

# SOUNDINGS

Vol. XI, No. 9

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

September, 2015

## *Cultivating the Life of the Mind*



**The Rev. Brian W. McGurk**  
Rector

At a recent Morning Prayer service, I listened to a meditation entitled *The Hidden Life of Jesus*. Insightfully, the author, Henri Nouwen, raised an idea I had never really thought about: The largest part of Jesus' life was "hidden." Adding: "Jesus lived a simple, hidden life in a small town, far away from all the great

people, great cities, and great events."

Paradoxically, Jesus' simple, unspectacular, ordinary, and hidden life is an essential quality—in fact, the source—of the spiritual life. In hiddenness, Luke tells us, we can increase in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and with people. (2:52)

In the hiddenness of our lives—in solitude, silence, prayer, anonymous acts of love and compassion, friendships, ordinary tasks, and others—we can grow spiritually. Our hearts can be opened to the love of God, our souls can be quieted and centered in Christ, and we can be transformed into the image of God. The hidden Christ reveals Himself in the quiet, hidden places of our lives.

I would like to add one more place of hiddenness: the life of our minds! Christ engages us in and through our reason, intelligence, imagination, creativity, reflection, study and education.

This autumn, St. Christopher's is offering several different opportunities to expand your knowledge of spirituality, Christian theology, the Bible, the practice of prayer, the Anglican Communion, as well as spirituality and the arts.

Please look carefully at all of the offerings in the feature on pages two and three, and consider what might be meaningful for you at this point in your spiritual walk.

My Sacred Journey class will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 16 (followed by classes on Sept. 30, Oct. 14 and 21 at 10:45 a.m.). This unit of the Sacred Journey class will explore spirituality; specifically, the idea and experience of the Presence of God. This will be followed by a unit on contemplative practices in November (4, 11 and 18), and a December unit (2, 9 and 16) on the writing of the mystics.

Please also consider participating in either Contemplative prayer or Eucharist, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.



# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S' AUTUMN 2015 COURSE CATALOGUE!



## Adult Confirmation

Course Instructor:  
The Rev. Brian W. McGurk  
Days and times to be announced.

## Sunday School

Course Instructor:  
Kerén Castro  
Sundays, Sept. 20 to Dec. 13  
10:10 to 10:40 a.m.



Theme: *Being God's Hands: Serving Our Community*. For children ages 3 through grade 8, these weekly sessions will educate, inspire, and challenge each participant. A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, Sept. 20, in The Gallery. Or you may contact Kerén directly at [cyfdirector@gmail.com](mailto:cyfdirector@gmail.com).

## Youth Confirmation

Course Instructors: The Rev. Brian W. McGurk,  
Kerén Castro, and Natalie Finstad  
Sundays, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 8, Dec. 6 11:30  
a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Open to all students entering 6th grade and up. Confirmation classes will meet through May, when a deanery-wide Confirmation will be held. Pizza will be provided! Confirmation students will also be required to participate in two or three service projects, as well as attend a regional confirmation retreat held at St. Christopher's on March 11 & 12. This is going to be an exciting time for our students to learn more about their faith and life in Christ as they reaffirm their baptismal vows. A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, September 20, in The Gallery. Or you may contact Kerén directly at [cyfdirector@gmail.com](mailto:cyfdirector@gmail.com).

## Confirmation: Then and Now

**Confirmation—it was a rite of puberty—a transition from childhood to early adolescence. It was the gate to being able to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. It was a reason for a diocesan bishop to visit each parish church. It was a time thirteen-year-olds, usually at the insistence of parents, studied the Catechism so that a Bishop might lay hands on their head and pray that they might be strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Because Confirmation was a routine or seen as obligatory, many who participated in it felt that they did their duty and never darkened the door of a church again.**

**Our present prayer book significantly changed our understanding of this sacrament. Today it is: 1) an opportunity to reaffirm the vows and promises which were part of our baptism (Since in our tradition, Baptism is usually a baby event, Confirmation makes sense at a later age. However, no particular age is accepted as normative today); 2) it is an opportunity for those newly worshipping in this church to affirm their commitment to Christ in this Episcopal context; and 3) it is an opportunity for those individuals, confirmed or not, to reaffirm their faith.**

**I have used the word “opportunity” because that is what Confirmation presents; it is not an obligation. It is a sacrament—the outward sign is the laying on of hands, the inner grace is the strengthening of the Holy Spirit within us. All of us might consider how we might approach this opportunity and participate in it.**

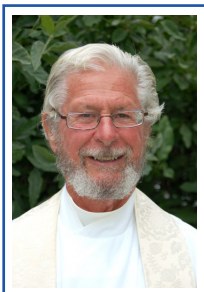
~ The Rev. Dr. John Martinier

## Embracing Forgiveness

Course Instructor:  
Betty Martiner and  
The Rev. Dr. John Martinier

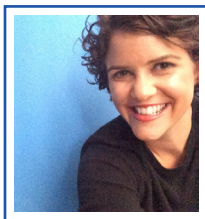
Tuesdays  
Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, and 24  
10 to 11:30 a.m.

This autumn, Betty and I will lead a series on forgiveness—something so essential that it is a centerpiece in our Lord's Prayer; so contemporary as the amazing response of the congregation torn apart by murders in South Carolina. We will start in Sibley Chapel with reflection on scripture and prayers from the Celtic tradition. We will then share refreshments, followed by the seminar. Each session will include a wonderful video by the Rev. Barbara Crafton. Sign up by calling the church office or e-mailing John Martinier at [Tarpon1786@aol.com](mailto:Tarpon1786@aol.com)



## Beloved Community

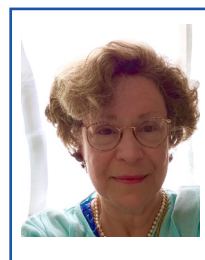
Course Instructor:  
Natalie Finstad  
Friday, Sept. 25  
10:30 a.m. to noon



What do you think of when you hear "Church"? St. Christopher's' towering steeple? The bold sounds of the organ? Friends in pews? The Christian Church began as a community. Jesus' followers formed a community to encourage one another to follow the way of Jesus. This community affirms our identity as the Beloved child of God. There is a movement that believes the primary purpose of the Church is to build what is called a Beloved Community, a community that loves radically, chooses solidarity, hungers for healing and commits to shared spiritual practice. This year we will explore how we can be Beloved Community at St. Christopher's. We already have been building a Beloved Community by connecting with summer workers, bringing refreshments to funerals, accompanying friends who suffer, developing global relationships, and more! However, this work will facilitate an intentionality about the way we are Church. We will begin this effort at the workshop in September. I hope you will join us.

## Art as Spiritual Practice

Course Instructor:  
Dr. Kathryn Halpern  
Mondays and Thursdays  
Sept. 28, Oct. 1, 5, 8  
3 to 5 p.m.  
Parish Hall  
Museum Visit: October 29



While much of the great art in the Western tradition deals specifically with Biblical and religious subjects, in a broader sense, the entire artistic process itself is spiritually significant for both artist and viewer. From Kant to Kandinsky, considering Plato, St. Benedict, Rothko, Bravo, Chardin, and others, and looking at topics such as seeing, grace, authenticity, beauty, transcendence and transformation, this seminar will cultivate and enrich your appreciation and experience of art as a spiritual practice. We will also look at the field of theological aesthetics. This seminar, led by parishioner and classical artist Kathryn Halpern, is designed for those who love painting as well as for painters, and includes a guided visit to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (plus travel time). This day includes lunch at the MFA's *Bravo* Restaurant. For registration and payment, and more information, please visit the Courses and Seminars page at [www.kathryndanahalpern.com](http://www.kathryndanahalpern.com), or contact Kathryn at 508-237-9196, or [kdhalp@gmail.com](mailto:kdhalp@gmail.com).

## Sacred Journey

Course Instructor:  
The Rev. Brian W. McGurk  
Wednesdays  
Unit 1: Sept. 16, 30, Oct. 14, 21;  
Unit 2: Nov. 4, 11, 18;  
Unit 3: Dec. 2, 9, 16  
10:45 a.m. to noon



The first unit of the Sacred Journey class will explore spirituality; specifically, the idea and experience of the Presence of God. The second unit will focus on contemplative practices. The third unit will focus on the writing of the mystics.



## Music at St. Christopher's



**Maury A. Castro**  
Organist &  
Choirmaster

**Organ Chats:** On Sundays, September 13 and 27, following the 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist, I will host identical 20-minute chats on the role that the organ plays in the life of St. Christopher's. These chats will be held in the sanctuary. Musician-in-Residence Haskell Thomson will assist as we discuss the long history and current challenges of the existing instrument, and how the proposed Dobson organ has been designed to enhance the mission and ministry of the congregation. This is an opportunity to ask any

questions that you might have about organ building. We look forward to sharing a fun time together!

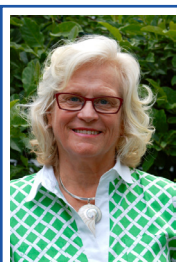
**Choir School:** *Do you know a child who loves to sing?* The Choir school, utilizing the unmatched *Voice for Life* program developed by the Royal School of Church Music, is open to all children grades two through ten. Emphasis is placed on vocal production, breathing, reading music, and the enjoyment of music. The participation fee is \$20 per semester, with scholarships available. Rehearsals are Tuesdays from 3:45–5:15 p.m., with Sunday morning musical offerings every other month. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 15. Go to [www.stchristopherschatham.org](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org) for registration forms, or contact Maury at [maestromaury@gmail.com](mailto:maestromaury@gmail.com).



## Art Exhibit and Choral Eucharist

The Art Committee is pleased to announce the autumn exhibit to be featured in The Gallery: *Picturing the Parables*. The opening reception for this show will be on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 4 p.m. A thematically-related Choral Eucharist, featuring Hummel's *Missa Brevis in D Major*, will be held at 5 p.m. Maury A. Castro, choirmaster; Haskell Thomson, pianist and accompanist.

## Sibley Chapel Art Exhibit Features Ethiopian Art



**Sandra Bowden**  
Curator  
The Gallery at  
St. Christopher's

Sibley Chapel has a new exhibition, *Ethiopian Paintings: Life and Passion of Jesus*, many of which are from St. Christopher's collection.

Ethiopia's incredible heritage of visual art has earned the nation international recognition. A school of Ethiopian iconography formed under the most skilled of the local painters who brought a wonderful Eastern

sensibility to the work. The main rule was to "copy faithfully." Since these artists were copying straight from paintings brought from the Holy Land, they felt that the images might be real pictures of actual people, including the Virgin Mary and Jesus. As a result, they did not want to deviate.

For nearly a thousand years, Ethiopian artists have been giving distinctive form to religious images. Some of the new artists have little formal training and paint only for the commercial market—others have more traditional training.

To spend time contemplating such a painting is to look through a window—a portal to Ethiopia's remarkable past. You are invited to spend some contemplative time with these works.





## Here Comes Stewardship 2016!

The 2016 Stewardship Campaign kicks off on Sunday, September 20. Following both morning services, Stewardship Chair Peter Hughes will present the goals and objectives of the campaign followed by a question and answer session. The meeting will take approximately 20 minutes.

This year's campaign theme is "Gratitude In Giving." Stewardship is our individual responsibility to commit time and resources to maintain and grow our church. We should be giving with gratitude and be thankful for all that our relationship with God provides.

Our annual operating budget is approximately \$660,000, of which a full 75% is funded through Stewardship. In 2015 our stewardship totaled \$501,713, derived from 217 pledging families, of which 47 were new pledge families. For 2016 we have set a stewardship goal of \$510,000. Since the total number of pledge families varies from year to year and we unfortunately lose some members along the way, we are asking you to consider a 6% increase in your pledge for 2016. We will also be reaching out to those of you who have not been pledging recently. To accomplish our mission, we need everyone's

participation. Each pledge is important, appreciated and confidential.

To encourage new stewardship participation, we have received a challenge grant from the Dreyfus Fund. The intent of the grant is to match new pledges up to the level of the grant. In 2015 we received a similar Dreyfus grant which we used to expand the number of pledging families and reach our stewardship goal.

A key to the success of the last stewardship campaign was the inclusion of our youth. We all enjoyed the delight and smiles on the faces of our youth as they kept the congregation informed as to the progress of the campaign. Through our Director for Children, Youth, and Families, Kerén Castro, our youth will create a display to help all of us monitor our progress during the 2016 campaign. The display will be updated on a weekly basis.

Here at St. Christopher's we have three primary categories of monies: capital, designated, and operating funds. Capital monies are associated with building needs and investments. Designated monies support specific activities such as Aid to Africa and our music program. Operating monies support our annual operating budget. This budget is what it takes to staff



**Registration 11:30**  
**Shotgun Start 12:30**  
**Putting Contest 4:30**  
**Reception (cash bar) and prizes awarded 5:30**

# St. Christopher's Charity Golf Tournament

**Monday, September 28, 2015  
at Eastward Ho!**

**\$250 per golfer (includes all fees, reception, and gift)**  
**Foursomes play two best balls.**

**508.945.2832**  
**[www.stchristopherschatham.org/golf](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org/golf)**  
*This event by courtesy of a sponsoring member of Eastward Ho!, a private golf club.*

## Stewardship 2016, continued

our church and programs as well as operate our facility. Sources of operating funds include special events like the auction and the Friday Night Grill. However, the vast majority (just a little less than 75 percent) is derived from our annual stewardship campaign.

Our success in 2016 Stewardship will enable us to continue the good works of St. Christopher's. We are recognized as a warm and welcoming congregation always ready to expand our horizons and do more. Fortunately we have a significant pool of talented volunteers with terrific skills and a willingness to donate their time and effort. Stewardship is an essential ingredient that provides the monies needed in concert with our staff, facilities and membership to fulfill our mission. These are challenging times for many of us. We are constantly solicited by many organizations and causes.

As you consider your pledge for 2016, please reflect on the importance of St. Christopher's in your life. We do a great job managing the finances of our Church. Your pledge dollars are spent thoughtfully, efficiently and effectively.

As we launch the 2016 Stewardship Campaign, you will receive a trifold brochure which provides additional details as well as a pledge card. I ask you to review the materials, pray and reflect upon what you can contribute, fill out your pledge card, and return it to the church at your earliest convenience.

If you have questions or need a little assistance in determining your pledge, I am willing to meet with you at your convenience. My cell phone is 508-496-3533 and my email is phughes41@comcast.net. I look forward to a successful campaign and ask you to consider...Gratitude In Giving.

Peter Hughes, 2016 Stewardship Chair

## Highlights of the August Vestry Meeting

**Church Website:** Maury A. Castro reported that work is underway on a newly-designed website, which should be "live" by mid-September.

**A Benefit Friday Night Grill:** The Vestry approved a fundraising grill on Sept. 4 to benefit Prince and Relhetta Wreh in Liberia, whose house

was recently destroyed.

**Fundraising Taskforce:** The Vestry approved the creation of a committee to investigate fundraising options as alternatives to the annual auction. David Smith will serve as chairperson.

Dale Alger, Clerk

## Pulse of the Parish

### Baptisms

Evelyn Irene Lacayo  
June 26, 2015

Beatrix Grace Howland Harris  
August 2, 2015

Brooks Randall Colley  
August 9, 2015

Lochlan William Deem  
August 21, 2015

### Baptisms, cont.

Christian David Hegarty  
Owen Charles Penny  
August 23, 2015

### Marriages

Angelic Gomez  
& Robert Grosek  
August 3, 2015

Madeline Pongor  
& Abedin Sham  
August 8, 2015

### Deaths

Nathan Richard Williams  
January 30, 2015

Thomas Putnam Hutchinson  
July 24, 2015

Nancy Lawson  
July 4, 2015

## St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

625 Main St.  
Chatham, MA 02633  
508-945-2832  
stchristopherschatham.org

### Staff

**The Rev. Brian W. McGurk**  
Rector  
brianmcgurkrector@gmail.com

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

**Natalie Finstad**  
Minister for Community Life  
nefinstad@gmail.com

**Maury A. Castro**  
Organist & Choirmaster;  
Communications Director  
maestromaur@gmail.com

**Haskell Thomson**  
Musician-in-Residence

**Keren Castro**  
Director of Children,  
Youth, and Families  
cyfdirector@gmail.com

**Jamie Chalker**  
Parish Administrator  
jrchalkerstc@gmail.com

**Barbara Bush**  
Administrative Assistant

**David Smith**  
Treasurer

**Bridgette Renaud**  
Assistant Treasurer

**Ali Crockett**  
Facilities Manager  
buildingstchristophers@gmail.com

**Lou Augustin**  
Sexton

**Sandra Bowden**  
Curator, The Gallery

**Rick Franklin**  
Manager, Gift Shop

**Ted and Martha Miller**  
Managers, Food Pantry

**Dennis Johnson, Lynn Van Dine, and Tim Weller,**  
Soundings copy editors.



# September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> 10 Centering Prayer  7 Adult Choir	<b>3</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>4</b>  5 Friday Night Grill Benefit for Prince & Relhetta Wreh	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship & Sunday Chat	<b>7</b> Labor Day - Church Closed	<b>8</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 4 Finance Committee 7 Adult Choir	<b>10</b> 10 Women's AA 2 Shawl Ministry	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Baptism 11 Fellowship & Organ Chat	<b>14</b> 9am-2 pm Stephen Ministry Training	<b>15</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 3:45-5:15 Choir School	<b>16</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10 Parkinson's Support 10:45 Sacred Journey 7 Adult Choir	<b>17</b> 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 4 Art Reception 5 Choral Evensong
<b>20</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Blessing of Backpacks 10 Sunday School begins 11 Fellowship	<b>21</b> 9-11 Stephen Ministry Training	<b>22</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45-5:15 Choir School 4 Vestry Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @Lib.Cms. 4:30 Together with Africans 7 Adult Choir	<b>24</b> 10 Women's AA 3 Spiritual Formation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5 Blessing of the Animals
<b>27</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship & Organ Chat	<b>28</b> 9am-2 pm Stephen Ministry Training 11:30 Golf Tournament @ Eastward Ho! 3-5 Art as Spiritual Practice Seminar	<b>29</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff Meeting 3:45-5:15 Choir School	<b>30</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 10:45 Sacred Journey 7 Adult Choir	<i>I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ~ Psalm 32:8</i>		

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



September, 2015

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## *Vacation Bible Camp a Joyful Success!*

Many thanks to all of our parishioners who gave so generously of their time, talents, and resources to make Vacation Bible Camp a success. Eighty-six children enjoyed learning about how God works in us, through worship, song, art, science and even trips to the labyrinth here in Chatham. Next year's camp, with the theme *Surf's Up*, will be held at St. Christopher's again.



## *Blessings Abound*



**Blessing of the Backpacks:**  
Sunday, September 20, at the  
10 a.m. Choral Eucharist. All  
students are invited to bring  
their backpack to receive a  
blessing from Rector Brian  
McGurk.

**Blessing of the Animals:**  
Saturday, September 26, at 5  
p.m. Parishioners and friends  
are invited to bring their  
beloved animal companions  
to a brief blessing service on  
the front lawn, officiated by  
Rector Brian McGurk.