

SOUNDINGS

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

April, 2016

From Your Rector



The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

In his wisdom and experience, the Rev. Dr. John Martinier gave me an excellent piece of advice: "There are some natural 'teaching moments' in the life of a parish."

Recently, a sizeable number of parishioners gathered together for a Chapel Chat after the 10 am Choral Eucharist to understand and discuss recent events in the life of the Episcopal Church (specifically, the attempts of some Anglican primates (archbishops) from around the world to censure the Episcopal Church for its decision to approve liturgies for the solemnization of same-sex marriage). The discussion was rich, and, in my opinion, an excellent "teaching moment" for all of us. There were thoughtful questions, important background information, valuable insights, and deep personal sharing. I would like to thank each one who participated!

Building on this, I would like to invite you to attend weekly Chapel Chats (15–20 minute sessions offered after

Sunday fellowship) on a variety of subjects. These can reflect the breadth and depth of the Anglican tradition's understanding and practices in the areas of theology, spirituality, worship, prayer, ethics, history, governance, social witness, mission and outreach, etc. For example, discussions in the general area of liturgy and worship can focus on chanting, as opposed to reading, the Psalms and other parts of the service; or, a discussion of the Eucharist service from the perspective of "the person in the pew." Another example: Last year, John Martinier led an outstanding presentation on liturgical vestments and seasonal colors.

I welcome your suggestions of topics that can deepen our knowledge and practice of Christianity and lead us to a richer experience of Christ.



*Scenes from
Easter at
St. Christopher's*



Children, Youth, and Families



Kerén Castro
Director of
Children, Youth,
and Families

I am so excited to announce that the Pre-Confirmation Retreat was a fabulous success! Eight of our confirmands were able to attend, along with approximately sixteen Diocesan youths, who came to lead the mid-March weekend's events. Our youths participated in Bible studies and discussions based on Matthew 22:37–39. In so doing, they were more deeply exploring why they

are on this path of Confirmation and what it means to them. They also played a variety of games, colored madalas as a meditation or prayer, learned how to make communion bread (which they then used in Eucharist), and even spent the night in the church.

For me the most memorable moment of the weekend was during Bishop Bud Cederholm's worship service. He was teaching us the importance of forgiveness, the kind that Jesus gives, emphasizing God's grace and love toward us, no matter what. Then Bishop Bud told us a story about a church in England that was bombed during World War II. After the bombing of this church, the people of that town took the nails left in the rubble and, as a way of finding forgiveness in an unforgivable act, they took those nails and fashioned them into crosses reminding all of Jesus' words on the cross as he hung there dying: "Forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). At the end of his time with us, Bishop Bud blessed and gave each of our confirmands a cross made from nails to remind them that as they go through this journey they are *loved* and forgiven no matter what, and that is why Christ wants all of us to be his.

The next big step for the confirmands will take place on June 11, from 10:30–12:30, when they will be confirmed by Bishop Bud, at St. Christopher's. I could not be prouder of your youths at this time in their lives.



Bishop Bud with eight of the confirmands

Chapel Revitalization Project

In case you haven't noticed, Sibley Chapel is in need of painting. The Facilities Committee is taking the initiative to paint the chapel with a group of volunteers like you! The project will include the removal of the pews, painting the ceiling and walls, re-installation of the pews, and clean-up.

The project is scheduled to begin on Friday, May 13, and conclude on Monday, May 16. The 8 am Holy Eucharist on Sunday, May 15, will be held in the Sanctuary. Scaffolding, a lift, and an assortment of ladders will be utilized. Only those with steady hands, fully-functioning legs, and strong backs will be allowed to work off the ground. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at the front desk for the date and time of your choice.

~ Ali Crockett, Peter Hugues, and Dick Kraycir



From Your Senior Warden



John M. Sargent
Senior Warden

In my remarks last month, I shared that leadership, communication, and involvement were three important components in a successful organization. This month I'd like to discuss the crucial importance of involvement by the congregation to St. Christopher's. And, not to get

too deeply into semantics, please note the difference between involvement, which implies some sort of a commitment, and participation, which has more of a sense of attendance.

There are three main reasons why the church needs your involvement. First, the church *cannot* run without many volunteers. We have a small, very competent and dedicated staff, but not enough to even come close to running St. Christopher's by themselves. You name it: music, worship, Sunday School, outreach, building maintenance, finance, etc., etc.—they all depend on volunteers. We even have one parishioner whose contribution is to weed

the walks. There are all levels of involvement and time commitment, so pick an area of interest and get started.

Second, we just can't count on a few, very motivated people, to do everything. We all know that is not the recipe for success. Let me use one of my favorite analogies—the New England Patriots—which I know will drive my wife crazy! They have superstars like Brady, Gronk and Collins, but a major reason for their success is a very strong group of players on the whole roster. We need a solid group of volunteers to succeed in our many missions.

Finally, you will get a lot of satisfaction from helping others, and meet many great people. We have an extremely interesting, diverse and talented membership at St. Christopher's. I have met wonderful people at the services, but it is the ones who I have met working on committees and projects that have really developed into enriching friendships.

Please feel free to contact any of the wardens, Vestry, or the church office if you would like further information on areas of need or how your talents can be utilized.

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 Gala Benefit Reception (\$50/ticket).

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 for all concerts 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

I recently heard an interview of Bobby McFerrin by Krista Tippett on her radio show and podcast, *On Being*. In that interview, the famous vocalist and conductor, most well-known for his hit song, *Don't Worry, Be Happy*, shared a principle that has guided him as a musician and communicator throughout his career. He states, "Do I think that music is a tool for more

than entertainment? Definitely. Is it a tool for inner attainment? I use it for that. I use it to pray, you know. I sing my prayers—in my room, in the morning. In my morning discipline, you know, I walk the floor back and forth, back and forth and pray. And sometimes, all of sudden, I just start singing something because it's the best way I can get it out, you know." (You may read a complete transcript of this fascinating interview at www.onbeing.org)

As the musical guide for worship at sung

services at St. Christopher's, the distinction between entertainment and inner attainment is a valuable one. Last autumn, one of the new choristers asked if we would bow when we completed our song. Talk about a teaching moment! We discussed how hard they had worked, how much they deserve to receive recognition for that, but that our purpose in presenting music in worship is quite different from the all-encompassing entertainment model. We then discussed the opportunity that we have to represent the congregation in praise to God, and guide the congregation in its praise to God. Quite a responsibility! Quite different from entertainment, too.

Most importantly, however, is to experience music not simply as an end in itself, or as a sedative, or as a means to impress, but instead as a means to an end, inner attainment, joy, communion with each other, communion with God. This is worthwhile.

Our musician-in-residence at St. Christopher's, Haskell Thomson, often states, "Don't impress me. Move me." That statement could be applied to a great deal more than simply music.

A Choral Eucharist in Memoriam Clifton Gustafson

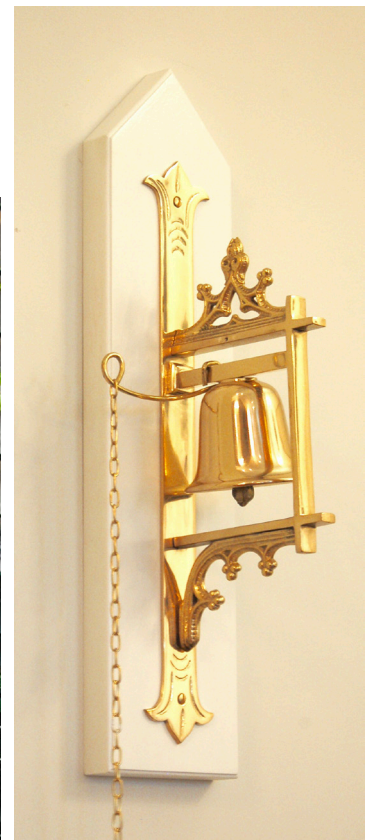
On Sunday, April 10, the 10 am Choral Eucharist will be celebrated in loving memory of long-time member Cliff Gustafson. Cliff passed away on January 3 of this year. The prayers from the service will be taken from the burial liturgy found in *The Book of Common Prayer*, and *Pie Jesu* from Fauré's *Requiem* will be sung by Maggie Van Sickle following communion.

Given Cliff's generosity to the music program, which will benefit the worship life of the congregation for years to come, it is fitting that the Adult Choir and the Choristers will sing that day.

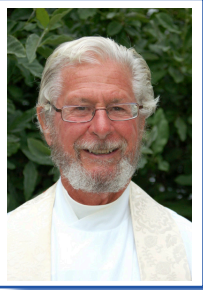
Finally, the new entrance bell mounted near the doors of the sanctuary, provided by memorial funds in memory of Cliff, will be blessed and inaugurated at this service.



Cliff and long-time friend, Babs Lidbeck



Revelation at Cici's Pizza



The Rev. Dr. John Martin
Priest Associate

Our God is a God of surprise. I mean God's presence is most often revealed in unexpected places and among the most unlikely people. Just comb through the Scriptures to see this. God's presence and action is revealed to a group of slaves in Egypt; they become God's people. God reveals God's self to a teen-aged Middle Eastern girl, a peasant, and she becomes the

god-bearer, the mother of Jesus. And, God chooses as his immediate followers fishermen, tax collectors and even one who persecutes the early Christian community.

The idea that God surprises us with truth may be an uncomfortable idea for many of us who are addicted to conventionality. You know, just do it the same way over and over again. There is nothing new under the sun, just the same old, same old. Because of our narrow vision, we may have nearly lost the ability to see surprise in life, let alone God's surprise. If something does not happen through known forms of religion or from people we are most comfortable with, we are likely to miss it entirely.

So, Betty and I are in a pizza place in Naples, Florida. It is known as Cici's. For \$5.99, one can travel along a cafeteria line to get a salad, some pasta, as many slices of pizza as you think you can eat, and dessert. And you can go back to get more food forever! As you can imagine, this is not fine dining, just a popular place for many to get an affordable meal at the end of the day.

We are eating at a small table when we notice

a large group enter the cafeteria line. There are three adults, two men and a woman, plus about five children. What is remarkable is that all are formally dressed. I am in my shorts and an old tee shirt. The girls have nice dresses and shining shoes, the men and boys are wearing shirts and ties. One man is wearing a suit coat. I think that they may have come directly from a church service, but I do not know. Also, it is clear that they are Hispanic, probably Mexican. Are they here legally or not? Who can tell?

Each person in the group gets a tray of food and they all sit at a long table near us. No one eats until all are seated. Then, I notice that they all hold hands and one of the adult men leads a long prayer in Spanish. What a sight in such a public place. It is almost Eucharistic and it is beautiful, very beautiful.

I was struck by the fact that many of us, despite our church membership, would never dream of praying like that in a restaurant. Yet, what they did was not in any way a show or done to impress other patrons. It was simply something so much part of their life and faith that they gave thanks quietly and reverently. Moreover, we were impressed that one of the men, probably a father, led the prayer. This may seem strange to us where so many fathers simply abdicate religious leadership in their family. But here, as with the ancient Seder, this man led the prayer without hesitation. It seemed to be his responsibility.

Finally, as I said, I had guessed this was a group of Mexicans. I thought about how hard this minority group works in very difficult jobs and often under oppressive conditions in chicken packing factories, sun-drenched agricultural fields, and resorts. Also, ringing in my ears is the absolutely disgusting political rhetoric about the presence of Mexicans, Muslims and other minority groups among us. Yet, right in front of us, God was being praised and thanked in such a humble sincere way—a faithful family praying together in a public place.

As we left the restaurant ahead of this group, Betty went over to one of the men to say "thank you" for their witness, and he, in Spanish, translated her words about the *oracion*—the prayer.

The God of surprise we meet in Scripture is present today—revealed, most often, through unlikely people and in unique places. Let those who have eyes, see.



Vestry Highlights

- Discussed church finances, noting that plate and pledge offerings were significantly down during February, most likely because so many parishioners were away.
- Noted a sharp increase in 2015 of unfulfilled pledges. The cause is unknown.
- Reported that Rick Leavitt and John Sargent attended a Diocesan seminar on best financial practices. They were pleased that St. Christopher's, in large part, follows these practices. However, there were three areas for improvement: 1) identifying and photographing all parish assets, for insurance purposes; 2) developing a long-range financial plan (already underway, under the leadership of Jim Bast (see article in March issue of *Soundings*)); and 3) the clearer designation of parish funds.
- Noted that bells were especially appreciated when played during the psalm chanting.
 - ~ Highlights from the March 15 Vestry meeting submitted by John Sargent, Senior Warden



The 2016 Vestry (Left to Right): Rector Brian W. McGurk, Senior Warden John Sargent, Peg Shipman, Bob Braman, Junior Warden Rick Leavitt, Rick Vachon, Maggie Van Sickle, Warden-Elect Ted Miller, Haskell Thomson, John Otis (not pictured: Dale Alger, Betty Martinier, David Smith).



Parish Statistics

Baptism

Madison Anne Fields
March 27, 2016

Church e-mail list: If you are not on the church e-mail list and would like to be, please subscribe yourself at the bottom of the homepage of the church website, www.stchristopherschatham.org, or e-mail Maury A. Castro at 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
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Rector

The Rev. Dr. John Martinier
Priest Associate

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

Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, Food Pantry

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

April 2016

*I came that they might have life,
and have it more abundantly.*

John 10:10

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.</i> <i>John 10:10</i>						
3 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist, Sunday School, & Baptism 11 Fellowship 11:30 Chapel Chat 11:30 Confirmation	4 Church Closed	5 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 5:30 Family Faith Formation	6 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	7 10 Women's AA	8 5 Bell Choir	9
10 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist in memoriam Clifton Gustafson & Sunday School 11 Fellowship 11:30 Chapel Chat	11 Church Closed	12 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	13 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:45 Sacred Journey 4 Finance Comm. 5:15 Adult Choir	14 10 Women's AA 2 Shawl Ministry	15 5 Bell Choir	16
17 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship 11:30 Chapel Chat	18 Church Closed	19 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 No Choir School 4 Vestry	20 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10 Parkinson's Support Group 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 No Adult Choir	21 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music	22 5 No Bell Choir	23
24 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist, Faith in Action, & Baptism 11 Fellowship	25 Church Closed	26 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 6:30 Choral Rehearsal	27 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Prayer 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @ Lib. C 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	28 10 Women's AA	28 5 Bell Choir	30 5 Celtic Evensong & Communion



625 Main Street
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April, 2016

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Exterior Restoration Update



Peter Hughes
Project Manager

Our exterior restoration project, which includes the Community Preservation portion of the facility, started in mid-March. As you visit the church, you will notice a temporary construction fence, relocated shrubbery, and an orange and yellow lift truck on the front lawn. The general contractor, Rick Roy Construction, has prepared the site for the removal of lead paint, delicately removed some deteriorated trim to be replicated, and replaced a significant amount of rotten trim on the non-historic section of the church. Work is proceeding according to schedule. Once the lead paint is removed, the deteriorated vinyl siding will be replaced and the pilasters and other trim features will be reconstructed. Repairs will be made to the trim when feasible. However, in many instances new trim details are being reproduced in western red cedar at an off-site millwork.

As the weather improves, the painting team will start preparations to paint all exterior trim surfaces as well as the steeple. If you have any questions about this project, please contact me at 508-496-3533.

