

# SOUNDINGS



Vol. V, No.9

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Chatham, Massachusetts

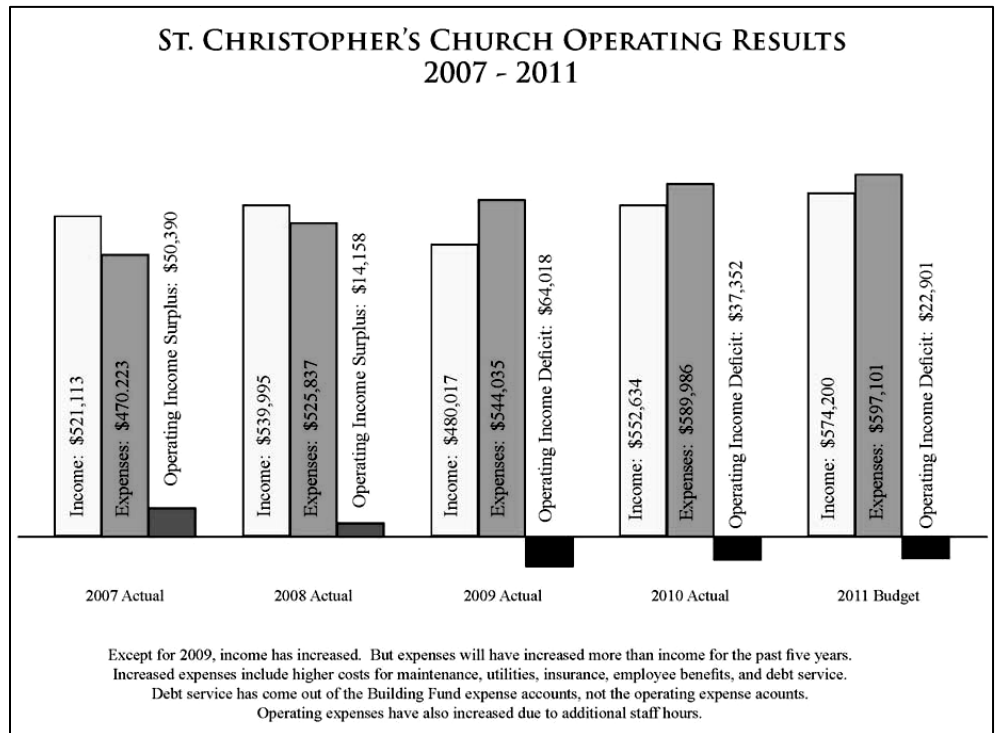
SEPTEMBER, 2011

## How we can help our church meet its stewardship goals

In the next several weeks, you will receive in the mail your package for St. Christopher's 2012 Stewardship campaign. It will include our Stewardship brochure, a Commitment Card, and a return envelope. As a prelude, you might appreciate an explanation of the importance of your participation in our Stewardship efforts.

If you've felt intimidated by the tenacity of the Stewardship campaign, we apologize. Some have likened it to the Public Broadcasting marathon appeals for viewer support. But, unlike television that you can turn off or change the channel, we cannot click off God.

In the larger sense, stewardship is not about St. Christopher's. It is about God and our relationship with him. Our church that needs our support may be the bricks and mortar manifestation of God, but it



is to God that we owe our thanks. St. Christopher's has some financial challenges. As the chart labeled "St. Christopher's Church

Operating Results 2007-2011" indicates, our church has had operating deficits for the past three years. (Continued on Page 4)

Join the fun at St. Christopher's first annual

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

at Eastward Ho! Country club

Monday, Sept. 26

Men, ladies and mixed foursomes welcome!

\$250 per golfer; \$50 for each non-golfer (to attend reception)

You must register no later than Sept. 15 for both the outing and reception!

For details, email [stegolftour@gmail.com](mailto:stegolftour@gmail.com) or call the church office, (508) 945-2832



## Lots of kids have lots of fun at Vacation Bible School

The Shake It Up Café was filled to capacity as 100 youngsters took part in Vacation Bible School, enjoying music, plays, Bible stories, games and even cooking! Children, Youth and Families Minister Ilene Bendas, who worked closely with First Congregational Church, credits volunteers for making the program such a big success, including Carol Cannata, Jean Greenough, Pam Russell, Jill McDonald, Christina Holmes, Jen Stello, Nancy Kellman, Debbie LaMotte, Ted Miller, Barbara Bush, Ali Crockett, Ellie Garside, Norman Karlson, Christian Burrows, Jake LaMotte and Bruce Wood.



## Rev. Dr. Richard Devor to teach course on 'The Prophets'

The Rev. Dr. Richard Devor will teach a course on "The Prophets" beginning Thursday, Sept. 29 at 10:30 a.m. in the Adult Education room. The class will continue weekly for seven Thursdays.

This is his description of the course (in part):

They were pugnacious, sometime poetic, often coarse. They minded other people's business. They were finger-pointers. The trouble was, they pointed their fingers at themselves, particularly their own rulers. As a consequence, they were ridiculed, hounded as unpatriotic and threatened with death.

Who were they?

The classical prophets... Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Ruth and Jonah.

They trumpeted the radical notion that God was not discerned in cult or temple. Instead, God's presence was seen in "the bloodstained face of history." Nations hitherto thought to be God's enemies were rather unwittingly God's instruments. Just through them, the sovereign Lord was bringing about judgment and redemption on Israel. No wonder Jesus said of his own people, they killed the prophets. No wonder, Christians later said of Jesus,

as one of them, they killed him, too.

I invite you to join me, Dick Devor, at the church for seven Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon, beginning Sept. 29. Bring a Bible. We will ponder the prophets and have our cages rattled together!

Rev. Devor, one of St. Christopher's "Honorary Clergy," describes himself as a "vocational schizophrenic:" he retired eight years ago "for about the sixth time, climaxing 53 years as both a professor and an ordained minister in the United Methodist church." He has worked as the director of the Doctor of Ministry program and professor of New Testament at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit Mich.; chaplain and professor at Emory University in Atlanta, and taught at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., Boston University School of Theology, Institute of Lifelong Learning at Dartmouth.

As a pastor, Rev. Devor served at churches in the Bronx; Detroit; East Lansing, Mich.; York, Pa.; Portland, Me.; Derry, Conn.; Salem, N.H.; and Marshfield, N.H.

He is married to Rev. Nancy Devor, also one of our "Honorary Clergy" as a retired UCC pastor and psychologist.

## Charting a course that opens our hearts to the Voice of God

Recently, I discussed an important subject with an important person.

The subject was important to me, because it concerned my practice of prayer; more specifically, my struggle to maintain a regular discipline of prayer, the quality of what I prayed about, as well as my “prayerful” struggles with myself, my life and my God.

My conversation partner was “important,” for many reasons: He is a Jesuit priest and pastor, a psychologist, and a man of accomplishment, wide learning and rich experience. However, in the context of this particular discussion, he was “important,” because he was willing to share with me his insights and experiences of God in prayer.

As we discussed the successes and failures of our prayer lives, he said how much he liked the line from one of Mary Oliver’s poem, and paraphrased it to me, saying: *“Prayer is not a contest... but a silence in which another voice may speak.”*

It comes from her poem, “Praying,” in the book, *Thirst*:

*“It doesn’t have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch*

*a few words together and don’t  
try*

*to make them elaborate, this  
isn’t*

*a contest but the doorway*

*into thanks, and a silence in  
which*

*another  
voice may  
speak.”*

I left for my sabbatical with the goal of deepening my own practice of silence,

prayer, and contemplation, because, I thought, I cannot survive without a deeper relationship with the Mystery of God, and without this “silence” which opens the door for “another voice” – God’s voice – to speak to my life.

As one colleague told me, “I focused too much on being a ‘rector’ and not enough on being a ‘priest.’” To be successful at both roles, and to be an effective leader, means developing, I think, the ability to hear the voice of God in the silence of both our individual prayer lives as well as in the peace and tranquility of our corporate worship life.

My goal, and I think it is “our” goal, is to create spiritual and liturgical experiences, so that “another voice may speak” to each of us personally and corporately, and through us to the community all around us.

We are about to embark on the continuation of our joint journey into the silent, mystery of Unconditional Love, where God’s voice paradoxically speaks.

As sacred as this journey is, it needs work – groups of people exploring, thinking, planning, implementing ideas that will open

From the Rector



BRIAN MCGURK

our eyes and hearts to the Voice of God which is all around us, and in us, too.

My sabbatical experience and the work of the Lilly Sabbatical Committee will come together and continue in the form of two “exploratory” or “discussion” groups: *The Liturgy, Worship and Music Exploratory Group*, and *The Prayer and Contemplative Practices Exploratory Group*.

Better names may be forthcoming, but I wanted to at least use terminology that was descriptive of their respective areas of concern.

I will commence monthly meetings of these two groups in September. The goal of each is to help us create silence, solitude and serenity in our church so that God’s voice can speak a Word of Grace and be heard by all.

### Eucharistic bread bakers needed

St. Christopher’s is forming a special Bread Guild to bake the wonderful bread we all enjoy at the Eucharist.

If you are interested, please call Ann Ward at 945-5517.

# How you can help St. Christopher's meet stewardship goals

*(Continued from Page 1)*

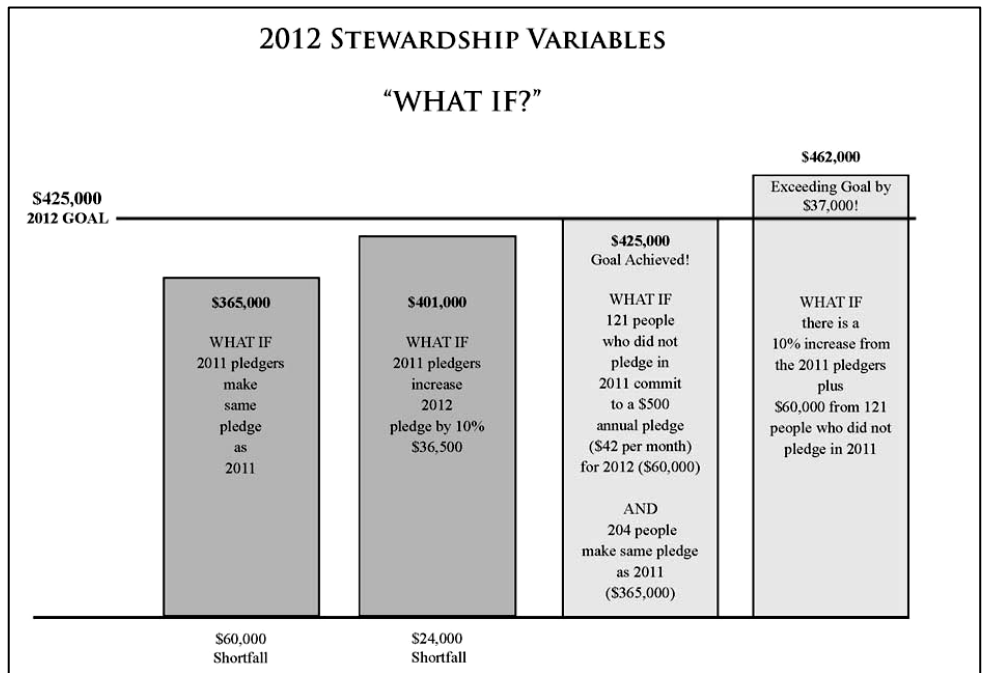
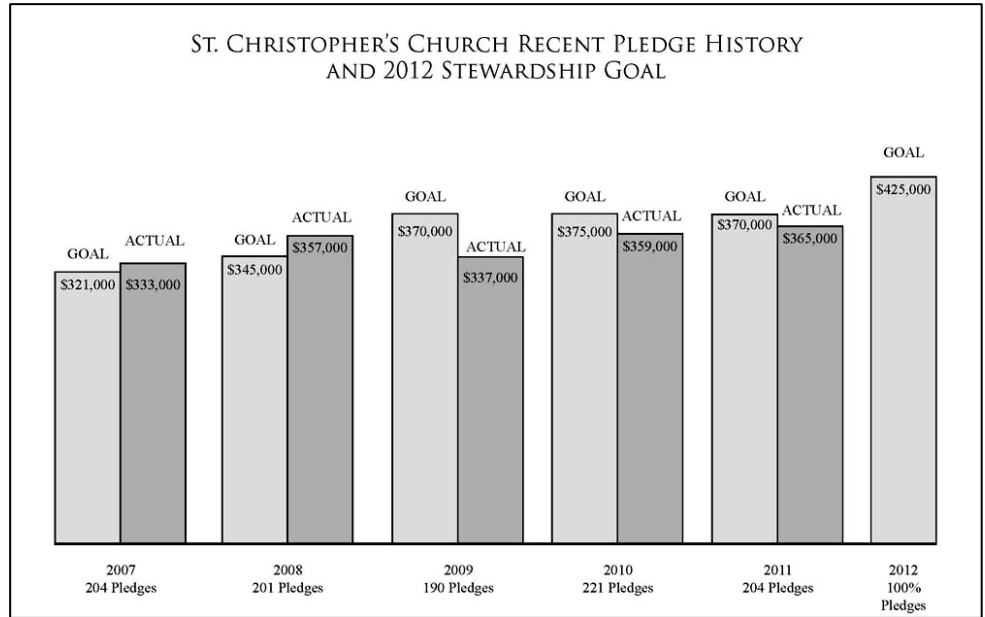
The second chart, "St. Christopher's Church Recent Pledge History and 2012 Stewardship Goal," illustrates we have not met our stewardship goals in the past three years, thereby contributing to our operating deficits.

The final chart, "2012 Stewardship Variables," addresses several stewardship issues. Most noteworthy, 40 percent of our pledging units (families and individuals) do not make a financial commitment to St. Christopher's. They may make donations to the Sunday collections, and many volunteer of their time. We are thankful for those efforts. However, with only 60 percent of our families making a financial commitment, 40 percent of our budget income is "iffy" and hoped-for rather than guaranteed. Can you imagine running your own household on a budget in which 40 percent of the income was unaccounted for?

Chart 3 also illustrates various scenarios for meeting our 2012 Stewardship goal. If the 204 parishioners who pledged for 2011 committed the same amount for 2012, we would have a \$60,000 shortfall of our \$425,000 Stewardship goal.

Column Two shows that if those same people who contributed in 2011 were to increase their commitment by 10 percent, for 2012, we would have a shortfall of \$24,000.

In Column Three, we achieve our goal if two things happen: If those 121 people who did not pledge in 2011 commit to a \$500 pledge (\$42 per month) for 2012 for a total of \$60,000; and if those who did pledge for 2011 make the same pledge for 2012, or \$365,000, we would



achieve our goal of \$425,000.

Better still, Column Four shows that we can exceed our goal by \$37,000, if those who gave in 2011 increase that pledge by 10 percent for 2012 and if those who did not commit in 2011 come forth with a \$500 annual pledge.

Therefore, our challenges are: (1) to eliminate our deficits and make our church financially sound; (2) to meet our 2012 pledge goal of

\$425,000; (3) and to encourage those who do not support stewardship to do so.

St. Christopher's is special to us. It is God's gift to us, and we are its caretakers, providing not only for our own spiritual needs but for future generations as well.

Please reflect on your relationship with God and the importance of St. Christopher's in your life as you make your stewardship commitment for 2012.

*Bob Hessler  
Stewardship Chair*

## Rev. Prince Wreh expresses gratitude for Aid to Africa help

*Editor's note: Following is a letter from Rev. Prince Wreh in Liberia to the Aid to Africa committee.*

I write to express how deeply grateful I and my entire family are and to register how really thankful the whole family of Keenan Institute is for the invaluable contributions you and your committee (The Aid To Africa committee) have made and continue to make in rebuilding our war-torn country (Liberia). I am fully convinced that such invaluable contributions are possible only for those whose hearts, love, ministry and mission transcend national, social, cultural, economic and political boundaries.

It is important to let you know that the people to whom you are making these sacrifices are the disinherited of our society. They



**Laborers work on the foundation of the new school, assisted by funds from Aid to Africa. The donation has a positive ripple effect on the community, which has 85 percent unemployment, says Steve Keenan.**

are those whose talents, dreams, and future would have otherwise been stifled without your contributions. They are those who would have helplessly been unable to join in the struggle to participate in shaping their own destiny because of lack of the intransigent structure of our society.

Keenan Institute is convinced that

one of the tools for empowering them is to give them basic education. Thank you for helping to support Keenan Institute to become an agent of positive transformation in the lives of our people.

May God bless you.  
Prince and Relhetta Wreh

## Church Finance Committee gets a new look, a new mission

Rector Brian W. McGurk has reorganized the church's Finance Committee with the goal of, in Brian's words, "getting all the key persons to the table at the same time talking about money."

Brian said when he returned from his sabbatical in June, he quickly realized that decisions on church finances were spread out among various groups. "It was hard to know what was really going on," he said. "This reorganization creates a central clearing house and gets everyone on the same page."

Treasurer Joe Gagliano and Finance Committee Chairman John Otis fleshed out details of the

reorganization.

The revamped committee consists of the following designated positions: Chairman (currently John Otis), who directs and manages the committee; vice chairman (Jim Bast), who will have overall financial oversight; treasurer (Joe Gagliano), financial administration, record keeping and reporting; rector (Brian), ex officio; planned giving chair (David Smith); stewardship chair (Bob Hessler); Consignment Shop treasurer (Paul Greenough), record keeping, reporting; investment committee chair, responsible for managing the church's investment portfolio.

In addition, the group will call on a group of ex-officio participants periodically to report on their financial areas of interest. These include the chairs of the summer auction, golf tournament, home tour, Friday Night Grill, building committee, capital fund, insurance, food pantry, Cloisters Gift Shop, and any other committee or group "whose success or failure will have a financial impact on church finances."

In addition, parishioner Kathryn Halpern has been hired as recording secretary for the new committee, and recording secretary for the Vestry. She will be paid a nominal fee, as yet to be determined.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

625 MAIN ST.  
CHATHAM, MA 02633  
(508) 945-2832  
infostc@verizon.net  
StChristophersChatham.org

**STAFF**

RECTOR

THE REV.  
BRIAN W. MCGURK

ASSISTANT

TO THE RECTOR

THE REV. GAIL S. SMITH

PARISH  
ADMINISTRATOR

JAMIE CHALKER

ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT

PATTY MCGURK

MINISTER OF CHILDREN,  
YOUTH & FAMILIES

ILENE BENDAS

MINISTER OF MUSIC

DR. RICHARD WINCHELL

ORGANIST

JULIANNA WINCHELL

ASST. TREASURER  
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

NANCY GEIGER

COMMUNICATIONS

LYNN VAN DINE WELLER

FACILITIES MANAGER

ALI CROCKETT

SEXTON

LOU AUGUSTIN

**Interfaith Service of remembrance planned for 9/11**

The clergy of Chatham will sponsor an interfaith service of remembrance for the events of Sept. 11, 2001 at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11, the 10th anniversary of the attacks. The service will be at the First United Methodist Church, 16 Cross Street.

The service is a collaboration of

clergy and a combined choir from several churches. Participating clergy include Revs. Anne Bonney and Joe Marchio from First Congregational; Rev. Nancy Bischoff, First United Methodist; Rev. Gail Smith, St. Christopher's; and Rev. Edmund Robinson, Unitarian Universalist Meeting House.

**July financial report: Summer Auction improves outlook**

Thanks to a hugely successful summer auction – more than \$50,000 in total gross revenue – the month of July showed a marked improvement from June's financial results.

Total operating income was \$89,219, up from \$36,830 in June. Total operating expenses decreased to \$38,381, from \$47,314 in June. This resulted in a monthly operating surplus of \$50,838 in

July, compared with a deficit of \$10,484 in June. The cumulative operating surplus through July was \$17,668, up from a deficit of \$29,796 in June.

July income from pledge and plate was \$24,604, up from \$21,160 in June.

The value of St. Christopher's investment portfolio as of July 31 was \$507,660.

*Tim Weller, Senior Warden*

**CHURCH RECORDS**

**Baptism**

- Seymour Shepherd Perkins, July 31

**Death**

- Barbara Townson Weller, August 4

**Transfers In**

- Nancy and Frederisk Kellman, from First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, Charleston, S.C., July 21, 2011
- Susan Leanues, from St. John's Episcopal, Naples, Fla., Aug. 4, 2011

**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	Kate McFarlane	Heather Padgett	Priscilla Gilmore
David Dwyer	Clare O'Hara	Jane Maddux	Bill Leanues
		Genie Parker	

**CONTACTS FOR ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH MINISTRIES**

- PARISH NURSE, PRISCILLA CHICK
- PLEDGE ACCOUNTS, JACQUELINE KEENAN
- ST. CHRISTOPHER'S GIFT AND CONSIGNMENT SHOP, BARBARA CROMARTY
- STEWARDSHIP, BOB HESSLER

September 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"O, Lord, help me strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed all the treasures I have... in you is the fullness of righteousness."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Martin Luther</i></p>						
<p>4 Holy Eucharist 8:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 10 UnCommon Wshp 10 Nursery 11 Fellowship</p>	<p>5 LABOR DAY Office closed</p>	<p>6 Morning Prayer 5 pm Band 7 pm CMC rehearsal</p>	<p>7 Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing</p>	<p>8 7:15 Men's Forum 8:15 Wellness 9 Morning Prayer 9 Yoga 3 pm Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>9 Morning Prayer 5-7 pm Friday Night Grill</p>	<p>10 5 pm Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>11 Holy Eucharist 8:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 10 Nursery 11 Fellowship</p>	<p>12 Morning Prayer</p>	<p>13 Morning Prayer 5 pm Band 7 pm CMC rehearsal</p>	<p>14 Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing 4:30 Finance Cmte</p>	<p>15 8:15 Wellness 9 Morning Prayer 9 Yoga</p>	<p>16 Morning Prayer</p>	<p>17 5 pm Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>18 Holy Eucharist 8:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 10 Children's Chapel 10 Nursery 11 Fellowship</p>	<p>19 Morning Prayer</p>	<p>20 Morning Prayer 5 pm Band 7 pm CMC rehearsal 4 pm Vestry</p>	<p>21 Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing 9:30 Play group 7 pm Choir</p>	<p>22 8:15 Wellness 8:30 Consignment shop board 9 Morning Prayer 9 Yoga</p>	<p>23 Morning Prayer</p>	<p>24 5 pm Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>25 Holy Eucharist 8:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Holy Eucharist 10 Nursery 11 Fellowship</p>	<p>26 Morning Prayer Golf Tournament at Eastward Ho!</p>	<p>27 Morning Prayer 5 pm Band 7 pm CMC rehearsal</p>	<p>28 Staff retreat 9 Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing 9:30 Play group 10:30 Liberty Comm. 7 pm Choir</p>	<p>29 8:15 Wellness 9 Morning Prayer 9 Yoga</p>	<p>30 Morning Prayer</p>	

**SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S**  
625 Main Street  
Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts 02633



September, 2011

Non-Profit Organization

**U.S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

Permit No. 14  
Orleans, MA 02653

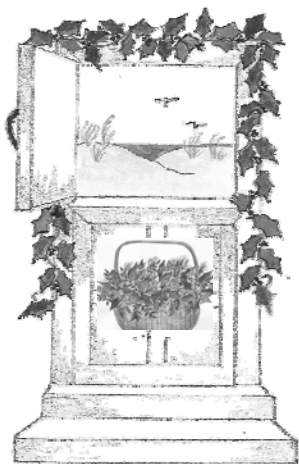
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Chatham Music Club to perform *Requiem*

The Chatham Music Club will present the magnificent Mozart *Requiem* on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 3 p.m. in St. Christopher's sanctuary.

Soloists are Barbara Reed, soprano; Carole Buttner Maloof, contralto; Chris Allen, tenor; and Colin Levin, bass-baritone.

Tickets are \$25 at the door and proceeds benefit the Music Society's programs and scholarship fund.



***Save the Date!***  
**Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011**

**Holiday House Tour**  
**"By The Sea"**

**10:00 am ~3:00 pm**

**The Tour will include 5 spectacular Chatham homes with water views on Shore Road, Bridge Street and Fox Hill Road.**

**DON'T MISS IT!!!**