

SOUNDINGS

Vol. IV, No.9

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

SEPTEMBER, 2010

Summer Auction a smashing success!

By almost any measure, last month's Summer Auction was a resounding success!

Joe Gagliano, a new member of the church -- but an old hand at various charity auctions around Chatham -- described his first St. Christopher's auction this way:

"There was a buzz in the air," he said. "There was so much energy and excitement the whole evening. You could feel it ... what a special event."

And because Joe doubles as church treasurer, he was

delighted by the financial results. Measured financially, this was the second most successful in the auction's seven-year history. Final figures won't be known for a month, but here are tentative results: Net profit to the church, after expenses, was about \$33,300. That's up \$5,600, or 20 percent, over 2009.



Bidders swarmed through the Parish Hall to see wide range of offerings in the Silent Auction.

- Other highlights:
- Ticket sales were up 26 percent, with a record 247 tickets sold.
 - Donations were up anywhere from 12-30 percent, depending on final figures.
 - Sales from the live, silent and art auctions were up about 11 percent (thanks mostly to early-bird sales for the St. Christopher's Follies event).

Rector Brian W. McGurk credited members of the

auction committee and its new co-chairs for 2010, Assistant Rector Gail Smith and her husband, David.

"It was an outstanding event all the way around," he said. "Gail and David, and members of the committee, worked tirelessly for months to pull this off. They added a lot of new wrinkles this year that made the auction fun for everyone. They did a great job."

Worship service by the sea



Rector Brian McGurk blesses the bread and the wine during a worship service on Oyster Pond on Aug. 22, one of Chatham's ecumenical services.

INSIDE SOUNDINGS: STEWARDSHIP

- **Our journey:** Rector Brian W. McGurk shares his vision for St. Christopher's future in liturgical and spiritual renewal on **Page 3**
- **Our commitment** to our church, our mission and our faith requires our participation, **Page 5**
- **Take action** by filling out the enclosed pledge card, **Page 5**

Vacation Bible School draws a record turnout!

July's Vacation Bible School, held for the first time in our new, expanded facility, drew the largest attendance ever in its seven years: 110 kids and 39 volunteers and helpers!

We had a blast!

At Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School 2010, our cadets voyaged into outer space and learned that our God is wonderful, incredible, amazing and awesome.

Through daily missions, kids saw space like never before, gained a new perspective on our planet Earth and learned easy "green" tips they can practice at home. The cosmic combination of faith and fun helped the children develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

At the morning opening, a member of the clergy teams from St. Christopher's and the First Congregational Church presented Bible stories and opened with prayer.

Thanks for your help!

Many thanks to the amazing team in prekindergarten: lead teacher Beth Whittle, with Amy Hereford, Jen Stello, Rachel McGrath and Kelsie Linnell, who had the largest class – 32 students!

Also thanks to: Bob Braman, for donating and grilling hot dogs for the Friday closing celebration. Dick Kraycir for his computer monitor that displayed outer space NASA photography. Helpers Ellie and Hannah Garside, Debbie LaMotte and Mallory Nelson in recreation, Jen Huckman for her computer work and Carolyn Otis in registration.

Special thanks to Rector Brian



St. Christopher's and the First Congregational churches pooled their resources to pull off a blast of a VBS for the largest group of children in its seven-year history!

Mc Gurk and Assistant Rector Gail Smith for story mornings, and Linda Saunders for creating amazing class banners.

As this ministry continues to grow each year, we will be asking for your help in 2011, when VBS 2011 returns to St. Christopher's (in 2012 and 2013, the First

Congregational Church will host). It is always the last full week in July! Mark your calendars and join us for an amazing, awesome, incredible week!

*Ilene Bendas
Children Youth and Families*

We are partway up the mountain; see where Christ leads our church

Over the past seven years, we have journeyed with Christ and each other, hoping to reach some metaphorical mountaintop.

On some conscious and unconscious level, I have always believed that the summit would be reached and our goals achieved with the completion of the renovation and expansion of our facility.

But I was wrong!

In seven years we have achieved a great deal: Our church and congregation have been outwardly and inwardly transfigured and transformed by the grace of Christ. There is vitality and vibrancy and momentum in our worship and our ministries.

But... the journey must continue up the steep edifice of the mountain-side and into our future; our adventurous climb resumes, challenges and opportunities must be engaged, and hard work and steep climbing await us.

We are only part way up the mountainside; yet, from the height of this vantage point I believe we can begin to see clearly some of the "priorities" that Christ is leading us to.

First, the creative renewal of our common (corporate) worship is our opportunity to deepen our experience of Word and Sacrament and fill our new church with uplifting and inspiring liturgies, rituals, prayer, praise and music. Associated with "liturgical" renewal is "spiritual" renewal – that is, instruction on the traditions and

practices of (individual) Christian prayer.

Second, we must continue to support our mission and ministries with our time, talent and treasure.

Specifically:

Our local outreach initiative needs to be creatively envisioned, developed and implemented; also, a first-rate Adult Education program that engages the mind and soul is at the heart of a vital congregation; and, the support of our ministries to children, youth must continue.

Third, the support and nurture of our hard-working and outstanding staff must be continued and ensured for the future success of our church.

At the heart of this journey, and crucial to its success, are two factors: strategic planning and financial stability.

It has been more than a decade since this church engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process that names our vision for the future and our plan for achieving it. This will begin in the new year.

Second, the financial stabilization of our church, its facility, staff, mission and ministries, through the stewardship of annual giving, planned giving, fundraisers, an endowment, etc., is essential for ensuring a very bright future.

What is at stake in all of this is

From the Rector



BRIAN MCGURK

the transformation of church, our community and our very souls.

When the earthly Jesus led his disciples, Peter, James and John, up the steep grade of the Mount of Transfiguration, they worked very hard to get there, faithfully following Jesus. And it was worth their effort. Once they were close to the precipice they were granted a vision of the Heavenly Jesus, dazzling white in Holiness and Glory. As a result, they were profoundly changed in the depths of their souls -- transformed is a better word -- no longer the same men, but new creations, brimming with grace and hope, ready to transform the world around them, which, of course, is precisely what they did.

Our journey up our mountain will transform each of our lives, and it will occur precisely in and through hard work, prayer, discipline and sacrificial giving. Transformation happens during the climb to the top!

I am reminded of a Wallace Stegner novel that describes the geological term "angle of repose," which, if I can remember correctly, describes the angle of grade of a mountain side that allows a rock to remain at rest. If the grade becomes steeper the rock tumbles down the bottom. We have reached some wonderful heights and are well on our way up, but we are perched precariously close to the angle of repose. If we get complacent about our stewardship, we can easily roll back down!

And we won't let that happen!

Annual 'Tea with the Rector' series to begin in September

If you haven't already, very soon each of you will receive an invitation to attend St.

Christopher's highly successful *Teas With The Rector* program, one of the cornerstones of the church's annual stewardship campaign.

The teas, held throughout September and early October, are in parishioners' private homes. Rector Brian W. McGurk enters into a dialogue with each small group, explaining his vision for St. Christopher's, discussing new programs and initiatives, and answering questions.

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One tea will be held at the church for those who can't make it to any other scheduled tea.

Attached is a pledge card for 2011. We hope you make a pledge and return the card in an

envelope. Cards will also be available at church and the church office.

To help launch this year's campaign, every member of the Vestry already has committed to making a pledge, with many increasing their pledge amounts from 2010.

More on our 2010 Stewardship Campaign:

- Our Rector talks about the Transformation of our church through our stewardship, Page 3.
- A message from Stewardship chair Hank Holden, Page 5
- New this year! A Stewardship pledge card included in this issue of *Soundings!* Page 5

Iona's ruined nunnery a reminder of troubled times for women

[Editor's note: This is the second of three columns about Anne's retreat to Iona last June with Ilene Bendas.]

There is a wonderful ruin on the island of Iona that is in sharp contrast to the magnificent rebuilt abbey. It's simply referred to as the nunnery. It has lived in the figurative shadow of the abbey since it was built in the same time period by the same man, Lord Reginald, who installed his sister Beatrice as the first prioress. While the abbey was called "the great church," the nunnery was known by the locals as "the black church" because of the black habits the nuns wore.

There is much history written about the abbey but curiously little about the nunnery. It has been speculated that the nuns provided female pilgrims with hospitality, possibly reached out to the community in some way, and may

have fled to caves on a neighboring island during the Reformation.

The nunnery has been so overlooked it wasn't even on an island tour until recently, even though it is the best preserved example of its kind on the British Isles. In ruins, it is a reminder that women around the world are still being subordinated and neglected and that our societies lie in ruin due to brokenness and inequality.

Despite the despair the ruins point to, I found myself being drawn back again and again. As I moved about the grounds I was struck by the beauty of pink granite walls that stood out against green grass and blue sky.

PASTORAL CARE



ANNE WORMER

Tiny leafed toadflax was growing where stone met earth and colorful flowers bloomed profusely. In the soft morning light I could almost hear the rustling of the nuns clothing and plates clattering in the refectory. At twilight I could imagine candles being lighted for evening prayer and the scent of burning wax.

When darkness fell it was a particularly peaceful place. No more people strolling through the grounds or birds chirping. The wind had quieted down by then so even the trees stood silently. Even though I was tired and knew I would be up early the next morning and the rock I was sitting on was growing harder by the minute, it was still hard to leave.

Now that I am home and the trip is far behind me, I hope I will never forget the dedication and sacrifice of a small community of women, who lived and worked for one reason --for the love of God.

'She out of her poverty has put in everything she had'

As we begin this year's Stewardship in Faith campaign, I am reminded of a passage from *Mark 12:41-44*:

"He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had

STEWARDSHIP

to live on.'"

I first read these straightforward words from Mark when I was a boy -- yet the words and the message are as real to me now as they were so many years ago. They speak to me of commitment -- commitment that comes from the heart.

Brian's messages (see Pages 3 and 4) will tell you about his vision for St. Christopher's. In order to make that vision a reality, we need to make a financial commitment.

We have grown as a parish -- not only physically, but

spiritually. But along with this growth is an increase in expenses to support our facility and our missions.

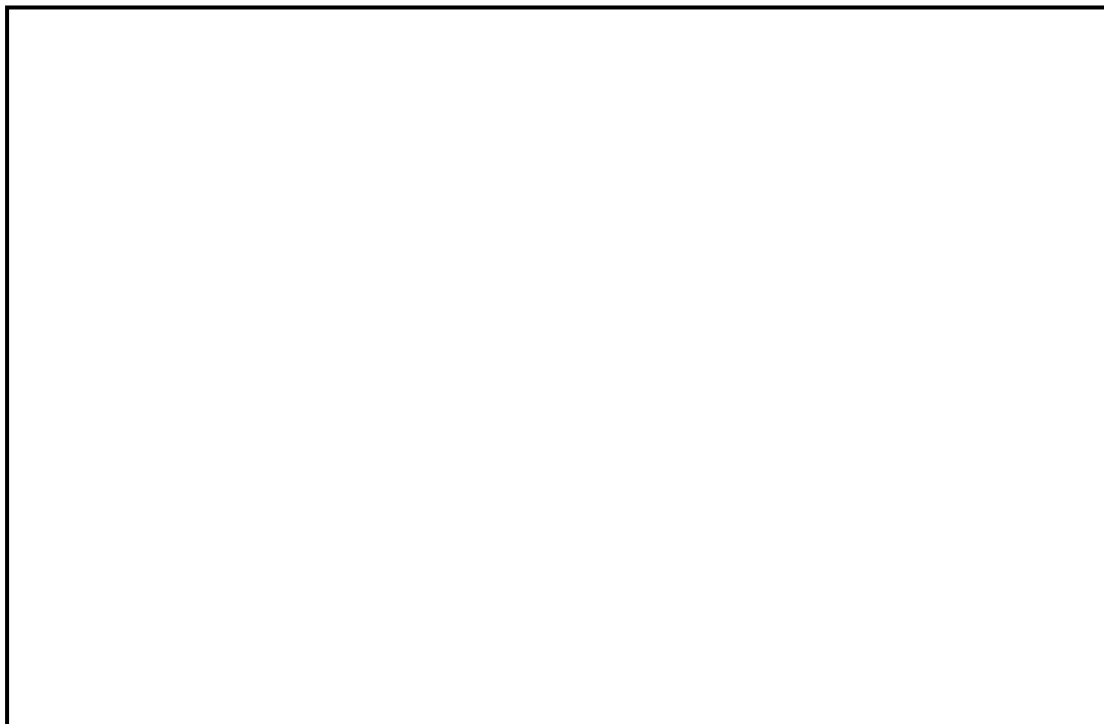
Our financial commitment in 2011 can no longer be "the same as we gave last year." That won't support our needs. We must ramp up to meet the challenge Brian puts before us.

Let stewardship be a joyous participation in our church, our mission, and in our faith.

When you consider your pledge for 2011, remember the depth of commitment in Mark's gospel.

Hank Holden
Stewardship Chairman

It's your turn: Here's the pledge card!
Pull it out, fill it in, and send it back!



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SEXTON

LOU AUGUSTIN

PARISH NURSE

PRISCILLA CHICK

Once again, music in the air as rehearsals resume

September is here and our Adult Choir and Bell Choirs will be starting rehearsals soon.

Wednesday, Sept. 8, will be our first Adult Choir rehearsal of the fall. This choir has continued to support our congregation through July and August by rehearsing at 9 a.m. before the 10 a.m. main service, practicing anthems as well as ensembles.

Throughout the fall, the Adult Choir will be working on Evensong, Advent and Christmas music. We rehearse every

Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Adult Bell Choir rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Youth Bell Choir rehearsals will be set after school starts, as will the date for O.K. Chorale rehearsals, which will be later in the fall.

Anyone who wishes to sing or play bells is invited to join us!

For further information, call Richard or Julie Winchell at (508) 385-2022 or the church office at (508) 945-2832.

CHURCH RECORDS

MARRIAGES

- Jaclyn Cashman and Trevor Childs, Aug. 14
- Jane Ohrenberger and Jonathan Burre, Aug. 20
- Caroline Casey and Stephen Widman, Aug. 21

Baptisms

- Ryan Robert Dawson Heald, Aug. 8
- Jakob Graydon Bergquist, Aug. 15
- Meghal Varhooti Spencer, Aug. 22
- Amelia Jo Perkins, Aug. 22

Deaths

- Dudley Henry Ranzetta, Aug. 10
- Gertrude Ames, June 13
- Marie A. Stuart, March 27

Transfers In

- Frederic and Susan Mitchel, July 16, from Trinity Church, Boston
- Lisa Mullan Perkins, Aug. 5
- Pamela Storms Hufnagel, Aug. 6, from St. Peter's Church, Morristown, N.J.
- Walter Schultz, Aug. 17, from the Church of the Holy Spirit, Orleans

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.

Nancy Fischer
Kate Winchell
David Dwyer

Kate McFarlane
John Van Anden
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Clare O'Hara
Heather Padgett

Jane Maddux
Genie Parker
Priscilla Gilmore

September 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>"Lord Jesus, In your mercy, heal us; in your love and tenderness, remake us. In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness. For the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us."</i>						
St. Anselm						
5 8 Holy Eucharist 9 Glimpse of Gospel 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship	6 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	7 9 Morning Prayer 9:30-Noon Bridge Lessons 10:30 Staff 5:30 Band	8 9 Holy Eucharist and Healing Service 7 pm Choir	9 8 Yoga 9 Morning Prayer 4:30 Finance Cmte	10 9 Morning Prayer 6 pm Sunday School Teachers Dinner	11 5 pm Holy Eucharist
12 8 Holy Eucharist 9 Glimpse of Gospel 10 Holy Eucharist (Aid to Africa Svc) 11 Fellowship	13 9 Morning Prayer	14 9 Morning Prayer 9:30-Noon Bridge Lessons 10:30 Staff 5:30 Band	15 9 Holy Eucharist and Healing Service 9 Loaves & Fishes 7 pm Choir	16 8 Yoga 9 Morning Prayer	17 9 Morning Prayer	18 5 pm Holy Eucharist
19 8 Holy Eucharist 9 Glimpse of Gospel 10 Sunday School 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship 11:15 Adult Forum	20 9 Morning Prayer	21 9 Morning Prayer 9:30-Noon Bridge Lessons 10:30 Staff 1-3:30 EfM 5:30 Band 7 pm Vestry	22 9 Holy Eucharist and Healing Service 10:30 Liberty Comm. 4 pm Aid to Africa 7 pm Choir	23 8 Yoga 8:30 Consignment Shop Board 9 Morning Prayer	24 9 Morning Prayer	25 5 pm Holy Eucharist
26 8 Holy Eucharist 9 Glimpse of Gospel 10 Holy Eucharist 11 Fellowship	27 9 Morning Prayer	28 9 Morning Prayer 9:30-Noon Bridge Lessons 10:30 Staff 1-3:30 EfM 5:30 Band	29 9 Holy Eucharist and Healing Service 9 Loaves & Fishes 7 pm Choir	30 8 Yoga 9 Morning Prayer		

SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S
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Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts 02633



September, 2010

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Brian blesses resurrected Animal Hospital

People and pets gathered at the Cape Cod Animal Hospital in West Barnstable on Aug. 7 as St. Christopher's Rector Brian W. McGurk joined parishioners Scott Munson and Heidi McMorrow to bless their rebuilt animal clinic, which was destroyed by fire last year. After a service especially created for the event, Brian blessed the animals in attendance, and each received a St. Francis medal from Dr. McMorrow.



Forum will explore the Muslim faith community

A special adult forum exploring the Muslim faith community will be held at 11:15 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 19, following the 10 a.m. service.

Abid Raouf of Chatham will deliver a Powerpoint presentation on the topic in the chapel.

All are welcome!