

# SOUNDINGS



Vol. XI, No. 1

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

FEBRUARY, 2015

## Special meeting, special guest

### Bishop Cederholm's visit includes Annual Meeting

With retired Bishop Bud Cederholm in attendance, parishioners elected new lay leaders and listened to upbeat financial and stewardship summaries at the Jan. 25 Annual Meeting.

With Rector Brian W. McGurk on sabbatical, Senior Warden Barbara Reed extended an invitation to the bishop, who did not disappoint. In a rousing sermon he urged the parishioners to be "risk takers" and "reckless." At one point, he broke out his guitar to lead the congregation in singing a hymn. After the service the retired bishop, known as the Diocese's "green" bishop for his environmental advocacy, took questions from parishioners.

In a moving tribute, the congregation also honored Barbara Cromarty and John Rude for their years of work at the church's Gift & Consignment Shop. Last year, Barbara decided she wanted to step down as manager of the shop, where she has volunteered for 17 years. Incoming Senior Warden Rick Franklin will become the shop's new manager.

"I look forward to using all of your expertise in the next few years," Rick told Barbara. "Thank you." With that the congregation stood and applauded.

Outgoing Senior Warden Barbara Reed told the congregation that it "truly has been



**Barbara Cromarty receives a gift in thanks for her service at the Gift & Consignment shop. John Rude, left, was also commended for his work.**

an honor to serve all of you."

During the business portion of the meeting, Treasurer David Smith reported that the church's "financial condition continues to improve." He noted that the church ended the year with an operating surplus of \$10,492. In 2015, David forecasts an operating surplus of \$10,684 as the church begins to eliminate debt and use income from the highly successful \$1.4 million "Our Next Step" capital campaign.

Stewardship Chairman Peter Hughes thanked the parish for its generosity in raising almost \$500,000 for 2015. The congregation applauded when he announced that 47 new families decided to pledge for the first time.

Finally, new lay leaders were elected, including Rick Franklin as senior warden, Ralph Doty as junior warden, John Sargent as warden-elect, David Smith as treasurer, Dale Alger as clerk, and new Vestry members Bob Braman, Betty Martiner, Maggie Van Sickle and Haskell Thomson. Deanery representatives are Carolyn Otis and Debbie Lamotte; convention delegates are Carolyn Otis and Barbara Gibson; and alternate convention delegates are Jane and Nick Harris.

Copies of the 2014 Annual Report, which details church finances and programs, are available at the reception desk for all parishioners.

# Welcome Keren Castro, director of Children, Youth & Families

As the new director of Children, Youth and Families, I am very excited to take on this new position, and have already been having a lot of fun with the children and youths of this church. I want to give a special thanks to Gretchen Meeks for helping me negotiate through this transition into this position.

We're very excited to announce with our growing numbers of junior high school-age students that we have begun a Junior High Sunday School class. We look forward to learning and growing with this group, and having a lot of fun!

Please take note of our upcoming events listed below.

## Upcoming Events

- **Sledding** (location TBA): Sunday, Feb. 8, from 2–3:30 p.m.

- **Family Faith Formation:** Due to February break there will be no Family Faith Formation this month.

- **Sunday School:** Feb. 1, 8 and 22 - Note there will be no Sunday school on Feb. 15 as that is the beginning of winter break for children.

## CYF Celebrations

I am pleased to announce that we had a fabulous Christmas party in December in which 12 of our children and youths were able to attend. We had fun turning our friends into snow people, decorating our own cookies, and drinking hot chocolate. A big thank you to them and all those who helped make the party a great success.



Children celebrate Christmas with funny hats and goodies at a party held on Dec. 20. (Photo by Keren Castro)



During his visit to St. Christopher's, Bishop Roy "Bud" Cederholm called all the children to the front where he taught them a song and had them sing with him. Then, the congregation joined the youths in song. Afterwards, the bishop encouraged the children to lead the Peace by having them walk down the aisle and shake hands with parishioners.

In addition, we celebrated the work Myriah Bruce did for the youths by presenting her with an apron the kids made to thank her

for all they had done for them. She will be missed!

*Keren Castro  
Director of Children, Youth & Families*

## Our ministry of healing to manifest in Feb. 8 10 a.m. service

One of the explicit commands Jesus give to us is to "heal the sick and cast out demons" (Matthew 10:8) and one of the persistent actions of Jesus was to heal the sick, restore the broken.

We have to admit that these words and actions took place in a pre-scientific era where physical healing was assigned often to an extra-ordinary event or person. Some people claim this to be true today. But, we live in a very different culture; still the command to heal stands before us. What does it mean, how can we do it?

The very early church followed the Jewish practice of offering prayers for the sick and anointing them with oil. Anointing was done by "presbyters of the church-Priests" (James 5:13-16). As the church developed, the ministration to the sick was coupled with the celebration of the Eucharist either publicly or privately. Further, "Unction," "the laying on of hands," the ministration to the sick became recognized as one of the seven sacraments of the church. In our present Book of Common Prayer, the form for this ministration is on page 453 and it provides for the laying on of hands or anointing with oil by a priest.

In many churches today, lay people place hands on members of a congregation while saying prayers for healing. While technically this is not the sacrament, it is nonetheless an

expression of compassion and pastoral care.

In our parish committee on Liturgy, Worship and Music, we have considered using a form of prayer and laying on of hands at the 10 a.m. service. This would be similar to the practice used at the Celtic liturgies. Brian and I discussed implementing this and determined that we would like to try it at a 10 a.m. service once a month. I have chosen the second Sunday of the month for this. So on Feb. 8, two members of the congregation will be stationed behind the altar to the left and right for any who would like special

Priest Associate



JOHN MARTINER

prayers for healing and wholeness for themselves or others.

As time goes on we shall discuss what we hope for, what our expectations are when we participate in this ministry of healing. In connection with this, we might well remember that a person can be physically ill and still be well and whole in spirit. One can die in a healthy way. Special prayers for healing may or may not result in the reduction of physical or emotional illness. On the other hand, putting ourselves or loved ones trustfully into God's hands can give us more peace, wholeness and health than we can even imagine.

*John Martinier  
Priest Associate*

## Congratulations to our Stephen Leaders!

Linda Hughes and Carolyn Otis have just returned from Orlando where they completed 50 hours of Stephen Leader training, along with 380 other lay leaders and clergy. They have learned the basics for setting up a Stephen Ministry at St. Christopher's. According to both, the training provided a lot of valuable insights. They "feel very prepared ... and very supported by the system." They also expressed prayerful hope that they "can become effective leaders to move forward with God's work in our church community."

When you see them, be sure to congratulate them and ask more about Stephen Ministry at St. Christopher's.



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

Stay tuned as we begin building the framework for Stephen Ministry, including recruiting and training Stephen Ministers for pastoral care. We will partner with First Congregational Church, which also sent volunteers to Orlando.

*Susan Newlin*

# Living our Vision at St. Christopher's

“‘To show something of Christ to the world’ is one of my favorite mission statements! Easy to say yet difficult to do!” says Rector Brian McGurk.

In December, St. Christopher's released a document that lays out our Vision and associated strategic thrusts as guidelines for the future direction of the church. “I truly feel that Christ is alive in our church and in our hearts. Further, I believe Christ will be ever-present in our future when our Vision and the associated strategic thrusts are applied to each and every event, experience, discussion, action, thought and decision that our parish embarks on. This is precisely how we can ‘show something of Christ’ to the world,” says Brian.

“This is good news, because when we show something of Christ to all of God's people we are serving our Lord, becoming one with his love and grace: ‘Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me,’ says Jesus. By living our vision, each of us will show many things of Christ to ourselves and to those around us.”

Following is a brief summary of the Visioning statement. For a full copy of the document, contact its authors, Susan Newlin or Larry Jobson.

“Living Our Vision” reflects more than two years of creative and diligent visioning work by many parishioners, its leadership and key community partners. Throughout those two years a visioning team has guided and focused the work into a succinct

vision and a set of forward-looking guidelines.

## **Our Vision:**

- Foster spiritual growth through diverse spectrum of spiritual experiences in worship, music, education, outreach, pastoral care and fellowship.

- Missional in our service to others: reach out in service to our communities to empower those we serve through support and trusting relationship development.

- Radically welcoming to all through diverse means to all social, economic, and cultural groups and welcome all to feel, share, and deepen their sense of God's presence in their lives.

- Emergent and transformative in serving our spiritual needs so we are responsive to the changing and deepening spiritual needs of all, thus, transforming St. Christopher's to a center of our parishioners' and our community's spiritual lives.

- Entrepreneurial in stewardship and leadership so we empower all parishioners to be appreciative stewards of all our resources (human and financial), thereby creating a highly collaborative and transparent approach for personally and financially managing our spiritual foundations.

## **Our Overarching Strategy:**

Having established our vision elements, our visioning team turned their attention to developing an overarching strategy that will direct us in achieving the vision. The Vestry retreat used a multi-step process we called “Voice of the Parish” or VOP.

- To foster spiritual growth: Diversify our services; extend pastoral care to focus on the

spiritual lives of all parishioners; grow deeper spiritual foundations through a variety of courses and small-group gatherings; broaden our approach toward finance and stewardship to focus on being good stewards of our human resources; diversify music in the worship service with an emphasis on a variety of our spiritual foundations and demographic groups; strive to institute a more robust Sunday school program to attract young families from our surrounding communities.

- Missional in our service to others: Seek opportunities to bring worship services out to the community; nurture the spirits of those we serve in outreach; share the spiritual testimonies surrounding service to others; find ways to enable a more diverse set of parishioners to be involved in “aid to others” projects; bring music to the community during out-of-church services and other gatherings; bring visiting musicians into services or in special events where non-members can be encouraged to attend; align Outreach and Youth and Family Ministries to offer mission trips to the parish's and the community's youth.

- Radically welcoming to all: Periodically offer services that appeal to evolving diversity; nurture and serve new members; deepen our approach toward welcoming and thanking our consignment and food pantry clients; expedite and track newcomer involvement in committee activities; expand

*(Continued on Page 6)*

# Update: Thanks to gifts, our musical life continues to grow

## A Piano Lamp for the Steinway

The piano in the sanctuary received a welcome Christmas gift this year—a piano lamp! The church gratefully acknowledges a generous anonymous donor who made possible the purchase of this new lamp. This gift is greatly appreciated by those who use the instrument regularly.

## Memorial Anthem Gift

The choral scores of Horatio Parker's *Evening Service* that will be used at the Feb. 7 Choral Evensong are made possible through memorial gifts in loving memory of William Joseph Leanues.

## Hyannis Sound

The mid-winter tour of this all-male a capella ensemble will grace St. Christopher's on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 8 pm.

## Sight-Singing Made Simple

A free drop-in workshop to learn or review practical basic music-reading skills, meant for the casual hymn-singer or the weekly choir member. Learn skills to gain independence and ease when approaching music notation. The workshops will be held Saturdays, February 28, and March 21, from 9 - 10:30 am. Please contact Maury A. Castro to at [maestromaury@gmail.com](mailto:maestromaury@gmail.com) or 945-2832, ext. 306.

## Singers Are Invited

All singers are invited to join in the Easter Festival Choir that will present traditional and new choral music for the Holy Week services. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18,

## FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

25, and April 1, from 7 to 8 pm.

## Dedicate an Anthem

Parishioners are invited to donate \$40 toward the purchase of new choral music, and the church will match that \$40 in order to purchase a new anthem (each anthem in our library costs about \$80). The donor may dedicate the anthem in honor, celebration, or memory of the person(s) or event of their choice, and when that anthem is sung in church, this will be recognized in the bulletin. To participate in this ongoing program, please contact Maury.

Maury A. Castro  
Organist & Choirmaster

## Choral Evensong

Saturday, Feb. 7 at 5 p.m., a Choral Evensong celebrating Cornelious the Centurion will be sung by the Adult Choir and Choristers.

The program includes Horatio Parker's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E* and Bob Chilcott's *Be Thou My Vision*.

The Rev. Dr. John Martin, will be the officiant; Maury A. Castro, organist and choirmaster; Haskell Thomson, choir accompanist and pianist, will also play.

Free child care is available.

## Committee tasked to find new organ

Last fall, Rector Brian McGurk asked the Organ Committee, which had been chaired by a very dedicated Len Magnusson for more than seven years, be reactivated so that the final selection of a new organ could begin.

The committee has met twice under new leadership and with a few new members, and is going through the process of choosing an instrument that best suits the needs of the church. As many of you know, our Stevens organ, now 167 years old, has given us wonderful but very limited support, especially since the renovation of the church. It was and has always been the intent to purchase and install a new instrument in the rear of the sanctuary, which will surround the

choir, giving the organist and choir director the ability to conduct from the console.

Today's organs are designed specifically for the space and for the intended purpose and use. We are interviewing two or three companies and traveling to New York and Pennsylvania to hear and play examples of each.

It is our goal to make a recommendation to the Vestry within the next few months and begin a fundraising effort sometime after the first of May. For all who love the sweet, warm sound of our historic Stevens, let me assure you that it will remain just where it is and will continue to be used when appropriate.

Ralph Doty, Chairman

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## Living our Vision at St. Christopher's

*(Continued from Page 4)*  
the Congregate housing meals program to be more explicitly nurturing and engaging.

- Emergent and transformative in serving our spiritual needs: Diversify our services to touch on faith-based messaging; extend and deepen our pastoral care using a Stephen Ministry approach; grow deeper spiritual foundations via retreats and small group ministries; deepen our approach toward welcoming consignment shop and food pantry clients; expand Aid to Africa program scope to enable a broader set of parishioners to be more directly involved; diversify music in the worship service with an emphasis on a variety that can touch a diversity of spiritual needs; expand the breadth of families involved in our youth programs via outreach to the HUB and the Monomoy school district.

- Entrepreneurial in stewardship and leadership: Expand leadership's perspective of Stewardship to include being good stewards of all our resources; develop Stewardship as a year-round activity; include periodic testimony about being good stewards

throughout the church year; focus on sharing joyful moments observed in the course of all committee activities, especially those activities dealing with our community; expand Stewardship and leadership involvement with the HUB and with the Monomoy School district.

**Now it is up to us:** With the assistance of our Vision Disciples, committees are embracing strategic approaches relevant to their charters and determining how well their current activities address these and the vision elements. Relevant needs and wants are being discussed and prioritized within the committees as well. There is a document, "A Handbook for Vision Discipleship," to help provide guidance to leaders and Vision Disciples. Each parishioner and each committee member must continuously assess their actions within the context of the vision elements.

Being true to St. Christopher's Vision will help all as they contribute to the church's central role as a beacon to all of us and to our surrounding communities as we pursue our spiritual journeys.

*Susan Newlin and Larry Jobson*

### CHURCH STATISTICS

#### Death

- Susan Barber Coppedge,  
December 6, 2014

#### Baptism

- Emelia Rose Roy, Dec. 28, 2014

### PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following persons in your prayers and call the office if you wish a name to be added. Thank all of you for your prayers for our parish and beyond.

Kate Winchell

Heather Padgett

Jane Maddux

David Dwyer

# February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 Holy Eucharist 9-10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship and Coffee Chat	2	3 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff meeting 3:30 pm Choir School	4 9:30 Play Group 10 Centering Prayer 4 pm Aid to Africa 7 pm Choir	5	6 5-8 pm Movie Night	7 9 Choir rehearsal 5 pm Choral Evensong 8 pm Hyannis Sound
8 8 Holy Eucharist 9-10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship & Coffee Chat	9	10 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff meeting 3 pm Newcomer Cmt 3:30 pm Choir School 4 pm Pastoral Care	11 9:30 Play Group 4 pm Finance Cmte 7 pm Choir	12 9-12 Women's Alcoholics Anonymous 2 pm Shawl Ministry	13	14 <u>St. Valentine's Day</u>
15 8 Holy Eucharist 9-10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist No Sunday School 11 Fellowship & "Financial Town Mtg."	16 President's Day OFFICE CLOSED	17 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff meeting 4 pm Vestry	18 Ash Wednesday No Play Group 9 Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes 10 Parkinson's Support Group 4 pm Finance Cmte 7 pm Choir	19 9-12 Women's Alcoholics Anonymous 10:30 Liturgy, Worship & Music	20 5-8 pm Movie Night	21
22 8 Holy Eucharist 9-10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship & Coffee Chat	23	24 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff meeting 3:30 pm Choir School	25 9:30 Play Group 10 Centering Prayer 10:30 Healing & Holy Eucharist @ Liberty Commons 4:30 pm Aid to Africa 7 pm Choir	26 9-12 Women's Alcoholics Anonymous 10:30 Liturgy Music & Worship	27	28 9-1 Mission Hub 9 Sight-Singing Workshop



**SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S**  
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February, 2015

Non-Profit Organization

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## New Memorial plaque



Facilities Manager Ali Crockett supervised the installation of the Memorial plaque overlooking the church's garden. On it are the names of those interred in the garden.

## Otto Dix featured artist in Gallery

The new exhibit of the Gallery at St. Christopher's is *Matthäus Evangelium*, 36 lithographs by the German Expressionist Otto Dix that tell the story of the Book of Matthew. Dix (1891 – 1969) is known for his work in the 1920s that focused on those at the margins of society, according to curator Sandra Bowden. He was deeply impacted by his service in World War I. His post-World War II work was largely religious in nature, and during that time he produced an important series of expressionist lithographs that depict the book of Matthew.



Dix's rendering of the Last Supper is part of the latest Gallery exhibit.