



The Eagle

Fall 2010





Written by:
Jessica Osborne
ECW President

The Latest from the Episcopal Church Women

It is hard to believe that another summer has passed and we are returning to our normal routines! I know that preparations for the Bazaar are well underway and that as usual everyone will work hard to make this year's Holly Days Bazaar a great success. Leah Brunson is serving as Bazaar chairman, so please give her your support and kind words of encouragement, it's a rewarding but difficult job! It is always such a joy to see the women of St. John's come together for this event. Make sure to attend our first general ECW meeting on August 1: all women of the church are welcome! After traveling quite a bit this summer, and having attended many different Churches, I will be so glad to settle back into my 'Church family' at St. John's. I feel truly blessed to have such a place to call home. I look forward to serving you this year as the president of The Women of St. John's.

Spread the Cheer- Volunteer for the Holly Days Bazaar!

NOVEMBER 10th and 11th

The Episcopal Church Women are already busy preparing for Holly Days! Please join in the festivities! We have many wonderful committee heads that need your assistance. We need help in all areas. If you can volunteer, donate to the silent auction, dig up some items for the white elephant sale, treasure room, book sale or plant sale, we would greatly appreciate your contributions. Preparing chili, vegetable soup or a delicious dessert is another way you can help. Please be thinking about how you would like to participate and contact one of the following committee heads. Thank you for your support!

Silent Auction

Please keep the silent auction in mind if you can think of anything you would like to donate! The Silent Auction raises the most money during the Bazaar and we are in need of your help. Parties, vacation homes, art, furniture, antiques, football tickets and special services are all popular items. Please contact Sarah Ross (912) 655-6966, Gennie Leigh Sumner (912) 657-6221 or Middi Moore (912) 353-9308 with contributions.

White Elephant

The White Elephant committee is looking for all your stuff and for volunteers to help the day of the event. As you are cleaning out your home, please remember the White Elephant. We are already collecting items in our Storage Unit on Bull Street if you have anything we can take off your hands. Cranmer has lots of space to fill. Please contact Nita Ann Klein (912) 927-4270 with your donations or to volunteer. She would appreciate your support.

Treasure Room

Tired of polishing that old silver or silver-plate that you never use? Are you still storing that set of crystal you never really liked? The Treasure Room would love to have it-we really don't mind polishing or cleaning. Remember: Pictures, Paintings, Rugs and Furniture-we need it all. Please call Kippi Adams at (912) 352-3839 or Jettie Johnston at (912) 598-7488.

Desserts

Heartfelt thanks to those of you who show up on the day of the Bazaar with all the scrumptious, homemade desserts. We hope that you can contribute again this year. We also appreciate desserts from those who have not baked in the past. Share your specialty at the dessert table. Please call Marsha Berger (912) 598-0396 or Kathy Johnston (912) 303-9483.

Books, DVDS, Videos and More!

We love books, but we're not just about books! Bring us roll-overs and replenish your shelves with our GREAT selections. We offer and take CDs, Videos, DVDs, cassettes and books on tape! Again, we cannot accept magazines this year. Storage is available now so start cleaning off your shelves. Please contact Margaret Wylly at (912) 786-4316.

Contact the editors if you have volunteer opportunities you would like added to the Eagle or volunteers you want recognized.

Babysitting

If you are working at the Bazaar on Wednesday or Thursday, babysitting will be available. Please call Kerri Culver at (912) 660-8269 to reserve your child's spot.

Candlelight Dinner Tickets

Make your plans to purchase Candlelight Dinner Tickets! This dinner for twelve prepared and served by your fellow parishioners is sure to be a night to remember. Tickets will be on sale for this magnificent meal in the Garden Mall on Wednesday and Thursday; however, you will also be able to purchase them in advance...more on that soon. The BIG drawing will be held at the end of the Bazaar on Thursday, November 11th at 2:00 – you do not have to be present to win. Don't miss your chance for this dinner of a lifetime! Contact Mildred Derst (912) 925-1442 or Jessica Osborne (912) 898-0202 for tickets. ...Bazaar Continued on Page 4

Candlelight Delight

written by the 2009 Candlelight Dinner winner:

Dorothea Coy

When Fr. Dunbar drew our name in the raffle for the 2010 Candlelight Dinner, I was not even watching from my spot in the nearby "Nun's Nook". Tim and I had each been trying to win for years. As the great-grandson of the last owners of the Green-Meldrim House prior to its purchase by St. John's, Tim was determined that one day he'd be the host for the Holly Days most popular event, but no matter how many tickets we purchased (100 one year), we had been unsuccessful and had begun to believe we had a better chance of winning the Georgia lottery. Needless to say that we were surprised and delighted when we learned that at last we'd won the evening!

Despite the scaffolding enveloping the Green-Meldrim House at the time, the annual Candlelight Dinner was held on the evening of Pentecost, with Kathie Harlander, Ann Sheils, Becky Keightly assisting head chef Bruce Ford in the kitchen. Arriving guests were ushered into the South Drawing Room, where harpist Kristen King (co-owner of New Arts Ensemble) played ravishingly while we sipped champagne and nibbled hors d'oeuvres. Shortly after eight o'clock, we were ushered into the dining room, where Cathy Jarman, assisted by Elaine Barrow, had decorated the huge oval table with blue hydrangeas, shells, and coral (-shaped and -coloured!) candles. It looked magnificent. As we had hoped, there were many tapers, as befitting a "candlelight" affair. Several guests commented that they felt as though they'd been transported to the Nineteenth Century.

The meal itself was beyond delicious (see the menu at right). David Barrow, Brian Harlander, Tom Philbrick, Barry Crawford, Eddie Culver, Bill Keightley and Andy Sheils found their second calling as waiters as they were choreographed by Maggie Dillon-Godfray, Elaine, and Cathy. Father Dunbar made a convincing sommelier. The evening was a dream come true, and we couldn't have been happier.

Yoga at St. John's is now Tuesdays at 12:30
on the 3rd Floor of Cranmer Hall. Come join us!
Call Cathy Baxter at 704-5111 for more details or visit
www.twistedwarrior.com



Canning

Jane's Cannery has been working hard this summer preparing delicious items including pepper jelly, peach chutney, peach marmalade, fig preserves, pear marmalade and more! They are still busy cooking every Wednesday and would greatly appreciate any donations of ½ Pint Canning Jars, Sugar, Cranberries, Strawberries, Pears, Peaches, Apples, Mangos, Figs, Pecans, Squash and Bell Peppers. Please contact Jane Pressly with your donations (912) 233-6551.

Frozen Foods

Are you unable to volunteer during the week of the Bazaar? Preparing meals for the Bachelor's Pantry is a great way to contribute! Just make a little extra while cooking your favorite items that freeze well and donate them to the Bachelor's Pantry. Single Serving Dishes or Casseroles big enough to feed a family are needed. Contact Ragnild Ezelle (912) 925-1407 or Robbie Culver (912) 238-4895 for labels and containers.

Luncheon Food Prep and Sandwich Makers

Come join us! Everyone is already looking forward to our delicious shrimp salad, pimento cheese and chicken salad sandwiches. Needed are all available chicken choppers! We also are looking for people who would like to join our sandwich making team during the Bazaar Luncheon hours. It's a behind the scenes job and a really great chance to meet more of your fellow parishioners! For fun and fellowship, please call Jentri Hand (912) 272-1046 or Lavinia Strong (912) 272-3250.

Luncheon Servers

This job is fast paced and lots of fun! A large group of volunteers are needed Wednesday and Thursday to serve lunch at the Green-Meldrim House. To volunteer call Jessica Osborne at (912) 898-0202.

Nun's Nook

Look for custom-made St. John's gifts, books and your Advent supplies here! Our much requested "Holly Days Bazaar" aprons are back this year! If you would like to have one with your name on it, please place your pre-order today for pick-up at the Bazaar. The Nun's Nook will be ready for visitors in the Garden Mall and a wonderful selection of religious items will be available. To volunteer, donate, place an order, or for more information, call Caroline Hayes at (912) 897-0343.

Garden Shop

The Garden Shop Committee has been busy this year planning for our best selection of plants, statuary, topiaries, birdfeeders, stepping stones and planters ever! All suggestions are welcome, as we want to make sure to have the item you are looking for. Contributions of "heirloom planters" are especially encouraged. Divisions of Daylilies or Iris as well as usual Camellias or Hydrangeas top the request list. So, as you work in your garden this fall, and have the opportunity to divide any of these, please keep us in mind. If you find you have any extra pots, materials to contribute or if you can suggest a donor, please don't hesitate to contact Coren Ross (912) 897-2381 or Debbie Carson (912) 897-6169.



Pictured above:
Catherine Sills
with Elizabeth Sills

Pictured Below:
Julie Lattimore
with grandson Harry Shore



Runners

Many volunteers are needed to run supplies, food, etc. back and forth to various areas of the Bazaar. Please call Leah Brunson at (912) 231-8911 to volunteer.

If You Can Not Be There To Help

Obviously not everyone can volunteer during the Bazaar. Please know that your financial donations go a long way towards paying the costs incurred during the Bazaar. Please drop or mail any financial contributions to the Church Office in an envelope directed to Dale Thorpe, our Treasurer. Or call Dale directly at (912) 233-5530. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Holly Days Bazaar.

As a parishioner of St. John's you are encouraged to get involved. Volunteering at the Bazaar is a great way to meet new friends and reacquaint with others. There is a lot to do and volunteers are needed in every area. Please call Leah Brunson, Chair (912) 231-8911 or Amy Wilson, Co-Chair (912) 308-6471 to volunteer or for more information.

SOUP'S ON- WE HOPE. Soup and Chili

Last year we didn't have enough of this Bazaar staple, so please make a pot so the tradition doesn't die. Making soup and chili is a great way to contribute to the Bazaar if you are unable to volunteer during the Bazaar hours! We'll be heating up the big pots on the porch and serving everyone's favorites, homemade soup and chili! The Women of St. John's are wonderful chefs and each has their own recipe for soup and chili, and a miracle happens when they are all mixed together. Please add YOUR own touch to the pot by contributing several gallons of soup or chili for the Bazaar luncheons – or see the recipes on page 4. We need over 135 gallons of Vegetable Beef Soup this year! Please bring your contributions to the refrigerator in Cranmer Hall beginning Monday, November 8th. Please assist our Head Chefs Sherry Holtzclaw (912) 897-3889 and Christiana Turner (912) 898-1810.

Vegetable Beef Soup

2 pounds ground sirloin (can substitute with stew beef)
1 cup chopped onion
2 large cans stewed tomatoes
5 cups water
1 tablespoon salt
2 carrots, chopped
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 pkg frozen butter beans
1 pkg frozen green beans
1 pkg frozen peas
2 russet potatoes, chopped
1 can corn
1 bay leaf
2 beef bouillon cubes
¼ teaspoon dried thyme
¼ teaspoon dried basil

In a large stock pot, brown sirloin and onion. Drain grease and add tomatoes, water, salt, beef bouillon, vegetables, thyme, bay leaf and basil. Cover and cook until vegetables are tender, approximately 45 minutes.

Beef Chili

2 pounds ground beef
1 large can stewed tomatoes
1 small can tomato sauce
1 29-ounce can kidney beans (with liquid)
1 29-ounce can pinto beans (with liquid)
1 cup diced onion
¼ cup diced celery (1 stalk)
2 teaspoons cumin powder
3 tablespoons chili powder
1 ½ teaspoons black pepper
2 teaspoons salt
2 cups water
2 beef bouillon cubes

Brown ground beef in a skillet over medium heat; drain off the fat.

Using a fork, crumble beef into pea-size pieces

In a large pot, combine beef plus all remaining ingredients; bring to a simmer over low heat. Cook, stirring every 15 minutes for 2-3 hours. Makes about 12 servings.

***Important When you make your batch of soup or chili, let it cool completely before freezing. Otherwise we may have problems with spoilage.

Stewardship Nugget

People who are committed to a daily exercise regimen find that the discipline keeps them loyal to their determination to stay physically healthy. People who are committed to tithing their income find that the discipline helps keep them loyal to their determination to stay spiritually healthy by giving their whole life to God.

St. John's Youth at the 2010 Saint Michael's Conference

The Saint Michael's Conference is a not-for-profit religious conference. Founded in 1960, it is a group of young people- high school and college age young adults- and leaders who come together to form a community. Through worship, discussion, recreation, and relaxation, the community seeks both a clearer vision of God in Christ, and strength and power to fight evil and serve God. For most, it is such a joyful experience that they want it to continue, and many do continue by returning year after year. Michael is a good Patron Saint. He symbolizes a strong religion, the kind of religion where true joy is to be found.

Fr. O'Brien was invited to be a visiting faculty member this year and this past August 1-6, in company with four young people from St. John's, joined some 93 others from traditional Anglican/Episcopal parishes from all over the country for the 51st Conference at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford Connecticut. The dates for next year's Conference are July 31-August 6. Please speak to Fr. O'Brien for more details.

Here is what some of our young people had to say about the experience.

At the conference the first thing I noticed was that everyone was happy to be your friend and always had a funny joke to tell. It didn't matter if they were a junior (14-17), a senior (18-21), a counselor, a deacon, or a priest they were all happy to meet you. The best part about going to a camp for 14-21 year olds was everyone was at or above your level and no one tried to treat you like a little child. Most importantly you learn about your faith, how to recognize new age religion in the church and much more. In the afternoon there was a whole 3 hours of free time to play outside or hang out with your friends. Even though you had to go to church no one was complaining as the music and readings were excellent. On the last day the main thing being said after goodbye was I can't wait to come back next year.

-John Osborne

What a life changing experience! St. Michael's Conference 2010 was above and beyond my expectations. Going into this camp I thought that it would be ok; that I might learn a few things, meet a few people, but nothing life changing. I was wrong! From the very first day, I met Christian friends that I will treasure for life. It is nice knowing that I now have dozens of new friends that not only help me grow as a person, but also believe the same things that I do about my faith and Christ.

St. Mike's strengthened my faith by providing several classes and discussion groups ranging from topics such as sins of omission to the Rosary. These classes taught me several new things, and went into more detail about things I already knew a little bit about. The discussion groups gave me a different point of view on many topics that I had firm opinions about.

Another thing that I really enjoyed about this camp, was daily eucharist, evensong, and an optional morning prayer. This was a great way to start the day off, by praising the Lord. To be quite honest, one of my favorite parts of the conference, was going to confession, for the first time. It feels so freeing to know that all of my sins have been forgiven and I have a completely clean slate. This experience alone was one that brought me nearer to Christ through my faith.

I hope to return to this youth conference next year and I plan to continue doing and studying what they have taught me. There are many great things I have taken from this experience. Among these things are new Christian friends, a cleansed heart, stronger faith, and the realization that no matter how much I think I know about Christ, there is still more to find out.

-Sarah-Elizabeth Inglesby

The Eagle is only as great as its contributors, so please let the editors know if you have an idea for an article!

Before I left for St. Michael's Conference, I had the expectation that it was just going to be another church camp. I thought that it would basically be the same as going to Sunday school every day for a week. But after spending a week there, I felt spiritually rejuvenated. The staff and conferees at St. Michael's were such good Christian people, and I never felt unwelcome or excluded the whole time I was there. The classes that I took taught me more about my faith and brought me closer to God. Going to church twice every day made me feel cleansed and stronger. By the end of the week, I felt so comfortable and strong not only in my faith, but also in the new relationships that I developed with the other conferees. It was refreshing to be around people my age who have the same beliefs and morals as I do. I strongly commend the conference for other kids my age and even older. It is a wonderful way to reconnect with God and become more in touch with your Christian faith, and also to build new friendships that will last a life time. And on top of everything, it was also one of the most fun things that I have ever done. I can't wait to return next year!

-Tessa Morris



Pictured: Holden Hayes, Mary Porcher Warner, and Martha Summerrel's grand-daughter, Claire, all the way from France.

Editors' Ramblings

Our next Eagle deadline is October 29, 2010, so mark your calendars and contribute!

That's it from us.

We hope everyone had a fantastic summer.

-Cathy Baxter and Martha Sullivan



Written by:
Caroline Hayes

Childhood Education

I just love this time of the year. New notebooks and fresh sharpened pencils that still have an eraser make my heart happy. Maybe it is the teacher in me, or maybe the mom who can't wait to get the family back into a routine. Time for school also means time for church school! Mark your calendar, the new church school year begins September 12. The children will have their first Sunday school class. The parents are asked to assemble on the first floor of Cramner Hall to fill out registration forms and hear information about what this year will hold.

This year will mark Year Two of our new curriculum. Last year the children studied the Catechism. This year the children will study The History of Our Salvation – The Old Testament. I thought that last year was excellent, breaking down the Catechism for the children to learn and understand. This year is just as amazing or even better. The idea is not just to

teach the stories of the Old Testament that we all know and love, but to show it as a bigger picture that all connects together and ultimately points to Jesus. Wow!

Mary Helen Burdell brought to our attention the book *The Jesus Storybook Bible –Every Story Whispers His Name* written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Illustrated by Jago. It is excellent! We will be using it throughout the year in the classrooms. Copies will be on sale for \$13 September 12 if you would like your own copy.

This year we will again have the Special Event days that outline our liturgical year and Art Days to enhance the lessons we are learning. There is so much to tell and not enough space. So please come September 12 to register your children and attend the parent forum. I will begin the weekly emails soon that will also include more detailed information. If you did not receive the emails last year and would like to, please email me at cqhayes@comcast.net. Also, if you would like to help with the church school in anyway, big or little, the more the merrier. We can always use the help. See you Sunday!

If you have any youth photos, we would love to have them complete with names. Send to Cathy@twistedwarrior.com.



Father Hollywood

by: Reverend Craig O'Brien

'It's The End of the World as We Know It...'

So sang Athen's own REM years ago. The end times are an Article of Faith, the judgment of the 'quick and the dead', and all that. This has given rise to such popular end time fictions as those of Tim Lahaye. Here are some more thoughtful and imaginative, both secular/scientific and theological, alternatives in this genre:

The Lord of the World, Robert Hugh Benson. Benson, the son of an Archbishop of Canterbury, was a priest and Anglican monk of the Community of the Resurrection, before being received into the Roman Communion in 1903. His 1907 novel, *The Lord of the World*, depicts a world in which the end times have drawn nigh, where the Creed of the Church is pitted against a globalized political faith of cult of personality and secular humanism. Extremely vivid and prescient.

Father Elijah-An Apocalypse, Michael O'Brien. In many ways a contemporary(early 21st century) retelling of Benson's story. The protagonist of the title is a Carmelite priest who had been converted from Judaism in the Warsaw Ghetto of 1939-45. This story is told in another novel, *Sophia House*. O'Brien has written several novels depicting the struggle of faith in the contemporary world. Long but real page turners.

The Children of Men, P.D. James. The maven of British crime fiction's only dystopian novel to date-she's still writing into her late 80's. Set in an England of the not too distant future where babies have ceased to be born, biology following upon government sponsored forced sterility. One of the resistance-proponents of life-is a young priest who is a usager of the old Prayer Book! The otherwise atmospheric and compelling recent film adaptation almost completely expunges the religious subtext of the novel.

A Scientific Romance, Ronald Wright. In 1999 a London archeologist and expert in Victorian technology discovers that H.G. Wells' time machine was in fact built by the author's mistress and has reappeared in London. He travels a thousand years into England's future confronting an eerily evoked ecological transformation of the Island and the map of his own soul. A strange and beautiful novel.



Rector's Musings

by: Reverend Gavin Dunbar

God in the Garden

When God created man, says the book of Genesis, he set him in a garden, to dress it and to keep it, "not with distress of labour, but with delight of will" on condition of obedience to God. It is an image of the soul's satisfying activity in using human reason and culture to discern and perfect the beauty and fruitfulness of nature, including his own. But when man by his disobedience was turned out of the garden, he was alienated from nature as well as from God: "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee...in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground" (Genesis 3). It is an image of the devastating impact of human sin on nature, including his own. Paradise is God's gift: the wilderness is of our own making.

Thus to reclaim a plot of ground from waste and weeds, to turn a barren patch of ground into a fruitful garden, this is an image of the soul's reclamation from sin, and of the cultivation of virtue. The parable of the sower (Luke 8:4) makes clear that two things are necessary - good seed (the Word of God), and well-prepared soil (the soul). Our work as gardeners is not to make the seed grow and bear fruit - that it does of its own nature, where the conditions are right. Our work is to make sure the conditions are right. If the soul's soil is hardened in its cynicism, the seed will not be received (that's the pride of the devil). If the seed of the Word is sown in shallow soil over rocks, it will germinate but not survive the drought (that's the weakness of the flesh, unwilling to suffer for the sake of the truth). If it is sown in weed-infested ground, it will be choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life (that's the distractions of the world). So, for your souls' garden to flourish: renounce the devil's cynicism and pride, the world's distracting cares, and the flesh's care for its own comfort and convenience, and you will be ready to receive the Word of God, and with patience to bring forth fruit an hundredfold.

Craig or Gavin? Who describes himself as:

Over-committed

Clownish

Last Issue: Craig: Townes Van Zandt Gavin: Something adrenalin raising and loud!

Coming this Fall? As the Eagle goes to press, the Rector says he is hopeful that in September he will be able to announce two new offerings - **A Forum for Young Marrieds on Christian Faith and Family Life** (to be held Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall) and a **Youth Chorale** for college and high-school students who would like to sing and to contribute to the church's worship (outside of choir). Details are still being worked out and approvals sought, so keep your eyes peeled for announcements in the Parish Paper.

The 2010 St. Michael's Conference



Received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

May 15, 2010
Master Andrew Heath Barber,
infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Barber, Jr.

June 5, 2010
Kyle Kirkham Hoge, Jr.
infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle K. Hoge

United in Holy Matrimony

Saturday, May 15, 2010
Miss Caroline Walton Cooper to
Mr. James Deloit Pry III

Deaths of our Loved Ones

*Rest Eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Catherine Goins Daugherty
Betty Sharp Hull
Robert Penn McCuen
Jane Turner Greene
Ann Stubbs Harris McCarthy
Elizabeth Sadler Sutlive



Written by:
Rick Wright
Men's Club President

The Men's Club Reports

The Men of St Johns have been resting this summer after a very busy year. We look forward to the start of our new program year with the Annual Dinner Meeting on September 16th at 6PM. Our speaker this year will be Eric Robyn, Headmaster of Veritas Academy, a Christian, classical, and covenantal school in the heart of Savannah. Please join us for a night of fellowship.

Thirty-two men played in this year's Men's Club golf tournament at Savannah Harbor. To quote Tournament Director Charlie Williams "Coming from behind to stun the clubhouse leaders, Captain Bob Merritt, Tom Johnston, Henry Stevens and rookie Dana Stevens reclaimed the "RALSTON CUP" in one of the most hotly contested contests in years. With a 2nd place that will be remembered by all, the team of Sandy Shepherd, Dr. Ed Shepherd, George Oelschig and Kurt Oelschig ". Thanks again to Charlie Williams for a well run tournament, full of humor. Not to be outdone the Tennis Players competed for the O'Brien Cup. It was presented in early June to Austin Nichols.

St Johns is a unique and special place for Christian worship, educational enrichment and fellowship, centered on the historic faith and order anchored by the 1928 prayer book. Many opportunities exist for Men to deepen their Christian faith in Fellowship with other Men. Not to mention the role you will be playing in upholding the historic faith and order. Please speak to me, Father Dunbar or Father O'Brien to learn about the opportunities available.



Written by:
Brian J. Taylor
Organist/ Choirmaster

Choir Cantations: A Sower of Seeds

Two members of the St. John's Girls Choir, Sarah Elizabeth Inglesby and Amelia Team Taylor (both pictured), joined 29 other girls from around the country for the Summer Girls Choir Course offered by Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, in New York City. This week-long event was an intensive training event exposing the girls to some of the most advanced repertoire written for the Church. The girls received vocal training and sang music from all style periods from Renaissance to Modern. They sang the music in the context of traditional Anglican services for which this parish is known. The Girls Choir sang two Evensong services on their own during the week and were joined by the Gentlemen of the Choir for the Sunday morning Holy Communion service. Both girls reported that unlike their other summer events, this was a week of very hard and demanding work. To balance it, however, the girls had opportunities to walk in Central Park, go to Battery Park in Lower Manhattan and see the Broadway show, Wicked.

Our Organist-Choirmaster and his wife flew to New York to see the closing Sunday service on August 1st. He was very proud to see both of these girls process with the choir and sing the liturgy. (This is the same church where St. John's parishioner Alex Simcox sings in the parish Men and Boys Choir.)



Apples of Gold Part II

written by: Coren Ross

Summer is too hot and crazy – who wants to cook then? Fall is football season, plus Thanksgiving and pre-Christmas preparations. What about January? Might work ... the commitment from husband and wife is a great New Year's resolution, and the discipline is a terrific pre-Lenten preparation, and neither Karen nor I could come up with a good reason to say 'no'. So, the next weeks found us preparing for Apples of Gold: drafting letters of invitation, asking our friends if they would teach, or cook (or both!), ordering study materials, and organizing an introduction night.

To our great surprise, a dozen young women accepted Karen's and my invitation to the introduction night at my home. We nodded and smiled and exchanged a few confidences and checked calendars and agreed to make a mutual commitment --- mentors and members – to this great experiment in intergenerational Christian mentoring. A period of weeks

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You've Enjoyed Their Beautiful Singing, Now Meet a 50 Year Choir Member

written by: Betty Anne Foran and Julie Hooper

When she was asked to write something about herself in celebration of being a member of the St. John's choir for 50 years, Julie Hooper could only reply, "What an uninteresting subject. What on earth have I done that could be of interest to anyone; nevertheless, I'll try." And try she did, beautifully so. Thus, I present to you, Julie Hooper, life long member and wonderful soprano in the St John's Episcopal Church Parish Choir for 50 years.

A few highlights from my life would have to begin with a long association with the Girl Scouts. I joined as a Brownie when I was seven and was still a member at seventeen when I graduated from high school. A few years later I volunteered to help lead a troop in my old Scout Neighborhood. Another highlight would be the time I spent as the Public Relation Page at the Savannah Public Library, while I was in high school. The lady I worked for at the library was also an active member of St. John's Church. Some of my fondest memories are of trips I have taken out of the country with friends from the choir – to Canada twice and once, two years ago, to England where we attended Evensong in as many Cathedrals as we could during the two weeks we were there.

One very important part of my life has been singing in several groups, the primary one being our Parish Choir. I also sang for a number of years in the Savannah Symphony Chorus (later called Savannah Choral Society) and The Savannah Counterpoint Madrigal Singers. The Madrigal group began with several members of our church choir singing together in the home of Betty Anne and Doug Foran; it lasted for ten rewarding years.

My church life at St. John's began when I was five giving Mrs. Ernest Risley a very hard time during Sunday School. Since then I have worked as a Sunday School teacher when we still had two larger services. The first service was during Sunday School and had a choir made up of anyone who wanted to vest and help sing. The second service, which was at 11:30, had the Parish Choir. That time schedule meant I could teach and sing in the choir. I have been an active member in the Parish Choir from the time I was sixteen until now. I was also a member of the Business Women's group, the Chancel Society and helped with the Young People's League, EYC.

Most people don't know about the very interesting things that go on in the choir. I'll tell you a few I have experienced while sitting in the choir pews during services. Most memorable would be the time the squirrel "got loose" on the altar. I noticed that the fringe around the altar hangings was being ruffled from one side to the other as the squirrel ran back and forth. Others say they saw the squirrel doing back flips behind the reredos. You can bet that the prayers in the Prayer Book were not the only thing being said from the altar that day.

Then, there was the time the choir heard fast little ticks coming from somewhere in the sanctuary. It took a while to locate the source of that ticking sound. Turns out one of the acolytes had a watch he could use to play games. Another time we had a chameleon visit the choir. It finally managed to climb on the choir kneelers during the sermon. Almost everyone in the choir saw it – except one lady whose foot was over the top of that same kneeler. The chameleon began talking to her toe the way they do, popping out his colorful throat over and over. The choir was totally undone. One brave member, Janet Shepherd, managed to catch it and put it where it belonged, in the garden.

Betty Anne reminded me of the Evensong we choir members will never forget. We practice very hard and for many Wednesday nights in order to do our best with the beautiful music we sing during Evensong. The preparation for that Sunday night was no exception - the music selections we were singing were some of our favorites, and we had worked hard. Unknown to anyone in the Sanctuary (including the perpetrator), someone had outdone himself with the incense, and a great deal of scent and smoke was carrying our music to heaven - and also to the silent fire alarm in the foyer next to the organ console. Just as our choirmaster (at that time Ken Yates) raised his arms to bring us in for the piece we were about to sing, the doors at the back of the church burst open, and, much to everyone's surprise, there were four or five firemen in full dress - fire hats, padded coats with yellow bands, large boots, axes and FIRE HOSES. There is never a dull moment.

The last thing I will mention is the lumps under the choir pews. If you are brave enough to run your hand under the edge of the pews you are sure to find where boy choir members from many years back deposited their chewing gum. All you can do is smile and keep singing. You know that God is smiling too. Who knows, he might even be singing with us.



Coming Labor Day, 2010 - the new St. John's WEBSITE!
Check us out at www.stjohnssav.org. Comments and responses welcomed!!!

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passed between that night and our first Saturday morning and by then, 17 young married women had made the commitment to Apples of Gold. Some we knew, some we knew well, some we had barely laid eyes on – but each came with a love of God, a curious heart for our program, and a sincere desire to know the women of our church.

The next seven weeks passed in the blink of an eyelash. Husbands kept children and, if they minded, their wives never let us know. AOG kept the confidence of the confessional, as lessons in Kindness, Loving Your Husband, Loving Your Children, Submission, Purity and Hospitality were taught by Jody Riddle, Susan Donahue, Linda Sheehan, Karen Perrie, Debbie Carson and Patti Victor. The hospitality of hearth and home were demonstrated by Mary Hagan, Patti Victor, Rence Smyth, Laurie Osteen, Cathy Jarman, Laura Wimbish and Susan Grandy.

Our participants started arriving earlier and staying later, to our mutual delight. We talked about the lessons, but also about the many activities of our church, including ECW, Church School, Chancel Society and the opportunities which each of those offers to us. The discussions were wide-ranging, self-exploring, and often bittersweet; but always affirming.

At the end of the course, we held a graduation dinner in the Green-Meldrim House, to which all the husbands were also invited. It was a special evening for all, as we came together in the lovely setting of our Parish House. Looking out over the north and south parlors at the smiling faces of women, young and not-so-young, who had come together in faith and found themselves with new friends was just an amazing feeling. The course was a blessing in many lives --- we have received a number of notes from grateful participants, saying that AOG came along just when they needed reinforcement in their walk of faith. I would agree --- as I opened my home, my heart opened as well. Acquaintances became friends, and friends even more dear. Most wonderful of all, my home was once again full of the sounds of young women's voices; their laughter provided healing that I could not have received except from their hearts and through God's love.

Plans are now underway for next year's course. Tentative dates are January 11 (orientation meeting), January 22, 29, February 5, 19, 26, March 5. If you are interested in participating, or in being a teaching or cooking mentor, please let me know. Home: (912)897-2381 Cell: (912)398-6884 Email address: mom4travel@aol.com. Many thanks.

Pictured on Cover (left to right)-

Top: Jackson Ezelle behind Warner Johnson, Alex Jennings holding Annie Burdell, Anna Evans

Bottom: Syliva & Roland Summer's grandson Cullen Reed Welch, Janayjah Cutter & Grant Musselman

