



The Eagle

SPRING 2018



THE EAGLE is a publication by the Women of St. John's Church.
One West Macon Street, Savannah, GA 31401 912.232.1251

Hats, Hats, and More Hats! Hats Galore!

By Holly Montford and Connie McCay

St. John's Hat Society is "reviving the art of wearing fine hats to church." Recently the first informal gathering was a Hat Swap Party hosted by Holly Montford and Connie McCay at the lovely Montford home. It was a fun filled afternoon tea party spent swapping hats contributed by everyone attending.

The next event will be held at coffee hour on Sunday, May 6. Vintage and antique hats will be displayed for all to enjoy. A drawing for home baked goodies will be held – but of course, one must wear a hat to church to be eligible. The Society promotes wearing of hats to church and is open to all – both women and men. Please do join in the activities offered as we share faith, fellowship and fun.



CALLING ALL MIMI'S AND NANA'S TO THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY!

We have just opened a Children's Library in the Toddler's Nursery on the first floor of Cranmer Hall. We have hundreds of books for children. Many of the books are religious and many are classic children's stories. If your grandchildren are visiting you this summer, come check out books to read to them!

Also, join us for Songs & Stories on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Children's Library. You are welcome to bring your grandchildren to enjoy a kid-friendly story time and sing along. Then head to Forsyth Park for lunch and splash pad time. If you have any questions, please contact Susanne Evangelista at 617.512.2374.

The Women of St. John's Church

As each day offers new challenges, I have found myself asking God what does he want me to do and what does he want me to take from this experience? Whenever I am faced with a difficult or unpleasant experience, my dear, loving Mother says, "It's a character building experience." Sometimes you don't want anymore "character." But I have learned over the years that with every experience in life you grow, you learn, and you need to take what you have learned and use it wisely in hopes it will be pleasing to God, who blessed each of us with our own special, characteristic gifts.



LAURA REID

President

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This President is so proud of the Women of St. John's Church and their many accomplishments. Through their efforts the second annual Savannah Antiques and Architecture Weekend fund raiser was a huge success. This event was March 2 and 3 and is a joint fund raiser of the Women of St. John's Church and the Colonial Dames. Proceeds equally benefit the Green-Meldrim House and the Andrew Low House. I would like to extend special thanks to Sylvia Summers and the women of the Chancel Society for the gorgeous flower arrangements for the Friday evening reception at the Green-Meldrim House; to David Carson, Senior Warden of the Vestry, and the Men of St. John's, who tended bar and welcomed guests so cordially; and to Laura Wimbish and the Special Events Committee for the wonderful food for the Friday evening reception and lunches for the Saturday volunteers. ALL these volunteers made St. John's and the Green-Meldrim House proud with their gracious and warm hospitality.

St. John's is blessed to have the extraordinary Green Collection, which includes 500 plus photographs and documents, Green furniture with 200 objects with 30 pieces of wooden furniture; the Norris Ledger; and an inventory of books. Special thanks goes to the Women of St. John's Church who provided the funds to make this possible and who continue to financially support the efforts of this project; to Susan Arden-Joly who was the one to negotiate this transaction and guide us through the process of how to incorporate this collection into the Green-Meldrim House; and to faithful and dear Jane Pressly, who is always there to offer support and assistance in any way she can.

The Women of St. John's Church were able to offer financial assistance to the family of the Church's Minister with Youth when their furniture and belongings were lost in transit. We also offered a gift to Father Dunbar toward the furnishings improvements and additions to the Rectory. The Rectory improvements were instigated by Father Dunbar's gracious offer to open the Rectory for the 2018 Tour of Homes. Many thanks again go to the Women of St. John's for their efforts with flowers, being docents and to Cathy Jarman, who shared her special gift of organizing and interior design.

On February 18, Robin Johnson, Newcomers Chairman, Elizabeth Schubert, Congregational Development Chairman, and Laura Wimbish, Special Events Chairman, planned a delicious lunch at the Rectory for newcomers to St. John's. Father Dunbar was a delightful host for this special event.

The Women of the Church are grateful to Father O'Brien, who led a Women's Quiet Day on March 14, and helped those in attendance to refresh and re-focus.

Cathy Baxter, Service Project Chairman, rallied the parishioners and had an outreach work day at the Fresh Air Home on Tybee Island on April 7. Thank you, Cathy. With so many activities and accomplishments led by the women at St. John's, you can see just how blessed our Church is to have these talented and competent women. With a grateful heart I commend each of you.

May each of us be inspired to utilize the gifts God has bestowed upon us in ways that will please Him. May your spiritual lives be strengthened through your efforts facing each day's challenges, and may you grow through these experiences. God has a plan for each of us, so pay attention, listen, and go forth in peace.

Tables: A Lenten Family Supper



Christian Growth Is Backwards

Very often in life I swing between pride and hopelessness when I compare myself to God's law. Based on my own selective version of the law, I can usually do pretty well. Most weeks I am doing the right thing, or so I think. However, on closer inspection, when sin is exposed that I wasn't aware of, or I see a glimpse of my actual motivations for my actions in light of the perfection of God, I am wrecked. But not wrecked in some spiritual way where I turn to trust in God. More like, "Oh no! I thought I was making it on my own!" In those moments I feel hopeless, because I thought it had been up to me to begin with. But those moments are also beautiful, because I realize once again my need for God's grace.

When I rightly understand my relationship with God – not having a righteousness of my own, but one that rests on faith in Jesus (Philippians 3:9) – I am able to freely rejoice in my righteous status before God, knowing that only Christ can make me acceptable to God. I am also free, and in a place of security, to actively pursue holiness by the power of the Spirit, knowing that God is working in me both to will and to do his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

Many people are afraid that if we teach people that they have been saved by God's grace alone we leave open the possibility of a lawless and sinful lifestyle on the part of those who claim to be Christians. A deep appreciation of God's grace does not result in this type of living. Those who realize they have received the amazing gift of God's grace, in spite of who they are, desire to please God and not to continue in sin. God's grace is given for the purpose that Christians would be conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:28-32), which means to grow in obedience and holiness. But this spiritual growth goes against our normal human understanding of growth. We want growth to be measurable. Most often, for Christians, spiritual growth comes as we realize we can't measure our growth.

Martin Luther famously described the Christian life as a life of repentance. Repentance, or agreeing with what God says about your sin, frees you to admit where you actually are and then accept God's grace for the beautiful gift that it is. And as backwards as it sounds, it's from that place of weakness that we begin to grow. And we usually don't even see the growth because someone else has to tell us that we're growing, which is one of the things that makes the church an instrument of God's grace.



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The Men of St. John's Church

This will be my final Eagle report after serving a total of 15 years on the board of the Men's Club. Yes, I agree, we need some new blood! When I look back on my old minutes, I am thankful for the men who came before me, guided our progress, and shaped this organization. There are too many to name, but you know who you are and I am very appreciative. The Men of St. John's do so many things for our parish, much of which is done quietly, without notice or fanfare. I am also thankful to our current board members, Martin Sullivan, Joe Mercer, and Ben Baxter. You all are a joy to work with and there is never a task you are not willing to roll up your sleeves and handle. We also appreciate our partnership with the Women of St. John's. The women are the true drivers behind many worthy projects at St. John's including the Bazaar, the Chancel Society, and the Sensational Seven. Their work truly is inspiring. Finally, I am grateful for our clergy, who are steadfast in their duty and provide spiritual guidance for us all. Your prayers are appreciated and needed.



SCOTT HOWARD

President

Men of St. John's

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Our annual meeting has moved from September to May 23, to avoid conflict with a busy fall season. We hope that all men of the church will join us for this annual gathering. This year, Ray Summerell has arranged for a very interesting speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth M. Dwyer, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Hunter Army Airfield. You will not want to miss the impressive story of this true American Patriot. Thank you Ray for making this possible. We will also elect new officers for the upcoming year and turn over the gavel to our new leader. Please join us for this eventful evening.

So, although I bid you farewell as President, I look forward to continuing to serve where God places me, and I will trust his judgment in his calling. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of a great group of men and for everything you do for St. John's Church.

Fun, Food, Faith, and Fellowship

By Martin Sullivan



The Annual Parish Picnic was held on Sunday, April 15, following 10:30 Morning Prayer. Over one hundred and sixty parishioners brought delicious covered dishes and shared a meal together. Music played in the vestibule as parishioners waited in line at Cranmer Hall. Festivities were brought inside due to inclement weather. Susanne Evangelista and David Svihel led the children and youth in fun and games on the third floor following lunch. The adults enjoyed great fellowship as music continued to play for our enjoyment. Many wonderful volunteers helped with this fun afternoon.

St. John's Church Tours

By Jack C. Wray



Top: Ray Summerell, Kristen DeRienzo, Bonnie Humphrey, and Mick McCay • Middle: Frank Somoskey, Joe Flanders, Holly McClellan, and Audrey Allgaier • Bottom: Leslie Johnson, Denny Somoskey, Tru Helms, and Jack Wray
Not Pictured: Susan Fearon and Deborah Helmken

In the last issue of the Eagle, we highlighted our first year, 2017, tour results of 4,221 tourists in the ten and one half months of the year that began on February 21. By comparison, we have burst forward with a grand start for 2018 with these numbers; January: 329, February: (only 28 days plus holidays and days closed) 729, and March: 901. That is a total of 1,959 for the first quarter and puts us on track for possibly 8,000 this year if these numbers hold. Please understand numbers are not important except for what they represent – the hand of God assisting our 14 docents who have faithfully given of their time, talent, and dedication beyond the call of duty. The numbers quantify their efforts of witness to God. I appreciate them very much and ask your prayers for their continued service.

Our docents have commitments that call them away for extended times due to work schedules, long vacations, and travels overseas. During their absence, others have to double up to cover. We need at least two or three more docents to help lighten the scheduling crunch of those serving. If you are interred, please contact me at jcwray12@gmail.com or 912.596.2950 to discuss this opportunity.

Thoughts Worth Pondering

I have observed for many years now that there seem to be two types of parents: those that have an almost '24-hour guard' and micro-manage everything their children are involved in from the time they awake until bedtime; and those parents who seem to let the schools (state or government) and others dictate the conditions of whatever accidental parenting (good or bad) may come their way. Whereas I applaud the parents that try to raise 'perfect' children with this '24-hour' parenting model, and I understand the advantages, it seems as if both the kids and the parents are wound up so tightly by the end, something can go awry. On the other hand, I am not at all advocating the second model where the parents leave everything up to the state and hope for the best. I am thinking about a better balance.

Once in a while I read articles written by others whose thoughts I agree with, and who sometimes manage to get to the point more eloquently than myself. In the National Post, I came across an article by Richard Whittall: "The invention of childhood: By holding onto our kids so tightly, are we holding them back?" Whittall says "One wonders at the cost of our failure of imagination when it comes to our children's ability to learn, create and lead." In this article Mr. Whittall tells of his experience in the Boys Choir of St. Simon's Anglican Church in Toronto, having to take a subway on his own at the age of seven. He shared his experience of struggling to read multi-part music that would have to be performed in three days, and then be challenged to learn the music for the following Sunday. Whittall said "none of it was easy, nor was it always fun, but" he said, "we were able to pull off works like Bach's St. John Passion, and Britten's



STEVEN BRANYON

Organist and
Choirmaster,
St. John's Church

Rejoice in the Lamb, works that challenge even the best of adult professional choirs". This choir had such an effect on Whittall that he ended up becoming a professional singer. He admitted that the boys were to some degree treated as kids, but since they were not being coddled, and weren't learning by rote, they were performing with adult expectations as fully capable professionals. Whittall goes on to say "most of us think of childhood as biologically determined... ideally raised in a secure family unit upon which they depend on for two decades", while being educated in slow, incremental stages in uniform age groups until they reach the age of 18 or 19, "at which point they magically become adults." Mr. Whittall argues that over history this has not been the case, that children did not lead separate lives but were 'fully integrated' members of the community. Whittall quotes Philippe Aries' Centuries of Childhood, "Until the end of the Middle Ages, and in many cases afterwards too, in order to obtain initiation in a trade of any sort whatever whether courtier, soldier, administrator, merchant or workman, a boy did not amass the knowledge necessary to ply that trade before entering it; he acquired the knowledge through everyday practice, from living and working with adults who were fully already fully trained." This writer also points to Paula S. Fass and her book, The End of American Childhood, where she presents a far different model than the "Dickensian history of brutal and exploitative industrial child labor" which probably fuels our current protectiveness towards our kids. Fass argues that the problem today is not one of "parents loving their children too much" Rather, it's a desire to "control them too much." There is much more to this interesting article, and I hope you will take the time to read it.

What is my point for sharing this with you, as a church musician? The point of Mr. Whittall's article was that "often all that's needed is a subtle shift in perspective, the willingness to trust our kids a little more". He does not advocate putting kids back in factories, and he suggests that many of the extra-curricular programs meant to prepare them for real life may also not be working. Whittall suggested that in the Boy Choir leadership was "assumed, not taught". We at St. John's continue offering life-long experiences to the high-school youth that sing in our adult choir, and we also offer this experience to the seven boys that attend our Boys Choir rehearsal on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. I hope you will read this article, and I would love it if you would send us more boys to join this choir that meets Tuesdays, at 5:00 p.m. weekly.

TO BE CONFIRMED

*Middle School: Taught by Mr. and Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,
and Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr.*

Emiline Wayde Baxter
Ashlynn Elizabeth Forkner
Catherine Campbell Hargrove
Shelby Rose Wilson

Adult: Taught by Father Gavin G. Dunbar.

Wendy Anne Owens

MARRIAGES

Jacqueline Elizabeth Cooney and Daniel Paul Carter, Jr.
on April 14, 2018

Elizabeth Jane Berger and Zachary Robert Baumgart
on April 21, 2018

BAPTISMS

Wyatt Andrew Shifflett,
Son of Wendy Anne Owens on December 2, 2017

William Lee Belford III,
Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Lee Belford, Jr. on March 10, 2018

Connor Michael Wells,
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Landon K. Wells on March 16, 2018

Lilly Adeline Svihel,
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David M. Svihel on April 8, 2018

Wendy Anne Owens
on April 18, 2018

***We extend our condolences to the families and friends
of those who have departed this life.***

Christine Williams Schwarzrock
Nellie Lovelace Schmidt

*Rest Eternal Grant Unto Them, O Lord;
And Let Light Perpetual Shine Upon Them.*

Children & Families

Looking back on the Season of Lent into Eastertide, gratitude rises to the Lord for all the wonderful experiences and growth in the Children and Families of St. John's. Sunday Children's Church is a place of song, Scripture, prayer, fun, and creative response through crafts and games. The objectives are for children to learn to live Life with God and the Good News of His love for all.

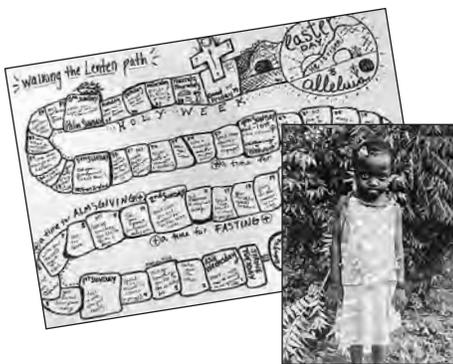
In Lent, lessons went through stories of Genesis and Exodus, and the children learned Psalm 23 together. After Dr. David Carson visited to explain mite boxes, mite money was raised to support a five-year-old girl in Africa they sponsored indefinitely through Compassion International. A daily calendar for ideas of service, sacrifice, and prayer during Lent was sent home for inspiration of at-home family worship between Sundays.

"Tables: A Lenten Family Supper" was a wonderful time of fun, food, and learning. The children led the whole group in songs from Children's Church. Then, they created "Stations Boxes" to take home. The companion devotional and coloring pages of The Way of the Cross helped them look at Jesus, their hearts, pray, and respond to the 14 Stations of the Cross. This was in preparation for processional Good Friday service, which was a beautiful way to experience this tradition and remembrance of the Stations.

In Eastertide, lessons have turned to the life and teachings of Jesus. The Easter celebration continues even after the fun egg hunt and party on Easter Sunday. Parish Picnic was a blast with tons of food and fun games, even though we were inside due to tornado winds! Looking ahead to Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity, we hope to continue bringing families together to grow, worship, pray, and live life with God together. Please join us for St. John's Summer Fun: songs and stories, reading program, Tables, and more! None of this would be possible without many fantastic volunteers each Sunday, and the doors are always open for new helping hands with the kids! Email me at sevangelista@stjohnssav.org to volunteer. The more the merrier!



SUSANNE EVANGELISTA
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SUMMER FUN FOR OUR CHILDREN!

Children's Church will continue on Sundays for ages 4 through rising 4th grade.

Summer Reading Program: Sign up on May 13th to get a goodie bag!

Ages 0 – rising 5th graders can “Book a Trip” and check out books from the Children's Library (located in the 1st floor nursery of Cranmer Hall). Winners will get prizes at the end of the summer.

Songs & Stories will be led by Susanne on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Bring your kids to the Children's Library (located in the 1st floor nursery of Cranmer Hall) to enjoy a kid-friendly story time and sing along. Then head to Forsyth Park for lunch and splash pad time. Songs & Stories is open to the community and there is no charge to attend.

Tables Family Supper will be held on July 11.

California Dreamin

Hollywood is still one of the most powerful and pervasive conjurers of cultural myth-making reflecting, through story and moving image who we dream we are, and shaping who we would be in subliminal and unconscious ways. At certain seminal moments the myth-makers have cast a critical eye of disenchantment on the fantasies they spin within those very fantasies themselves. Nicholas Ray was one of those myth busters who was all the more subversive in an era of movie making – the 1950's – star-building and cultural consciousness that projected self-confidence and optimism.

In a Lonely Place (1950), based on a novel by Dorothy B. Hughes (recently reissued), has one of Hollywood's premier idols, Humphrey Bogart, who became an icon of creative pathos, discontent, and cool, then violent, indignation. Bogart plays Dixon Steele, a once celebrated Hollywood studio screenwriter and war veteran with a heart for the underdog who's weary of selling out his creative integrity, the price for belonging to the corrupt club of money grubbing, audience pandering studio heads. And then he's embroiled in a murder mystery and romance involving the great and sultry Gloria Grahame (director Ray's then wife)– recently and brilliantly played by Annette Bening in *Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool*. Perhaps Bogart's greatest and most moving performance.

Rebel Without A Cause (1955). Just five years later Ray made this technicolor breakout for James Dean and Natalie Wood, another anti-Hollywood LA picture, about youth in revolt, the speciousness of the 50's vision of the nuclear family, and generational mistrust and menace. When you consider the backdrop of the HUAC hearings and the atomic threat, *Rebel* is still a vital and even beautiful picture and a reminder of how good the young and doomed Dean, Wood, and Sal Mineo were under Ray's direction.

Westworld (2016-2018). This HBO sci-fi series now in its second season and based on Michael Crichton's 1973 film of the same name, is perhaps the most uber(as in super, not the riding sharing app.!) meditation on the moral and metaphysical implications of AI, creative artifice, and the cultural myths of American enterprise. It too is beautiful to look at and to hear, with music by German composer Ramin Djwadi.



FATHER
CRAIG O'BRIEN
Priest Associate
St. John's Church

Summer Binging • *Lost in Space*, Netflix • *Wild, Wild Country*, Netflix • *The Passage Trilogy of Novels*, Justin Cronin

Fresh Air Home Service Project

By Cathy Baxter

Our fourth outreach day was Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Tybee's Fresh Air Home. St John's volunteers spread ten yards of gravel to fill the deep holes in the parking yard, and there was lots of landscaping including pruning the boardwalk to the beach, weeding, and planting. The church donated three rocking chairs to the Fresh Air Home, and the youth at St John's painted the chairs and drew special bible verses on them. (A special thank you to Julie McIntosh for her contribution.) The chairs will be full of love when they are used to rock the camp children this summer. A table and set of chairs was transformed with a paint job, and a new sink was installed. (Thanks to Linda Pounds and Sandpiper Supply for the donation.) Talented artists finished the mural under the pavilion, and Winslett Watson of Lettees.com donated cute crab corn hole games for the Fresh Air Home's Camp Carnival Day. New wheelbarrows were put together and lots of kid toys were organized! A delicious lunch was provided by Clayton Kennedy which also gave these hard workers a chance to take a quick break! The rotten railroad ties around the main Cohen building were removed and replaced with new landscape timbers which was quite a big job, but these guys finished in the rain! Thanks to everyone for all your hard work, and a special thanks to Edward Derst IV for bringing his trailer and hauling off all the equipment and storage shed that the Fresh Air Home no longer wanted. What a great, successful day with great, talented people!





ECW Outreach
By Mary Soule

“I was hungry and you gave me food. I was a stranger and you took me in” (Matthew 25:35).

Homelessness can happen to anyone. There are over 4,500 people homeless in Chatham County annually. Many of them find shelter each night, but more than 500 people are chronically homeless, moving in and out of shelters over the course of a year. With the changing face of homelessness, almost half of the homeless population are women and children. They are the fastest growing population of homeless in America. The Women of St. John help support two of our community’s agencies that minister to the homeless, Union Mission Magdalene Project and Old Savannah City Mission.

Union Mission provides emergency shelter to women with children through The Magdalene Project. During the 90-day shelter stay, clients receive supportive services that help them to become self sufficient. Union Mission began in 1937 with the Magdalene Project starting in 1990. In addition to providing emergency shelter, Union Mission also provides a transitional housing facility for women leaving in-patient substance abuse treatment programs, a Prison Reentry Program, a housing facility for women with disabilities, mental and behavioral health care, an employment training and counseling program, and has the Starfish Catering program for hands-on culinary arts training. In 2015 Union Mission began the Annual Prayer Breakfast to bring together Savannah’s faith community to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness in Savannah. This event is held as part of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Most recently Union Mission began The Phoenix Project to address the needs of the chronic homeless living with HIV/AIDS.

Old Savannah City Mission provides a holistic approach caring for people by addressing the mind, body, soul and spirit of all who seek refuge. During 2016 they served 80,232 meals at a cost of \$2.05 per meal. They also provided 13,581 people with overnight shelter and clothing, 2,572 case management hours, 202 hours of spiritual growth and character development classes, and 576-50 minute Gospel Services. What they accomplished was 802 people accepting Christ, 90 friends and neighbors obtained permanent housing, 8 residential students completed early substance abuse recovery group classes, 15 residential students completed individual counseling with Heads Up Guidance Services, and 300 students received healthcare treatment. The Mission is privately funded. This work has been accomplished with a staff of only seven people and many volunteers.

Next Deadline:
July 23, 2018

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Easter Sunday

