

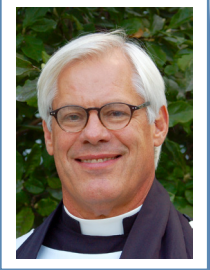
# SOUNDINGS

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal  
Church



December 2016 & January 2017

## From Your Rector



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

As a result of the long electoral process, I have been made acutely aware that a significant number of Americans feel that they have been forgotten: forgotten by their elected representatives in Washington, forgotten by financiers on Wall Street, forgotten by technology wizards in Silicon Valley, forgotten by globalization, forgotten by their

fellow Americans of different race, creed, or religion, forgotten by the American “dream,” forgotten by churches, maybe even forgotten by God. If I am hearing newscasts accurately and reading newspapers correctly, women, persons of color, Muslims, refugees, Hispanics, members of the LGBT community, among others, feel that they have been forgotten and left behind. And so do many white working-class and middle-class Americans—“salt-of-the-earth” type of people.

Forgotten and left-behind people, more often than not, feel excluded, useless, fearful, and hopeless, all of which easily translates into despair, anger and rage. Being forgotten means our very being and existences are being rendered meaningless. One’s life and contributions appear to leave no trace on our world and the people around us. Maybe these are some of the reasons the soon-to-be-crucified criminal leaned over from his cross to the soon-to-be-crucified and risen Savior and said, “Jesus, remember me...”

“Remember me...” “There are perhaps no more human words in all of Scripture, no prayer we can pray so well,” writes Frederick Buechner. Being remembered means that as long as someone remembers me “I am never entirely lost.” And he adds these eloquent words: “When you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am

with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart.”

I don’t know what to do with all of the anger and divisiveness of the recent election. But the criminal’s simple plea and prayer keep resonating in my head —“Jesus, remember me.” Perhaps an answer may be found in the sacred act of remembering. Perhaps at this time in our country’s history each one of us can practice the politics and spirituality of “Remembrance.” That is, to remember and not forget and forsake the persons suffering on the bottom and the margins of society, in the dark and forgotten shadows of our country and our world. Let’s remember them by reaching out to their pain and suffering. Let’s remember the marginalized and the suffering by being reminded of the words of Jesus, “Do THIS for the remembrance of me.”

America can never progress and move forward if some Americans are left behind.

Jesus’ response to the criminal’s request is gracious and supremely hopeful, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

While we may—at times—forget the marginalization and suffering of others, the mind and heart of God never forgets us, and never allows us to slip into the abyss of the forgotten and forsaken. We are eternally remembered and held in the mind and embrace of God—which is none other than heaven itself.

## Children, Youth, and Families



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

The Children's Christmas Pageant is right around the corner! It is one of my favorite events of the year and I want to be sure that everyone knows they are invited! The pageant itself will be held at the 3 pm Festal Choral Eucharist on Christmas Eve. If you have a child who would like to participate, please arrive by 2:15, and report to the Parish Hall. We also encourage everyone to feel free to bring along your visiting family and friends—anyone who is interested in participating is invited to do so! I cannot wait to see you all there!



## From Your Senior Warden



**John M. Sargent**  
*Senior Warden*

I am sitting at my desk desperately trying to think of something profound to say before Maury's deadline. It has finally dawned on me that as my year of Senior Warden comes to a close, what I really want to do is say "thank you." It has been time-consuming, with a few challenges, but the main thing is that I have received far more

than I have given.

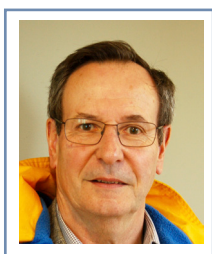
I have experienced: The joy of working with Brian, getting to know him better, and more fully understanding the scope of his ministry; the care and commitment of the Wardens and Vestry; the staff, and how much they do and contribute beyond what we see;

the music, both at the services and the unbelievable concerts; the youth— isn't it great to see more of them?!; the volunteers—we could not function without you; and of course, the entire congregation. Just a wonderful, caring group of people. I've gotten to know some of you better through your comments and "suggestions," and hope everyone knows that open communication is essential in a healthy organization.

Earlier this year I mentioned the need and rewards of involvement. I have profited from it and hope you will consider helping in some capacity. There is plenty more to do. I am hopeful in the coming year that we can expand our outreach into the local community. Again, many thanks, and I am very pleased not to have to worry about being politically correct in wishing all of you and your families a Very Merry Christmas.



## Stewardship 2017



**Peter Hughes**  
Stewardship  
Committee Chair

We launched our 2017 Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, October 3, with a goal of \$500,000. To date 168 pledge families have made their commitment to support the 2017 church operating budget.

I am pleased to inform you that \$465,939 has been pledged so far. This is 93.2 percent of our goal. In order to balance the 2017 operating budget, it is important that we meet our goal. At this time we are \$34,061 away from success.

Responding pledge families represent approximately 50 percent of our membership. For the 165+ members who have yet to pledge I encourage you to give prayerful consideration of all that St. Christopher's means to you and your family. Take a few moments to complete your pledge card for 2017. By doing so you will be supporting the good works of



**Charlie Hawk and Alex Duckett carry the Pyramid of Pledges down the sanctuary aisle.**

our church in 2017.

I remind you that every pledge, no matter the amount, is important and all pledges are confidential. I thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign and look forward to the time when I can report that our goal has been achieved.

## From Your Treasurer



**David Smith**  
Treasurer

Now that winter is fast approaching, it also means that the church's year-end is not far away as well. This year, as with others in the past, has a very tight budget if we are to avoid running a deficit. As treasurer,

and on behalf of the Vestry, I urge you to review your pledge status and ensure that you are current on your donations. We will be sending out reminders before the end of December to let you know where you stand. As always you can either contact me at dm99smith@hotmail.com or Linda Hughes at phughes41@comcast.net with questions.

## Together with Africans



The Together with Africans Committee will be distributing Donor Cards before and after services on December 4 and 11.

When making a contribution to the Together with Africans committee, donors may complete a donor card in memory or in honor of someone. These make a meaningful birthday or Christmas gift, which will not only help to educate a new generation of young Africans, but will answer the question of what to give to friends and family. It is a great way to make both the person who gives and the one who receives feel good.

### Where the money goes:

School Registration: \$11.00  
Maintenance: \$5.00  
Activity Fee: \$10.00  
Student I.D. Card: \$5.00  
Uniform: \$15.00  
Tuition: \$80.00  
Total: \$126.00/annually

## Music



**Maury A. Castro**  
Organist &  
Choirmaster

Following many months of conversation, study, research, and preparation, Rector McGurk will be introducing a new service to our rich liturgical offerings at St. Christopher's: Contemplative Evening Prayer.

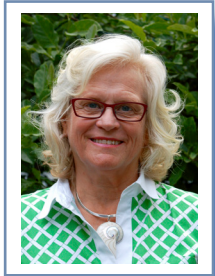
This service will draw upon the rich liturgical material to be found in The Book of Common Prayer, specifically the Evening Prayer and Compline portions. There will be abundant time for silence and meditation, and the music will be exceedingly sparse, limited only to a few simple meditative tunes where appropriate.

The clergy has noticed that there is a sincere

hunger for times of meditation and contemplation, as is evidenced by the growing number of faithful attendees to the Contemplative Eucharist on Wednesday mornings at 9 am. The first Contemplative Evening Prayer will take place on Saturday, January 21, at 5 pm.

I also wish to remind you that parishioners and friends are invited to donate \$45 toward the purchase of new choral music, and the church will match that \$45 in order to purchase a new anthem (each anthem in our library costs about \$90). The donor may dedicate the anthem in honor, celebration, or memory of the person(s) or event of their choice, and when that anthem is sung in church, this will be recognized in the bulletin. This can be especially meaningful during the holiday season! Please contact me if you would like to participate!

## The Gallery at St. Christopher's



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

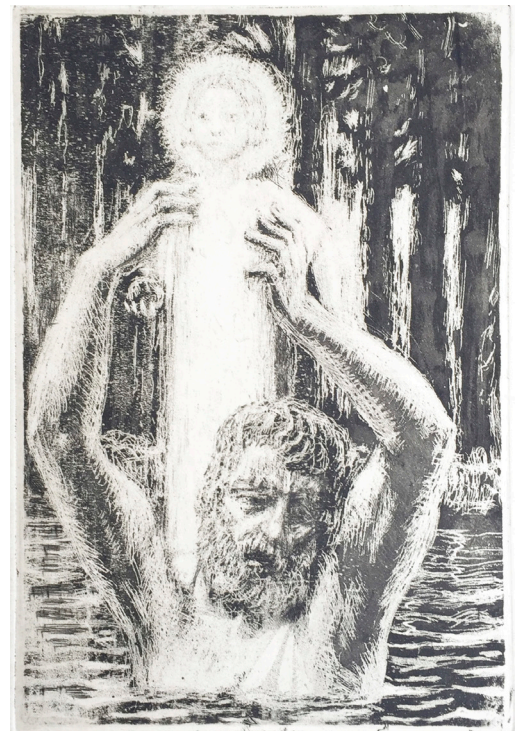
John Kohan, a friend of The Gallery at St. Christopher's, recently made a generous donation to the permanent collection in the form of a lithograph by French artist Raphael Druart. The image is that of St. Christopher, and is on display outside Sibley Chapel.

Also, I'm delighted to donate a work to the permanent collection by Alfred Manessier: *Three Nails*. This will also be on display shortly.

The Art Committee is beginning to assemble a registry for all of the art that St. Christopher's has in its collection. They will work on this over the winter and hopefully it will be completed sometime next year.



**Manessier: Three Nails**



**Druart: St. Christopher**



# December 2016

*In the beginning was the Word.  
~ John 1:1*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>In the beginning was the Word. ~ John 1:1</i>						
<b>4</b> Advent II 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>5</b> Church Closed	<b>6</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 9:30 Stephen Ministry at First Cong. 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 5:30 Family Faith Formation	<b>7</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>8</b> 10 Women's AA 10 Holy Eucharist at The Victorian	<b>9</b> 4:30 Notables Concert 4-8 Christmas Fair	<b>10</b> 9-3 Christmas Fair
<b>11</b> Advent III 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>12</b> Church Closed	<b>13</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 9:30 Stephen Ministry at First Cong. 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>14</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Disc. 9:30 Play Group 1 Stephen Ministry Support @ First Cong. 4 Finance Cmte 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>15</b> 10 Women's AA 2:30 Shawl Ministry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5 Christmas Celtic Evensong & Communion
<b>18</b> Advent IV No 8 Holy Eucharist No 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 A Service of Lessons & Carols 11 Christmas Brunch	<b>19</b> Church Closed	<b>20</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 9:30 Stephen Ministry at First Cong. 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry	<b>21</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>22</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 3 Festal Choral Eucharist with Christmas Pageant 5 Festal Choral Eucharist 10 Contemplative Eucharist
<b>25</b> Christmas Day No 8 Holy Eucharist No 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Festal Holy Eucharist	<b>26</b> Church Closed	<b>27</b> Church Closed	<b>28</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Disc. 9:30 Play Group 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing at Liberty Commons No Adult Choir	<b>29</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

### 2016 Santa Toy Drive

St. Christopher's Chatham Food Pantry has coordinated with the Chatham Fire Department and Monomoy Community Services to collect toys for our Chatham Food Pantry clients. All are invited to bring one new toy or game to the collection bin located in the downstairs entryway. The bin will be available from December 1-14. Kindly do not wrap your gift. *No stuffed animals please.*

### Spiritual Formation in Advent

#### Morning Prayer and Bible Study (Tuesdays)

A service of Morning Prayer (9 to 9:30) followed by Bible study/discussion (9:30 to 10:15) on: the coming week's lectionary reading(s); their relevance to our lives; applicable theological and spiritual themes as they relate to the given liturgical season. (Please come to one or both!)

#### Contemplative Eucharist (Wednesdays)

An abbreviated contemplative Eucharist (9:00 to 9:35), followed by a discussion of prayer, contemplative practices, and spirituality (9:35 to 10:15). During Advent, Rector McGurk will present ideas from Richard Rohr's new book, *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation*.



625 Main St.  
Chatham, MA 02633  
508-945-2832  
[stchristopherschatham.org](http://stchristopherschatham.org)

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

Judi Stella  
Manager, Gift Shop

Sandra Bowden  
Curator, The Gallery

Ted and Martha Miller  
Managers, Food Pantry

Lynn Van Dine  
and Tim Weller,  
Soundings copy editors.



**TWO DAYS!**

*St. Christopher's* **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 - 4 PM TO 8 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 9 AM - 3 PM

**Holiday Sweets & Treats**

**Pottery ♦ Jewelry ♦ Handmade Gifts & Decorations**

**Holiday Plants & Arrangements**

**Christmas Decorations ♦ Stocking Stuffers**

**Kids Craft Corner ♦ Santa Hat Decorating**

## Parish Statistics

### Transfers In

James & Martha Higgins  
October 2016

Eric & Sarah Wilsterman  
October 2016

William & Nancy Koerner  
October 2016

### Death

Carolyn Coursen  
November 12, 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.

## January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 10 Choral Eucharist and Carol Sing No Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>2</b> Church Closed	<b>3</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 5:30 Family Faith Formation	<b>4</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>9</b> Church Closed	<b>10</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>11</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 4 Finance Comte 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 10 Women's AA 2:30 Shawl Ministry	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>16</b> Church Closed	<b>17</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry	<b>18</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 10 Parkinson's Support Group 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>19</b> 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, & Music	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1-3 Choir School 5 Contemplative Evening Prayer
<b>22</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>23</b> Church Closed	<b>24</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>25</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @ LC 4:30 Tog. w/ Africans 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>26</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>30</b> Church Closed	<b>31</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ~ Isaiah 40</b>			



625 Main Street  
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

**December 2016 and January 2017**

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Non-Profit Organization

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## *Christmas Services*

**Saturday, Dec. 17, 5 pm**

*Christmas Celtic Evensong and Communion*

**Sunday, Dec. 18, 10 am**

*A Service of Lessons and Carols & Christmas Brunch*

**Christmas Eve**

*Festal Choral Eucharist and Christmas Pageant, 3 pm*

*Festal Choral Eucharist, 5 pm*

*Contemplative Holy Eucharist with Organ and Harp, 10 pm*

**Christmas Day**

*Festal Holy Eucharist, 10 am*