

# SOUNDINGS

Vol. XI, No. 7

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

July, 2015

## *The Transformation of Pain*

Vitality and vibrancy are two adjectives that describe the mission and ministries of St. Christopher's Church. At least in the Rector's opinion!

How to substantiate and quantify my assertion is problematic. The number of pledging units, baptisms, weddings, Sunday worshippers, and Easter/Christmas worshippers are all effective metrics. Yet these (and others) tell only part of the story.



The Rev. Brian W.  
McGurk  
Rector

important, but difficult to evaluate and quantify.

In the near future the Vestry will examine these important barometers of our church's health. Living into our Vision/The Strategic Plan will ensure vitality and vibrancy...and good metrics, too! Over the course of the next few months I plan to unpack and share the elements of our vision to help us realize the mystery of God's gracious presence in our lives and the life of the world.

I think that the Franciscan priest and author, Richard Rohr, gets at the heart of what drives a vital and vibrant church when he discusses "the transformation of pain." He writes: "Jesus made it clear to his followers that life is suffering, and we cannot avoid it. Every person carries pain—it's in a big black bag that gets heavier as we get older, filled with betrayals, rejections, disappointments, and hurts inflicted along the way. If we

Criteria such as the health of the spiritual community, effective outreach activities, and the quality of pastoral care are extremely

don't find a way to transform our pain, we'll always transmit it to those around us or turn it against ourselves. And we'll create tension, negativity, suspicion and fear wherever we go."



St. Christopher's must continue to be a place of grace; a place where the suffering of life can be transformed into something better; a place where the Living Presence of the Risen Christ can transform our souls.

Transformed souls are what bring vitality and vibrancy to a church and a community. Perhaps this is the best criterion and "metric" to use when evaluating our church!

### *In this Issue:*

<b>Children, Youth, and Families</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Community Outreach Committee</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Music; Capital Campaign</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Clambake &amp; Auction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Capital Campaign, cont.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Vestry Highlights</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Pulse of the Parish</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Bishop Announcement; Capital Campaign Plaque</b>	<b>8</b>

# St. Christopher's Celebrates Graduates and Teachers



**Kerén Castro**  
Director of Children,  
Youth, and Families

Several of the children and youths had a great time miniature golfing on Saturday, June 13. I think the highlight of our event was getting to feed the Koi fish that live at the course! And we even had five holes-in-one (including our youngest attendee, Gabrielle)! To end our event, we were all very grateful to Lisa Franklin for treating us to ice cream.

On Sunday, June 14, St. Christopher's was excited to honor our four graduates during the 10 am Choral Eucharist. Shina Augustin, Hannah Garside, Molly Pellitier, and Amanda Stauring should all be very proud of their accomplishments. We wish them all the best as they venture on to the next stage of their journey.

**Below: Kerén Castro presents Shina Augustin with a check from St. Christopher's.**



ever grateful for those who dedicate their time to the growth and development of our children. And so again we say thank you, thank you, thank you!

## SummerSpirit

Each Sunday from July 5 through September 6, Sunday School will be meeting on the back lawn to have fun and play games as we come to know Christ and each other better. Those who will be participating may look forward to fun crafts, prizes, and enjoying each other's company.

## Vacation Bible Camp

July 27-31. A few very important volunteer opportunities remain. We need help for the sign-in and sign-out table. If you feel you can give an hour or so here or there for this, please connect with Natalie Finstad (nefinstad@gmail.com) who is our registrar for VBC this year. We also still need people to help set up and tear down the camp. If you may be able to assist, please contact me at cyfdirector@gmail.com. Finally, please look for the snack sign-up sheet that can be found in the narthex, and consider donating a snack.

On Sunday, June 21, I was pleased to acknowledge our Sunday School teachers, without whom Children, Youth, and Family Ministries could not function. Ilene Bendas, Lisa Franklin, Danielle Massey, Gretchen Meeks, Nancy Rude, and Rick Vachon were presented with gift volumes of *The Book of Common Prayer*. I know that each and every family we serve is



**Above: The Rev. McGurk honors graduate Hannah Garside.**



**Rick Vachon, Caroline Smith, Kerén Castro, and Lisa Franklin participate in the acknowledgement of Sunday School teachers.**



## *Adopt-A-Unit Brings Functional Living Spaces to Homeless Family Escaping Abuse*

St. Christopher's Community Outreach Committee formed an Adopt-A-Unit team which, bolstered by parish donations, has worked over the last seven months to create a functional living space for a homeless family. The team developed a relationship with Safe Harbor, a 24-hour shelter located in Hyannis, that provides safe shelter for homeless women and their children who have become victims of domestic violence. Managed by the Community Action Committee of the Cape & Islands (CACCI), Safe Harbor strives to provide critical family support as a life-rebuilding foundation. CACCI established the Adopt-A-Unit ministry to involve Cape churches in transforming the existing dreary living units into bright, functional living spaces.

I ask you to imagine yourself needing to move with your three children under the age of seven into a 50-year-old motel room that has no cooking facilities or storage. That is exactly the challenge faced regularly by Safe Harbor residents. Given its limited resources, Safe Harbor finds itself



**Above: A before image, showing plywood blocking the only light available to the room.**

stretched to provide adequate living arrangements, and why the team has found its work so meaningful and rewarding.

Without a lot of fanfare and utilizing about \$1,300 in donations, the team accomplished the following:

- painted the entire unit;
- built and installed shelving to create a pantry for the unit's meager cooking facilities;
- built and installed a window louvre system to dramatically brighten up the unit;
- patched holes in the walls and floor to stop the paths of various crawly critters;
- installed a hand-held shower, a medicine cabinet, shelving, and towel racks in the bathroom;
- provided a dresser, night stand, dining table, large mirror, three lamps, and two pictures;
- built and installed a work desk and storage shelving for work and study;
- and provided colorful organizing storage baskets.

The Adopt-A-Unit ministry was the perfect project to kick



**After images showing the custom privacy louvres as well as shelving, a picture, and freshly-painted walls.**



off our Community Outreach Committee—fulfilling this great need that is essentially, in our own back yard. So far, St. Christopher's has been the only church on the Cape stepping in to help. The team hopes that its work will be a model for other churches.

Members of the Adopt-A-Unit team include Bob Braman, JoAnn Edwards, Bonnie Hessler, Larry Jobson, Wendy Johnson, Lori Liautaud, Didi Lovett, and Susan Morgan. The team wishes to thank the parish for its support. We pray that the lives of those who have found themselves in need of Safe Harbor can be restored to a living condition that many of us take for granted.

Larry Jobson

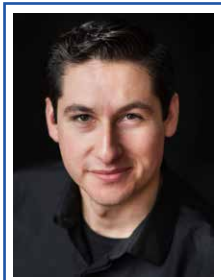
*Community Outreach Committee Chair*

### **Save the Date!**

St. Christopher's annual Golf Event at Eastward Ho! will be held Monday, September 28. For complete information, go to [www.StChristophersChatham.org](http://www.StChristophersChatham.org). Plan now to attend!

## St. Christopher's: A Singing Congregation!

For my continuing education this year, the church sent me for a week to the annual conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM), which was held in Tampa, Florida. Complete with



**Maury A. Castro**  
*Organist &  
Choirmaster*

multiple choral eucharists, evensongs, organ concerts, workshops, and music reading sessions, this gathering of about 150 Episcopal church musicians from

around the country was as inspiring as it was educational (choir beware!).

What was even more inspiring, however, was returning to St. Christopher's on Sunday morning. I was greeted by an enthusiastic, skilled choir; a thoughtful, inspiring sermon; and a vibrant, singing congregation! If I have taken these basic elements of our worship life for granted, I should not—they are like pure gold, and are not easily restored when lost. Each Sunday is a gift!

### 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. Contact me for more information!



*Clockwise starting above:* Drummers Dr. Fugan Dineen and Sam Holmstock enhance worship at the African service on May 31; the Sunday School children teach the congregation to sing in Zulu; the AAM conference choir (at least one former pupil of Haskell Thomson in the mix!); Maury and a colleague pose in front of the lovely Fisk organ at St. Andrew's, Tampa.



## Capital Campaign Update

We continue to receive encouraging results with the *Our Next Chapter* capital campaign. The campaign goal of \$1.4 million was successfully met, having received \$1.412 million in pledges. As of June 12, 2015, we have received more than \$1.085 million of the amount pledged. With these funds we have: 1) paid off all of our debt; 2) added \$675,000 to our endowment; 3) spent \$12,729 to reinforce the parish hall superstructure; and 4) expended \$15,000 to repair the front walkway and complete the study needed to

apply for a Chatham Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant to refurbish the church exterior (which has since been awarded in the amount of \$147,000).

The Finance Committee is currently in the process of planning the sequence of activities to be addressed as additional pledge payments are received and CPA funds become available. Initial focus will likely be installing a sprinkler system in the parish hall, rebuilding the endowment, and doing the exterior repairs associated with the CPA grant.

*Continued on page 6*



## Clambake and Auction Approaches

St. Christopher's annual summer auction is rapidly approaching. Now is the time to purchase tickets for the event of the season! The auction is our major annual fundraiser and at this time we find ourselves very far behind in the donation of auction items and ticket sales. Also, since we are using an outside caterer for the clambake it is essential that you procure your tickets prior to July 8 to ensure your meal selection.

The caterer is providing your choice of lobster, steak, or chicken, which you may choose at the time you purchase your tickets (only \$65 per person). Complementing your entree are clam chowder, mussels, steamers, fresh corn, coleslaw and watermelon. Wine and beer are complimentary, and appetizers will be available while you are perusing the silent auction donations.

Current live auction donations include:

- A long weekend at the fabulous Rosedon Hotel in Bermuda, a boutique hotel in Hamilton. Includes breakfast, high tea and access to the beaches of Bermuda. Excludes May and June.
- Wash-a-shore Clambake for 8 hosted by Bob Braman and his team.
- Dinner for up to 14, hosted by Joan and Dick Greene, poolside on the Oyster River.
- Rector's Reception, with cocktails for 10 plus *Hyannis Sound*.
- Clean up your 'honey do' list with the help of *Handymen Here 2 Help* from Peter Hughes.
- How about 4 Red Sox tickets, plus overnight accommodations?
- Old Town Dirigo Tandem Kayak with paddles and Thule kayak carrier.
- Love Baseball? Throw out the first pitch at a Chatham Anglers Game!

Auction donor forms are available at the reception desk, at [www.stchristopherschatham.org](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org), or you may contact Linda Hughes at 508-432-7512 or [phughes41@comcast.net](mailto:phughes41@comcast.net) to make your donation.

Linda Hughes, Peter Hughes,  
and David Smith  
Auction Co-Chairs

# 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](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org) ♦ 508-945-2832

**Tickets:**  
**\$65**

## St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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*Soundings copy editors.*

## Capital Campaign Update, cont.

Below is a summary of projects and results as of June 12, 2015:

CATEGORY	PLAN	ACTUAL	BALANCE
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Camp. Income</b>	\$1,400,000	\$1,085,000	\$315,000
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Debt Payoff</b>	\$150,000	\$143,209	\$6,791
<b>Endow. Rebuild</b>	\$795,000	\$675,000	\$120,000
<b>Ext. Repairs</b>	\$175,000	\$15,000	\$160,000
<b>East Wing Ren.</b>	\$180,000	\$12,729	\$167,271
<b>Utilities Update</b>	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$1,400,000	\$845,938	\$554,062

In gratitude and appreciation for the spirit, dedication, and commitment of those donors who so generously contributed to the success of the 2014 capital campaign, a plaque in their honor is now on display in the gallery across from the original capital campaign wall (see page 8).

Joseph Gagliano  
*Capital Campaign Committee Chair*

## Highlights of the June Vestry Meeting

**Organ Committee:** The vestry received an update that The Rev. McGurk assembled the organ committee in May and June to discuss moving forward. Dobson Pipe Organ Builders is seriously being considered as the builder for our congregation.

**St. Christopher's Website:** The vestry received an update that Maury Castro and The Rev. McGurk met with Stephen Williams of Click Cape Cod to

plan the rebuilding of the website.

**Art Committee creates Gallery Circle:** It was voted to allow the Art Committee, represented at the meeting by Sandra Bowden, to solicit donations from local artisans to support the purchase of future pieces. The purpose of the gallery is to build up the congregation spiritually and intellectually.

Dale Alger  
*Clerk*

## Pulse of the Parish

### Marriages

Elizabeth Webster & Christopher Buffa  
June 13, 2015

Rebecca Auger & Ryan McHardy  
June 27, 2015

Lydia Gibson & Justin Hayward  
June 20, 2015

## July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."</i> ~ Psalm 91:2						
<b>5</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Baptism 10 Summer Spirit 11 Fellowship & Sunday Chat	<b>6</b> Closed for Holiday 9-11 am Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	<b>7</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>1</b> 10 Centering Prayer 7 Adult Choir	<b>2</b> 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>3</b> 5 Friday Night Grill	<b>4</b> Independence Day Church Closed
<b>12</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 10 Summer Spirit 11 Fellowship	<b>13</b> 9-11 am Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	<b>14</b> 9 Vacation Bible Camp Teachers Breakfast 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 4 Pastoral Care Cnte 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>15</b> 10 Centering Prayer 7 Adult Choir	<b>16</b> 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy Music & Worship 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>17</b> 5 Friday Night Grill	<b>18</b> 5:30 Summer Auction
<b>19</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 10 Summer Spirit 11 Fellowship	<b>20</b> 9-11 am Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	<b>21</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 4 Vestry 5 VBC Volunteers Dinner 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>22</b> 10 Centering Pr. 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @ Lib. Cms 4:30 Together with Africans No Adult Choir 7 Hyannis Sound— Bootleg Performance	<b>23</b> 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>24</b> 5 Friday Night Grill	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8 Beach Service 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Baptism 10 Summer Spirit 11 Fellowship	<b>27</b> 9-12 VBC 9-11 am Stephen Ministry Training @ Congregational Church	<b>28</b> 9-12 VBC 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>29</b> 9-12 VBC 10 Centering Prayer 7 Adult Choir	<b>30</b> 9-12 VBC 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>31</b> 9-12 VBC 5 Friday Night Grill	

Saint Christopher's Episcopal  
625 Main Street  
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633



July, 2015

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## The Bishop Comes to Chatham



The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates, Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, will be preacher and celebrant at St. Christopher's on Sunday, August 16. The entire congregation is invited to attend a 10 am Festal Eucharist (no 8 am service that day), complete with choir, trumpet, and harp.

**Designed by  
Tim Weller,  
the *Our Next  
Chapter* Capital  
Campaign plaque  
celebrates the  
commitment and  
faithfulness of the  
St. Christopher's  
community. It is  
on display in the  
gallery across from  
the original capital  
campaign wall.  
Many thanks to  
Dick Kraycir for  
hanging this grand  
piece.**

## Capital Campaign Plaque Installed

