

# SOUNDINGS

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

March, 2016

## From Your Rector



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

Reading the Bible can be a baffling experience! The Franciscan priest and spiritual guide, Richard Rohr, acknowledged this at a conference I recently attended in New Mexico as part of my continuing education. He stated, “I have often struggled with how much damage the Bible has done in human

history, and I have often been amazed at how much good the Bible has done, too!”

The manner in which we interpret the Holy Scriptures and the interpretations we derive vary widely from denomination to denomination, church to church, even person to person. In all theological controversies (for example, the recent debate over same-sex marriage), conflicting parties will quote Scripture to support their viewpoint. It is often quipped that “even the devil can quote Scripture to his ends”! (And Satan does just that when he tries to tempt Jesus in the wilderness by quoting Scripture to him!) So who is right? I don’t know. However, proof-texting and “dressing up” our opinions, biases, prejudices, partial interpretations, or limited viewpoints, with quotes from the Bible does not cut it. It didn’t work for Satan, and it won’t work for us.

So how, then, do we get closer to the Word of God as proclaimed in and through the Holy Scriptures?

Richard Rohr’s interpretive “key” is simple: He attempts to interpret Scripture the way that Jesus did. (Now remember that Jesus was a devout Jew and he was well versed in the Hebrew Bible—his Scriptures.) “Jesus taught us what to emphasize and what could be de-emphasized, or even ignored. Jesus consistently ignored or even denied *judgmental*, *exclusionary*, *punitive*, and *triumphalistic* texts in his own Jewish Bible in favor of passages that emphasized

*inclusion*, *mercy*, and *honesty*.” Rohr even goes to the extreme of saying that, “When Christians pretend that every line in the Bible is of equal importance and inspiration, they are being very unlike Jesus.”

The message that Jesus proclaimed transforms the darkness, suffering, sin, and brokenness of the world into something good, whole, and holy. That is the Bible according to Jesus!

Please consider attending Glimpse of the Gospel every Sunday morning at 9:10 as we explore the weekly gospel reading.



## Children, Youth, and Families



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

I am so excited to share that our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner was a great success, thanks to the help of many of the Fathers! I especially wish to thank Jeremy Duckett, Jeremy Gingras, Dick Hartman, David Hawk, Peter and Linda Hughes, and Maury Castro. In the end about fifty people came out to enjoy a great night of fellowship—and for the kids, games led by our own youth Juliana Smith, who was fabulous! We hope to have as many and more join us again for our next Family Faith Formation on March 1 at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. This always includes a delicious dinner followed by a short class for children as well as a short discussion for adults lead by Rector McGurk, and concludes by 6:30 pm.



In other news, our confirmands will be participating in a Diocesan pre-confirmation retreat, being held at St. Christopher's on March 11 and 12. We will be locked in the church overnight as our students discover more why they want to choose Christ and be confirmed. The confirmation service has been set for June 11 at 10:30 am at St. Christopher's, and all are invited to be present for this event to lend support to youths and adults who are publicly demonstrating their personal choice to follow Jesus.

Lastly, we are excitedly looking forward to Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, at the beginning of the 10 am Choral Eucharist, all of our children and youth will be singing an introit with flute, drum, bells, and piano, followed by a procession with palms. Then the following weekend Children, Youth, and Family Ministries will be hosting its annual Easter egg hunt at 10:30 am on the back lawn. Please feel free to bring along all your kiddies—it's always a highlight of the year that the Hawk family so graciously prepares!



## From Your Senior Warden



**John M. Sargent**  
Senior Warden

Since being asked to be Senior Warden last year, I've been thinking about what separates top organizations from the ordinary, and I've concluded that it involves three basic qualities: leadership, communication and involvement. I know that we all realize how fortunate we are to have Brian as

our leader, so I'd like to talk about communication this month, and involvement next month.

Communication is a two-way street. The church needs to keep you informed about its activities and offerings on a timely and consistent basis, but leadership also needs to hear back from you. If you are concerned about something, think of something else we need to do, or have a positive comment, please

speak to me, one of the other Wardens, or a member of the Vestry.

I'm grateful to serve with a dedicated and insightful Vestry, including Rick Leavitt, Junior Warden; Ted Miller, Warden-Elect; David Smith, Treasurer; Dale Alger, Clerk; Bob Braman, Betty Martin, John Otis, Peggy Shipman, Haskell Thomson, Rick Vachon, and Maggie Van Sickle. As it states on the Vestry page of our website, "The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed; to select the rector; to ensure effective organization and planning; and to manage resources and finances."

We welcome your input and look forward to making worship at St. Christopher's and being part of this congregation the best possible experience.

## For The Love Of Music Benefit Concert Series

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Sunday, June 26, 3 pm**

***All About Love*, directed by Barbara Reed**

Sensational Broadway and popular love songs through the years!

***Followed by a catered Gala Benefit Reception.***

**Sunday, August 7, 3 pm**

***Romantic Masterworks*, directed by Maury A. Castro & featuring Haskell Thomson**

Breathtaking instrumental, vocal, and choral works by Brahms, Debussy, Mendelssohn, Verdi & others!

**June date TBA**

***A Capella Times Two***

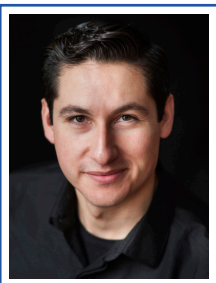
The ever-popular Hyannis Sound and Cape Harmony team up to perform their favorites!



**Tickets go on sale in May at \$20/adults; \$10/children.  
Proceeds to benefit St. Christopher's Church programs.**

*Don't miss the magic!!*

# Music



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

Each department of the church is currently being examined by the Long-Range Financial Planning Committee for potential needs and basic expectations for the future. I enjoy this kind of thinking, and consider it a chance to dream and set a vision for the future of music and liturgy at our church. Haskell Thomson and I have been thinking a great deal about

this, and we both independently came to the same conclusion about the most essential aspect of a healthy musical and artistic future at St. Christopher's: the continued health, growth, and development of the Choir School.

Rather than enumerate a list of reasons why this is the case, allow me to share a couple of scenes from recent rehearsals that demonstrate the vital role that the Choir School plays in the development of young people's spirituality.

Recently, as we were preparing for the January Choral Evensong, a hymn text mentioned the "great One in Three." One of the choristers

asked to what this referred. This opened up a weighty conversation about the Trinity (complete with a drawing of a triangle), concluded by an admission that this is a mystery, and one we'll not understand soon.

Back in November, I planned to prepare the well-known descant by the late Sir David Willcocks to the Christmas hymn, "O Come, All Ye Faithful." I said, "Oh this will be easy—everyone knows this song, so we can start working on the descant straightaway." The assembly of nine looked up at me with blank stares—the Christmas carol was completely unfamiliar.

I share these two vignettes not to disparage

children or parents (especially since one of the choristers is my own!), but simply to demonstrate that perhaps foundational knowledge that in previous generations was taken for granted cannot be done so now. We must be intentional about educating, which is, in fact, discipling.



**Choirmaster Castro with newly-admitted chorister, Tessa Gingras.**

## Embracing An Adult Faith

A number of you have asked whether Betty and I are planning another adult education series. We are complimented by your question and remember the wonderful series on "forgiveness" which we had in October and November of last year. We are planning another adult education series to be held this autumn.

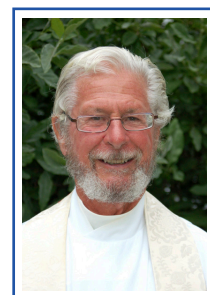
The five-week series will be held on Tuesdays from 10–11:30 am starting on October 18 and ending on November 15. I know that this is a long way off—but I encourage you to get these dates reserved in your calendar now. As we did last year, we will start with prayer in the chapel, have refreshments and coffee, and engage our study.

I have chosen another course in the "Embracing" series. This one is entitled "Embracing an Adult Faith." The lecturer via video tape is Marcus Borg. Marcus was a "Jesus" scholar and is the author of many books, including "Meeting Jesus Again for the

First Time." Some years ago I was honored to host Marcus Borg for a weekend conference at a church where I served as Rector. He is a gifted and provocative teacher and I know we will enjoy his presentation as well as our group discussion.

During the series, those attending will look with "different eyes" at some basic beliefs: God, Jesus, salvation, Christian practice, and the meaning of community. Our goal in these discussions will be to open ourselves to a living faith—one that is mature, honest and engages us in all aspects of our lives.

Sign up for this series will be in September. There is nothing to do now, except to save the dates!



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



## The Long-Range Financial Planning Committee



**Nick Harris**  
*Chair,  
Finance Committee*

St. Christopher's Finance Committee has established a Long-Range Financial Planning Committee. This new group will analyze all aspects of St. Christopher's financial situation and develop a plan for both operational and capital sustainability. Importantly, it will also explore ways to stimulate growth in the parish in order

to fulfill the church's vision and mission. Members of the committee, in addition to Jim Bast, Chair, are Joe Gagliano, Peter Hughes, Errol James and Pieter Schiller. They will be assisted by Lisa Franklin as advisor and David Smith, Treasurer, in an ex-officio role. The goal is to develop, in about six months, a financial plan to be presented to the Finance Committee for its approval and recommendation to the Vestry for approval and implementation.

All members of the parish who may have ideas or suggestions for this important work are encouraged to contact Jim at 508-237-5588, or [jimbast@comcast.net](mailto:jimbast@comcast.net). Meanwhile, as can be expected, our treasurer and the Finance Committee will be vigilant in short-term efforts needed to achieve our 2016 operating budget.



*Nick Harris with Long-Range Financial Planning Committee chair, Jim Bast.*

## St. Christopher's Squire Night!



*Door Prizes!*

**Monday, March 7, 6–8 pm**

*Pool!*

Come with your family and friends of all ages to enjoy your favorite Squire foods and drinks! The entire bar side, seating 100, is for St. Christopher's and friends. The Squire is donating a generous percentage of the proceeds to St. Christopher's Church.

*Juke Box!*



*Video Games!*

RSVP: Call the church office at 945-2832 with your name and the number of people attending.

**St. Christopher's Church thanks the Chatham Squire for its generous support.**

# Exterior Church Repairs Update



As I shared with the congregation in an article in the February 2016 issue of *Soundings*, major work on the exterior of the church will begin in Mid-March. Parishioners should be prepared to see (and hear) a construction site at the church for a few months. The result will be well worth the inconvenience!

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 508-496-3533 or phughes41@comcast.net.

~ Peter Hughes, Project Manager



## Parish Statistics

### Transfers In

Thomas & Donna Abbott  
Johanne Arnemann  
Susan E. Gray

**April issue of *Soundings*:** This issue will be delayed because of the timing of Holy Week and Easter, which is usually when production of *Soundings* occurs.

**Staff e-mail addresses:** Many of the staff at St. Christopher's have been given new e-mail addresses. Please make note of the addresses below for future use, which are always available on the staff page of the website. The old addresses will continue to work for a time.

Barbara Bush: [bbush@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:bbush@stchristopherschatham.org)  
Kerén Castro: [kcastro@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:kcastro@stchristopherschatham.org)  
Maury Castro: [mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org)  
Jamie Chalker: [jchalker@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:jchalker@stchristopherschatham.org)  
Ali Crockett: [acrockett@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:acrockett@stchristopherschatham.org)  
Natalie Finstad: [nfinstad@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:nfinstad@stchristopherschatham.org)  
Brian McGurk: [bmcgurk@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:bmcgurk@stchristopherschatham.org)  
Bridgette Renaud: [brenaud@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:brenaud@stchristopherschatham.org)

**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](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org), or e-mail Maury A. Castro at [mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org). 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 via the mid-week e-mail, and it is available on the website. If you would like to be taken off the print list, please contact Maury.

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal Church

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508-945-2832  
[stchristopherschatham.org](http://stchristopherschatham.org)

The Rev. Brian W. McGurk  
Rector

The Rev. Dr. John Martinier  
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, R.N.  
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.

# March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 5:30 Family Faith Formation	<b>2</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>3</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>4</b> 5 Bell Choir	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 10 Faith in Action 11 Fellowship 11:30 Chapel Chat	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>9</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:45 Sacred Journey 4 Finance Cmt. 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>10</b> 10 Women's AA 2 Shawl Ministry	<b>11</b> 5 Bell Choir 7 Pre-Confirmation Retreat	<b>12</b> Pre-Confirmation Retreat
<b>13</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry	<b>16</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10 Parkinson's Support Group 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>17</b> 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music	<b>18</b> 3 Spiritual Formation 4 Facilities Support 5 Bell Choir	<b>19</b> 9 Bell Choir 9:30 Women's AA
<b>20 Palm Sunday</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>23</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemp. Prayer 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @ Lib. C. 4:30 Together with Africans 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>24 Maundy Thurs</b> 10 Women's AA 5 Maundy Thursday Service	<b>25 Good Friday</b> 5 Good Friday Service 6 Bell Choir	<b>26</b> 2 Adult Choir 5 Celtic Evensong & Communion
<b>27 Easter Sunday</b> 9 Festal Choral Eucharist 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt 11 Festal Choral Eucharist	<b>28</b> <b>Church Closed—Easter Monday</b>	<b>29</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>30</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Prayer 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>31</b> 10 Women's AA	<i>He is not here; He has risen, just as he said. Matthew 28:6</i>	





625 Main Street  
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

March, 2016

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## *Holy Week and Easter Services*

**Sunday, March 20 (Palm Sunday)**

*8 am Holy Eucharist*

*10 am Choral Eucharist*

**Thursday, March 24 (Maundy Thursday)**

*5 pm Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar*

**Friday, March 25 (Good Friday)**

*5 pm Liturgy for Good Friday*

**Saturday, March 26**

*5 pm Easter Celtic Evensong & Communion*

**Sunday, March 27 (Easter Sunday)**

*9 am Festal Choral Eucharist*

*10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt*

*11 am Festal Choral Eucharist*

