

SOUNDINGS

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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

November, 2015

Kairos Moments



The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

All Saints' Day, Nov. 1, commemorates "the communion of saints." That is, "the entire membership of the Christian community (persons of heroic sanctity, whose deeds were recalled with gratitude by later generations)" as well as "the vast body of the faithful who, though no less members of the company of the redeemed, are unknown

in the wider fellowship of the Church. It is a day for particular remembrance of family members and friends." (*Holy Women, Holy Men*, p. 664)

All Saints' Day also reminds us that all the saints—the known and unknown, and the living and the dead—are linked eternally in the Body of Christ. John

Williams, an emeritus professor of Classics at Trinity College, beautifully captures the deep relationship that exists between the living and the dead within the Body of Christ. He wrote the following to Berjouhi Spencer upon the death of her beloved husband, Arthur:

*I want to share with you something I wished the church talked more about. In the Eucharist, as you know, we always pray for the dead, and that's important. But there is another factor that often is overlooked. And that is in the Preface to the Sanctus in the Great Thanksgiving: Therefore we praise you, joining **our** voices with Angels and Archangels and with **all the company of heaven**, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name. All the company of heaven means all our loved ones who have preceded us. The point is that at every Eucharist the dead are at the celestial banquet at the same moment as we are at the terrestrial banquet. This is a Kairos moment: Eternity and the*

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Gratitude in Giving – 2016 Stewardship Report

The stewardship team is pleased to report that five weeks into the campaign the total amount pledged for 2016 is \$307,747.17, which is 60.3 percent of our \$510,000 goal. To date 111 pledge families have responded to the appeal. This includes 4 new pledge families.

Our stewardship mailing list consists of 325 households. To achieve our goal and balance the 2016 operating budget, it is essential that we significantly improve our participation rate. In 2015 our participation rate was 67 percent. All pledges are welcome, no matter the amount. Furthermore, all pledges are confidential.

In my own journey, I feel gratitude in giving to St. Christopher's. Our caring and welcoming church provides a special sense of gratitude for me. Our giving consists of a combination of time, talent and treasure, the 3 Ts. Our individual circumstances and abilities change over time such that the quantity and mix of the 3 Ts can be variable for each of us. St. Christopher's needs and welcomes the time, talent and treasure of all its members. Together we continue to advance the mission of our church.

To monitor our progress toward our pledge goal of \$510,000 our youth have developed a cross made up of 51 squares. Each square



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Children, Youth, and Families



Kerén Castro
Director of
Children, Youth,
and Families

The theme for all CYF activities this year is *Being God's Hands: Serving Our Community*. Our first major project began on Oct. 18 when Dawn Walnut from Habitat for Humanity spoke to our confirmands and Sunday School students at a Chapel Chat co-sponsored by St. Christopher's Community Outreach Committee. Ms. Walnut explained what Habitat for Humanity does,

and how the youth of St. Christopher's can make a difference by participating in their bookcase program.

All of the children and youth present committed to building, painting, and filling a bookcase for a five-year-old boy named Christian. Christian's family will soon have a home in our community. Our confirmands are building the bookcase. Then all of the children in

Kindergarten and older will paint and decorate the bookcase. Finally, all church members will be invited to donate quality new and used books that will be of interest to Christian.



Above: Ms. Walnut shares how Habitat for Humanity helps people.
Right: Students carry pieces of the bookcase into the church.



Gratitude in Giving, continued

represents \$10,000 in pledges. As the campaign moves forward, the squares on the cross will be filled in. The cross will be updated every other week at the conclusion of the 10 am Choral Eucharist for all to see.

Satisfying the \$510,000 stewardship goal for 2016 is critical to a financially secure and sound 2016. We are a church of individuals and families with diverse backgrounds, experiences and financial capabilities. If we all give with gratitude, we will succeed. If you have already made your prayerful and

thoughtful pledge, I sincerely thank you. If you have yet to pledge, I encourage you to consider all that St. Christopher's means to you and your family and make

your pledge in a timely manner so that together we can achieve our goal. Pledge brochures and cards are available on the church website and at the church office front desk.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding stewardship, please contact me at your earliest convenience. I am here to help.

~ Peter Hughes, Stewardship Chair

*If we all give
with gratitude,
we will succeed.*

Charity Golf Tournament Report

St. Christopher's annual golf tournament, on Sept. 28, was held under glorious blue skies at the Eastward Ho! Country Club. The tournament featured over 80 golfers, some coming from as far away as California, Texas and Georgia. A challenging and fun putting contest was held in the afternoon outside the clubhouse, with the winning prize supplied by Chatham Candy Manor. Everyone had an opportunity to enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres al fresco.

The evening's events continued indoors with a reception, at which first-, second-, and third-place prizes were awarded. Ted Miller and Ned Edwards of St. Christopher's were part of the winning foursome, and each received an Eastward Ho! golf certificate valued at \$75.

I wish to thank all participants, and especially appreciate the record number of tee sign sponsorships, which totaled 68. I also wish to thank Sue Sargent, Betty Schiller, and their committee for heading the hospitality portion of the event. Finally, sincere thanks to the Golf Committee, including Jim Bast, Bob Lynyak, John Otis, John Sargent, and Randy Van Sickle.

~ Dale Alger, *Golf Committee Chair*



Advent Journey: Understanding Race

During Advent we remember the stillness and the darkness experienced by the people of Israel as they waited for the promised messiah. Advent is a time in which we join their waiting by reflecting on the dark places in our current context and turning toward God's promised light.

Over the last two years our country has experienced a resurgence of racial awareness as a result of the loss of life experienced by the black community. The mass shooting in Charleston, along with the independent deaths of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Gardner and Trayvon Martin are leading us to examine race concepts and relationships in a way that has been ignored for some time now. The context feels confusing as we try to figure out how to find a path forward.

The truth is that race and race relations are concepts that are largely unexplored. There is

significant scientific and historical information that can lead us to a deeper understanding of race, and help us respond to the issue in a way that promotes healing. Jesus' example showed us how to build diverse, accepting and Beloved Community in all contexts. As followers in that faith tradition it is essential that we know how to do the same, in our own time.

This Advent, St. Christopher's is exploring the questions surrounding race through a program titled *Advent Journey: Understanding Race*. This program will occur on three Mondays in Advent: Dec. 7, 14, and 21 from 4:00–6:00 pm. The format for the program will be video/speaker and then small group discussion. To sign up for the program, please contact Natalie Finstad, our Minister for Community Life, at nefinstad@gmail.com, or call the church office.

~ Natalie Finstad, *Minister for Community Life*

Music



Maury A. Castro
Organist &
Choirmaster

On Sunday, Oct. 18, which was *Royal School of Church Music America* Music Sunday, the three new choristers of the Choir School were admitted to the choir, and all of the choristers were commissioned. This was a day to celebrate the joy and beauty that music brings to our worship and liturgy. The choristers sang one anthem with the adult choir, and one anthem on their own.

During the 2015–2016 year, all students will be seeking advancement in the RSCM's *Voice*



for *Life* program. The five second-year students will be working toward their light-blue ribbons and the three first-year students will be working toward their white ribbons. Each chorister must demonstrate level-appropriate proficiency in reading music notation, vocal production, rehearsal technique, breath control, and liturgical fluency.

Personal Planning

The Personal Planning Committee provides education and referrals to qualified legal, financial and health professionals who can help parishioners develop and keep updated their personal plans for their wellbeing and the management of their assets, financial affairs and legacy. The Committee was established several years ago under the leadership of George Olmsted. Errol James and Pieter Schiller recently became the co-chairs of the committee.

The Committee has organized a number of seminars for members of the parish, most recently two discussions on dealing with health emergencies. A new session was held on Oct. 25 on protecting one's family, assets and legacy from catastrophic illness and long term care needs. A second follow-up session will be held on **Sunday, Nov. 15**, and conducted by Lincoln Financial Group, focusing on insurance options. The forum will take place at 11:30 am in Sibley Chapel. For more information, go to the church website and click on "Personal Planning."



The Personal Planning Committee also manages St. Christopher's Cloister Society, which recognizes and celebrates parishioners who have planned gifts to St. Christopher's, unless they choose to remain anonymous. The Cloister Society now includes 44 members from 26 church households. If you have planned a gift to the church but have not advised us, please contact any Personal Planning Committee member to join the Cloister Society (This list of members is not published).



Kairos Moments, continued

finite are united. From the singing of the Sanctus right through to the communion itself, we and our loved ones are in the closest possible presence with God and with one another. As we receive the sacrament, so our loved ones are also receiving it. At every Eucharist, then, we are in the closest possible contact with our loved ones until such time we are reunited with them in eternity. (See the prayer at the bottom of page 493 of The Book of Common Prayer and the second prayer on page 505.) It is

this profound mystery that I find so powerful, so helpful, and so comforting

As St. Christopher's mourns the passing of several beloved parishioners, let us bear in mind and in heart, that at each celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we are in the "closest possible contact with all our loved ones," and with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as well!

Chatham Food Pantry



Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, Food Pantry

When people think of Chatham, they conjure up images of sunshine, beaches, lighthouses, shopping, and of course, sharks. The stark reality is that while all of this is true, there are nonetheless citizens who are in need of additional support. This is true for *any* community in

America, and Chatham is no exception.

As Thanksgiving fast approaches, it is important that we remain aware that many folks find this a time of great need. More importantly, we must always keep in mind that this need continues throughout the year. Just to emphasize this point, during this past year, our Chatham Food Pantry has provided over 15,000 pounds of food to our residents. The CFP is a vital ministry of St. Christopher's Church.

Chatham is a caring and giving community and we are certainly blessed to have a wonderful staff of volunteers who help lift a huge burden from our local clients. It is a fact that many clients are presently employed or have some limited source of income. Yet with minimum wages and only seasonal employment, they are simply unable to make ends meet. It is therefore necessary that people make trade-offs, where they must choose between buying food or paying for rent, utilities or medications.

The CFP provides a clean, welcoming atmosphere, where clients feel comfortable. Our volunteers make it a point to establish relationships with many clients. They ask about families and inquire as to whether there are other needs that may require attention.

One family with whom we've become acquainted is a family who is registered as two adults and one



Photo: Spencer Kennard

Vacation Bible Camp
attendees learned about the CFP and volunteered some time there.

child. After establishing a rapport with the gentleman, I discovered that his only "child" is a 40-year-old man with disabilities, who does not speak or walk. His wife is employed seasonally, so their income is unsteady. The dad is so appreciative of all that we do that he gave Ted a big hug after he helped carry his food to the car. He always asks for Ted, and when they meet, he smiles, hugs him, and gives a most-sincere "Thank You!"

Another individual who we've gotten to know fell, breaking bones and requiring surgery. She was unable to get out to collect her food and didn't know what to do. After hearing of her situation, we phoned to find out what she needed. The next day, one of our volunteers delivered supplies to her apartment. This continued until she was able to get up and about. This personal, meaningful service is what makes the CFP a meaningful part of our community.

It is with genuine appreciation that we thank our many volunteers, our St. Christopher's community, and all our supporters throughout Chatham. This ministry is a success because of you.

Stephen Ministry Graduation

On Oct. 25, Rector McGurk commissioned our first Stephen Ministry team. The team will become part of our ongoing pastoral care program headed by the Rector. Stephen Ministers participated in fifty hours of training, learning and practicing how to listen without judging and provide Christian



friendship and care to those facing a wide range of life challenges.

The Rector will confidentially assign Stephen Ministers one-on-one as needed to members of our parish that have requested support. Stephen Ministers will meet with their care receivers for an hour a week (or an

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Stephen Ministry Graduation, continued

otherwise agreed-to schedule), walking with, listening to and praying with them. Their supportive care will supplement the Rector's pastoral work. All interactions between Stephen Ministers and care receivers are completely confidential.

Our graduating Stephen Ministers are Larry Jobson, Susan Newlin, Carolyn Otis, and Jo Vachon. Susan and Carolyn also trained as Stephen Leaders with the Stephen Ministries organization of St. Louis. The leader team has been responsible for organizing St. Christopher's ministry and for training. Our team has enjoyed a wonderful partnership with the First Congregational Church of Chatham as we trained and built our ministries.

Stephen Ministry will multiply the amount of caring that St. Christopher's can provide. We have many needs for care in our congregation and our community: people experiencing life challenges such as loss of function due to disease or aging, family stresses, grief, anxiety and many more. Our ongoing pastoral care committee has done a wonderful job of helping the Rector visit parishioners in need—mostly those that are home-bound. Stephen Ministers will provide additional support, confidentially visiting with people, and providing a larger pool of skilled caregivers with a calling to bring God's healing love and care to those who most need it.



To learn more, please go to the Pastoral Care page of the St. Christopher's website, or contact Brian McGurk or any member of the Stephen Ministry team.

~ Susan Newlin, *Stephen Minister*



Kent Bonney, Janie Taylor, Jo Vachon, and Larry Jobson participating in a role-playing session.



Stephen Ministry graduates Susan Newlin, Larry Jobson, Carolyn Otis, and Jo Vachon

Parish Statistics

Deaths

Harriet Hackford
Sept. 25, 2015

Joanne Bergquist
Oct. 8, 2015

Berjouhi Spencer
Oct. 15, 2015

Mary Olmsted
Oct. 23, 2015

**Saint
Christopher's**
Episcopal Church

625 Main St.
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stchristopherschatham.org

The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

The Rev. Dr. John Martiner
Priest Associate

Natalie Finstad
Minister for Community Life

Maury A. Castro
*Organist & Choirmaster;
Communications Director*

Haskell Thomson
Musician-in-Residence

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

Jamie Chalker
Parish Administrator

Barbara Bush
Administrative Assistant

Ali Crockett
Facilities Manager

David Smith
Treasurer

Bridgette Renaud
Assistant Treasurer

Lou Augustin
Sexton

Priscilla Chick
Parish Nurse

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.

November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints' Day Daylight Savings Ends 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Baptism, Sunday School 11 Fellowship 4 Choral Evensong	2	3 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 10-11:30 Embracing Forgiveness 3:45 Choir School	4 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 10:30 EPL Series 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	5 10 Women's AA	6 11 Memorial Service-Harriett Hackford	7 3 Beethoven Concert
8 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse/Adult Confirmation 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship, Chapel Chat 11:30 Youth Confirmation	9	10 9 Morn. Pryr 9:30 Staff Meeting 10-11:30 Embracing Forgiveness 3:45 Choir School 4 Pastoral Care 5:30 Family Faith Formation	11 Veterans Day 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:45 Sacred Journey 4 Finance Cmt. 5:15 Adult Choir	12 10 Women's AA 2 Shawl Ministry	13	14 Diocesan Convention
15 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship 11:30 Chapel Chat: Personal Planning Forum	16	17 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 10-11:30 Embracing Forgiveness 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry Meeting	18 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 10 Parkinson's Support 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	19 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music	20 3 Spiritual Formation Cmt.	21
22 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	23	24 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 10-11:30 Embracing Forgiveness 3:45 Choir School	25 9:30 Playgroup 10 Centering Prayer 4:30 Together with Africans No Adult Choir	26 Thanksgiving—Church Closed	27 Church Closed	28
29 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 10 Sunday School 11 Fellowship	30	<i>Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ~ Psalm 107:1</i>				

November, 2015

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A Note from the Treasurer



David Smith
Treasurer

We are now approaching the time when our summer residents begin to head south for the winter. However, the church's expenses do not decline at this time, so let this be a friendly reminder that we all need to continue good stewardship right through the end of the year. Please help St. Christopher's by keeping your pledge current. Third quarter pledge statements should be out soon—please let me know if there are any questions on your donations. Thank you.

Church e-mail list: If you are not on the church e-mail list and would like to be, please subscribe yourself on the homepage of the church website, www.stchristopherschatham.org, or e-mail Maury A. Castro at maestromaury@gmail.com. By adding your address to the list, you will receive the weekly mid-week e-mail and periodic messages from the Rector.

Digital Soundings: All church members who are on the e-mail list receive *Soundings* electronically, and it is available on the website. If you would like to be taken off the print list, please e-mail Maury at the address above and let him know.



Raleigh with his companion, Thorne Sparkman, at the Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Sept. 26.