



The Eagle

Spring 2012



Pictured: Nate Smith, Barbara Nutting & Mary Burnett, Caroline and Joe Mercer with daughters Margaret (in confirmation class) and Louise (in 3rd and 4th grade class.)

Spread the Cheer Volunteer

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

Green-Meldrim House Guides

Green-Meldrim House Guides are always needed. Here is a list of spots we need filled. It is a once a month commitment!

Second Thursday of the Month Morning 9:00 -1:00:
Downstairs Guide

Third Tuesday of the Month 1:00-4:00:
Upstairs Guide
Door Guide

Fourth Thursday of the Month 9:00-1:00:
Upstairs Guide

First Friday of the Month (beginning in May) 1:00-4:00:
Upstairs Guide

Fifth Friday of the Month:
Door Guide 9:00-1:00
Upstairs Guide 1:00-4:00

Third Saturday:
Downstairs Guide 9:00-1:00

Fifth Saturday:
Upstairs Guide: 9:00-1:00

Please contact Martie Campbell at 598-4299 for more information.

Prepare or Serve Lunch

Want to make new friends in the parish? Here's a great opportunity!

We need women to help prepare and serve lunch for the Men's Thursday Forums. Hours 9:30- 1:30.

Only real skill required is ability to talk and laugh while making sandwiches. If you can help on one or several Thursdays, please contact Patti Victor at 912-713-4312 or pvictor08@comcast.net.



Pictured after sharing personal stories with our children at Candlemas: Bob Brannen, Mary Burdell, Mary Helen Burdell, James & Holly McClellan

Food, Fun and Fellowship was served at the 2011 Holly Days Bazaar!

Sincere thanks to everyone who worked to make the 2011 Holly Days Bazaar such a success and so much fun! The two days were filled with many smiling faces, fabulous weather, delicious soups, sandwiches and desserts and lots of treasures all around.... I wish we had enough space to list everyone who so generously contributed their time and talents, but please know you are all much appreciated...

I would especially like to thank our Chairmen: Co-Chairman: Betsy Howard, Books: Margaret Wylly and Anne Murray, Candlelight Dinner Tickets/Mailing: Mildred Derst, Candlelight Dinner Hostesses: Carol Hewson, Laura Wimbish and Tracey Inglesby, Canning: Jane Pressly, Church Tours: Philip Kirk, Cranmer Hall Coordinator: Caroline Warner, Desserts: Marsha Berger and Kathie Johnston, Flowers: Tracey Inglesby, Frozen Foods: Robbie Culver and Ragnild Ezelle, Garden Shop: Jettie Hearne, Luncheon Plate Prep: Laura Wimbish, Luncheon Set Up: Margaret Northrup, Nun's Nook: Dorothea Coy, Organ Recitals: Brian Taylor, Publicity: Stacy Jennings, Sandwiches: Jentri Hand and Leah Brunson, Silent Auction: Coren Ross, Soup and Chilli: Christiana Turner and Sherry Holtzclaw, Takeouts: McBrier Maloney, Treasure Room: Jettie Johnston and Frankie Vinyard, Treasurer: Clayton Kennedy, Waitresses: Jessica Osborne, White Elephant: Nita Ann Klein. I would also like to thank the Men's Club of St. John's for all of their support.

-Amy Wilson



Written by:

Tracey Inglesby
ECW Club President

Email:
Freshcuts@csam.net

From the Episcopal Church Women's Director's Chair

Few things are as satisfying as watching a plan come together. And from where I sit, our Parish certainly did come together well in December! Of course, with a good script and talented support cast, there was no doubt. The parish was blessed to enjoy a wealth of Christian Fellowship in December that included a wonderful choral evensong, followed by a grand men's club parish supper (don't all good productions have to include food? Well... yes, at St. John's they do!) And the season isn't complete without Father Dunbar's Christmas and Advent music selections at the December ECW meeting. What a special treat! The young people got their opportunity to share in the seasonal joys as well, with an ice-skating party, followed by tree-trimming, supper and caroling. (Did I mention there's usually food involved?) And speaking of food (yes, again!) our special coffee hour once again proved that St. John's Church has THE best cooks and hostesses in Savannah. Everyone looks forward to that particular Sunday and with good reason...the holiday savories, sweets, and eggnog really have no equal. And in retrospect, I don't think I've ever seen the church look more beautiful...the red and white poinsettias, the wreaths and garlands...all lovingly provided by our devoted Chancel Society. The beauty of the flowers enhanced the beautiful church services and Lessons & Carols. All in all, we welcomed the birth of our Savior as we always do – with grace, style and beauty.

And so now comes the New Year and we have new productions underway. There are so many ways that we can reach out to fellow parishioners, and guests with the same grace, style and beauty with which we celebrated the Advent and Christmas seasons.

One of our most notable outreach opportunities is the Green Meldrim House itself. Aside from being our own delightful dining and entertainment headquarters, the Green Meldrim House is one of Savannah's finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture and attracts thankful visitors each year. Working with the Georgia Historical Society, our Green Meldrim House team (Susan Arden Jolie, Martie Campbell, Sigrid Kirk, and Jane Pressly) continues to research appropriate period fabric – both in color and texture - for new curtains in the dining room. That very dining room was part of the perfect backdrop for a fabulous dinner party held for the Elliot House Conference attendees. The conference attracted a record number of clergy who feasted on the academic as well as the social environment. The ladies of the church put on the usual “St. John's shine” and the house looked lovely! Thank you to Jessica Osborne for pulling it all together. On the heels of the successful Elliot House seminars, the Green Meldrim House was once again “center stage” for the ever popular Candlelight Dinner, hosted by Laura Wimbish, Carol Hewson, and Tracey Inglesby. Betsy Sayler and guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal, served in elegant surroundings, with all the accoutrements. The flowers, the service, the silver, the crystal all made for an evening that won't soon be forgotten! (I know I'm going to have to buy more of those raffle tickets at the next bazaar!)

The library in the Green Meldrim House has been enriched by a collection of Father Ralston's Parish Papers. Researched and organized by Carol Hewson and Kay Gunkel, this archival compilation of papers is a welcome addition to the volumes in the GMH Library.

While the Green Meldrim House kitchen is quite serviceable, it is in need of some renovation, which the vestry plans to undertake in the near future. The ECW unanimously voted to approve up to \$25,000 in support of the Green Meldrim House kitchen renovation project. This project is a direct result of the parish's support of the many projects the ECW undertakes each year – including the Bazaar, tours, and sales of items from the Green Meldrim House – and will ensure that future events at our beloved historic home will continue!

Finally, we are looking forward to the NOGS (North of Gaston Street) Garden Tour in the April. The tour committee will host their afternoon tea in the Green Meldrim House. Replete with our well appointed silver service, the Green Meldrim House is, of course, the perfect location for this event. It is because of the work of the parish of St. John's that we are able to share our special treasure with our community.

I began with a reflection on the many ways in which our congregation reaches out to one another and the rest of Savannah, and I will close with one, as well. Coffee hour is one way to get to know the parish in an intimate way. I'm sure you'll agree that no one does coffee hour like St. John's does coffee hour! From the very special treats

(both savory and sweet) to the niceties of our silver service pieces, this puts the spotlight on our hospitality and parish involvement. We often tell tours that our house is not a museum, but a “preservation,” as we use it – the house, the furnishings and the entire contents – each and every day. If you haven’t been invited to serve as coffee hour hostess, you may contact Stacy Jennings to let her know of your willingness to serve. Parish outreach is easy and one more step we can take to promote the glory of God to our fellow parishioners and the world at large.

“The Women of St. John’s Church is a body within the parish that plays an important role in the life of the parish. Every woman that is a member of St. John’s is a member of the Women of the Church. The ministry of the Women of St. John’s is to promote the glory of God and the salvation of souls within the unity of the Church.”

From the National ECW:
Mosquito Nets for Africa Outreach

Each Triennium the National ECW Board picks a unified gift project that all of the local and diocesan ECW groups are asked to support. During 2009-2012 the ECW’s are raising money for “Nets for Life”. This is an ongoing project of Episcopal Relief and Development where mosquito nets are taken to villages in Africa by a team who teaches the local people how to use and care for the nets to prevent malaria. Malaria is still a leading cause of death, especially among children.

Each net costs only \$12.00. Yet millions more are still needed to be purchased so each person can sleep under a net. The malaria causing mosquitoes are active at night time! To make a donation, please send checks to the ECW diocesan treasurer:

Beth Mithen
248 Mills Road
Bainbridge, GA 39817

Put “Nets for Life” and your diocese on the check. Money should be sent prior to June 2012, so a lump sum can be sent to ERD from the national ECW. Thank you.

ECW Outreach Efforts
by: Outreach Chairman Katherine Sallee

The Women of St. John’s contribute generously (with both time and money) to many worthy organizations, around Savannah and around the world. In this issue of The Eagle, and in future issues, we’ll explore their outreach efforts and recipients.



Bethesda Academy

Formerly Bethesda Home for Boys, this Savannah institution has been teaching a “love of God, a love of learning, and a strong work ethic” to boys since its founding in 1740 by the Rev. George Whitefield. Its current name reflects an even stronger emphasis on being a cutting-edge school for boys with a residential living component (approximately half of their students live on campus). According to David Tribble, president of Bethesda Academy, long-range plans include building additional cottages that will facilitate expansion of the residential program.

Backpack Program

St. John’s parishioner Martha Sullivan has been director of Second Harvest’s Backpack Buddies program for the past three years. The program was started four years by Norman Hirsch of Mickve Israel, and St. John’s Church was one of the first to contribute, along with Mickve Israel and Agudath Achim. Fourteen churches now contribute to the program, providing food for the weekend (taken home from school in backpacks by the children) for a total of 742 needy elementary school children. Several members of St. John’s meet once a week to fill 40 bags with non-perishable food for students at Thunderbolt Elementary, “our” school. The first year, Martha says, she and several other members, including Margaret Wylly, Margie Livingston and Barry Crawford, funded it themselves. The Women of St. John’s have since taken over, donating funds for the past two years. “We are able to buy food from Second Harvest for 19 cents a pound which is fabulous!” Martha says. “We use to have to be very creative in what we got for the children but now that we have so many programs, Second Harvest is able to order more kid friendly food.”



Pictured helping with Backpack Buddies: Charlton & Eliza Strong, Banks Fana, & Susan Fearon

Fresh Air Home

Entering its 115th year, the Fresh Air Home provides nearly 400 underprivileged children with a 12-day camp experience on Tybee Island. The children ages 4-11, from Chatham and surrounding counties, are given all the clothing and personal items they need for their stay. The Froebel Circle, a group of 50 women who provide financial support, maintenance and staffing, sustains the Fresh Air Home. The Froebel Circle was conceived in 1897 by Miss Nina Pape, civic leader and founder of The Pape School, and named for Frederick Froebel, a German educator responsible for creating the kindergarten system. Its mission is “to improve the health of the children, to build character, and to help them grow into better men and women – both physically and morally.”

The Bishop Michael Hawkins Fund

Bishop Michael Hawkins, who spoke to the St. John’s Men’s Forum January 26, leads the Diocese of Saskatchewan, an Anglican population of which 60% are Cree Indians. Its programs includes prison ministry, children’s programs and rural missions. Recent correspondence from Bishop Hawkins describes a visit to Grandmother’s Bay which had suffered two suicides within the span of a month. The community organized a prayer walk followed by two days of suicide prevention training and opportunities for counseling. “I was invited into the homes to pray with the families in each of the rooms where the suicides took place., he wrote. “It was a ... symbol of the great need of Christian ministry and the great privilege of serving here.”

Interfaith Hospitality Network

IHN provides shelter, meals and support to homeless families with children, using a network of Host congregation properties where the families have dinner and spend the night, and Support congregations which provide volunteers, in-kind donations and financial donations. During the day, the families return to the Day Center, which serves as a home base, giving the families an address and access to a phone, shower and laundry facilities and a playroom. Here they can prepare resumes, look for jobs and seek housing. Families are screened for drug and alcohol use, violent criminal history and untreated mental illness. A policy of one family per room allows them a measure of privacy and dignity not always available at other shelters.

The Living Vine

A Christina maternity home which provides counseling, as well as educational opportunities: Home school, GED preparation, and Job-training. All three tracks consist of approximately 40 hours per week of participation and coursework. Their primary focus is Spiritual Growth and Education which comprises 15 hours per week of coursework. Additional classes include parenting skills, childbirth education, nutrition, life skills instruction, job preparation, sewing and knitting class, and exercise.

We review our Outreach Programs annually.

If you have suggestions or comments, please contact me at rsallee04@comcast.net.



Thank you, Anne Mingleedorff

A big thank you goes out to Anne Mingleedorff for all of her behind-the-scenes work that she does for St. John’s Church School. (Anne is pictured on the right with David Carson after sharing personal spiritual items with the children of St. John’s during Candlemas.) Anne helps with design and production of art projects, posters, our beautiful felt boards, and she spends many hours working to get ready for On Eagles’ Wings VBS. She is always ready and willing to help in any way she can. Thanks, Anne
From, Maryan and the teachers & students of St. John’s Church School.

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*

Jeanne Spencer Henry

Norman Walter Axnick

Julius Angus Smith

Elizabeth Head Richardson

George Frederick Schell

Leopold Adler, Jr.

Fred John Hughes, III

Amy Wilson

The ECW would like to thank Amy Wilson for her wonderful job as chairman of the Holly Days Bazaar. Margaret Wylly had this to say about her co-teacher of the Pre-K and Kindergarten class:

"My relationship with Amy Wilson is such a comfortable one, as I am positive all who know her would say. She is always smiling, always so positive. Amy cares about everyone, which is obvious by the way she greets people. She is a precious mother to her children, and though I do not teach on the days that she does (we swap Sundays), I bet that the pre-K and K kids are so happy when she is in the room. Amy loves to laugh. She also tells stories on herself, which are funny. Of course, these stories make everyone else think about their Ooops moments, bringing more giggles.

Amy is so responsible and always thanks those who are working with her, truly appreciating their efforts. Because Amy was Bazaar Chair last year, when I couldn't open the lock on the storage shed that was rented for bazaar items, I called Amy. As though she had nothing else to do, she told me to stay right there, and immediately, she showed up to help. Neither of us could get the lock to budge, so Amy told me to just give her all the books that were in my car and she would bring them back to the shed when the lock was cut open. Of course, she had to go and pick

up her children and do a million other things, but she thanked me for calling, for bringing the books to the shed, and giving them to her! We are so blessed that Amy, her husband, Mike, and their children, Michael and Elizabeth are part of our church family."

Thank you Amy for a job well done this past November and thanks to Mike, Michael, and Elizabeth for sacrificing some of your time with her for the church!

Pictured at left:
Elizabeth, Amy, Michael, & Mike Wilson



Where in the World are our new Directories?

by: David Carson

As coordinator for our 2012 pictorial church directory, I have discovered that one of the benefits of service is fellowship. Throughout this rather long and convoluted process, I have been blessed to get to know so many more of you. I have even heard that I am being referred to around the church as the "nag-in-chief", and I do apologize for the many intrusions I have made to get this project completed. But after all, getting to know each other better is one of the main reasons that we produce our pictorial directory.

I want to say many thanks to all of you who had your family picture made by Olan Mills, submitted a family picture if you were not available for a sitting, or submitted pictures for our military veterans section. The 2012 directory will be 50% larger than our 2009 edition, primarily because of the activity pages. The activity pages provide members and visitors alike with a clear picture of the many opportunities available for education, worship, and service at St. John's. After a thorough proofreading, we have returned the proof edition of our directory to Olan Mills for publication. We are hopeful that our new directories will arrive by the end of the month. Thanks to all of you for your patience!





Written by:

Caroline Hayes
Sunday School
Superintendent

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Childhood Education

I was recently asked to write an overview of our church school program. As many of you know, we are in a three year curriculum rotation for Preschool – 5th Grades. The years are Catechism, The History of Our Salvation – Old Testament, and The History of Our Salvation – New Testament. We have Special Events that highlight our Liturgical Year. You may also know that the 6th Grade year is one of Confirmation. During this year the class does a more in-depth study of the Catechism, and is then confirmed in the spring.

But what you may not know, is that it does not stop there!! Did you know that in the Junior High class, 7th and 8th grades, cover topics such as The History of the Anglican Faith, Thomas Cranmer and the Anglican Faith, 1940 Hymnal and the Liturgical Tradition, and Anglican Faith and the Christian Year? Our very own George Erwin created this curriculum and teaches this class along with Clayton Kennedy.

I also bet you didn't know that the High School class is conducted in more of a forum manner while they enjoy coffee. Jessica Osborne, Walter Strong, and Scott Howard help lead this class. But wait, there is a bonus! Often, Father O'Brien is there to help guide the discussions! Don't we all wish we could sit and have coffee with a priest once a week?

If you think about what the students will learn when they complete our program from Preschool – High School, it is amazing! We are very blessed to have a Rector that feels that this part of our parish is very important. If you would like to see more detailed information about our program, the overview is on our church website: www.stjohnssav.org And, as always, please don't hesitate to ask me if you have questions. We are very blessed indeed!

Camp Dates- Mark your Calendars

St. John's Choir Camp

June 25th - June 29th

Contact Dr. Brian Taylor at the church office for more information, to enroll or to volunteer.

On Eagles' Wings, Year 2, St. Luke

July 16th - July 20th.

Contact Maryan Harrell at the church office for more information. We also need volunteers to work both the week before and during VBS.



Christmas Pageant 2011

The Men's Club Reports



Written by:
Rick Wright
Men's Club President
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group.com

On a beautiful Saturday at the end of January, the Men hosted their annual Oyster Roast at Derst Sunbeam Park. It was successful by everyone's standards. A beautiful day, fantastic location, local May River Oysters expertly roasted, & BBQ made the old time way, low and slow with smoke. The lines for everything were long as a record number of parishioners attended. Justin Watson assembled a great team and pulled together this wonderful event. His team leaders were: Scott Howard who spearheaded the tickets sales to new heights. Alex Jarman - the quartermaster in charge of procuring all provisions. Ed Derst who made arrangements for use of the fabulous Sunbeam Park. Thomas Knight smoked the BBQ for 16 hours overnight. Chip Compton procured the oysters, the necessary equipment and most importantly his stellar crew of hard working strong backs to deliver 25 bushels of delicious oysters. Harvey Gilbert returned after a one year hiatus to stock and tend bar. Bob Brannen for tending the gate and greeting everyone with a smile and a story to make them feel welcome. And once again Neil Victor pulled it all together in the kitchen. Special thanks to Wesley Johnson for

the many things he does for us and the needed reminders he gives us. Many thanks to everyone else who pitched in to help and support this event.

Since the last Eagle article I have received a warm thank you from the Walker County (AL) Community Foundation. At the Wild Duck & Quail Dinner in June the Men collected \$1500, which was sent to help the tornado relief efforts in that area. Thanks to all that made that gift possible.

The Men's Forum on Faith and Life has developed a faithful and strong group of Men who gather for lunch every Thursday at 11:45AM in Cranmer Hall for a Bible based address on topics relevant to Men in today's world. During Elliott House week we were fortunate to have Bishop Mark Hawkins of Saskatchewan, Canada speak on the topic of Christian marriage & Men. The Forum is open to all Men and their guests. Please join us Thursdays at 11:45 for a hearty lunch and talk. We do ask for a donation to cover the cost of the lunch; we end promptly at 12:50 for those on a tight mid day schedule.

As of this writing the Men's Tuesday AM Breakfast group is transitioning from one topic to another. This is a great time to try out this group. We meet at 7AM on Tuesday in the Green Meldrim House (enter by the kitchen) for a wonderful breakfast, presentation and discussion on a topic of interest to Christian Men.

Thursday Morning finds a group of Men in the 3rd Floor Reading Room of Cranmer Hall with coffee but no breakfast. At 7AM Fr. Dunbar leads the men in Bible study. We are currently beginning the Book of Acts. All men of all ages are welcome to attend.

As we prepare for the Lenten season, our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will quickly be followed by the Parish Lenten supper, the annual St Patrick's Day Hot Dog Sale and then the Easter Morning Choir Breakfast. All of these are opportunities for the Men of the Church to serve the Parish and some fun while doing so. Many thanks to all of you who help out and if you would like volunteer please feel free to call me at 598-2073.



Pictured Top: Preston Russell, Kim Scott, and Brian DuFour

Pictured Botton: Nellie Schmidt and Rence Schmidt



Thanks to Rummage Sale Volunteers
 Pictured: Ana Mercer, Barbara Bormes, Deborah Mallory, Nancy Heirot, Bonney Gilbreath, Nita Ann Klein, & Elaine Mitchell

Fond Memories of the St. John's Business Women's Club by: Nancy Heriot



Pictured Above:
 John Hewson & Jessica Osborne
 Pictured Ready for Ice Skating:
 Rev. O' Brien with Youth

The St. John's business women's club was started to accommodate the working women of St. John's that were not able to attend the regular ECW meetings that were held during the day. I wish I could remember all of the former members but Vivian Howard and Helen Fripp are some off the originals.

My mother, Mary Heriot, would always invite me to the Christmas party when everyone would bring a small gift and draw numbers for the exchange. As the group got smaller and much older I became a member by proxy. When my mother passed away, I continued going to meetings and laughing and talking with all the "girls". We had lunch and a meeting in the dining room of the Green Mel-drim House. Since I was the baby of the group, I have seen many wonderful ladies pass through and on, and I treasure every moment of every memory.

Since our president, Myrtice Lewis, has moved to Houston to be with her daughter the meetings ended and now we are down to just a few active members. Myrtice was the driving force that kept the group going and has been missed since she left Savannah.

The rummage sale used to be a twice a year event and it never ceased to amaze me that people were so helpful in cleaning out their closets and bringing so many lovely things for us to sell. We relied on this generosity because it was the only money making project we had. As the group got smaller the sale was held only once a year but was still successful enough for us to give to our regular charities. Eventually, Nita Ann Klein stepped up and spoke with Myrtice about the ECW



hosting the event, and since she is the master of the white elephant sale, she and her white elephant team combined with the business women were very successful.

Some of the charities we donated to in years past were the Salvation Army, the empty stocking fund, flowers for members, the Union Mission, the discretionary fund at St. John's, Wesley Community Center, Fresh Air Home, the safe shelter, the ECW garden project, the choir trips to England, and hosting the Christmas coffee hour with the famous eggnog. Thanks to the ECW for incorporating the rummage sale with all of the other great work that you do and thanks to everyone who cleaned their closets and put forth effort to help with the rummage sale. It WILL continue so start saving your clothing for February 2013- it will be here in no time!

Rector's Musings: The Offering of Incense

by: Father Gavin Dunbar



The offering of incense in the daily sacrifices of the Temple in Jerusalem is well-attested in the Old Testament and New (Exodus 30; Leviticus 16; Numbers 16; Luke 1:9, 10). Already in the Old Testament, it is associated with the offering of prayer: "Let my prayer be set forth in the sight as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:2). It is part of God's promise to Israel, that among the Gentiles "in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering" (Malachi 1:11). In the New Testament, the clouds of fragrant smoke ascending to the heavens are an image of "the prayers of the saints" (Revelation 5:8; 8:4).

It is no surprise, therefore, that from the 5th century A. D. incense is known to have played an important role in Christian worship. Israel's daily offering of incense at morning and evening was applied to the Church's daily prayer, and its smoke accompanied (in the western church) the singing of Benedictus and Magnificat. In the ceremonial of the eucharist, incense accompanied the processional entrance, the proclamation of the gospel, the offertory, and the consecration of the elements. In a requiem, incense surrounded the body of the departed; and among eastern Christians, incense is often burned at home before icons. Though incense, like many other ceremonial elements, was abandoned in the 16th century, its use was revived in the 19th century. As Fr. Ralston liked to point out, long before he introduced the use of incense of certain feasts of the year, it had been present for decades in the reredos, where the angels bear thuribles whose smoke curls around the crucified and exalted Lord.

What is the point of incense? Its origin probably was to cover up bad smells. In the age of deoderant and frequent showers this may not be necessary - though the sweaty pilgrims who arrive in Santiago de Compostella, in Spain, may still be grateful for the gigantic thurible that swings from its Romanesque vaults. The principle, however, is this: that all the bodily senses are to be pressed into worship - hearing first of all, but also seeing, touching, tasting, and yes, smelling. Smell, like music, is the most "spiritual" of the senses, precisely because it is invisible and intangible, and at the same time can be tremendously evocative. We recognize this is in the power of a certain fragrance, like a certain passage of music, to evoke memories. The cloud of incense, billowing from the thurible, enveloping the clergy and acolytes, wafting through the nave, leaving a sweet residue days afterwards, vividly represents to our senses the secret all pervading power of the Holy Ghost to lift us up to God in faith, in hope, in love, in prayer and sacrifice. Precisely because it is "useless", it is a sign of the "pure offering" of love. "Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour" (Ephesians 5:2).



The Great War

by:

Father Craig O'Brien

With the perplexing to some runaway success of 'Masterpiece Classics' period costume soap opera, *Downton Abbey*, a perduring fascination with World War I, or the Great War, shows no signs of flagging.

The Stranger's Child, is the latest from Booker prize winning British novelist Alan Hollinghurst. Regrettably Hollinghurst often writes exclusively from a certain sectarian standpoint. Regrettable because he is just such an impeccably beautiful prose stylist. The Great War is like an elusive character just out of view in *The Stranger's Child*. The novel is a multi-generational reflection on the deceptions and exigencies of memory. If you're a *Downton* head you might enjoy this too.

The Great War and Modern Memory by Paul Fussell is a classic of Great War cultural history and literary criticism. Fussell actually makes a cameo at an academic gathering in Hollinghurst's novel. He more than makes the case, often very movingly, that the Great War is a trope of cultural dissociation on the mental map the modern western imagination.

The Missing of the Somme by Geoff Dyer, is Fussell and his argument writ on a smaller scale and more accessably. Dyer gives especial attention to the monuments, rites and rituals of official Great War Remembrance still etched in the collective conscience of Brits, Canadians and Aussies. Come November, ask Fr. Dunbar and I about the poppies we affix to our lapels.

Craig or Gavin?

*Who's preferred dinner guests
(from history) are...*

Socrates AND Grace Kelly
(one ugly but brilliant conversationalist
& one with unknown conversational
skills but lovely to look at)

Socrates

Last Issue: Craig- *The Englishman's Boy*

Gavin- *The Eighteenth-Century Church*

What A Mystery Worshipper Revealed About St. John's

Mystery Worshipper: Fluffy Bunny

The Church: St John's, Savannah, Georgia, USA.

The Building: The present building was designed in 1853 by the 19th century gothicist Calvin Otis, noted for his many fine churches in the northeast and midwest United States. It is a very impressive Gothic Revival church with a large parish building to the right and the priest's house nearby. Inside, the baroque high altar is highly ornate. The reredos depicts a very impressive Christ on the cross draped in expensive-looking ecclesiastical clothing. A later annex houses a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, above which are the church office and choir rooms. A 1950s school building was renovated and renamed Cranmer Hall in 2004. St John's is also noted for its carillon of bells, its organ by the Illinois firm of Wicks Organ Builders, and some stained glass from the late 19th century.

The Church: St John's still does the old Anglican rite by the 1928 Prayer Book, and one of the parishioners told us she travels 90 minutes each way to enjoy the service every Sunday.

The Cast: The Reverend Craig O'Brien presided in the absence of the rector, who was away dedicating a library at the University of the South. Brian J Taylor, DSM, organist and choirmaster, was in charge of the music.

What was the name of the service? Sung Litany, Sung Eucharist and Sermon.

How full was the building? About three-quarters full.

Did anyone welcome you personally? We were handed the litany sheet & the parish paper. We found our own seats.

Was your pew comfortable? Although there were no cushions, they were surprisingly comfortable.

How would you describe the pre-service atmosphere?

It was very quiet. There was an almost inaudible murmur but conversation was extremely limited. There was no organ music before the service, which seemed strange to me and my small group. There were very few latecomers.

What were the exact opening words of the service? The priest went straight into the sung litany.

What books did the congregation use during the service? We were given a sheet of the sung litany so we were able to follow it quite easily. In the pews were The Hymnal and The 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

What instruments were played? The excellent organ looked impressive. Dr Taylor made it sound wonderful.

Did anything distract you? We all commented afterwards on how well dressed everyone was. Obviously going to church was the big occasion and so everyone dressed accordingly. We all felt a little drab, but we were on holiday and luggage is limited. There were some distracting hats on display, but the congregation were exceptionally well behaved and there were no problems with distracting chatting in the service or beeps of technology.

Was the worship stiff-upper-lip, happy clappy, or what? We were holidaying with a friend, and she and I had both been brought up very high-church. It was like we had gone back in time. The words were the old ones we learnt as children. There were no smells, but lots of servers (I think eight) and bells during the service. There was a noticeable lack of estrogen in the service apart from female members of the choir. I was surprised to see flowers on the high altar in Advent (although they were as close to purple as possible).

Exactly how long was the sermon? 5 minutes.

On a scale of 1-10, how good was the preacher? 8 – The Reverend O'Brien spoke clearly and directly to the congregation. He had notes but these did not intrude on his delivery.

In a nutshell, what was the sermon about?

It was based around hope. Advent promises the blessed hope of everlasting life. Men desire knowledge. We find rest in the contemplation of the Word. Hope leans on the power and wisdom of God. Hope is not optimism. To hope we must direct our thoughts to God, lift our hearts to God, and open our hearts.

Which part of the service was like being in heaven? It was so wonderful to hear again the old liturgy with which my friend and I had grown up. The choir were lovely, and I especially enjoyed the motet "Say unto them that fear the Lord" by Everett Titcomb.

And which part was like being in... er... the other place? At times I had difficulty hearing what was going on. I am not sure the priest was amplified, nor the readers. Mostly I could understand what was being said, but occasionally it got a bit "lost in translation". The choir's first outing had a bit of an insecure start.

What happened when you hung around after the service looking lost? In complete contrast to how we had been greeted on arrival, as soon as the service finished we were immediately quizzed as to who we were and where we were from. We were repeatedly invited to join them for coffee in the parish rooms.

How would you describe the after-service coffee? It was not just coffee and tea, but hot appetizers and various sweet cakes. We could have had lunch, never mind just a drink! I cannot think of a church where we have been made so welcome on our travels. Well done, St John's Church!

How would you feel about making this your church (10=ecstatic, 0=terminal)? 9 – I'd have to emigrate to do so!

Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian?

Absolutely. We all left beaming from ear to ear and felt our spiritual batteries had been well and truly regenerated.

What one thing will you remember about all this in seven days' time?

The fantastic warm welcome we received and the thrill of partaking again in the old ritual.

Excerpt from the Guides Newsletter



LAWRENCE DRAYTON AND ROSE ANNA (GREEN) DRAYTON WITH GRANDSON

Rose Anna (Green) Drayton was about twelve years old when General Sherman occupied Mr. Charles Green's home on Madison Square at the conclusion of his "March to the Sea" and the surrender of Savannah in late December of 1864. Her grandson, Herman Drayton, who gave us this picture, said she would "light up like a Christmas tree" when she told him of the dress she wore when she served "the Big Man's" (Sherman's) table.

Thanks to Susan Donahue: Editor of the Green-Meldrim Newsletter

The Mystery Worshipper, which produced this report, is run by shipoffools.com, the online magazine of Christian unrest. Mystery Worshippers are volunteers who visit churches of all denominations worldwide, leaving a calling card in the collection plate and posting a first-timer's impression of services on Ship of Fools. For further reports, visit the Mystery Worshipper at: shipoffools.com.

The Voice of the Vestry

2011 Financial Snapshot

In 2011 St. John's Church had operating revenues of \$1,245,900 and operating expenses of \$1,219,066 for a net operating surplus of \$26,834. This is the first year since 2008 that we have achieved an operating surplus. Of our total revenues, 89% come from the offerings of our members, regular worshippers and visitors. 55% of our expenses are for the salaries and benefits paid to our clergy and staff. We spent 10.7% on our secondary ministries (including Christian education, music, and fellowship) and 10.7% on administrative expenses. We spent 8.3% of our budget on repairs and maintenance of our church and other buildings, 7.2% on utilities for our buildings, and we gave 8% to the Diocese. During the past few years, as we have been experiencing operating deficits, we have had to borrow from some non-operating funds owned by the church. As of the end of 2011, all borrowings had been repaid.



Written by:
 Brian J. Taylor
 Organist/ Choirmaster
 btaylor@stjohnssav.org

Choir Cantations

On Sunday, November 20th, the Boys and Girls Choirs combined to sing a concert of English church music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Skidaway Island. This afternoon concert was part of their annual concert series. The five sections of the concert covered the Tudor, Restoration, Georgian, Romantic and Modern periods of English music. Several of the men of the Parish Choir joined the young singers to make for an authentic men and treble choir (Treble is the child's soprano voice.), the type of choir for which virtually all of this repertoire was written. This concert was recorded, and most of it is included on the new choir CD, *My Spirit Hath Rejoiced*. This CD is now available in the music office for \$15.00. On Wednesday,



January 25th, several women of the Parish Choir joined the Girls Choir to sing Evensong for the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. The priests participating in the Elliott House Seminar were in attendance on this night. The Women and Girls Choir sang a piece by our Organist-Choirmaster written for the occasion. This anthem, *Saith the Lord to Ananias*, uses verses from Acts 9 which is the passage describing Saul's encounter with the Spirit of Christ on the road to Damascus.



Destination: One West Macon Street

Did you know we had a music teacher and history guide in our congregation? Meet Joe... Joe Flanders first began going to St. John's as a child while visiting his grandparents during summer vacations. Born in Virginia, he grew up mainly in California, where he attended the Church of the Blessed Sacrament. About ten years ago, he and his mom both moved back to Savannah. Joe began his musical journey with piano lessons in the 3rd grade and eventually moved on to the

banjo and guitar. He kept on strumming and wound up with a Bachelor of Music in Classical Guitar Performance degree from the University of California, Irvine. He then shared his talent with others teaching music in California and now here in Savannah. A little over a year ago, he and some friends got together and started their own teaching studio, The Savannah Musicians Institute. Joe teaches the guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass and ukelele while his partners teach the piano, voice, drums, violin, and flute. Sounds like they have most of the instruments covered.

Recently, Joe was invited to play a concert for the Friends of the Owens-Thomas house where he" took friends on a journey of early 19th century classical guitar music within the walks of the Telfair's grand historic house museum." In his spare time Joe gives tours and works security at the Owens- Thomas House, works at the Telfair museum, and does walking and trolley ghost tours around Savannah.



If you see Joe, introduce yourself, I think he could teach us all a little something!

Kudos to Caroline Hayes

by: an admirer that speaks for many of us!

Major kudos go out to Caroline Hayes for the amazing job she has done growing the children's program at St. John's over the past few years. Having seen the changes first hand, I can not express enough gratitude for all the ideas she has brought to life. My children love coming to church and are upset when we have to miss. I would say results like that equal success! Most people probably don't realize how much time she has dedicated to our wonderful church to help make it the best it can be, and she spends countless hours continuing to ask, "what can we do to make it even better?"

A volunteer with this kind of dedication is rare and we at St. John's are extremely lucky to have such a loving and caring member. Our family loves reading her weekly emails informing us of what to expect the upcoming Sunday (or remind of us what great things we missed if we were unable to attend). If you are not on this email, you need to make sure she has your email address! Whether you have a child or grandchild in church school or not, it is worth the read every week.

Caroline's smiling face and welcoming manner to both visitors and members old and new, set a true example for parents and children alike. The creation of special events and art Sundays are just a few of the MANY incredible ideas she has implemented into St. John's youth program. Some Sundays everyone gets to see the children's lovely creations during the service, but other times, she has them on display in Cranmer Hall. While you are there admiring the kid's creations on the walls, take a moment to thumb through the picture albums she has created showing all the children have done over the past year. And perhaps, my favorite idea is the single piece of art she does each year that every child helps create and then is hung in Cranmer Hall. Two years ago, was a beautiful picture with each child's fingerprint as the flowers on a branch. Last year was a painting of the ocean with fish swimming. Each fish was painted by one of the church school children. What a great idea and believe me when I tell you these pieces are absolutely beautiful!

It is absolutely amazing that Caroline has been able to do all of this with 3 young children and a constant smile on her face. St. John's has been blessed with a caring, former teacher that multitasks very well! We are fortunate to have a volunteer like Caroline and while we could never say it enough - thank you for all you do!

Received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Elizabeth Catherine Love Schubert
infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Joseph Schubert

Ward Patch Carson
infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Charlton Carson III

Evelyn Gray Chick
infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Steven Gray Chick

McClain Newton Welch
infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Reed Welch

Bennette Lanier Welch
infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Reed Welch

Tyler William Bowden
infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Bowden III

United in Holy Matrimony

Wednesday, September 14, 2011
Ms. Carolyn McConnell Luck to
Mr. Don McElveen

Saturday, November 5, 2011
Miss Ashley Michele Whittington to
Mr. Andrew Howard Richey

Friday, November 11, 2011
Miss Mary Butke Wimbish to
Mr. Michael Christopher Nadeau

Saturday, November 26, 2011
Miss Katherine Deanna Bishop to
Mr. Neil Huguenin Victor, Jr.

Friday, December 30, 2011
Ms. Rence Farwell Smyth to
Mr. Peter Woodbury Schmidt

Candlelight Dinner 2012



Pictured: Jack Sayler & Betty Youles
Photos by Tim Coy

Candlelight Dinner 2012 Menu
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sayler, Honored Guests

Beef Carpaccio with fried capers,
mustard aioli, and a chopped spinach salad &
Mini crab cakes served with a
whole grain mustard remoulade sauce
Kila Cava - Spain

Creamy Shrimp bisque garnished with sherry syrup
and crème fraiche
2009 Vin du Lac Chardonnay
Columbia Valley, Washington

Lemon sorbet garnished with a light mint oil and mint
2010 Apremont – Vin de Savoie, France

Pan seared Black Angus beef tenderloin served with
creamy mushroom risotto, sautéed asparagus and a
port wine rosemary demi glace
2009 The Offering
Santa Barbara County, California

Butter Bibb salad tossed in an aged balsamic vinegar
and olive oil served with artisan cheeses, figs and walnuts
2009 Tensley
Santa Barbara County, California

Flourless chocolate torte served with fresh berries
and a raspberry coulis
2009 Bubo Old Vine Zinfandel
Mentega, California

Sandeman's Tawny Port served with
Pam de Higo

Lord and Lady Grantham would have felt quite at home in the majestic setting with such a delectable meal. Each course brought us to new heights of culinary pleasure.

-Guest Graham Solana

Having the pleasure of serving:

The Reverend Gavin G. Dunbar
The Reverend Craig E. O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Inglesby
Mrs. Shaffer Wimbish
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Hewson
Mrs. Max M. Cooper
Mr. David C. Barrow
Dr. William E. Osborne
Mr. Edwin H. Culver
Mr. W. Barron Crawford III
Miss Emily Cook
Mr. Bryn Futrell



Pictured: Patti Cooper, Laura Wimbish, & Father Dunbar

Next Deadline:
May 18, 2012

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A special thanks to Tim Coy, David Carson, Caroline Hayes, & Jessica Osborne for sharing their photos.

Dale Morgan's Coffee Hour Recipe

Tomato & Parmesan in a Pastry Shell

1 package Siljan's Croustades Crispy Pastry Shells
(24 in a package- found at Fresh Market)

Mix equal portions of mayo & parmesan cheese
(start with 1/2 cup each)

Slice grape tomatoes in half

Fill shells with cheese mixture.

Top with tomato cut side down

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes

Make sure to make extras- we guarantee you will
want to sample more than one!



Pictured Above Enjoying May River Oysters:
Floyd Whittington, Mary Olsen, Barbara & Preston Russell,
John Simpson & Others!