

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH-VISUAL ARTS

EASTER 2022 Newsletter



The banner for this Easter edition was created by Beverly Womack. It is mixed media including acrylic, gold leaf, gold dust, graphite, and paper on canvas. This piece showed in the *Universal Christ Exhibit*. Beverly says: "Often in the process of the project, my direction takes a turn from what I initially visualize. As I work, I meditate and listen to God's holy whispers revealing depths and layers of His thought-treasury. More often than not, I start over with an exhilarating second wind. "Christ in me. Christ in you. Alive in my dot of time, space and history. Security in my dot as He shields, safety in yours united with Him. Christ's Light leaking in and blazing out, threatens and dispels darkness. Tiny dots and eternal realms touched by Christ glow gold."

In This Easter 2022 Issue

- Christ in you Banner by Beverly Womack
- Your Board of Directors and Meet Jorin Hood
- Letter from President, Joy Jennings
- Article by Membership Chair, Debra Cook
- New Call to Artists Pentecost Photography Exhibition, Catherine Kerr
- Submission Guidelines from John Rollins, our Website Geek
- This Edition's Featured Artist is Tobias Haller "My Pandemic Project"
- A Recap of Erin McGee's Conversations
- Renew Your Artist Registry Membership Today



If you have not yet done so, please check out our newest exhibition, Sacrament and Image on the ECVA website: https://ecva.org/exhibition/sacrament-image/curator-statement.html

Image to the left was done by the Curator of this exhibit, Mary Jane Miller, and was shown in the 2019 exhibit, Worship The Lord in the Beauty of Holiness.

Thank you to Mary Jane for curating this present exhibit.

Welcome to the ECVA Newsletter which appears in your email five times a year during each of these seasons: Advent, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost. A fifth newsletter. Extraordinary Artists during Ordinary Time will be sent out sometime after Pentecost and before the coming Advent as we will still be busy doing extraordinary thing during Ordinary days. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your comments or questions.

--Jeanne Harris Weaver, Editor ecva.newsletter@gmail.com



Our next Conversations is May 21st when Tobias Stanislas Haller, BSG will lead a discussion on his icons. Please join us.

> 5 pm EST 4 pm Central 2 pm Pacific

Your Board of Directors Are:

Joy Jennings - President and Exhibitions Director
The Rev. Robert Tate - Treasurer
Mel Ahlborn - Vice President and Secretary
Members of the Board
Debra Murray Cook- Membership Director
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





I am a new Clergy Spouse and am thrilled about moving to our first call in New Bern NC, next month. My wife, Suzanne, will be the Associate Rector at Christ Church.

I am a video Producer, Cameraman and Editor by trade and practice still photography as my soul food. As the son and spouse of curators, I have spent a lot of wonderful time in museums. I am drawn to the stories that those museums, their objects, and the objects' creators have to tell.

I am honored and excited to be a part of this ECVA community



Saint Mary Magdalene, Icon by Joy Jennings

Letter from the President, Easter, 2022

I recently, as in just the other day, completed this almost icon of Saint Mary Magdalene. I say almost icon because I in no way consider myself adept at writing an icon. I am very much a colorist and my painting style is very impressionistic. But, I love the stories of Mary Magdalene and have been wanting to attempt writing this icon. I love the symbolism of the red egg, a symbol of both the blood of Jesus shed on the cross and a symbol of fertility and new creation. The pitcher is a symbol of unction and healing.

We have almost completed a rather long season of Lent, along with new strands of Covid and political unrest in the world. It is time to look to and to hope for a new creation and for healing and peace in our world today.

I hope that we, the artists of ECVA, can participate in being a part of this new creation and in this healing. We have a wonderful new exhibition, Sacrament and Image, recently open online. It was curated by Mary Jane Miller and it portrays the importance of sacrament and image in our life of faith and in our day to day life in our relation to others and to our world.

We also have a new exhibition planned for this summer, Everywhere We Look, An ECVA Photography Exhibition, which will be curated by Cathy Kerr. So, check our website and your email for this Call to Artists has just been published. We are hoping to open a conversations forum for our many photographers this summer, so if you are interested in participating in that you can email me at joyjenningsartstudio@gmail.com (cont'd page 5)

Also, in our plans for 2023, we are planning an exhibition to be curated by Jeanne Harris Weaver, The Power of Creating a Series of Artwork. Jeanne is one of our board members and our newsletter editor. She has created several series of artworks in the past and will be an excellent curator and mentor for those of you interested in creating a body of artwork centered on a specific theme.

Hopefully, at this Eastertide, we, as artists, are beginning anew to answer the call of rebirth and renewal and the pull of the creative spirit within us.

I wish all of you a very blessed and happy Easter.

Joy Jennings, President and Exhibitions Director of ECVA

From Our Membership Director

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matthew 28:6

Happy Easter Greetings,

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read how an angel appeared to the women at the tomb early that first Easter morning. The angel explained to them that Jesus was not there because he had been raised from the dead, just as he said! Matthew tells us that the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy. That's what the resurrection does. It takes our fear, our worry, our hurt, our sadness...and it puts it all into perspective. The fact that Jesus is risen from the dead, that he was victorious over death and sin, is reason to celebrate. It's that fact that gives us joy despite our circumstances and through whatever we may face. What happened on that first Easter day still brings us joy and it still changes lives today. (cont'd page 6)

Creating beautiful art to Glorify God also brings us so much joy. The Episcopal Church and Visual Arts is a community of artists and individuals who share an appreciation of how art can influence our spiritual well-being and widen our spiritual expressions. Our talented member artists work in a variety of media and a wide range of artistic styles. Our roots are in the Episcopal Church, and our branches reach up and out. As a community, ECVA explores the visual arts and the ways in which they can be used within our churches, our ministries, and as part of our worship to bring us joy!

Our ECVA membership is growing with each new exhibit. More artists are discovering the wonderful benefits of membership.

ECVA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Exhibiting opportunities with no entry fee
- Listing in the searchable ECVA Artist Registry
- Receiving the ECVA newsletter highlighting members chapters diocese and parish events
- Invitations to discussion groups highlighting various mediums
- Virtual artist reception invitations for exhibiting artists and curator
- Invitations to zoom guest speaker programs
- Member news on ECVA Facebook page

I am excited and looking forward to attending The 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church scheduled for July 7 - 14, 2022, at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. The Convention is the largest gathering of Episcopalians from across the church, domestically and abroad. I will be attending July 6 - 8, 2022, and sharing a table with my good friend located at "Fruit of the Vine." Exhibits will open at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2022. (cont'd page 7)

If you are attending the Convention, please stop by and say hello. I will also be walking around joyfully greeting and meeting everyone. I'm hoping to meet up with ECVA members and future members in July.

In this season of rebirth, may you feel your faith renewed and your heart made new with the hope Easter brings. May you be blessed with a home filled with joy, peace and love. Happy Easter!

Submitted by:

Debra M. Cook,

ECVA Membership Director and Chapter Coordinator

For Membership Information Inquiries, please contact: Debra M. Cook, Membership Director and Chapter Coordinator at ecva.membership@gmail.com

Call To Artists

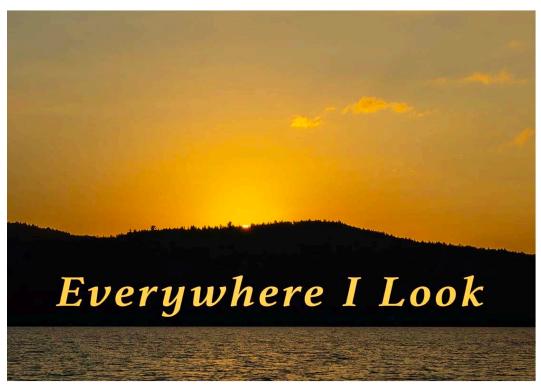
An ECVA Photography Exhibition

Guest Curator, Catherine Kerr

Pentecost 2022

Online at ecva.org June 5, 2022

(cont'd page 8)



"Everywhere I look, there God is, looking back, looking straight back."

- Jan Phillips

Photography can provide a rich space for becoming aware of the presence of God, as Jan Phillips so aptly observed in her book God Is at Eye Level: Photography as a Healing Art. Where does your camera help you to see God in the world around you? It might be in the beauty of nature, in acts of human compassion, in the faces of God's people created in God's own image. The possibilities are infinite, each individual's vision distinctive

A long-accepted principle in the Anglican tradition holds that God is present to us through material things. The Creation story in Genesis affirms that the created world is good, and it has been said that Nature itself is the first book God wrote to reveal Godself. In some places the season of Pentecost is observed as a celebration of Creation, and the art of photography helps to focus this appreciation.

(cont'd page 9)

But more than that, photography as art offers not just an opening for observing more closely the work of the Creator, but also an opportunity to follow the example of the Creator in the work of creating. We are all called to be artists. As Makoto Fujimura says in his book Art + Faith, God invites us to co-create: "Perhaps, I ask as an artist, being an artist is not an anomaly to faith, but is central to faith and to the place of the church in the world; and in order to understand the fullness of the grace of God, we all must think, act, and make like an artist."

Current members of The ECVA Artist Registry are invited to submit up to three photographs for possible inclusion i n exhibition. The exhibition curator will make selections from entries received: submission of an entry to this exhibition is not a guarantee of inclusion in this exhibition. To learn more about The ECVA Artist Registry, to join, or to renew membership, visit The Artist Registry at ECVA.

And what exactly qualifies as a photograph? There was a time when purists would have insisted that only an uncropped, unmodified image printed as it came from the camera would pass muster. Those days are done! All photographic genres are welcome. The only requirement for consideration is that the image must have begun its life in your camera. Manipulation of images including (but not limited to) in-camera modifications, post-processing, and creation of photo composites are all welcome.

Guest curator Catherine D. Kerr is a photographer, writer, preacher, Episcopal priest, wife, mother, grandmother, and music lover—all listed in no particular order. Her photography is frequently included in exhibitions near her home in Bucks County, PA, including most recently an exhibition titled Essential Work 2020 in summer 2021 at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown, the Phillips 2022 MiIIPhotography Exhibition and (cont'd page 10)

the 2022 Spring Members Salon at New Hope Arts. She is a firm believer that all art is spiritual practice, and her own photography is a discipline of receptivity to God's presence in the world —everywhere she looks.

Submissions will be accepted through May 21. Please send all submissions along with a brief (up to 300 words) statement including anything you wish to share about yourself as photographer or the work you are submitting in one email to entry@ecva.org

o r ngsartstudio@gmail

joyjenningsartstudio@gmail .com

.

Questions about the exhibition can be sent to Catherine Kerr at cdkerr@gmail.com

The online exhibition opens on or about June 5, 2022.

Inspiration for Photographers

Scripture Readings: God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. ~ Genesis 1:31, NRSV

From the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator ~ Wisdom 13:5

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. ~Psalms 19:1

What can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever Since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible tough they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. ~Romans 1:19-20

(cont'd page 11)

Prayers

For the beauty of the earth; For the beauty of the skies; For the love which from our birth over and around us lies; Christ our God, to thee we raise This our sacrifice of praise. For the beauty of each hour, Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light: Christ, our God, to thee we raise This our sacrifice of praise. ~ The Hymnal 1982, # 416 words Folliot Sanford Pierpont (1835-1917)

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence, night or morning. Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers: May all these break into song as we sing to Creator Savior and Holy Spirit. May all the angels in the heavens reply: Amen! Amen! Amen! Power, praise, honor and eternal glory to God, the only giver of grace. ~ Anonymous (third century), quoted in Daily Prayers for all Seasons.

Author of Creation:

In wisdom you brought forth all that is, to participate in your divine being, and to change, adapt, and grow in freedom. You make holy the matter and energy of the universe that it may delight you and give you praise. We thank you for gathering all creation into your heart by the energy of your Spirit and bringing it through death to resurrection glory; through the One in whom all things have their being, Jesus Christ, your Wisdom and you Word. Amen. ~Book of Occasional Services, 2019

Poems

"Aurora Lee" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes,
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.

(poems cont'd page 12)

Inspiration for Photographers cont'd

Poems " God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs-Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

"The Messenger" by Mary Oliver

My work is loving the world.

Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—
equal seekers of sweetness.

Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.

Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

(cont'd page 13)

which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished.

The phoebe, the delphinium.

The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.

Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart and these body-clothes, a mouth with which to give shouts of joy to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam, telling them all, over and over, how it is that we live forever.

"In Thank You God for This Most Amazing Day" by E.E. Cummings

I thank You God for most this amazing day
For the leaping greenly spirits of trees
And a blue true dream of sky
And for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is
yes

I who have died am alive again today
And this is the sun's birthday
This is the birth day of life and of love and wings
And of the gay great happening illimitably earth

How should tasting, touching, hearing, seeing, breathing any Lifted from the no of all nothing Human merely being doubt unimaginable You? Now the ears of my ears awake And now the eyes of my eyes are opened

Short Quotations From Larger Works - (cont'd inspiration for photographers)

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature. ~ Meister Eckhart

When we do photography, we receive an image that is reflected from the subject. Instead of photography as taking, then, we can envision it as receiving. Instead of a trophy that is hunted, an image is a gift. To photograph in this spirit is a matter of opening ourselves to receiving. Like meditation or contemplation, photography-as-receiving requires us to cultivate an attitude of receptivity, an openness to what might be given to us. Such photograph is more like meditation or a spiritual discipline than a hunt. ~ Howard Zehr, The Little Book of Contemplative Photography

When our eyes are graced with wonder, the world reveals its wonders to us. There are people who see only dullness in the world and that is because their eyes have already been dulled. So much depends on how we look at things. The quality of our looking determines what we come to see. ~ John O'Donohue, Divine Beauty: The Invisible Embrace

Not all photographs are beautiful, and a good photograph can be intentionally disturbing ... but photography also reminds us of the goodness in the world and God's amazing, boundless creativity. Other than family members and friends, what do you suppose are the most photographed subjects? Objects of beauty: flowers and landscapes, rivers and lakes, towering mountains and crashing waves ... Photography brings joy, reminds us that, in spite of the suffering in the world, beauty and goodness, wonder and awe still exists. Photos inspire, encourage, amuse, heal. ~ Dirk deVries, Contemplative Vision: Photography as Spiritual Practice

The slumber of being human creates a veil between our eyes and the truth of the world around us. Photography as a spiritual practice can help us to cultivate an awakened vision so we begin to really see. ... I take my camera out into the world, and it invites me to slow down and linger over these moments of beauty. It opens me to wonder and delight. ~ Christine Valters Paintner, Eyes of the Heart: Photography as a Christian Contemplative Practice

To be human is to be creative ... To create anything seems to assume that there is a beginning: a blank canvas or page, an empty theater. The impulse toward Making seems embedded in us from "the beginning." Such an impulse imbeds our vision in actual earthly materials. So our journey to "know" God requires not just ideas and information, but actual making, to translate our ideas into real objects and physical movements. ~ Makoto Fujimura, Art + Faith

Submission Guidelines From John Rollins, our Web Master

So. You've decided to heed a "Call to the Artists" from Episcopal Church & Visual Arts (ECVA) and submit one of your creations to the latest exhibition. Great!

How do you make a submission?

There is a brief, excellent summary of how to make a submission found at ecva.org/images/
Submission Guide ECVA Exhibitions.pdf

But maybe you want more help, so here is a longer explanation of what is needed to make the website display complete.

(Cont'd page 15)

Basically, each submission is an email sent to the address provided in the call, which is usually that of the exhibition's curator.

First, we need your full name. Beside the image of your creation, this is essential for name recognition. It goes at the top of the right column, and, if you are a member of the Artists Registry, is linked to your information in the registry. If viewers want permission to use your creation for example, this is how they can reach you.

Next, we need:

- 1. The Title of the work, if it has one
- 2. The medium employed in its creation the more specific, the better
- 3. The dimensions of the work as created (not applicable if a photograph or video)
- 4. The Artists Statement: what is meaning/significance/ inspiration for the work? (300 words or so) These statements are really critical for they provide some of the strongest impact to the exhibitions.
- 5. The Artists Bio (300 words or less which could also include the artist's website, Facebook, Instagram addresses)

 And:
- 6. A photo of the work, attached to the email.

(cont'd page 17)

The attachment ideally would be a digital image at 72 dpi, at least 600 pixels on the longest side, under 2 Mb file size in jpg, tif or png format. (Care should be taken that one's email client not be set to downsize the image in transmission, which is a problem for some smart phones or iPads.)

The filename for the image should include the artist's name and artwork title - e.g. john_smith-my_painting#1.jpg

For video/film works, in addition to a digital image (still shot) from your video, include a link to the Vimeo or YouTubeRed account. (Videos from YouTubeStandard accounts will not be considered.)

And finally:

Please enclose a preferred phone number and a preferred email address (if other than the one used for the submission) in case the curator or webmaster needs to contact you.

Once the call is closed, the curator will make the selections for the exhibition and turn over the data and images to the webmaster for the final steps. And, in due time, the exhibition will be posted on the ECVA website: ecva.org

If a template would be useful, you can copy and paste the following in the email:

First name:

Last name:

- 1. Title of the work:
- 2. Medium:
- 3. Dimensions:
- 4. Artist statement:
- 5. Artist bio:
- 6. Please then attach the photo of the work, using the format: artist_name-my_painting#1 for the image filename.

Preferred telephone number

Preferred email address

Thank you, John for giving us this full guideline!

Featured Artist Tobias Haller My Pandemic Project

Tobias has a beautiful approach to the concept of icons. His project during the Pandemic was to make "quick" or "sketch" icons of all of the saints in Lesser Feasts and Fasts as of 2009. These sketches are done with colored pencil on 8x10 inch tinted paper. Here are four of those beautiful sketches.

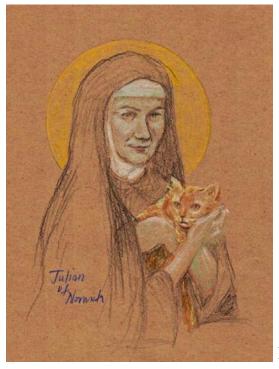
In his words--



My approach in these quick icons is to attempt to approach them as "real people" rather than idealized saints; so when there is a photographic record of such a person (as with Thurgood Marshall) I will use that likeness as my source. When there is no such record, I seek to find a face that speaks to me with resonance of the saint in question.

Left - Monica Below- Julian of Norwich

Sometimes the "model" will be someone from my own experience; as in the case of Monica, a member of my Bronx parish who died a few years back — she was head of the altar guild, actually named Monica, and I thought a perfect model for the saint in many ways (Jamaica born, she was a nurse in Harlem, but had served in her youth as a midwife in London — I've wondered if she wasn't the model for the character on "Call the Midwife")

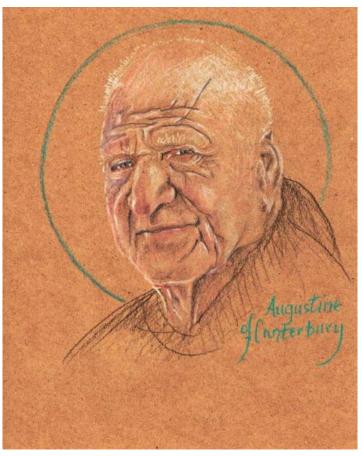


In other cases I try to find a model from the online libraries of public domain stock photos, so Julian is a young English woman, and Augustine an Italian fisherman.

Right- Thurgood Marshall

Below - Augustine of Canterbury





As to technique: I loved drawing and painting from youth, but on encountering Fr John Walsted became fascinated with icons and tempera painting. John's "school" was more Western in technique from the time of Giotto and Cennini, using thin semi-transparent layers of pigment and tempering rather than the Eastern technique of pooling and shading. As I approached the LFF Calendar project, I realized that I could apply this layering technique to colored pencils, and chose that route. I've since redone (or plan to redo) some of these in tempera, but I enjoy the colored pencil approach. It's a bit like the difference between the Quick and Careful schools of Asian ink painting.

A Conversations Recap from February 27

On February 27, Erin McGee lead an interesting and informative Conversations discussion with a number of ECVA members via zoom. Erin is a long time member of ECVA.

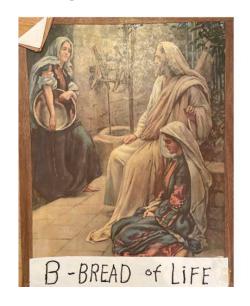
She shared with us fine art Biblical paintings from the 1940s to the cartoon character style drawings of the late 1900s. She posed two questions:

- 1. What factors contributed to the transition of artistic quality in church educational material? (cultural change? money? trend of comic books? decision makers?)
 - 2. Does the quality of the art work matter in sharing stories?

Erin spent some of her childhood living in Nigeria where her grandfather was a missionary and her grandmother taught Sunday School. Her grandmother used many of the Biblical artwork of the time in her teaching adding to it her own embellishments to aid the children in understanding the stories.

Since the 1940's the quality of images depicting the Bible stories has changed drastically from fine art to cartoon art in the 1980s.

Below: Images from the 1940's Southern Baptist Convention Series used by Erin's grandmother. (cont'd page 21)







Above: Although there is still a painterly feeling to this image of the 1956 Sunday school series, the quality of the art is diminished.

To Right: In the 1960s Sunday school teaching images take on an even more coloring book or comic book image.





Left: Sunday School teaching images in the 1980s are inspired by graphic cartoon images.

Thank you, Erin, for you thought provoking Conversations discussion. It is something we should all be considering. How are we teaching our children. Why has the quality of our religious art changed so drastically. I am sure that cultural differences, cost to pay a fine artist, cultural trends and corporate decisions all had a role in the revision of Sunday School resources. (cont'd page 22)

I shared the slide show with Rebecca Taylor, wife of my Priest, The Rev. Porter Taylor, St David's by the Sea, mother to three young boys and Communications Director of our church. She was very impressed with the slide presentation and explained why St. David's has chosen to use a different approach to Sunday School today. It is called Godly Play. Her response follows—

"When looking for a Children's Ministry curriculum, our ministry leaders knew we wanted something with Biblical depth. Our children ask deeply theological questions about their purpose, God's mission for the world, and what their role is in it. They are seeking answers to questions adults are sometimes too afraid to ask themselves.

"Godly Play not only uses beautiful hand-crafted wooden art (often made by fellow parishioners), but it also embraces another ancient art form: storytelling.

"Each Sunday, children find themselves sitting in a circle surrounded physically by the stories in the Bible. In front of them is a story told beautifully by their teacher in which they are encouraged to think biblically and theologically. Then they are able to interact with the story in a handson way, often through play or through the creation of their own artistic interpretation of the story they learned.

"Each of the stories is pulled from the shelf at the beginning of the session so children can see where in the Bible the story belongs. For example, the children know where all of the parables are, where all of the prophets are, etc. The children are also reminded at the beginning of the lesson where the Church currently is in the Church year. Each of these aspects immerses the children fully into the stories of the Bible, the traditions and liturgy of the church, and in art forms that have withstood the test of time."

Jeanne Harris Weaver Below are three examples of Godly Play storytelling props







Renew Your ECVA Artist Membership Today

The Artists Registry @ ECVA is once again able to accept your membership renewal, after an unexpected interruption due to a software update.

To renew your membership online, <u>log in to The Artists Registry</u> with your email and password.

Don't know you password? Reset your password here.

