this note, the cold will have descended again and there may be a fresh blanket of snow.

The occasional thaws of February are a dose of hope but then the deep freeze descends again and we are reminded there are still many weeks of winter left. The sober 40-day season of Lent begins in the middle of this frigid time.

Lent strips away our "alleluias," and asks us to simplify both our liturgy and our lives. This year, Ash Wednesday (February 14) conspires to lower our spirits further, by occurring on Valentine's Day. This festive interlude for chocolate, flowers and sweet messages to loved ones may be muted this year as we kneel in Penitence to receive Ashes.

Having said that, I want to put in a good word for Lent. Lent is the Anglo-Saxon word for “lengthen.” It refers to days lengthening as the world tilts back to the Spring Equinox. As such, Lent points us forward to a new Spring.

I was reminded of this when I chanced upon a wonderful NPR feature called “Poor Richard’s Almanac.” Inspired by Ben Franklin’s journal, the NPR narrator meditates quietly on the unfolding pageant of the seasons with a soulful guitar playing in the background.

Last week, the narrator asked us to walk in the winter woods, to hear the crunch of ice and snow beneath our feet, and survey the bare limbs and open skies above our heads. He then asked us to examine closely the brown vegetation and look for the signs of new life. He reminded us that winter is when the buds are set which will burst forth in the glory of May.

That is an especially good image for us to take to heart, both as individuals and as a parish family. It may feel like a “winter woods” sort of time for many reasons. We may assume that there is nothing to do but “wait and endure.”

Yet God contradicts our passivity and pessimism. God is up to something new in the mystery of Christ’s sorrows and death. It is all leading us somewhere. In Lent, God invites us to look around for the signs of new life, which is even now being prepared.

It may be so modest (like the shoots of a snowdrop) that we overlook it. But this is where God is coming to meet us with new life. May Lent help us make room for solitude, for watching, for the simplicity which clears our sight.

Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the bitter snows
Lies the seed that with the sun's love
In the spring becomes the rose

(**The Rose**, Bette Midler)

Yours in Christ,

Gregory P. Sammons +



FELLOWSHIP

Mary Donnellan

By the time you read this, you will have been notified by email about whether or not we will have a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. If we do, please join us. Please help if you can. At the time of publication of THE LANTERN, a decision had not been made.

The Fellowship Committee met January 16 to plan for the new year. We need your help to keep up the traditions of fellowship that we have always had. We can also use new ideas. Our meeting was attended, for the most part, by the same people who have always taken part in planning and executing activities. We must have more help in order to continue. And please remember to sign up for coffee hour.

Save the date! On April 29, we will have our Fifth Sunday International Day potluck. Bring your favorite dish from your or anyone's ethnic background. We always enjoy this potluck during coffee hour time.

Books

DREAMLAND by Sam Quiones is a book that should be read by everyone. The heroin crisis affects all of us, and this book tells about how and where the real crisis started and who was and is behind all of it. You may be surprised. You may be surprised to learn that white middle class people are the most affected by the epidemic and that the suppliers are not members of a huge cartel. The bulk of the blame lies directly on the pharmacy companies and unscrupulous physicians. You will learn how heroin has changed into the extremely dangerous drug that it has become. DREAMLAND is important.

I would not say that Noah Hawley's BEFORE THE FALL is important, but it is a good read. It is a thriller, and the solution to the mystery is a little unexpected. I won't say more about that. The book is about a plane crash, the survival of two people, and the disgusting behavior of people who run and work for a TV station with three letters in its name. Well, it doesn't actually SAY FOX. I found it very interesting that one of the bad guys is named Bill Cunningham. A coincidence? He certainly sounds exactly like the real Bill Cunningham, but I can't rule out coincidence. FOX? WLW? Who knows? Not I. But the book was a good one to read on a trip.

Mary Donnellan



St. Christopher's Prayer List

For illness, healing:

Joyce, Judy, Thom, Toni, Carol, Daphne, Pat, Jan, Florence, Warren, Sandi, Joe, Frank, Jim, Nikki, Vicky, Jim and Ann, Camden, Kelly, Bob and Doris.



Thank you, God!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on **Sunday, January 21, 2018**. Congratulations to Judy Brainard – elected to continue as Junior Warden (term to expire 2019), Lauren Faller, David Manship, and Ed Smith elected to serve on Vestry (elected for a three year term which will expire January of 2021). Again, thanks to all of them.

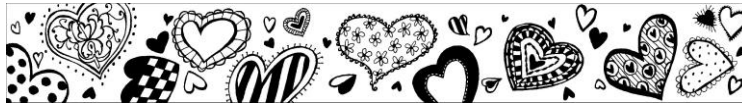
The delegates and alternates for 2018 Diocesan Convention are:

Delegates

Lauren Faller
Millie Roach
Hayward Learn
Telesa Learn

Alternates

1st Alt. – John Stauffer
2nd Alt. – Gail Stauffer
3rd Alt. – Derick Faller
4th Alt – Ann Foster



February Birthdays



1 Millie Roach
11 Ed Smith
16 Amy Kopp
16 John Stauffer, Sr.
17 Mary Donnellan
18 William Jones
19 Pat Emanuel
27 Connie Klarer
28 Joyce D'Allessandris

February Anniversaries

February 4 Grace and Jean Mukunzi
February 29 Melody and Bob Bigi



We would like to include everyone in the celebration of Birthdays and Anniversaries. If we have "missed" your special days, please send your family's dates for birthdays and anniversaries to the office.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Fairborn, Ohio

Vestry Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2017

Those Present: Judy Brainard, Cindy Feltz, Iyabo Eguaroje, Amy Kopp, Dave Manship, Debbie Snavely, and Mike Volkmer

Guest: Canon Lynn Carter-Edmands

Those Absent: Kathy Smith and Gail Stauffer

Called to Order: The meeting opened with prayer.

Minutes of November Meeting:

Mike / Dave moved / seconded that November minutes be approved. Passed

Finance Report:

- Reviewed financial report prepared by Robin Jones
- Finances are okay with spending under budget.
- Checking account balance increased approximately \$13,000 to \$30,000.
- Investments increased by about \$10,000.

Old Business:

A. Advertise in Yellow Pages:

- Is money we spend worth the return? Canon Lynn suggested that Mike call diocese office – Department of Communications, Department of IT, Tammie VanOss. Discussion ensued with regards to membership draw – Greene, Montgomery, Clark, and Miami.
- Mike will coordinate.

B. Pledges:

- Last year we had \$113,220 in pledges.
- This year at this point we have \$103,000 in pledges.

C. Girl Scouts:

- Broke St. Christopher statue in foyer.
- Hayward Learn glued it back together. No need for girl scouts to make any payment.

Canon's Report:

Canon Lynn presented a clear, creative, cursory report on a plan to help St. Christopher's as well as other parishes in the diocese to secure a consistent half time / part time clergy. She asked vestry to pray for her and her plans, and discussions as she continues to work on logistics. The canon will contact wardens and vestry in ensuing months with Easter being the target date for the implementation of a new plan.

Member Reports:

Debbie Snavelly:

- Salary raises for those under contract will be implemented based on Federal Government increases.
- Debbie asked the Canon if there are any on line programs for worship leader training. There are training programs for Cultural Sensitivity, Anti Racial, and Safe Church.
- Canon responds that there is Worship Leader training on two full Saturdays in Hamilton in January.
- There is some question about past training to renew license without repeating the January sessions.
- Canon Lynn Carter-Edmands will check into it.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting on January 21 will have Pot Luck. Judy and Dave will seek possible candidates for Vestry.

Closing prayer: Cindy closed meeting with prayer.

Submitted by

Cindy Feltz



Note: the minutes printed in the Lantern are from the previous month, after they have been reviewed by Vestry.

Treasurer's Report

St. Christopher's Financial Report by Robin Jones (December 2017)

	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Operating income	11,192.38	15,016.38	9,531.38	16,450.37	154,621.50
Operating expenses	9,042.80	3,177.70	5,592.90	11,696.29	127,167.46
Difference	2,149.58	11,838.68	3,938.48	4,754.08	27,454.04

Sunday Attendance

It is important that we are aware of how many people are in attendance on Sunday. So each month we show the attendance numbers. Remember, statistics indicate that to have a thriving and prosperous congregation, we need to shoot for 100 as the average Sunday attendance.

<u>Sunday Attendance</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Jan 2018</u>
1st Sunday	60	66	58	54
2nd Sunday	63	59	64	64
3rd Sunday	58	62	78	37
4th Sunday	59	63	C'mas Eve 103	64
5th Sunday	63	n/a	L&C 54	tbd
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>358</u>	<u>(to date) 219</u>

WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATION OF CHURCH SERVICES

There may be some changes in how we will report church closing. If we find it necessary to cancel church services due to bad weather, we will send out an email and (as we are able) we will post/record the information in the following places:

- 1 On **WDTN TV**
- 2 On all Clear Channel Radio stations in the area: **WLQT, WTUE, WMMX, WXEG, WDKF, WDSJ and WONE.**
- 3 On **WHIO TV's web site (www.whiotv.com)** -
(WHIO may not announce church closings on their TV station. Their ability to scroll messages across the bottom of the TV screen is limited so that, if they have a large number of closings, churches and smaller businesses will not be included.)



A Gentle Reminder: When planning church activities, please check the calendar posted in the church office to avoid scheduling conflicts. And **please post** upcoming activities.

February Events and Announcements, Opportunities



Winter

☆ **Sunday Schedule** –

- 9:15 Sunday School Grade 3 and up
- 10:00 Eucharist, Sunday School Pre-K thru 2nd Grade

☆ **Sunday February 4** – 6 p.m. St. C Youth Group “Souper” Bowl Party”.

☆ **Tuesday February 13** – 6:30 – 8:00 Girl Scouts Fairborn Service Unit meeting.

☆ **Wednesday February 14** – Valentine’s Day



☆ **Wednesday February 14** – at Noon --
Ash Wednesday Service

☆ **Sunday February 18** – First Sunday in Lent

☆ **Sunday February 18** – ECW used book sale

☆ **Sunday February 18** – 11:30 Vestry Meeting

☆ **Monday February 19** – Holiday for President’s Day,
Church office closed.



☆ **Monday February 19** – Deadline for **March 2018 Lantern** articles and info.

☆ **Sunday February 25** – 4th Sunday for FISH donations.

☆ **Weekly Healing Service** – Tuesdays at noon a Healing Service with Holy Communion is held in the church proper.
The service is open to anyone who wants to attend.



☆ **Thursdays** – 7:00 Choir Practice

☆ **Check sign-up sheets** – On the counter in Christopher’s Corner there are sign-up sheets for **altar flowers**, sanctuary candles, fellowship, ECW activities, Prayer Chain, etc.

☆ **Reminder** – there will be no Altar Flowers during Lent – from February 18th until Easter April 1st.

☆ **OUTREACH** –Remember **Box Tops for Education**. Please continue with donations for FISH; they need shampoo, tooth brushes, cereal, peanut butter, deodorant, toilet paper, sugar, and other Food items. And feed your change to our bank – for 2 cents a meal.

☆ **Prayer Concerns:** Please call or email Joyce D’Alessandris to activate the Prayer Chain.
e-mail: dallessa@aol.com, phone: 254-0005.

☆ **The February Lantern** – is online at stchristophersfairborn.org.
A printed copy is available upon request.

***** Note:** Champion Force Athletics uses the Fellowship Hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Youth and Young Adults of St. Christopher's invite you and your friends to a Souper Bowl Party on February 4, 2018 commencing at 6 PM in our parish hall.

Come sample our delicious soups and sandwiches starting at 6:00 PM.
Munch on chips, dips, and snacks throughout the evening

ENJOY A BREW AT OUR DONATION AS YOU GO BAR

Show your prowess with our bean bag toss

Win big in our 50/50 raffle

Play our Super Bowl ad Bingo

Cheer on your team while watching the game on our big screen TV

Kick off time 6:30 PM.

All proceeds will be used to help fund our mission trips.

Donations gratefully accepted.

Sign up now!

(Signup sheet in the parish hall)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30 Champion Fell Hall 7:00 - Choir	2 6:30-8:30 GS mtg 31280	3
4 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 9:15 am Sunday School 10 am Eucharist, Sunday School 2018 Souper Bowl Party at 6 p.m.	5 5:30 Champion Fell Hall 6:30-8 GS mtg 30240	6 Noon Healing Service	7	8 5:30 Champion Fell Hall 7:00 - Choir	9	10
11 The Last Sunday after Epiphany 9:15 am Sunday School 10 am Eucharist, Sunday School Commissioning of Vestry and 2018 Convention Delegates (tbd)	12 5:30 Champion 6:30-8 GS mtg 30240	13 Noon Healing Service 6:30 GS Fbn SU meeting	14   Noon Ash Wednesday Service	15 5:30 Champion Fell Hall 7:00 - Choir <i>New moon</i>	16	17
18 First Sunday in Lent 9:15 am Sunday School 10 am Eucharist, Sunday School ECW used book sale 11:30 Vestry Meeting	19 Presidents Day HOLIDAY 5:30 Champion 6:30-8 GS	20 Noon Healing Service Lantern Input Deadline	21 <i>New moon</i>	22 5:30 Champion Fell Hall 7:00 - Choir	23 6:30-8:30 GS	24
25 Second Sunday in Lent 9:15 am Sunday School 10 am Eucharist, Sunday School 4 th Sunday for FISH donations	26 5:30 Champion 6:30-8 GS	27 Noon Healing Service	28			

2018

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

2018

	<i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 4</i>	<i>Last Sunday after the Epiphany February 11</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday service at noon February 14</i>	<i>First Sunday in Lent February 18</i>	<i>Second Sunday in Lent February 25</i>
Worship Leader	Cindy Feltz	Toni Olgeaty	Toni Olgeaty	Tammy Elliott	Cindy Feltz
Chalice Bearer	James Lester	David Christmas	n/a	Toni Olgeaty	Alan Haberecht
Acolyte	Kathy Smith	Iyabo Eguaroje	Ed Smith	James Lester	Ed Smith
1st Reader LECTORS 2nd Reader	Barry Kelley <i>Isaiah 40:21-31</i> Ann Volkmer <i>1 Corinthians 9:16-23</i>	Hayward Learn <i>2 Kings 2:1-12</i> Paul Reichert <i>2 Corinthians 4:3-6</i>	tbd <i>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17</i> tbd <i>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</i>	Stan Nelson <i>Genesis 9:8-17</i> Judy Brainard <i>1 Peter 3:18-22</i>	Ann Foster <i>Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16</i> Deb Snavelly <i>Romans 4:13-25</i>
Ushers	Iyabo Eguaroje Hayward Learn	Sierra Lester James Lester	tbd	Ann Foster Gordon Hermann	Eleanor and Becky Wood
Healing Prayers	tbd	tbd	n/a	tbd	tbd
Greeters	Andrea and Alan Haberecht	Judy Brainard Gordon Hermann	n/a	Iyabo Eguaroje Telesa Learn	Darlene and Gordon Walbroehl
Nursery	Faller	Stauffer	n/a	Volkmer	Kopp
Altar Guild	Mel Bigi Andrea Haberecht	Eleanor and Becky Wood	Eleanor and Becky Wood	Kathy Smith Sierra Lester	Judy Brainard Betty Crichton
Tellers	Bob Bigi Gordon Walbroehl	Gordon Hermann Ed Smith	n/a	Cindy Manship Millie Roach	Susan Brainard John Stauffer
Fellowship	Millie and Rick Roach	open	n/a	open	open

PLEASE check the schedule and note your assignment(s).

If you are not able to serve, **notify the person responsible for that assignment** and the office (878-5614).

Ed Smith	429-4518	Worship Leaders, Chalice, Lectors, Acolytes, Ushers	Amy Kopp	258-0082	Nursery attendants
Judy Brainard	879-3987	Greeters	Andrea Haberecht	546-1208	Altar Guild
Rosalie Arnold	878-5097	Tellers	Melody Kelley	(937) 372-6687	Coffee Hour/Fellowship
			Deb Snavelly	878-4054	Director of Music
				937-478-3587 (C)	Senior Warden

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 10 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Friday