

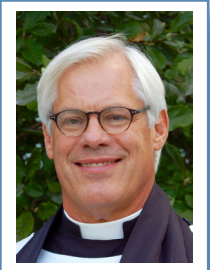
SOUNDINGS

Summer 2018



*O God Our Help in Ages Past;
Our Hope for Years to Come*
Music in the life of the church

Finishing What We Started



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

Prior to my call to St. Christopher's, I was the rector of an historic parish in Virginia. This parish was established in the late 1600's, and the present church edifice dates back to 1701. George and Martha Washington were married in the church (as it now stands) in 1759, officiated by the 30th rector. 239 years later I became the 60th rector, and I officiated at many joyful

weddings, but none as historically significant as that one!

One day I approached an influential member of the parish, an "aristocrat" of the county, so to speak, with a question regarding the church's original organ. He was a sophisticated and knowledgeable man, who possessed an intimate history of the church and the parish (His ancestors happened to include a U.S. president as well as another First Lady of our country).

His answer to my query went something like this, "Well Brian, Miss Jennie (I don't recall her actual name, but I do remember the "Miss" reference!) played that

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Finishing What We Started, continued

organ for years, and she was almost as old as it was.”

And he added, “But the only thing that ever came out of it was dust and mice!”

“Well, what did you eventually do with such an historic organ?” I asked.

“We got rid of it and replaced it with a new one,” he replied.

Adding: “And the dust and mice went away!”

St. Christopher’s does not have a “dust and mice” problem in our historic organ (Although...on second thought, we might!).

The time is right for St. Christopher’s to complete the renovation and expansion of our church facility (begun in 2003). And, of greater importance, the time is right to enrich and expand our excellent music ministry. Both goals will be accomplished with the installation of a new pipe organ.

We are blessed with a cadre of excellent singers and musicians, led by our outstanding Organist and Choirmaster, Maury Castro, aided and supported by our Musician-In-Residence, Haskell Thomson, and many others. Our present organ seriously limits their talents and creative expression.

An organ is central to the liturgical and spiritual life of this parish, expressing what words cannot (beauty, holiness, and mystery) in the crucially important events and experiences of life—funerals, baptisms, weddings, times of great joy and great sorrow.

Franciscan priest Richard Roh, writes that, “We often know things imaginably, aesthetically, or harmoniously before we know them rationally. Music is a great teacher in the life of our souls and spirits.”

This new organ will be our gift to the greater community, praising God and inspiring souls for generations to come. Your joyful support is greatly appreciated.

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~ Richard Rohr*

Have questions? Want to learn more?

Consider attending one or both of the following:

- A quiet session at the existing Stevens organ at St. Christopher’s with Organist & Choirmaster Maury Castro, to learn about the deficiencies of the current instrument, and details about the plans for the new Dobson organ. Identical sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, and Thursday, July 26, both at 4 pm.
- A home reception in various Lower Cape locations and times. Sign up sheets will be available on a table in the narthex of the church on Sundays. Maury Castro and/or Haskell Thomson will be present at these receptions, as well as Rector McGurk and Pieter Schiller.

A Modern Pipe Organ for St. Christopher's



Pieter Schiller
Chair,
Organ Committee

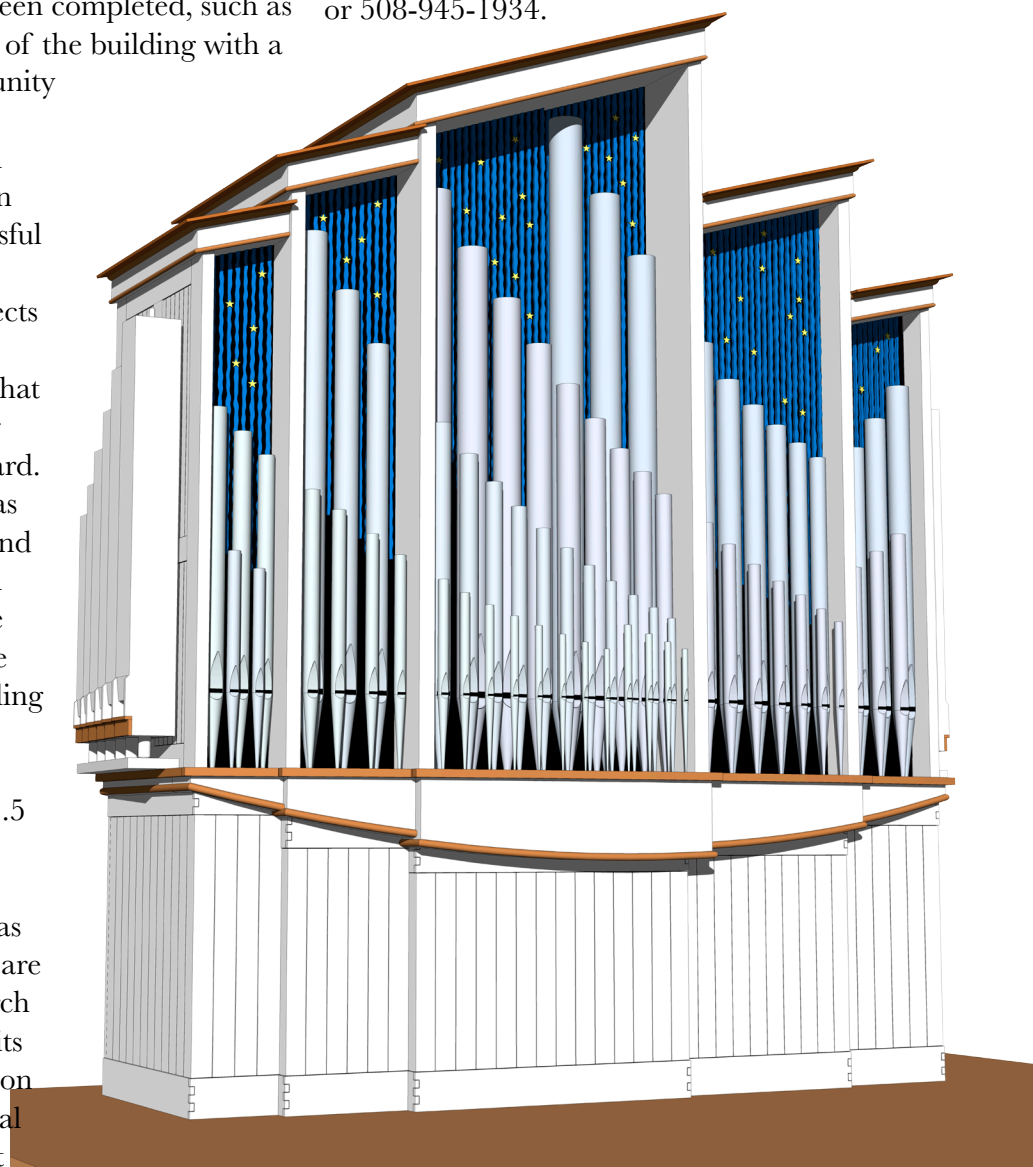
Recently you should have received a packet of information about the plans for the installation of a new organ as well as the modifications to the rear of the church. St. Christopher's is blessed to have a well-established parish family that is deeply committed to its mission and programs. Since 2006, members of the parish have contributed over \$4.5 million to fund major renovations to the

church facilities, including an enlargement of the sanctuary and construction of new meeting spaces and offices. These renovations have been completed and several additional projects have been completed, such as restoration of the original facade of the building with a grant from the Chatham Community Preservation Act. Improvements to the Parish Hall and the church HVAC systems were completed in 2017 using funds from the successful 2014 capital campaign.

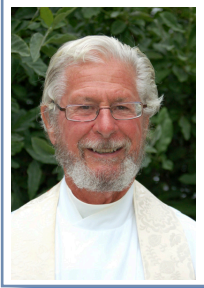
With the above priority projects completed or underway, the St. Christopher's Vestry has agreed that the project to replace the existing Stevens organ should move forward. The Dobson Organ Company has quoted \$1.26 million to furnish and install the proposed organ. When provision is made for work on the church itself, including raising the level of the choir platform, installing a railing at the front, installing a handicap lift and other changes, the total cost will approximate \$1.5 million, including a contingency allowance. A small group in the parish has been assembled and has met with several individuals who are significant supporters of the church and appreciative of the value of its music program. The initial reaction has been most positive with several impressive expressions of support already in hand. As of late June

2018, 25 individuals and families have committed a total of just over \$1,000,000 to the project and nearly \$600,000 is in hand in a segregated bank account at Rockland Trust in Chatham. The Vestry now wishes to invite all members of the parish to participate in this exciting opportunity to bring new musical life to our congregation and community. Dobson's latest estimate of production scheduling indicates that, if ordered in the spring of 2018, installation in the summer of 2021 would be possible. This suggests that a capital campaign with commitments payable over four years is feasible (2018–2021).

If you have questions or would like to meet personally with me or any of those working on this project, please contact me at Pieter.Schiller@gmail.com or 508-945-1934.



Lift Up Your Hearts; We Lift Them to the Lord



The Rev. Dr. John Martiner
Priest Associate

This is such a familiar exchange between the celebrant at the Eucharist and congregation—an invitation, “lift up your hearts.” Like so many words in our worship experience, these can be lost in their redundancy. Yet, they represent amazingly significant spiritual moments.

Traditionally, the “heart” is a metaphor for who we are in our deepest self, stripped of pretense, posturing, rigid perspective, pride, ancient memories, hurts, sin. Theologian Cynthia Bourgeault says, “The heart mirrors the real person in its capacity for spiritual perception to feel, to love and to empathize.” Thus, the heart not only represents our essential selves but also a place within us where love is felt and known. In our worship we are invited to lift our hearts to the Lord. The question is: how can we do that?

I believe that one of the main ways we lift our hearts is through music and more specifically through the singing of hymns. St. Augustine is reported to

have said that “those who sing pray twice.” Music in worship is quite different from going to a concert—it is intended to touch the heart and elicit a response from our deepest being. In our culture we are bombarded with music. Listen to background music in TV advertisements, for example. In worship, we actually make music; we sing, and when we do, something deeply spiritual may take place.

In an Episcopal Church, hymns are selected by the officiating priest often in consultation with the director of music. Each Sunday, hymns are meant to emphasize the themes in scripture or church year. We are not in the business of singing “golden oldies.” It is much deeper than that. Indeed, when hymns, anthems, scripture and sermon connect in the communal breaking of bread, we are participating in something beautiful in God.

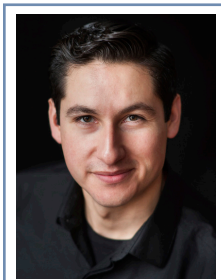
New hymns may open new windows of understanding, feeling, and inspiration. Old hymns may connect us with cherished memories. One does not have to be a great singer to appreciate the spiritual atmosphere when we stand and sing together as the Body of Christ. The singing of a hymn is a great gift which enables us “to lift our hearts to the Lord.”

Chatham Homes by the Sea



- A self-guided tour
- Five magnificent homes!
- Saturday, October 6
- 10 am–3 pm
- Tickets \$40 in advance/\$45 on Saturday
- Tickets limited
- Tickets available in advance at stchristopherschatham.org/housetour or at the Gift & Consignment Shop
- All proceeds to benefit St. Christopher's Church and ministries

Widening the Circle of Our Influence



Maury A. Castro
Organist &
Choirmaster

While there is a great deal to share and celebrate about the burgeoning organ project (ask me any time!), there are also a variety of other aspects of the musical life at the church worth sharing with you.

First, I'm pleased to report that after several years of dreaming and at least two years of planning, St. Christopher's has purchased a set of choral

risers to be used at the front of the nave, in front of the altar. Thanks to the generous participation of the Friends of Music, as well as to the generous specified gifts of Georgia Jervey and Hilton Jervey, the church was able to purchase the risers in April of 2018, just in time for concerts in May and June including Lyricora Vocal Ensemble, the Chatham Music Club, and the Berkshire Children's Chorus. When the church was redesigned preceding the 2009 renovation, a significant liturgical decision was made to place the choir in the back of the nave, keeping the focus of worshipers on the altar and the word. However, this created a new challenge when it came to terraced space for performing ensembles. The risers have met that challenge. Special thanks to Joel Esten and Barb Reed for their behind-the-scenes work in preparation for this acquisition, as well as to Bob Braman and Peter Hughes for building appropriate storage space for the new risers.

Second, I'm pleased to say that I will be attending the Royal School of Church Music Chorister Training Course in Newport again this summer, and will also be bringing one of our fine choristers, Paul McLardy. The week-long course includes rehearsals and workshops



New Choral Risers!

culminating in services of Choral Evensong and Holy Eucharist. Delicious food and fun recreation is also part of the mix! This course runs the first week of August. Many thanks to Joan and Richard Greene, whose generous support of this endeavor in the form of a gift in loving memory of Arthur and Berjouhi Spencer makes it possible.

Finally, I'm excited to share that I have been working with the Cape Cod Conservatory of Music, under the umbrella of the Cape Symphony, to utilize space at St. Christopher's to provide musical instruction to students on the lower Cape. Currently the Conservatory has campuses in Barnstable and Falmouth, but there is currently no lower Cape presence. Plans are underway for a pilot string class to be taught at St. Christopher's in the autumn of 2018. I hope that our wonderful space may be used more and more to facilitate musical instruction in our community. Many thanks to Barb Reed for initiating these discussions, and to Dick Kraycir for working with the Conservatory management on technical matters.

amazon smile

St. Christopher's is now a participating non-profit with Amazon Smile. Any church member who buys through Amazon, can buy through Smile.Amazon.com, and designate the church to receive a small donation (0.5%) for each purchase. All you have to do is follow this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2425677>.

At that point you may either sign in if already an Amazon member or create an Amazon account. Very easy and simple, but you must remember in the future to log into smile.amazon.com in order for the church to automatically receive the donation from Amazon. For more information, contact David Smith, treasurer.

New Pledge Treasurer Needed



David Smith
Treasurer

After her years of service, Linda Hughes has decided to take a break from being Pledge Treasurer and we need a replacement. Many thanks to Linda for all of her work. The Pledge Treasurer works with the Treasurer and Stewardship Chair to ensure all pledges and donations are properly recorded, coordinates the Tuesday morning counting crew, and mails our quarterly giving statements. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me at dm99smith@hotmail.com or 508-737-2858.

Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Alexander Blaikie Bierce III
May 12, 2018

George Davol Kenney
June 16, 2018

Marriages

Diana Chan & Niclas Murk
May 7, 2018

Lisa Cataldo & Nicholas Stuart
May 12, 2018

Catherine Hultgren & Fabian Ruck
June 2, 2018

Nicole Jacinto & Benjamin H. Dill
June 16, 2018

Kim Angelakis & Connor Baharozian
June 23, 2018

Transfers In

Kathleen Davin
November 2017

Deaths

Parker Newhall Chick
April 26, 2018

Margaret Blake Storer
May 6, 2018

Susan Hilgendorff
October 22, 2017

Jean Ward
June 12, 2018

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

508-945-2832

stchristopherschatham.org

The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

The Rev. Dr. John Martin
Priest Associate

Maury A. Castro
*Organist & Choirmaster;
Communications Director*

Haskell Thomson
Musician-in-Residence

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

Eileen Aldrich
Manager, Gift Shop

Sandra Bowden
Curator, The Gallery

Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, Food Pantry

**Lynn Van Dine
and Tim Weller,**
Soundings copy editors.

Letters from Africa

The Together with Africans Committee wishes to share a couple of letters of gratitude from scholarship recipients at the Goll Farm Elementary School in Liberia, heavily supported by St. Christopher's.



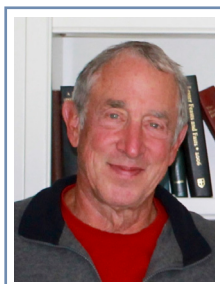
I really need this Scholarship so that we can be a help to my Community and Country. I need this Scholarship because my Parent do not have the hard to sent me to school. I promise to pay attention to my lesson and meet the grade point of this Scholarship.

Thank to whosoever that is bring this good Scholarship. I promise to be a good student so that you people can help me to be who I want to be tomorrow.

⑪ I decided to apply for this scholarship purposely because I am interested in education, but I don't have any closed relative to push me forward. My mother has been trying her best, but at certain point and time, I will drop due to lack of finance. Therefore, I want to use this opportunity myself. I will be very grateful to you, if my application is accepted.



Team St. Christopher's for WE CAN



Larry Jobson

A team of bike riders from St Christopher's will be riding in this year's Last Gasp fundraiser under team WE CAN. We'll ride the 62 miles from Sandwich to Provincetown on September 17. Our team members are The Rev. Brian and Diane McGurk, Susan Newlin, Tim Weller, and myself. We are currently training

for the ride as part of Team WE CAN (Women's Empowerment through Cape Area Networking). WE CAN will receive 100% of all donations that Team St Christopher's collects.

We're hopeful that the St Christopher's community will partner with our riding team, enabling us to achieve our overall fundraising goal of \$2,500 (\$500 per team member). To make donations as easy as possible for St Christopher's parishioners, we're asking that each donation be made by check. You may simply write the check to CCCF (Cape Cod Charitable FunRaisers, the sponsoring organization), with a memo line notation saying "Last Gasp Team St. Christopher's/

WE CAN". You may leave the checks in an envelope addressed to Diane McGurk at the reception desk of St. Christopher's or mail them to St. Christopher's with attention to Diane McGurk. Diane will collect all checks and send them to CCCF with instructions to apply the total amount in five equal parts for each of our five team members.

Many of you know and already support WE CAN (www.wecancenter.org). The Cape presents unique challenges for year-round residents and especially women. Susan Newlin, as a volunteer for WE CAN, has seen first-hand what WE CAN services can provide for Cape area women, their families and the Cape communities. Women typically contact WE CAN in crisis, saying, "I have no place else to turn." Through unique programs and knowledge of Cape-wide resources, WE CAN empowers women through networking and counselling services to confidently take their best "next steps." With 17 years of service, WE CAN has grown remarkably. In 2017, the organization served nearly 3,000 women each facing a unique life transition. It is supported entirely by donations and grants, a paid staff of 7 and over 250 volunteers.



625 Main Street
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

Summer 2018

Non-Profit Organization

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St. Christopher's Charity Golf Tournament

**Monday, September 17, 2018
at Eastward Ho!**

*Play one of Golf Magazine's
top 100 courses in the U.S.!*

Registration 11:30
Shotgun Start 12:30
Putting Contest 4:30
Reception (cash bar) and prizes awarded 5:30
\$300 per golfer (includes all fees, reception, and gift)

508.237.5588

www.stchristopherschatham.org/golf-tournament

This event by courtesy of a sponsoring member of Eastward Ho!, a private golf club.