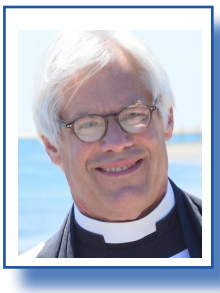
SOUNDINGS

Vol. XI, No. 10 St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts October, 2015

The Consciousness of Christ



The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

In early September I traveled—for the second time—to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to continue my participation in an educational program focusing on Christian spirituality at the Center for Action and Contemplation.

The founder of this organization is the world-renowned Franciscan priest, Christian spiritual master, and noted author, Richard Rohr.

The mission of the Center for Action and Contemplation is to form Christian advocates for peace and social justice in our world, as well as to transform the consciousness of all Christians through contemplative practices and prayer. Initially, he believed that fifty percent of the program would be dedicated to social justice, advocacy for the poor, and it's underpinnings in liberation theology. The remaining fifty percent of this educational experience would be dedicated to teaching contemplative prayer and practices.

He discovered that many of his fellow social activists were performing amazing transformational (peace and social justice) work, but many were also burning out as a result of the stress and strain of this work! He realized that social activists needed to be fed spiritually in order to sustain their work and flourish in their lives. He also discovered that all persons need a transformed, non-dual consciousness: the eyes of Christ that see the world inclusively and non-judgmentally; ears that hear the cries of the disposed with compassion; hearts softened with grace and compassion for the "other;" and souls at peace with themselves. In his opinion, social activists, Christians, everyone….need to be strengthened by the practices of the age-old Christian contemplative tradition.

As a result, Father Rohr devoted more time to the cultivation of contemplative practices in order to sustain the hearts, souls and spirits of all Christians. My prayer for St. Christopher's is that we may deepen and transform our consciousness to the consciousness of Christ, and experience the world from this depth of soul.

A moment of joy shared at the Blessing of the Backpacks on Sept. 20.

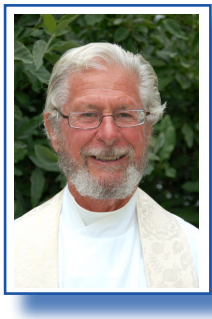
Children, Youth, and Families

Kerén Castro
Director of Children Youth, and Families

St. Christopher's Children, Youth and Family programming started off with a bang with Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, Sept. 20. It was an honor for us to be able to bless and support our children on their educational journey, whether it was Gabrielle and Charlie who are just beginning with nursery school, or Molly who is in her senior year of high school. This year, along with the blessing, St. Christopher's gave all of the students St. Christopher medals to attach to their backpack to remind them that God is with them every step of the way.

In other news, we are excited to announce that the confirmation class is well underway and we will be beginning our first service project this month. We are going to be teaming up with the Community Outreach Committee to build bookcases for homes that Habitat for Humanity is building in our community for a family in need. These bookcases are then given to children who will be living in these homes. While our youth will be in charge of building these bookcases, we will be seeking donations from all parishioners to fill the shelves with books! There will be an informational chat on this project following the 10 am Choral Eucharist on **Sunday, Oct. 18**. All are invited to attend.

Embracing Forgiveness



The Rev. Dr. John Martiner
Priest Associate

This autumn, Betty and I will lead a series on forgiveness—something so essential that it is a centerpiece in our Lord's Prayer; so contemporary as the amazing response of the congregation torn apart by murders in South Carolina. We will start in Sibley Chapel with reflection on scripture and prayers from the Celtic tradition. We will then share refreshments, followed by the seminar. Each session will include a wonderful video by the Rev. Barbara Crafton. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, and 24, from 10 to 11:30 am. Sign up by calling the church office or e-mailing John Martiner at Tarpon1786@aol.com.

The Gallery at St. Christopher's: Picturing the Parables

> ***The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables.***
> ***~ Luke 8:10***

Sandra Bowden
Curator
The Gallery at
St. Christopher's

The Gallery at St. Christopher's is presenting *Picturing the Parables*, a *Christians in Visual Arts* traveling exhibition, related to the life of Christ. To communicate the vastness of God's love, Jesus often used parables. Beyond depictions of the life and ministry of Jesus, scenes from the parables are among the most potent images in art and a continual source of inspiration for artists and contemplation by Christians worldwide.

One of the most enduring legacies of the Gospels is the manner in which Jesus explained the mysteries of his Father's Kingdom. The parables of Jesus were opaque to the religious leaders of his day; even the apostles were confused with many of his allusions. Yet the parables have remained compelling stories for artists to visually explore for centuries.

In the most spectacular divine accommodation, God resolved to use the incarnation of Jesus Christ to communicate his being and essence in a visual form more readily and easily comprehended: human language. Story and analogy frequently marked Jesus' earthly ministry; and the telling of parables best expressed the vastness of God's love. Outside the iconography of Jesus' life and ministry, scenes from the parables rest among the most potent images in art. From the fifth century Roman mosaic images of Christ the Good Shepherd, to Rembrandt's *Good Samaritan* painting, to Otto Dix's lithographs of the Ten Virgins, the parables of Christ continually serve as the fountain of inspiration for artists and the source of contemplation by Christians around the world.

The pieces that compose this exhibition retain the potency of the New Testament parables. They demonstrate that contemporary artists are still finding unique ways to unpack the stories of Jesus. Present among these works are some of the favorite tales of Western culture. Even though we are now living in a society that some have deemed post-Christian and biblically illiterate, many of these stories remain in our collective consciousness.

We All Got Up to Dance
by Gregg Wilimek (2003).

Twenty artists restate the stories of Christ from new and unique perspectives, with time-honored to non-traditional media. These works vary from the narrative representational to the more abstract. It is our hope that this exhibition will both delight and also challenge us to see these parables in a new light—even stop us short, as we see surprising examples of The Good Shepherd or an interesting example of the Pearl of Great Price. *Picturing the Parables* is on display in The Gallery until the end of December.

Detail from Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

A Gift of Art

The Art Committee of St. Christopher's has enthusiastically accepted the gift of an Ethiopian painting, *Solomon and the Queen of Sheba*. It is now hanging at the entrance to the chapel where there is an exhibition of Ethiopian paintings on the Life of Jesus. The gift is from Virginia and Richard Mead. To read more about this piece, go to www.stchristopherschatham.org, and click on "The Gallery at St. Christopher's."

Music

Maury A. Castro
Organist & Choirmaster

Organ Chats: On Sundays, Sept. 13 and 27, I hosted 20-minute chats on the role that the organ plays in the life of St. Christopher's. We discussed the mechanics of organ design, and got a sense of just how complex this instrument is! We also discussed the handicaps of our 165-year-old Stevens organ. It is missing seven pedal notes that are standard on all organs for the last 100 years, it has a second keyboard (manual) that has no pipes sounding for a third of its compass, and is in a location that is completely unsuited to accompanying the choirs.

Festival Choir: The Adult Choir was augmented by several guest singers on Saturday, Sept. 19, to sing Johann Hummel's great *Missa Brevis in D Major*. This was the service music for a Choral Eucharist, in collaboration with the opening reception of the *Picturing the Parables* exhibit in The Gallery.

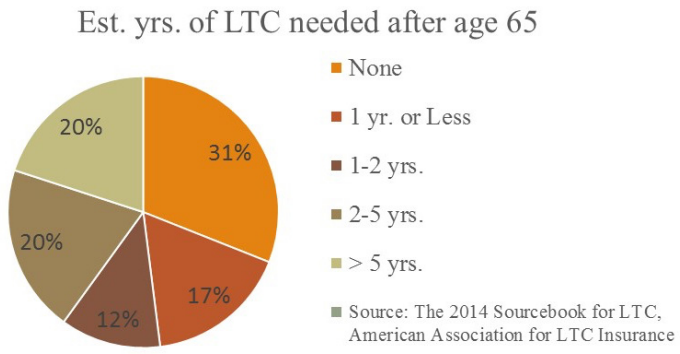
The Adult Choir welcomes any interested singers who wish to join in singing a **Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 pm**. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, an 28 at 7 pm.

The Festival Choir

Choir School: The choristers will sing for the first time this season on **Sunday, Oct. 18,** which is *Royal School of Church Music America* Music Sunday. This is a day to celebrate the joy and beauty that music brings to our worship and liturgy. The new choristers will be admitted to the choir, and all choristers will be commissioned for service in the church during the coming year. There is still time to join—I am always eager to meet prospective choristers!

Personal Planning

What is the chance that you will need long term care after age 65?



The Personal Planning Committee thanks you for taking its recent survey and identifying catastrophic illness and long term care as one of your top two topics of interest.

The committee will host two forums in the Parish Hall on how to protect your family and assets from catastrophic illness and long term care on **Sunday, Oct. 25th, and Sunday, Nov. 15th,** following the 10:00 am Choral Eucharist.

For additional information, see the Morgan Stanley brochure, *Planning for Long Term Care*, by contacting any committee member, or by going to www.stchristopherschatham.org, and clicking on "Personal Planning."

Together with Africans

Thanks to the joint efforts of the Chatham Rotary Club, St. Christopher's Together with Africans Committee, and the Friday Night Grill Crew under the leadership of Sue Morgan and Bob Braman, we are delighted to report that we have sent $5630 to Prince and Relhetta Wreh toward construction of their house in Bong County, Liberia, West Africa.

The Friday Night Grill, held Friday, September 4, was a huge success. The grill made over $1400, and that amount was matched by three St. Christopher's families. The balance of the $5630 came from generous Rotarians, parishioners, and friends who were touched by the circumstances facing the Wrehs. Both the Church and Rotary have supported the Wreh's establishment of the Goll Farm Elementary School in Bong County, Liberia, since 2011.

This summer the Wreh's home in Bonga was demolished to make way for an expanded highway linking the capitol of Liberia, Monrovia, to Bonga and other up-country communities. The state demolished the Wreh's home and an adjacent vocational classroom building. Reimbursement was just half of the value of the two buildings and covers just half of rebuilding costs. Proceeds from the grill went directly to the Wrehs for the rebuilding of their home.

Chatham Rotary has supported the Goll Farm School in Bonga since its construction in 2011–12. The Club has provided scholarship aid to students in grades Pre-K–8, and a matching grant from the District Rotary Foundation was used to send 250 backpacks with school supplies in 2014. Support for the Goll Farm School is the Chatham Rotary Club's International project and supports Rotary International's literacy goal. St. Christopher's Church has supported the school with construction and scholarship support, has received three Diocesan grants for support of the school, and friends of Together With Africans continue to provide financial support for the feeding program associated with the school.

Both St. Christopher's Church and the Chatham Rotary Club became involved with Liberia between 2009–2011. At that time, Rev. Prince Wreh was attending the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., and assisted at St. Christopher's. While here, he spoke both to the Chatham Rotary Club and preached at St. Christopher's about his strong and abiding belief in the power of education. From this experience has emerged the ongoing support for Goll Farm School and an enduring friendship with Prince and Relhetta Wreh.

~ Barbara Gibson

Construction of the new Wreh home.

Donor Cards

Honor cards for Together with Africans are available on the church website, in the church library, or from Steve Keenan and Jean Greenough. When making a contribution to the Together with Africans committee, donors may complete a donor card in memory or in honor of someone. These make a meaningful birthday or Christmas gift, which will not only help to educate a new generation of young Africans, but will answer the question of what to give to friends and family. It is a great way to make both the person who gives and the one who receives feel good about the gift.

Beethoven Comes to St. Christopher's

The Eldredge Public Library Learning Series presents: *Beethoven: His Life and His Music*, **Wednesdays, Oct. 21, 28 and Nov. 4, 10:30 am–12:00 pm**, at St. Christopher's.

In his short life of 56 years, Beethoven forever changed the course of music history. Highly influenced by personal and political trials and tribulations of the day, his music reflects the changing world around him. Three sessions will explore Beethoven's life and the influences that transformed his art into "music for a later generation." These talks will be presented by Joseph Marchio, music director of the Chatham Chorale and music director at First Congregational Church, Chatham.

The Learning Series will also host an all-Beethoven companion concert. The program features the *Sonata in C for violoncello and piano*, the "Spring" *Sonata in F for violin and piano*, and culminates with the "Archduke" *Trio* for violin, cello, and piano. David Russell, cellist; Dan Flonta, violinist; and Haskell Thomson, pianist. The concert will take place in the sanctuary of St. Christopher's on **Nov. 7 at 3:00 pm**, and is designed to support The Friends of the Eldredge Library.

Contact the library to sign up for the course or purchase tickets for the concert. For those taking the course, the charge for the concert will be $10. For all others, the charge will be $20. This should be a very special experience for music lovers!

Pulse of the Parish

Baptisms

Leonardo James Wilson
September 13, 2015

Aiden Andrew Meincke
September 27, 2015

Marriages

Charles Martin &
Julien Touafek
September 19, 2015

Deaths

Samuel Garre
July 30, 2015

The Rev. Timothy W. Sampson
August 13, 2015

Nell Virginia Nunnally Pinckert
August 28, 2015

David Michael O'Hara
September 1, 2015

Everett Yeaw, Jr.
September 14, 2015

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Lou Augustin
Sexton

Sandra Bowden
Curator, **The Gallery**

Rick Franklin
Manager, **Gift Shop**

Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, **Food Pantry**

Dennis Johnson, Lynn Van Dine, and Tim Weller, *Soundings* **copy editors.**

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ~ Jeremiah 29:11				1 10 Women's AA 3-5 pm Art as Spiritual Practice	2	3
4 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	5 9am-2pm Stephen Ministry Training 3-5 pm Art as Spiritual Practice	6 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 3:45–5:15 Choir School	7 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 7 Adult Choir	8 10 Women's AA 2 Shawl Ministry 3-5 pm Art as Spiritual Practice	9 10:30 Beloved Community Workshop	10
11 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship 11:30 Confirmation Classes	12 Columbus Day—Church Closed	13 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 9:30 Flower Guild 3:45–5:15 Choir School 4 Pastoral Care	14 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:45 Sacred Journey 4 Finance Cmte 7 Adult Choir	15 10 Women's AA 3-5 pm Art as Spiritual Practice	16	17 5 Celtic Evensong
18 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship & Habitat Presentation	19	20 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45–5:15 Choir School 4 Vestry Meeting	21 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 10 Parkinson's Support 4:30 Together with Africans 7 Adult Choir	22 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music	23 10:30 Church and Race Workshop	24
25 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Baptism 10 Sunday School 11 Fellowship & Personal Plng. Cmt. Presentation 11:30 Confirmation Classes	26	27 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 10 Embracing Forgiveness 3:45–5:15 Choir School	28 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @Lib.Cms. 10:30 EPL series 10:45 Sacred Journey 4:30 TW Africans 7 Adult Choir	29 10 Women's AA	30	31

Saint Christopher's Episcopal
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Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

October, 2015

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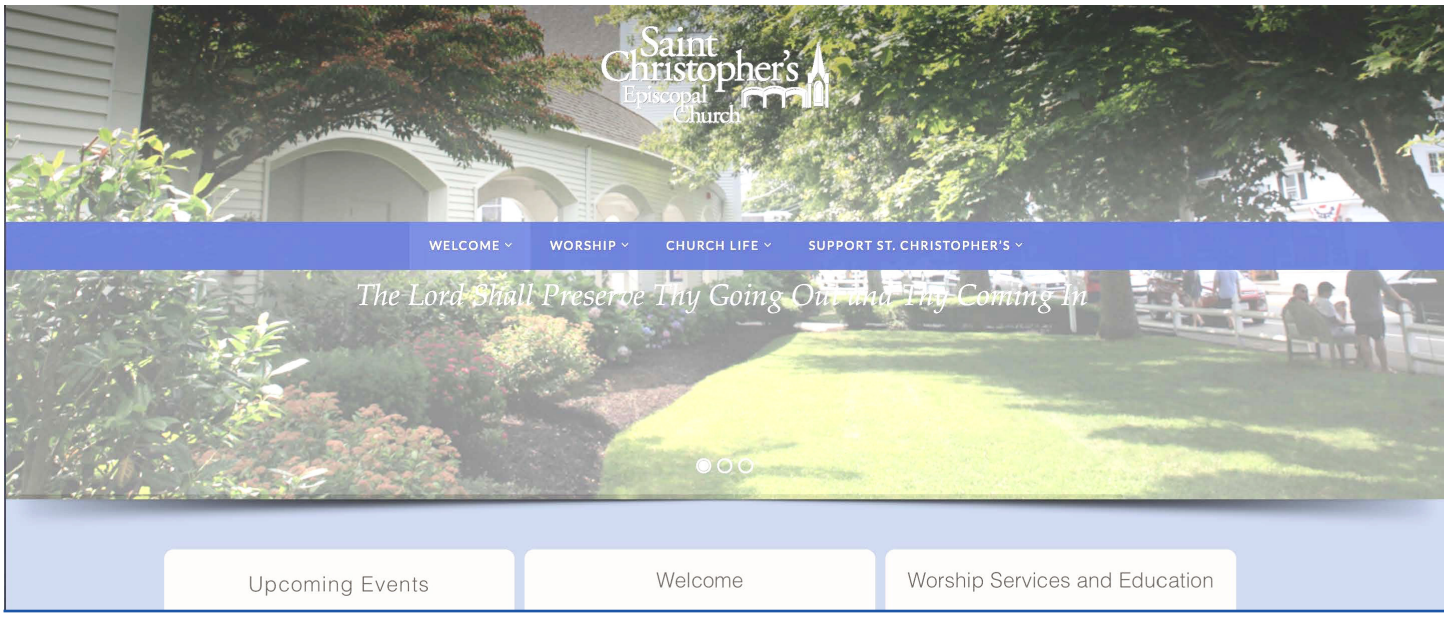
St. Christopher's Unveils a Website Redesign



By the time this issue of *Soundings* reaches you, St. Christopher's Church will have a newly-designed website, at the same web address: www.stchristopherschatham.org.

The site features photography by Spencer Kennard of Chatham and design by Michael Mauceri of emdesign, inc., of Boston. Some new content is also available, including pages for Children, Youth, and Families, The Gallery, Spiritual Formation, Pastoral Care, and more. Check it out!