

# SOUNDINGS

Saint  
Christopher's  
Episcopal  
Church



June 2017

## Going Home



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

I recently returned to an address where I had resided and studied for three years—Yale Divinity School. I traveled back in geography and time to participate in a conference on Poetry and Religion. Between classes I watched the workers set up chairs on the Quadrangle for the next day's commencement exercises. Suddenly, I was jolted by the realization that twenty-five

years—to the day—had elapsed since I had graduated and had left my divinity school address and home.

The dais from which the speakers addressed the class was a few hundred feet from the student housing where I had lived. Like a scratchy, blurry home movie that makes you motion sick as you watch it, this apartment was barely recognizable through the fog of time even though it was once my address. The immensely talented poet, Christian Wiman, stood at this lecture hall dais and grabbed my attention with a catchy quote regarding a subject, that, oddly enough, I was reflecting on at that very moment. He said: "Amherst and Antigua, Oxford and Ocracoke, Paris and Prague, Seattle and San Miguel—I have had addresses in all of these places, homes in none." (*Ambition and Survival: Becoming A Poet*)

It struck me as sad that he has never felt at home in any of the many places he has lived: "...I have had addresses in all of these places, homes in none." This clever turn-of-a-phrase asks some very important questions: How many of your "addresses" have truly been "home"? What is home? Where is home?

Like Christian Wiman, we have, perhaps, resided at addresses in many distant and varied places. A litany of my former addresses readily comes to mind: Waterbury and Wolcott, Bridgetown and Los Angeles, Simsbury and New Haven, Richmond and New Kent, Chatham and East Orleans.... Connecticut, Barbados, California, Virginia, Massachusetts...and who knows what and where will follow! But...how many were homes? How many of your addresses do you consider to be homes?



Simone Weil wrote: "The feeling of being at home...that's what we're meant to retain, that's what will save us." None of Christian Wiman's addresses have been home. But he has experienced a deep inner feeling of what being at home means. What he is getting at, I think, is the idea, maybe even the reality, that home is not so much a place, or an

*continued on page 5*

## Ministry of the Verger



**David Smith**  
Head Verger

The role of the Verger in the modern church is to assist the clergy in the preparation and conduct of worship services. It is an ancient order, dating back to the medieval cathedrals, where the Verger was the “Protector of the Procession.” In early churches the participants stood through the service, since there were no benches or chairs. It

could be a bit chaotic, so the Verger led the procession into the church or cathedral, clearing the way with the virge (Staff of Office) for the procession. Today in many parishes and cathedrals you will see a verger ceremonially leading the procession.

In our parish we share duties among four Vergers, with the head Verger providing training and participating as part of the Liturgy, Worship and Music Committee. While some parishes have the Verger carry a virge, we do not, but we do wear a chimere (sleeveless gown) over an alb. I hold regular training sessions with Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes, with a special focus on high holy days. Our Sunday duties begin well before the appointed service time ensuring the proper setup of the credence table by the Altar Guild, verifying that all assigned participants have arrived (Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Lay Readers), making sure the Gospel Book is properly marked for the day’s lesson, lighting the candles, etc. The Verger works closely with the Altar Guild, so that all the details that make the service proceed smoothly have been addressed. This frees up the Celebrant and allows him or her to properly prepare for the Eucharist.

The service begins with the Verger coordinating with the organist, setting up the procession, and rounding up last minute strays. In some church processions, the Verger leads, but at St. Christopher’s we have our Acolytes lead with the cross and torches, while the Verger carries the Gospel Book in front of the Celebrant. As the service progresses, the Verger ensures all participants are ready for the upcoming Gospel Procession and Eucharist. While the offering is being taken, the Verger prepares the Altar, and during Communion ensures that the Celebrant has sufficient

Host and keeps the chalices of the Eucharistic Ministers filled. Post Communion, the Verger clears the table and returns the Altar to the Celebrant to conclude the service. After the service, the Verger and the Altar Guild work together to return all of the elements to their proper places in the Sacristy.

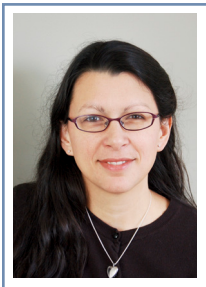
While we have a small cadre of Vergers at St. Christopher’s, there are many of us in parishes across the country. Membership in the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church, founded in 1989, has grown to over 1,400 members. While initially a Cathedral function, the Verger has become an integral part of many parishes, and an important partner with the Priest and the Altar Guild in our worship services.



Photos: S. Kerén Castro



## Sunday School gives way to VBC



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

Wow, I cannot believe it is June already! Where did this school year go? We have had a great year in Sunday School, learning all about God's love. The best part has been sharing that love with others through Faith in Action! We have also shared great times at Family Faith Formation. Now with summer on its way we are preparing to celebrate Jake Lamotte as he is graduating

on June 3 from Sturgis Charter Public School in Hyannis. Jake will be attending Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

The last day of Sunday School will be June 18, at which time our Sunday School students will be sharing some of the songs that they have learned this year. Then it will be time to gear up for Vacation Bible Camp, which will take place this year during the week of July 24–28. This year VBC will take place at the First Congregational Church and the theme is “Down



on the Farm—growing up with God.” For those of you who have been around for this in the past, you will remember that we always hold a service project that week. This year we will be collecting change for Heifer International, so save your pennies and you will be receiving a piggy bank to collect it in during the month of June! Also, if you are interested in volunteering your time for this, please feel free to contact me at any time. It is a great way to share your love of God with the children of our community.

## Summertime at St. Christopher's



**John M. Sargent**  
*Senior Warden*

One of the things that I really treasure about living on Cape Cod is the change of seasons. The warm summers, gorgeous falls, not too cold winters and, unfortunately, the fickle springs. Of course, we are different than most of the suburban and urban areas because the change of seasons also heralds a change in

population. That also means that our church must be ready and flexible to adapt to these changes and meet the needs of our constituency.

It is great to see the pews fill up with old friends and visitors, especially newcomers from distant places. Please greet them and let them know we are also here for their needs beyond attending the services. Who knows, the visitor of today is the parishioner of tomorrow.

One way that we are very busy in the summer

and extend our outreach is through weddings. This is perhaps often overlooked. St. Christopher's believes we should extend the opportunity to be married here to anyone who wishes to use our church. We conduct 12 to 15 weddings every summer, many of whom are not parishioners, so please keep this in mind if you hear of people trying to decide about wedding plans. And is there anything better than seeing the couple return for a Baptism a few years later?

As always, questions, comments and suggestions are most welcome by the Rector, Wardens and Vestry.



Photo: Blackmore Photo

# Themes of Eastern Orthodox Art



**John Kohan**  
Art Historian  
and Collector

At first glance, the art of the Eastern Orthodox Church might seem strange to Western viewers whose notion of an “iconic” religious image is Leonardo da Vinci’s painting of *The Last Supper* with its lifelike figures in the Italian Renaissance style. The holy faces on true icons stare out at us like alien visitors from a realm outside of time and space as we know it.

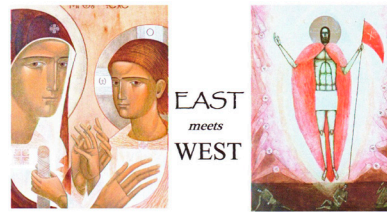
Icons have been called “windows into heaven” to describe the role they play in Orthodox worship. Whether they are used for personal devotion or assembled in a church icon screen for the liturgy, they are considered to be paint-on-wood “stand-ins” for the holy beings they represent, functioning like outposts of heaven on earth.

The Orthodox see painting an icon as comparable to writing a work of theology, so, this sacred art form is often described as “icon-writing.” To discourage the faithful from focusing on what is human and transient in sacred portraits, icon-makers developed simplified, standardized images of their sacred subjects, called prototypes, which have remained largely unchanged down the centuries.

The 13th century mosaic of **Christ Pantocrator (Ruler of All)** in the Church of Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) in present day Istanbul is not significantly different from a modern day icon on the theme you might see placed in the “holy corner” of an Orthodox home in Russia.



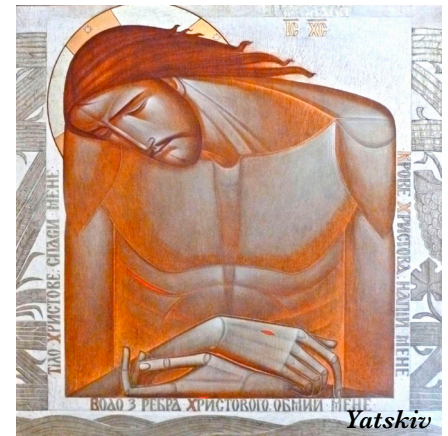
The Russian Orthodox Church, historically, has not allowed depictions of God the Father. To represent the **Trinity**, iconographers turned to the story of the three mysterious guests of Abraham in Genesis 18, showing three nearly identical angels seated around a table. The sainted



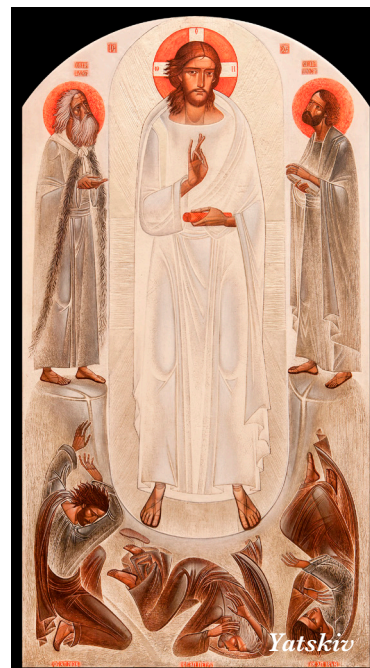
Women Icon Makers of West Ukraine

15th century Russian iconographer, Andrei Rublev, created an image in this style of such beauty and theological depth it has become the prototype for modern icons of *The Holy Trinity* like the one in this show.

Icons of Christ celebrate his divinity. As Church Father Athanasius of Alexandria wrote in the 4th century: “He was made human that we might be made God.” The images on display of Christ and Christ in Glory offer a glimpse of the



eternal realm where he is adored by angels and enthroned in radiant light. Even the icon of his broken body is titled **The King of Glory**.



The story of the **Transfiguration** is important in Orthodox sacred art as the momentous moment when the divine Christ was revealed on earth to his disciples in garments of a white so brilliant all else was left in shadow, as we see in the icon especially commissioned for this exhibition.



## Reaching Out With Music



**Maury A. Castro**  
Organist &  
Choirmaster

On Tuesday, June 20, the Treble Choristers of St. Christopher's will step outside of the walls of the church to sing The National Anthem at the 7 pm Chatham Angler's baseball game. This is one of the many ways that the ministries of St. Christopher's endeavor to reach out with the gifts of our congregation.

Another way we touch the community is through the variety of concerts that we host in the wonderful space at St. Christopher's. The coming year is full of such concerts, including concerts by Hyannis Sound, beginning on Tuesday, June 6, Cape Harmony, beginning on Thursday, June 15, and a joint benefit concert by these groups on Saturday, July 29, at 7 pm.

We're also thrilled to collaborate with the First Congregational Church, Chatham, to present a joint benefit concert on June 24, at 7 pm, with a pre-concert talk and reception at 5:30 pm. Many thanks to Lynn Herbst and Peg Shipman for being the driving forces behind this event. To learn more, please see the display ad on page 8 of this issue of *Soundings*.

Finally, as I shared in my article in the April 2017 issue of *Soundings*, St. Christopher's is honored to host the celebrated Boston-based choral ensemble, *Skylark*, in four concerts over the 2017–2018 season. Complete information about these concerts, at St. Christopher's on Oct. 30, Dec. 20, Feb. 1, and May 25, may be found at [www.skylarkensemble.org](http://www.skylarkensemble.org). Furthermore, season brochures will be available at the front desk for you to peruse, along with season ticket order forms. You will not be disappointed by becoming a subscriber!



Photo: S. Kerén Castro

*Check out all of the upcoming concerts  
at your convenience on the "Concerts"  
page at the church website:  
[www.stchristopherschatham.org](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org)*



## Going Home, continued

address, as much as it is a state of mind, or, better yet, a state of soul. Frederick Buechner says that, "home is where Christ is." Said differently, home is where Unconditional Love abides.

St. Christopher's is an address for many of you. Yet, it can also be a spiritual home—a place where

Christ lives, moves and has his being. A place where Love and Grace can be received and given.

I urge you to simply get involved in the worship and prayer life of this parish through the many opportunities available. Then 625 Main Street can be "home sweet and holy home."

## Bishop Gates Travels to Tanzania



Bishop Alan M. Gates traveled to the Diocese of Tanga in Tanzania, May 22–June 2, in order to meet Tanga’s bishop, the Rt. Rev. Maimbo Mndolwa, and become better acquainted with ministry partnerships and health-care and school projects that the Diocese of Massachusetts and several of its parishes have long been involved with there.

“We remain committed to our global Anglican relationships, and these partnerships on the ground with our fellow Anglicans lead us to keep our focus on common mission,” Gates said of the importance of making the trip.

Also traveling are the Rev. Sarah Randall, SSM of the Diocese of Massachusetts, Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, and a delegation from the Diocese of Ohio.

### Baptisms

Rhys William Meincke  
May 7, 2017

Catherine Elysabeth Higgins  
May 21, 2017

### Marriages

Hallie Damon & Matthew Jones  
May 27, 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](http://www.stchristopherschatham.org), or e-mail Maury A. Castro at [mcastro@stchristopherschatham.org](mailto: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  
Christopher's  
Episcopal Church

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[stchristopherschatham.org](http://stchristopherschatham.org)

The Rev. Brian W. McGurk  
*Rector*

The Rev. Dr. John Martinier  
*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.*

## Parish Statistics

# June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. ~ 1 Corinthians 3:9</i></p>						
<b>4</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist with Baptism Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>5</b> Church Closed	<b>6</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>7</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 11 Men's Bereavement Group 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>8</b> 10 Women's AA 3 Shawl Ministry	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 Vocal Workshop
<b>11</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>12</b> Church Closed	<b>13</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>14</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 9:30 Play Group 11 Men's Bereavement Group 4 Finance Committee 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>15</b> 10 Women's AA 10:30 Liturgy, Worship, and Music 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>16</b> 1 Stephen Ministry	<b>17</b> 9:30 Vocal Workshop 5 Celtic Evensong & Communion
<b>18 Father's Day</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist with Baptism Sunday School 11 Fellowship	<b>19</b> Church Closed	<b>20</b> 9 Morning Prayer 10 Staff Meeting 3:45 Choir School 4 Vestry 7 Choristers sing at Chatham Angler's 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>21</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 10 Parkinson's Support 11 Men's Bereavement Group 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>22</b> 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 Pre-concert talk and reception 7 Benefit Concert: <i>Celebrating the Sacred            &amp; Profane</i>
<b>25</b> 8 Holy Eucharist 9:10 Gospel Glimpse 10 Choral Eucharist 11 Fellowship	<b>26</b> Church Closed	<b>27</b> 9 Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10 Staff Meeting 7 Hyannis Sound	<b>28</b> 9 Contemplative Eucharist & Discussion 10:30 Holy Eucharist & Healing @ Lib. Cms. 11 Men's Bereavement Group 5:15 Adult Choir	<b>29</b> 10 Women's AA 7:30 Cape Harmony	<b>30</b>	





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**June 2017**

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*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**

