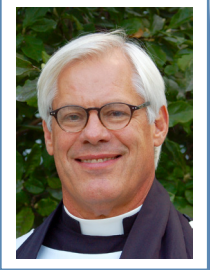


SOUNDINGS

Saint
Christopher's
Episcopal
Church

September, 2016

From Your Rector



The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

When asked how to live a life of integrity and grace, Jesus said: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*

To love God means to experience, encounter, and draw upon God's unconditional love in prayer, contemplation, worship, the sacraments, Holy Scripture, nature, as well as in our relationships with each other. To love our neighbors, we must first love ourselves, reaching out from the depths of our hearts and souls with compassionate love especially for those on the margins and at the bottom of society.

Admittedly, this is a most challenging commandment! Perhaps even utopian! Who has the capacity to love like this? Nevertheless this is Jesus' commandment to us: Simply, "LOVE." We are called to love self-sacrificially, compassionately, and we can do so only by the

grace of God. Yet, there is something else we can do as we struggle to love: seek justice for all persons.

During the upheaval and racism of 1960's America, Martin Luther King echoed the prophet Amos by proclaiming, "...let justice roll down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream." Jesus and the great prophets of the Hebrew Bible boldly proclaimed the absolute necessity of justice and mercy. In the words of the prophet Micah: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

"Social" justice concerns the "common good," inclusive of all persons, regardless of race, creed, religion, socio-economic status, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Justice upholds, includes, and affirms the rights of every and all citizens—especially the "least," "lowest," and "lost." How a society treats its poorest members clearly reveals how ethically evolved it is. We must give the "voiceless" a voice.

We may be erratic when it comes to loving our neighbors or even ourselves, but we can seek justice in all areas of our common life so that no one is left behind.

America is facing an epidemic of tragedies involving our police and the use of deadly force. On the one hand, police put their lives on the line for our common good each and every day. What we

ask and expect of them is unrealistic and untenable. On the other, the African-American community has suffered horrendous losses. The results are tragic. This situation must change so that lives are not destroyed. The police and African-American



communities need our support so that justice is preserved in all our cities and communities. Justice is a work in progress and is the work of all persons of good will.

To this end Chatham Police Chief Mark Pawlina will present a community forum, open to all and hosted by St. Christopher's, entitled "Policing, Diversity, and Tolerance." This event will take place on Thursday, September 15 from 4:30 to 6 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for the entire community to build a better and more just society. And maybe even a gracious, merciful and loving one too!

Children, Youth, and Families



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

First, many thanks to all of our volunteers and providers for making Vacation Bible Camp a blast! We had 66 campers join us this year. The artwork they created, friendships made, and games they played were all amazing. The 5th and 6th graders got to make slime and candy sushi. When Delia Castro found out she said “What?! I can’t wait till I get to be in that class!” Our 3rd graders were amazing as they volunteered to sing the solo in our camp theme song, and I cannot speak highly enough about our Counselors in Training—eleven fabulous teens who helped lead our campers, going above and beyond in their work with us. But best of all was watching everyone build closer relationships with God. I can’t wait for next year!

The theme for this academic year for Children, Youth, and Family programs is: Glimpses of Christ. Sunday school will begin on September 18, and this year we will be visiting various Old Testament stories in an effort to learn more about the character of Christ. The blessing of the backpack service will be happening on September 18th as well. Our first



Family Faith Formation will take place on October 4 (the first Tuesday of the month), and I cannot wait to see everyone there! This is also the year our youth will attend their first set of local mission trips which will act as stepping stones for their big mission trip planned for the academic year of 2018–2019.

Lastly I would like to introduce to you a new program in which our children will participate this year, called the Junior Acolyte program. This is open to kids entering into 3rd–5th grades. All participants will be helping out with collecting offering and bringing it up to the altar during worship service. The 5th graders will also be given the opportunity to shadow our acolytes. This will provide them with a full year of training before they become acolytes themselves. I am very excited about this program. I think it is important for our kids to be involved in the church, learning what it means to give back to God.

Stewardship 2017



Peter Hugues
*Stewardship
Committee Chair*

The annual St. Christopher’s Stewardship Campaign will kick-off on Sunday, October 2. We have adopted the theme, “To go far you must go deep.” The mission of our church requires all of us to go a bit deeper in our financial commitment to our church. If we all pull together we will go far in fulfilling our mission and enhancing the presence of St. Christopher’s in our communities. Let’s be good stewards and fulfill our responsibilities of time and resources to maintain and grow our church.

Our goal is \$500,000 and we want to complete the campaign prior to Thanksgiving to give the Finance Committee and Vestry time to prepare the 2017 operating budget.

As you have recently heard from the Long-Range Financial Planning Committee, we are facing some very real financial challenges. The stewardship campaign is the foundation of our revenue for the year ahead.

Please take a few moments between now and October 2 to contemplate and consider all that St. Christopher’s means to you and your family. The week prior to the kick-off you can expect to receive in the mail our 2017 stewardship brochure, a letter from the chairman, and your 2017 pledge card. If you have any questions regarding the stewardship process, your pledge and/or any other stewardship questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 432-7512.

The Stewardship Committee looks forward to a successful campaign and stands ready to facilitate the pledge process for you.

The Gallery at St. Christopher's

St Francis: Troubadour for God

Sept. 18 to Dec. 31, 2016



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

St. Francis of Assisi is the most likeable of saints. There is something authentically human and disarmingly eccentric about the clothier's son from Umbria who turned Christendom upside down. Francis can seem maddeningly medieval, adding ashes to his food just to ruin the taste; yet, he can be refreshingly modern and "green" in his love for all of God's good creation—

beginning with earth worms.

St. Francis was the consummate performance artist, a troubadour for God who sang in French like a traveling minstrel of the Middle Ages to express his joy. We would do this gentle man of God a disservice to remember him simply for his delightful antics or his sermon to the birds. Francis fervently embraced the "hard teachings" of the Gospels, going further than almost anyone in the Western world in giving up all he had to follow Jesus and wed Lady Poverty. As the "Mirror of Christ," his influence down the centuries has been enormous. Notable "secular" Franciscans include Louis IX of France, Dante, Giotto, Joan of Arc, Christopher Columbus, Thomas More, Michelangelo, and Louis Pasteur. Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio assumed his name when he became pope in 2013.

St. Francis ranks just below Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the angels as a favorite subject in Western sacred art. The frescoes Giotto painted of the life of St. Francis in Assisi and Florence are milestones in cultural history, and the saint's likeness appears in works by Cimabue, Giovanni Bellini, Caravaggio, El Greco, Zurbaran, Rubens and other Great Masters.

The images of St. Francis on view in this exhibition are the creations of a diverse group of international artists and artisans. You can also see a serigraph by John August Swanson, a wood engraving by Fritz Eichenberg, and lithographs from a Franciscan series by French graphic artist J. Frederic Loisel.

Also included is a large processional cross, known popularly as the St. Francis Cross, in front of which St. Francis dedicated himself to the service of God. A group of photographs from present day Assisi take the viewer to this beloved city as it appears today.

It is hoped that *Saint Francis: Troubadour for God* will help viewers see this remarkable saint from a deeper perspective than just a lover of animals—to embrace Saint Francis as one of the most remarkable saints of the church who can inspire Christians in the 21st-century.

Most of the pieces in the show are borrowed from the collection of John Kohan, who has an internationally known website, www.sacredartpilgrim.com. John was the chief correspondent for Time to Russia for many years, and his site reflects his keen skills in writing about the artists and schools of art.



St. Francis of Assisi by John A. Swanson



**St. Francis of Assisi
by Benton Spruance**

Music



Maury A. Castro
*Organist &
Choirmaster*

On Thursday, August 4, the Choir School took a day trip to Newport, R.I., where we observed an afternoon of the Royal School of Church Music chorister training course taking place that week. The purpose of our day trip was to expose our choristers to the highest quality choral experience, and set the stage for having some of our choristers participate in the 2017

course. We observed a rehearsal (with 180 singers, half of whom were children!), met with the course directors as well as the Bishop of Rhode Island, and attended a choral evensong. In addition, we enjoyed some down time at the Roger Williams Zoo in Providence!

The Choir School again expresses its deepest gratitude to Joan and Dick Greene, who generously underwrote all of the expenses related to this trip, to the glory of Almighty God, and in loving memory of Berjouhi and Arthur Spencer.

The Choir School season begins Tuesday, September 13. Do you know a child who loves to sing? If so, they should be enrolled! For more information and registration materials, go to the church website, scroll over "Worship," and click on "Chorister Program and Choir School."



Choristers gather on the green in front of the chapel at St. George's School before Evensong.

The Choir School is pleased to welcome Charolotte Byrne to its staff this year. She has been appointed to teach the music theory course for our "light blue level" students, which means weekly instruction in music reading with two of our choristers. Here is a little bit about her, from her: "For many years before moving to Cape Cod, I taught music to students in kindergarten through middle school. I enjoyed helping them learn to love music through singing, playing instruments, understanding and



Charolotte Byrne

creating. As a member at St. Christopher's, it has been my pleasure to sing with the adult choir for special services, where I've gotten to hear the wonderful development of our Choristers. I'm looking forward to helping in September!"

About Your Pledge

Recently all those who made a pledge should have received a letter reviewing donation status through the end of June. We appreciate everyone who came back with questions. The recording process for our donations is not perfect, so the earlier you let us know of any questions, the easier it will be to resolve them. It will also be very helpful if you could make sure your donor envelope number always appears on any checks you write to the church. This will help speed up the counting process and reduce errors in posting donations. This statement is also a reminder to keep your pledge current, since 80 percent of the church's income is from donations. We'll send out another statement at the end of the third quarter, and your final statement in January for tax purposes.



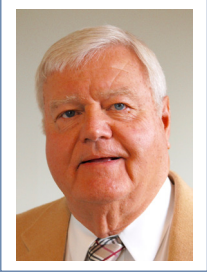
David Smith
Treasurer

Consignment Shop

Our wonderful Gift and Consignment Shop needs your help. Barbara Cromarty and her great team of volunteers need more high-quality donations and could certainly use the more volunteers to staff the shop during peak hours. The town of Chatham has been very busy this summer, which has improved traffic to the shop, but sales are lagging a bit behind prior years. So, you can help by bringing in donated or consigned goods, shopping there first for that special something, or volunteering. Another reminder is that Barbara has stepped in as interim manager, but we are still looking for a full-time shop manager. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let Barbara know at

945-2211.

From Your Senior Warden



John M. Sargent
Senior Warden

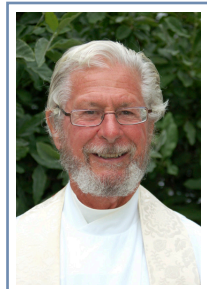
The church held its first summer gathering on August 14 and it seemed to be a great success. It gave our seasonal members a chance to learn more about the many activities at St. Christopher's, and an opportunity for questions and comments. We plan to make this an annual event.

The meeting also gave us the opportunity to present our new Long-Range Financial Plan. This came about from an appointment by the Finance Committee of a committee headed by Jim Bast to assess all matters of long-range financial significance to the church and recommend

to the Vestry a financial plan for operating and capital sustainability and growth to fulfill our vision and mission. It recognizes a "new normal" in the demographics of St. Christopher's and makes concrete recommendations of what we must do to remain a vibrant, stable entity. The plan has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Vestry and already being implemented. You will continue to hear about its progress in the years ahead.

I don't want to go into detail about this at this time and a copy is available in the Church Library for your reading. Please feel free to ask the Rector, Wardens or Vestry any questions. I think you will be pleased to see that the leaders of St. Christopher's take their responsibility seriously to manage our assets for both now and the future.

Renewal – For Adults



The Rev. Dr. John Martiner
Priest Associate

St. Christopher's Church, I think, is in a period of renewal spiritually and programmatically. I look around and I see signs of this re-awakening across a broad spectrum. Note, for example, the commitment to young families in church school and choir. Our finance committee has spent months evaluating the future viability of the church and is issuing an urgent call for renewed

responsible stewardship by all of us. Renewal is seen by a growing number of new persons worshipping each Sunday. Look also at the very creative attempts to link worship with everyday issues, like the visit of three members of the Islamic community to St. Christopher's in July.

A major aspect of a renewing church is Adult Education. Without a faith that is growing, shared, and reflected upon, the word "renewal" is just a slogan. So let me highlight three opportunities for us as autumn approaches.

Every Sunday at 9:10 am, we have had a year-round seminar called "Glimpse of the Gospel." This autumn we propose to re-title this "Coffee and Conversation" (C2). Here is a great opportunity to have a cup of coffee and engage in a 40-minute

teaching and conversation related (usually) to the particular Sunday's gospel reading. Here is a guarantee: If you attend this, worship will mean much more to you and the scripture which sometimes escapes us will be alive and relevant. This is not a group for "experts," whoever they are, but rather an honest and enjoyable look at the Christian story. Here's another deal: attending this you get to spend personal time with the Rector and associate. That alone should bring out throngs! Seriously, give it a try.

Second, as listed on page 6, Betty and I will lead another five-week session starting on Tuesday, October 18. This is called, "Engaging an Adult Faith," with videotaped lectures by Marcus Borg, noted Biblical scholar. You can sign up for this now.

Third, each Wednesday at 10 am a group of over twelve people gather in the chapel for a meditative, contemporary Eucharist led by Rector McGurk. This is followed by discussion. The Rector's sincere interest in a deepening experience of the presence of God is viewed from many perspectives. There is no sign up for this, just come.

As the autumn moves into winter and a new year, other adult formation opportunities will be announced. Renewal means a re-engagement with the Christian story and Spirit of Christ. Clearly, adults are meant to be a major factor in this. As the Gospel of John quotes Jesus, "Come and See."

Embracing an Adult Faith: God, Jesus, Spirit, Community

Discussion, reflection and video tape lecture by Marcus Borg, New Testament scholar. Discussion led by John and Betty Martinier

When: Tuesdays, October 18, 25, November 1, 8 and 15
Schedule: 10 am—Prayer in Chapel (Eucharist Nov. 1—All Saint's Day)
10:15—Coffee, "Betty bread", fellowship
10:30–11:30—Embracing subjects
Register now: Call the church office: 945-2832; sign in at the church front desk; e-mail the Martiniers at Tarpon1786@aol.com

Personal Planning Committee Forum: Caregiver Demands and Needs: Resources

Speakers include Mandy Speakman of the COA, David Maloney, RN, director of Broadreach Hospice, and Allen Ward, MD, director of palliative care at Liberty Commons.

When: Thursday, September 22, 3:30 pm
Details: Free; no registration required; event takes place in Parish Hall.

Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Matthew Oliver Gibbs
& Liam Radcliffe Gibbs
July 31, 2016

Luke Taewon Coppedge
August 7, 2016

Tucker Fox Childs
August 28, 2016

Marriage

Jay Whelan & Carmen Leticia Tirado
August 5, 2016

Deaths

Margaret Hammond Nelson
May 21, 2016

Lynne Sherburne Gagliano
June 27, 2016

Judson Escalante
August 5, 2016

Anne O'Brien
August 12, 2016

David Hovey, Sr.
August 15, 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 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.

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

Lynn Van Dine
and Tim Weller,
Soundings copy editors.

September 2016

*If the Son therefore shall make you free,
you shall be free indeed.
~ John 8:36*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | |
| 4 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship | 5 Church Closed | 6 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting | 7 9:30 Play Group 10 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 5:15 Adult Choir | 8 10 Women's AA 3 Shawl Ministry | 9 5 Friday Night Grill to benefit Together with Africans | 10 11 Memorial Service: Peg Falconer |
| 11 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship | 12 Church Closed | 13 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School | 14 9:30 Play Group 10 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 4 Finance Committee 5:15 Adult Choir | 15 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, & Music 4:30 Community Discussion on Policing, Diversity, and Tolerance | 16 | 17 10 Memorial Service: Anne O'Brien |
| 18 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist, Sunday School, & Blessing of the Backpacks 11 Fellowship & Gallery Talk on St. Francis | 19 Church Closed | 20 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry | 21 9:30 Play Group 10 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 10 Parkinson's Grp. 5:15 Adult Choir | 22 10 Women's AA 3:30 Personal Planning Forum | 23 | 24 |
| 25 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship | 26 Church Closed 11:30 Golf Tournament | 27 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School | 28 9:30 Play Group 10 Contemplative Eucharist & Disc. 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing at LC 4:30 Tog. w/Africans 5:15 Adult Choir | 29 10 Women's AA | 30 | |



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September, 2016

Non-Profit Organization

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St. Christopher's Charity Golf Tournament

**Play one of Golf Magazine's
top 100 courses in the U.S.!**

**Monday, September 26, 2016
at Eastward Ho!**

**Registration 11:30
Shotgun Start 12:30
Putting Contest 4:30**

**Reception (cash bar) and prizes awarded 5:30
\$250 per golfer (includes all fees, reception, and gift)**

Foursomes play two best balls.

508.945.2832

www.stchristopherschatham.org/golf-tournament

This event by courtesy of a sponsoring member of Eastward Ho!, a private golf club.