

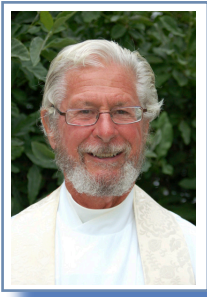
SOUNDINGS

Saint
Christopher's
Episcopal
Church



Autumn 2023

Trust



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

Let me put before you my belief that trust (faith in each other) is at a very low ebb. Essayists have conjectured about the how and why of this, but we do not need theorists to tell us what we know. In general, we distrust each other and each other's motives. Some of this comes from the political environment in which we live. American democracy is under assault almost daily. We do not

trust our politicians (sometimes for good reason!). The legal system and the integrity of how we vote is disparaged. Once the church and its ministry were held in high regard as trustworthy, but sexual misconduct, ineffective leadership, and muddy theological convictions have often reduced the church's voice to a cacophony of whines and whispers. We find ourselves divided into separate worldviews even within families; we speak only to ourselves and those in our "camp" and we curse and disparage anyone or anything which opposes us. Maybe this is too harsh, but I think it is largely true.

It is into this environment that we as a church community are asked to trust each other and to trust God's Spirit among us as we embark on a long journey ending in the call of a special new rector to come among us. This call to us is profoundly counter-cultural, that is, it runs against the prevailing mood and language of our time. But here's the thing: By acting in trust, we can show and be a sign that trust still works and that respect for each other bears good results.

Of course, we will be tested. The process of honestly

discerning who we are and where we would like to go takes time and effort. All of us need to participate in offering perspectives and data that will be gathered to produce a profile of St. Christopher's. An accurate profile takes time and it is essential in attracting candidates who match our expectations.

A search committee will be selected by the Vestry. Great care will be taken to select persons very involved in the life of St. Christopher's now and persons newer to the church who may have unique perspectives. This will be a committee of limited number; not everyone who wants to be on it can be. Their work will require our prayer and trust.

Once the Search Committee begins to identify and contact candidates, their work must be done in absolute confidence in order to protect the integrity of each candidate. Once again, we must trust.

Our wardens are committed to open communication and welcome questions and concerns at any time. Right now, we have experimented with a "forum" on the third Sunday of every month at the end of each service. Do attend these. Understand the process, ask questions, state your fears and hopes. Among other things, trust comes from honest sharing.

Finally, these next months must be bathed in prayer. We say the following

on Sundays; also I commend it to your daily prayers:

Holy Spirit, you are wind, fire and amazing calm. Be especially among this your family as we move through many changes, challenges, and possibilities in the months ahead. Keep us faithful, honest, humble, courageous, and ever trusting in your leadership and love for us. Amen.



Goll Farm School Fall Semester Update



Linda Hughes
*Chair, Together
with Africans*

Goll Farm School is a Kindergarten thru 8th grade learning center in Bong County, Liberia, West Africa. The school is managed by a retired Episcopal priest, Prince Wreh, and his wife Relhetta.

The school has a capacity for 250 students, however students drop in and out based upon the availability of financial support. It

costs \$200 per year to educate a Goll Farm student.

In addition to weekday education there is a feeding program to properly nourish the students whose main meal is often that provided by the school. The school includes a 20 seat computer lab which is available to students as well as adults for computer literacy courses.

Due to very poor economic conditions we are experiencing a higher than normal dropout rate as parents are unable to support their child's education. The school relies on private donations, scholarships, and parental contributions.

St. Christopher's, through the Together With Africans (TWA) committee, has consistently provided scholarships for 50 students, which amounts to \$10,000 annually. As the local economy continues to deteriorate, the need for additional financial support has increased. The church's Outreach Committee has provided a \$2,000 grant this school year to educate an additional 10 students.

The TWA committee has invited Prince & Relhetta Wreh to visit St. Christopher's later in the autumn. This will provide an opportunity for all of us to solidify our relationships with Goll Farm School and hopefully provide additional support. Recently the Wrehs were issued 12-month visas to visit the U.S. We are developing plans for their visit and look forward to the



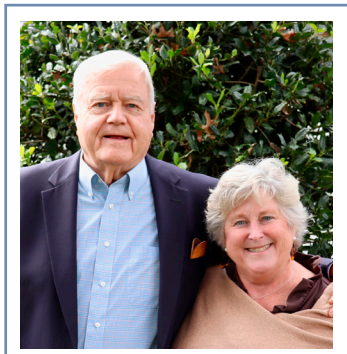
opportunity for all of us to learn about education and need in the West African nation of Liberia. As details of their visit come into focus, we will share them with you.

That being said, the national elections in Liberia are causing unrest and turmoil as the two top candidates for the presidency are headed for a runoff election on November 7. There are reports of looting in the vicinity of Goll Farm School. For the safety of our students and to secure the computer equipment, the decision has been taken to temporarily suspend operations and relocate the computer lab equipment to a secure location. Please keep our staff and students in your prayers as the country of Liberia sets the course for its future.

An education, once earned, can never be taken away. Please help us to keep all of the students of Goll Farm School in the classroom where they belong.



2024 Annual Giving Campaign



**John Sargent and
Pam Hufnagel**
*Chairs, Annual
Giving Campaign*

We had an easy time coming up with a theme this year. *Forward with Faith* is something that resonated with us and we hope it will with you as well! Brian's retirement celebration in August was joyous, but we also know that in the coming year or two, we will need to band together stronger, and dig deeper into our

own spirituality to overcome the challenges ahead. Which we will.

Our campaign goals this year are \$530,000, and participation by all members of St. Christopher's. U.S.P.S. mail letters are going out by the end of October. For those who have not provided a commitment or pledge

before or are new to St. Christopher's, the Annual Giving Campaign asks for your financial commitment now to sustain day-to-day operations, retain our dedicated staff, and continue our outreach efforts in 2024. Did you know it takes on average \$2,711 by each household to do this? In the truest sense, your support makes a difference.

Bottom
2024 Annual
is a vote of



line, your participation in the Giving Campaign, at any level, confidence in what we have accomplished and what we will continue to accomplish. To complete your commitment online, go to www.stchristopherschatham.org/make-a-commitment. We give because God first gave to us.

Everything we have is God's and was given to us by God. Please give prayerful and thoughtful consideration for St. Christopher's for 2024. **Let's move Forward with Faith together.**

The Rector's Retirement

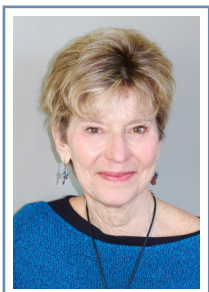
On Sunday, August 27, St. Christopher's members said "good bye" to our Rector of twenty years, the Rev. Brian W. McGurk.



photos: Kim Roderiques



Colors of Autumn



Judith Felton
Pastoral
Associate

For this issue of *Soundings*, I am reprinting my Keeping Connected message from September of 2020. I think that the sentiment speaks to the transitions we are facing at this time.

On my tree outside the window of my study, there is one burst of color, a swath of yellow leaves the color of old lemons, amidst the dull green leaves of late summer; color announcing an ending, a closing, a loss. The color will spread to each leaf, and I will witness the leaves hanging on before they fall, one by one, to the earth, becoming nourishment for new life.

Hanging on, letting go. Endings, beginnings. Lost, found. These words come to mind as the summer season comes to a close and hints of autumn give us a wink. In spite of the knowledge that the short days of winter will follow, the fall remains my favorite season. The season encourages a mixed response; it is a season of mixed messages. There is such beauty painted on the

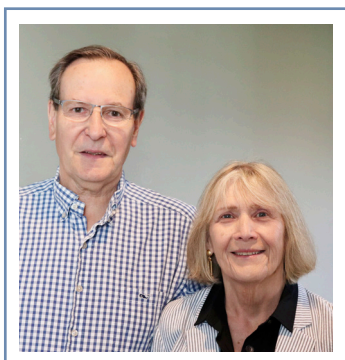
dying leaves, such brilliance in the landscape of decline. No wonder it's a favorite of mine, given my propensity to analyze the complex and dive into the mysterious.

Precisely for this suggested symbolism, the transition from summer to fall can be a particularly difficult time for those who are grieving. The intense beauty of the season may evoke a mournfulness, a yearning, much like a feeling we get when listening to a beautiful piece of music, or resting our eyes on an astounding painting, or absorbing the poetry of T. S. Eliot. Those who have experienced great loss (which most of us have) are uniquely attuned to great beauty, I find. And great beauty can be found in the evocation of our loss.

So, I look at the leaves out my window turning color. I think of the many endings in my life and the beginnings that ensued. Some beginnings were harder to embrace than others, and I certainly didn't ask for them. Letting go is hard; one is afraid of the fall. But the grace of God, our trust in God and the companionship of Jesus comforts and heals, helps us live in a new beginning. Let us help each other be reminded of this during the dark times. Let's help each other look for bursts of color in our landscape.



The Chatham Food Pantry Seeks Your Support



Peter & Linda Hughes
*Managers,
Chatham Food Pantry*

The Chatham Food Pantry at St. Christopher's Church is one of our many outreach programs. We are open two days a week year round. In a typical month we process 100 orders for 60 households. Our clients include 130 adults, 100 children, and 45 seniors. Our 16 dedicated volunteers manage the inventory and assist our clients as they shop for essential food products. Several of our clients are homebound, which requires special deliveries.

We serve a very diverse set of clients including seniors, working families, and people in the process of relocating. Most of our clients work in the hospitality industry and need a helping hand to stretch their hard-earned dollars.

Approximately 45 percent of our food comes from the Greater Boston Food Bank. Meeting the balance requires us to purchase items from local/regional sources. In season, the Community Garden

provides fresh vegetables and the Lower Cape Outreach Council provides food products and special services such as periodic blood pressure screening and nutrition education. We are excellent shoppers; however, the staggering increase in the cost of food results in a monthly grocery expense of approximately \$5,000. We rely on generous donors to support the Chatham Food Pantry. At this time we are in need of donations to keep our level of service to our community from deteriorating. Our friends and neighbors need our assistance. Please consider helping us to help those who need it most.

To donate, make a secure online donation at the Chatham Food Pantry page of the church website, or you may send in a check, in any amount, to "Chatham Food Pantry," and mail it to St. Christopher's Church; 625 Main Street; Chatham, MA 02633. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Managers Linda & Peter Hughes at the entrance to the Chatham Food Pantry



Shelves of food at the pantry

St. Christopher's is a Warming/Cooling Shelter



Peter Hughes
Shelter Manager

One year ago we were challenged to develop an emergency shelter using the church's resources. After several meetings with town and county emergency management leaders and the work of approximately 16 volunteers, we are pleased to inform you that our church is now a warming/cooling shelter. Our mission is to provide essential services on site during emergency situations. We will

respond to extended power outages, flooding, hurricanes, extended cold snaps, etc., in coordination with the Chatham Emergency Management Team.

In such an emergency the Parish Hall will be converted to a lounge/rest area, dining area, and a device charging station. In addition, we will accommodate dogs and cats in the Youth Room in appropriately-sized crates. We refer to this area as "the Zoo."

Our intent is to be open during the day (typically 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). However, we will adjust hours based upon the particular event and the need. We will offer meals and snacks as dictated by the food available in the Food Pantry. We are fortunate to have a backup generator

and access to the Chatham Food Pantry within the church during times of emergencies.

In the event that the shelter needs to be activated, you will be notified via our email directory and provided with instructions as to the specific details of the event. Once activated, our volunteers will be easily identified by our brightly-colored "St. C's Staff" vests.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to staff the shelter. If you have an interest, please contact me at phughes41@comcast.net. Hopefully we will never need the shelter, but if we do, we are ready to serve and meet the challenge.

A demonstration of the shelter setup



Volunteers Richard Johnston, David Smith, and Frank Pfeiffer

Volunteer Gale Cottrell at the welcoming desk



Uncommon Thrift



Louise Montross
*Manager,
Uncommon Thrift*

The success of Uncommon Thrift depends on donations of clothing, home décor, housewares, furniture, and so much more that you bring into the shop on a regular basis throughout the year. But did you know that we also go into homes after estate sales or when people are downsizing or moving and are able to pick up so much that might otherwise not find a new home and literally end up in the landfill? The only criteria that we have is that things are in very good condition and that we can accommodate them based on our space. We have a crew of approximately 12 volunteers that work together with trucks and empty totes and are ready to go when the opportunity presents itself. It's a "win-win" for the thrift shop and the owner, and we are dedicated to helping steer belongings to the proper place or recipient.

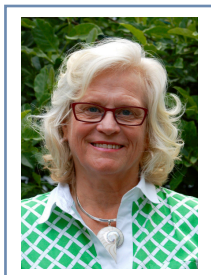
Be sure to spread the word to friends and neighbors. We can always use extra hands and trucks if you have some spare time. Contact Louise Montross at 508-241-4696.



*Volunteers assisting with the
removal of items from homes*



Autumn Exhibit



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

The Art
Committee at
St. Christopher's
is pleased to
present "Who Is
My Neighbor:

Visual Insights from the Good
Samaritan."

Jesus is asked by an expert in
the law, "Who is my neighbor?"
And in customary fashion, Jesus
responds by telling a parable: the

parable of the Good Samaritan. This exhibit offers the
viewer numerous opportunities to see this story anew,
through the eyes of 22 artists spread across the last four
centuries.

This exhibition has gathered together etchings,
lithographs, woodcuts, and paintings that give us visual
insights into Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan.
Some focus in on finding the wounded man at the side
of the road and offering him water, oil or wrapping his
wounds. Other artists imagine the trip to the inn. Some
take us to the inn when the Good Samaritan delivers
the ailing man to the innkeeper for healing. Who Is My
Neighbor? has several political cartoons or illustrations
from Harper's Weekly, PUCK, and the Salvation Army
that demonstrate the parable's societal relevance.

The implications of this parable, ancient and
modern, are radical indeed. Cultures are shaped by the
stories we tell. Stories like the Good Samaritan can help
us build a more compassionate society.

Some of the artists included in the show are Ernst
Barlach, Tanja Butler, Ed Knippers, Jules Chadel,



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? VISUAL INSIGHTS FROM THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Rembrandt, John August Swanson, Doré, and a poster
of van Gogh's Good Samaritan. To read more about
this exhibit, and see more images, please visit the
"The Gallery at St. Christopher's" page on the church
website.

Edward Knippers



Paul Frenzeny



John August Swanson



508-945-2832
stchristopherschatham.org

The Rev. John Martiner,
 D.Min
Transitional Priest

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

Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Spencer Clayton Sanders
 June 30, 2023

Rex Haas Rodier
 July 9, 2023

Reese Anne Rodier
 July 9, 2023

Tessa Madison Adcock
 August 19, 2023

Arthur Frederick DeVlyder
 July 16, 2023

Cooper Dennis DeVlyder
 July 16, 2023

Reese Donaldson
 August 8, 2023

Weddings

Eleanor Garside & Vincent Thomas III
 June 17, 2023

Caroline Finden & Erik Hoiseth
 July 23, 2023

Bridget Crowley & Michael Barry
 August 19, 2023

Allison Curtis & Robert Shuffield
 August 26, 2023

Sarah Hargreaves & Edward Quinn
 September 9, 2023

Margaret Kimball & Cosmo Santullo
 September 16, 2023

Bridget Moffatt & Jake MacNaughton
 September 16, 2023

Christine Maydossian & Mark Brandon
 September 24, 2023

Marissa DeFavero & Stephen Raum
 October 21, 2023

Deaths

Charles McKinny
 April 23, 2023

Jill Staniar
 May 3, 2023

Hans Palmer
 May 26, 2023

Robert W. Waugh
 July 29, 2023

Maryrose G. Cavanaugh
 September 11, 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 Message, Sunday livestream links, and periodic messages.

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

Autumn 2023

Non-Profit Organization

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Maury A. Castro
choirmaster



Heinrich
Christensen
organ



Charlie Hawk
treble soloist



Naomi Steckman
cello



Betsy Doriss
oboe

The Evensong Choir of St. Christopher's
The Rev. John Martin, officiant

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

4:40 p.m. Organ Recital | 5 p.m. Liturgy

A Choral Eucharist for All Saints' Day featuring

John • Rutter

Requiem