

SOUNDINGS



Vol. XI, No. 6

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

June, 2015

Change or Transformation?

I was recently reminded that one of my central responsibilities as rector is to hold our church's vision for the future at the forefront of the consciousness of our congregation.

My return from sabbatical has afforded me the opportunity to re-encounter and re-examine our stated vision to be a church that:

- provides a multitude of spiritual growth pathways;
- is missional—that is, reaches out to others outside our walls;
- is radically welcoming of all persons regardless...;
- demonstrates good stewardship of our resources; and
- transforms lives.

Living into our vision takes change...many changes.

God wants us to change the *external* circumstances of our lives, but he really desires transformed lives—transformed hearts and souls. The Franciscan priest, Richard Rohr, states “There’s a difference between change and transformation. **Change** happens when something old dies and something new begins. **Transformation** happens when we personally [and spiritually] change in the process of outer change.” Our vision will only be realized when each of our lives is transformed in the depths of our souls.

The following “external changes” will aid us on our paths of transformation (into the image of Christ) and help us realize our vision for the future:

- Maury Castro is the new **Director of Communications**—but he did not quit his “day job” as Organist & Choirmaster!
- The Pastoral Care Committee has merged with Stephen Ministry to become the **Rector's Committee for Pastoral Care**. Pastoral care will be a team approach led by the rector and informed by the resources of Stephen Ministry educational tools. Consider joining!
- The **Together with Africans** committee will sponsor a seminar on racism, which is something

From the Rector



BRIAN MCGURK

that still occurs in this community (believe it or not!). Please attend!

- I will continue John Martinier's well-received chats during Sunday

Fellowship. Please let me know what you would like to chat about!

- Beginning in the Fall, Kerén Castro and I will lead a **confirmation class** for teenagers. I will also offer a parallel class for interested adults.

• **Natalie Finstad** is a candidate for Holy Orders (ordination), and we are honored to be her sponsor. She will be with us this summer to preach, take part in the liturgy, serve as the chaplain at Vacation Bible Camp, teach a class on the challenges and opportunities of the Church at large, and work with our outreach committee to reach out to the “diverse” members of our community, i.e. the J-1 workers from all over the world. Please welcome Natalie into the life of our church and our community.

- Most importantly: consider participating in our **Wednesday morning contemplative prayer group**. This time of silent prayer creates space for being, listening, as well as the presence of the Holy Spirit.

These are small changes on the path to inner transformation.

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Children Share Prayers for the Fishing Community

This month I would like to share with you the prayers our Sunday School children wrote to be read as a part of the Blessing of the Fleet service on Saturday, May 24 at the Chatham Fish Pier.

Dear Lord, keep them safe in the ocean and let them be successful. Amen.

Dear God, please help all of the fishermen catch a lot of fish and be safe. Please help them be happy and come back soon. Amen.

Dear God, please let all the fishing families be safe and catch a lot of fish. Amen.

Dear God, please make sure that the fishing families of Chatham are safe in these waters, that they will be well cared for when they are out there. I pray that they catch enough fish for them to be able to survive in the winter. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dear Lord, keep the fishing families safe while they are out at sea. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We thank you God for the fishing families, and ask that you keep them safe, and successful in catching fish. Amen.

God bless these boats so they may have a profitable year. God bless these boats so they may be safe. Whenever the ocean becomes too much to handle for the boats, please calm the ocean. May God bless these boats. Amen.



Right: Sarah Marchio plays *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes while the boats are blessed.

Left: Sydney Nickerson carries the cross while Camille Liska and Rector Brian McGurk follow in procession.



Photos: Tim Weller

Upcoming Events

Mini-Golf: June 13, from 2:00–3:30, at *Cape Escape Ultimate Adventure Golf*, Orleans. This event will be \$5/child and \$10/family. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by June 11.

Graduate Recognition Sunday: June 14. We will be celebrating our graduating seniors and blessing them as they move ahead in their life journey.

Sunday School Teacher Recognition Sunday: June 21. We will be recognizing all those who have helped make our Sunday school program a success this year!

Confirmation Class

Beginning in the Autumn of 2015. Open to all those entering 6th grade and older. This is an exciting time for young people to reaffirm their commitment to Christ!

Vacation Bible Camp

I am looking for anyone who is interested in helping to set up or break down our Main Street Vacation Bible Camp this year. If you feel you could help out with either or both of these, please contact Kerén Castro at cyfdirector@gmail.com.

Kerén Castro
Director of Children,
Youth, and Families

Town Votes to Award St. Christopher's with Community Preservation Fund Grant

At the Town Meeting on May 11, Chatham residents voted, by a strong majority, to pass an article granting the church \$147,438 from the Community Preservation Fund.

"We are grateful to the town for its approval of the Chatham Preservation grant," said Rector Brian W. McGurk. "We are also grateful to the many volunteers at St. Christopher's who helped bring this about, including those who were present to vote, Senior Warden Rick Franklin, the entire Finance Committee, and especially George Olmsted for his excellent presentation, and Bruce Wood for his pertinent comments. We are relieved to know that our historic building will be preserved for many years to come, in large part as a result of this grant."

The preparation for this Town Meeting took more than a year of time and effort. Aiding St. Christopher's were several residents who were not members of our church, who spoke favorably on our behalf, including the chairperson of the Community Preservation Committee and the chair of the Chatham Historical Commission.

Bruce Wood was pleased that this historic vote took place, for the sake of the entire community. "Our success at the Town Meeting may have paved the way for other Chatham churches to apply for and receive Community Preservation Fund grants. There were some who objected to a church being granted these funds when in fact

that whole issue has been long settled by both national and state courts. What matters is that part of our building has been determined to be historical, which is why we received the grant. The fact of it being a church is not relevant."

The Community Preservation Act was approved by Chatham voters in 2003. A 3% surcharge on real estate taxes each year funds the Community Preservation Fund. One of the four targets for that

"Our success at the Town Meeting may have paved the way for other Chatham churches to apply for and receive Community Preservation Fund grants."

—Bruce Wood

fund is "historical preservation," which is exactly what is needed for the church façade on Main Street. Residents were not voting to take more town money (and raise our taxes over time), but to allocate monies from an existing fund.

When asked about when and how the work on the building would be completed, the Finance Committee indicated that nothing can happen until after July 1, when monies can be granted from the 2015–2016 fiscal year funds. Peter

Hughes will oversee all aspects of the restoration.

Initially, the church will contract to have exact design specifications drawn. This involves having architectural historians examine, measure and record the dimensions and shape of each of the historic elements needing restoration. This requires the use of a large hydraulic lift enabling a close examination of each structural component. These drawings will define the work and will form the basis for requesting bids from contractors to actually do the work.

Realistically, nothing will be done until after Labor Day due to the overall congestion in downtown Chatham. It is too early to predict when the actual restoration work will be done, but the spring of 2016 is most likely.



Save the Date!

St. Christopher's annual Golf Event at Eastward Ho! will be held Monday, September 28. Plan now to attend!

Choristers Advance in RSCM Certification

On Sunday, May 17, the five choristers in the choir school received medals for having completed all of the requirements of the first level (white) of the *Voice for Life* program of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). In order to pass this level, each chorister had to demonstrate a variety of musical and vocal skills, including excellent posture, breath control, pitch matching, music reading, and score familiarity. They also had to make a positive contribution to the choir.

Choral Evensong for Pentecost

Saturday, June 6, at 5 pm. The adult choir and guests will sing the *Evening Service in B-flat* by John Stainer and a new setting of a text by Hildegard of Bingen, *O Fire!*, by Jodi French, accompanied by handbells. The Rev. Brian W. McGurk and The Rev. Dr. John

Martiner, officiants; Maury A. Castro, organist and choirmaster; Haskell Thomson, choral accompanist and pianist; Maggie Van Sickle, soprano soloist.

Maury A. Castro
Organist & Choirmaster



Photo: Anne Gilson



Rehearsal assistant (and sometimes conductor) Susan Sargent and choirmaster Maury A. Castro stand proudly with medaled choristers Aurora Reed, Alexandra Hawk, Jamie Gilson, Madison Fields, and Delia Castro.

The Auction is Coming! The Auction is Coming!

The annual St. Christopher's Summer Auction will take place on Saturday, July 18, from 5:30 to 9:00 pm, so mark your calendars and get ready to have a great time. The theme is a traditional Cape Cod Clambake, and will again feature both silent and live auctions. The main course will be your choice of lobster, steak, or chicken. Steamers will also be available. The success of this important fundraiser for the church depends upon donations of high-quality auction items, the fun-filled participation of 200 bidders, and a dedicated group of volunteers. Remember, this is for a great cause

and a wonderful community event for our church, so plan on attending and bring your friends along.

Donations are already arriving, and we will begin posting them on the church website (stchristopherschatham.org) so anyone can see in advance just what will be available. Gifts and donations will be gratefully received up to the week of the auction.

Tickets are just \$65 per person, which includes all food and beverages, and are now on sale after both church services and at the reception desk. Make sure to get your tickets early, and indicate

your main course preference.

Linda Hughes is soliciting local businesses and collecting auction items. Now is the time to look around and consider donating a few of those precious items that are presently collecting dust so that the church can convert them to cash. Please contact Linda Hughes at 508-432-7512 or phughes41@comcast.net to make your donation and arrange for pickup or delivery. If you can help with additional business solicitations, with food, or if you can help on the night of the auction, please talk to our co-chairs, Peter and Linda Hughes, or David Smith.

CLAMBAKE & AUCTION

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

625 MAIN STREET

SATURDAY, JULY 18

5:30 - 9:00



SILENT AUCTION ♦ HORS D' OUEVRES

CLAMBAKE DINNER!

♦ LIVE AUCTION ♦

www.stchristopherschatham.org ♦ 508-945-2832

Tickets:
\$65

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Rector Sets Vision for Pastoral Care Committee

Rector Brian McGurk's charter is to expand and deepen our pastoral care capabilities at St. Christopher's Church. Part of this is to involve and train more lay parishioners to help him with this mission. And, good news, the committee *is* expanding! Furthermore, continuing and new members will embark on training programs in June, using the resources provided by our participation in Stephen Ministries.

Members of the pastoral care committee will receive training at its monthly meetings. New and ongoing members have chosen to do the full Stephen Ministry training program beginning on June 1. Joining the First

Congregational Church of Chatham, those in the full program will use readings and practice to delve deeply into basics of Christian caregiving as well as specific life crises, when and how to use prayer and Scripture, and when and how to refer people to clergy, mental health and other caregiving resources.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the Rector or one of your Rector's Pastoral Care Committee leaders: Susan Newlin, Carolyn Otis, or Linda Hughes.

Susan Newlin, Rector's Pastoral

Highlights of the May Vestry Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Revenue and expenses were close to target in April. Numerous maintenance and building improvement projects are being discussed that will be completed using Capital Campaign funds, as outlined in the original case statement.

Postulant at St. Christopher's: Natalie Finstad will be serving at St. Christopher's for several months, and will assist the rector as well as the

director of children, youth, and family ministries. She will also be preaching periodically throughout the summer.

Communications: It was voted to fill two key areas (Soundings and the website) of Lynn Van Dine's Communications Coordinator position by increasing Organist & Choirmaster Maury A. Castro's position from 3/4 time to full-time.

Dale Alger, Clerk

Pulse of the Parish

Baptism

Blaise Lemkine (in Paris, France)
April 9, 2015

Marriage

Elizabeth Weiland & Shelby Gasek
May 30, 2015

Death

Arthur Linwood Spencer, Jr.
April 18, 2015

June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9-11 Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	2 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting	3 9-12 Audit Cmte 9:30 Play Group 10 Centering Prayer 7 Adult Choir	4 10 Women's AA	5	6 5 Choral Evensong for Pentecost
7 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship	8 9-11 Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	9 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 2 Organ Cmte 4 Pastoral Care 7 Hyannis Sound	10 9-12 Audit Cmte 9:30 Play Group 10 Centering Prayer 4 Finance Committee 7 Adult Choir	11 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	12	13 2 Children and Youth Mini-Golf in Orleans
14 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship	15 9-11 Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	16 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 4 Vestry 7 Hyannis Sound	17 9:30 Play Group 10 Centering Prayer 10 Parkinson's Support Group No Adult Choir	18 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship & Music 7:30 Cape Harmony	19	20
21 <u>Father's Day</u> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship	22 9-11 Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	23 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 7 Hyannis Sound	24 10 Centering Prayer 10:30 Healing & Holy Eucharist at Liberty Commons 4:30 Together with Africans 7 Adult Choir	25 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	26 4-6 Work of Our Hands Art Exhibit	27
28 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship 5 Newcomer Party	29 9-11 Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	30 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 7 Hyannis Sound	<p><i>O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. ~ Psalm 104:24</i></p>			

SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S
625 Main Street
Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts 02633



June, 2015

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Welcome and Welcome Back!

The Rector and the Newcomers Committee look forward to celebrating the return of summer members as well as the new members of the church at a reception on Sunday, June 28, at 5 pm. This event will be held in the front courtyard of the church, and will feature a delightful array of refreshments.



Director of Communications Appointed

In last month's issue of *Soundings*, Communications Coordinator Lynn Van Dine shared with the congregation that she was retiring as of May 14. Only now are we beginning to realize around the office how much she does at St.

Christopher's, and how fortunate we are that she will continue a portion of her duties as a volunteer!

I'm grateful to be given the opportunity to follow in Lynn's

footsteps through sharing all of the fantastic things that are happening at St. Christopher's on a regular basis. This is a unique and vibrant community, of which my family and I feel fortunate to be a part.

Maury A. Castro



Photo: Kerén Castro

The staff joins Rector Brian McGurk as he prays for Lynn at a service on May 17. The service was followed by a time of fellowship (and cake) in the Parish Hall in her honor.