

SOUNDINGS

Saint
Christopher's
Episcopal
Church



May 2017

From Your Rector



The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

The disciples are cowering behind locked doors: fearing, despairing and mourning. They are wounded—emotionally distraught and spiritually lost.

Mysteriously, the risen and fully alive Jesus stands among them, wounds and all, and simply says, “Peace be with you.”

Life constantly and consistently batters and wounds us through experiences of

suffering, loss, brokenness and sin. Our wounds can—and often do—slam shut and lock the doors of our hearts. A person with a locked heart is disconnected from life—shutting out vulnerability, intimacy, love, compassion and joy.

Cold, locked hearts lead to broken hearts. The story of Aaron Hernandez is a tragic story about woundedness. He was a high school and college football star, and he signed a forty million dollar contract at the ripe old age of 23. last month, at age 27, he committed suicide in a prison cell, where he was serving a life sentence for murder.

Tragically, he left many wounded and battered hearts.

How did this happen? Nobody really knows.

Reportedly, at age 16, he lost the guidance of his father and then went off the tracks. Franciscan priest

Richard Rohr states that this kind of wounding can result in what he calls “father hunger,” a lost father wound.

Wounds are a part of who we are. If feared, unacknowledged, denied, or repressed, they can eventually destroy us and others too. Yet according to Rohr, our wounds can lead to something good—compassion and a softening towards others.

Thomas wanted to touch the miracle of the risen Christ *for himself*; he wanted to touch Christ *for himself*; he wanted to experience the living and risen Christ *for himself*.

Thomas wanted a personal connection to Christ, a personal experience of Christ, a personal encounter with Christ. Thomas wanted to be touched by Christ.

It is what we want too.

The poet Amy Hunter wrote (in *The Christian Century*) about the experience of needing to touch another person's wounds. She recounts how she underwent emergency surgery in a Boston hospital. Her sister, a professor, in the middle of exams, and about to be married, drove from New York City in a snowstorm

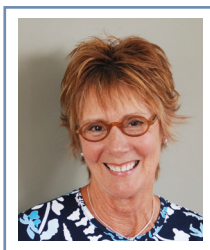
to see her sister. A phone call would not do! Amy Hunter poignantly explains this about her sister: “She had to see for herself. She had to touch [my] wounds.”

And she adds this coda: “Sometimes the demand

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Flower Angels



Ilene Bendas
Advocate

I've recently become aware of an organization that is doing wonderful work here on Cape Cod: Flower Angels USA. This is a charitable non-profit organization based in Yarmouth.

"Flower Angels is a mission of love for people who have been abandoned by society," says founder, Suzanne Carter. With donated flowers and over 100

volunteers, bouquets are arranged in teacups and mugs, the perfect size for a bedside table. Between 900 and 1,000 arrangements are delivered every month to nursing homes and hospice facilities across Cape Cod. Some of these patients rarely, or never, see a visitor.

Please consider supporting this mission,



which brings a few moments of kindness, with the purchase of this pin that is also being produced by Flower Angels. Pins are available at the front desk of the church, and a donation of \$3 to \$5 is suggested. For more information, contact Flower Angels USA at 508-280-9869 or Grace@FlowerAngelsUSA.org.

Flower Angels USA®



*Delivering random acts of love.®
Recycling flowers... warming hearts.*

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church & First Congregational Church

Present A CONCERT CELEBRATING THE SACRED & THE PROFANE

*Featuring the music of Mozart, Copland, Schubert and Ives
Joan Kirchner, soprano ~ Chatham Chorale Chamber Singers*

**SATURDAY
JUNE 24 ~ 2017
7:00 PM**

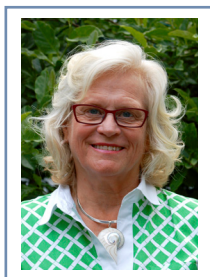
**ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
625 MAIN STREET, CHATHAM**

**PRE-CONCERT RECEPTION AND TALK
BY THE REV. JOSEPH MARCHIO AT 5:30 PM**

**TICKETS: \$35.00
CONCERT AND RECEPTION: \$50
STUDENTS: \$15**



The Gallery at St. Christopher's



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

The sacred art of the East comes to The Gallery at St. Christopher's with a special summer exhibition devoted to the works of four women artists from West Ukraine.

East meets West: Women

Icon-Makers of Ukraine features 23 icons by Ivanka Demchuk, Natalya Rusetska, Ulyana Tomkevych, and Lyuba Yatskiv in their first group show outside

of their hometown of Lviv, the cultural capital of the region.

Lviv (also known as Lemberg, Lwow, and Lvov) has been a crossroads of different cultures, ruled in modern times by the Austrian Habsburgs, Poland, and Soviet Russia. It has long played a pivotal role in the Ukrainian quest for a national identity and was central to the popular movement that brought about independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

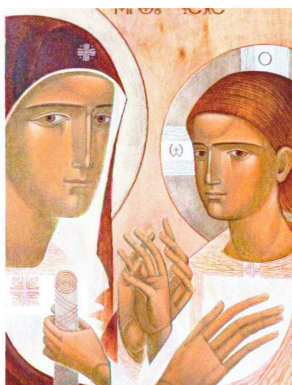
West Ukraine also lies on the boundary where the Byzantine East meets the Latin West. The dominant faith of much of the region is Ukrainian Greek Catholicism, a branch of the Catholic Church that follows the Eastern Orthodox form of worship, including the veneration of icons.

This intermingling of cultures and faith traditions in West Ukraine has resulted in a style of sacred art unique in the Christian World. Suppressed by the Communist regime, Ukrainian Greek Catholic culture has experienced a Renaissance since the breakup of the Soviet Empire.

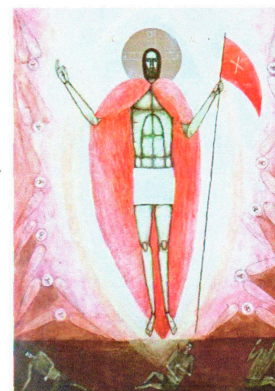
One powerful expression of this cultural renewal is the new school of iconography represented by these



Tomkevych: *The Last Supper*



**EAST
meets
WEST**



Women Icon Makers of West Ukraine

four women artists. They are respectful of the canons of a conservative sacred art form, while experimenting with different media and color palettes. They offer contemporary variations on time-honored themes with borrowed motifs from Ukrainian folk art.

In *The Birth of Christ*, Ivanka Demchuk presents the Madonna and Child enveloped in lavish blue and gold, recalling the art of Gustav Klimt and the Vienna Secession in the twilight years of the Habsburg Empire.

Natalya Rusetska uses Latin Christian imagery of Christ bursting out of the tomb in her iconographic depiction of *The Resurrection*, but the ethereal, elongated forms in this highly stylized image reflect the mystical traditions of Eastern Orthodoxy.

The incised decorations in Ulyana Tomkevych's icons and the checked red and yellow table cloth of her traditionally composed image of *The Last Supper* show the influence of Ukrainian folk art motifs, especially embroidered textile patterns.

A highlight of the show is Lyuba Yatskiv's large panel painting of *Christ Pantocrator* (Ruler of All). We see a dynamic Christ in three-quarter profile with billowing hair and garments in contrast to the static frontal image in traditional Eastern Orthodox icons of this popular theme.

What makes the innovative works of this quartet of women iconographers all the more impressive is their success in a genre of sacred art traditionally dominated by male artists.

This show will run from May 15 through August 31. For more information on the exhibition, feel free to contact me at sandrabowden@comcast.net.

From Your Rector, continued

to see is not doubt. Sometimes it is even love.”

Compassion and steadfast love flow between these two sisters—through the wounded body of one of them. Cynthia Bourgeault calls this the “Mercy of Woundedness”: “Our wounds are the point and occasion when the giving and receiving of love is exchanged.”

The pastoral ministry of our church is one place where the Mercy of Woundedness occurs, the giving and receiving of love is exchanged, hearts are softened, compassion wells up, wounds are healed, and most importantly, Christ touches us and we touch him,

encountering and experiencing him—risen and alive.

We are fortunate to have many individuals in our parish who are not afraid to “touch” the wounds of another. Every week we send a Eucharistic Minister out from our service to bring communion (the wounded body and sacrificial blood of Christ) to someone. There are now several members of our parish who have received excellent training in pastoral care from Stephen Ministry. And, informally, you all reach out to touch the wounds of others: “extending God’s [wounded] hand of mercy and grace.”

Touching is believing!

Chatham Food Pantry



**Martha and Ted
Miller**
CFP Managers

Spring has arrived with all its signs of fresh beginnings. As managers of Chatham Food Pantry, we are encouraged to see our clients hopeful with the promise of seasonal employment.

First and foremost, we say thank you to St. Christopher’s for giving us a comfortable home and

for supporting us so generously. You are a caring and giving community and we are blessed to work with you as we strive to lift a huge burden from our pantry clients.

In addition to providing food, we have made it our goal to branch out into the community in order to enrich St. Christopher’s mission of support for those in need. As members of the Lower Cape Outreach

Council (LCOC), we are fortunate to have them as support personnel as well.

We have also joined forces with the Chatham Children’s Fund and Monomoy Community Services to enlarge our scope of assistance. We are pleased to say that with your help we provided a new winter coat to all Chatham children in need. We now work closely with the Chatham Fire Department to ensure that Christmas remains special for every Chatham family. The amount of toys and games collected this past December was tremendous. Our St. Christopher’s drive was certainly a terrific help.

Our friends at LCOC send along their heartfelt thanks for your generous contributions to their Fuel Assistance Program. Please note that the generosity of your many missions is gratefully appreciated.

We applaud St. Christopher’s for all that you do for our pantry as well as for the Chatham community.

Thank you Lynn Van Dine!!!

The clergy, staff and Vestry of St. Christopher’s Church wish to extend a sincere word of thanks to Lynn Van Dine, who, even since her retirement in May of 2015, has continued to volunteer in the parish office, helping to prepare the weekly Sunday bulletin. While she is unable to do this anymore, the church is deeply grateful for her detailed, quality work.

Furthermore, her joyful spirit will be missed in the office! Thank you, Lynn!

Music & Liturgy



Maury A. Castro
Organist &
Choirmaster

On April 29, the thirteen Choristers of St. Christopher's collaborated for the second time this season with the Choristers of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Barnstable to present a Choral Evensong at St. Christopher's. The service included music

by George Dyson, Simon Lole, and Ralph Vaughan Williams; Douglas Keilitz, choirmaster; Maury A. Castro, organist and choir accompanist.

On Sunday, May 7, at 11:30 am a new film, *Sacred Sound*, will be shown in the Parish Hall. This is a 60-minute documentary film of one summer week when 50 ordinary American girls learn to sing extraordinary music in the manner of the great cathedral choirs at a Royal School of Church Music training course. The film, shot primarily at Saint Mary's School (Raleigh, N.C.) and Duke University Chapel (Durham, N.C.), shows the teamwork required to make great choral music as the choir prepares for two Sunday worship services. Relish beauty in sight and sound of remarkable young people who willingly rise at dawn to sit on hard pews for the sake of offering themselves to God through music. These young people take to heart the words of the liturgy as the means by



which humans relate to heaven, and bring music to life through the very breath of their beings. Three St. Christopher's choristers will be attending the RSCM course in Newport, R.I. this summer.

As a fundraiser for these traveling choristers, the NoteAbles will be presenting a benefit concert on Friday, May 19, at 4 pm at St. Christopher's. All proceeds from the event will help assist families in meeting the course fees. Suggested donation: \$10.

Finally, I wish to invite any interested singer to attend a vocal production workshop: *Taking the Guesswork out of Singing*. This weekly series, beginning Saturday, May 20, at 9:30 am, will be co-taught by Joel Esten and myself. We will focus on classically-based fundamentals of healthy singing, including posture, breathing, support, vowel and consonant production, and diction. For more information or to register, please visit the church website and click on "Special Events."

Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting and Luncheon

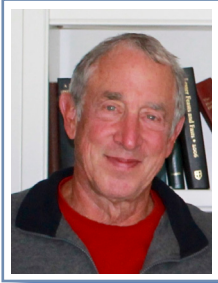
On Saturday, April 29, the Diocesan Altar Guild held its annual meeting and luncheon at St. Christopher's Church. The event began with a Holy Eucharist in the sanctuary. The Rev. Sarah Lewis and Rector McGurk celebrated the Eucharist, and Maury A. Castro served as organist.

Following the Eucharist, a lovely luncheon was held, followed by a lecture and meeting. Two St. Christopher's members were acknowledged for fifty (yes, fifty!) years of Altar Guild service: Joan Bagnell (pictured) and Melody Wood (in absentia). Many thanks to all who helped plan and execute this lovely and meaningful event, and to all of our Altar Guild members who quietly serve with devotion and care.



Photo: Martha Barchelder

Community Outreach: Safe Harbor



Larry Jobson
*Community
Outreach
Participant*

As part of Community Outreach, a team of parishioners has been working on a project called Adopt-A-Unit. Our work over the last two years has been directed at refurbishing a living unit of the Safe Harbor House in Hyannis. Our team's successful refurbishing project became the model for what other organizations could do to help jumpstart the overall Adopt-A-Unit program. A recently-received letter of appreciation from Betsy Fontes, Safe Harbor Programs Director, stated the following:

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the St. Christopher's team for the outstanding job they did on the room makeover for Safe Harbor. The unit looked like a

new unit when it was completed. Your team was the first and the only team that completed a unit when we first started the Adopt-a-Unit project."

Big things happened at the Safe Harbor House subsequent to our team's successful work. First, as a result of a letter we wrote to the Cape Cod Times, 14 other organizations signed on to the Adopt-A-Unit project. Next, a grant was received that enabled Safe Harbor to outfit twelve units with new dressers and nightstands. Our team was able to convince the retail supplier of these new dressers and nightstands to give Safe Harbor a big discount on the purchase price. Finally, and most importantly, Safe Harbor was able to land a facility-wide grant late last year to completely refurbish all units with new beds, bedding, dining tables, and other needed appointments. As a result of the huge year-end grant, the Adopt-A-Unit project is no longer needed. So, we effectively worked ourselves out of a job!

Our Adopt-A-Unit team (Bob Braman, JoAnne Edwards, Bonnie Hessler, Larry Jobson, Wendy Johnson, Lori Liataud, Didi Lovett, and Sue Morgan) are thankful for both the opportunity to help the Safe Harbor House and the financial support from our fellow St Christopher's parishioners. We'll be looking forward to other projects that God may put on our outreach path.

Parish Statistics

Deaths

Jane Maddux
March 3, 2017

Christina Holmes
April 10, 2017

Church e-mail list: If you are not on the church e-mail list and would like to be, please subscribe yourself at the bottom of the homepage of the church website, www.stchristopherschatham.org, or e-mail Maury A. Castro at mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org. By adding your address to the list, you will receive the weekly mid-week e-mail and periodic messages from the Rector.

Digital Soundings: All who are on the e-mail list receive *Soundings* electronically via the mid-week e-mail, and it is available on the website. If you would like to be taken off the print list, please contact Maury.

Saint
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Episcopal
Church

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The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

The Rev. Dr. John Martin
Priest Associate

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

Haskell Thomson
Musician-in-Residence

Kerén Castro
*Director of Children,
Youth, and Families*

Jamie Chalker
Parish Administrator

Barbara Bush
Administrative Assistant

Ali Crockett
Facilities Manager

David Smith
Treasurer

Bridgette Renaud
Assistant Treasurer

Lou Augustin
Sexton

Priscilla Chick, R.N.
Parish Nurse

Judi Stella
Manager, Gift Shop

Sandra Bowden
Curator, The Gallery

Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, Food Pantry

**Lynn Van Dine
and Tim Weller,**
Soundings copy editors.

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Closed	2 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 5:30 Family Faith Formation	3 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 5:15 Adult Choir	4 10 Women's AA	5 9:30 CPR Training	6
7 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist with Baptism Sunday School 11 Fellowship 11:30 Sacred Sound Film Screening	8 Church Closed	9 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	10 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 4 Finance Committee 5:15 Adult Choir	11 10 Women's AA 3 Shawl Ministry 4 Newcomers Cmt.	12	13
14 Mother's Day 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	15 Church Closed	16 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry	17 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 10 Parkinson's Support 5:15 Adult Choir	18 10 Women's AA	19	20 9:30 Vocal Workshop 5 Contemplative Evening Prayer
21 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist with Baptism Sunday School 11 Fellowship	22 Church Closed	23 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	24 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 5:15 Adult Choir	25 10 Women's AA	26	27 9:30 Vocal Workshop 11 Blessing of the Fleet
28 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist: African Service 11 Fellowship	29 Memorial Day Church Closed	30 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School	31 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 5:15 Adult Choir	<i>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.</i> <i>~ John 10:11</i>		



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Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

May 2017

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Easter at St. Christopher's

