

SOUNDINGS

Saint
Christopher's
Episcopal
Church 
July, 2016

Islam from Within



The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

In a Washington Post article entitled “Want to Understand Islam? Start Here,” John L. Esposito, a Roman Catholic and the director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, wrote: “Nearly half of Americans have a generally unfavorable view of Islam, according to a 2006 Washington Post-ABC News poll, a number which has risen

since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. That climate makes it easy to lose sight of the fact that the majority of mainstream Muslims hate terrorism and violence as much as we do—and makes it hard for non-Muslims to know where to begin to try to understand a great world faith.”

I don't believe it is a gross generalization to say that Islam, despite being a major world religion, is seriously misunderstood by a majority of Americans. To better understand Islam, the Muslim people, our world, our own faith tradition, and the God-we-all-worship, I would like to extend a special invitation to you, the members of St. Christopher's Church, as well as to the community-at-large: Please participate in our Sunday, July 17th interfaith lecture and discussion on Islam.

I have titled this Soundings article, “Islam From Within” because this event will be led by devout, practicing Muslims, who will share the authentic spiritual core of “mainstream” Islam, which is something distinct from the perversion of Islamic theology, ethics and practices embraced by radicals, extremists and terrorists.

The Very Reverend Jeph Streit, Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston (and a long-time friend of our parish) connected me with members of the Greater Boston Muslim community who worship and pray every Friday at our Cathedral.

Three guests will lead this event:

Sulieman Muhammad has been a tireless leader in the community for over thirty years. Born and raised in Boston, Sulieman is a very active member in Masjid Al-Quran, one of the oldest mosques in Boston. He is a long-time member of the Islamic Council of New England, and served as its President for the 2010 term. Sulieman serves as the co-chair of the Interfaith Committee for the council.

He has traveled in pursuit of religious knowledge to such places as Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, Japan, Korea, and throughout the United States and Canada. He studied under the well-known sheik Imam Shakir Mahmoud of Boston. He has received recognition for his work in the Massachusetts prison system as a Chaplain.

Ali Rabbani is a professional engineer and leader at one of the Islamic Organizations in the North Boston area.

Dr. Mawdudur Rahman is a professor of accounting at Suffolk University and is active at many Muslim and secular institutions worldwide.

Please plan to attend the 10 am Choral Eucharist on July 17. The service will be an abbreviated Eucharist with prayers. At 10:45 am there will be a short coffee break. We will reconvene at 11 am, which will enable guests, who do not wish to participate in our worship service, to attend the lecture/discussion. Our esteemed guests are traveling all the way from Boston, so please support their efforts with your presence and participation. As they cross the Sagamore Bridge, my hope is that we can all—metaphorically speaking—cross the divide that separates Christians and Muslims of good faith and conscience. Something on which both Jesus and Muhammad would smile!

Children, Youth, and Families



Kerén Castro
Director of
Children, Youth,
and Families

Sunday School came to an end for this academic year in June. Since January we have spent a considerable amount of time learning all about the Passion Week of Christ. As a culmination of this project we took an art walk through The Gallery at St. Christopher's, experiencing Christ's crucifixion through the eyes of the artists. During this time we went from painting to painting and I asked two questions: "What do you see?" "How does it make you feel?" I did not use this time to correct their observations or teach them—we simply experienced the art together. Here are some of their responses:

On *Modern Crucifixion* by Frank S. Wight:

"In this painting the people are all wearing modern clothes."

"It must be Cape Cod, because there is a lighthouse in the background, and some are wearing fishing boots."

"I see a hammer, Jesus must be sad because He has 'owies' on his feet."

"The sky is dark because the world is sad."

"In each of these pictures Jesus is wearing more and more modern clothing."

"I see blood."

"All the people are looking at Him, even a mother with her baby."

On *Mystical Crucifixion* by Marc Chagall:

"I see a goat."

"No, it's a squirrel."

"I think it's a cow!"

"Really it's an ox, I read it."

"I still say it's a squirrel."

"I see Jesus on a cross and being held by Mary."

"There is a clock—I think the artist wanted us to think about how Jesus died for everyone no matter what time they lived in."



"There are candlesticks."

"It's still dark like the other paintings, it's sad."

On the three pictures opposite the 2009 renovation wall:

"They are all black, it make me feel dark."

"I see nails."

"Jesus is hanging on a cross. All of them in here are about that. It's really important, huh?!"

The children, no matter what age, from 4–14, all experienced the art hanging in our church. It



was a moving experience that I was grateful to be a part of. The art spoke to them and brought what Jesus did for them alive in a way I never could have done in words. They will never walk in those halls again without noticing what is around them. I want to thank Sandra Bowden and the Art Committee for making this possible for our kids. They are so fortunate to have such wonderful art right at their fingertips. We can't wait for the autumn exhibit!

Finally, a quick reminder that Vacation Bible Camp is right around the corner. If you know someone who would like to attend, you may

register by going to www.stchristopherschatham.org, and click on "Vacation Bible Camp." Also, I am looking for volunteers to help with registration, setup and cleanup, and sponsoring children's registration fees. If you are interested, please contact me at kcastro@stchristopherschatham.org. I would appreciate any help you can offer.



From Your Senior Warden



John M. Sargent
Senior Warden

Snow birds, seasonal homeowners, summer residents, vacationers, etc., WELCOME BACK. It is good to see you. St. Christopher's is very fortunate to have this large influx of parishioners who bring an extra dimension to the church, and we welcome your involvement in all church activities.

I can confidently say that we are a very

welcoming parish. Even though you are here only part of the year, you are full members of St. Christopher's in every way. If you ever have any suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to speak to me, the other Wardens, members of the Vestry or the Rector.

Also, we are instituting a mid-summer meeting this year in addition to our Annual Meeting in January. This should allow you to be better informed about the church and I look forward to your participation in this event, which will take place after the 10 am Choral Eucharist on August 14.

Stephen Ministry



Carolyn Otis
Stephen Minister

It's been quite a year for the Stephen Ministry program at St. Christopher's. In June of 2015, thirteen Stephen Ministers began joint training at weekly meetings with members of the Congregational Church.

This team was commissioned in October. Since then, each Stephen Minister has been

assigned to a care receiver: people in grief or shut-ins, some who are facing terminal illness, others who are having difficulties with family members, and a variety of other crises. Their continuing, caring, confidential relationships are growing deeper. And the support they provide to Rector McGurk's pastoral care initiative has been profound.

As word gets around our congregations, we hear of more and more people who are hurting and who need someone to walk beside them, to listen without

judging them. We are in need of more Stephen Ministers in order to keep up with the demand. In September, we will be holding a second training program for those who heed the call to become Stephen Ministers. If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministries, you may go to the church website, scroll over "Church Life," and click on "Pastoral Care." Please contact the Rector if you are interested in becoming a part of this vital ministry.



Friends With Wheels

St. Christopher's' *Friends With Wheels* program provides rides to medical appointments for members of our parish family. Since it was first suggested by former Assistant to the Rector, Gail Smith, nearly six years ago, our volunteers have transported many parishioners to their appointments. Some are no longer able to drive; others are told by a provider that they should not drive due to a particular scheduled procedure, such as when anesthesia is required.

Any member of the St. Christopher's family needing this service may call the church office to request a ride; 48 hours' notice is necessary. While we have a number of dedicated parishioners who drive, we could more readily support those in need if we had one or two additional drivers on our roster. If you are interested in learning more about the program and how to help, please contact the church office.

Music



Maury A. Castro
Organist &
Choirmaster

Psalms. Often called the church's original hymnal, psalms have been read, prayed, recited, sung, chanted, and breathed by Israel and then by the church for almost 3,000 years. There must be something there worth contemplating.

The monastic tradition found the psalms to be of such central importance that it arranged for all 150 psalms to be said or chanted every month. During the first century of the Reformed tradition, *only* psalms were sung, excluding all of those polluted "man-made" hymns such as those of the liberal Martin Luther.



Choristers and guests try out the African drums and other instruments at a rehearsal for African Sunday.

"Get off the porch!" says Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. The Together With Africans Committee has been taking these words to heart for over a decade. First, helping to feed AIDS orphans in Kenya, and more recently building a school and supporting the anti-Ebola effort in Liberia.

The committee thanks everyone who shared in the celebration of the African service on May 29, and we want to recognize the service of Jean Greenough, our long-serving chairperson. We are continuing our work in Liberia by supporting scholarships for elementary students whose families cannot afford the expense of schooling.

An individual student scholarship cost is:
Information Sheet \$1.00

At St. Christopher's, we approach the psalms in a variety of ways: spoken, chanted in unison to ancient psalm tones (tunes), sung as hymns (these are metrical, rhymed paraphrases of the psalms), and one of the glories of the Anglican choral tradition, Anglican chant (four-part sung settings of the psalms with repeated musical phrases).

Most often at the 10 am Choral Eucharist, the psalms are chanted by the entire congregation, responsively, with a cantor (usually me). While the congregation is actually quite good at this, I'm afraid that so much energy is absorbed by moving the pitch at just the right spot, and saying just the right words, that it is impossible to meditate on the text itself, which is the whole point! This troubles me, so I have been exploring options for psalm chanting, not wishing to "throw the baby out with the bathwater."

Much to my surprise, I have discovered that the practice of chanting the psalms was traditionally almost always practiced by a soloist, with the congregation singing a simple refrain (antiphon). This gives the people a chance to meditate on the text, but also participate with the psalm. So beginning on July 10, I will sing the refrain, the congregation will repeat it, and then I will chant the psalm verses. At indicated points within the psalm reading, and at the end, the refrain will again be repeated. It is my hope and prayer that this practice will lead to a richer worship experience for our congregation.

Together With Africans

Registration \$10.00

Activity Fee \$5.00

Breakage Fee \$5.00

I.D. card \$5.00

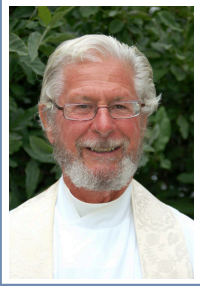
Uniform \$15.00

Tuition \$80.00

Total \$126.00 / per student / year

Donations in support of the TWA scholarship fund should be made out to St. Christopher's Church. Please note on the check *TWA scholarship*. We invite you to become a member of our committee, or attend one of our fundraisers during the year. For more information please contact Steve Keenan, Together With Africans chair, at 774-212-7719 or at sjkeen65@comcast.net.

Being a Welcoming Church



**The Rev. Dr. John
Martinier**
Priest Associate

Nearly every Sunday throughout the year, St. Christopher's is blessed with the presence of many visitors at worship. Some are passing through our area or visiting relatives and friends. Others have summer homes on the Cape and, for the time they are here, call St. Christopher's their spiritual home. Recently, more and more people are visiting in search for a

year-round faith community. We are thankful for each visitor and all of us have a part in making them feel welcomed.

There are many simple things you can do to be welcoming. For example, smile and say "hello." Everyone can do that! If a visitor seems unfamiliar with the hymnal, service leaflet, or how to go to the altar for communion, help them out. After the service, invite a newcomer to coffee hour and introduce them to people you know. Offer to show them the church, chapel, etc. Be sincerely interested in their personhood and life experience.

Outside of these rather obvious acts, you should know that the Newcomers Committee, clergy, and staff have a formal process to welcome new people. When we receive the name and address of a new person, which may come in various ways including the filling in of pew cards or Betty's welcome at the 10 am Choral Eucharist, each person receives a letter from the Rector the very next week. They receive a phone call from the office inviting them to visit with the Rector and they are given a newcomers packet.

It was moved, seconded and approved:
The Finance Committee recommends to the Vestry that it authorize the Treasurer to enter into an agreement with BlueWave Renewables to take advantage of the reduced energy costs with their community solar projects.

It was moved, seconded and approved:
The Finance Committee recommends to the Vestry that for full-year 2016 St. Christopher's utilize a 4.0% draw rate on our investment funds' average balance measured over the twelve quarters ending 12/31/15.

The point of all of this is to get to know someone personally and, if they have a meeting with the Rector, he attempts to find out what areas of ministry they have been involved with in the past and what interests they might have at St. Christopher's Church. Do they sing? Do they have an interest in outreach, church finance, reading at worship, or the altar guild? If they do, an attempt is made to connect each new person with leadership in any area of interest.

Each year, the Newcomers Committee sponsors a newcomer's reception. This is a wonderful time organized by Sue Sargent and supported by members of the Vestry and church staff. This year's reception is on Sunday, July 31 at 5 pm. If you are new to the church, please put this date in your date book now and plan to attend.

Also, this summer, we will have a "welcome back" festive time of fellowship especially for "summer people" after the 10 am Choral Eucharist on Sunday, July 10.

The object of all these efforts is to say that St. Christopher's wants to expand in numbers of people who desire to grow in the faith of Jesus the Christ and to do so in our community of faith. If you have any comments or suggestions, please speak with any of the members of the Newcomers Committee, which includes Jeff and Sandy Arnold, Stephanie Bartlett, Martha Batchelder, Martha Crane, Peggy Davis, Mary Gulrich, Jane Harris, Sally Herbst, Errol and Nancy James, Jill MacDonald, John and Betty Martinier, Susan Morgan, and Sue Sargent. Or you may contact me at Tarpon1786@aol.com or 774-408-7370. Let's continue to be one of the most welcoming churches on the Cape!

Vestry Minutes: May 2016

Since a draw rate of 3.5% has been used in the first four months of 2016, the draw applicable to those months will be recalculated using 4.0%. Also, for the full year, the yield on the Food Pantry's share of the investment accounts will be utilized for general church operations.

It was moved, seconded and approved:
The Finance Committee approves the \$12,500 Dreyfus grant received in 2016 being taken as pledge income in 2016.

~submitted by Dale Alger, Clerk

HELP WANTED!!!



*Looking for a fun
and rewarding experience?*

Then we are looking for you!

St. Christopher's Gift and Consignment Shop serves the local community with an outstanding array of donated and consigned items. The Shop is open from April to October.

Volunteers Needed: 4-hour shifts once or twice a week at times that meet your schedule. Sign up today. See Barbara Cromarty at the Consignment Shop or call 508-945-2211.

Weekend Cashier: Paid position with potential for hours on Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon. Please call Rick Leavitt for an appointment at 508-945-7585, or see David Smith.

Consignment Shop Manager: Paid position for an energetic, enthusiastic person who wants to make a difference, support the community, and work with a great volunteer staff. Please call Rick Leavitt for an appointment at 508-945-7585, or see David Smith.

Transfer In

Darcy K. Hackert

Baptisms

Luke Bainbridge Tidmarsh
& Paige Mary Tidmarsh
June 19, 2016

Marriages

Kaitlin Vinci & Alexander Bierce
June 4, 2016

Holly Johnson & Eric Zadorian
June 24, 2016

Death

Kenneth Wynne
May 6, 2016

Church e-mail list: If you are not on the church e-mail list and would like to be, please subscribe yourself at the bottom of the homepage of the church website, www.stchristopherschatham.org, or e-mail Maury A. Castro at mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org. By adding your address to the list, you will receive the weekly mid-week e-mail and periodic messages from the Rector.

Digital Soundings: All who are on the e-mail list receive *Soundings* electronically via the mid-week e-mail, and it is available on the website. If you would like to be taken off the print list, please contact Maury.

Saint
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The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

The Rev. Dr. John Martinier
Priest Associate

Maury A. Castro
Organist & Choirmaster;
Communications Director

Haskell Thomson
Musician-in-Residence

Kerén Castro
Director of Children,
Youth, and Families

Jamie Chalker
Parish Administrator

Barbara Bush
Administrative Assistant

Ali Crockett
Facilities Manager

David Smith
Treasurer

Bridgette Renaud
Assistant Treasurer

Lou Augustin
Sexton

Priscilla Chick, R.N.
Parish Nurse

Barbara Cromarty
Interim Manager, Gift Shop

Sandra Bowden
Curator, The Gallery

Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, Food Pantry

Lynn Van Dine
and Tim Weller,
Soundings copy editors.

Parish Statistics

July 2016

*Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
~ Matthew 11:28*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Baptism 11 Fellowship	4 Church Closed	5 Church Closed 7 Hyannis Sound	6 10 Contemplative Eucharist 12 Staff Meeting 5:15 Adult Choir	7 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	8 5 Friday Night Grill	9 5 Friday Night Grill
10 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship for summer members	11 Church Closed	12 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Hyannis Sound	13 10 Contemplative Eucharist 4 Finance Comm. 6:15 Adult Choir	14 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	15 5 Friday Night Grill	16 7 Benefit Concert: Hyannis Sound & Cape Harmony
17 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship & Interfaith Discussion: Islam	18 Church Closed	19 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 4 Vestry 7 Hyannis Sound	20 10 Cont. Eucharist 5:15 Adult Choir	21 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music 7:30 Cape Harmony	22 5 Friday Night Grill	23 5 Celtic Evensong & Communion
24 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Baptism 11 Fellowship 31 See above 5 Newcomers Reception	25 9-12 Vacation Bible Camp	26 9-12 Vacation Bible Camp 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Hyannis Sound	27 9-12 VBC 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing at Lib. C. 4:30 Together With Africans 6:15 Adult Choir	28 9-12 Vacation Bible Camp 7:30 Cape Harmony	29 9-12 Vacation Bible Camp 5 Friday Night Grill	30 5 Friday Night Grill



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July, 2016

Non-Profit Organization

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The second of three benefit musical concerts presented by St. Christopher's Church.

SATURDAY, JULY 16 - 7 pm
A Capella Times Two
The ever-popular Hyannis Sound and Cape Harmony

Bring your family, friends and neighbors!
This will be a GREAT concert!



COMING ATTRACTIONS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 - 3 pm
Romantic Masterworks
Instrumental, vocal, and choral works
of the classical masters.
Directed by Maury Castro;
featuring Haskell Thomson

Tickets at door only
\$20 adults / \$10 children

Proceeds to benefit St. Christopher's Church programs

For advanced tickets for the Romantic Masterworks concert call 508-737-8056