

# SOUNDINGS



Vol. XI, No. 5

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

MAY, 2015

## Parishioners work hard to win Town Meeting voter support to repair historic exterior

St. Christopher's is doing everything it can to ensure passage of a Chatham Town Meeting warrant article that would grant the church \$147,438 to help restore historic architectural features on the exterior of the building.

"We need every member of the congregation who lives in Chatham to attend the meeting and vote 'yes,' said Senior Warden Rick Franklin.

Town Meeting begins at 6 p.m. Monday, May 11 at the Monomoy Regional Middle School, 425 Crowell Road. The article in question is Article 24.

The church's exterior, which dates from the 1870s, has suffered serious deterioration. The money, which would be paid through the Community Preservation Fund, would restore trim around the Cathedral windows, cornice rakes, soffits, frieze boards, crown molding, scrollwork, eaves and pilasters.

The issue has received significant support. Chatham's Community Preservation Committee supports the request, as does the Chatham Historical Commission and the Historic Business District Commission.

"Restoration of the exterior of St. Christopher's, one of the notable Main Street landmarks, will not only improve the appearance of the building but



**Parishioner George Olmsted speaks at an informational forum held May 3 to detail the CPC grant and the importance of the Town Meeting vote.**

will deter further deterioration and prolong the life of this historical structure," said Jane Moffett, a member of the Community Preservation Committee.

However, the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee both recommend a "no" vote. These boards argue that support for the project would set a bad precedent – no church in Chatham has ever received Community Preservation money (although 35 houses of worship across the Cape and Islands have received such funding). Members also argue the church has substantially changed since its founding in 1962. Still others argue that church membership should take on more of a financial burden to pay for repairs.

But the ultimate decision rests

with Chatham voters at Town Meeting – and that's why the congregation's support is critical.

"Members of the congregation can make all the difference," said Rector Brian W. McGurk. "I ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this worthy project."

The church is taking action in a variety of ways:

-- Brian and church leadership held an informational forum after the 10 a.m. service on May 3 to inform parishioners about the upcoming vote.

-- Some members are writing letters to the editor in the *Cape Cod Chronicle* newspaper.

-- A handout will be distributed to voters entering Town Meeting, explaining the church's request, citing precedents for the request,

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Sunday School and Faith in Action projects a success!

This month the Sunday School class is excited to announce that, with your help, we were able to raise \$500.95 for the Heifer International Project. The children voted and decided on the “knitting basket” selection of animals, which includes a llama, an alpaca, a sheep and an Angora rabbit, with chicks added in for good measure. The gift nourishes families with milk from the llama and sheep, keeps families warm with wool that can be made into sweaters and scarves, and provides a source of income from the sale of clothing and blankets made from the wool.

Thanks to all for helping in this effort which allows families in need to be self-sustaining!

In addition I wanted to announce, for those of you who were not able to attend, that our Faith in Action was a great success and we had a lot of fun making carrot cake muffins with marzipan carrots! Thanks to all who helped with that, especially Ilene Bendas for leading us through my first Faith in Action, and to Lisa Franklin, Danielle Massey and Gretchen Meeks for volunteering to help. We could not have done it without all of your contributions!

### Upcoming Events

- Sunday School every Sunday during the 10 am service starting at age 3. Younger members are encouraged to attend the nursery.
- Sunday, May 24: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- Saturday, June 13: Mini-golf 2-3:30 p.m.
- July 27-31: Vacation Bible



Faith in Action's Alex and Ariana Duckett and Danielle Massey made cupcakes at were iced and decorated with marzipan carrots. The goodies were shared at fellowship on Sunday, April 29.



### Camp

- August/TBA: Summer Bash at the Beach

### Vacation Bible Camp

A reminder I am looking for anyone who is interested in helping in even the smallest of ways to make our Main Street Vacation Bible Camp a success this year. If you feel you could do just one thing to help us out please contact me at

cyfdirector@gmail.com

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Rick Vashon and Gretchen Meeks for volunteering their time to be on the Children, Youth and Families Steering Committee. I appreciate their help and guidance, as we work together to make a solid program for our children.

*Keren Castro, Director,  
Children, Youth & Families*

# Returning from sabbatical - It's great to be home

It is said that a person may leave the comfort of their "home" only to return and rediscover "home," and, as T.S. Eliot famously wrote, "and know it for the first time."

St. Christopher's has been my spiritual home (home as a relational place of love, nurture, growth and support) for the past 12 years, so my sabbatical leave was like leaving home.

When I left I was not exactly whole or centered emotionally or spiritually speaking. I took leave in need of a great deal of healing (of body, mind, spirit, and soul), with much uncertainty regarding my personal and vocational future, and with a vague sense of "call" to an undefined future. Time to heal, time for solitude, time to wrestle with my own demons, and time to discern the general direction of my future were immediate challenges ... and opportunities.

My sabbatical afforded me the gift of time, an opportunity to meet with a spiritual director, take a class at Stanford, travel to Europe, and visit a dozen or so churches. I observed how other churches present Christ to the world – or how they did NOT! I began to see my St. Christopher's home contextually – that is, how it compares with other "bodies of Christ."

Then, something unexpected occurred. Like Jacob (Genesis 28:16), I woke up one day from my long slumber and I said to myself, "*Surely the Lord is in*

*THIS place.*" I clearly saw and understood how we are all blessed by St. Christopher's -- an imperfect yet spiritually alive and vibrant church.

I returned with the strong conviction that St. Christopher's is a place, a home, perhaps "the" home, where I and each of you can return and find something of our souls. And find something even grander: Our Souls as the place where the Cosmic Christ (the eternal font of mystery, love, life, and grace) dwells in us.

No one knows the future. I certainly don't know mine! But with some confidence, perhaps, I can say that at least for the

From the Rector



BRIAN MCGURK

forseeable future St. Christopher's will continue to be my home.

Perhaps Frederick Buechner's words ring true for you too: "The home we long for and belong to is finally where Christ is." (*The Longing for Home*) I do believe there is something of Christ's living presence here at St.

Christopher's. And, I also believe that, "home is Christ's kingdom, which exists both within us and among us as we wend our prodigal ways through the world in search of it." (*The Longing for Home*).

I miss the blue skies and 70 degree winter weather of Northern California, and I miss the majestic beauty of the Swiss Alps, as well as the architectural beauty of Paris.

But it is great to be home!



**While on sabbatical, Brian performed his first baptism in Paris, France, for Blaise Lemkine. He is the son of Sarah Surrey and Gregory Lemkine, and the great-grandson of parishioner Winnie Portnoy. Brian performed the parents' marriage in Chatham the summer before last, "So it was wonderful to be reunited with them on this happy occasion."**

## Choristers travel to Boston; Choral Evensong planned

Thanks to the generous underwriting of an anonymous donor, the choristers traveled to Boston on Wednesday, April 15, to observe a rehearsal and Evensong of the choristers of Trinity Copley, under the direction of Richard Webster, with Colin Lynch playing the organ. Also in attendance that day were the choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

### Chorister Visitation Day

Tuesday, May 12, will be Chorister Visitation Day (3:30 to 5:00 pm). All interested prospective choristers and parents/guardians are invited to observe and participate in our final rehearsal before the end of the season. Rehearsals resume in September, Tuesdays from 3:45 to 5:15 pm.

### Chorister Advancement

On Sunday, May 17, the five choristers in the choir school will receive medals for having completed all of the requirements of the first level (white) of the *Voice for Life* program of the Royal School of Church Music.

### Choral Evensong

Saturday, June 6, 5 pm. The adult choir will sing the Evening Service in B-flat by John Stainer. Accompanying them will be Maury A. Castro, organist and choirmaster, and Haskell Thomson, musician-in-residence.

### Dedicate an Anthem

Parishioners are invited to donate \$40 toward the purchase of



**The Choristers traveled to Boston to attend a choral evensong: Jamie Gilson, Maddie Fields, Alexandra Hawk, Delia Castro and Aurora Reed.**

new choral music, and the church will match that \$40 in order to purchase a new anthem (each anthem in our library costs about \$80). The donor may dedicate the anthem in honor, celebration, or memory of a person(s) or event of their

choice, and when that anthem is sung in church, this will be recognized in the bulletin. To participate in this ongoing program, please contact Maury at [maestromaury@gmail.com](mailto:maestromaury@gmail.com).

*Maury A. Castro*  
*Organist & Choirmaster*

## Town Meeting

*(Continued from Page 1)*  
and asking for a "yes" vote. That handout was also circulated in church on May 3.

-- One or two parishioners will be prepared to address voters during from the floor of Town Meeting.

-- St. Christopher's also is reaching out to other Chatham churches for support.

-- Likewise the church is reaching out to representatives from other town committees and organizations that support Article 24.

-- Members of the Vestry and

Finance Committee will offer rides to the school for Chatham parishioners who need them.

Finally, Treasurer David Smith offered practical advice the night of the vote. "Because this will be a voice vote, remember to be vocal when casting your vote," David said.

"Also remember that spouses can vote as well, so everyone should be there. Finally, please do not leave the meeting after the vote has been taken because the issue could be reintroduced later in the evening, and then our voters would be gone."



## Work of Hawaiian artist featured in new Gallery exhibit

The Gallery at St Christopher's will host *Voice over the Waters*, works by Hawaiian artist, Delro Rosco, from May 15 – Aug. 28.

Delro Rosco's seascapes are inspired by scripture, everyday life and beauty found in nature. The 26 works in the exhibition are the result of the artist's deeply personal dialogue with God and an ongoing journey in search of hope. Using *nihonga* (Japanese mineral pigment painting), and gestural strokes painted from memory, the artist portrays something greater that lies beyond

the world in which we live.

For the past 26 years, he has worked as a self-employed illustrator specializing in art for label and package design. In 2007, he discovered *nihonga*. His work has been featured in *Ruminate* magazine and most recently on the book covers of a series by acclaimed author N.T. Wright. He has exhibited with CIVA (Christians in the Visual Arts) in juried and traveling exhibitions and his paintings are in the Honolulu Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts and private collections.



***Blessing of Peace* by Rosco**

## Stephen Ministry conducts panel discussion on experiences

"Experiences with Stephen Ministry" was an inspiring fellowship presentation held jointly with the First Congregational Church (FCC) on March 22, featuring a panel of people who had experienced the spiritually enriching benefits of a Stephen Ministry at their various churches.

Cheryl Kain of FCC was a care receiver and gave a moving description of Stephen Ministry results in her life after experiencing some very significant losses. Overwhelmed with grief, she felt forsaken – by her friendship circle and even by God. A friend suggested a Stephen Minister.

Initially she was skeptical, but she grew with the experience. "(The Stephen Minister) was very peaceful and it was such a great comfort to me. It was a beacon to my soul to have someone who was just there for me."

Anita Nicol is a Stephen Leader at FCC and was a Stephen Minister at her former church. She shared



**Stephen Ministry panelists Linda Hughes, The Rev. Gail Smith, Carolyn Otis, Anita Nicol and Cheryl Kain.**

how inspired she became as a trainee. "Training is vital. All of us would feel awkward if we tried to go into this space without it. Some of the great rewards come from practicing with others and learning how to use our skills." She felt closeness and support from other

Stephen Ministers and her Stephen Leaders as she worked with her care receivers.

We learned from Carolyn Otis as one of St. Christopher's Stephen leaders, that a Stephen Minister is "someone who feels called by God to walk beside a hurting person and to simply listen." They are not problem solvers. Nor are they supposed to replace our current pastoral caregivers.

The Rev. Gail Smith had been a priest in a Stephen Ministry in her former church in Maryland and described how their ministry added to an already vibrant pastoral care program. "As a priest that goes and spends time with people, we cannot do that all the time. We would be tired!"

FCC is currently recruiting their Stephen Minister team and St. Christopher's will soon begin recruiting. The two churches will conduct ministry training together.

*Susan Newlin  
Stephen Ministry Leader*

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LOU AUGUSTIN

## St. Christopher's celebrates 10 years of sharing outreach with Africa

It was 10 years ago that a Lenten committee was formed to answer Bishop Tom Shaw's call for involvement "beyond our parish walls." The result was the AIDS in Africa Committee which was approved by the Vestry in October, 2005.

Led by The Rev. Homer McCue and Lew Kimball, the initial emphasis was on AIDS relief in Africa. Working through the Jubilee Committee of the Diocese of Massachusetts, we connected with the Khwilbia Parish, Diocese of Maseno North, Kenya. Our mission was to bring help and hope through the Mothers Union Orphan Feeding Program and helped feed 500 children one meal per week.

Chaired by Jane and Nick Harris, and generously supported by the parish, the committee was able to expand its relationship with the Khwilbia Parish, funding school uniforms, mosquito nets and support for Maseno Mission Hospital.

More recently, the church, through the diocese, became acquainted with the work of Natalie Finstad, Sarah Welch and Kenneth Chomba and their program, Tatua, working in Nairobi, Kenya. Support was provided for

school programs.

In 2008, the Rev. Prince Wreh, an Episcopal priest from Liberia, West Africa, was introduced to the St. Christopher's congregation. Since 2011, we have supported Prince and his wife, Relhetta, with their efforts to build and operate a 10-room elementary school in Goll Farm, Liberia. We provide scholarships and, most recently, we were involved in a concentrated Ebola relief effort in the community.

The committee, first called AIDS in Africa, then Aid to Africa, and now Together with Africans, has raised money through a variety of programs and services. In addition, the diocese's Mission Tithe Grant Committee has awarded two grants of \$7,500 each to our Together with Africans Committee.

Over the past decade approximately \$250,000 has been contributed by St. Christopher's to support feeding, education and medical needs as well as mission trips to both Kenya and Liberia.

**We invite you to join us at this year's African Service on May 31 with special music arranged by Organist and Choirmaster Maury Castro.**

*Steve Keenan and Jean Greenough  
Together with Africa co-chairs*

### CHURCH STATISTICS

Death	Marriage
• Libby Mottur, March 11, 2015	• Hollis Romanelli and Adam Paquin, April 24, 2015

### PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following persons in your prayers and call the office if you wish a name to be added. Thank all of you for your prayers for our parish and beyond.

Kate Winchell

Heather Padgett

Jane Maddux

David Dwyer

# May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10 Stephen Ministry	2
3 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship with Grant Forum	4 9 Stephen Ministry	5 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff meeting 1 pm Golf Cmte 3:30 pm Choir School	6 9:30 Play group 10 Centering Prayer 3 pm EPL Music Series 7 pm Adult Choir	7 10 Women's AA	8	9 11 Memorial Service Arthur Spencer
10 <u>Mother's Day</u> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship	11 9 Stephen Ministry 11:30 Singles Group 6 pm Town Meeting	12 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff meeting 3:30 pm Choir School 4 pm Pastoral Care	13 9:30 Play group 10 Centering Prayer 4 pm Finance Cmte 7 pm Adult Choir	14 10 Women's AA 2 pm Shawl Ministry	15	16
17 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist w/ Chorister commission 11 Fellowship 11:30 CYF Steering Cmt	18 9 Stephen Ministry	19 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff meeting 3:30 pm Choirister Year end party 4 pm Vestry	20 9:30 Play group 10 Centering Prayer 10 Parkinson's Support Group 7 pm Adult Choir	21 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship & Music	22	23 10 Blessing of the Fleet @ Chatham Fish Pier
24 Pentecost 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 9 Morning Prayer 9:45 Staff meeting 3:30 pm Choir School	27 9:30 Play group 10 Centering Prayer 4 pm Together with Africans 7 pm Adult Choir	28 10 Women's AA 6 pm Deanery Assembly @ Vineyard Haven	29	30
31 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship						

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May, 2015

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## Come to the Blessing of the Fleet!

The Annual Blessing of the Fleet, co-hosted by St. Christopher's and the Women of Fishing Families will be held at the Fish Pier on Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m.

All are welcome to join our fishing community to bless the families and their fishing vessels.

## Communications Coordinator Lynn Van Dine retires

*By Lynn Van Dine*

I've written a lot of stories for Soundings – the rector falling through the ceiling (and recovering from that fall), publicizing two capital campaigns, promoting every Blessing of the Fleet from its inception, a Lilly grant awarded, and more.

But I've had considerable trouble deciding how to write this one.

So, I'll follow the writer's Golden Rule, nicknamed KISS (for Keep It Simple, Stupid).

After 11 years, this is my last issue of Soundings.

I am retiring from the staff of St. Christopher's on May 14.

What a wonderful, meaningful, job this has been. I've loved working with the rector, the staff, the parishioners and the friends of St. Christopher's, and will miss the day-to-day encounters very much. The dedication, creativity, hard work, fun and abiding faith you've shown me has touched me deeply.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

I'll see you in church.