



Photo Paul Wainwright

Zen-like pace

Photographer captures essence of early settlers' faith

By *Episcopal Journal*

Two images by Christ Church, Exeter member Paul Wainwright are included in the current online art exhibit of Episcopal Church & Visual Arts (ECVA), an association that encourages the visual arts in the life of the church. Wainwright is the only New Hampshire-based artist in the current exhibition that includes works from 29 artists.

A self-taught photographer based in Atkinson, N.H., Wainwright brings to his images an eye for space and light, subtle details, and an appreciation of history, saying he wants to achieve in his prints a sense of quiet contemplation that comes from the slow, Zen-like pace of creating his images.

The two images in the ECVA exhibition are

Window and pew in Old Trinity Church, built in 1771 Brooklyn, Conn., a mission church of Trinity Church in Newport, R.I.

from Wainwright's six-year project to photograph the surviving 18th-century meetinghouses in New England that were the focus of both religious and civic life. Many were built with tax money, and their simple, undecorated architecture reflected the desire of early Puritan settlers to live simple lives apart from the Church of England. Yet, Wainwright says, these were their "cathedrals," built by hand without adornment, except for the wonderful woodwork. Only a few of them remain today in a relatively unchanged state.

His photographs of New England meetinghouses are included in his new book, *A Space for Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England* (Peter E. Randall Publisher, www.aspaceforfaith.com) This book recently won the New England Book Festival Award for best photography/art book of 2010. ■

To see more in the current exhibit, go to www.ecva.org.