

# SOUNDINGS

## From Your Rector

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal  
Church   
June, 2016



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

Over the course of the last thirteen years I have devoted a considerable amount of my time and energy to the renovation, expansion and maintenance of our beautiful facility. As I reflect upon all that we have accomplished, I am most grateful to the many individuals who have, over the year, devoted so much of their time, talent and resources to the creation and

preservation of such a beautiful sacred space. We owe them all our deep gratitude. (Peter Hughes and his team of chapel painters are the most recent case-in-point, and we must also make mention of Ali Crockett and her team of facility workers!)

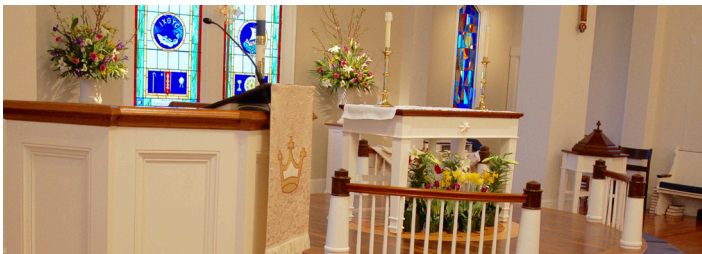
Beauty and Holiness are yoked together in the imagery of our Prayer Book and the Bible: "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." And the converse is also true: "Worship the Lord in the holiness of beauty." Our facility is sacred space, not only due to its beauty, but because it is a place where the holy presence of Christ is experienced and encountered in worship, prayer, Scripture, sacrament, and praise.

In the words of T. S. Eliot, "You are here to kneel where prayer has been valid." Actions make places sacred. Prayer, contemplation, solitude, silence, rituals, sacraments, music, all make St. Christopher's a sacred place, holy and beautiful. A church is a sacred place where everyone who enters is blessed. The late spiritual writer John O'Donohue beautifully describes how a house—and a church, too—can be a place of love and blessing.

He writes:

*May this house shelter your life,  
When you come in home here,  
May all of the weight of the world  
Fall from your shoulders.  
May your heart be tranquil here,  
Blessed by peace the world cannot give.  
May this home be a lucky place,  
Where the graces of your desires  
Always find the pathway to your door.  
May nothing destructive  
Ever cross your threshold.  
May this be a safe place  
Full of understanding and acceptance,  
Where you can be as you are,  
Without the need of any mask  
Or pretense or image.  
May this home be a place of discovery,  
Where the possibilities that sleep  
In the clay of your soul can emerge  
To deepen and refine your vision  
For all that is yet to come to birth.  
May it be a house of courage,  
Where healing and growth are loved,  
Where dignity and forgiveness prevail;  
A home where patience of spirit is prized,  
And the sight of the destination is never lost  
Through the journey be difficult and slow.  
May there be great delight around this hearth.  
May it be a house of welcome  
For the broken and diminished.  
May you have the eyes to see  
That no visitor arrives without a gift  
And no guest leaves without a blessing*

When we renovated our church, we inscribed, for all to see, these words over the front entrance: "May the Lord bless your going out and your coming in." My prayer is that everyone who crosses our threshold may receive a blessing of some kind.



## Children, Youth, and Families



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

I'm excited to announce that the following students have completed their confirmation class and are being confirmed at St. Christopher's at 10:30 am on June 11, with about 50 other confirmands from this region. Our confirmands are: Sydney Austin, Hank Bailey, Will Bailey, Rachel Bryant, Alex Duckett, McKenzie Fields, Sydney Nickerson, Julianna Smith, and Joey Vachon. I am so proud of all they have accomplished!

Also, Vacation Bible Camp is right around the corner. If you know someone who would like to attend, you may register by going to [www.stchristopherschatham.org](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org), and click on "Vacation Bible Camp." Also, I am looking for volunteers to help

with registration. If you are interested, please contact me at [kcastro@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:kcastro@stchristopherschatham.org). I would appreciate any help you can offer.



## Together With Africans

Travel to Liberia is not easy. It requires a 24-hour bus and plane marathon from Boston through Europe to West Africa. We arrived in Monrovia on the evening of April 6. Ahead of us lay three weeks of observing activities at the Goll Farm School and the community. We were there to collect information on the daily routines and assess the long-term sustainability of the institution.

We observed the school opening every day at 8 am. All the classrooms were full of students dressed in red and white uniforms. Faculty members also wore red and white in conformity with the school colors, giving everyone a sense of belonging to a unified whole. We spoke formally with teachers and school administrators. Informally, we talked with parents and students at their homes. We attended three different church services (Episcopal, Methodist and Assembly of God), giving us an opportunity to meet community members. We were invited to a mosque, but scheduling conflicts did not allow a visit. 25 percent of the schools' enrollment is Muslim, including the school's principal.

Located 120 miles outside of the capital city of Monrovia, the Goll Farm School is located near Cuttington University and Phoebe Hospital, and only seven miles from the city of Gbarnga, the county seat. Parents and students see well-dressed, educated

Liberians going to jobs in cars on the nearby newly completed highway. This is motivation for education at a very basic level.

In collaboration with Prince and Relhetta Wreh, we developed a three-year plan for the school consisting of staff salaries and operational expenses and the identification of an income stream.

~Jackie Venner and Steve Keenan



**Jackie Venner  
and Relhetta  
Wreh,  
Administrative  
Director of the  
school.**

**The Reverend  
Prince Wreh and  
Steve Keenan  
enjoying lunch in  
the school yard.**



## From Your Senior Warden



**John M. Sargent**  
Senior Warden

In a previous article I discussed the need for involvement and how it strengthens our church. This month I'd like to describe one of our volunteer committees, how it operates, and its role in keeping St. Christopher's financially sound in order to support our many ministries.

As many of you know, we have a superb Finance Committee whose breadth and depth of experience would be the envy of any organization. In addition, they care about and understand St. Christopher's. They want our church to be run in a financially prudent way, but know that we are a religious organization, not a business. They provide invaluable advice to the Vestry.

The May meeting focused on our financial situation after the first four months of this year. Several situations have arisen that might prevent a balanced budget for 2016. We have an extremely tight

budget that needs to be closely monitored since it does not take much of a change in any income or expense item to put us in the red. The Finance Committee made a couple of adjustments that will help, but more may have to be done in the future. There are no easy decisions and, as you can understand, the expense cuts that have the greatest impact are the most painful. What became absolutely clear is that we must achieve all of our income objectives in 2016 for pledges, Consignment Shop, special events, etc. Your strong support of all of these items is essential to meeting our goals and supporting our programs.

We realize that many churches, both locally and nationally, are challenged at this time. St. Christopher's is in a strong position relative to most and we want to continue this situation through sound financial management for the benefit of future generations and our community. Your involvement will help make this happen. As always, your questions and suggestions are most welcome by me, the other wardens, and the Vestry.

## Personal Planning Committee

Living and investing in retirement has never been easy, but in recent years it has become increasingly more difficult. Chances are, you are not covered by a defined benefit pension plan from work that provides known income payments. These plans have largely been replaced by 401(k) or other defined contribution plans that require you to determine and periodically adjust:

- How much money you will need in retirement so that you will not outlive your savings;
- Your time horizon based on your age;
- Your cash flow, additional liquidity needs for travel and healthcare, and impact of inflation;
- How and where to invest your savings and diversify your portfolio in a volatile market, and the level of risk you are willing to take; and
- A legacy to loved ones or a favorite charitable organization.

In short, the responsibility of planning for, producing the necessary rate of return on your savings,

and living in retirement has fallen on your shoulders. The decisions you make today and throughout retirement will greatly affect your ability to lead the kind of retirement you hope to achieve.

The Personal Planning Committee will host two seminars to help you consider and adjust your goals-based retirement plan while living in retirement. The first session will be on retirement planning, diversification, preservation of capital, and monitoring your plan. The session will be conducted by Morgan Stanley on Thursday, June 9, at 3:30 pm. The second session will address the role, alternatives and benefits of supplementing your investments with annuities. This session will be conducted by AIG on Thursday, June 23, at 3:30 pm. The sessions will be held in the Parish Hall. Please save the dates, bring a friend, and visit the Personal Planning page at [www.stchristopherschatham.org](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org) for supplementary material.

~Errol James and Pieter Schiller, co-chairs

# Music



**Maury A. Castro**  
Organist &  
Choirmaster

At the 10 am Choral Eucharist on Sunday, May 22, the Choristers sang and graduated to the next level of their Royal School of Church Music training. Delia Castro, Madison Fields, Alexandra Hawk, Coral Punch, Lula Punch, and Aurora Reed completed the “light blue” level, which represents meticulous training and examinations in music theory, musicianship, vocal production, and ear training consistent with two years of Choir School education. Tessa Gingras and Jude Hutchings-McMahon completed the “white” level, which represents training in the subjects above, consistent with one year of Choir School training.

I wish to express my gratitude to Sue Sargent for serving throughout the school year as the rehearsal aide/assistant conductor/nurse/coach/#1 fan. The program could not run without her efforts, and would not run nearly as joyfully without her presence. I also wish to thank Happy Van Sickle, who generously, graciously, and skillfully filled in for Sue several times over the course of the year.

On the lighter side, the choristers have been invited to sing the National Anthem for the Chatham Anglers game on Tuesday, June 28, at 7 pm. All are invited to attend and show their support!



*Above: Lula Punch receives her RSCM medal. Below: Choristers recite the Chorister's Prayer.*



## A Report from the Altar Guild

On Ascension Day, Thursday, May 5, Joan Bagnell, Martha Batchelder, and Maureen Vokey traveled to Christ Church in Plymouth to represent St. Christopher's at the Cape and Islands Deanery Altar Guild meeting. Following coffee time and registration, about thirty-five women attendees gathered in the sanctuary for a Eucharist service celebrated by Christ Church's rector, The Rev. David Frederickson. A lovely luncheon of tomato soup, rolls, quiche, salad, and carrot cake was then served in the parish hall.

Following the luncheon, a parishioner and Altar Guild member spoke about the “Hall House” and Christ Church's Thrift Shoppe, which is adjacent to the church. Everyone was invited to visit and take the tour. This was especially interesting for Joan and Martha, who volunteer at St. Christopher's Gift and Consignment Shop, to see how another church prices and displays items for sale. Unlike ours, which is one huge room, this shop was in a home with separate rooms for items of the same category. The items were displayed very nicely and it was definitely a “thrift shop” with wonderful bargain prices!

St. Christopher's is listed to host this Deanery event on April 29, 2017. We look forward to having Bishop Gail Harris with us as scheduled.



*Martha Batchelder, Maureen Vokey, and Joan Bagnell pose at Christ Church, Plymouth.*

## Exterior Restoration

We are indeed fortunate that the weather is finally cooperating with our exterior restoration efforts. At this time the left and right pilasters on the front of the church have been completely rebuilt and returned to their historic condition. The details in the wood make a strong impression on Main Street.

All of the replacement trim pieces are now installed and the painting crew is busy priming and initiating the application of finish paint. The replacement vinyl siding is on site and will be installed once the painting is completed.

If the weather is favorable, the contractor expects to complete the exterior project at the end of the first full week in June. We all look forward to the removal of the green construction fencing and the return of the shrubs and bushes to their original locations. Thank you for your patience as we come to the conclusion of this important upgrade to our church.



*Closeups of the reconstructed pilasters facing Main Street.*



**Peter Hughes**  
*Project Manager*



## Chapel Painting Project

The Sibley Chapel received a much needed facelift over the weekend of May 14. Our volunteer team removed the pews, wall hangings, and the altar to allow for access to the walls and ceilings. Rolling staging was erected and a 30-foot electric scissor lift was delivered to assist the work on the ceiling.

The ceiling was painted Yarmouth Blue, which is the same color as the sanctuary ceiling. The walls were painted White Dove, which matches the walls in the sanctuary as well. The blue ceiling exposes and features the white beams in the chapel. Our volunteer team was so productive and enthusiastic that we expanded the project to include the hallway immediately outside of the chapel. The final paint was applied at 2 pm on Sunday, after which the cleanup effort began.

With an empty chapel, Brian was provided with the opportunity to consider the potential uses of this space. When it came time to return the pews, the decision was made to eliminate the front two sets of pews and replace them with chair/kneeler combinations to enhance the flexibility for a variety of services and meetings in the chapel. We think you will be pleased with the results.

Those who volunteered their time, talent, and treasure to accomplish this important upgrade include: Dale Alger, Chuck Bartlett, Ilene and John Bendas, Bob Braman, Ali Crockett, Steve Curran, Vi Fellman, Linda and Peter Hughes, Dick and Melissa Kraycir, Brian McGurk, Joe Meeks, Bridgette Renaud, Gail and David Smith, and Bruce Wood. Please thank them for a job well done.



*David Smith, Dick Kraycir, and Bruce Wood move a pew back into the chapel after the painting project is completed.*

## HELP WANTED!!!



*Looking for a fun  
and rewarding experience?*

*Then we are looking for you!*

St. Christopher's Gift and Consignment Shop serves the local community with an outstanding array of donated and consigned items. The Shop is open from April to October.

**Volunteers Needed:** 4-hour shifts once or twice a week at times that meet your schedule. Sign up today. See Barbara Cromarty at the Consignment Shop or call 508-945-2211.

**Weekend Cashier:** Paid position with potential for hours on Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon. Please call the church office for an appointment at 508-945-2832, or see Rick Leavitt or David Smith.

**Consignment Shop Manager:** Paid position for an energetic, enthusiastic person who wants to make a difference, support the community, and work with a great volunteer staff. Please call the church office for an appointment at 508-945-2832, or see Rick Leavitt or David Smith.

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal  
Church

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*

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.*

## Parish Statistics

### Baptism

Imogen Deborah LaMotte  
May 29, 2016

### Deaths

Everlyn M. Varrieur  
April 2, 2016

Ann Lax  
May 7, 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 church members 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.

## June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><i>Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ~ Ps. 103:1</i></b>						
<b>5</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School, Graduation Recognition 11 Fellowship	<b>6</b> Church Closed	<b>7</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4:00 Newcomer Cmt. 5:30 Concert Rehrs. 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>8</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 4 Finance Comm. 6:15 Adult Choir	<b>9</b> 10 Women's AA 3:30 Personal Planning Forum 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>10</b> 5 Bell Choir	<b>11</b> 10:30 Confirmation
<b>12</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>13</b> Church Closed	<b>14</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 No Choir School 5:30 Benefit Concert Rehearsal 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>15</b> 9:30 Playgroup 10 Contemplative Eucharist 10 Parkinson's Support Group No Adult Choir	<b>16</b> 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>17</b> 5 Bell Choir	<b>18</b> 9 Bell Choir
<b>19 Father's Day</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Euch. & Bapt., Sunday School, Teacher Recognition 11 Fellowship 3 Baron Fenwick Recital	<b>20</b> Church Closed	<b>21</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry 5:30 Benefit Concert Rehearsal 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>22</b> 10 Cont. Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing at Lib. C. 4:30 Tog. w/Africans 5:45 Adult Choir	<b>23</b> 10 Women's AA 3:30 Personal Planning Forum 5 Concert Rehearsal 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12 - 2 Concert Rehearsal
<b>26</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship 3 Benefit Concert	<b>27</b> Church Closed	<b>28</b> 9 Morning Prayer 9:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 7 Choristers sing at Chatham A's 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>29</b> 10 Contemplative Eucharist 6:15 Adult Choir	<b>30</b> 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music		



625 Main Street  
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

June, 2016

Non-Profit Organization

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ANNOUNCING



Previous benefit concerts sold out;  
advanced tickets recommended!

Three benefit musical concerts presented by St. Christopher's Church.



SUNDAY, JUNE 26 - 3 pm

### *All About Love*

Sensational Broadway and popular love songs!

Directed by Barbara Reed

GALA GARDEN RECEPTION to follow

Tickets \$50 - 100 available by advanced sales only

Top Secret Door Prize - Must be present to win!



SATURDAY, JULY 16 - 7 pm

### *A Capella Times Two*

The ever-popular Hyannis Sound and Cape Harmony

*Tickets at door only*



SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 - 3 pm

### *Romantic Masterworks*

Breathtaking instrumental, vocal, and choral works by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and others!

Directed by Maury Castro; featuring Haskell Thomson

Tickets for all concerts on sale in May at \$20/adults; \$10/children

Proceeds to benefit St. Christopher's Church programs

For advanced Concert and Garden Reception tickets: 508-737-8056