

SOUNDINGS

Saint
Christopher's
Episcopal
Church



Spring/Summer 2023

Home, Sweet Home



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

St. Christopher's has been my spiritual "home" for 20 years. Prior to moving to Chatham, I had never lived in any one place longer than 9 years.

When it comes to defining exactly what "home" is, the words of St. Augustine ring true:

"We know what it means, we know it intimately, utterly, in the very cells and silences of our bones—just as long as you don't

ask us." "Home" is something we all crave, desire and long for; yet, we find it almost impossible to define.

"Home, sweet home!" We don't fully understand it, but we know it when we see it; and, for the most part, we spend our entire lives searching for that special "place" of relationship, love, intimacy, nurture, safety, security, peace, beauty, meaning, wisdom, purpose, and holiness.

"Home" is a geographical place, but it is also a "place" deep within our souls: It's the inner space and place where God lives, moves, and has God's being; the soul-place where we are at home in God and God is at home in us.

Frederick Buechner wrote: "I believe...that the home we long for and belong to is finally where Christ is. I believe that home is Christ's kingdom, which exists both within us and among us as we wend our prodigal ways

through the world in search of it."

For 20 years I have been "at home" at St. Christopher's, because Christ is alive here—around us, in us, and among us—in the joys and suffering of our lives.

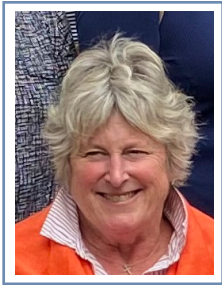
I can't fully explain why St. Christopher's has truly been my home for 20 years (when other churches have not). But I can say with a high degree of certainty that I have encountered and experienced the love of Jesus Christ here—among all of you. And that's what makes it "Home, Sweet, Spiritual Home."

And for that, I am eternally grateful!



photo: Janet Lewis

Newcomers Ministry



Pam Hufnagel
Vestry Member

St. Christopher's has a long history of purposefully welcoming new people to our church. Our Rector and the parish provide a culture of inclusion and hospitality. Sue Sargent has been graciously managing the Newcomers Ministry for nearly 20 years with the help of Newcomers Ambassadors. A huge thank you goes out to Sue for all that she has done in leading this

very important ministry. Sue is going to stay involved and is pleased to announce that Kate Sundquist will now step into this role. Kate is the perfect person to lead this effort, being a relatively new member herself. She brings fresh ideas and a good perspective on how to reach and connect with new people. Of course, everyone has a role in reaching and connecting with newcomers, so Kate will need all of our help to successfully continue to welcome all people.

There are many ways that we try to reach newcomers and to welcome them. The Newcomers Committee, with the aid of the Rector and Vestry, plan a beautiful cocktail party each summer in the courtyard for all newcomers and to welcome back summer members. There are pew cards for those who want to fill one out, and there is a welcome package that parish administrator Bridgette Renaud sends to anyone she knows who may be interested in joining St. Christopher's. The greeters and the ushers also play a role in welcoming and greeting newcomers. And of course, the Passing of the Peace allows

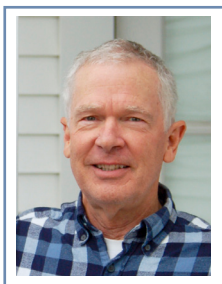


Sue Sargent & Kate Sundquist

all of us to greet one another in the name of the Lord.

A bit of background on Kate. Kate was baptized, confirmed and married at St. David's Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Md. She and her husband Peter settled in Concord, Mass., where they were members of Trinity Church, Concord and involved with the youth group. They came to the Cape thanks to Peter's great aunt in Harwich. For years, the family spent wonderful times together and her home was ultimately left to the family for them to continue creating Cape Cod memories. Chatham is now home to Kate and Peter and a place where their children love to come and visit. While trying to stay active playing paddle tennis, playing pickleball, biking, and golfing, Kate continues to work as a reading tutor at Cape Cod Academy and is also involved with Uncommon Thrift. If you see her, please feel free to introduce yourself or send her your thoughts on how we can continue to be successful in welcoming newcomers. Her email is katemsundquist@gmail.com.

Rector Transition



Ted Miller
Senior Warden

This past week the Vestry had our long-awaited meeting with The Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell. During her presentation, she gave us a step-by-step outline of the process that we will follow over the next 12–18 months. During the open meeting, The Rev. O'Connell answered questions from Vestry members. It was very reassuring to hear that we are right

on schedule and doing what we need to do each step of the way.

One of the key points in her presentation/outline was to emphasize that our primary job at this time is to make sure that Rector McGurk receives the very best celebration for his well-deserved retirement. I am pleased to say that our Celebration Committee is hard at work designing a thoughtful, fitting, and fun-filled "send-off."

On June 11, at both the 8 and 10 am liturgies, I will address the parish regarding St. Christopher's current state of affairs. I will review key topics covered at our recent Vestry Retreat and how that ties in with our transition process. I hope you can join us.

Please note: This update was originally shared in the Midweek Message, Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

Spiritual Journeys



Maury A. Castro
*Director of
Communications*

On Saturday, May 6, at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston, the Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts, confirmed and received several St. Christopher's members, as well as dozens of individuals from parishes throughout the diocese.

This event was the culmination of two months of weekly confirmation classes, led by Rector McGurk and Priest

Associate John Martiner, covering a wide variety of topics, including liturgy, church history, the lives of the saints, spirituality, and the sacraments. In addition to those who were confirmed and received, several other parish members participated in the course, entitled "Spirit of Anglicanism," which was held via Zoom.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the course was listening to the participants share their spiritual journeys, and how God brought them to this point.

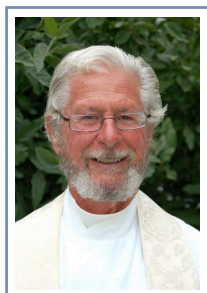
Gloria in excelsis Deo!



photo: Heather Smith

**Bishop Gates with Charlie Seif, Rector McGurk,
Richard Johnston, Diane McGurk, Maury A. Castro,
Erik Bertrand, Ali Crockett, and Vi Fellman**

A Suprising Ministry



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

The essence of articles in *Soundings* is to identify how God is working in and through our various ministries—pastoral care, financial management, food bank, environmental concerns, education, music, outreach, etc. It is a challenging task because it is much easier to tell about what we are doing or to cite some achievement than it is to consider how we

see God present in our work. I hope we can rise to this challenge!

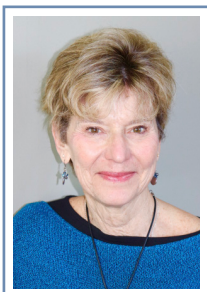
Faithful ministry requires work, time, talent, energy, creativity, patience, focus. Without adequate support our actions can become frustrating or exhausting. So, let me suggest something essential—the bedrock of all ministry. I refer to the vision and shared belief that before we act at all, we are ministered to by God. Ministry, by clergy or lay people, emerges from God's freely given love to us in Jesus the Christ. Knowing this saves us from making an ego thing out of what we

do, like "look how great we are," "how clever we are being," "how successful." Ministry is God's ministry moving through us.

This surprising ministry—God to us—is why all involved in ministry of any kind need to be at worship and engaged in listening prayer. Over and over again, we need to connect with the story of an amazing God who seeks us out in love before we are commissioned to be God's hands, hearts, legs and voices in our community and world. We need not be shy to tell each other that our work is grounded in God who calls us to action, even in our imperfections, guides us by the words and actions of Jesus and empowers us by the Holy Spirit. It is from this "ground floor" that we reach beyond ourselves and comfort zones to new places of wonder, joy and service.

The many ministries that are associated with St. Christopher's are part of a long river of love and compassion that have marked faithful church communities for ages. To know Christ and then to make Christ known are the bookends of our life and work.

Holy Resources



Judith Felton
Pastoral
Associate

I have a story to tell, one that reflects the richness of our sacramental community. It's an uncomplicated and sweet story, really...as sacraments can be.

As winter was backing away, making room for the light of spring, several of our parishioners were in the rehabilitation unit at Liberty Commons. They were so present and connected with one another, we could have named a whole unit "St. Christopher's Annex." When I went to visit, it was easy to spend two hours hopping from room to room with greetings and grace-filled messages from one parishioner to another. I was having fun bringing the light of our sacramental community to them.

But the real story is this: Our parishioners were visited by several of our lay pastoral ministers. Every Sunday, one of those ministers, Susan Dimm, arrived at Liberty Commons with her laptop in hand so that our 10 am Choral Eucharist could be streamed for several of our parishioners as well as others. With her own set of angel wings, she transported a few parishioners from their rooms to a common space to watch the liturgy. She sent me photos during the liturgy with pithy and warm

messages, so I could be part of this too.

And here is the unexpected sweetness in the story. When it came time for the sacrament of the Eucharist, the bread of Christ was shared in the form of a chocolate brownie. One must make use of the holy resources available. I am sure this brownie was blessed. Thank you, Sue Dimm, for this act of God-filled resourcefulness, creativity, and love. You have been the tentacles of St. Christopher's outside our parish doors on Sunday morning.

Lay Pastoral Ministry in the form of compassionate companionship or Eucharistic visits is a ministry we savor. And, we can always use more members of our community to participate. Let me know if you'd like to hear more.



*Joan Bagnell, Peggy Dimm,
Nancy Phelps, and Anita*

photos: Susan Dimm

The Cloister Society Invites Your Participation



Rob Boas
*Chair, Planned
Giving Committee*

St. Christopher's is such a warm and welcoming spiritual home today because of many things—the care and concern of our clergy, staff and lay volunteers; the grace of the Episcopal liturgy; the uplifting messages delivered from our pulpit each week; the superb music of our choir; our magnificent new organ; and the beauty of our church building.

Most of this is made possible through the generosity of St. Christopher's parishioners in three ways: first, of course, from our monetary pledges and weekly plate contributions; second, from contributions to our capital campaigns over the years; and third, from the thoughtful planned gifts that many of our members have made to the church since it was founded some 60 years ago.

St. Christopher's Cloister Society is currently made up of more than 30 members of our church who have taken steps to remember St. Christopher's through a bequest or other planned gift, whether large or small. In the month of June, a letter and a helpful brochure will be sent out to members of the parish explaining several ways to make such a planned gift. We hope that after reviewing these materials, many more of you will want to join your fellow parishioners in "passing our faith to future generations." We owe so much to those who have come before us; let us leave as much for those who follow us.



A Special Message from the Rector

Dear Friends,

Over the years countless individuals and families have generously supported our parish through:

- Annual stewardship (giving) campaigns that fund our operating budget;
- Capital campaigns that funded a major expansion and renovation of our facility, as well as the installation of a new Dobson pipe organ;
- Special events like our golf tournament and the "Walk for Home";
- Ministries like Together With Africans, which funds education at the Goll Farm School in Liberia;
- These, and many others.

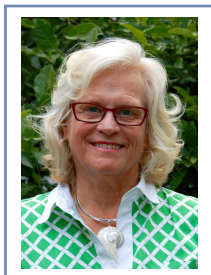


Bev and Dave Watts

The St. Christopher's Cloister Society was established to ensure the continued vitality and vibrancy of our church and its future through planned giving—legacy gifts, bequests, and other estate planning. Recently, St. Christopher's was the beneficiary of a \$1 million bequest from the estate of David Watts and family. (After legal fees, etc., the amount received was \$963,000.) St. Christopher's greatly appreciates this family and is most grateful for this gift.

The size of the Watts' gift was exceedingly generous, to say the least. Equally generous was the blessing of Dave and Beverly's longstanding presence and participation in the life of our parish. I was blessed to witness the faithful, compassionate, and devoted care this husband gave to his wife towards the end of her life. The gift of "heart" and "presence" is also a "million dollar gift." The Watts Family has blessed us twice: With an incredibly generous bequest, *and* with the blessing of their gracious presence and participation in the life of our parish.

Transformative Style



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

The Art Committee at St. Christopher's is pleased to present "The Four Gospels in Collage: Transformative Style Interpretations of Master Artists," an exhibition by San Diego-based artist Karen J. Sangren.

Karen is a retired Art Education Professor and Chair Emeritus of the Department of Art and Design for Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego.

Karen taught art and design at the college level for over 40 years. During that time she served on an array of local, state and national boards including 20 years of service on the Art Advisory Panel for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, which was responsible for writing state standards, approving art education programs across the state of California, and producing standardized tests for the discipline. Outside of the collegiate scope, Karen has taught art to children experiencing homelessness at the St. Vincent de Paul Center and San Diego County schools for 8 years, and she sings in the La Jolla Presbyterian Church Choir. The joy of giving to the health and well-being of San Diego neighborhoods has contributed to content in her visual arts and across her career.

In this series, Karen uses drawings by Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and others to create mixed media collages with colored pencil, metallic penwork, Japanese rice and Italian papers. These works were created during Covid restrictions in 2020, when she was

completely isolated. She states, "After working in clay for many years, I began to create sacred-themed art collages in late 2019. Then along came our stealth pandemic in 2020. What better way to combat my own isolation than to clean out my garage?! Art history books were stored there from my university office

after retirement. I recognized I needed to give more away, but when my eyes landed on the oversized 1957 artbook about Leonardo Da Vinci that I had used in 2019, I knew I could use it again. I would create more design exercises from the book to endure the long, isolated days...I started tearing more pages out of the book. Something I had rarely done before! Covid art therapy, perhaps. And so, this exhibition began."



The Artist

Background:
Jesus Our Redeemer



L-R: Conversion of Saul on the Road to Damascus; The Annunciation; John the Baptist Came First



Leonardo



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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

Scott Goodwin
Treasurer

Sandra Bowden
Curator, The Gallery

Peter & Linda Hughes
Managers, Food Pantry

Lou Augustin
Sexton

Earth Day 2023

On Earth Day, April 22, St. Christopher's hosted a liturgy at Oyster Pond, including Dan Flonta playing the violin.

Below: Rector McGurk, Noah Fleischmann, and the Rev. Gail Smith; Right: Rector McGurk and Jane Harris



Parish Statistics

photos: Tessa English

Baptisms

Grace Mary Gomes
January 22, 2023

Blair Phyllis Ganong
April 23, 2023

Deaths

Doris Mackay
February 13, 2023

Anne Morey Broderick
March 26, 2023

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.



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Spring/Summer 2023

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An Update on Alec Vaughn

The Autumn 2021 issue of *Soundings* featured an article written by parishioner Mary Gulrich, providing an update on the journey of Alec Vaughn, a young man who grew up in this parish. At the time, he was in the middle of his Master of Divinity at Boston University. Now he has just completed this degree, having graduated on May 17, focusing in Anglican/Episcopal Studies and Chaplaincy.

He states, "My plans are to relocate to the Upper Cape and to continue preparing for ordained ministry under the tutelage of the clergy at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Falmouth. Beginning in June of 2023, I will officially be a Postulant for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Massachusetts."

Well done, Alec! And God's richest blessings.



Alec poses with a group of supporters, including Ali Crockett (Facilities Manager, St. Christopher's Church) to his right, and his father, Stewart, to his left.