

SOUNDINGS

Saint
Christopher's
Episcopal
Church



Spring/Summer 2022

The Main Thing



The Rev. Brian W.
McGurk
Rector

I recently came across this pithy quote from Haley Barbour, the former governor of Mississippi: “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

I have no idea what “the main thing” is for him.

For Jesus, however, the “main thing” is crystal clear:

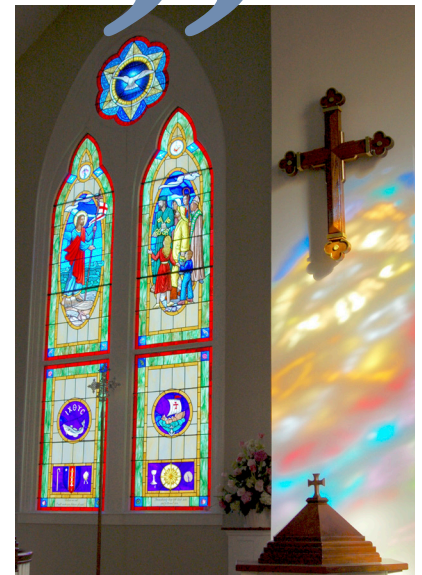
“ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

Our mission statement clearly articulates what the “main thing” is for those of us living as Jesus’s disciples at this time in this place:

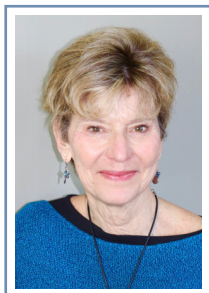
“To experience the love of Jesus Christ, and to inspire compassion in the world.”

The daily flow of “bad news” is incessant, and, most of the time, overwhelming. And, yet, the flow of God’s love overcomes it.

Please take the opportunity now to make the love and grace of Jesus Christ—as experienced in worship, prayer, contemplation, fellowship, and compassionate *action*—the “main thing” in your life.



Being Easter People



Judith Felton
Pastoral
Associate

Every Wednesday morning I pull myself out of bed, get my coffee, and settle in on Zoom for the weekly Contemplative Prayer and Discussion, facilitated by Rector McGurk. This hour-and-a-half of prayer, silence, and discussion grounds me, supports me, helps me to dig deep to the healing places in my soul, and reminds me to be still and listen to the wisdom of God's whisper.

During a recent Wednesday morning discussion, in the midst of talking about the hurt and pain we feel personally and collectively about life's challenges, someone reminded us, "Don't forget; we are an Easter people." What a delightful proclamation of hope.

I'll leave it to theologians and those much wiser than me to flesh out the complexities of what it means to be "Easter people." But for me, quite simply, this concept reflects how we, as adherents to the story of Jesus, companion with one another during times of uncertainty, fear, and darkness within the promise of light, growth, and resurrection. We companion

with one another through the sorrows and the tumult because the gospel beckons us to remember Easter, every day; to follow God's will to care, to love, to be relentless in our search for healing.

Our Pastoral Care program at St. Christopher's strives to embrace our Christian call to be Easter people. Our lay pastoral ministers, Sandy Arnold, Martha Crane, Judy Cornwell, Tom Cottrell, Ali Crockett, Susan Dimm, Vi Fellman, Anne Flash, Julie Fleishman, Jim Fulton, Charlie Helliwell, Bob Lynyak, Sue McFarlane, and Sue Sargent, ensure that those who are facing hard times will not feel alone or disconnected. Through bereavement support, individuals both within our parish and in the community can trust that someone is traveling with them on the difficult grief journey. Our volunteers who bring community worship services to Broad Reach Healthcare and The Woodlands bring joy to those who can participate. Our Pastoral Care program reaches out to individuals both within and outside of our parish doors with the promise of support, the promise that there is always light.

Spring is here. May God abide with you in every corner of your home.

Final Organ Dedicatory Events



Maury A. Castro
Organist &
Choirmaster

On May 14, St. Christopher's was pleased to host a choral evensong with the choir and treble choristers of Trinity Church, Boston (Richard Webster, chorimaster). This event was part of a series of dedicatory events to celebrate, to the glory of God, the installation of the Pieter J. Schiller Memorial Pipe Organ. The evensong was preceded by a mini-recital, presented by Colin Lynch.

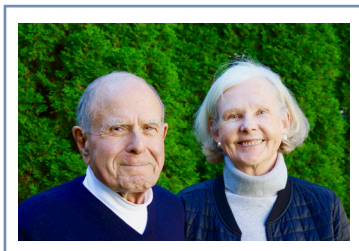
In addition to the above, we are pleased to host Katelyn Emerson, acclaimed organist, in a free concert on Friday, June 10, at 7 pm. She will present music of Bach, Coleridge-Taylor, Elgar, Franck, Laurin, Sweelinck, and Widor.

The final dedicatory event will be the presentation of a composition created for the celebration of the dedication of the new organ, written by Joel Esten. On Sunday, June 12, I will perform *Eight Variations in the Baroque Style*, as the opening voluntary. This delightful and powerful work demonstrates a variety of colors and sounds of the new instrument.



Katelyn Emerson

Annual Giving 2022 Report



Joe & Debby Saliba
Chairs,
Annual Giving Committee

We extend a really big **Thank You** to our church members for their wonderful response to the Annual Giving Campaign for 2022. We concluded the campaign at just over \$557,000 (the goal was \$550,000),

and there were smiles all around. (This, in the middle of the pandemic...!!) It was particularly gratifying to witness the cohesive and solid support of our parish family....all in all we had 176 donors.

Our committee rose to the challenge with their great enthusiasm. Big thanks to Mary Bast, Pam Hufnagel, and John Sargent. They were simply the best! In addition, this year we also engaged Vestry and Finance Committee members and several

other volunteers to call prospective donors, and they also were quite successful. We go forward knowing that your parish family has made a meaningful contribution to the financial stability of our wonderful church.



2021 Facilities Report

Here is a list of a few of the 2021 facilities projects:

- Dobson pipe organ installation
- Landscape, trees, lawn care
- LED lighting update in the Parish Hall
- Solar project extended and completed
- Training in safety and security procedures, CPR, and AED
- All building equipment maintained, and required inspections completed
- Facilities work days, completing:
 - various painting and repair projects
 - window repairs
 - interior/exterior painting
 - fence washed and painted
 - pew repairs and painting
 - carpets cleaned
 - hardware repairs
 - all benches cleaned



Ali Crockett
Facilities Manager

The year 2021 has been another challenging, yet revitalizing year. Our interior and exterior church property has grown in beauty, breadth, and hope this past year. One morning this past month I parked, walked past the plantings and lawn, into the building, and up the stairs; I felt a sense of peace and even awe. It is my wish that when you

walk onto the property and into the building you will feel hopeful even in the midst of hardship.

As you know, it takes a team to keep our physical building maintained so that people can enjoy it for generations to come. We have a dedicated and skilled group who work behind the scenes. I would like to thank them for always answering the call: Bob Braman, Violet Fellman, Peter Hughes, Dick Kraycir, Laura Rhodes, David Smith, and Tom Cottrell. Thank you to our Sexton Louis Augustin for his diligent work.

Supporting Ukrainian Refugees

As the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis unfolded in February and March, St. Christopher's wanted to help. The church leadership, along with the newly formed Outreach Committee moved quickly to organize an effort to donate \$5000 through Episcopal Relief and Development. This organization, which has been in existence for over eighty years, is a 501(c)3 corporation, currently providing humanitarian assistance and needed daily necessities to people fleeing the violence in the Ukraine to Poland, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia.

Rector McGurk stated, "The impact of this humanitarian crisis is felt around the world, so it is important for people and organizations to do whatever they can to help." The \$5000 donation was made possible through the 100 percent volunteer-led thrift store, Uncommon Thrift. Uncommon Thrift Volunteer Manager Louise Montross affirmed, "We—the volunteers, the donors and the shoppers—are very happy about the decision to send \$5000 to the Ukrainian relief efforts. We are fortunate that we are able to help support a number of local community and global efforts with this miracle on Main Street!" The net profits from Uncommon Thrift fund 100 percent of St.

Christopher's Pastoral Care efforts in the community, supporting Lower Cape Outreach, the Chatham Food Pantry, the youth music program, and others.

The Outreach Committee is still being formed. People who are interested in being part of this committee should contact Heidi Quill



Photo: Pam Hufnagel

(hquill39@gmail.com) or Wendy Reveri (wcreveri@gmail.com). The purpose of this committee is to have a dedicated and organized effort to fund special outreach programs on behalf of St. Christopher's in support of our mission statement: *To experience the love of Christ and to inspire compassion in the world.*

Meet the Students of Goll Farm School



Linda Hughes
*Chair,
Together With
Africans*

Many wonderful things have already happened at Goll Farm School, Liberia, in 2022. As Hebrews 13:16 tells us, “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” A much needed computer lab has been completed with a dozen work stations and basic software. Since opening in February, the computer

lab has attracted both students and adults as Liberians search for computer training to develop their skills.

I would like to introduce you to some of our scholarship students and provide you with some insight as to their goals and aspirations. Martu Tokpah is a fourth grade student at Goll Farm School. She comes from a family of 10 and loves science and sports. Martu aspires to be a doctor to help those in Bong County, Liberia.

Ester Kermue comes from a family of 8. Her special interest is science and she is currently in our fifth grade class. Her dream is to become a nurse and provide decent health care to her community.

Joseph Korlako is a strong young man who has a passion for education. He is a fourth grader, enjoys math, and comes from a family of 7. He wants to be a teacher and some day return to Goll Farm School to educate the next generation.

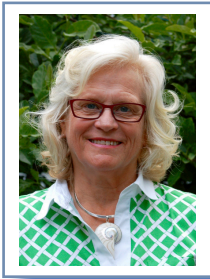
Praise Twek is a busy young boy with a desire to become an engineer and help his community in many ways. His favorite subject is fifth grade science. He comes from a family of 8. Without a scholarship from St. Christopher’s, he would not be able to attend school and realize his dream of a career in engineering.

The individual stories are numerous and the need to support education at Goll Farm School is great. If you would like to support the education of a child, please send your donation to St. Christopher’s and on the memo line note “Goll Farm School.” \$200 educates a student for an entire year and \$100 provides a single semester of education.

Several Goll Farm students



Ben Zion: Biblical Themes Portfolio



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

The Art Committee is pleased to present the summer exhibition, *Ben Zion: Biblical Themes Portfolio*.

Reared by his father for the rabbinate, Ben-Zion Weiman (1897–1987) came from Poland to America in 1920. After turning to art (and shortening his name), he became a founding member of The Ten, the 1930s' avant-garde group, with Ilya Bolotowsky, Lee Gatch, Adolph Gottlieb, Mark

Rothko, and others. Ben-Zion's work is represented in many museums throughout the country including the Metropolitan, the Whitney, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Phillips Collection, Washington. The Jewish Museum in New York opened in 1948 with a Ben-Zion exhibition.

Ben-Zion brought his blunt, powerful expressionism to Biblical subjects not only in his paintings, but also in four intaglio portfolios of eighteen prints each. The first three portfolios, *Biblical Themes* (1951), *Prophets* (1952), and *The Book of Ruth, Job, and Song of Songs* (1954), were published by Curt Valentin, who was also Max Beckmann's dealer. The fourth, *Judges and Kings*, delayed for ten years because of Valentin's untimely death in 1954, was printed by La Couriere in Paris, who also printed etchings by Picasso, and published by Graphophile.



Moses and the Law



Joseph's Dream



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

Bridgette Renaud
Parish Administrator/
Assistant Treasurer

Ali Crockett
Facilities Manager

Peter Hughes
Treasurer

Sandra Bowden
Curator, The Gallery

Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, Food Pantry

Lou Augustin
Sexton

Earth Day 2022

A crowd of over fifty people gathered on Earth Day, April 22, to join in a celebration of God's glorious creation at Oyster Pond, including Dan Flonta, violin. The Earth-Honoring Faith committee of St. Christopher's Church organized this liturgy, with Rector McGurk officiating.



Dan Flonta (photo: Tessa English)



The Rector sprinkles holy water from Oyster Pond on the attendees.
(photo: Jane Harris)



photo: Tessa English

Parish Statistics

Baptism

Thomas Francis Begley
March 8, 2022

Death

George Olmsted III
March 12, 2022

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, stchristopherschatham.org, or email Maury A. Castro at mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org. By adding your address to the list, you will receive the midweek e-mail and periodic messages from the Rector.

Digital Soundings: All who are on the email list receive *Soundings* electronically via email, and it is available on the website. If you would like to be taken off the print list, please contact Bridgette in the parish office.



625 Main Street
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

Spring/Summer 2022

Non-Profit Organization

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Summer Events

Hyannis Sound Concerts

Tuesdays, June 7–August 9, 7 pm

Cape Harmony Concerts

Thursdays, June 9–August 11, 7:30 pm

Organ Recital with Katelyn Emerson

Friday, June 10, 7 pm

An Evening with John Philip Newell

Sunday, July 17, 7 pm

Choral Concert with the Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge, England

Monday, July 18, 7 pm

Benefit Concert for Chatham Ecumenical Council for the Homeless with Rose Clancy and Friends

Thursday, September 1, 7:30 pm



For more information, visit stchristopherschatham.org/special-events