


# SOUNDINGS

Autumn 2018



## ***Children and the Church: Nurturing the Next Generation***

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal  
Church 

### *Just Like a Child*



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

Several years ago I was on sabbatical in Palo Alto, California. My grandson, Tommy, was about 4 years old, and living outside of Boston. To stay connected during my four months away, I arranged to FaceTime with him.

On our first FaceTime conversation, I sat in a sunny Palo Alto park. Tommy was at home in Massachusetts during a winter

snowstorm. He was totally absorbed with Legos. For the most part, I was looking at the back of his head, as he intently pieced together his Lego masterpiece. Our conversation was stilted: I asked a series of mundane questions (“What are you building?” “How do you like all the snow?”). He responded with a series of simple, one-word answers.

Suddenly there was a loud noise behind me—a bang, the rev of a truck engine, and the warning “beep, beep, beep” of a large truck backing up. It startled me; but, in contrast, it grabbed Tommy’s attention.

“Wow, what’s that?” he blurted out.

*continued on p. 2*

## Just Like a Child, continued

I answered, “A garbage truck.”

Staring straight into the screen he blurted out, “Let me see!”

I obliged, and he let out a long, “Whoa!”

Tommy was fascinated by a garbage truck of all things! (When I returned to Massachusetts, Diane and I bought him a toy garbage truck. Which, of course, he loved!)

Small things fascinated him. Things that would bore the socks off adults. His fascination with the world around him was revealed by a flow of incessant questions. In fact, there were so many questions that I nicknamed him, “THE ‘WHAT’S THAT?’ MAN!” He was a walking, talking question mark!

My hope for Tommy and for all children (especially those here at our church) is that their sense of curiosity, wonder, fascination, inquisitiveness, imagination, and questions will continue as they explore our world, and as they explore the inner life of their own hearts and souls.

On several occasions in the Gospels, Jesus holds up a small child, and essentially says that a child is the image of greatest in the kingdom of God. Why? Because a child is willing to explore—with an open heart and an open mind—both the physical and spiritual worlds around them and within them. Children are by nature open—able to take in beauty, love, and grace.

Robert Coles, the Pulitzer Prize-winning psychiatrist and author of the seminal works, *Children In Crisis* and *The Spiritual Lives of Children*, wrote:

“Children are by nature questioning. I...know it as a pediatrician and a child psychiatrist. I know it as a parent....And I think there is no doubt that a lot of the religious side of childhood is a merger of the natural curiosity and interest the children have in the world with the natural interest and curiosity that religion has about the world, because that’s what religion is....The spirit of religion I think is what children connect with: the questions, the inquiry, the enormous curiosity about this universe, and the hope that somehow those answers will come about.... Which is what we do when we kneel in a church and sit and pray in a synagogue or whatever.”

Frederick Buechner (author and clergyman) concurs: “A Church that is actively exploring the journey of the soul is not a place of answers but a journey into mystery, wonder, amazement, and awe.”

Debra Gebhardt is our talented, new Director of Children Youth and Families. Along the CYF Board, she possesses the gifts and talents to lead our children on this journey into the mystery, wonder, amazement, and awe of Jesus Christ. (During this stewardship season, please know that this—among other things—is what your Stewardship pledge enables.)

A portion of the Great Thanksgiving, from a Celtic Eucharistic prayer, used often in our services, captures the spirit of religion: “O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death. We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity...”

My hope is that St. Christopher’s will be that imaginative place where we can all embark on a journey into the Wonder and Mystery of Divine Love. And be awed by the Grace of the Living Christ.

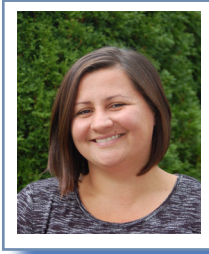
Just like a child.



Several members of the board of Children, Youth, and Families, including (l-r) Barbara Garside, Patrice Milley, Danielle Massey, Debra Gebhardt, Martha Crane, Jeremy Gingras, and Kimberly Power.



## Meet Debra Gebhardt!



**Debra Gebhardt**  
Director,  
Children, Youth,  
& Families

I am eager to start my service as Director of Children, Youth, and Families at St. Christopher's. My journey to this position has been far and wide. I was born and raised in Hawaii, and chose to come to the East Coast for college. I met my husband while earning a Masters of Education at UMass Amherst, and we enjoyed traveling the United States together. After having our three children (ages 3, 5 and

7), and many summers here on the Cape, we decided to make this our forever home. We bought a house in East Harwich and my husband has been teaching at Monomoy Regional Middle School going on four years.

We are excited to call St. Christopher's our church. I aim to be an asset to our community and foster the development of the children, youth and families program. I plan on having fun teaching Sunday School, and am excited to work with any willing volunteers to help enrich our program. Thank you for this opportunity—I cannot wait to get started!

## A Report from the Children, Youth, and Families Board

What is the role of children in church?

The Board of Children, Youth and Families was formed by the Rector in early April of this year. Co-chaired by Jeremy Gingras and Kimberly Power, this team includes: Ilene Bendas, Lindsay Bierwirth, Martha Crane, Barb Garside, Barb Gibson, Danielle Massey, Patrice Milley, and Maggie Van Sickle. When formed, our group set out to answer the question above: What is the role of children in our church, and most importantly what do we want the children to learn from our church? While reviewing these questions, we set out to establish board priorities, create a new job description for the new Director of Children, Youth and Families, re-invigorate Family Faith Formation, Faith in Action, youth groups, and more.

One of the most important tasks we took on was the hiring of the new Director of Children, Youth and Families. While interviewing Debra, we could tell she was the right fit. Her energy, caring nature, and loving attitude was all we needed to know that she and her family would fit right in. Beginning with the new school year, Sunday School has taken off. We have changed the start time of Sunday School to be 9:45 am. This gives the children a little more time to settle in to the class and learn about the lessons and teachings of the day. We have over fifteen children registered for weekly lessons and have also asked for an additional volunteer to help out with the classroom activities.

Every year, St. Christopher's Church pairs with the First Congregational Church of Chatham in presenting Vacation Bible Camp. This last summer, this newly-created board was able to find volunteers to assist

Amy Middleton in this huge undertaking and raise scholarships to help out families who need assistance with the fee.

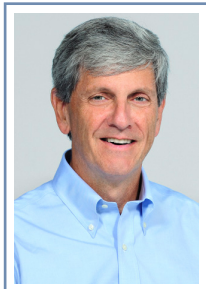
Faith in Action will be starting in October with the first meeting on October 21 at 9:30 am. Children and adults will be working diligently to provide meals for some of our members. This is one of the great outreach programs that St. Christopher's offers, and is a lesson to teach the children about being community members and helping others.

In November, we plan on bringing back the Family Faith Formation dinners, which is a great opportunity for people to meet and talk about issues relevant to the church and raising a family in today's world. We also will be working on many of the activities and events that come throughout the church calendar year, the Christmas Pageant, Feast of St. Nicholas and many more.

The Board of Children, Youth and Families is enthusiastic about the future of the church and excited to be a part of helping the church grow. We also do need help. If you are interested in helping out with one of the Sunday School classes, please contact Debra Gebhardt at [dgebhardt@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:dgebhardt@stchristopherschatham.org). In addition, donations for our programs may be made to St. Christopher's Church of Chatham and reference the Children, Youth and Families. These donations go toward Faith in Action, Family Faith Formation, youth groups, and field trips for the children.

~ Jeremy Gingras & Kimberly Power  
Co-Chairs  
Children, Youth and Families Board

## Stewardship Season Is Here!



**Joe Meeks**  
Chair, Stewardship  
Committee

It's that time of year that we all look forward to. With trepidation, I assumed the reins from Peter Hughes to whom I am grateful for his many years of service as previous stewardship chair. The reason I was compelled to make this commitment to St. Christopher's is captured by this year's campaign theme, *Embracing the*

*Present, Securing our Future.*

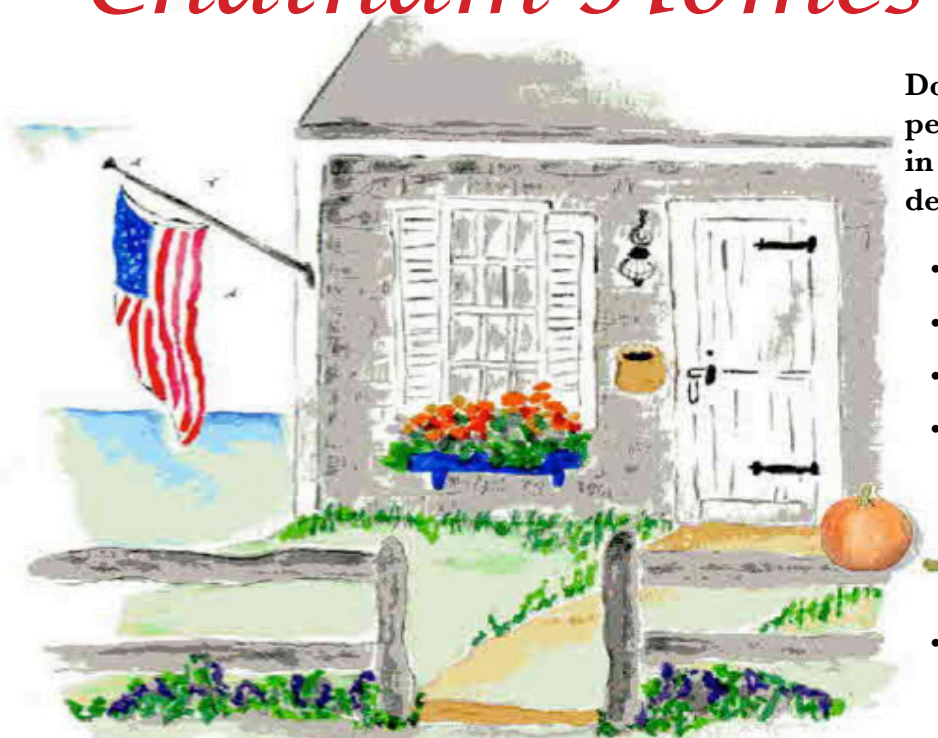
My wife, Gretchen and I purchased our home in South Chatham eight years ago. I'll admit that my church participation was initially driven by her interest, and I am grateful for that. St. Christopher's is our church, having attended both as summer members and full-time members. Brian officiated at my sister's and daughter's weddings. St. Christopher's is where my daughter was married and my grandchildren baptized. It supports my extended family as we experience the natural progression of health issues as the years pass. It's where I first gave serious thought to what it means to be a Christian. Our clergy go to great lengths to

make it a special place. An example is the hidden gem, Glimpse of the Gospel, each Sunday at 9:10 am. How cool is it to have an interactive discussion on the meaning of the gospel reading with the Rector and other parishioners! I am sure each of us has our own list of what we appreciate about St. Christopher's as we embrace the present.

This is where the campaign theme becomes relevant. Today's culture seems to focus on our differences and creates negative forces. St. Christopher's gives us the chance to focus on what brings us together in a community of faith and to create a positive force in the world. This would not be possible without your past pledges to St. Christopher's.

Each pledge during this year's campaign signals appreciation for what we have today and our plans for the future. More details of the campaign will be shared in church and in correspondence from the Committee. We ask that you consider increasing last year's pledge if you can. If you haven't pledged in the past we ask you to seriously consider doing so this year. By increasing the depth and breadth of commitment to St. Christopher's, we enable the church to plan for the year ahead, embrace the present, and secure our future.

## Chatham Homes by the Sea

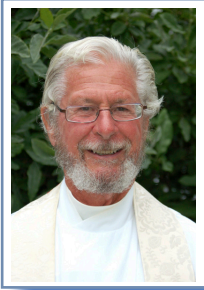


**Don't miss this rare opportunity to take a peek into five exceptional private homes in Chatham! Tickets are limited, so don't delay in getting your tickets today.**

- Saturday, October 6
- 10 am–3 pm
- Tickets \$40 in advance/\$45 on Saturday
- Tickets available online at [stchristopherschatham.org/housetour](http://stchristopherschatham.org/housetour), at the Gift & Consignment Shop, and Puritan Cape Cod in Chatham
- All proceeds to benefit St. Christopher's Church and ministries



# Stewardship – What I Always Wanted to Say



**The Rev. Dr. John Martin**  
Priest Associate

Once again, St. Christopher's church faces a critical few months that will determine our financial health going forward. As a Rector for forty-two years, parishioner, and now your Priest Associate, believe me, I have encountered all the anxiety this time brings forth. Along the way I have learned a few things that I want to share here. I do so because

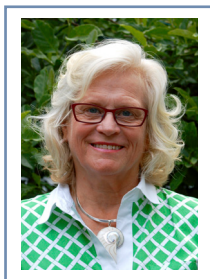
I love the church and want it to succeed in its mission, which includes providing a place for our children now and in the future. So here they are:

- **Only church members give to the church.** Unlike giving to other charities, which have a large and broad base of potential givers, the church has only us. It follows that the pledge of money that we make should be the major share of our charitable giving.
- **Everyone who looks to St Christopher's as their faith community—even seasonally—needs to participate by pledging.** I know it is tempting to say, "I give when I attend" (which is probably not too often). Those who do this severely limit the Vestry's ability to make a budget going forward.
- **Seasonal attenders should contribute in proportion to the amount of time they spend worshipping at St. Christopher's.** So, if your pledge to the church is \$4,000/year and you look to St. Christopher's as your faith community while on the Cape, you should consider splitting your pledge. Use any proportion; but it is only fair and responsible to seriously consider doing this.
- **Stewardship is never about relying on a few wealthy, generous givers.** It is about all of us pulling together according to our various abilities. Every church seems to fall into the trap of letting others pay. Understand that this is bad stewardship and it is dangerous. Just think of the crisis caused when a large contributor is no longer able to give. St. Christopher's—and many churches—will be in dire straights unless we stop leaning on a few and start to all take our proper place in giving.

- **Church fundraising is no answer to responsible stewardship.** No doubt, fundraising efforts can enable friendship and a sense of community. But too much of this tends to inhibit individual financial responsibility and, furthermore most often the money raised from these events comes from church members who could just as easily raise their pledge to attain the amount of money looked for in a fundraising event. Someday, it would be good to do fundraising not for the parish budget, but some worthy project in the community or beyond.
- **It is a matter of math.** I am told that for 2019, we need to raise \$535,000 in pledges for the projected parish budget. Typically we rely on 200+/- pledges. To do this the average pledge needs to be \$2,675. Some will give more, some less, and every pledge is honored and important. I suspect, however, that many of us can at least raise our pledge to this level if we choose.
- **It is a matter of faith.** Ultimately, pledging is about what we honor most in life and death. It has to do with our vision of ourselves and our world. I have come to believe that everything in life is a gift and that we rely on love and grace all our days. Giving asks us to believe the Good News of God in Christ, to see goodness that comes from people of faith, and to dare to believe that we are part of something great—God's community. When all is said and done, that motivates what we give—that is Christian stewardship.



# The Autumn/Winter 2018 Exhibition



**Sandra Bowden**  
Curator, The Gallery  
at St. Christopher's

*Celebrating our English Bible* is designed to visually tell the story of how the Bible was translated into English, giving the viewer a new appreciation of the challenges and sacrifices that 16th-century scholars endured as they pushed forward to publish a Bible in English.

In 2017, Christendom celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This

historic event, coupled with Luther's ground-breaking translation, has made it possible for Christians over the last 500 years to read the Bible in the vernacular.

However, the Reformation was not restricted to Germany alone. Circumstances propelled an English movement that yearned for a Bible in its own language.

The story of how the British acquired an English Bible is inspiring. The struggle to develop an English translation began with John Wycliffe, a 14th-century advocate for a Bible in the vernacular. He was the first to complete a hand-written English translation in 1384, but as a result, after his death, he was declared a heretic and his works were banned and burned.

To understand more fully how we got our English Bible, it is necessary to look back to St. Jerome's 4th-century translation of the Bible, the Vulgate. Because the Vulgate was used for over 1000 years we have a vast number of illuminations and documents derived from this translation. In this show there is a 13th-century English illuminated manuscript, a 15th century illuminated manuscript leaf from a Book of Hours, and a rare 16th-century bifolium (two adjoining leaves) of a musical score with Latin lyrics.

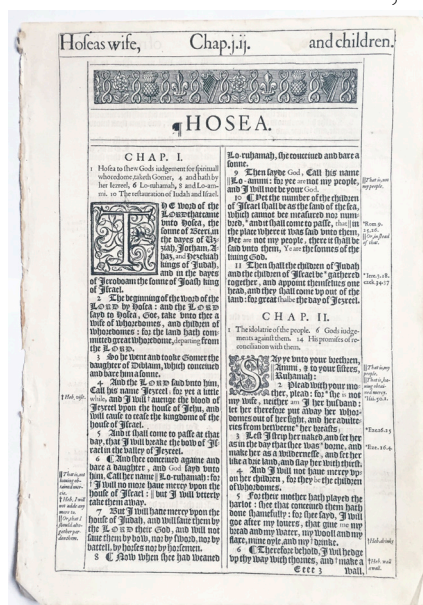
While Germany was in the throes of the Reformation, tensions were growing in England between those that saw the need for an English Bible and the Catholic Church, which wanted to keep the Latin Vulgate. This exhibition features several of the

## Celebrating Our English Bible (Part I)

(Part II to appear in the Winter Issue of Soundings)

important translators, including a portrait engraving and an original leaf from their Bibles; John Tyndale's *Title Page with Prologue for the Epistle of James* from a 1549 edition of Tyndale's Bible, King Henry VIII's Great Bible, the Geneva Bible translated by a group that escaped to Switzerland to avoid Queen Mary's slaughter of protestant clergy, the Bishop's Bible printed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, as well as the *Title Page of Hosea* from the 1611 (very first printing) edition of the King James Bible, still renowned for its majestic style and marvelous prose.

On the heels of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it is important that we recall the significance of having the Bible in our own language. By realizing the sacrifices that were made to give us our Bible, may we more consciously celebrate this cherished gift, our English Bible.



*Title Page of Hosea from the first printing of the King James Version*



*16th-century bifolium of a musical score*





508-945-2832

[stchristopherschatham.org](http://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*

**Debra Gebhardt**  
*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*

**Priscilla Chick, R.N.**  
*Parish Nurse*

**Eileen Aldrich**  
*Manager, Gift Shop*

**Sandra Bowden**  
*Curator, The Gallery*

**Ted and Martha Miller**  
*Managers, Food Pantry*

**Lou Augustin**  
*Sexton*

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

## Pipe Organ Capital Campaign a Success



**Pieter Schiller**  
*Chair,  
Organ Committee*

We wanted to share some exciting news with you about the campaign to purchase and install a new organ in our sanctuary. Launched by Len Magnusson over ten years ago, the project to plan, select and install a new pipe organ at St. Christopher's moved into its critical phase in June with the launch of our parish-wide capital campaign. I am pleased to report that about 150 individuals and families in our parish have committed nearly \$1,550,000 to make a new organ a reality. We have signed a contract with Dobson Pipe Organ Builders and completed design work for changes to our sanctuary to accommodate it. All of these costs can be accommodated with the funds that have been committed. Installation is planned for the spring of 2021.

Great thanks go to those who helped make this dream a reality, especially Maury Castro and Haskell Thomson. We also thank Peggy Davis, Joe Gagliano, George Olmsted, Ginger Plexico, Phil and Barbara Reed, and Peg Shipman.

## Parish Statistics

### Baptisms

Genevieve Hope O'Brien  
July 1, 2018

Samuel Augustine Wilson  
July 1, 2018

Theodora Rose Wilson  
July 1, 2018

Axel Parker Deem  
July 8, 2018

Maren Elizabeth Chait  
August 10, 2018

Sebastian Nguyen Green  
September 9, 2018

### Marriages

Claire Streibert &  
Ralph S. Sando, Jr.  
July 14, 2018

Erin Ross & Clay Bazzle  
September 15, 2018

Elisa Huang &  
Ian MacLellan  
September 22, 2018

### Transfers In

Judith Felton  
June 2018

### Deaths

Mark Lenhart  
March 30, 2018

Christopher Parker  
July 5, 2018

Susan May Massey  
October 11, 2017

Dorothy Horne  
August 29, 2018

John Flood  
August 31, 2018

Doris Imbergamo  
September 8, 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](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.



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**Autumn 2018**

Non-Profit Organization

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## Special Services 2018–2019

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Sunday, October 7, 11 am  
*Blessing of the Animals*

Thursday, November 1, 5 pm  
*Choral Eucharist for All Saints' Day  
featuring Fauré's Requiem*

Wednesday, November 21, 3 pm  
*A Service of Thanksgiving*

Sunday, December 9, 10 am  
*A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols*

Saturday, December 22, 5 pm  
*Christmas Celtic Evensong & Communion*

Monday, December 24, 3 pm, 5 pm, 10 pm  
*Christmas Eve Services*

Thursday, January 24, 5 pm  
*Celtic Evensong*

Saturday, February 9, 5 pm  
*Choral Evensong*

Thursday, March 14, 5 pm  
*Celtic Evensong & Communion in  
Commemoration of St. Patrick*

Friday, April 19, 5 pm  
*Good Friday Liturgy featuring Haydn's  
Seven Last Words of Christ for string quartet*

Saturday, April 20, 5 pm  
*Celtic Great Vigil of Easter*

Sunday, April 21, 9 am, 11 am  
*Easter Sunday Services*

Thursday, May 30, 5 pm  
*Celtic Evensong & Communion for Ascension Day*