

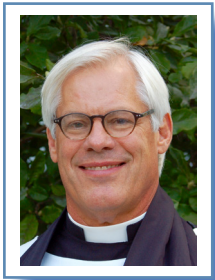
# SOUNDINGS

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal  
Church



Winter 2020

## *Ex nihilo?*



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

The removal of the organ from its “nook” in the main church has *not* left a void. Instead, it has created a new space. And with that, a wonderful opportunity for us to envision and create a sacred space that is in keeping with the overall beauty and design of the church.

Dan Barton of Mangel Architects was the architect who designed the extensive expansion of St. Christopher's Church about a decade ago. We owe him a debt of gratitude for the functional and beautiful space that he designed. Not a day goes by when someone does not comment to me, “What a beautiful church.” Dan is at it again: First, he has designed the choir loft surrounding the new Dobson organ; and, second, he has created an architectural drawing for the new space vacated by the old organ (see rendering on this page).

The considerable size of this space (it is not a glorified closet!), and its strategic location (it is a visual landmark which immediately grabs your attention upon entering the church) gives it great prominence and importance. Many thanks to Rob Bergh and LeeAnn McKenna for carefully disassembling the old organ and leaving the space spotless!

Two generous donors have enabled us to secure the architectural drawing and to begin the construction of its shell. All this at a time that coincides with the construction of the organ platform and the structural remediation of the ceiling (all under the excellent supervision of Peter Hughes).

However, the genre of artwork (paintings, icons, tapestries, etc.) and the theological themes rendered in them have not been

determined. Purpose, function, and the use of the space will, I believe, decide the form and content of the art rendered.

For example, this space can lend itself as a place of silence, solitude and stillness for individual prayer, meditation, and contemplation. Or simply as a place for those seeking some peace and quiet to center their busy lives. All that would take are some comfortable chairs! Or for the exceptionally daring Episcopalian—some kneelers!

Another example: While we perform the sacrament of baptism in front of the church at our principle Sunday liturgy, this space can provide a place for the font to rest during the week. As a result, baptismal themes of initiation and transformation, as well as a reminder of our baptismal covenant, etc., can be featured in the art presented.

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## Ex nihilo?, continued

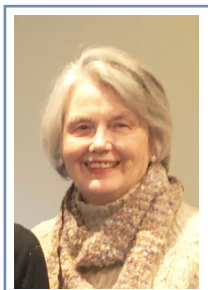
In addition, it could be used at our Sunday liturgy as a place for healing prayer—the laying on of hands by clergy and others during our 10 am Choral Eucharist. As well, it could also depict the Genesis story of creation with its emphasis on the beauty of the earth and all its members, which is something we celebrate every St. Francis Day when we bless our fellow

creatures—our pets.

Other possibilities remain unnamed at this present time. I look forward to your ideas. The next step is to consult with Sandra Bowden, curator of The Gallery at St. Christopher's, and the Art Committee for ideas and a plan.

Blessings!

## Going Green



**Jane Harris**  
Member, Earth-  
Honoring Faith  
Committee

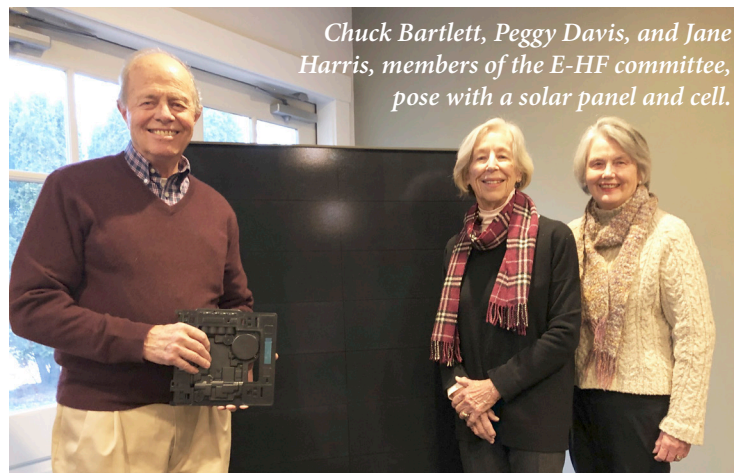
In the latest in a series of Earth-Honoring Faith (E-HF) efforts to cut our church's carbon footprint and operating costs, St. Christopher's is close to making a decision to install solar panels that promise to cut the church's annual electricity consumption, and electricity costs, by at least 65 percent—smart for our pocket and our planet.

The expected total cost of the solar panel project is \$95,000, including reroofing. The good news is that we already have \$50,000 secured—including \$20,000 from a generous anonymous donor and \$30,000 allocated by the Finance Committee and Vestry. "The solar panel project really has the potential to take St Christopher's' environmental actions to the next level," said Brian McGurk, adding: "We can slash our energy bills and be kinder to our planet—all at the same time."

With the invaluable help of Ali Crockett and Peter Hughes, the E-HF Committee has recently undertaken a series of cost-cutting and pro-planet initiatives.

This past autumn, the E-HF Energy Team, of which Ali is a member, arranged for the Cape Light Compact (CLC) to replace all compact fluorescent bulbs with LEDs and, where necessary, install LED retrofit kits. The total cost of the project was \$11,500; St. Christopher's paid only \$2,300! Our estimated ongoing electric bill will be reduced by \$1,700, with an energy savings of 9,400 kilowatt hours annually.

The E-HF solar panel project promises to double-down on those energy and financial savings. We calculate solar energy will generate savings to our operating costs of approximately \$12,500 annually. The savings come from our substantial reduction in purchased energy and from the revenue provided to us



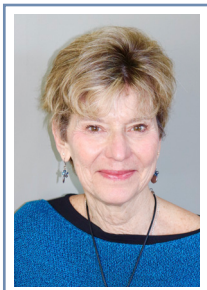
*Chuck Bartlett, Peggy Davis, and Jane Harris, members of the E-HF committee, pose with a solar panel and cell.*

by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' sustainable solar incentive program. This means that the panel installation costs will be recovered in less than eight years. In energy terms, the approximately 36,500 kilowatt hours reduction in purchased electricity will reduce our church's annual CO2 emissions from electric use by over 65 percent.

What's more, the panels would not impact historic Main Street. The panels would be placed on the southeast roof of the Parish Hall, toward the eastern parking lot. Once the final proposal is selected, we will present the plan to the Historic Business District Commission.

Prior to the involvement of the E-HF Committee, the Church—under the direction of Ali and the Facilities Advisory Committee—had already completed many energy and dollar saving actions. These include: purchasing an Energy Star-certified refrigerator and freezer, adding reset controls for our energy-efficient gas boilers, insulating the attic and pipes carrying hot water and air-conditioning, sealing exterior doorways, and changing to programmable thermostats. As a result of these simple measures, St. Christopher's energy usage and operating costs have already dropped by almost 40 percent since 2016. With the additional savings from a solar installation—in electricity usage, operating costs, and CO2 emissions—the benefits will be felt for many years to come.

## Meeting Needs; Offering Hope



**Judith Felton**  
Pastoral  
Associate

*Meeting Needs; Offering Hope...* this was the tag line of St. Vincent de Paul of Middletown, Conn., a social service agency that provides shelter, food, and counsel to those who are food and housing insecure. This agency served as an internship site for my students, and I was fortunate enough to be on their Board of Directors. One project that my students and I completed for St. Vincent's was

to compile a book of interviews from the guests at the soup kitchen entitled "Soup Stories." Through the telling and recording of the stories of our neighbors, we were reminded of the delight and richness of life and how much we share in common, in spite of our diverse backgrounds.

*Meeting Needs; Offering Hope...* with God's help and grace, this is the work of pastoral care at St. Christopher's. We have many participants in this work, including our Stephen Ministers, the members of our pastoral care steering committee, those who provide worship services at Liberty Commons and Woodlands, our Eucharistic Visitors, and myself as I lead the bereavement support drop-in group and provide other pastoral care. We all tend to the pastoral needs of our parishioners and community by providing encouragement, companionship, support, prayer, and so importantly, hope. We do this by actively listening to the stories with which we are honored enough to be trusted, by *accepting* another's vulnerability non-judgmentally, by *offering* promise of continued sharing

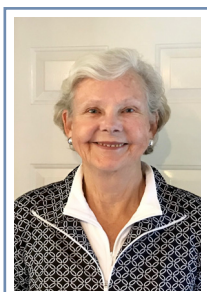
within the context of God's love.

In my role as Pastoral Associate, I am enriched by the rich, diverse, and poignant stories of those I counsel. However, I continue to rely on each of you to assist me in meeting the pastoral needs of the parish. Please contact me if you know of someone within or outside of our parish who may benefit from the following:

- **Bereavement Support.** Every Thursday, at 10:30 am, I offer bereavement support in my office for those experiencing the pain that accompanies loss. No appointment necessary.
- **Stephen Ministry.** Stephen Ministers are prepared to be supportive caregivers to parishioners who may be struggling through a transition or who might benefit from an ongoing caring relationship (Please note: if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact me).
- **Eucharistic Visitor.** Our trained Eucharistic Visitors are available to bring the Eucharist to those who are unable to get to church. (Please note: we will be offering a Eucharistic Visitor training soon; if you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Visitor, please contact me).
- **Pastoral home or hospital visit.**
- **Pastoral support or counsel.**
- **Transportation.** We are compiling a list of volunteers to transport parishioners to church-related activities. Please contact me if you know of someone who needs this or if you would like to volunteer.

*Meeting Needs; Offering Hope...with God's grace, this is Pastoral Care at St. Christopher's.*

## What's in a Name?



**Debby Saliba**  
Member,  
Membership  
Committee

You may have noticed recently that the Membership Committee has made name tags available to wear at the Sunday liturgies. At the moment the name tags are located on a large magnetic white board outside the Parish Hall, and hopefully arranged alphabetically!

The committee felt that name tags for parishioners would assist people in getting to know each

other, and facilitate coffee hour interactions. We hope that you will enjoy sharing your name with those you know as well as with those you don't. It is everyone's job to welcome visitors and make St. Christopher's a welcoming place.

Please let Bridgette Renaud in the Parish office or Debby Saliba (617-686-9985) know if you do not see a tag for you or if we have spelled your name incorrectly. And if for some reason you can't wear the magnetic tag, we will be happy to give you a tag with a pin/ribbon.



# Golf Tournament Report



**Dale Alger**  
Chair, Golf  
Committee

And so it begins with late April meetings...the golf date set for October 7, 2019 conducted at the prestigious Eastward Ho!...88 maximum golfers... so much anticipation for another outstanding tournament... the hope for great weather... successful fundraising for tee sponsorships... forms to be printed... Jim Bast's advance email communications to all golfers...

and once again it all came together. *We sold out all golf slots in less than three weeks!!!*

Our annual golf event has now officially become the St. Christopher's Robert M. Lynyak Charity Golf Event in honor of Bob Lynhak. Bob was honored at the reception with a commemorative plaque for his vision in starting this popular outing nine years ago. It was another financial success, raising over \$43,000 in revenues and a net profit of over \$23,000 for our Mission and Ministries.

Of 88 golfers who participated, 80 percent were from many locations in Massachusetts, while another 20 percent were from California, Connecticut, Missouri, Texas and several other states.

A special thanks to this year's leadership team: Ron Barnes, John Bendas, Pat Davin, John Otis, Joe Saliba, Randy Van Sickle, and Marie Williams. Sue Sargent and her hospitality team achieved the most attended successful "after-party" reception in our nine-year history. The additional support of Pieter Schiller, our golf treasurer, David Smith in assigning and tracking foursomes, and the constant email



*Diane McGurk is all smiles as she draws the winning 50-50 raffle ticket with help from David Smith.*



*Lively conversation was shared by many at the evening's reception at Eastward Ho!*



*Kevin Lynyak presenting his dad with a certificate in his name.*

communications provided by Jim Bast cannot be emphasized enough. We were fortunate once again to be supported by local merchants for silent auction items from Nauset Marine with a Boston Whaler prize for a Hole-In-One contest, golf items from Golf-For-Less in Hyannis, and a very generous offering from Neal and Bridgette Renaud for a round of golf at the beautiful Cummaquid Golf Course.

I'm supremely confident that next year's golf event will be even better, as it will be co-chaired by Joe Saliba and David Smith on the golf side with Linda Barnes and Judy Peterson serving as reception co-chairs. Mark your calendars now as the date for this year's charity will be October 5, 2020.

In closing, I would like the members of St. Christopher's to know how much I appreciated the honor to serve as Chairman. It has been an incredible learning experience to have been so much a part of this. Thank you to everyone for supporting me in this journey.



*Dale's team of David Smith, Tim Painter, and Tom Schmidt finished in second place.*

## Pipe Organ Update



**Pieter Schiller**  
Chair,  
Organ Committee

Progress continues toward the planned 2021 installation of the new Dobson pipe organ at St. Christopher's Church. Work has begun to rebuild the choir platform to accommodate the new organ and raise the level of the floor about one foot. A new

handicap accessible lift will also be installed. This work is projected to be completed in March. Installation of the new organ itself is scheduled for the first quarter of 2021. Meanwhile members of the St. Christopher's family continue to make payments on their pledges to fund this program, for which we are most grateful.



## Thou dwellest not in stone temples....



**Maury A. Castro**  
Organist &  
Choirmaster

On March 7, Sue Sargent and I will be taking four of our choristers to a Rhode Island Diocesan Chorister Festival that will culminate in Choral Evensong at Grace Episcopal Church in downtown Providence. These brave singers have been enjoying extra rehearsals (augmented by pizza, of course), including

the preparation of Charles Wood's great anthem, *Glorious and Powerful God*, a setting of an anonymous 16th-century English text. The beginning of that text resounds:

***Glorious and powerful God,  
we understand Thy dwelling is on high,  
Above the starry sky.  
Thou dwellest not in stone temples  
made with hands,  
But in the flesh hearts of the sons of men  
To dwell is thy delight,  
Near hand though out of sight.***

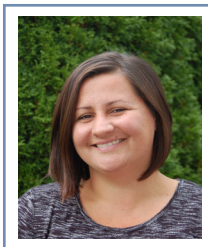


Photo: Kerén Castro

As we celebrate the building of a new choir loft, the creation of a new space for meditation and prayer, and look forward to the installation of a new organ in 2021, we would do well to keep these words close by. As glorious as all of these things are—and thanks to the creativity and energy of so many, they are truly glorious—they are only *things*—*things* meant to cultivate and nurture the spirit, the inner life, the character, the will, the heart. When we allow God to use these things to that end, they, and we, reach our highest calling.



## Children, Youth, and Families



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

Whoever said church attendance wanes after Christmas needs to join me and the many children of St. Christopher's Church! Not only have we enjoyed meeting new friends, we've also had consistently high Sunday School attendance this year. This Christmas the children, with the help from some amazing volunteers, completed eighteen flower arrangements and delivered them to some of our parishioners. After hearing about the joy our flowers brought to their recipients, we decided to do more special deliveries.

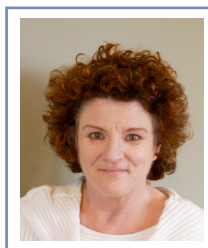
This Valentine's Day we made heart-shaped sun catchers and Valentine's Day cards. The children and I love hearing from the people who receive our gifts, and we love to imagine how our crafts brighten the days of all the people who see them. If you're interested in learning more about our outreach projects, please call or email me. We would love to have more special visitors in Sunday school, and we promise you will leave with your heart full and perhaps your hands a little messy.

*Sunday School children (and their teacher) prepare Valentine's Day cards.*



*Some adults put the finishing touches on the Christmas flower baskets.*

## Gift & Consignment Shop



**Eileen Aldrich**  
Manager, Gift &  
Consignment Shop

The Consignment Shop will open for the season starting Wednesday, April 8. Spring hours will be Wednesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. As always we welcome your gently used donations. This year we want to make it even easier by having special drop-off times at the shop on the following dates: March 25 to 28 and April 1 to 4. So think of us as you do your

spring cleaning! We can also do house calls at other times or if you have any heavy items. Thank you!





508-945-2832  
stchristopherschatham.org

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

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

**Judith Felton**  
*Pastoral Associate*

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

**Debra Gebhardt**  
*Director of Children,  
Youth, and Families*

**Bridgette Renaud**  
*Parish Administrator/  
Assistant Treasurer*

**Barbara Bush**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Ali Crockett**  
*Facilities Manager*

**Peter Hughes**  
*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*

## Liturgical Q & A (part IV)



**Susan Sargent**  
*Sacristan,  
Altar Guild*

**Q:** What is a chasuble?

**A:** The chasuble is the outermost liturgical vestment that the priest wears while serving communion.

**Q:** Where do the veil and burse go?

**A:** They dress the chalice. The burse is a flat square, fabric-covered case. The veil covers the chalice.

**Q:** Who sets the table for communion?

**A:** One of three teams of the Altar Guild!

**Q:** What is a Eucharist kit?

**A:** It is a small communion kit that a eucharistic visitor uses to take communion to parishioners who are unable to attend a service.



Photo: Sandra Bowden

## Parish Statistics

### Baptisms

Truxel Chapin M. Harvey  
October 13, 2019

Taylor Warren  
November 3, 2019

### Deaths

Charles McFarlane  
November 16, 2019

William Schweizer  
November 18, 2019

Karl Fischer  
November 19, 2019

Janet McCutcheon  
November 19, 2019

Anne Foster  
February 8, 2020

**Church e-mail list:** If you are not on the church email 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 email Maury A. Castro at [mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto:mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org). By adding your address to the list, you will receive the mid-week e-mail and periodic messages from the Rector.

**Digital Soundings:** All who are on the email list receive *Soundings* electronically via the mid-week email, 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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Winter 2020

Non-Profit Organization

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