

November and December 2014
HARBOR WATCH: A Harbor for God's Peace



Autumn on Cape Cod



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: Thanksgiving

As November begins, I am reminded that this season is one in which we give thanks—for the upcoming holidays, for family and friends, for our church family and for all our blessings. Beginning with All Saints' Day, when we remember the saints in our own lives, Election Day, when we carry out our duty, giving thanks for those who fought that all people could vote, to Veterans Day when we honor those who have served their country in the armed forces, and to Thanksgiving Day, when our country pauses to give thanks for all our blessings, we have a season of thanks. As December comes, we have Advent Lessons and Carols, an Advent fellowship party, and, of course our Christmas services. When I think about all of this, I realize how blessed I am and how much I should give thanks all the time, not just on a day for observing "Thanksgiving."

As I have returned from my sabbatical journey, I am so grateful for all of you, for your faithfulness, for your presence in the life of our parish, for all you do inside and outside the parish for the work of the Gospel of Christ. I am grateful for our parish and for what it has meant in our community. I am grateful for the many blessings of the sabbatical time, for the opportunity to meet Sister Joan Chittister and members of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, the opportunity to receive communion from Bishop Tom at clergy conference in late April, the opportunity to travel, learn, and see incredible places of God's creation, including the magnificent Alaskan glaciers and the beauty of Alaska's national parks and the Atlantic Puffin at Eastern Egg Rock Island in Maine.

I also am grateful for "all faithful departed" since last All Saints' Day. I give thanks for all those in my own life whom I love but see no longer and for those parishioners and friends who have died since last All Saints' Day. I am so thankful for the life and witness of Bishop Tom Shaw and that I could serve with him in this diocese for six years.

As we observed "Creation Care" Sunday last week, I was reminded how much our earth and its creatures, plants, habitats and beauty mean to me and how much we need to be committed to caring for creation—all of it. We have so many blessings we cannot even count and we are so overwhelmed with all that God has given us. Perhaps all of this is so overwhelming, that the best we can do is stop and take time to appreciate the simple, small blessings that we can see more clearly—the late Monarch Butterfly still hanging around, the beautiful sunrise on Wednesday morning before early Eucharist, the gorgeous Wood Duck in the pond, the brilliant red Maple trees, the experience of watching Evening Primroses open, the pink sunset at Red

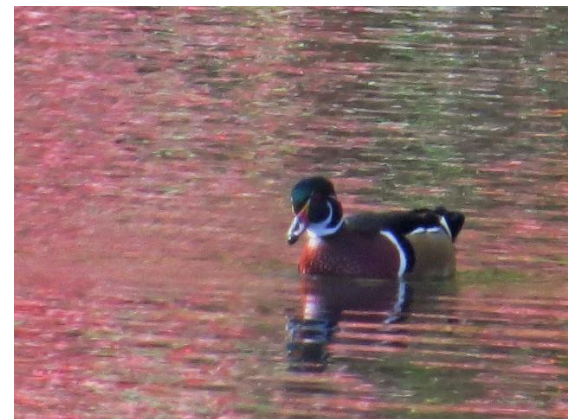


River Beach. . .and so much more. Come and be among us and give thanks.
Faithfully, Judith

Please join me on Friday, November 7 at 5:30 for a presentation about the Sabbatical and a lovely dinner of soup, salad and dessert.



Judith and Bishop Tom in April



Wardens' Words by Jane Romer

This has been a full and exciting year so far. It's hard to believe that there are only two more pages of the calendar before we move into another year!

In order to look forward we frequently look back to check off accomplishments as well as tasks to complete. We have been working through last year's strategic planning data and options as well as facing a large turnover in our vestry membership. Our future work is clear.

It is my hope that, though we are small in number, our church family will hear the call for taking on new roles, thereby bringing new perspectives and talents forward to ensure our continuing mission of worship and reaching out to those in need.

Our financial and leadership needs are great, and yet I feel filled with hope that our future will be secure and full of promise. Our Gratitude Pot Luck Dinner is proof that we are on the way!

Many thanks to each of you who have given so much time and talent to this special place named Christ Church.

Poking Amidst the Ruins by Dr. William T. Ellis (around 1914)

Perhaps it is because I have climbed over a large share of the ruins of antiquity and archeological excavations scattered throughout Asia and Egypt that I have such a strong sense of race consciousness. Mankind has lived a long, long time and as far back as we have historic records - some six thousand years - we have been dealing with the same essential problems as concern us today.

Some lessons the race has learned and we can but scoff at the stupid effort of certain "moderns" to disparage them. They represent the accumulated experience and wisdom of mankind. One of these lessons is the primacy of religion. No ruin ever dug up has failed to reveal a temple or place of worship as central to the community life.

Another is the sanctity of the home. In Babylon, Ur, Asshur, Shushan, Pompeii, and many other archeological sites the spades have uncovered large areas of individual homes. Still another is the place of patriotism. All the evidences reveal a devotion to national safety and national consciousness.

Chastity of womanhood and justice between man and man are written large upon ancient records. So, when tempted to "go modern", we may stabilize our thinking by remembering the days of old.

To Thee, O God, a thousand years are as a day; and Thy truth, written in the heart of man and in Thy word, endureth forevermore. Amen



If you purchase anything for the church, please see Kerry or Asa to get a Certificate of Tax Exemption (Form ST-2) prior to making the purchase. The church does not need to pay sales tax.

ALSO, Please be alert to the fact that all pledges for the year 2014 need to be turned in no later than December 28, 2014. Any pledge received after that date will not be deposited into the back before the close of 2014 and therefore will be considered a year 2015 pledge.

Gratitude Pot Luck Dinner

What a culinary delight! For those who were able to enjoy the wonderful variety of pot luck appetizers, dishes and desserts, you are probably still smiling with happy memories of not only the food but also the fellowship and sharing of stories. Many said the time for sharing stories about church experiences was too short. All declared the time together a great success. A hearty thank you to the Fellowship team for coordinating the meal and to the vestry and stewardship members for the clean-up.



Planned Giving - Assuring the Future of Christ Church

“I want to be part of the Planned Giving Program, yet...
I have to understand more about stewardship and all this talk about money.”

By now you have seen the booklet, “Growing Stewardship at Christ Church” which speaks to this question. When you are considering planned giving, it means you are looking at the possibility of using your will, an annuity, pension, or stocks and bonds to make a commitment to the future of Christ Church. Consider how the founders of this parish considered the importance of providing for its future. Our endowment was their planned giving commitment. If you have any questions after discussing this with your financial advisor, please speak with Asa Decker or Beau Coursen.

The Christ Church Knitters for Peace would like to remind everyone that they have made prayer shawls and lap robes to be given to anyone in need of the comfort the shawls provide. Please talk to Judith or one of the “knitters” and they will be happy to see that you get one.



News from the Outreach/Mission Team



Building homes... Changing lives... Preserving community

During our October meeting, we were concerned with the efforts to fight Ebola in the West African countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. To that end, we have sent \$500 to Doctors Without Borders to help with the fight on the frontline.

Habitat for Humanity is starting a second Harwich build in the spring of 2015. We have pledged \$5,000 for the Harwich build, \$2,000 paid this fall and \$3,000 to be paid in 2015. In addition, the Harwich Ecumenical Clergy are eager to get Harwich churches involved in the build. Stay tuned for upcoming news. We also need folks willing to bake (or buy), as well as deliver, snack items for the folks doing the hard work of building houses. Once a month, we take snacks to the work site – the 2nd Thursday of each month around 9:30 am. If you can help, please sign up at coffee hour or call the church office. The Outreach/Mission team is always open to new members. Please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, November 20th at 4:30 pm.



Cape Cod Railroad Luncheon Trip (aka The Luncheon Choo Chew)



Wednesday, October 22nd, dawned rainy and overcast but it did not seem to dampen the spirits of those parishioners who joined us on our railroad adventure. The thirty-five of you who were able to join us were excited about riding the train from Hyannis to Buzzards Bay and back, while we enjoyed an OUTSTANDING LUNCH! Our railroad car was abuzz with laughter and sharing of friendship and stories as we progressed on our narrated trip. There

have been many comments since our return that describe it as “the best thing we have done in a long time” and “I always wanted to do this but just never got to it”. The Fellowship team is very happy the trip was enjoyed by all and hope to bring you functions in the future that will be as well received as this was. Thank you Kerry for the idea and thank you all for joining us!

The Fellowship Team

Meet Our New Kitchen Renter/Caterer - Lisa Barron



Lisa is renting our kitchen on Monday and Friday mornings to make soup. She will be catering our soup night next week for Judith’s sabbatical presentation. The following is part of her resume:

I am a local Chatham resident and a trained professional chef/nutritionist starting a healthy delicious soup business. These [soups] are fresh homemade ingredient specific soups as free as possible of sodium, cholesterol, sugar and fat. Most ingredients and seasoning are organic or locally sourced and contain no GMO’s, no trans-fat, antibiotics, growth hormones or pesticides. Just good healthy ingredients to nourish at a reasonable price. I am committed to helping people eat nutritious food! I was a caterer in Boston for many years. Currently I have a slot in the Chatham farmers’ markets and plan to move onto more farmers’ markets on the cape including winter markets.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

During Advent, along with our wonderful service of Lessons and Carols, we will offer a worship service or program at 3pm each Sunday. The alternative services (on December 7 and 21) will focus on easily sung music, and a short, meditative prayer service. The morning services on November 30 and December 28 will be combined at 9am for increased opportunities for parishioners to worship together. Other Sundays have our usual 8am and 10am services.

Advent 1 Morning Service	Sunday, November 30, ONE service at 9am
Advent 1 Sundays at Three	Sunday, November 30, at 3pm; quiet meditation with music
Advent 2 Sundays at Three	Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 7, 3pm
Advent 3 Sundays at Three	Advent Party, Sunday, December 14, 3pm - 5pm/caroling after
Advent 4 Sundays at Three	Sunday, December 21, 3pm; quiet meditation with music
Christmas Eve Services	Wednesday, December 24, 5pm and 9pm
Christmas Day Service	Thursday, December 25, 10am
Christmas 1 Service	Sunday, December 28, ONE SERVICE at 9am.

Pastoral Care and an interview with Theo Long



As part of our *Friends in Faith* efforts, Rue Siegel recently visited with Theo Long (Meg Pappas' mother) at EPOCH Assisted Living in Brewster. Theo spoke of her love of icons. We have been blessed with Theo's sharing her icons when we had the Greek Dinner and we have used the image of her Nativity icon in our Christmas worship bulletins. The icons in this article are all by Theo. Theo shared the following story which she wrote:

A Love Affair

Icons are sacred images representing Christ, the Virgin Mary and the Saints. They are also religious scenes painted on wooden panels; or, in early days, crafted on ivory, marble, metal or precious metals embellished with rubies or other gems. They often decorate church interiors and altars. Some people believe that in praying with the Icon, their prayers will be answered.

When I went to Greece, I found these beautiful icons in a multitude of village churches. I never saw so many churches. Some villages have one church or sometimes, two or three or more. I became enthralled with the icons; they were so intricate and beautiful and, of course, all of them were so very old. One little church, located on a hillside, had some exquisite historic icons. I was amazed that no one was there, and we were trusted to look, but not touch.

I was visiting with my daughter at the time, and I told her that I was going to go home and paint an icon. However, it wasn't quite that easy...

When I returned home I called my art teacher, Virginia Pena, a Harwich artist, and told her about the icons. She said we would paint one together. I found that painting an icon was a religious experience. First we prayed and meditated on clean thoughts. We sat in small chairs at an upturned ironing board and began our icons. I had gone to the library for books about icons, and we had lots of information before we began painting. Over the years, I have painted six icons and made Christmas cards of the Nativity scene. I still have a love affair with the historic, old icons, but now I have some of my own.



Remembering Bishop Shaw



The Society of St. John the Evangelist announced that the Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw,

SSJE, monk and, for 20 years, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, died on Friday, Oct. 17 in the care of his SSJE brothers at Emery House in West Newbury, Mass. He was 69.



“During his last days, our brother Tom spoke of how very, very thankful he was for the life God had given him: for the many wonderful people he had met, for the opportunities and challenges he had faced and for the amazing grace he had experienced throughout his life,” the Rev. Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE, Superior of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, said.

Shaw “was a man of deep prayer, a charismatic figure who connected easily with young and old alike and a leader whose creativity and entrepreneurial spirit led him to invent what was needed and new. He was known for his sometimes-mischievous sense of humor, his tenacious courage and his passion to serve Jesus, both among the privileged and the poor.” Bishop Shaw will be remembered on All Saints Day in a memorial service at Trinity Church, Copley Square in Boston.

Memorials may be sent in Bishop Tom’s memory to Society of St. John the Evangelist, 980 Memorial Drive, Cambridge MA 02138 (www.ssje.org/donate) or the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111 (www.diomass.org/campaign-and-giving).

Images of Bishop Shaw: In our parish at his last visit on November 2012 with Marge Marion, Mary Hutton and Betty Sadler, Bishop Tom at the Sept. 2014 Consecration of Alan Gates as his successor, Jamie (in mitre) with Bishop Tom at his visit to our parish in 2012.

**TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT
TO END DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!!**

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The Rev. Judith A. Davis, PhD, Rector, Joan Kirchner, Minister of Music
Kerry Lotti, Parish Administrator; Todd Woolley, Sexton

Vestry

Wardens: Porter Lewis & Jane Romer **Treasurer:** Asa Decker

Assistant Treasurer: Vince Kraft **Clerk:** Lee Josselyn

Deborah Aylesworth Matt Ellis Diana Landau Robert Lawton
Lynne Sampson Elizabeth Salomé

**CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
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FIRST CLASS

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(www.christepiscopalharwich.org)

To