

SOUNDINGS

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

May, 2016

From Your Rector



The Rev. Brian W.
McGurk
Rector

Recently, I listened to a radio interview with the poet David Whyte. As a result, I re-read *The House of Belonging*, an inspired collection of poems that expand and illuminate the soul.

"Loaves and Fishes," a poem inspired by the story of Jesus' feeding of the 5,000, names something that is missing in the current state of our world:

*This is not
the age of information.
This is not
the age of information.*

*Forget the news,
and the radio,
and the blurred screen.*

*This is the time
of loaves
and fishes.*

*People are hungry
and one good word is bread
for a thousand.*

This is a poem about the miracle of sharing in the life of the greater community, sharing something as simple as **"one good word."**

It does seem like the daily news can't even muster one measly "good word"! Doesn't it?

And yet every Sunday many good words are shared as the church gathers together with Christ around the altar—to take, bless, break and share the

bread and wine, to pray, to hear the proclamation of the Good News, to experience the presence of Christ—all good words, good acts, good relationships, good food for the hungry soul.

Yet, how often do we take this for granted and miss the grace that is—always—all around us and in us too? How often do we fail to consent to the gift of ubiquitous grace?

Don't miss this gift of grace! Concentrate, focus, listen, open your eyes, ears, mind and heart, and simply receive the grace that is being offered in prayer, worship, silence, sacrament, scripture, community. Encounter and experience with God is an act of participation—it requires some effort! It requires your attention, effort and discipline.

Each of us possesses the ability to speak "one good word" of Grace to the people, experiences and events that are happening all around us. We are empowered to do so because the God of grace persistently and consistently speaks that "one good word" of grace to us.

A few days after I had picked up *The House of Belonging*, I read a blog written by Parker Palmer (a Quaker, author on the spiritual life, educator, and activist) commenting on this particular poem.

Here is his account of how a flight he was on was delayed because the refreshment truck was unsuccessful in its attempt to deliver coffee and refreshments to the aircraft. After much delay, the flight attendant announced that they were going to take off without the refreshments. Predictably this elicited grumbling and griping on the part of the passengers.

Once they were in the air, a flight attendant said, "Now that I have your attention. I know you're upset about the coffee. Well, get over it! Start sharing stuff with your seat mates. That bag of five peanuts you got on your last flight and put in your pocket—open

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Children, Youth, and Families



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

The April 10 presentation of the bookcase that our children and youth made for our adopted Harwich boy went over fabulously. The boy, whose name is Christian, and his family took possession of a new home built by Habitat for Humanity. We were not only able to present Christian with this great gift, but we were also able to go on a tour of his new home and attend a blessing ceremony for it. All in

all it was very touching. And I am happy to announce that we did a marvelous job filling his bookcase. When he received it his eyes went wide with excitement and he asked his dad, "When can I have it?" Delia Castro also did a marvelous job presenting the bookcase to him during the church ceremony, held at St. Peter's Lutheran in Harwich.

In other news, I am sure many of you are already aware that our confirmands have reached the final stretch and will be confirmed at St. Christopher's at 10:30 am on June 11. We are very excited for this upcoming ceremony and I am proud of every one of our students who have gone through this process as a part of their journey with Christ.

Lastly, Vacation Bible Camp is right around the corner, planned for July 25–29. Please keep an eye out for ways that you can help make this year's camp a huge success.



*Above: Attendees lay hands on a newly built house, blessing it;
Below: St. Christopher's presents a bookcase to Christian and his family.*



Together With Africans

There will be a great deal to celebrate, discuss, and consider at the African Service to be held at the 10 am Choral Eucharist on May 29. Barbara Gibson, a member of the Together With Africans Committee, will give the homily that day. The service will be followed by a coffee hour sponsored by the Together With Africans committee, featuring Liberian food, etc.

Steve and Jackie Keenan, members of the committee, were in Liberia for almost three weeks during the month of April. They saw first-hand the fruits of the labors of this congregation, and the ongoing needs that the Goll Farm Elementary School experiences. Further, they brought back pictures to share with the congregation. For more information

about the school, go to www.stchristopherschatham.org, and click on "Together With Africans."

The committee is also pleased to announce that it has received a \$5,000 grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts to help support St. Christopher's partnership with the Goll Farm Elementary School. The diocese mentioned that it was very pleased with what was happening at the school. Goll Farm Elementary School currently has 300 students enrolled, and has a waiting list. The school has also been able to be selective in hiring teachers since there are more applicants than positions to fill.

~Jean Greenough and Steve Keenan, co-chairs,
Together With Africans Committee

The Gallery at St. Christopher's



Sandra Bowden
Curator
The Gallery at
St. Christopher's

The Gallery at St. Christopher's is proud to present *Crucifixion: Frederick S. Wight and other 20th Century Artists*. All are invited to a reception and gallery talk on Thursday, May 26, from 4 to 6 pm.

The centerpiece for this show is the large *Modern Crucifixion* triptych painted by Frederick Wight in the early 1930s when he was living in Chatham. All of the characters in the painting were sea-faring folk of Cape Cod that Wight knew, most of whom have been identified.

This exhibition offers an intimate glimpse into how artists of the last century artistically wrestled with the crucifixion. Twenty artists are brought together to offer a dramatic visual dialogue about how the crucifixion and its relevance in recent history are envisioned. Included in the show are such artists as Georges Rouault, Marc Chagall, Eric Gill, Pablo Picasso, Otto Dix, Lovis Corinth, Ed Knippers and Nancy Snooks.

Frederick Wight received his master's degree at Harvard studying in Paul Sack's museum training program. He went on to be Associate Director at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. In 1953 he became the head of the art department at UCLA and Director of what is now the Frederick S. Wight Gallery at the university. He is credited with helping shape Los Angeles' engagement with modern art to become a major art center.

The mural was first shown at the New School of Social Research in New York in 1933, and then displayed in the Methodist Church on Chatham's Main Street in 1936. The triptych caused a stir in both locations. News articles emphasized that the townspeople at the crucifixion were in "modern garb," commenting on the young girl in "high heels," as well as how the kneeling mother of Jesus wore a "modern dress" and had "bobbed hair." This is the first time in nearly eighty years that the painting has been in an exhibition.

For more information on the exhibition, including essays and images, go to www.stchristopherschatham.org and click on "The Gallery."



Frederick S. Wight: Modern Crucifixion

Music



Maury A. Castro
Organist &
Choirmaster

The month of May is primed to be a musical high at St. Christopher's, beginning with a recital presented by Charlie Martin and Julien Touafek. This event, on Friday, May 6 at 7 pm, will feature violin, piano, and vocal music of Massenet, Kreisler, Beethoven, Debussy, and Sondheim. For complete information, go to www.stchristopherschatham.org, and click on "Special Events." Charlie and Julien were married by Rector McGurk on Cape Cod last September, and currently reside in Brooklyn. Julien's parents, Katherine and Antoine Telford Touafek, are relatively recent newcomers to the St. Christopher's community, having relocated to the Cape from Paris.

On Saturday, May 21, at 5 pm, St. Christopher's will present a festive Choral Evensong for Trinity Sunday. The Evensong Choir will sing the world premiere of the *Evening Service in E* by church member

Joel Esten. C.V. Stanford's stirring *I Bind Unto Myself Today* and David Halls' *God the Holy Trinity* will also be sung.

At the 10 am Choral Eucharist the next day, May 22, the Choristers will sing and will graduate to the next level of their Royal School of Church Music training. Delia Castro, Madison Fields, Alexandra Hawk, Coral Punch, Lula Punch, and Aurora Reed will complete the "light blue" level, which represents meticulous training and examinations in music theory, musicianship, vocal production, and ear training consistent with two years of Choir School education. Tessa Gingras and Jude Hutchings-McMahon will complete the "white" level, which represents training in the subjects above, consistent with one year of Choir School training. The choristers have worked extremely hard this year, and I'm so proud of them!

Finally, at the 10 am Choral Eucharist on Sunday, May 29, the Choristers and Adult Choir will present music for African Sunday. They will be joined by local African drummers Fugan Dineen and Sam Holmstock.

Blessing of the Fleet

All are invited to attend the annual Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, May 28, at 11 am at the Chatham Fish Pier. This celebration is co-sponsored by the Women of Fishing Families (WOFF) and St. Christopher's Church.

Nearing a decade since its "stormy" inception—during a Nor'easter!—this event highlights the work of WOFF. This event began when parishioner Tim Weller approached WOFF members Karen Murdoch and Kate Liska, expressing St. Christopher's' desire to bring "church to the pier." Since then, this celebration has included the blessing service and, this year, food and refreshments, kids' events, and a band will add to the festivities.

Shannon Eldredge, one of the original organizers of WOFF, states: "The fishing community is vital to our local year-round economy. The fish and shellfish in restaurants, seafood markets, and on your dinner plate is there because of the hard working hands of your local fleet. We have one of the most diverse ports in all of New England. These fishermen are innovative, resilient, and always looking for new solutions to

match our ocean's resources with the markets."

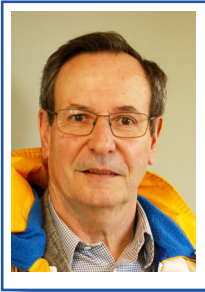
She adds, "We want people to know who we are, what we do, and that we are worth funding. We want to create awareness that we represent fishermen and their families throughout Cape Cod, not just Chatham. We believe that hundreds of families across the Cape would donate to WOFF if they knew about it, and its positive role in the community."

WOFF currently raises most of their funds through various annual events to help support local fishermen and their families throughout the Cape. Because they are a completely volunteer organization, all of the funds in their Fishing Community Fund go directly to fishing families that are in personal or financial crisis. They need our help.

WOFF is seeking sponsorship for their organization and for this event. If you are interested, please contact St. Christopher's parishioner, volunteer, and WOFF founding member, Kate Liska at 508-945-4808.

Please show your support for fishing families by participating in this wonderful event!

Exterior Restoration Update



Peter Hughes
Project Manager

As you can see in the photos, the lead paint has now been removed from the trim associated with the historic parts of the church. The removal process consisted of a wet sand blasting at low pressure so as not to damage the wood. The slurry was collected by a plastic containment system located at ground level. Approximately 1000 pounds of slurry were removed from the site. The paint removal process revealed the

architectural details that are so important to the character of the church. As weather permits, the newly exposed trim will be sanded, repaired and prepared for painting. As you look at the front of the church, you will notice several “missing” pieces of trim. These are details that were so badly deteriorated that they needed to be removed, replicated in western red cedar and reinstalled in their original locations. The replacement pieces are currently being produced at a local millwork and should arrive at the church in early May.

Trim replacement on the rear of the church is now complete. The trim associated with the steeple arches has been removed and replacement trim is being fabricated. Thank you for your patience as this important project is in process. The wait and the temporary inconvenience will be worthwhile.



Diocesan Global Mission Summit Report



**Susan Newlin and
Larry Jobson**
Parish Representatives

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts sponsored the 2016 Global Mission Summit, taking place at St. Peter's in Weston on Saturday, April 9. Being the first such event in the last five years, there were about 160 people in attendance, many from neighboring dioceses.

We attended from St. Christopher's. Hoping to gain some ideas for our local missions in pastoral care and

outreach, we were well rewarded, and in the process, learned many things that can apply to our national and global missions. The summit defined “mission” (vs. “outreach”) as any project designed to provide service outside of our diocese, whether domestic or outside of the U.S. Bishop Alan Gates attended all day and presided over an International Eucharist at the conclusion.

The summit was structured into workshops covering six topic areas: Evolving Mission, Engaging Young People, Involving the Congregation, Maintaining Relationships, Learning from Challenges and Friends and Money. Of all the presentations of the day, perhaps the most impressive was the keynote

From Your Rector, continued

it and pass them around! Got gum or mints? Share them! You can't read all the sections of your paper at once. Offer them to each other! Show us the pictures of kids and grandkids you have in your wallet!"

Palmer said that people began laughing and doing what she told them. Quickly the scene turned into summer camp! He added, "Do miracles happen? All the time! People are hungry and one

good word is bread for 1000. So make a miracle happen. Speak a good word to someone today."

And—"at no extra charge"—the Rector's advice is this: Come to church and hear a Good Word, share a Good Word, read the poems of David Whyte, and the books of Parker Palmer.

And, of course, the Good Book, too!

Vestry Highlights

- Discussed the revenue projection from the Consignment Shop, which represents 11 percent of the church's budgeted income. A board was formed to help support the efforts of shop volunteers; members include Rector McGurk, Rick Leavitt, Peg Shipman, and David Smith. Discussed finding a full-time replacement for Rick Franklin, who recently resigned as manager. The Vestry expressed its appreciation for the work Rick accomplished for the development of the shop.
- Discussed reinstituting Volunteer Sunday, a day for parishioners to sign up to participate in various aspects of church life.
- Discussed the Rector's plans of inviting Muslim speakers to address the congregation on a Sunday in June.

Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Shaelyn Grace Gingras
April 3, 2016

Shelby Grace O'Brien
April 24, 2016

Farewell, Dennis: Since the summer of 2015, Dennis Johnson has served as a faithful, meticulous, and insightful copy editor for *Soundings*. This is the last issue for which he will serve in this capacity, as he and his wife, Pat, will be moving west. Thank you, Dennis—you will be missed!

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
Christopher's
Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
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

Barbara Cromarty
Interim Manager, Gift Shop

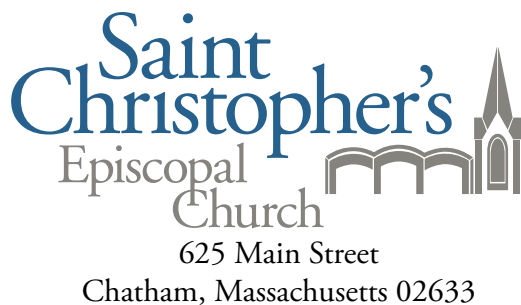
Sandra Bowden
Curator, The Gallery

Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, Food Pantry

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

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 9:45 Faith in Action 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship	2 Church Closed	3 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 5:30 Family Faith Formation 6:30 Benefit Concert Rehearsal	4 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	5 10 Women's AA	6 5 Bell Choir 7 Martin & Toufek Recital	7 9 Bell Choir
8 Mother's Day 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	9 Church Closed	10 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 6:30 Benefit Concert Rehearsal	11 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10:45 Sacred Journey 4 Finance Comm. 5:15 Adult Choir	12 10 Women's AA 2 Shawl Ministry	13 5 Bell Choir	14
15 Pentecost 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship 11:30 Confirmation	16 Church Closed	17 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry 6:30 Benefit Concert Rehearsal	18 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10 Parkinson's Support Group 10:45 Sacred Journey 5:15 Adult Choir	19 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music	20 5 Bell Choir	21 5 Evensong for Trinity
22 Trinity Sunday 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist, Sunday School, and Chorister Advancement 11 Fellowship	23 Church Closed	24 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 6:30 Benefit Concert Rehearsal	25 9:30 Playgroup 10 Cont. Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing at Lib. C. 10:45 Sacred Journey 1 Bethany House Ret. 4:30 Tog. w/ Africa 5:15 Adult Choir	26 10 Women's AA 4-6 Summer Art Exhibit Opening	27 5 Bell Choir	28 11 Blessing of the Fleet
29 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist (African Service) No Sunday School 11 Fellowship	30 Memorial Day Church Closed	31 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 No Choir School 6:30 Benefit Concert Rehearsal	<i>Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.</i> ~ Romans 5:5			



May, 2016

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Diocesan Summit, cont.

address by Titus Presler, an acclaimed authority and author on Christian Mission. His topic was challenging: "Reconciliation: Radical Purpose and Test of Christian Mission." His main thesis is that reconciliation is at the root and aim of everything God does; if we are to support God's work with our missions, we must test our mission purpose, implementation and outcome against the idea that it should produce reconciliation with God and among God's people. Among Presler's many examples was a plea for work on Muslim-Christian reconciliation and a basic belief that there is no reconciliation without justice.

Pressler and the workshop leaders emphasized that a one- or two-week "show up and go" giving out "benefits" is not effective mission. They focused on ideas to address long-term relationship-building along with systemic and cultural change. A full report, including many of the specific ideas discussed, can be downloaded by going to www.stchristopherschatham.org, and clicking on "Community Outreach."

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.