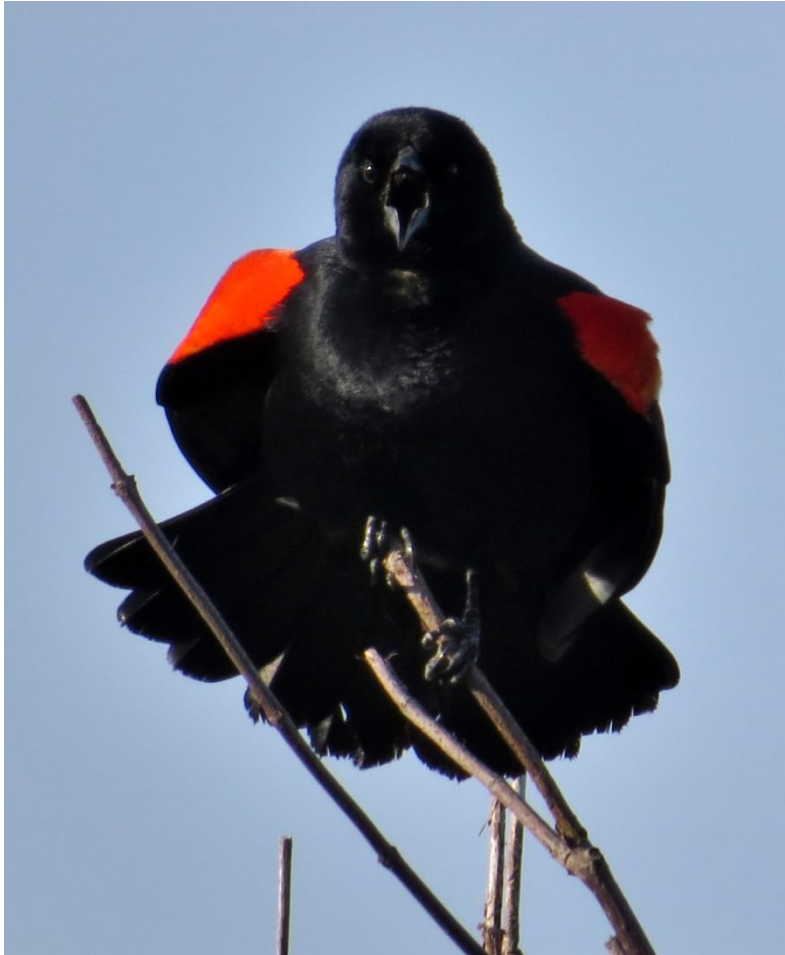


May & June 2014
HARBOR WATCH: A Harbor for God's Peace



*The Red-Winged Blackbird announces Spring
Photograph by The Rev. Judith Davis*

A newsletter of Christ Church Episcopal-Harwich Port, MA

Our mission is to invite all people to celebrate with us in our worship and service of God, so that together we may make Christ's love known in our world.

**The Skipper's Log: Mother Twitcher's Sabbathⁱ
Day 1, April 28, 2014**

A pair of leaves dancing with the wind on the road. . . a pair of Ospreys soaring in a mating dance. . . a pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds calling to each other from two high chimneys at Ocean Edge before Evensong. . . a pair of Episcopal bishops, gathering in clergy conference by the sea, to celebrate a monk's 20-year episcopate and another's landmark achievement of a quarter century of being the world's first female bishop. . . observing these was my work today, along with chanting Evensong and singing "Peace before us."

Mary Oliver's poem, "The Messenger," defines sabbatical:

"My work is loving the world. Here the sunflowers, there, the hummingbird . . . Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is my work, which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished. The phoebe, the delphinium. . ."ⁱⁱ

After the wonderful memorial service for Peggy Herring when the Eastern Phoebe flew into the parish hall on Palm Sunday (and Jamie and I were thrilled with our First-of-the-year Eastern Phoebe), I thought of Peggy and her birding adventures and our birding connection and how much I loved Peggy. On Palm Sunday afternoon, our choir gathered around John Sembrowich's bed and sang "Morning has broken like the first morning, black bird has spoken like the first bird." Then on Monday in Holy Week our beloved John died while the songbirds in his yard sang praises as God welcomed him home. On Easter Sunday, following our glorious Easter Sunrise Service at Bank Street Beach, I made a quick trip to Red River Beach before our 8am Easter Eucharist. As soon as I drove into the parking lot at the west end, a very handsome Red-winged Blackbird sang to me as close-up as possible, and I stopped my car, grabbed my camera (Mother Twitcher always tries to have her camera handy), and captured an incredible close-up of the bird singing his heart out. I thought of John, of Peggy, of sabbatical, of "the living stream" and the gift of eternal life through the power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"Sabbatical Send-Off Sunday" exceeded all my expectations as 100 people gathered to worship, to celebrate, to begin our Sabbath rest and renewal. The Sabbatical Team and Fellowship Team members outdid themselves with songs and skits and great food and fellowship as we began this time which has been a gift because of your love, your generosity, your incredible work for the past two years. The Sabbatical Team's dedication led to our being awarded one of fewer than 90 grants from the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program for this year, and I am so honored that we are recipients.

And now we are on our way—all of us—to have an adventure, to be strengthened as a community of faith, and to gather in late August to celebrate again, even with "Lilly Lobster," who will have shared in great adventures. As I said in Sunday's sermon, I am so thankful for each of you and this journey these six years. I love you so much. I can't imagine not sharing the next four months with you, and yet I am confident that, as Isaac Watt's paraphrase of Psalm 23 says, God will lead each of us "beside the living stream," where our work, Mary Oliver said, is to love the world and to have stillness and quiet: "Quiet as a feather. . . stillness. One of the doors into the temple."ⁱⁱⁱ Thank you for all you are and do. "Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet. Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace."^{iv}

ⁱ "Twitcher" is a term used in in England and Europe for "birder," and came into common use in the 1950s.

ⁱⁱ Mary Oliver, "The Messenger," in *Thirst*, Boston: Beacon Press, 2006, p. 1.

ⁱⁱⁱ Mary Oliver, "Today," in *A Thousand Mornings*, Penguin Press, 2012, p. 23.

^{iv} *Prayer of Peace*, based on a Navajo prayer, words, David Haas, GIA Publications, 1987.

Wardens Words

We are excited about our sabbatical time - both Judith's and the parish's. The sabbatical team has worked hard and long for this to happen. The upcoming events which you have heard about will give us all the ingredients of what a sabbatical is all about - rest, renewal and a time to enjoy each other and all for which our parish stands. With summer coming close, we are grateful to Meg and Jim Pappas and volunteers for the Lobster Roll lunches. It's a chance for visitors to see how vital, committed and energetic we all are. Thanks also to Nancy MacDonald, Dottie Callaghan, Betty Ann Waldo and the volunteers of the Thrift Shop who work so tirelessly. For a small parish, we do much to reach out to others in love and to show our faith and trust in God.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Treasurer Asa Decker reported on the new copier that has been installed in the copy room. Under the Ricoh Company's new plan for churches, a reduced lease rate and reduced usages charges will result in savings of almost \$2000 per year.

Diana Landau reported on the meeting with Diocesan consultant The Rev. Canon Libby Berman regarding our Strategic Planning for the future of Christ Church. Among the items discussed were expanded ecumenical activities, sharing equipment and sharing assets. Mother Judith said seven Harwich churches including Christ Church are currently in an ecumenical group and share some activities.

Beginning in February this year Vestry meetings are held at 5:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month. As always, all parishioners are welcome to attend Vestry meetings.

Decisions need to be made in regard to monetary gifts (not in the annual budget) which are designated for the use of attracting, encouraging and enabling newcomers. Accessibility improvements include sound, light, air conditioning and space for wheel chairs.



Noah's Ark Thrift Shop

Spring has come to Noah's Ark Thrift Shop. Gone are the winter

clothes, replaced with blouses, dresses, jackets, pants, shirts and much more for the new season!

Please think of the shop as you begin your spring cleaning. We can use more spring and summer clothing in "gently used" condition. Also, as you get your house in shape, please donate those household items you don't need or want anymore! Any type of gift items, books, wall hangings, linens, etc. are needed. If it is saleable, we can use it!

KIDS CARE, THEY REALLY DO!!!

I must say that all the kids were amazing. They were so into helping, I think they forgot all about their cell phones! Our Parish Hall was filled with happy and proud faces. Faces of God. The adults did O.K. too. Seriously, hands of God. Amen

Cathy Walsman



Porter Lewis unveils "Lilly Lobster"

PARISH EVENTS DURING SABBATICAL TIME

During the long winter months your Parish Sabbatical Team huddled, imagined, laughed, and planned for ways for the parish to have our own refreshment during the four months that Judith, Anne, and Jamie will be on their journey of renewal. With input from the parish in January 2013 we focused on "immersing ourselves in nature's warm heart" (John Muir) here on Cape Cod. We also set goals of sponsoring gatherings that would encourage parishioners to know each other more deeply and would celebrate the gifts we share in community. Throughout this two year process of applying for the Lilly Grant which we received in September 2013 and planning our parish events we were inspired by the words "beside the living stream" from Issac Watts' hymn on the 23rd psalm.

On April 27 we gathered for a joyful worship, entertainment by the Sabbatical Committee, and a delicious lunch by the Fellowship Team. It was a time to offer our thanks for Judith's ministry and our ministry at Christ Church. We are

grateful that 100 people filled the church and that Judith, Anne, and Jamie were surprised by the back pack of goodies, the basket of well wishes, the presentation of Lilly Lobster which will be a "stowaway" on their journey, and the fun versions of familiar songs. Lilly, painted by Porter Lewis, will accompany them and hopefully show up in photos from their travels.

As we highlight the sabbatical theme of "Beside the Living Stream" we have invited Harwich residents Mark and Patti McGrath to present the story of their love of the beauty of Cape Cod. **On Friday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. they will narrate "A Cape Cod Adventure"**. Their slides tell of their walk around the perimeter of Cape Cod. Sometimes they biked and even swam around "our island home" covering 360 miles in 150 days. Their photos will take you to familiar and not so familiar nooks and crannies of the Cape. They have a wonderful sense of humor and a joyful attitude about life and their relationship. We will begin with refreshments followed by the program at 7:00 and will conclude with dessert and coffee.

The personal vignettes of our lives form another aspect of the "living stream" of our parish. We will offer several in-home gatherings that we are calling "**Let's Tell a Story: Getting to Know Each Other**". **On Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.** Betty and Asa Decker will host a small group gathering of 8-10 people at their home in Eastham. We hope to have a mixture of parishioners from the 8 and 10 a.m. worship services. Participants will be able to choose a story theme that will prompt them to share a short narrative from their lives. Refreshments will be provided. **A second story-telling will take place on June 4 at 6:30 p.m.** at Jane Romer's home in Yarmouth Port. Sign-up in advance.

As we approach the summer solstice we will be treated to **a program by Robert Finch on Friday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m.** His presentation entitled "When You Wish Upon a Star" explores how our language of spirituality is shaped by our environment. This recalls the psalmists who were so closely tied to the natural world. Robert Finch is a regular contributor on WCAI each week. He offers his insights into our relationship with the land, the water and all living things. He calls his observations "A Cape Cod Notebook", the title of his upcoming book. He has written several other books including A Place Apart: A Cape Cod Reader. He is affiliated with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. We will begin with refreshments followed by the program at 7:00 and will conclude with dessert and coffee.

On Wednesday, July 9, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. our own parishioner, **The Rev. Dick Ottaway, will lead a workshop on "Writing Your Memoir"**. Dick has been in a writing group at the Cape Cod Writer's Center for five years. He will guide participants in how to capture a life story by using their memories, diaries, photos, and creativity. Sign up in advance.

More events are planned for late July and August.

Deborah Aylesworth and team members: Betty Decker, Sandy Evangelous, Diana Landau, Boo and Porter Lewis, Jim Pappas, Jane Romer, and Elizabeth Salomé

Send Off Sunday



On hundred people attended the service with most of them staying for the festivities following the service. The Sabbatical and Fellowship teams provided a joyful program and brunch to send Judith, Anne and Jamie into their sabbatical time. There was much laughter and applause for songs and skit as well as the presentation of the “good wishes” basket. Porter Lewis presented the “Lilly Lobster” banner which is to be used in photographs taken along their way.



**“We are off to a good start!”
“We’ve got high hopes!”**

**PACK UP THESE ITEMS IN A NEW BACK
PACK**

Lyrics by Vince Kraft

Pack up the birdseed in your new backpack and smile,
smile, smile
Feed all the Blue Jays, wrens and chickadees, smile
gang that's the style
What's the use of worrying, it never is worthwhile
So, pack up the birdseed in your new backpack and
smile, smile, smile

Pack up the chocolates in your new backpack and
smile, smile, smile
They're for when your sweet tooth starts acting up,
smile gang that's the style
What's the use of worrying, it never is worthwhile s
So, pack up the chocolate in your new backpack and
smile, smile, smile

Pack up the Ben Gay in your new backpack and smile,
smile, smile
Apply if you've fallen or you've walked too far, smile
gang that's the style
What's the use of worrying, it never is worthwhile
So, pack up the Ben Gay in your new backpack and
smile, smile, smile

Pack up the TP in your new backpack and smile, smile,
smile
Use it when your other choice is "leaves of three",
smile gang that's the style
What's the use of worrying, it never is worthwhile
So pack up the TP in your new backpack and smile,
smile, smile

Pack up the coffee in your new backpack and smile,
smile, smile
Brew it, pour it, drink it when you're up at dawn, smile
gang that's the style
What's the use of worrying, it never is worthwhile
So, pack up the coffee in your new backpack and smile,
smile, smile

Pack up the T-shirts in your new backpack and smile,
smile, smile
Wear them when you're traveling far away from us,
smile gang that's the style
What's the use of worrying, it never is worthwhile
So, pack up T-shirts in your new backpack and smile,
smile, smile



Vince Kraft & Sabbatical Team entertain all



*“Jane and Porter will guide us all, Gail is
here if we should fall, take your pictures
don't worry we'll be fine
She's leaving on a jet plane, it's awhile till
She'll be back again, we hate to see you go”*

Congregational Business Practices Workshop NOT DULL!!

The diocese business workshops held each year are intended for treasurers, wardens, vestry and clergy. In addition to the workshops, there are approximately 50 diocesan consultants (knowledgeable and experienced volunteers) available to assist parishes in business and leadership issues. I attended the one held at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable. It was my third time yet I was able to glean all sorts of information useful for our parish together with a large binder of what was covered in the workshop and much, much more.

Some of the messages I heard this year were: 1- that with better understanding of our financial responsibilities, there are ways to simplify procedures and reports which then allow our more time for our mission: to love and serve God reaching out to those in need and spreading the Good News, 2 - the presenters invited us to consider attendance at parish committees as a joy and not a chore!, 3 - that the duty of a vestry begins with vision and mission remembering that the building and endowment are always there, 4 - reminders that good business practice in terms of handling and safeguarding money and its uses as well as audit procedures and disclosures are important.

The annual parochial report was made more understandable including records to assist national and diocesan planning for mission. The diocesan budget was broken down into its components: parishes 49%, bishops 19%, national church 14%, diocesan administration 19%, all other 10%. The assessment formula was also explained. Representatives came from small, medium and large parishes. There were many common questions that in most part were answered or pointed to further information and help from diocesan consultants. The morning flew by thanks in good part to the way the workshop was organized. Though serious in content, there was a lot of laughter and prayer from an enthusiastic group of newcomers and old timers. Other topics covered included: compensation, endowment, grant & loan programs, backing up computer data, disaster and succession planning. If anyone is interested in hearing more about the workshop or would like to look at the workshop binder, see Kerry in the office or me. It was a privilege to represent our parish. Jane Romer, warden

The Diocesan Clergy Conference, held at Ocean Edge in Brewster, April 28th



Judith takes Lilly Lobster on her first sabbatical outing. Judith holds Lilly with The Right Rev. Barbara Harris (on left) and The Right Rev. Tom Shaw (on right).



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The Rev. Judith A. Davis, PhD, Rector, Joan Kirchner, Minister of Music

Kerry Lotti, Parish Administrator; Todd Woolley, Sexton

The Rev. Gail Smith, Sabbatical Priest

Adjunct Clergy: The Rev. Dr. Anne Bathurst Gilson, The Rev. Dr. Dick Ottaway, The Rev. Darwin L. Price, The Rev. Stephen Shuart

Vestry

Wardens: Porter Lewis & Jane Romer **Clerk:** Lee Josselyn

Treasurer: Asa Decker **Assistant Treasurer:** Vince Kraft

Deborah Aylesworth

Matt Ellis

Diana Landau

Elizabeth Salomé

Lynne Sampson

Robert Lawton

You may e-mail articles or items of interest for the newsletter to christchurchharwichport@comcast.net. We especially want updated email addresses. The deadline for articles for the newsletter is the 15th of the month. Submissions may be edited for clarity and style. The photos on page 1 are by Judith Davis.

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