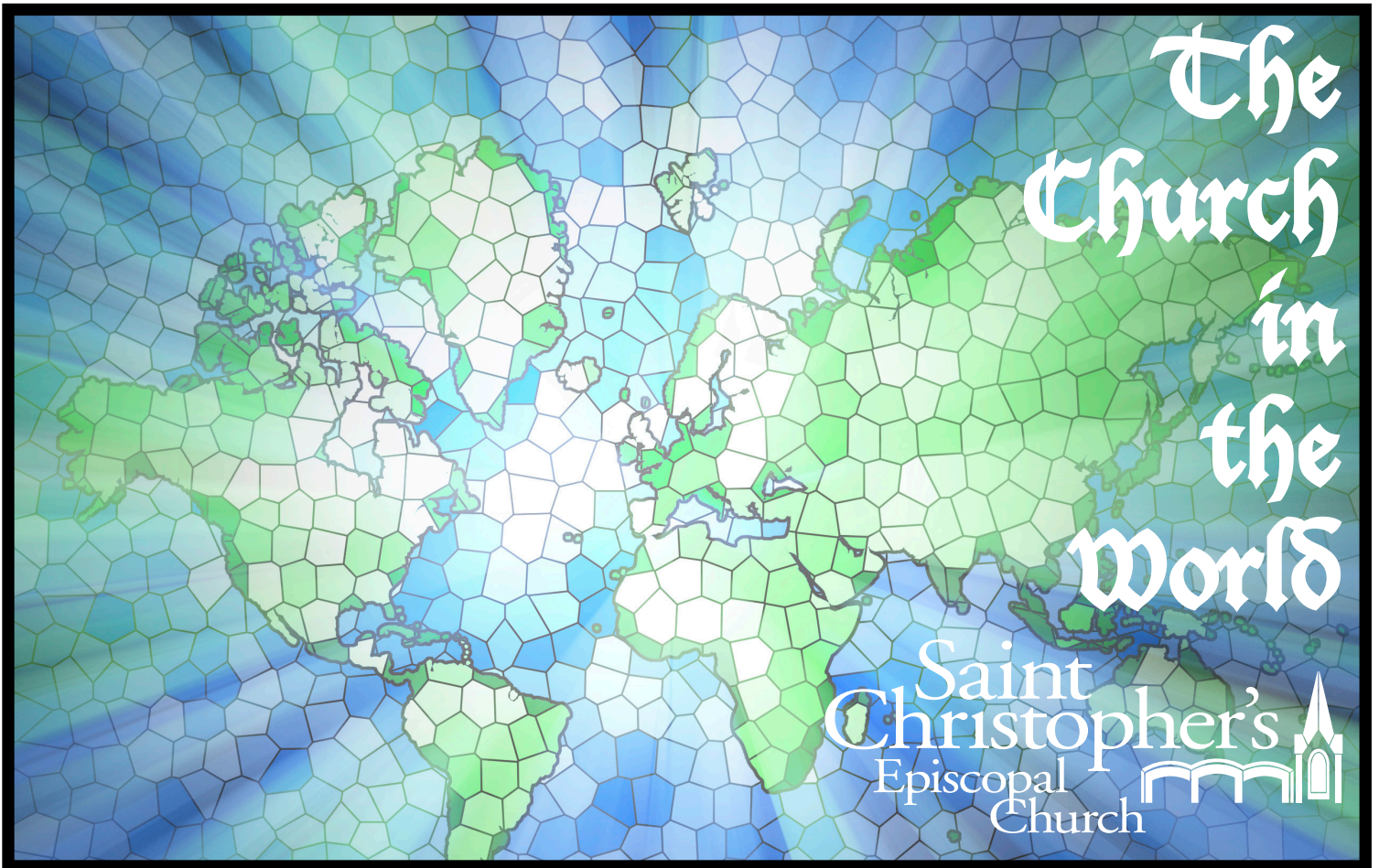


SOUNDINGS

Spring 2018



The “Stuff” of Our Lives



The Rev. Brian W. McGurk
Rector

The French Jesuit priest, mystic, and scientist, Pierre-Teilhard de Chardin said, “At the heart of matter is the heart of God.” de Chardin was saying that the living presence and power of divine love is at the heart of Creation—right down to the smallest subatomic particle. Every atom of our material world bears the fingerprint of God; every electron and quark

is imbued with the love of God. In the Celtic spiritual tradition, “matter matters.” Creation is an act of divine love. The Big Bang was the explosion of love from the heart of God and it resulted in the creation of the entire cosmos.

J. Philip Newell writes in *Christ of the Celts* that “Christ leads us not away from matter but more deeply into the stuff of the universe and the stuff of daily life and relationship.” This says to me that Christ is found in the “stuff” of our lives—the good, the bad, and the ugly. We experience and encounter Christ’s love precisely in our lives, our relationships, nature, and all

continued on p. 2

The “Stuff” of Our Lives, continued

the experiences our world thrusts at us.

The Celtic crosses that adorned the landscape of the Celtic world symbolize this. As a matter of fact, there is a beautiful wooden Celtic Cross in our memorial garden. Two simple images combine to form this Celtic symbol—a cross and a circle. The circle (or orb), which represents the world, encircles the heart of the cross, which represents Christ. Christ and Creation are inseparably interwoven. We Christians believe the fundamental truth that the “Word became flesh and dwells among us” in the life of our terrible and yet beautiful world.

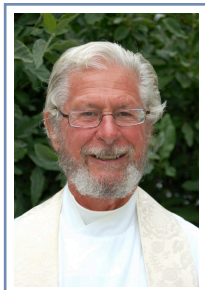
Christ is alive in our world, our relationships, our experiences, our joys, our sorrows and our problems. Our stuff!

Don’t avoid the “stuff” of life. For Christ is fully alive and can be experienced precisely in this “stuff.”

This is some of what we mean when we speak of *Christ in the World*. This issue of *Soundings* features pieces that demonstrate and illuminate the relationship of the church in the world, and, in particular, St. Christopher’s in the world. I invite you to briefly reflect on this with us, in hopes that the living presence of Christ becomes clearer and more real in your life.



Church Union: Where Are We?



The Rev. Dr. John Martiner
Priest Associate

Nearly forty years ago I attended a most remarkable church service. It was held at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in New Haven and it included clergy of many Protestant and Episcopal churches as officiants. I remember that the church was filled with people because this type of ecumenical service was very new. The second Vatican

Council was in its final years and among its many proclamations was one which called non-Roman Catholic churches “separated brethren,” no longer heretics to be persecuted, but brothers (and sisters). Even more remarkable was a comment by Pope Paul VI who in 1966 called the Anglican Communion “our beloved sister church.”

These were the exciting days of the ecumenical movement. A middle week in January from the Feast of Peter (January 18) to the Feast of the Conversion of Paul (January 25) was designated as a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity by the Pontifical Council of Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches.

Many churches prayed for each other daily using materials published by the Franciscan Graymoor community. This week is still in our liturgical calendars but, today, very few are aware of its presence.

From the split of the Eastern and Western Churches in the 11th century through the Reformation in the sixteenth century, many have looked upon Christian disunity and rivalry as a scandal that hurts the church’s mission and was contrary to Jesus’ farewell prayer in the Gospel of John that “they may be one as the father and I am one.” (John 19:20)

Historically numerous attempts have been made to reconcile Christian division. In 1541 representatives of the Vatican and members of the Lutheran community gathered at Regensburg, Germany to discuss theological differences. Many matters were reconciled. However, the meeting failed over the definition of the presence of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Undoubtedly other initiatives for church reunification occurred from time to time. However, to be honest the most outstanding reality was that history after the Reformation is filled with inquisitions, wars of religion and persecutions including public hangings or burnings mostly of Protestant church members.

Church Union: Where Are We?, continued

In 1886 and 1889, The Episcopal House of Bishops and the Lambeth Conference of world wide Anglican bishops took a bold step toward increasing ecumenical dialogue. They produced a document called the “Lambeth Quadrilateral,” which committed our church to have discussions with other church bodies, but included four principles which our church considered essential: (1) The Holy Scriptures to be the ultimate standard of faith, (2) The Apostles and Nicene creeds to be the sufficient statement of Christian faith, (3) The sacraments—Baptism and Holy Communion—as central in Christian life and (4) the historic episcopate (bishops) being essential to church unity. This last point has been problematic in discussion with churches which did not maintain bishops in Apostolic succession. Today it raises for us the question of the role and purpose of Bishops, especially when most view a bishop as a CEO rather than a successor of the earliest apostles and window to the whole church.

Two developments occurred following Vatican II relating to Anglicans and Roman Catholics. One was the establishment of the Anglican Centre in Rome, a sort of embassy to the Vatican of our church. Betty and I have attended an impressive conference there in the past. The other development was the establishment of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation. Meeting over many years, this group of Roman Catholic and Anglican theologians have produced seven documents that discuss positions such as church authority, mission, and the place of Mary.

In the modern era ecumenism has taken many forms. In the United States, the organic union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church resulted in the “United” Methodist Church and the Congregational Church became the “United” Church of Christ by merging with the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

More commonly for us is the entering into a sacramental communion with those churches that in some way maintain a historic episcopate. Thus, we have intercommunion with many old Catholic churches in Europe and the Swedish Lutheran Church. Most recently, in 1999, the Episcopal Church entered into a union of ministry and sacraments with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Out of this, it is theoretically possible for an Episcopal priest to be the pastor of a Lutheran Church and for the opposite to be possible as

well.

So where are we today in a movement to Christian unity?

We seem stalled. In the first place most people in the pews are unaware of ecumenical dialogue despite all the major work done by many. To be more honest, most probably do not care. We are no longer denominational people. Rather, if we move to a new area we are likely to visit a number of church denominations hopefully looking for a community where the Gospel is preached with courage, a place where the Holy Spirit is known and followed, and a place where we can grow in our knowledge of love of God. Old theological disputes seem irrelevant. A second factor is that many white Protestant churches, both mainline and evangelical, and even the Roman Catholic Church, are facing the reality of dwindling congregations and finances. This often leads to a defensive posture—a bunker mentality—where survival is paramount and creativity, imagination and courage are in short supply.

Conditions have changed since the exuberance following Vatican II. In regard to our relations with Roman Catholics, the ordination of woman and the ordination of gay people in our church has put a strain on discussions. So has the performance of same-sex marriages. On the Roman Catholic side, a recent decision to allow married Anglican/Episcopal priests to become Roman Catholic clergy (while still being married) seemed to fly in the face of the feeling expressed in “our beloved sister church.”

We can only venture a guess as to where we go from here. However, I suspect that the impetus toward unity with other Christian brothers and sisters will always be there as Jesus prayed in John’s Gospel. Any union is unlikely to take an institutional form—organic union. What may happen is that sincere, prayerful, spiritually growing people in one tradition may reach out to the same people in other communities to form a deep union of ministry and mission. Such a union could spread to others non-Christian traditions. All said and done, God’s Spirit leading all humanity to be one is alive and active—but its form going forward will be very different.

Your Vestry Leadership



Ted Miller
Senior Warden

With the arrival of spring, albeit a chilly one, I look forward to my new position as Senior Warden. I have big shoes to fill following John Sargent and his successful term, but I look forward to the challenge. We have a great team assembled for your Vestry, including Junior Warden Bob Lynyak, Warden-elect Mary Cavanaugh, Treasurer David Smith, and members Jeff Arnold, Charolotte Byrne, Vi Fellman, Jeremy Gingras, Judy Peterson, Peg Shipman and Haskell Thomson. I am indeed fortunate to have these dedicated Vestry members for this year. We have already begun fine tuning our plans. Our focus will be enriching our core

strengths of Parish Life and Community Outreach.

The April 5th opening of the Consignment Shop was a success. Revamping policies, instituting new procedures, and hiring Eileen Aldrich (see more about Eileen on page 7) as manager have made for positive beginnings. If you have not visited the shop recently, please come in and see for yourself. Introduce yourself to Eileen while shopping for bargains. New paint, a new layout, and new faces have given the shop a fresh, welcoming look.

The duties of the Vestry include many business-related items but we will be sure to stay in tune with our Parish Family. In the spirit of communication, please feel free to contact me or any of your Vestry members. We welcome your input and look forward to a great 2018.

A Word from the Flower Guild



Patrice Milley
Co-chair,
Flower Guild

The Flower Guild is comprised of about a dozen volunteers, headed by Anne Grafton and myself (we've been leading the Guild since Rev. Burr's tenure!). The Guild provides flowers for Sibley Chapel and the sanctuary every Sunday, unless flowers have been donated by a wedding or funeral that has taken place recently.

There is a rotating schedule so that every week a different pair of volunteers acquires flowers, arranges them on Saturday morning, and then disperses the flowers after Sunday services to those who are celebrating events or to those who are sick or have experienced loss. This is an especially meaningful aspect of the Flower Guild ministry that lasts long after Sundays are over. Anyone who is able to deliver flowers is welcome to participate!

The Flower Guild members are Joan Bagnell, Toni Doggett, Martha Harrison, Martha Higgins, Wendy Johnson, Winnie Lear, Ella Leavitt, Louise Montross, Laura Rhodes, Judy Tierney, Maureen Vokey, and Susan Williams. Having witnessed their dedication and

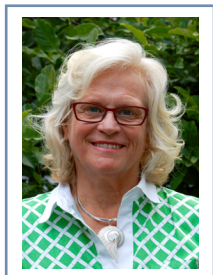
attention to beauty and detail, I feel truly blessed and grateful to work with them.

If you would like information about volunteering on the Flower Guild, please contact me at prmilley@comcast.net or Anne Grafton at harbormoon2@yahoo.com. The Guild is especially eager to find more volunteers who can assist in the winter and spring.

If you wish to sponsor a given Sunday's flowers in celebration of an event or in memory of someone, you may contact the parish office to schedule that sponsorship. The suggested donation is \$100.



The Summer 2018 Exhibition



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

The Art Committee of St. Christopher's is pleased to present the summer exhibition, *Reflecting the Glory*, featuring my most recent work. The show will open with a reception on Thursday, May 10, from 6–8 pm, and will include a gallery talk at 6:45 pm. This event will follow the

Celtic Evensong for Ascension at 5 pm.

I have come to see that my art is best described as seeking connections to our past. For over fifty years I have worked in a sequence of multiple series of paintings and prints that related to archaeology findings, geological forms, early languages, musical scores, ancient illuminations, and the history of art. Each of these areas of exploration has enhanced my appreciation for the great treasures from our shared past.

Light and darkness, reflection and shadow, are the visual vocabulary of the human and divine encounter. In our search for transcendence through art, no material has imaged the immaterial so well as gold. Down the centuries we have beheld the glory of God reflected from the gold of crosses, crucifixes and communion vessels. The objects in this exhibition show light, absorbed and lost, found and reflected, transformed by gold.

Reflecting the Glory is my most recent work continuing this conversation of connections as a way to pay homage to the "Icons of Western Art." This show highlights several gilded encaustic panels that recall many iconic paintings from our Christian heritage. Their distinct shapes identify the historic works, but because of their solid gold surface, allow the viewer to delight in the radiance of each panel, while drawing on memory and imagination to fill in the forms.

A multi-panel installation is featured in *Reflecting the Glory*. Forty encaustic gilded panels and forty black panels that are incised with text, become *40 Days/40 Nights*. The black panels are inscribed with the text

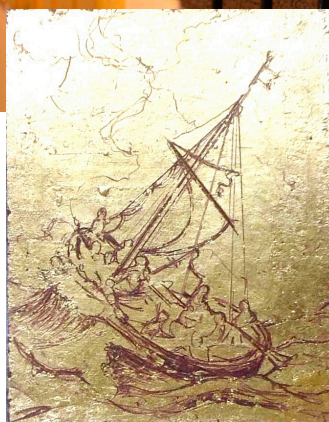


from John 1, "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome the light."

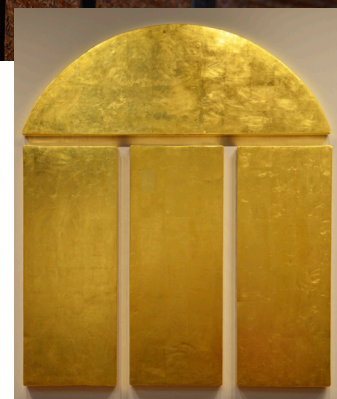
As a compliment to the encaustic panels, *Reflecting the Glory* also includes some of my gilded drawings—intricate crosses, cherished biblical paintings and historic altarpieces.

Artists do not merely put on canvas what can be seen. They uncover and reveal something beyond the range of the eyes. I believe that art is a means to illuminate both the interior life and the exterior world, both seen and unseen. I hope *Reflecting the Glory* will lead those who see the exhibition beyond the edge of their consciousness into a place of splendor, wonder and transcendence.

40 Days/40 Nights



The Storm on the Sea of Galilee
after Rembrandt



Triptych of the Nativity after Bellini

Concert Fundraiser Note of Gratitude

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who helped with the June 24, 2017 fundraising concert! Our sincere gratitude and appreciation go out to Maury A. Castro, Joseph Marchio, and Haskell Thomson, who were not only performers but key to planning the program. In addition we would also like to offer special thanks and recognition to our benefactors listed below:

Nancy and Dale Alger
Stephanie and Chuck Bartlett
Mary and Jim Bast
Ilene and John Bendas
Peggy Davis
Cynthia and Dean Ervin
Sharon Gould
Joan and Dick Greene
Jane and Nick Harris
Karen and Charles Helliwell
Sally and Lynn Herbst

Bonnie and Bob Hessler
Beth and Henry Holden
Bob Lynyak
Laura and Fred Rhodes
Debby and Joe Saliba
Sue and John Sargent
Betty and Pieter Schiller
Peg Shipman and Joe Gagliano
The Rev. Gail and David Smith
Ann and Allen Ward
Betsy and EB Wilson

~Peg Shipman and Lynn Herbst, co-chairs

Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Kamdyn David Raymond
February 4, 2018

Transfers In

Phyllis & Greg Gowans
Elizabeth & Phillip Rosenthal

Deaths

Mary Loveland
November 26, 2017

Jane Walsh Eddison
January 31, 2018

Arthur Dunn
February 9, 2018

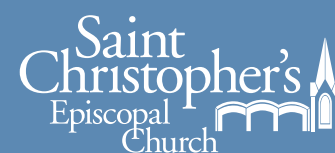
Sally Short
February 23, 2018

Nancy Yeaw
March 12, 2018

Mark McKown Lenhart
March 30, 2018

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.



508-945-2832

stchristopherschatham.org

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

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

Eileen Aldrich
Manager, Gift Shop

Sandra Bowden
Curator, The Gallery

Ted and Martha Miller
Managers, Food Pantry

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

World Music



Maury A. Castro
Organist &
Choirmaster

You've no doubt heard music called "the universal language." While there is a sense in which that is true, there is also a very real sense in which we find music to be deeply culturally rooted and highly representative of the traditions, worldviews, and dare I say, biases of its cultural origins. One cannot get around this reality.

That being a fact, if the church affirms the world-wide embracing reach of Jesus, it is healthy for us to consider music from a variety of sources, not only the British Cathedral tradition, which I would define as the works of British sacred composers since the Oxford Movement (c. 1845), augmented by the best works of other Western countries throughout the centuries. For example, when we prepare music for an African service, we are doing more than simply putting on a show; we are acknowledging Christ incarnate in Africa. When we sing a hymn of Chinese origin (and there are many), we are acknowledging the presence of the Spirit of Jesus in the people of Asia.

To illustrate the above, I will leave you with the words popularized by the great composer Alfred Burt, who collaborated with Wihla Hutson to write the Christmas carol, *Some Children See Him*. This carol begins,



Choristers Mercy McLardy, Paul McLardy, Annaleigh Massey, and Tessa Gingras pose with their choirmaster upon advancement in the RSCM Choir Training Course.

***Some children see Him lily white,
the baby Jesus born this night.
Some children see Him lily white,
with tresses soft and fair.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown,
The Lord of heav'n to earth come down.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown,
with dark and heavy hair.***

***Some children see Him almond-eyed,
this Savior whom we kneel beside.
some children see Him almond-eyed,
with skin of yellow hue.
Some children see Him dark as they,
sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.
Some children see him dark as they,
and, ah! they love Him, too!***

Welcome Eileen Aldrich!

New Gift and Consignment Shop Manager Eileen Aldrich has been vacationing in Chatham since the 90s but since retiring from teaching, can now enjoy her beach house year round. She is the mother of two grown children (getting there!) and raised them in north central Massachusetts. When not shopping, she enjoys boating and fishing with her husband Paul. Always the avid consigner, she looks forward to adding her touches to our wonderful shop!





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Spring 2018

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Upcoming Concerts at St. Christopher's

Saturday, May 5, 4 pm

Lyricora: Let My Love Be Heard

Boston-area vocal ensemble sings music from the Renaissance to the 21st-century.

Sunday, May 20, 3 pm

Chatham Music Club: Mozart!

Cape Cod's finest musicians join forces to share music of a beloved master.

Friday, May 25, 7:30 pm

Skylark: Lieder & Lovesongs

Boston-based vocal ensemble presents a concert pairing melodies from European romantic masters with offerings from American songwriters from the 1920s and on.

Sunday, June 17, 4 pm

Music About and For Children

Ashley Wade, alto; Elizabeth Blood, piano; Olin Johannessen, percussion.

Sunday, June 24, 3 pm

Berkshire Children's Chorus



Skylark Vocal Ensemble

**For complete information,
visit www.stchristopherschatham.org/concerts**