

# SOUNDINGS

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal  
Church



October, 2016

## From Your Rector



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

Let me begin with the wise “diagnosis” of the Franciscan priest and spiritual writer, Father Richard Rohr, on the health of our nation: “I’m convinced that beneath the ugly manifestations of our present evils—political corruption, ecological devastation, warring against one another everywhere, hating each other based on race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation—

the greatest dis-ease facing humanity right now is our profound and painful sense of disconnection. We feel disconnected from God, certainly, but also from ourselves (our bodies), from each other, and from our world. Our sense of this fourfold isolation is plunging our species into increasingly destructive behavior and much mental illness.”

We are suffering from the malaise of a “profound and painful sense of disconnection” from God, ourselves, each other, as well as the natural world. The fabric of our personal and communal lives is being torn apart by the breakdown of relationships. At St. Christopher’s in mid-September Chatham Police Chief Mark Pawlina co-convoked a community forum on the topic of “Policing, Diversity and Tolerance.” During the course of our discussion, he touched on several weighty issues that are disrupting and destroying the peace and well-being of our communities nationwide—the mistrust between police and African-American communities; the use of lethal force; gun violence; terrorism; and much more. When he raised the notion of “community policing,” Pawlina implicitly acknowledged lack of relationship and disconnection to be the root causes of the discord facing our nation. “Community policing” is the strategy of the police to establish and forge healthy, personal relationships between police officers and the residents of all communities, especially marginalized,

impoverished and violence-prone communities. The police are reconnecting with those they serve through respectful, healthy personal relationships in order to bridge the wide chasm of disconnection and alienation.

Compassionate, loving relationships are at the heart of what it means to be a practicing (and not just professing) Christian.

On the Sunday following our community forum, the Gallery at St. Christopher’s unveiled a new exhibition, *St. Francis: Troubadour for God*. Curator Sandra Bowden and guest John Kohan eloquently spoke on the life of St. Francis and its enduring legacy.

Francis’ life epitomized compassionate relationships and connection: with God, with our neighbors—especially our neighbors on the bottom and in the margins—and with the natural world.

Francis taught us how to reconnect to God by living a simple life lived in reverent solidarity with the suffering and the poor—for that matter, all of God’s creatures whether human, animal, plant, planet, or tree. The Franciscan spiritual tradition, the legacy of Francis, has much to teach our contemporary world about how to humanely treat our brothers and sisters in the animal “wing” of



St. Francis by Lucas Lorenzo

*continued on page 4*

## Children, Youth, and Families



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

This year our CYF theme will be “Glimpses of Christ.” We will be learning all about who Christ is through stories of those around us, through Bible stories, through the life of St. Francis, or those stories of our own. I am also looking forward to continuing Faith in Action, which we will be hosting three times this year. We also look forward to Family Faith Formation, which is held every first Tuesday of the month. Our first FFF will be held on October 4. In addition, our youth will have the opportunity to participate in regional mission projects, as we prepare for our big mission trip coming up in the academic year of 2018–2019. Lastly, I am excited to announce a new program we will be starting up called the Junior Acolyte Program.

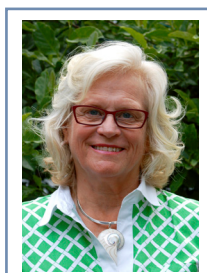
This program is open to 3rd–5th graders. For our 3rd and 4th graders this will mean they will participate in helping to collect the offering and bring up the elements once a month. We believe this program is an important one because not only does it allow our kids to be more visible within the church, but it also teaches

### *Blessing of the Backpacks on Sept. 18*



them the importance of giving back to God and the church. Our 5th graders will be taking this one step further and actually be required to shadow our Senior Acolytes. They will be asked to do this four times, which is their training toward becoming an official Acolyte. Once they have completed this training they will be allowed to work as an Acolyte alongside two other Senior Acolytes for the remainder of the academic year, at which time they will be officially invited into the Senior Acolyte program. From here on out this training will also be expected from anyone who wishes to become a Senior Acolyte, regardless of age, but has not yet participated in this program. We feel this training is necessary for our students to feel and be successful in this program. I am very excited about its implementation and expect it to be a great success!

## *The Gallery at St. Christopher's*



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

This summer, the church added to its permanent collection a 17th-/18th-century Spanish Colonial wooden statue of St. Christopher, the patron Saint of this church. St. Christopher stands carrying the Christ child on his right shoulder and has a staff in his left hand. The Child holds a globe topped with a cross that signifies his rule over the entire world. The

heightened realism of the statue was intended to provoke a powerful emotional response, stirring the viewer to greater religious devotion.

This carved wood statue was a collaborative work that typified Spanish-colonial sculptural production. A sculptor carved the wood, which he then gessoed, filed, and smoothed. After the carving was finished, one painter executed the encarnación (flesh tones) of the figure while another painted the clothing. Sculptures such as this one were often used in processions in Spain and Portugal. Christopher means “Christ-bearer,” and he is the patron saint of travelers, appropriate for a church in a community of vacationers. We are grateful to Christopher and Joyce Knight for this beautiful gift that will add to the church’s growing collection of religious art.





## Stewardship 2017



**Peter Hugues**  
Stewardship  
Committee Chair

Sunday, Oct. 2 is the launch date for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign. With the theme, “To go far, you must go deep,” we are seeking to raise \$500,000 to support the 2017 St. Christopher’s operating budget. The pledges made during our annual stewardship campaign make up the vast majority (71 percent) of our annual income.

To maintain the mission of St. Christopher’s and continue to go far within our communities, we all need to dig a bit deeper in our financial support of the church. Unfortunately during the last year we have experienced the passing of some of our most generous and consistent pledgers. This raises the bar for all of us and means we all need to increase our support by approximately 6.75% to fill the gap.

By now you should have received your 2017 Stewardship package, which consists of a letter from your Stewardship Chair, our Stewardship tri-fold brochure, pledge card, and return pledge card envelope. I encourage you to take the time to review the materials and have a discussion within your pledge family as to the importance of St. Christopher’s in your daily lives. This church and its congregation mean a lot to all of us and are an integral part of our faith.

We are attempting to complete the Stewardship campaign over a six-week period of time. This will provide the Finance Committee and Vestry sufficient time to develop the 2017 operating budget. This also means that you will be hearing from me on a weekly basis as to our need and progress. I will be ably assisted by some of our youngest members in conveying the status as we report to you weekly.

To support and enhance your ability to make pledge payments, either by credit card or PayPal, we have modified our website to assist you in the process. No credit card information is required on your pledge card. Simply access the church website, [www.stchristopherschatham.org/stewardship](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org/stewardship) to enter your payment details, which can include one-time and/or recurring monthly payments.

We are all in this boat together. By pulling together and digging our oars a bit deeper into the water we will go far. I am so grateful for the opportunity and responsibility you have entrusted in me as your Stewardship Chair. I look forward to a successful campaign and continuation of the mission of St. Christopher’s in 2017. As always, I am available to discuss this important topic at your convenience.



## An Update from Natalie Finstad



**Natalie Finstad**  
Postulant for  
Holy Orders

I’m pleased to share with you that I am now working as the Interim Executive Director at the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) in Boston. The LDI equips leaders for an awakened Church, one that is actively joining in God’s reconciling mission, through teaching individuals and parish teams contemplative and

community organizing practices.

I was hired with the specific intention of providing direction and leadership for the organization during a time of discernment. Over the next three

years, I will be leading a redevelopment of LDI curriculum and programming so that the organization more fully supports the Church in joining in God’s work of reconciliation: both as individuals through the contemplative practices and in wider society through the tools of community organizing. If you want to learn more about LDI, you can visit their website. In addition, LDI is hosting a diocesan-wide event: *Discerning our Collective Call*, to be held at the Cathedral on November 12. All are welcome to attend.

I am also currently continuing my discernment process in the diaconate. I welcome your prayers of support as I continue in this process. If you’d like to contact me, I’d be happy to hear from you at [natalie@lditeam.org](mailto:natalie@lditeam.org).

# Music



**Maury A. Castro**  
Organist &  
Choirmaster

The Choir School season began in September, and I'm thrilled to report that on Sunday, October 16, we will be admitting three new choristers: Emily Decker, Violet Roche, and Jordan Ross-Ladley. That Sunday is Royal School of Church Music America Sunday, and will include music by Rutter, Cherubini, Bach, and Phillips, offered by the Adult Choir and Choristers.

The clergy and musicians are pleased to announce a broad program year of special services to inspire and enrich the soul. A new service that is being added to our offerings is a Contemplative Evening Prayer. This service, held occasionally on Saturdays at 5 pm, will be primarily spoken, and will draw on the beautiful readings from Evening Prayer and Compline, as found in The Book of Common Prayer. Watch out for more details about this meditative service. I encourage you to take a close look at the listing of special services, on page 8 of *Soundings*, and mark them in your calendar.

## From Your Rector, continued

the kingdom of God; and how we must care for and preserve our natural world. In my own opinion, I think Francis would be aghast at how we are destroying our natural environment through global warming. Francis knew that the visible world is a window into the invisible realm of the holy and sacred. He saw the fingerprint of God all over the place!

Francis was a mystic, and a contemplative, who spent a great deal of his time in solitude, silence, meditation and silent prayer. His example is much needed and desired in our noisy, busy world. He was a contemplative pray-er!

In his book, *Love Poems from God*, Daniel Ladinsky shares a familiar story: "Once when Francis was praying in an old country chapel, a painting of Christ on the cross spoke to him, saying, 'Francis, go and repair my house, which, as you see, is falling completely to ruin.' And as one poet said, 'Thus, his destiny began to unfold...His spiritual beauty, power, and compassion will always offer us guidance.'"

The world and even the church are in danger of falling into ruin due to disconnection and lack of healthy relationships. Francis in his simple way offered a simple but profound remedy that comes to us in his poem entitled, "He Asked for Charity."

*God came to my house and asked for charity.  
And I fell on my knees and  
cried, 'Beloved,*

*what may I give?'*

*'Just love,' He said.  
Just love.'*

Francis adds in "A Kind Face":

*God sent a servant on an errand  
through a dangerous part  
of the world.*

*The servant, having received in hand  
what God wanted  
delivered,*

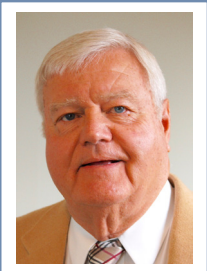
*turned to the Holy and said,  
'My beloved Master, do you have a final instruction?'  
and God replied,*

**'A kind face is a  
precious  
gift.'**

Richard Rohr, a true follower of Francis, concludes: "Our sense of disconnection is only an illusion. Nothing human can stop the flow of divine love; we cannot undo the eternal pattern even by our worst sin. God is always winning, and God's love will win. Love does not lose, nor does God lose. Nothing can stop the relentless outpouring force that is the divine dance."

So...are we instruments of God's peace? Where there is hatred, will we sow peace? Where there is injury, will we sow pardon? Where there is discord, will we sow union? Where there is doubt, faith? Where there is despair, hope? Where there is darkness, light? Where there is sadness, joy? These were Francis's questions. And they are our questions too.

## From Your Senior Warden



**John M. Sargent**  
Senior Warden

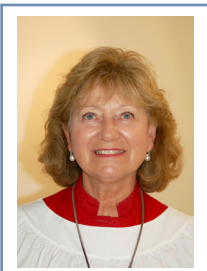
In my last message and during the summer meeting, I discussed the five-year plan that was proposed by the Long Range Financial Planning Committee and adopted by the Vestry. I am very pleased to say that we have put this management tool in place to guide us in our financial decisions while fulfilling our mission. We are starting to implement it and I want to be sure you understand one very important part of the process.

As many of you are aware, we make an annual assessment to the Diocese of Massachusetts to support their activities. Except for salaries, it is the largest

item in our budget. For several years there has been a growing sentiment that this "tax" has been too large and has strained the work and finances of St. Christopher's. Therefore, the Finance Committee and Vestry have unanimously endorsed a letter to the Diocese saying we will be reducing our payment by one third, phased in over two years. They feel this is the best way to reduce expenses without reducing our Parish ministries.

This was a difficult decision and I wanted to be sure you understand this is part of our well-conceived plan for financial responsibility over the next five years. Please feel free to contact Rector McGurk, the Wardens, or any member of the Vestry if you have any questions or comments. They are most welcome.

## A Report on the Summer Benefit Concert Series



**Barbara Reed**  
Series Coordinator

Our first concert on Sunday, June 26, *All About Love*, featured sensational Broadway and popular love songs. It was directed by Barbara Reed with soloists Barbara Reed and friends Chris Allen, Hank Holden, Colin Levin, Bonnie Hessler, Maggie Van Sickle, and a choral ensemble accompanied by Maury A. Castro and Art

McManus. The sanctuary was packed! Following the concert, a scrumptious gala garden reception was held on the lawn under sparkling skies, featuring an elegant array of hors d'oeuvres and a raw bar presented by Sumptuous Catering and Events of Orleans. The long awaited TOP SECRET DOOR PRIZE of a Bermuda weekend was awarded.

Then on Saturday, July 16, we presented *A Capella Times Two!* The ever-popular Hyannis Sound and Cape Harmony teamed up to perform their favorites. There was not a seat to be had and some had to be turned away. And then...

On Sunday, August 7, *Romantic Masterworks* was the final of the three benefit concerts. Breathtaking instrumental, vocal, and choral works by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Delibes and others! My thanks to Maury A. Castro & Haskell

Thomson who helped me plan this concert. Sadly, Haskell was not well enough to perform, but his presence was nevertheless felt. Maury conducted Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* and the concert featured instrumental soloists Stephanie Weaver and Dan Flonta, and singers Chris Allen, Barbara Reed, Maggie Van Sickle and Bonnie Hessler with a mass choral ensemble.

Thank you to all the performers, volunteers, donors, staff and attendees who made this possible. Just over \$23,000 net profit was made for St. Christopher's programs. I am very grateful for your support.

*For the Love of Music* choral ensemble; Hyannis Sound and Cape Harmony; Romantic Masterworks choral ensemble





## 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: Call the church office: 945-2832; sign in at the church front desk; e-mail the Martiniers at Tarpon1786@aol.com

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.

## Cloister Society Forum: Benefits of Charitable Planning and Giving

It may be better to give than to receive, but it may be even better to give and see your generosity rewarded. Charitable giving can pay a valuable role in your financial and tax strategies. A well-planned gift to charity could provide an income tax deduction and a reduction of estate taxes. Your donation could also help you maintain financial security, exercise control over assets both during your lifetime and after death, and provide for your heirs in the manner you choose. This forum will be presented by St. Christopher's Personal Planning Committee and David C. Nunheimer, Counsellor at Law, The Small Business & Estate Planning Law Group, P.C. This forum is open to members of St. Christopher's parish and residents of the community.

When: Thursday, October 6, 3:30 pm  
Details: Free; no registration required; event takes place in Parish Hall.

## Parish Statistics

### Marriages

Allison Marsh & Jed Kelly  
September 3, 2016

Dustin Kreitzberg & Julie Heidt  
September 18, 2016

Heidi Boas & Simon Peter Kirabo Muyanja  
September 17, 2016

Melanie Chalker & Jarred Siciak  
September 24, 2016

Justine Liu & Michael Fitzgerald  
September 17, 2016

Elizabeth Kinkel & Travis Srygley  
September 25, 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](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 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.

## October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><i>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. ~ Ephesians 5:8</i></b>						
<b>2</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School; Blessing of the Animals 11 Fellowship & Stewardship Kick-off	<b>3</b> Church Closed	<b>4</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting  3:45 Choir School 5:30 Family Faith Formation	<b>5</b> 9:30 Play Group 10 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion  5:15 Adult Choir	<b>6</b> 10 Women's AA 10-12 Food Pantry Volunteer Thank You 3:30 Personal Planning Forum	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship	<b>10</b> Church Closed	<b>11</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting  3:45 Choir School	<b>12</b> 9:30 Play Group 10 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 4 Finance Committee 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>13</b> 10 Women's AA 10 Holy Eucharist at The Victorian 3 Shawl Ministry	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School; Royal School of Church Music America Sunday 11 Fellowship	<b>17</b> Church Closed	<b>18</b> 9 Morning Pr. 9:30 Staff Meeting 10 Adult Ed Series <i>Embracing an Adult Faith</i>  3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry	<b>19</b> 9:30 Play Group 10 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 10 Parkinson's Grp. 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>20</b> 10 Women's AA  10:30 Liturgy, Worship, & Music	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  5 Celtic Evensong & Communion
<b>23 &amp; 30</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>24 &amp; 31</b> Church Closed	<b>25</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 10 Adult Ed Series <i>Embracing an Adult Faith</i>  3:45 Choir School	<b>26</b> 9:30 Play Group 10 Contemplative Eucharist & Disc. 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing at LC 4:30 Tog. w/Africans 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>27</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9-10:30 Chorister Rehearsal  10-11:30 Evensong Choir Rehearsal



625 Main Street  
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

**October, 2016**

Non-Profit Organization

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## Special Services 2016–2017

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Saturday, October 22, 5pm  
*Celtic Evensong & Communion*

Tuesday, November 1, 5 pm  
*Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day*

Wednesday, November 23, 3 pm  
*A Service of Thanksgiving*

Saturday, December 17, 5 pm  
*Christmas Celtic Evensong & Communion*

Sunday, December 18, 10 am  
*A Service of Lessons and Carols*

Saturday, December 24, 3 pm, 5 pm, 10 pm  
*Christmas Eve Services*

Saturday, January 21, 5 pm  
*Contemplative Evening Prayer*

Saturday, February 11, 5 pm  
*Choral Evensong at St. Mary's, Barnstable*

Saturday, March 18, 5 pm  
*Contemplative Evening Prayer*

Saturday, April 15, 5 pm  
*Easter Celtic Evensong & Communion*

Sunday, April 16, 9 am, 11 am  
*Easter Sunday Services*

Saturday, April 29, 5 pm  
*Choral Evensong with St. Mary's, Barnstable*

Saturday, May 20, 5 pm  
*Contemplative Evening Prayer*

Saturday, June 17, 5pm  
*Celtic Evensong & Communion*