

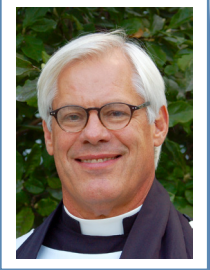
# SOUNDINGS

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal  
Church



April 2017

## From Your Rector



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

When I was the father of three *young* children, I frequently found myself asking them an interrogating question: “Okay, who did it?” Meaning, “who is responsible for this mini-disaster?” Someone may have been hurt; something may have been broken; some mess may have occurred; or some disagreement may have needed mediation by dad! My son would

generally blame the eldest of his two sisters. In turn, his sister would blame him. And my youngest daughter would trump both by blaming her brother *and* her sister!

Who did it? Who is at fault? Who gets the blame? These same questions drive the dialogue between

Jesus and his disciples regarding an anonymous blind man. When this man approaches, the disciples ask Jesus: “Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?”

Odd, isn’t it, that the disciples’ first response to this blind man is not compassion, sympathy, or concern?

Rather, they see a blind man and immediately want to assign BLAME: “Who sinned?” they ask.

Not much has changed since biblical times: We, too, play the blame game! Also known as “blaming the victim.” Immigrants, refugees, minorities, persons from “south of the border,” the homeless, the impoverished, the marginalized, are sometimes, oftentimes, too many

times, blamed for their respective plights. “They must have done something wrong to deserve this.” This logic is simple: There is a problem, so there must be a cause—some kind of sin, error, mistake, transgression, or foul committed. And, it seems, it is always the “other”—the stranger (those different than us; those outside our particular “belonging” group) who is to blame.

This common assumption is dangerous because it stereotypes and, in turn, victimizes the victims; and marginalizes the marginal—the people with whom Jesus spent all of his time! This is called “scapegoating,” and there is a great deal of scapegoating going on in America right now. According to Rene Girard, scapegoats are chosen

because they are “vulnerable and close at hand.” (*Violence and the Sacred*) Scapegoats are easy to blame. Yet scapegoating does not solve the problem, it simply creates more of them.

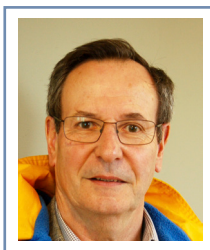
To engage in blame is to enter dangerous waters; to cast blame is toxic—especially when the “finger of blame” is pointed at innocent people. *The Oxford*

*English Dictionary* lists the following as synonyms for the word “blame:” censure; condemn; criticize; accuse; assign fault, guilt and liability. Blame shares a root with the Greek word *blasphemein* (blasphemy), which means, “the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God.” To blame is a serious allegation, and can be a grave insult and disparagement of

*continued on page 4*



## Parish Hall Renovation Update



**Peter Hugues**  
Volunteer

As a part of the most recent capital campaign, the church will be installing a sprinkler system in the Parish Hall, Chapel and other areas of our facility not currently protected. Furthermore, the floor in the Parish Hall is buckling and will be replaced once the sprinkler work is completed.

In preparation for these improvements, a team of

volunteers, led by Vestry task master Bob Braman, has constructed an expanded storage space and a guest office within the Parish Hall.

Recently the Parish Hall has experienced a new paint/color scheme as the volunteer team of Bob Braman, Peter Hughes, and David Smith have initiated the much-needed facelift.

We appreciate your patience as we work to improve our Parish Hall. We expect to have all of the improvements completed by the end of April.

## Gift and Consignment Shop



**Judi Stella**  
Manager

The staff and volunteers of the Consignment Shop are excited about the new season upon us. I wish to share with you about a few available positions:

- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Schedules staff for the shop. This is a job you can do at the shop or from the comfort of your own home. The job

entails frequent telephone calling and organization. The coordinator needs to schedule the sales staff (cashiers and salespeople) and the consignor staff of four who work three shifts per week.

- **Volunteers for Cashier, Salesperson and Substitutes:** Needed for 3.25-hour shifts one to two times per week. There are two shifts per day from 9:45 am to 1 pm and from 1 pm to 4:15 pm, Monday through Saturdays.
- **Consigning Team Substitutes:** These positions include: recorders to write up the consigning merchandise; computer typists to input the new inventory through our software; and taggers who

place the sales tags on the consigned items.

- **Saturday Cashier:** A paid position from 9:45 am to 4:15 pm, Saturdays. There is a possibility of more hours during peak times.

You need not be a brain surgeon for any of these positions. The staff is very social, and you will have a lot of fun working with the staff and meeting new people. You will also “be the first to know” when new items are for sale in the shop.

Finally, we need donations for the shop itself, including desk chairs (preferably with no arms or at least adjustable or removable arms) and office furniture and supplies.

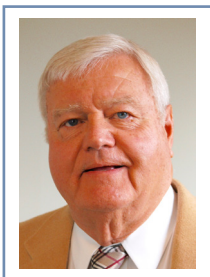
With many of you doing spring cleaning at this time of year, please think of St. Christopher's Gift and Consignment Shop for any donations. Remember that your donated items help to support the many ministries of the church.

For all of the above, please contact me by email at [jstella@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:jstella@stchristopherschatham.org) or by telephone at 945-2211.

***Full-time hours resume on Monday, April 3:  
Monday–Saturday, 10 am–4 pm***

***Consignment Appointments  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 am–12:20 pm.  
Please call 945-2211 to schedule an appointment***

## From Your Senior Warden



**John M. Sargent**  
Senior Warden

On March 9, the Vestry held a retreat at my home to engage in team building, to examine larger issues impacting the church, and to set goals. We all thought it was a productive time, and I would like to share a few of the items we discussed.

First, when we all introduced ourselves, and explained why we were St.

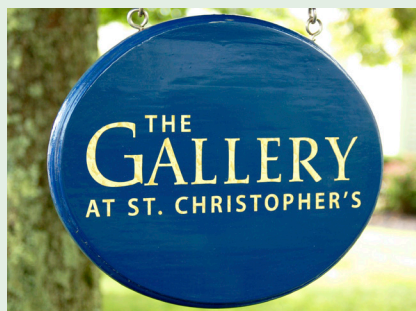
Christopher's members, every person said that what brought them back after the first visit was the friendliness of the congregation and the welcoming atmosphere. One of the main reasons that my wife, Sue, and I are here is because at our first service a lovely woman turned around at the passing of the Peace and said, "Welcome to St. Christopher's." So please do make a special effort to greet unfamiliar faces, because it does make a difference. We have a very special atmosphere at St. Christopher's and we

welcome all to be part of it.

Second, we talked about the need to focus on pastoral care. We all agreed that even as our church has grown, especially with our demographics, we must keep our commitment to this ministry. Brian will always be the leader and primary provider, but he commented how helpful the Stephen Ministry has been in augmenting and assisting in his work.

Some of the other areas we discussed were stewardship and the importance of having a high percentage of our donors pledge (you will hear more from me on this subject at a later date!), expanding and enhancing contemplative practices and the importance of a diverse program of services that appeal to a broad part of the community.

In closing, I think we all agreed that St. Christopher's is in good shape and there are some areas we hope to improve and expand that will make it even better. Your Vestry is committed to this and we welcome your ideas and suggestions.



***Not in town and going to miss the winter art exhibit?  
You don't have to miss it completely!***

Go to [www.stchristopherschatham.org/gallery](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org/gallery), and view five pieces from the current show, *Jesus: Good Shepherd and Lamb of God*, as well as find a wealth of information about the show and its artists.

## The Cloister Society



**Pieter Schiller**  
Member, Personal  
Planning Committee

Legacy giving is an important part of family estate planning. It allows family members to provide for the long-term sustainability of organizations near and dear to them and may also offer significant tax and other financial advantages to the family.

The mission of the Personal Planning Committee is to provide education and referrals

to qualified legal, financial and health professionals who can help individuals develop and keep updated their personal plans for their wellbeing and the management of their assets, financial affairs and legacy, and communicate within their families. To date, the Personal Planning Committee is aware of 38 families who have included St. Christopher's in their estate plans through legacy giving. If you would like to learn more, please visit [www.stchristopherschatham.org/personal-planning](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org/personal-planning), contact any member of the Personal Planning Committee, or contact the church office.



## From Your Rector, continued

vulnerable people.

Casting blame is now part and parcel of our nation's debate, dialogue and discourse. In Washington and localities across the country our leaders and citizens substitute blame for personal accountability, responsibility, ownership and integrity. To avoid responsibility in past times we might say something like, "The devil made me do it!" Now we say, "The devil did *not* make me do it, the (*insert the political party or politician of your choice*) DID IT!"

In a recent correspondence an educator related the following story to me as we discussed the Newtown tragedy:

"The attacker in both Newtown and my former school had the same clinical diagnosis, and in hindsight we were left looking at what clues we should have seen. In my former school's case, the weapon was a knife, which was why our incident only took the life of one before we could intervene. Sandy Hook was not so lucky. Whether it's one or 26 lives lost, the lives of so many are impacted afterwards and the need to deal with the trauma so great.

"Perhaps the most disturbing issue that my former school had to face was anger from some in the community. ***They wanted someone to blame for letting this apparently random act happen.*** [Emphasis mine.] ***At a time when so many needed to heal, some seemed to want 'blood for blood.'***"

Blame has no place in God's kingdom; it only keeps our eyes shut to what Jesus is up to, and to real healing in the present and future. Blame is a form of blindness.

So Jesus comes to open our eyes and deepen our consciousness to the fact that there is a flow of grace in our world that is empowering, healing, uniting and sanctifying. Blame impedes this flow and the world suffers as a result.

The question is not, "Who sinned?" Or, "Who is to blame?" But, "How can I—personally—enable the flow of love, compassion and grace into the situation at hand?"

A fair "Lenten" question for us to ponder is simply: Am I a "blamer"? And, if so, who suffers?

## From Your Treasurer



David Smith  
Treasurer

Did you know that you can use your credit card to make donations to St. Christopher's? Our website, [www.stchristopherschatham.org](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org), has a "Support St. Christopher's" tab with a "Stewardship" drop down that you may go to to use PayPal to donate to the church. You do not have to have a PayPal account to do this, so no signup is required.

You may make a one-time donation, or choose from one of ten different recurring payment options. This makes regular giving quick, simple and secure. We also provide a "comments" section so that you can let us know if the donation is for your regular pledge, the Capital Campaign, Together With Africans, Music, or any other ministry at the church.

I invite you to explore this option for your giving, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 945-3823 or [dm99smith@hotmail.com](mailto:dm99smith@hotmail.com).

### Did You Know?

The Goll Farm Elementary School in Liberia, supported for many years by St. Christopher's and others, is comprised of both boys and girls in equal number. This is not common in the region, where most girls are made to stay home and perform domestic chores.



## Music & Liturgy



**Maury A. Castro**  
Organist &  
Choirmaster

On April 29, the thirteen Choristers of St. Christopher's will collaborate for the second time this season with the Choristers of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Barnstable to present a Choral Evensong at St. Christopher's. The service will include music by George Dyson, Simon Lole, Felix Mendelssohn, and Ralph Vaughan Williams; Douglas Keilitz, choirmaster;

Maury A. Castro, organist and choir accompanist.

On Sunday, March 19, at the 10 am Choral Eucharist, four new choristers were admitted to the Choir School: Chiara Castro, Annaleigh Massey, Mercy McClardy, and Paul McClardy. I was thrilled to welcome them into full membership of the Choir School.

On another subject, I am thrilled to introduce a new partnership between St. Christopher's and the critically-acclaimed Boston-based a capella choral ensemble, Skylark. I have had the privilege of attending two of their concerts this season, and have been deeply moved by their ethereal sound, brilliant programming, detailed program notes, and touching musicality. You may read (and listen) more about them at [www.skylarkensemble.org](http://www.skylarkensemble.org).



Photo: S. Kerén Castro

After singing in our acoustically favorable worship space for a wedding last year, Skylark's Artistic Director, Matthew Guard, approached me about partnering with St. Christopher's to present their series of choral concerts over the course of the the 2017–2018 season. Having heard their ensemble, I was excited about this prospect, and have worked with their leadership to schedule four concerts over the coming year, with exact dates to be announced. They regularly perform at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Falmouth, Old North Church in Marblehead, Killian Hall at MIT in Cambridge, and Houghton Chapel at Wellesley College. Furthermore, they will make their international debut in March of 2018 at St. John's Smith Square, London, England.

Again, I invite you to visit their website, and attend their April 23 concert (8 pm) at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Falmouth, which will feature Francis Poulenc's *Figure Humaine* as well as music from the American Civil War era. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the door or online.



*The Skylark Vocal Ensemble*



## Vestry Minutes – February 21, 2017

- Opening prayer and a discussion of Scripture led by Rector McGurk
- Treasurer's Report: The Stewardship Campaign raised \$513,019, exceeding the \$500,000 goal. The budget will still be very tight. Prepaid pledges of \$119,658 greatly assist church cash flow.
- It was pointed out that there is \$20,000 in the current budget for events income, but only three events that qualify, including the Squire Night, the June 24 benefit concert, and the annual golf tournament. Bob Braman is retiring from running the Friday Night Grill after 16 years and there is no replacement currently. It was pointed out that the church is becoming more dependent upon Stewardship as our special event income declines.
- It was voted not to list pledgers to stewardship in Soundings.
- Friends of Music has raised \$3,575 in donations.
- Hyannis Sound will not be charged for use of the church.
- After the Parish Hall is renovated, it should be made more widely available to community groups.
- Bob Braman reported for the Building and Grounds Committee that heating and plumbing work is progressing and the stairwell behind the youth room has been protected by sand bags as a temporary protection against torrential rains.

## Mission Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Bishop Suffragan Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Debbie Phillips of Grace Church, Salem will lead a diocesan mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, Nov. 24–Dec. 6, and they invite others to join them.

The mission pilgrimage will combine visits to holy sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley, Nazareth, Galilee, Nablus and Ramallah, with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, health-care and peacemaking ministries.

The group will meet three times before the trip for orientation and community-building. The sign-up deadline is April 30. Estimated cost is \$4,100 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by Oct. 1. Visit [diomass.org](http://diomass.org) for more information, or contact Marsha Searle, Office of the Bishop Suffragan, at 617-482-4826, ext. 445 or [msearle@diomass.org](mailto:msearle@diomass.org).

### Transfer Out

Susan Beck  
to Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, Va.

### Baptism

Anna Davenport Hufnagel  
March 26, 2017

**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.

Saint  
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[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.*

# April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”</i> <i>~ 1 Peter 1:3</i>						
<b>2</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>3</b> Church Closed	<b>4</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 5:30 Family Faith Formation	<b>5</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 10:30 EPL Series 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>6</b> 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Palm Sunday</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship No Sunday School	<b>10</b> Church Closed	<b>11</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>12</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 10:30 EPL Series 4 Finance Committee 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>13 Maundy Thursday</b> 10 Women's AA 3 Shawl Ministry 5 Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar	<b>14 Good Friday</b>	<b>15</b> 2:30 Adult Choir 5 Celtic Easter Vigil
<b>16 Easter Sunday</b> 9 Choral Eucharist 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt 11 Choral Eucharist No Sunday School	<b>17</b> Church Closed	<b>18</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry	<b>19</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 10 Parkinson's Support 10:30 EPL Series No Adult Choir	<b>20</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 &amp; 30</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>24</b> Church Closed	<b>25</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	<b>26</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing at Lib. Commons 4:30 Together w/ Africans	<b>27</b> 10 Women's AA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10-3 Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting 5 Choral Evensong



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**April 2017**

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## *Holy Week and Easter Services*

**Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday)**

*8 am Holy Eucharist*

*10 am Choral Eucharist with Procession of Palms*

**Thursday, April 13 (Maundy Thursday)**

*5 pm Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar*

**Friday, April 14 (Good Friday)**

*5 pm Liturgy for Good Friday*

**Saturday, April 15**

*5 pm Celtic Great Vigil of Easter*

**Sunday, April 16 (Easter Sunday)**

*9 am Festal Choral Eucharist*

*10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt*

*11 am Festal Choral Eucharist*

