



The Eagle

Fall 2015



Above: Joyce McClellan and the dapper Jack Wray after Fr. Jeremy Bergstrom's farewell coffee hour.

Below: VBS Students getting ready for Summer fun. L-R: Anna Loren Dekle, Mary Tippins Solana, Christina Youmans, Brooklyn Crabb, Emiline Baxter, Annie Burdell



Glorifying the Lord – and Avoiding Tomatoes!

Editor: We asked Betsy Howard, Incoming President of the ECW, to introduce herself to the St. John's congregation.

As I start off my term as the ECW President, my legs feel a bit rubbery. Following Susan Arden-Joly is bit like going on stage to sing Ave Maria after Amy Shoremount-Obra from the Savannah Voice Festival. I just hope to avoid tomatoes.

To be honest, I have been dreading this position for the two years I was Vice President. Before being Vice President, I was the ECW Treasurer for five years. I really enjoyed that job. I like things in black and white, true or false, and numbers that add up. I like everything to be in a tidy, little box with no messiness. (This is why God gave me twin boys; He is trying to work that out of me!) I don't imagine the ECW President's position to follow that tidy job description. But, I want to be useful to God. I want Him to work in and through my life. So, I have been asking myself: Can I be flexible enough to allow God to work in my life in ways that might be uncomfortable to me? What attitudes need to be adjusted so I can be more Christ-like? What deep, dark "heart issues" need to be realigned? And truthfully, those issues are dark, but they are not that deep, more like just below the surface ready to rupture as soon as things don't go my way! I'm nervous about taking on this new role, but I know that God will equip me as needed. And He already has by placing amazing people around me.

I recently read a book that talks about how God uses people who are already "running the race" by doing the work of Christ. I questioned myself if I was someone who was already running. What am I doing to expand the kingdom of

God? I don't go on mission trips or dig ditches or foster children. I'm just a wife and a mother and a church volunteer. But God calls us to work in different ways, and this is how He has called me to work. And I realized that although I'm not moving to Africa to be a missionary, my work is here in this church and in my home. This is how I can glorify Him. I just hope to do it without too many tomatoes thrown my way!

For those of you that don't know me, here are the stats: I have been married for almost 10 years to Scott. We have 5-year-old twin boys, Robert and Will. And we have a dog, Lady, a springer spaniel. I have been at St. John's for about 10 years. We live on Isle of Hope. My other interests include running, cooking, travel, reading, and being in my house when my kids are at school (and it's quiet).

As a last note, just to remind all the ladies who are reading this...if you're female over the age of 18 and a member of St. John's, then you are a member of the ECW! There is no application to fill out, we will not send you a laminated card, you are automatically included by virtue of your womanhood and church membership! It is so easy! If we haven't met (or maybe even if we have) please introduce yourself to me too.

The Women of St. John's Board

Executive Committee

President: Betsy Howard

Vice-President: Laura Reid

Past President: Susan Arden-Joly

Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary: Kathryn Tanner

Treasurer: Sigrid Kirk

Asst. Treasurer: Liz Lackey

Special Appointments

2015 Holly Days Bazaar: Cathy Baxter and Martha Sullivan

Coffee Hour: Joyce McClellan

Rummage Sale: Nancy Heriott

Special thank you to Patti Cooper

Special thanks to the adorable Patti Cooper, who has served as our Special Events Chairman for 15 years. Yes, FIFTEEN years! Patti is passing the baton to the indefatigable Laura Wimbish.



In-coming ECW President Betsy Howard with husband Scott and sons Robert and Will

Childhood Education



Written by:
Caroline Hayes
chayes@stjohnssav.org
912-232-8887

I know I say this every year but I really do love this time of year! Fresh sharpened pencils, new notebooks, and the excitement and hope for the upcoming school year. Planning has taken place over the summer for our Christian education program from the nursery all the way up to adults.

Sunday school will begin Sunday, September 13th. Please bring your children to their classrooms on the second floor of Cranmer Hall and then head down to the first floor for a parent meeting with Father Dunbar.

The children in preschool through 3rd grades will be studying the Old Testament along with the special event days that highlight the liturgical year. This year the 4th and 5th Grades will study the Catechism as an introduction to their Confirmation year in 6th grade.

Like last year, we, as a church school, will focus on giving to others. The bible song, "They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. . ." comes to mind. Throughout the year we will focus on different areas of our community that need assistance, or our love. More information to come.

I will be updating the website with all current church school information regularly. Please check the website for all the latest church school information and weekly lessons - www.stjohnssav.org.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me - Caroline Hayes - chayes@stjohnssav.org or 232-1251. As always, we can use all the help we can get! Please let me know if you would like to help out, big or small. I look forward to seeing all of you on September 13th!



Vacation Bible School was a huge success! The children enjoyed taking Pilgrimages to Italy, England, Spain, Scotland, and Ireland. By hearing the stories of several Saints they learned the importance of Knowing God in ourselves, in others, in God the Creator, God the Savior, and God the Holy Spirit. Each day there were special "guests" to teach the children. See if you recognize any of them from the pictures. Also, as a part of VBS we remembered to give to others. School supplies were collected for Shelter from Rain, an organization that helps single mothers. Elizabeth Hayes headed up this effort and was able to deliver the supplies and a monetary gift on Friday, just in time for the beginning of school.

2015 HOLLY DAYS Bazaar

Eleven-Eleven

Mark your calendars for this year's Holly Days Bazaar- **Wednesday 11/11 and Thursday 11/12**. We have started tracing the history of the Bazaar and have found records of its existence all the way back to 1949 (that is 66 years ago!). Be a part of this at least 66 year long tradition by volunteering- volunteering is a great way to meet new people and create fellowship with one another! There are lots of opportunities on lots of different dates, so please call these chairmen and offer your services! As a thank you, volunteers not only will receive the warm fuzzy feeling one gets from giving to others, but they will also get to shop the White Elephant, Books and Treasure Room early!!!

Poster Publicity

Chairman Cathy Rodgers: 912-667-0102
cathy@7wavesmarketing.com

Sunday, 10/11, please join Cathy after church to hand out rack cards and post posters in the downtown neighborhood. This should only take one hour, so grab a friend to join you and enjoy some fresh air in our beautiful historic district while promoting our fabulous Bazaar. Please let Cathy know if you can help, so she can plan ahead!

Silent Auction

Chairman Dolly Chisholm: 912-644-5723
dchisholm@bouhan.com

Co-Chairman Coren Ross: 912-398-6884
mom4travel@aol.com

Do you have tickets to sporting events you aren't using or art you no longer need?

The Silent Auction is typically the Bazaar's largest money-maker- with such fabulous items that it is a wonder we don't need referees. However, we do need lots of helpers and contributors to make it another successful year! Positions we need to fill:

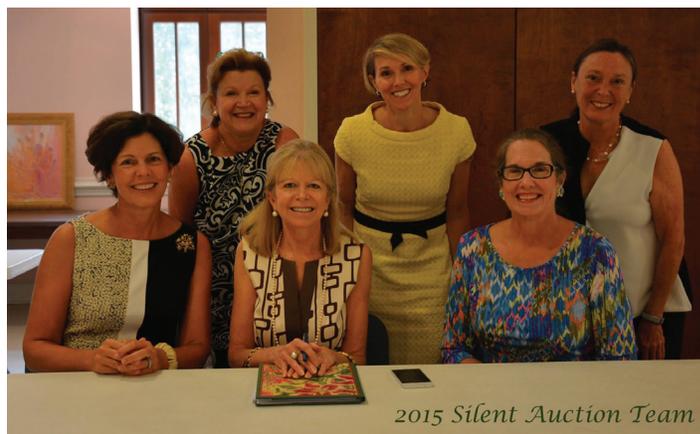
Silent Auction Treasurer – develop Excel spreadsheet for Auction items, collect email addresses from Bid Sheets, and send daily email updates on bid status to bidders via email on Friday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday. Assist Silent Auction Chairman in collecting payment via check, cash or credit card on Thursday

afternoon and Sunday afternoon, following the close of the Auction. Expect to work approximately 4 hours on each afternoon. This would be an easy job to split between two people, if there's an interested team! Last year's treasurer will also be on hand the days of the Bazaar to assist!

Solicitors – Request and procure items for the Auction. We need approximately 100 items, comprised of 1/3 trips and parties, 1/3 artwork, 1/3 goods and services. Seven solicitors are needed; if each of us contributes or finds 10 items, the rest will find their way to us unsolicited!

Auction Set-Up – Decorators and fluffers, take your marks! Holly Montford will lead the decorating but could use a few hands to assist her. Have fun using your imagination to stage and promote some amazing parties, trips, art, and special items so bidders can envision them.

Please prayerfully consider these opportunities to support the Bazaar with your time and talent. Our chair and co-chair (listed above) are delighted to answer any and all questions, and to consider any and all ideas for contributions.



Creative Arts & Crafts

Chairman Mary Dawson: 912-657-9099
mek.dawson@gmail.com

Are you crafty and artistic? Do you enjoy creating unique gift items? We need your help. Please consider donating your creation(s) to the Creative Arts & Crafts Booth. We need lots of crafts to be sold for less than \$100 (anything over \$100 should be given to the Silent Auction).

Do you sew, smock, paint, sculpt, knit, needlepoint, work with wood, make jewelry, stitchery items or painted glass? Please showcase your God-given talents with a donation. It is extremely helpful for our chairman to know ahead of time what you plan to donate so please call Mary (above)!

Last year there was a need for more angels, knitted hats, mittens and gloves, items for boys, and handcrafted toys!

There was also a call for more holiday-themed items (ornaments, décor, etc.). All donations need to be received by the Sunday prior to the Bazaar so they can be priced.

Who remembers the long standing tradition of having silhouettes cut at the Bazaar??? Are you a crafty person who still practices this vanishing art? We'll make space for you if you'll make time for your Holly Days Bazaar!

White Elephant Thrift Sale Extravaganza

Chairman Nita Ann Klein: 912-927-4270
nak618@gmail.com

We need your nice furniture donations ASAP! We are selling furniture online before the Bazaar, so please donate your pieces as soon as you can. Notify Nita Ann if you have a donation. See the St. John's Church Holly Days Bazaar Facebook Page if you are interested in seeing what is for sale and please tell your friends!!! Other valuable items may be put in the storage unit ahead of time. Any other items, we request you box and drop off at Cranmer Hall the Sunday-Tuesday prior to the Bazaar. I don't know if you have ever seen Nita Ann and her team up to their chins in merchandise- somehow they manage to get it all priced and organized, but if you could label your boxes with words such as kitchen, Holiday Décor, Electronics, Dishes, Linens, Art, Etc, it sure would make it easier on this amazing team. ***We will also be holding a jewelry drive the **first Sunday in October (the 4th)***** so start sorting through your jewelry boxes for treasures you are willing to share.

Treasure Trove

Chairman Jettie Johnston: 912-598-7488
Chairman Frankie Vinyard: 912-598-5226
fvinyard@bellsouth.net

Tired of polishing silver, want to downsize and donate china and crystal? The treasure room ladies will be most grateful, and the storage unit is available for these fine items at any time. Please make sure to mark FRAGILE on the box of more delicate pieces. We thank you ahead of time for your generous contributions.

Muscle Men & Women

Have you been looking for a way to build upper body strength and help others? We have just the task for you. Volunteer to help unload our storage units after church **Sunday, November 8th** for as little or as long as you can. Plus, you get lunch! We especially appreciate volunteers with trucks. Many hands make light work and this is a great way to get involved. Call Martin Sullivan 912-547-4608 or MartinRSullivanJr@gmail.com to join the team!

Decadent Homemade Desserts

Chairman Marsha Berger: 912-596-0396
manmtn45@aol.com
Co-chairman Audrey Allgaier: 912-398-8828
Audrey.Allgaier@gmail.com

Patrons return year after year for the famous Holly Days Bazaar Homemade Decadent Desserts! Let's keep the tradition going, get in the kitchen and show off your baking skills. Contact Marsha or Audrey if you can contribute.

Parking Patrol

Chairman Bob Brannen: 843-987-9783
robertbrannen@embarqmail.com

Gentlemen, please join Bob the days of the Bazaar to ensure only shoppers are using our parking lot. Volunteers we know how much you are sacrificing to be at the Bazaar, and we really do appreciate you!!! BUT in order to make it our Bazaar a success, we must have parking for our patrons. Please make plans ahead of time to carpool or park on other blocks or park at the garage located at Liberty and Whitaker Streets (you need a credit card to exit). The first day of the Bazaar is Veterans Day, so you will not need to feed the meters Wednesday!!!

Holly Days Bazaar Kids Camp

Chairman Caroline Hayes: 912-429-2195
chayes@stjohnssav.org

In support of our Bazaar, the wonderful St John's Children's School Teachers will be hosting a HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR KIDS CAMP for children of parents who volunteer at the Bazaar! This is a FREE service for children of all ages, taking place on both days of the Bazaar from 9:30-2:30. They have planned fun and educational activities for the day. This is open and free for the children of anyone who is volunteering at the Bazaar. To sign up email Caroline (above) with your name, your child/children's names and ages,

where you will be working at the bazaar, and which day or days you will be working. What, no job yet? No problem! There are plenty of jobs to fill, just let us know and you can pick your spot!

Book Nook

Chairman Marilyn Solana: iohope41@aol.com 912-660-3393

Co-Chairman Cameron Spencer:
Cameron19Spencer@gmail.com 912-663-9895

Remember to put aside books for the Holly Days Bazaar (no magazines, please). Please separate and label special or valuable books (1st editions, autographed copies, very old, etc) as they will be priced separately and have a special booth in the garden.

Energetic Waitresses, Hostesses, & Lunch

Set-up & Breakdown Team

Chairman Grace Merritt: 912-658-3010
merrittlyon@bellsouth.net
Chairman Richie Reid: 703-409-2266 dblzro00@gmail.com

We need smiling, energetic folks to waitress and hostess at the Bazaar Luncheon offered both days 11:00-2:00. The lun-

cheon is the highlight of the Bazaar with delicious pimento cheese, shrimp salad, soups and more served in our beautiful Green-Meldrim House. This is what lures people to our great bazaar year after year! We also need folks to help set up and decorate the tables **Tuesday 11/10 at 9:00** and breakdown the tables on **Thursday 11/12 from 2:00-4:00**. Please call Grace and Richie to be a part of all the lunchtime fun at the Green-Meldrim House.

Gorgeous Gardens

Chairman Debbie Carson: 912-897-6169 dbcarsen55@hotmail.com

If you have a green thumb, call Debbie and see how you can help make this year's Garden Shop the best ever!

Candlelight Dinner

Chairman Pam Young: 912-233-0783 pamelahyoung@comcast.net

You don't want to miss this amazing opportunity! Dinner for twelve in the Green-Meldrim House hosted and prepared by our very own Women of St. John's and staffed by the Men of St. John's. This is a fabulous meal - no detail is left undone. Tickets will be on sale in the Garden Mall during the Bazaar. The drawing will be held at 2pm on Thursday, Nov 8th (you don't need to be present to win). Contact Pam for tickets or more info.

"Souper" Volunteers Needed

Chairman Christiana Turner: 912-898-1810
turner00@bellsouth.net

Chairman Sherry Holtzclaw: 912-897-3889
dukehclaw@gmail.com

What better way to enjoy a beautiful fall day than with a cup of soup or chili? The St. John's secret is in the recipe... literally. The magic happens when we combine everyone's batches of soup and chili. Please add your special touch to the big pot! We need your help! We use over 130 gallons during the Bazaar - will YOU make a batch of soup and/or chili? For the special recipes, please contact Christiana or Sherry (above).

Chop to it - Luncheon Food Prep

Chairman Holly McClellan: 912-247-2040
hmmcclellan@yahoo.com

Our delicious shrimp salad, pimento cheese, and chicken salad sandwiches can cause the luncheon line to back up around Bull Street! Holly needs some help to make sure these sandwiches actually get made! You don't necessarily need to cook, just be good with a knife. She needs 3-4 volunteers to cook and chop chicken in the Cranmer Hall Kitchen on Wednesday, November 4th from 9:30 to 2:30. She needs 1-2 shrimp choppers the last day of the Bazaar (Thursday, November 12th) to meet in the Green-Meldrim House Kitchen at 8:30. She also needs a volunteer

or two to make the chutney that Pam Young has made for so many years. There are only three ingredients and you do need a food processor. Holly has so many details to coordinate, so please contact her if you are willing to help!

Lunch Ladies Needed

Chairman Laura Wimbish: 912-897-5527
Dixie1940@att.net

Laura needs volunteers to help her prepare the sandwich plates both days of the Bazaar arriving at 9:45. Please call her if you can be there one or both days to assist. These lively ladies sit around the Green-Meldrim dining room table and rumor has it that they have the most fun...

Canning

Chairman Jane Pressly: 912-233-6551 janelessly@aol.com

Jane's Canners have been diligently meeting every Wednesday in preparation for the Bazaar. If you would like to join them for a Wednesday morning full of fellowship and good food made with a lot of love, contact Jane. They only have four more sessions so act fast!!! Many people have donated wonderful fruits and vegetables from their own gardens and farms. If you have produce to donate or are willing to purchase sugar or items from the store, let her know. Lastly, please continue to bring 8 oz (Half Pint) mason jars to Cranmer Hall to be sterilized and filled with delicious preserves, relishes, and jams!

Check-out Crew

Chairman Carolyn Ezelle: 912-272-9711
carolyn.ezelle@sothebysrealty.com

Help our shoppers finish their transactions quickly and be on their way to enjoy lunch or the organ concert in the church. We need volunteers who are willing to help check-out. There will be a training session for anyone not familiar with the Square system. Please call Carolyn to volunteer.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP BUT CAN'T BE AT THE BAZAAR

The Holly Days Bazaar requires so much involvement even if you aren't available on the days of the Bazaar. We have several ways for you to help!

Please contact Chairman Cathy Baxter 912-704-5111
cathybaxter@gmail.com

Or Co-Chairman Martha Sullivan 912-663-6221
msullivan73@comcast.net

And, of course, we always take monetary donations - Call the church office 912-232-1251 for the best way to donate!



Creation: From Genesis to Revelation

New Adult Sunday School Taught by: Jack Wray

The title above clearly suggests that a comprehensive study of Creation goes far beyond Genesis 1-2. Since God's Creation activity is ongoing, our life is shaped by his word that actively speaks, sets boundaries, holds back chaos, and will continue until his Creation is fulfilled in the next world where we will enjoy Life everlasting.

This study will view the entire panoramic view of God's creative activity as reported in scripture, and how our present life is moving toward fulfillment in God's redemptive plan. We will begin with an overview of the doctrine of Creation, a survey of Israel's creation faith seldom mentioned in the first 1,500 years or so until the era of the prophets (especially Jeremiah), but which shaped her understanding of God's purposes, and sustained her during exile.

We will also discover how Creation is directly related to, and a part of, covenant theology we have already studied. The course will outline Israel's difficulty of holding onto, and being held together with, her Creation faith while living in a culture that surrounded her with pagan and mythological creation narratives of the Babylonian, Egyptian and Canaanite cultures. How those cultures sought to understand creation was a challenge for Israel's attempt to demythologize prevailing doctrines of creation and to bring it into theological relationship with the sacred history of God's mighty acts. This dynamic shook the very foundations of ancient mythological world views.

Finally, we will examine the doctrine of the New Creation in Paul's writings and the consummation of the New Creation in the End times.

Speak, Memory!: A Summer Miscellany

By: Father Craig O'Brien

Dora Bruder (1997) To the befuddlement of the English speaking reading public, the 2014 Nobel Prize in Literature went to French novelist Patrick Modiano. Modiano is a best seller and public figure in his native France, but until recently under-translated in this country, and even now, only published by University presses and an obscure publisher. Dora Bruder is a non-fiction novel in the form of a detection into the identity of a Jewish teen-the Dora of the title- who disappeared during the German occupation of Paris.

Out of the Dark (1998) Modiano's recurrent theme is the recovery of memory of the obliterated past, to the end of the self's integrity in the present, and hope for the future. The quest, like memory itself, often remains illusive and unresolved. An unnamed narrator recalls his involvement as a young man at loose ends in 1960's Paris with a mysterious couple, and the meaning of the woman's disappearance and reappearance from his life.

Missing Person (1978) A Paris noir about an amnesiac private eye in search of his identity in the guilt ridden, menacing, recent past of occupied France. Where not much seems to happen on the surface action of Modiano's narratives, his spare, elegant prose evokes a haunting cumulative effect as he takes the reader almost imperceptibly, on a psychological exploration of individual and collective responsibility and reparation.

Indignation (2008) Philip Roth is arguably the greatest living American novelist. This, one of his late career short fictions, too explores memory, the corrosive effects of youthful indignation, and the law of unintended consequence. Set on a Korean War-era college campus.

Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and his years of Pilgrimage (2014) Just one of the incredibly prolific and popular Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami's latest. The narrator of the title embarks on a dreamlike journey into the memory of a youthful misdeed.

Reinhold Niebuhr: Major Works on Religion and Politics. The Library of America. A major new one-volume collection of the 20th century public intellectual and preacher best known as the author of the so called "serenity prayer." The Irony of American History included here, makes for particularly stringent and topical reading.

St. Michael's Conference

By Katharine Warner

St. Michael's Conference is a difficult experience to describe. You go there to learn and immerse yourself in theology, and that is exactly what you do. The first thing you do in the morning is go to mass, even before breakfast, and that is usually about an hour long. Then, after breakfast you take three classes that are theology based. They are classes on topics such as "Science in Christianity," "Angels and Demons," or "Christ in the Old Testament." There are six classes to choose from each year and then there is a required course. First years are required to take Forum, which is basically a crash course in the Anglican Church. Second year conferees are required to take "The Sacrament of Reconciliation" which is taught by Fr. O'Brien and is a course all about Confession. Third year conferees take the course on The Holy Eucharist, and it is about why we celebrate Holy Communion and what goes on at the Altar while the Celebrant is preparing the Eucharist. After all of the classes are over, we all sit down together for lunch before we have free-time. At around five we reconvene in the chapel for Evensong followed by a faculty talk. Later in the evening we have a planned activity such as a square dance or a scavenger hunt or the annual Talent Show. It is all great fun, and along the way you make friends that you have this indescribable bond with. St. Michael's Conference is truly amazing, and I wouldn't give it up for the world.

Music, Since the Last Report

Steven Branyon

Last year was great for me, being able to return to St. John's to work with a friendly and supportive staff and a very faithful group of youth and adult choir members. During these summer months, I have enjoyed having three boys join our choir in the Chancel on Sunday mornings, and I have been especially pleased that our choir members have remained so very faithful in their attendance. We have welcomed several new members in the choir this year: Madison Alva, Sarah Eliasoph, David and Joanne Goodman, Daniel Garrick, Gabriel Lawrence, Jack Van Eck, Taylor Peekson, and Ashley Adams Roper. Other new singers joined us for Evensongs: Audrey Allgaier, Edie Hockspeir, Billy Wooten, and Carolyn Hoffner.

During the last few months, volunteers on a transition committee have helped to complete a Staff Singers Handbook. Anne Arden and Kathryn Tanner work in the choir room on a weekly basis to make sure that our music library is in order. An appointed music sub-committee visited Trinity Cathedral, Columbia, SC, to observe a successful music program involving children. This same committee hosted a visit with Murray and Hazel Somerville, retired cathedral musicians, who graciously shared their experiences working with children. I have personally made contact with Chatham County School Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Lockamy, and Director Of Performing Arts, Brandon Tucker. Both of these men have pledged their support for our children's choir program in the coming months. Cathy Rodgers has helped me to update

our church's website to reflect a new vision for our choir programs. We have been actively publicizing in areas such as Hilton Head, Bluffton, and Effingham County to acquaint people with the name of St. John's and the unique ministries that we provide.

I am especially proud of our new YouTube ministry. Lucy Sheils began this ministry through our website until her departure and since then one of our choristers, Daniel Garrick, has posted three anthems from our choir. I would love for all of you to listen to these and share these with your friends. To find our YouTube offerings, Google: THE CHOIR OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SAVANNAH.

Our choir has been invited this coming year to make a recording for the Prayer Book Society, to sing at Trinity Church, Myrtle Beach, SC and at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, GA, and right here in Savannah, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

There will be several visiting ensembles throughout the year. The first will feature I Cantori in a twenty-fifth anniversary concert at St. John's this December. The Harvard Concert Choir will be visiting in the New Year, and we may even hear a Baroque Ensemble from Atlanta! What a lot to look forward to!

Stay tuned!

Steven Branyon

Hands-On Giving

Once again, our Parish and our Sunday School will be collecting a variety of items to help meet the needs of many in our community. Details of needed donations will be in upcoming Parish Papers and collection bins for these donations will be in Cranmer Hall. Your kind participation in these efforts to serve our community will be greatly appreciated by so many. Here is a list of the collections:

1. Backpack Collection (September 14- November 8)
2. Salvation Army Toy Collection (November 15- December 13)
3. Old Savannah City Mission (December 24- January 10)
"White Christmas" Collection
4. Fresh Air Home Summer Camp Collection
(February 10- March 27)

Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies is beginning its seventh year packing food bags for 48 students at Thunderbolt Elementary. The bags are filled with shelf-stable foods that provide nourishment over the week-end when many of these children may not have access to regular meals. Come join them at Second Harvest every Wednesday at 3:15. It's a quick and easy way to provide a very basic need.

The collection for the Fresh Air Home's 2015 camp season was a huge success. Due to the wonderful generosity of so many parishioners, our collection boxes were overflowing with the requested household items and our Sunday School collected \$200.00. Many thanks to you all for helping to make a happy and memorable summer for so many Savannah area children!





Susan Arden-Joly reports that after 120 years in France, the ledger of the Green-Meldrim House architect John Norris has returned to Savannah, along with furnishings, silver, china and fabrics original to this house. Transcription of the ledger and restoration of the other items is the next stage in the recovery of this historic legacy, and will be reported in the next Eagle!

Upcoming Programs

Given by the Women of St. John's these are generally presented on the first Wednesday of every month, at the General meeting right after the 10:00 a.m. Chapel service. Refreshments are available after the meeting All are welcome!

October - a compelling talk by Fr. Dunbar... he won't give up the details, so you definitely don't want to miss it!

November - Holly Days Bazaar November 11 & 12

December - Robin Williams will talk about his new book on Madison Square. He is the chair of the department of Architectural History at SCAD and a very interesting speaker. This will be an evening program so we can include the men.

January - we will have a speaker from the Episcopalian mission group Kairos. This is a women's prison ministry and they are doing amazing work by visiting and building relationships with women in prisons. These women are dedicated servants of Christ and you don't want to miss their story!

DEATHS

SALLY O'DONNELL WHITTINGTON

WALTER CHARLTON CARSON, JR.

ELIZABETH WARING BARROW

MARY JUDITH STAFFORD WARDEN

MARRIAGES

ON SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2015, SYDNEY NICOLE THOMAS AND JACOB WARREN STUBBS

ON SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2015, LEARY MARIE DIXON AND PAUL RUFFIN SCARBOROUGH

BAPTISMS

ON SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015, JACOB WESLEY PERKINS, SON OF MR. AND MRS. PHILIP WESLEY PERKINS

ON SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015, ANDREW CHRISTOPHER PERKINS, SON OF MR. AND MRS. PHILIP WESLEY PERKINS

ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015, REEVES MCGEHEE STRONG, INFANT OF MR. AND MRS. WALTER CHARLTON HARTRIDGE STRONG III

ON SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015, WILLIAM BAKER MELLO, INFANT SON OF MR. AND MRS. RYAN J. MELLO

ON SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015, DIERKS WALTER BOWDEN, INFANT SON OF DR. AND MRS. WALTER B. BOWDEN, JR.

ON SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015, BRENN OLIVER PEEPLES, SON OF MR. AND MRS. FRANK KOHLER PEEPLES, JR.

ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015, MARY ELIZABETH FIELDS, INFANT DAUGHTER OF MR. WYATT C. FIELDS, JR AND MISS TABITHA E. HARRIS

ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2015, LOLA ROCKWELL DRIVER, DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. NATMAN R. DRIVER

ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2015, SCARLETT REVEL DRIVER, DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. NATMAN R. DRIVER

ON SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015 GABRIEL GRAY BEESE, INFANT SON OF MR. AND MRS. CRAIG T. BEESE AND GRANDSON OF MR. AND MRS. J. MATTHEW SOLANA III

What is the Surplice?

Drew Nathaniel Keene

“Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints sing with joyfulness”

What is the surplice? As the priests, acolytes, and choir of our church don the white, draping garment just prior to services Sunday after Sunday, it seems worth asking, “What it is and why it is worn?”

The surplice is, first of all, the only vestment of our Church that (through no small struggle) survived the zealous iconoclasm of the Reformation, when many other things we now take for granted as “Anglican” were for a long time rejected, forbidden, or forgotten. It is the only ancient vestment never overthrown in England. Until 1965 it was the only one lawfully prescribed for all services. That certainly makes the surplice no small part of our Anglican heritage. It is no exaggeration to say that it has, throughout the last three hundred years, been the most immediately recognized image of the Episcopal priest.

This observation is particularly important, since the lay-ministers in the chancel -- acolytes and choristers -- vest just as the priests do. This means that they all fulfill a similar function, and that function is not to put on a performance for the congregation. The surplice is not a costume worn by an actor nor the tuxedo of a player in the orchestra. There are many different reasons why one would wear a special kind of clothing for a particular occasion; so, answering the question “What is the surplice?” will also help sort out the office of those who wear it, the meaning of their ministry.

In some denominations the clergy and choir wear a gown or robe (the surplice is technically neither, since it does not open down the front) modeled after medieval academic regalia -- the so-called “geneva gown” -- so that they look not too dissimilar from an academic procession. The ministers -- priests, servers, and choristers -- that officiate our services do not come before the altar dressed in the garb of intellectual achievement. On the contrary, the ministers at our altar wear a symbol of the grace that has covered the sins of God’s people. As God vowed through the prophet Isaiah: “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Isa. 1.18). White cloth has been throughout ages and climes, a metaphor of cleansing and purity. The surplice, then, is not only a quintessentially Anglican vestment, it is, most importantly, a symbol the holiness of Christ, in which his people are clothed.

We must also note, the surplice is a vestment of the church. In other words, it is not just a symbol, but a holy symbol, as much as the crucifix or even the altar. Holy means “set apart.” Why do we not pull chairs round the altar to eat lunch there? Because it is a holy table; it is set apart from ordinary use. For the same reason the surplice isn’t worn outside of services, neither for rehearsals nor at coffee hour. While in some denominations the ministers wear their own clothing for services, it is significant that ours do not. Our ministers do not come before the altar in their own individual capacities, by their own charisma or talents (though these

qualities are all certainly present and used in service); rather, they come as agents of the Church, the body of Christ, the company of all faithful people, both here and in glory interceding. That is why they do not wear their own clothing -- or, rather, why their own clothes are covered beneath vestments -- as a sign of humility, corporate purpose, and the sacred obligation under which they serve.

But what about the cassock? Is that black gown or frock (in the archaic sense), also a holy symbol? No, the cassock is not a sacred garment. It is but the street-dress of the clergy in the age before trousers. The surplice is the vestment prescribed by the Prayer Book for the service, not the cassock (-- we know from Renaissance paintings that the surplice was sometimes worn for services over other, ordinary kinds of street clothes, and this was not considered irregular). Yet, because of its history, the cassock has come to represent ministerial office; therefore, it is the custom for all who serve in the chancel to wear it beneath the surplice. Like all uniforms, it subordinates individual desires and expressions, covering them under mantle of duty. The cassock, unlike the surplice, may be worn outside of services; indeed, some clergy continue to wear it for street clothing. The tradition of Anglican choirs is to wear the cassock (without the surplice) for rehearsals, to signal putting personality aside and devotion to ministry.

Because the cassock is most commonly black (or some other dark color), we easily find a further allegory in it. The darkness of the cassock symbolizes the darkness and shadow of death, the inadequacy and hopelessness of humanity apart from Christ. The dark shade reminds us we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer any sacrifice. Yet Christ, whose raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow, so as no fuller on earth can white them (Mark 9.3), is the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. In ancient times, as the newly baptized rose naked from the dark waters of death, they were covered with in new, white gowns, enacting St. Paul’s words: “as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3.27). The ministers of the Lord’s house have no power to help us; indeed, they cannot save even themselves. And yet, “See!” the Savior cries through the prophet “I have taken your iniquity away...and will clothe you with festal robes” (Zech. 3.4).

Vesting in the surplice, covering the dark cassock in brilliance before entering the sanctuary, enacts a prayer: “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (Ps. 51.7). The surpliced ministers processing into the chancel fulfill the words of the Psalm, “Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints sing with joyfulness” (132.9). Their songs keep the prophecy: “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels” (Is. 61.10).

Prayer for Persecuted Christians and Their Persecutors

Franklin Williams

“Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints sing with joyfulness”

It is not the purpose of this article to explore the evolution of Christian religious persecution and martyrdom. There are many fine histories written on this subject that can enlighten the reader. Suffice it so say, Christians have been persecuted and martyred for their religious beliefs from the time of our Lord Jesus Christ who alone took the sins of the world upon his shoulders and allowed himself to be crucified for our salvation.

The first Christian martyr is traditionally venerated as St. Stephen. His teachings aroused the enmity of the Sandhedrin and were considered blasphemous. St. Stephen was stoned to death, the penalty for blasphemy at that time.

There is something each of us can do that may well contribute to changing attitudes that foster religious persecution against Christians. It is fundamental to our beliefs and inherent in our Lord's instructions to us. We are called to pray, not only for Christians who are persecuted but also for those who persecute them. We cannot pray for the one and not for the other.

When we pray in Jesus' name, we must have total and complete faith our prayers are heard and are carried forward to our Heavenly Father. If we will do this, we will have done all that is required of us. The answer to our prayers will be given us by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. But pray we must.

To this end, we have a special prayer that has been blessed and is dedicated to praying for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ and their persecutors. It will be a blessing if we each

can pray this prayer daily but certainly not less frequently than when our spirit is moved to do so. From ancient times, prayer has been the weapon God has given us, his people, that we might be defended from our enemies and comforted from persecution. In God we place our trust.

Finally, we have been moved to dedicate a simple orange ribbon as a powerful reminder to ourselves and to others of the Christian religious persecutions and murders that are going on every day throughout the world. The color orange is the color of the jump-suits worn by the 21 martyred Coptic Christian migrant workers who were kidnapped and beheaded in Libya, Feb. 15, 2015.

There are an estimated 2.2 billion Christians worldwide and 247 million Christians in America. Together, our prayers can make a difference. So, please, let our prayers begin today.

Note: Prayer cards and orange ribbons are available to any would like them, as we enter the front of the Church.

Prayer for Persecuted Christians and their Persecutors

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, all Praise, Gory and Honor be unto Thee. We pray to you, Father, for all Christians who suffer persecution, even unto death, for remaining faithful to you and your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ (2Thess 3:2). In earthly life, Bless the persecuted with the presence and comfort of your Holy Spirit and in death raise them unto eternal life with Thee (Matt 5:11-12). May the persecutors of the innocent come to know the redeeming grace and love of Jesus (Matt 5:44). Father, give us wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. All this we ask of Thee in the name of JESUS (Matt 21:22).



Jack Wray, Barry Crawford, Martha Sullivan, Martin Sullivan, and Robin and Leslie Johnson manned a booth at the “Raising of the Wreckage” gala, held at Fort Jackson, July 25. They gave out information about the Green-Meldrim House and its role in the Civil War to interested participants.



Support the Holly Days Bazaar by buying one of the Green-Meldrim House's fabulous new T-shirts. They are super soft and cozy. Thanks to donations from 4 generous parishioners, 100% of the proceeds go to the Holly Days Bazaar. Kids \$15, Adults \$18. Call or email Cathy Baxter to buy your very own.

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