

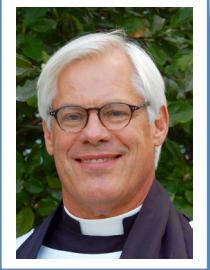
SOUNDINGS

Saint
Christopher's
Episcopal
Church



July 2017

Sacramental Evangelism



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

Summer is here! And so is wedding and baptism season! Weddings slip by mainly unnoticed by the St. Christopher's congregation at large, but these services are significant events in the sacramental life of our parish. Last year I officiated and blessed the marriages of 17 couples, which means 17 brides and 17 grooms, 17 extended families,

and their many guests—all of whom participated in a worship service at St. Christopher's. And, hopefully, experienced something of Christ's grace and hospitality. Let's call this ministry what it in fact is: "Sacramental Evangelism"! That is, the formation of Christian disciples through participation in the sacrament of marriage or any of the other sacraments.

Over the years, this has given our church the opportunity to participate in a vibrant ministry directed at young couples in their twenties and thirties who are seeking the church—perhaps for the first time! They come to us requesting God's blessing on their marriage, which engages or re-engages them with the Church. The vast majority are not formal members of our year-round congregation and they live elsewhere, but that does not matter, because this is our opportunity (as a congregation comprised, for the most part, of retired persons) to welcome young people into the Episcopal Church exactly at a time when spirituality and religion reemerges as a vital part of their lives. To limit weddings to formal members of

our church precludes a wonderful opportunity that has borne much rich fruit over the years.

Marriages are blessed, and a little later down the road, baptisms are performed, and our ministry to young people continues. I do NOT consider these young adults non-members or outsiders, and neither should you—regardless of where they live or the number of times they can be present with us. Anyone who participates in the liturgical, spiritual, and sacramental life of our church is one of us. All are welcome at the altar to receive the Eucharist or



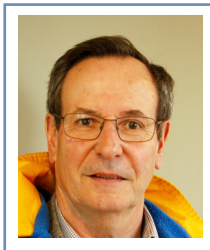
*Married and Baptized at St. Christopher's, in that order:
Stephanie and Adam, and their two daughters*

to receive a nuptial blessing; and, all are welcome at the font too! This is what it means to be a hospitable, gracious, and inclusive church.

Our participation in the sacrament of baptism is an honor that must be celebrated by all of us each and every Sunday that it occurs. It would, perhaps, be preferable to limit baptisms to the four Sundays of

continued on page 3

Capital Campaign Update; Report on Renovations



Peter Hugues
Volunteer

We are pleased to report that as of this date 95 percent of the \$1.4 million committed to the 2014 Capital Campaign has been received. Our loans have been paid off and the endowment fund replenished. Funds have been expended to complete the exterior restoration and renovation of our building. A very special thanks to

all those who have made the Capital Campaign a great success.

The installation of the sprinkler/fire suppression system is almost complete and ready for inspection. The sprinkler installation includes the Parish Hall, kitchen, Sibley Chapel, Sunday School rooms, attic, bathrooms and hallways.

The Parish Hall has been under renovation since the first of the year. To date we have a new storage closet, the walls and trim have been painted, and much needed electrical improvements have been made. On Sunday, June 25 a team of volunteers will remove the plank flooring in the Parish Hall so that RPM Carpeting may commence with the installation of the new vinyl plank flooring.

Additional facility improvements to the chapel wing of the church will be initiated in the very near future. These include hallway flooring and Parish Hall air conditioning.

To improve our energy efficiency we have updated LED lighting in the sanctuary tracks and installed an individual thermostat for the office suite/reception area. In the near future we will install a glass partition and door on the first floor level opposite the reception desk to further improve energy efficiency. Our existing furnace, which services the entire building, will be replaced with a significantly more efficient system.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we complete these important improvements to our facility.

A lift dominates Sibley Chapel as sprinklers are installed.

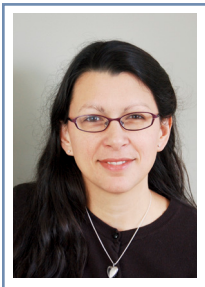


Cape and Islands Altar Guild Meeting

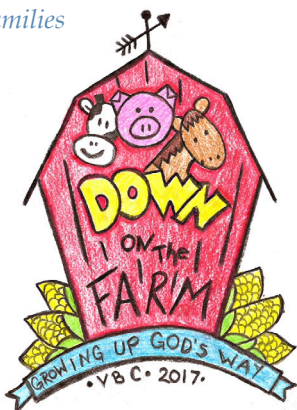


On Thursday, May 25, Joan Bagnell, Martha Batchelder and Maureen Vokey represented St. Christopher's Church at the Cape and Islands Altar Guild meeting in Provincetown. The event was held at St. Mary of the Harbor Episcopal Church. Following check-in and coffee time, The Holy Eucharist was celebrated in the sanctuary. Then a lovely luncheon was served, followed by a tour of the sanctuary with explanations of the art work of many famous artists. It was a grand day in spite of the cold, rainy weather.

Vacation Bible Camp



Kerén Castro
Director of
Children, Youth,
and Families

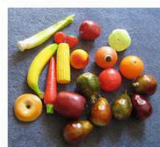


Vacation Bible Camp will take place during the week of July 24–28. This year VBC will take place at the First Congregational Church and the theme is “Down on the Farm—growing up with God.” If you are interested in volunteering your time for this, please feel free to contact me at any time. It is a great way to share your love of God with the children of our community. We are also in need of certain materials, shown below. Please bring them to the church if you can donate them!

If you're cleaning out, spot these at the dump or would let us borrow, these items are needed for **Farm Bible Camp...**



BUSHEL BASKETS



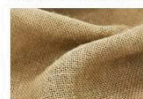
FAKE PRODUCE



BANDANAS



SILK SUNFLOWERS



BURLAP



CRAFT PAPER



BERRY BASKETS



CRATES



STYROFOAM TRAYS
(NOT FROM MEAT)



GALVANIZED TUB OR
PAILS

Sacramental Evangelism, cont.

the liturgical year specified as especially appropriate, namely Pentecost, the Baptism of Our Lord, etc. However, this would exclude and thereby limit this vibrant ministry from those who live elsewhere.

Just as I was beginning to write this article, I received the following email from a couple who was married here several years ago, reside in Vermont, and whose first child I baptized (I have their permission to share this correspondence):

Hi Brian,

How are you? We are coming to Chatham next week for a few days and are very excited. I wanted to update you and let you know Adam was accepted to UVM Medical School. Also we welcomed a second daughter to our family June 2nd. Her name is Grace and she and I are both doing well. We will be back in Chatham late July/early August and I didn't know if it would be possible to have baby Grace baptized

July 30th? Thanks for letting me know and I hope all is well.

Best, Stephanie

Of course I replied with a resounding, “YES.” Her reply:

Hi Brian!

Thank you so much. We are so grateful to you and St. Christopher's for being such an important part of our lives. I wish we lived closer and we could go to church there every week!

Best, Stephanie

Need I say more?

Themes of Eastern Orthodox Art



John Kohan
Art Historian
and Collector

The Virgin Mary holds an exalted place in Orthodox worship as *Theotokos*, the God-Bearer or Mother of God. There are several variations in this exhibit of one much-loved prototype of Mary, **The Virgin Who Shows the Way**, always directing us with her hand to worship her son, Jesus Christ. Icons of **The Birth of Christ** typically

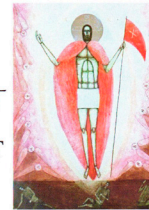
depict Mary lying on the ground with her newborn babe, emphasizing her earthly role in the miracle of the Incarnation, when God took on human form and became like one of us.

Events of sacred history in Orthodox icons reflect in a timeless way the ongoing life of the Church. In the image of **The Last Supper** in this show, Christ raises his hand in blessing over the chalice, bringing to mind the consecration of the bread and wine at the Eucharist. The formal arrangement of the disciples awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit in the icon of **Pentecost** remains us that authority in the Orthodox Church is vested in the Ecumenical Councils.

Images of the saints, often accompanied by visual vignettes of their good deeds and earthly trials and tribulations, remind us that we are all called to be “icons” of **Christ**, living out his life in the World, until the time when, as St. Paul writes in I Corinthians 15:49, “As we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”



EAST
meets
WEST



Women Icon Makers of West Ukraine



Yatskiiv



Tomkevych



Tomkevych

This article is the second in a two-part series submitted as a companion piece to the summer art exhibit in The Gallery. The first article is found in the June 2017 issue of Soundings.



Rusetska



Rusetska

Choristers on the Move



Maury A. Castro
Organist & Choirmaster

On Tuesday, June 20 the Treble Choristers of St. Christopher's stepped outside of the walls of the church to sing The National Anthem at a Chatham Angler's baseball game. This is one of the many ways that the ministries of St. Christopher's endeavor to reach out with the gifts of our congregation.

In other Choir School news, three of our choristers will be participating in a summer training course held by the Royal School of Church Music. This course, held in Newport, Rhode Island from July 31–August 6, will be led by Sarah MacDonald of the UK, and the course organist will be Colin Lynch, Assistant Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square.



Photo: S. Kerén Castro

Choristers Delia Castro, Tessa Gingras, and Aurora Reed, along with their choirmaster, will participate in presenting multiple services, which are open to the public. Consider driving to Rhode Island to witness the magic!

- Wed., Aug. 2, 7:30 pm: Hymn Festival at St. Joseph's Parish, Newport (5 Mann Ave.)
- Thur., Aug. 3, 5 pm: Evensong at St. George's School Chapel, Middletown (372 Purgatory Rd.)
- Fri., Aug. 4, 5 pm: Evensong at Grace Church, Providence (175 Mathewson St.)
- Sun., Aug. 6, 10 am: Holy Eucharist at St. George's School Chapel, Middletown



The Cloister Society

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, contact any member of the Personal Planning Committee, or contact the church office.



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

New Diocesan Assessment Formula

The diocesan Treasurer's Office distributed 2018 assessment calculations to congregations on June 1 using a new assessment formula adopted by Diocesan Council in April. The new formula is a response to requests from congregations for assessment relief, voiced during the mission strategy listening process, and its goal is to achieve a 10 percent decrease in total assessment income to the 2018 diocesan budget.

The previous formula, in use since 2010, calculated a parish's assessment at 15.5 percent of expenses reported three years prior (the most recent parochial report data available at the time the calculations must be made), minus a \$6,000 deduction.

The new formula for 2018 is progressive. It applies three increasing percentages to expenses: 0.15 percent to the first \$0-\$50,000 of expenses; 14.5 percent to the next \$50,001 to \$500,000; and 15.5 percent to any additional expenses above \$500,000. Mission congregations are assessed at two-thirds the amount that would be assessed if they were parishes.



Baptisms

Austin Ross Donaldson
June 4, 2017

Deaths

John Hayden
February 3, 2017

Richard Pittenger
May 26, 2017

Franklin Montross III
June 10, 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, 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.

Saint
Christopher's
Episcopal
Church

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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.

Parish Statistics

July 2017

Take heart, it is I; Do not be afraid

~ Matthew 14:29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Take heart, it is I; Do not be afraid</i></p> <p><i>~ Matthew 14:29</i></p>						
<p>2</p> <p>8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Church Closed</p>	<p>4 Independence Day Church Closed</p> <p>7 Hyannis Sound</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion</p> <p>No Adult Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 Women's AA</p> <p>7:30 Cape Harmony</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8 Beach Service 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist with Baptism 11 Fellowship</p> <p>5 Newcomers Reception</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Church Closed</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting</p> <p>7 Hyannis Sound</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion</p> <p>4 Finance Committee</p> <p>5:15 Adult Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 Women's AA</p> <p>7:30 Cape Harmony</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist with Baptism 11 Fellowship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Church Closed</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting</p> <p>4 Vestry</p> <p>7 Hyannis Sound</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion</p> <p>No Adult Choir</p> <p>7 Hyannis Sound</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10 Women's AA</p> <p>7:30 Cape Harmony</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23/30</p> <p>8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship</p> <p>30th: 10 HE & Baptism Summer Meeting</p>	<p>24/31</p> <p>Church Closed</p> <p>24th: 9-12 VBC @ Congo Church</p>	<p>25 9-12 VBC @ Congo Church 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting</p> <p>7 Hyannis Sound</p>	<p>26 9-12 VBC @ Congo Church 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @ Liberty Cms.</p> <p>5:15 Adult Choir</p>	<p>27 9-12 VBC @ Congo Church 10 Women's AA</p> <p>7:30 Cape Harmony</p>	<p>28 9-12 VBC @ Congo Church</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 Fundraising Concert: Cape Harmony & Hyannis Sound</p>



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July 2017

Non-Profit Organization

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A Fundraiser for St. Christopher's...



July 29 | 7 pm

Cape Harmony and Hyannis Sound!