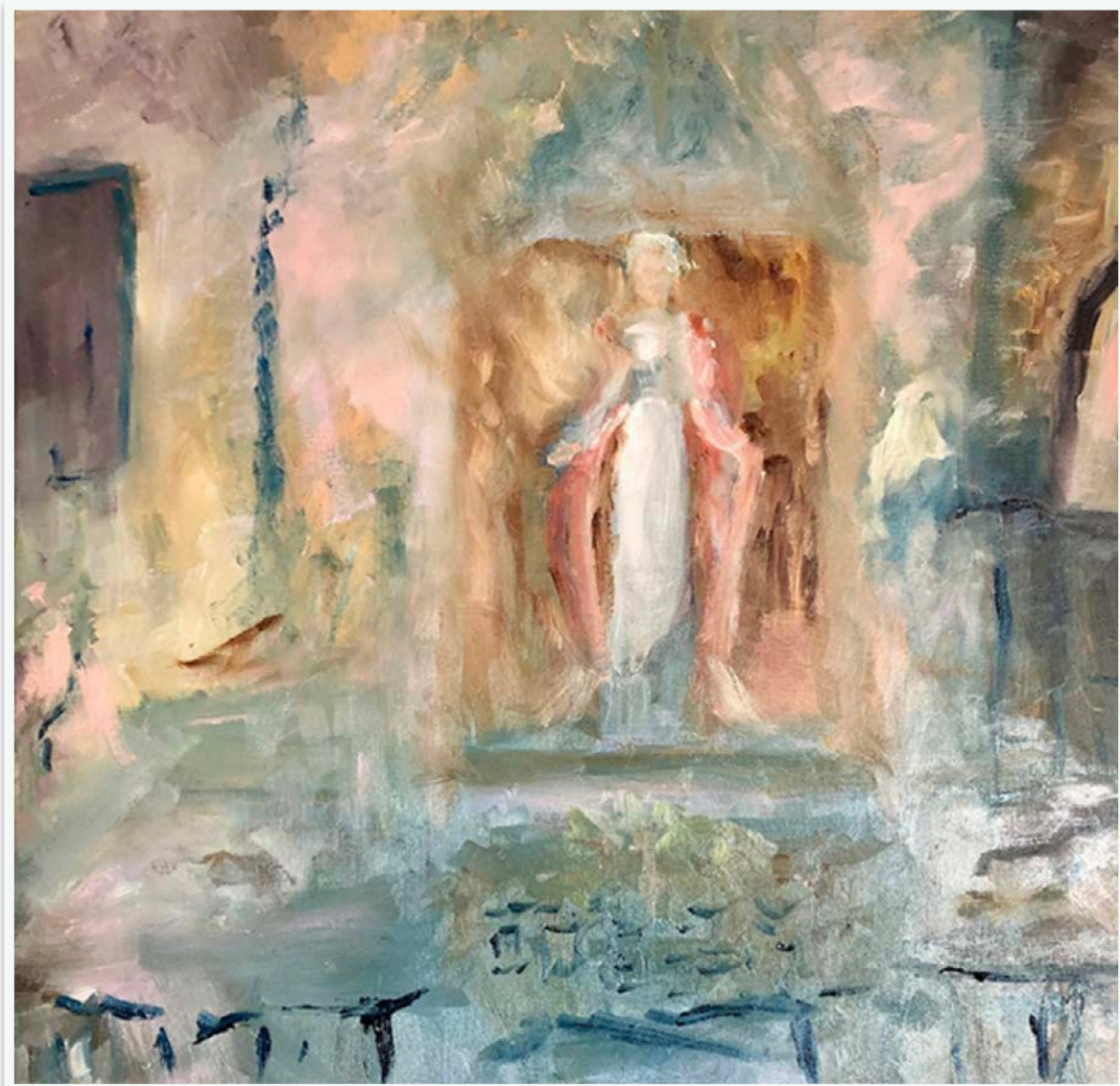




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH & VISUAL ARTS

Advent 2022



Rest/ Chapel of St Mary the Virgin
oil on linen, 16" x 20"
by Impressionist Artist Joy Jennings

Artist Statement to front cover piece: "If we could but realize the sureness around us, we would be much more courageous in our lives. The frames of anxiety that keep us caged would dissolve. We would live the life we love and in that way, day by day, free our future from the weight of regret." (John O'Donohue)

In This Issue

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Welcome to the ECVA Newsletter which will appear in your email five times a year during each of these seasons: Advent (November 28); Epiphany (January 6); Easter (April 17); and Pentecost (June 5). A fifth newsletter, *Extraordinary Artists during Ordinary Time* will be sent out some time after Pentecost and before the coming Advent as we will still be busy doing extraordinary things during Ordinary days. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your comments or questions.

—Jeanne Weaver, Editor
ecva.newsletter@gmail.com

Your Board of Directors

Joy Jennings - President and Exhibitions Director

Mel Ahlborn - Vice President and Secretary

The Rev. Robert Tate - Treasurer

Members of the Board:

Jeanne Harris Weaver, Newsletter Editor

Jorin Hood.

For their contact information and to find out more about them, please go to the “Contact” page of the website:

<https://ecva.org/about/contact.html>

From Our President - Joy Jennings

I am writing this letter to you right before we celebrate All Saints Day, and I am ever-mindful of all of those who have come before us; and, especially, just thinking about those in our world of visual art. The known and unknown artists who created the altarpieces of the Middle Ages and beyond, the artists of the Renaissance whose work still inspires us today, the courage of the Impressionists, and the list goes on through history. Throughout this trail of art through the ages and the stories of faith in both sacred and secular pieces, we can sense a spirit of community and understanding, as we continue to use our art to portray the world around us and to express our faith.

I am so thankful for all of the ECVA artists and their striving to keep the arts alive as a vital part of the ministry and mission of the Episcopal Church. It is how we tell our story and in the process of creating art, it is how we experience our faith.

(cont'd page 4)

Throughout the summer and fall, many of our artists have joined us in ECVA conversations to discuss among ourselves, not only our art, but the process of how we do art, how we see the world through art, and how we experience God through the process of creating art.

*Mel Ahlborn recently led an ECVA conversation group, *Living into Your Call as an Artist of Faith*, in which artists claimed their God-given call to be artists, to actually learn to accept that God has called you to be an artist. I led a workshop this summer on contemplative painting, and, in our dialogue with one another, we learned that we shared a common journey through our art that leads us all into the heart of God. This group has now evolved into our newly formed ECVA Contemplative Painters Guild, if you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact me at jjennings@ecva.org and I can send you information and a Zoom link.*

*Another wonderful offering through ECVA Conversations was the two-part workshop, *Painting Your Memories*, presented by Alisha Clark. If you missed this, you definitely want to sign up for another of her workshops when one is offered. Jeanne Weaver will lead us in December in a discussion about painting a series, which will help prepare our artists for the exhibition which will be online after Easter.*

So, as Thanksgiving comes upon us, I am so grateful for this community of artists, the many blessings that have been given to me in getting to know all of you, and the trust you have given me in letting me serve as your president of ECVA.

As the holy season of Advent approaches, I also want to wish all of you a most blessed and holy Advent and a beautiful Christmastide.

I am looking forward to a wonderful 2023 for ECVA and all the possibilities and new directions for our ministry as artists of faith in the Episcopal Church.

*Our exhibition, *Praying the Hours*, is a beautiful exhibition which offers artwork for contemplation and centering prayer.*

(cont'd page 5)

If you haven't seen it yet, please go to our website and take a look. We hope you will also share this exhibition with others in your parishes so they may also share in the beauty and power of art as a way to the heart of God.

*Our next exhibition, *What Are You Seeking, Expectations and Epiphany*, to be curated by Julie Bender, will give the artist a chance to ponder this question as he or she creates the artwork, and also give the viewer insight into how he or she would respond. I hope you will consider being a part of this exhibition, and take up the challenge of responding to the question through art: *What are you Seeking?**

God's Peace,
Joy Jennings, President and Exhibitions Director of ECVA

Check out the changes in the Artist Registry

Your board has been busy making improvements to ECVA.

- When you visit the Artists Registry next, you will see a welcoming slideshow with several artists, curators, and their works from recent ECVA exhibitions.
- There is a new member level, the **'Registry Member'**, which provides an artist with a Registry listing, \$15 annually
- The new **'Exhibiting Member'** level is the former 'Annual Membership' and provides an artist with a Registry listing and the opportunity to submit works to ECVA exhibitions, \$30 annually

Visit the ECVA Artist Registry at this link:

<http://theartistsregistry.camp7.org/>

Featured Artist

In each issue of the ECVA Newsletter, we feature an artist from our membership. This issue's featured artist is

Alisa E. Clark

Bio: Alisa E. Clark is an avid acrylic painter, assemblage sculptor, and collage artist who enthusiastically explores ways to share her creative process. Alisa communicates the transformative power of art through words and images and believes in releasing the spiritual power of painting to others. From within the creative flow, in-between moments are captured with paint.

Today, Alisa looks back on a lifetime of art making, and she sees creativity's gift of "flow" during the countless times of sitting and waiting for time to do its work within her. She sees that her creative process was with her whether the hands of time moved too fast or too slow.

Alisa also notices that in the most challenging times—the moments when time seemed not to move at all—her creative process was her great companion. As Alisa waits for "What's Next," her creations reveal themes of hope and an ever-present, personal, and loving God. Sharing these creations is her chance for others see the His hope, know it, and share it too.

Alisa's latest book, *Painting Memories* (2022), explores the ways art can tell the story of our past. *Art and Liminal Space* (2020) is the complication (cont'd page 7)



of Alisa's recent work with reflections that explore liminality's influence upon it. Mindfulness Paintings (2019) encourages everyone to engage in the creative process and always value their process over their product. Visit Alisa's website, www.LiminalSpaceArt.com, to see Alisa encouraging others to find a channel for creative expression and experience the spiritual benefits of artistic exploration. To join Alisa on her artistic journey, follow her on Instagram at Alisa_Clark_Art



From Where I Glean My Faith

I walked with Jesus. It wasn't a dream, and it wasn't "real." However, it happened. I guess you could call it a vision, but that doesn't make it any less real. From this "vision," I gathered the gift of knowing that one day I would return to Jesus by the shores of the sea. I also gained the insight that I still had a path and a purpose that transcended my brokenness, so it was not yet time for me to leave. By His grace, I walk this Earth. By His grace, one day I will walk the beach with Him again. Visions are wholly intangible. I painted this vision to sear its accompanying epiphany into my heart with my paintbrush, so I will never forget. This vision is a powerful new place from which I glean my faith.



Liminal Hope

My canvas above reflects the strange, disorienting new COVID - 19 landscape that leaves me grasping for hope juxtaposed by the ordinary, everyday experiences of liminality I previously waited within. Weaved throughout is hope and its power to allow me to sit and wait for tomorrow a little less anxiously. Despite the Pandemic, my faith leads me to see that "Hope is Here."



Madonna on Fire

I am enraptured by the idea that Mary carried God incarnate inside her womb. Did this ignite a spiritual fire inside her? She's not God, but she birthed Him. How could she not glow from the inside out? I believe she was ablaze and that's why, and how, I paint her.

Tomorrow's Door

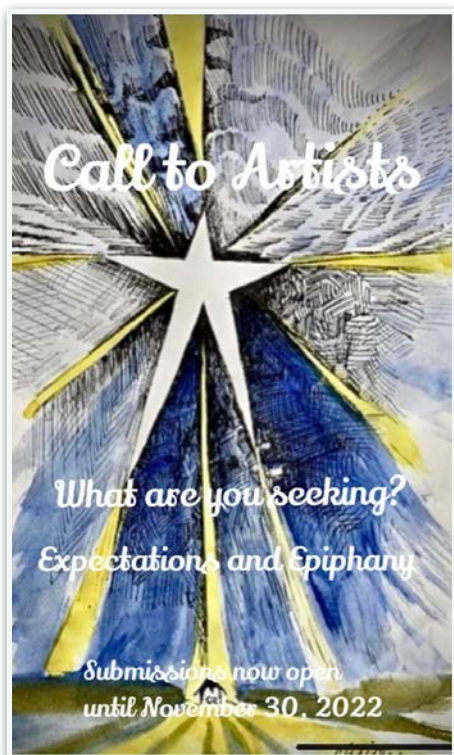
I paint a door, and it is leading somewhere new. Time waits for the door to open, and time shifts when I show what is on the other side. I paint the liminal spaces between my old and my new. Art defines my liminal "In Betweens" when words fail. As I wait in the middle of it all, my faith lets me find the joy.





Join Joy Jennings's ECVA Contemplative Painters Guild.

The format of our meetings will be to discuss art and faith, have art demos by member artists, and discuss our current work. The guild meets the last Wednesday of each month at 10 am Central (8am Pacific, 11 am Eastern) via zoom. [Join](#)



What are You Seeking?

Expectation and Epiphany

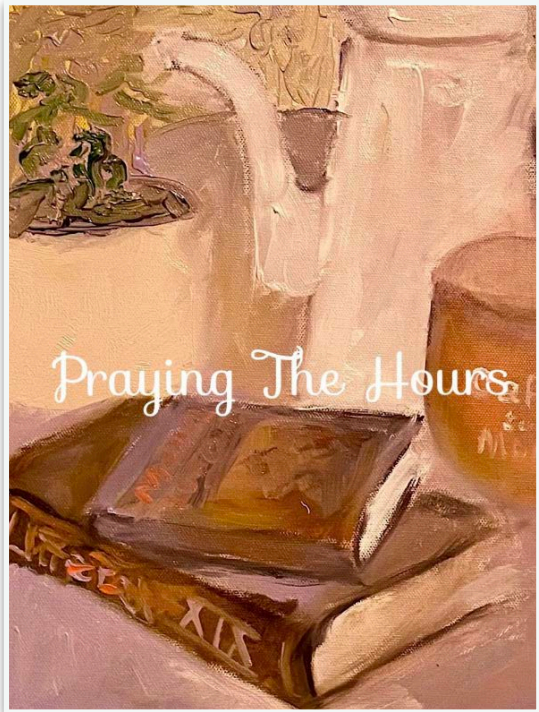
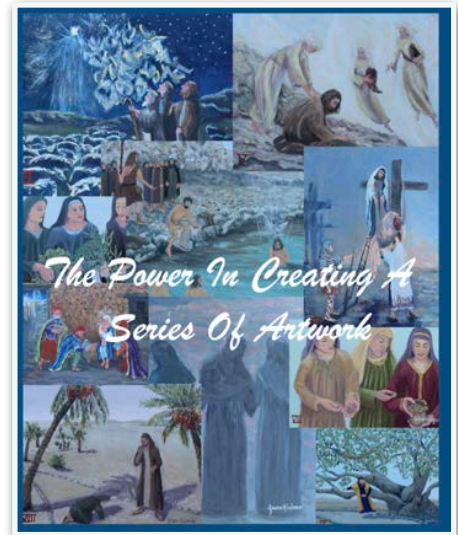
Julie Bender is curating this exhibition. It will open in January 2023. Submissions remain open until November 30.

As artists we have been given the gift of searching. In this exhibition, the artist is asked to consider how he or she responds to being called to be an artist, learning to accept that call, and to move forward with all the doubts, the uncertainty, the questions, and finally the revelation or the epiphany.



Conversations
Continued

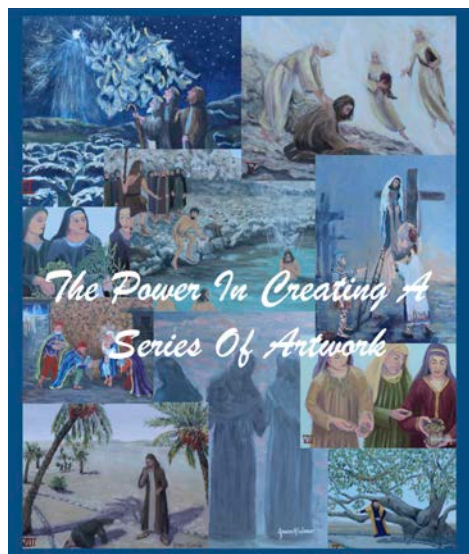
Jeanne Weaver will discuss the power of creating a series of painting and share some of the series she has done on Thursdays, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, 2022 at 5 pm EST, 2 pm pacific and 4 pm central. For more information and to [Register here](#). These two conversations are in preparation for a Call To Artists Exhibit in April. See the Call later in this issue.



It was delightful to gather together on November 5 to celebrate our recent exhibit, "Praying The Hours". Many artists shared their entries and came to know each other. How fortunate we are to have this online Avenue. The exhibit was highlighted in the [Episcopal Journal](#).

As part of Joy's Contemplative Painting Series, Mel Ahlborn spoke about her approach to creating art: Living Into your Call as an Artist of Faith. You may watch the interesting 5 minute video on [YouTube](#)

Call to Artists: **The Power In Creating a Series of Artwork**



left: a sampling of the series “Those Who Serve Christ”. The complete series includes a mirror showing that the viewer also serves Christ.

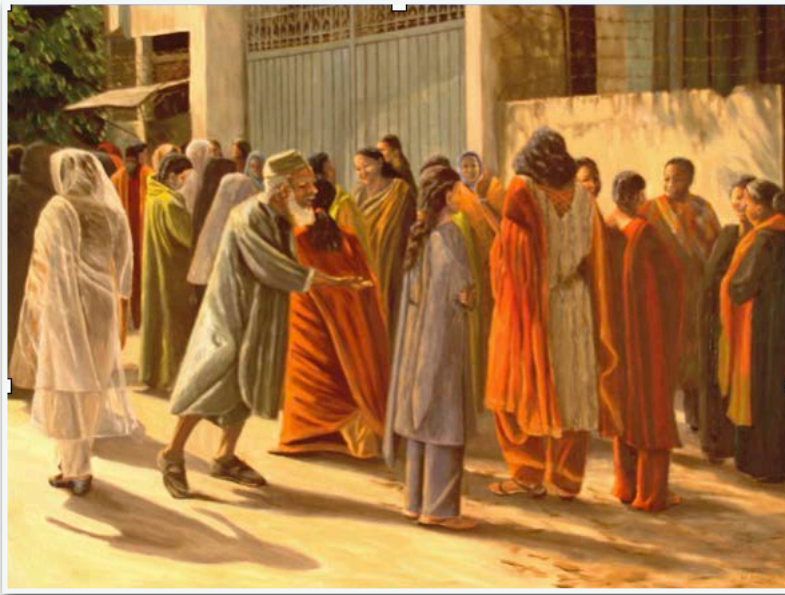
First, what is a series? It is not a triptych or a polyptych. Both are fine but their purpose is not the same as a series of artwork.

A series tugs at your heart. Inspiration and passion are essential if it is to be powerful. And a series must be powerful. It must be something so meaningful to you that you are willing to spend the time and inner energy to create it. It must communicate your passion to the viewer. You are doing work for God’s Glory.

A series is a cohesive body of work for which each piece has common threads which connect all the pieces together. Those common threads may take place in many different ways: palette, size, shape, subject, composition, theme or subject matter, subject created in different mediums, and presentation. A series consists of at least 5 pieces of work.

A few examples of art series: Andy Warhol’s Campbell Soup or Jackie Kennedy; Monet’s Haystack series; Rouen Cathedral showing the difference in the light; Degas’ Ballerinas; or Jacob Lawrence’s 60 panels Migration Series.

(cont’d page 12)



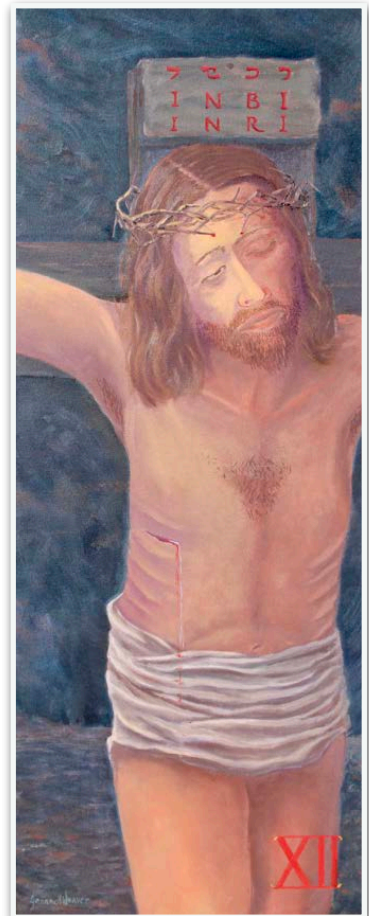
“Angel on Duty from the Series “Bangladesh”

I have created many painting series. Some are in tact. Other individual pieces now have new owners. For example a number of years ago, I created a series of 15 paintings of Bangladesh where I lived for a couple of months. Most of those paintings now belong to others. But within the large series there was a series of 5 boat paintings, the same size, style, theme, and palette and framing which hang in my home today.

In 2015, I created a series of The Gospel Stations of the Cross plus Jesus, Alpha and Omega. I painted these for my church and was asked to achieve two things: They were to hang on stone columns and be large enough for anyone in the church to be able to see them. Their thread similarities are size, palette, medium, theme and subject.

Right: XII Jesus Dies on the Cross from the Gospel's Stations of the Cross

(Call To Artists continued page 13)





The largest series I have done is the series of twenty-one paintings I created in memory of my son, 1LT Todd W. Weaver, KIA in Afghanistan, called ***Losing Todd: A Mother's Journey***. From this series of work which took a year of prayer, tears, love and dedication, I journeyed through my grief. The series has been exhibited at many different venues on the east coast. I have spoken to groups large and small

about using those God given gifts to help journey through grief. Series painting makes a powerful statement.

A book was written by Jeanne and published by The College of William and Mary in 2015. It is called "**Losing Todd: A Mother's Journey - Finding Peace In My Heart**". It includes the paintings, some photos and essays by Jeanne as well as others including a psychologist; a priest; a professor; Director of the Muscarelle Museum of Art (at that time); Todd's Commanding Officer and the former Secretary of Defense, Dr. Robert M. Gates as well as others.

Jeanne has just received a limited second printing of the book. If you would be interested in purchasing a copy please contact [Jeanne](#).

Details on how to submit your work to this ***Call To Artists*** follow on page 14.

Event and Submission Information

There will be two Conversations for this series and a Virtual Reception exhibiting your works: Following are the dates:

Conversations I: Thursday, December 1, 2022, 5 pm EST. Discussing the four concepts which are foremost in creating a successful series. Sharing my boat series from Bangladesh as well as my series of the Gospel Stations of the Cross. [Register](#)

Conversations II: Thursday December 8, 2022, 5 pm EST. Sharing my series of 21 paintings created in memory of my son, 1LT Todd William Weaver, KIA Sept 9, 2010. How and why I created the series. [Register](#)

Virtual Reception: The exhibit will be online in early April with a virtual reception. *Date to be announced.*

Current members of The ECVA Artist Registry are invited to submit images of works in 2D, 3D, film and video.

Please submit a series of 5 to 7 pieces of work

Submit your entries to: entry@ecva.org.

Please submit entries between **March 1, 2023 and March 20, 2023.**

[2 Chronicles: 2-4](#)

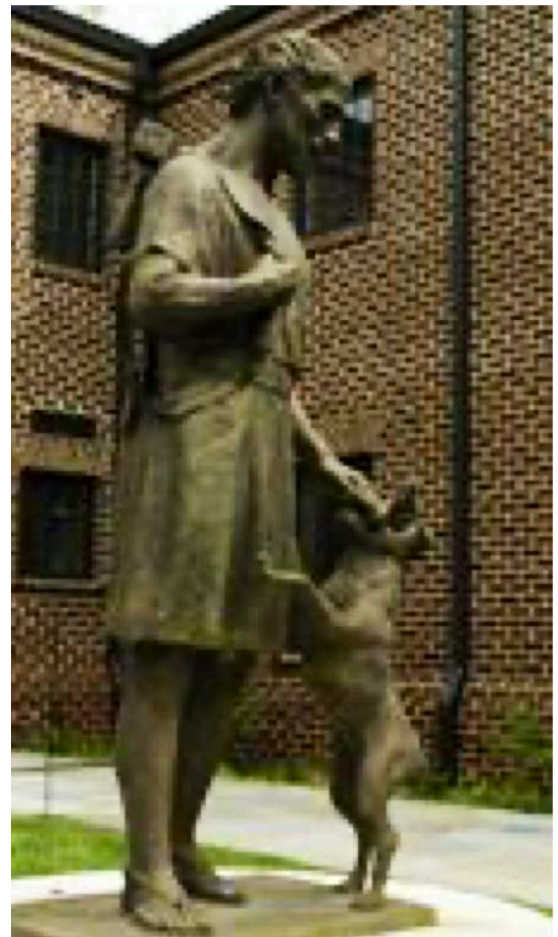
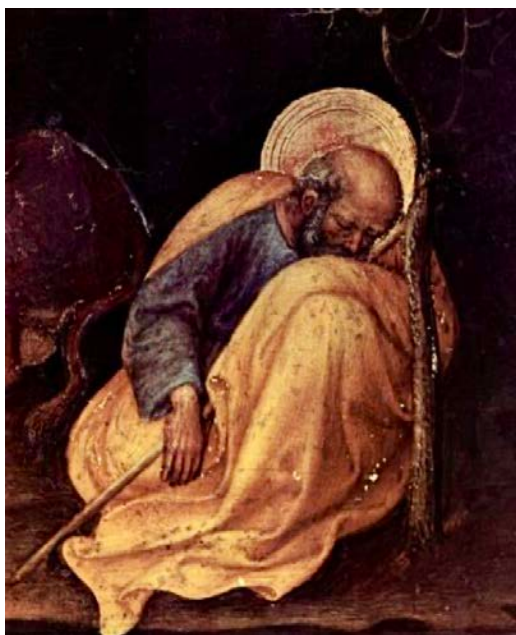
[Romans 12: 1-8](#)

[Psalm 139: 1-18](#)

Why Are The Arts Important to the Church and the Community?

by Mother Darlene

taken from the October 2022 Issue of the *Mediatorite*
of the Church of the Mediator



Cont'd page 16

In the Episcopal Church we stand, we sit, and we kneel. We sing, we sashay and wave streamers, we listen, and we pray. Our worship is very sensual and pleasing to all our senses. Churches have the lingering scent of incense, flowers, and beeswax. There is the visual beauty of stained glass, or in the Mediator's case, faceted slab glass windows. There is the beauty of wood panels and unobstructed views out to God's beautiful world. There is the touch of silks and linens and beautifully ornate vestments and hangings. There are the rich sounds of bells and pipe organs and parlor grand pianos and guitars. The taste and aroma of wine and bread and coffee hour and potlucks. Where there is a church there is food.

“It is self-expressing the world/God's beauty in each individual's artistic way. Personally, I feel heaven or one's thought on the afterlife, can also be an extension of their art. I think it will be much more complex than what we see and experience here. I also personally feel connected sometimes, to loved ones who have passed while painting certain pieces. Each piece is a very personal, emotional, and meaningful journey. Joy, love, fulfillment, compassion, contentment, and expression are all happening while I create. It's about a certain level of connection, a higher level of connection.”

—Judy Sutherland, artist and sister of the rector

Art can depict the artist's beliefs and theology. For example, is Joseph, Mary's husband, depicted as an old man or a young man? If Mary is a perpetual virgin, then Joseph was more likely to be an older man who was previously married with children before marrying Mary. (see images above)

We are created in God's image and as such God invites us into the creative process whether through procreation, gardening and farming, song, music, dance, drawing, painting, weaving, knitting, needlework, metalworking, sculpting, and so many other ways. We are created to be creative beings.

We are called not only to worship God but to have that worship and creative process change us forever. We grow from the self-centeredness of a child enthralled by our own toes to turn and look outward to all that surrounds us, to bathe ourselves in the beauty of God's creation, to see those who live around us, our parents, our family, our friends, our neighborhood and the richness and beauty of the world around us. We learn to see the beauty of a sunrise and a sunset, the beauty of the sun glistening in the dew of a spiderweb, and the beauty of a baby's toes. As we mature we also begin to see the ugliness and injustices that surround us and feel a compulsion to correct those wrongs....”

Credits for images on page 15:

Gentile, da Fabriano, ca. 1370-1427. Adoration of the Three Kings, detail of Joseph at Rest, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

[retrieved September 15, 2022]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gentile_da_Fabriano_030.jpg.

Carpenter Joseph Returning from Work, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56769> [retrieved September 15, 2022]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/17329661475> - Fr Lawrence Lew, O.P..

Renew Your ECVA Artist Membership Today

The Artists Registry @ ECVA

To renew your membership online, [log in to The Artists Registry](#) with your email and password.

Don't know your password? [Reset your password here.](#)

Download the Submissions Guidelines:

[Click here to view the Submissions Guidelines at the ECVA website.](#)

In closing, a prayer

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE ARTISTS REGISTRY @ ECVA

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & VISUAL ARTS, INC.

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