

SOUNDINGS

Vol. XI, No. 2

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

MARCH, 2015

Lenten series explores how our stories are part of God's story

"A Lenten Journey to Easter: Finding Our Story in God's Story" is a series for the season led by The Rev. Gail Smith on Wednesdays through April 1, from 10 a.m. to noon, beginning in the Sanctuary and moving to the Committee Room.

"We often talk this time of the year about taking the time to intentionally travel through the weeks leading to Easter," says Gail. "Some go on fasts or retreats; some take things on as a way to mark the time. You are invited to join me on a walk through Lent to pray, to have a time for quiet in the middle of your busy week, to reflect on our lives and how our story is part of God's story."



The Rev. Gail Smith quilted Stations of the Cross panels.

Gail will use her quilted Stations of the Cross and visuals by other artists to explore the stations. She will also use Joan Chittister's *The Way of the Cross; the Path to New Life* with illustrations by Janet McKenzie. "Jesus walked the way of the cross often referred to as the 'Via Dolorosa,' " says Gail. "Come walk and talk and pray with us as we try to follow 'the way.' All are welcome."

In addition, there will be a Stations of the Cross with meditation held on Good Friday,

April 3, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Come once or twice or the whole time. Any questions please contact the church office or Gail Smith at caperev@aol.com.

C L A R I F I C A T I O N

No capital campaign planned for a new organ

By Rick Franklin
Senior Warden

An article about the newly reconstituted Organ Committee in February's *Soundings* created some confusion that I wish to clarify.

Some of you have wondered if the church will conduct a capital campaign to raise money for a new organ. The answer is no.

Not now and not in the foreseeable future.

Maury Castro, organist and choirmaster, and the committee currently are exploring organ builders. Once a decision is made, only then will we explore meaningful and effective funding options.

You have been incredibly generous over the past few years.

You have raised more than \$1.4 million for the *Our Next Step* capital campaign, and then dug deep to contribute \$500,000 to our annual stewardship effort. You've done more than your fair share.

Thank you for all your input, and as always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Many activities offered by Children, Youth & Families

In Sunday School we are continuing our study of the life of Christ. We are also all working on memorizing verses and getting to know how to use our Bibles. All of the kids have taken the challenge and are succeeding marvelously!

Upcoming Events

- Family Faith Formation will be held Wednesday, March 4, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. The theme will be the meaningful observance of Lent. The Rev. Gail Smith will lead a discussion with the adults while youths do an activity in the Youth Room.

- Vespers & Game Night will be held in the Youth Room on Saturday, March 14, from 5 – 7 p.m. This event coincides with the Celtic Eucharist so that parents may attend that service while children attend their own service. Any families with great party games are encouraged to bring them along, and bring a friend!

- Palm Sunday Processional — All children and youths are invited to process with palms at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, March 29. Children and youths should gather in the Parish Hall at 9:45 am.

- Sunday School for children ages 3 through the 8th grade will be held every Sunday in March.

CYF Celebrations

In January we had a wonderful time going bowling in Orleans. Eleven of our children and youths were able to attend. Many thanks to Caroline Smith for sponsoring the scrumptious French fries!

In February we had a spectacular time sledding at the Sargent's home. Nine of our children and youths were able to attend. Sydney Hawk showed off her amazing baking



Last month, youths gathered at the Sargents' home for sledding and at the Orleans Bowling Center to bowl a few games.



skills by making stained glass cookies. Kathy Hawk prepared hot chocolate, popcorn and veggies. Thank you Hawks and Sargents!

CYF Acknowledgements

Thanks again to Gretchen Meeks for assisting in Sunday School during the month of January, and to Lisa Franklin for assisting in February. We also thank Cornelia Roche for donating a printer to the CYF office.

Keren Castro
Director of Children, Youth & Families

Helping others during Lent through the Heifer Project

Children, Youth & Families is teaming up with Heifer International for Lent. We will be saving our pocket change for four weeks and combining our savings to buy an animal for a family without income. The kids are excited about this program and can't wait to choose their animal! Anyone wishing to participate, see Keren Castro, the CYF Director. We will be collecting the money in church on Sunday, March 22.

To live differently – living the ethics of Jesus

Like most of you I get too many messages via e-mail or Facebook. Occasionally-- actually very rarely -- something of value appears. It happened the other day and it said this:

The measure of an effective church is not how many attend, but whether those who do live differently because of it.

I believe that when all is said and done, what really matters in the Christian life is whether or not we are aware of the actions of Jesus and whether or not we try to emulate them. So forget the theological formulations, the liturgical postures, forget the politics of the institutional church. It boils down to ethics -- the ethics of Jesus translated and lived in our time.

I know some people wonder: what are the ethics of Jesus? They are not hard to understand especially if we read the New Testament Gospels. There, we see the values of Jesus all over the pages. He releases the heavy laden with courageous love, he restores the outcast to community, he confronts hypocrisy, customs and laws which dehumanize, he is especially concerned with the poor and he is not impressed by wealth, status or pride. He forgives and constantly lifts his eyes to see the God of hope who is above all and in all things. Jesus loves so freely that he can give his life for those God loves (all of us) and Jesus welcomes us to be part of his continuing life by accepting his love and following him. A lot of stuff, but

not that difficult to understand.

After many years as a layperson and as a Priest/Rector, I have pretty much concluded that churches are wonderful and absolutely crazy places. No doubt about it in my mind, many people do live differently, sacrificially, compassionately and courageously, because they are members of a faith community. On

Priest Associate



JOHN MARTINIER

the other hand the church is often marked by conflicting personalities, childish behavior, unhealthy egos venting their pathologies and a culture of avoidance which trivializes the Gospel and minimizes commitment. Often we do not pay attention to who we are and whose we are.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter are appropriate times to look at our community of faith and ask: How does my being a part of this really matter? Do I live differently because of it?

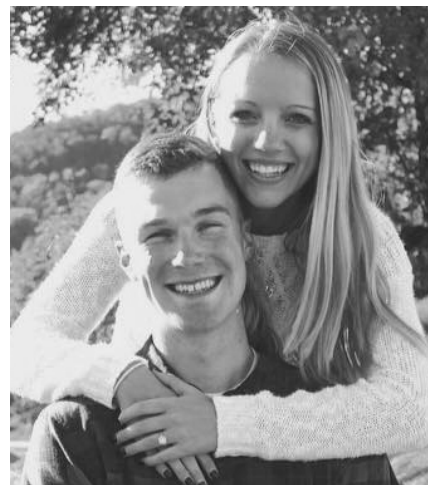
John Martinier

Former acolyte returns to church for a visit; Jack Geiger to graduate West Point, marry

For those who missed it, Joan Bagnell brought her grandson, Jack Geiger, to church in mid-January during a break from his studies at West Point. Jack was surrounded by people delighted to see the former acolyte of St. Christopher's.

Jack said: "The highlight of my weekend was going to church with Gram. And I want to thank everyone at St. Christopher's for all the support, prayers and thoughts. It is meaningful to me and that support has been a great help to me to succeed where I am as a senior at West Point.

"This semester I am serving as a battalion executive officer. In May, I will graduate with a commission as a second lieutenant in the Infantry branch and in the top third of my class, sixth in the military arm of the whole class of 1,100. I will get married in June to Hannah Leathers at West Point. In August,



Jack Geiger and Hannah Leathers

I will report to Fort Benning, Ga., and attend infantry officers basic in Rangers school. After the completion of various military schools, I will either post to Fort Carson, Colo., or to Fort Drum, N.Y."

And Joan? "Needless to say, as his grandma, I am extremely proud!"

Letter from Liberia: Prince Wreh sends thanks to parish

A letter from The Rev. Prince Wreh to the Aid to Africa Committee and St. Christopher's:

Dear Friends,

We write to express our heart-felt thanks and appreciation to you for standing with us both in good times and difficult times. We are deeply touched by your continual support and your unflinching commitment to the strong bond that unites us in our common vision and mission to transform society through education.

I vividly remember when my cousin and I failed a test to enter a highly rated school. We were prepared in English, math and history. Coming from a rural village, my parents had no access to a radio and we had never heard the voice of the then Minister of Education. When we went to take the test, instead of the subjects we had prepared for, the examiner asked us to identify the voice of the education minister and explain on what occasion he spoke. We had never heard his voice before the test.

This experience of a subtle strategy to marginalize and exclude children of a disadvantaged minority taught us that without the intervention of transcendent love from our partners like you, under-privileged children will never find a glimmer of hope for upward social mobility. Thank you for your intervention through education and for joining us in the conviction that education will help them break through the glass ceiling of the



The Rev. Prince Wreh with his family, from left, sons Kwami and Steven, daughters Jackie and Oretha, and wife Relhetta.

culture of poverty.

We are very grateful that the strong bond that exists between St. Christopher's Church and us continues to serve as a life transforming instrument for Liberia's under-privileged children.

May God continue to bless your invaluable support of the Keenan Institute's Goll Farm Community School.

Faithfully yours,
Prince and Relhetta

Goll Farm School update

The Goll Farm School reopened on February 2 after being closed due to the Ebola crisis. School Administrator Relhetta Wreh, anticipates an enrollment of 250 students by the end of February.

The entire Goll Farm School Community thanks you for your prayers and support during this difficult time.

St. Christopher's helps fight Ebola epidemic

Last year, St. Christopher's Aid to Africa Committee started a campaign to fight Ebola in Liberia. The parish and other Chatham residents raised \$13,370 to support the fight against epidemic that killed hundreds of Africans. The money was used to purchase chlorine, cleaning supplies and rice to sustain people

in the Goll Farm community through this crisis.

Relhetta Wreh, Goll Farm School administrator, worked with 350 students in three separate programs to teach members of the community about the dangers of Ebola.

To date there have been no cases of Ebola in the immediate area of the Goll Farm School.

Two trained as Stephen Ministry Leaders

*By Carolyn Otis
Stephen Leader*

What is Stephen's Ministry?

Simply put, it is God's way of caring for people through people who will walk alongside others to help them through their difficult times.

St. Christopher's has been blessed, through a Diocesan grant, to implement this pastoral caring program that over 12,000 Christian congregations in 26 countries around the world have been practicing since 1975.

Often when a member of our parish has a crisis in his or her life, they receive help from their friends, their family and Rector Brian McGurk. But Brian has many sheep to shepherd, and giving any one person all the time they need is nearly impossible. So what happens when that person's family goes home, their friends get on with their busy lives, and the steady flow of casseroles has dried up? That's when Stephen Ministry steps in to help.

Stephen ministers are trained parishioners who faithfully meet one-on-one on an ongoing basis with those who need our help. The Stephen minister's role is to listen, to care, to support, to encourage and to pray for that person as long as there is a need, whether the need is big or small. A Stephen minister does not try to cure the crisis; only God can do that. We are care-givers; God is the healer.

Caring for people in need is at the heart of St. Christopher's ministry and long-term vision. The need to take care of

ourselves so that we may help others is part of that vision. Just knowing that someone is there and cares is sometimes all it takes. So many of us are used to giving that care, so much so that we often do not put ourselves in the position to receive it. Stephen Ministry will augment our current Pastoral Care program, offering a strictly confidential opportunity to share our burdens with one assigned Stephen minister who has been trained to help lighten our load.

Linda Hughes and I recently completed extensive training to become leaders in this program and will join Susan Newlin to form the St. Christopher's Stephen Leader team. Susan served as a Stephen Leader and trained Stephen ministers at her former parish. St. Christopher's will be partnering with the First Congregational Church to build our mutual ministries and train Stephen ministers as caregivers.

Are you interested in being a



**Newly trained Stephen Leaders,
Carolyn Otis and Linda Hughes**

Stephen minister?

We will be offering a Stephen minister training program this spring for members of both churches. You will hear more about this in the weeks to come.

If this is something you feel called to, please let one of our Stephen Leaders know. God works through all of us to bring hope and healing to people in need.

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SEXTON
LOU AUGUSTIN

Plenty going on for music-lovers

Celtic Eucharist

Saturday, March 14, at 5 p.m.
Commemorating St. Patrick. With
musical guests Pheobe Schrafft, harp,
and Keltic Kids
(www.keltickidsmusic.weebly.com).

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
workshop will be held Saturday,
March 21, from 9 to 10:30 am. Please
contact Maury A. Castro to pre-
register at 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, 25 and April 1, from 7 - 8 p.m.

Save the dates:

The Eldredge Library Learning
Series comes to St. Christopher's with

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

talks on music by such eminent Cape
Cod Symphony guests as Jung-Ho Pak,
George Scharr, and Stephanie Weaver.
Talk will take place on April 22, 29,
and May 6, from 3 – 4 p.m.

Talk 1 on April 22: Presenter
George J. Scharr, Director of
Community Education Cape
Symphony & Conservatory, will
discuss studies on the positive effects
of music on the brain.

Talk 2 on April 29: Dr. Stephanie
Weaver, Managing Director of Cape
Conservatory of Music & Arts and
concert pianist, will work with the
audience by taking a volunteer who has
never played before and working with
them on playing simple melodies and
even improvising on the piano.

Talk 3 on May 6: Jung-Ho Pak,
Artistic Director and Conductor of the
Cape Symphony, and Joe Marchio,
director of the Chatham Chorale, will
explore *Carmina Burana*.

For details, contact the Eldredge
Library.

Maury Castro
Organist and Choirmaster

CHURCH STATISTICS

Deaths

- The Rev. James W. McCutcheon,
January 31, 2015
- Minnie Laura Eldredge Atwood,
February 6, 2015

New Members

- Stephen & Erica Thomas
- Betsy Weiland & Shelby Gasek
- Dillon & Kerin Murphy
- Kirk and Judy Kitson

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

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lent 2 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship & Financial Town Mtg.	2	3 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff meeting	4 9:30 Play group 10-Noon Lenten Journey 7 pm Choir	5 9 Women's AA	6	7
8 Lent 3 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship Daylight Savings Begins	9	10 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff meeting 4 pm Pastoral Care	11 9:30 Play group 10-Noon Lenten Journey 4 pm Finance Cmte 7 pm Choir	12 9 Women's AA 2 pm Shawl Ministry	13	14 5 pm Celtic Evensong w/ Celtic Kids 5 pm Youth Vespers & Game Night
15 Lent 4 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff meeting 4 pm Vestry	18 9:30 Play group 10-Noon Lenten Journey 10 Parkinson's Support Group 7 pm Choir	19 9 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship & Music	20	21 9 Sight-singing class
22 Lent 5 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship	23	24 9 Morning Prayer 9 Stephen Ministry 9:30 Staff meeting 12 Gift & Consign. Shop Luncheon 3:30 pm Choir School	25 9:30 Play group 10-Noon Lenten Journey 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @ Liberty Commons 4:30 pm Aid to Africa 7 pm Choir	26 9 Women's AA	27	28 9 Mission Hub
29 Palm Sunday 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship	30	31 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff meeting	May God in the plenitude of his love pour upon you the torrents of his grace; bless you and keep you in his holy fear, prepare you for a happy eternity, and receive you at last into immortal glory. <i>Blessing at the consecration of Coventry Cathedral</i>			

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March, 2015

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Snow: The real deal



Last December, movie makers from Disney put down carpets of artificial snow in front of the church to film *The Finest Hours*. If they only waited until February, they would have had 2 feet of the real stuff!

