



# *The Eagle*

SUMMER 2017



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

## Editor's Note

The Women of St. John's are amazing. Their talents are so extensive and diverse. They lead tours, cater, hold art exhibitions, teach Sunday school, visit the sick and elderly, host Coffee Hour, and the list goes on and on. I haven't even mentioned all the jobs they take on at the Green-Meldrim House. When I try to contemplate all they do, *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* almost immediately pops into my head. "And one was a docent, and one made a feast, and one arranged flowers with the greatest of ease."

Seriously, since the last issue of *The Eagle*, they have coordinated the Savannah Antiques and Architecture Weekend, the Candlelight Dinner, the Green Collection Inaugural Exhibition, the Parish Picnic, and countless stunning receptions. They arranged the most beautiful Easter flowers and even pulled off our first church-wide service project at the Fresh Air Home. These women are talented! They are also busy and a whole lot of fun. They are constantly giving to this parish and take on anything that comes their way. I am certain they are Saints of God. "And there's not any reason, no not the least, why I shouldn't be one, too."

Please consider joining the Women of St. John's for a monthly meeting. They are held in the Green-Meldrim House on the first Wednesday of the month following morning prayer in the chapel. We will break over the summer, but we will meet again on September 6!



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## ECW Outreach

by: Betsy Howard, 2016 Bazaar Chairman

### GRANT MARTIN'S STORY

One of the benefits of being the 2016 Bazaar Chairman is that \$500 from the proceeds of the Bazaar go to my favorite charity. The Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Foundation is an easy choice for me as it is very close to my heart. My nephew, Grant, has Loeys-Dietz Syndrome. It is very rare, only about 1,000 confirmed cases in the U.S., and a fairly recent discovery (it became a named condition in 2005). Grant is my nephew, my sister's son, and he is also my godson. This is his story.

Grant Martin is 13 years old. He lives in Concord, North Carolina with my sister, Laura, and brother-in-law, Andy, and my other nephew, Reed, who is now 10.

When Grant was 10, he passed out while playing basketball in December of 2013. A visit to the pediatrician led them to a pediatric cardiologist two days before Christmas. What Laura thought would be a one-hour appointment, took four hours. They left that day knowing Grant had a life-threatening heart condition. After months of doctor appointments, they met with Dr. Dietz (one of the two doctors who isolated this specific gene mutation) at Johns Hopkins. Grant was officially diagnosed with Loeys-Dietz through genetic testing in September of 2014.

Loeys-Dietz Syndrome is a connective-tissue disorder and can affect every part of the body (which explains Grant's other medical issues). His aortic root is the most severely affected. A normal adult aortic root measures 20mm. At 40mm, with Loeys-Dietz patients, the aortic root can rupture, causing death. At Grant's initial appointment, it measured 36mm. When it was measured again six months later, it was 38.5mm. They adjusted his blood pressure medication, and it remained at 38.5mm for about a year and a half. He has an echo cardiogram done every six months to monitor the growth.

In April of this year, Grant's echo cardiogram showed the aortic root measuring 41.5mm. They traveled to Washington D.C. to the National Institutes of Health where he has been participating in a research study to learn more about Loeys-Dietz and how best to manage all of the ways it impacts a person's body, and to Johns Hopkins to discuss options. (14 doctor's appointments in four days, with their family of four waiting in tiny exam rooms!) The decision was made that he needs an aortic root replacement. The surgery will take place on June 16 at Johns Hopkins. Because his veins are so fragile (a characteristic of Loeys-Dietz), they will not be able to go in laparoscopically. He must undergo open-heart surgery to replace the aortic root with a Dacron mesh tube.

One of the amazing things about Grant's story is that he has had a number of other medical procedures. He has had two eye surgeries to remove a growth, he has had surgery on his finger after a baseball incident, and he has had ear tubes put in, his adenoids removed and a turbinate reduction (to reduce nasal obstruction). Grant knows what surgery is all about. And he's very laid back about this one! He know what it feels like to be put to sleep, wake up after surgery, and he has an amazingly high tolerance for pain. After one of his surgeries, he refused to take pain medication because he said he didn't have any pain! Going into this major surgery, he is relaxed and he knows why it needs to happen, and he has confidence in his doctors. After surgery, it is planned that Grant will spend a week in ICU at Johns Hopkins, then another week in Baltimore before they travel back to North Carolina for an additional eight weeks of recovery.

Through all of this, Grant remains a normal, active, 13-year-old kid. If you met him, you'd never guess anything was wrong with him. He plays, swims, and runs around (all non-competitively). When our boys are all together, it is a very rambunctious house! He rides his Ripstick (similar to a skateboard, but more challenging) like a professional—check out his YouTube videos! He's also an avid reader, loves to design buildings on his iPad, and plays the guitar. But, he has allergies, eczema, asthma, anemia, the growth on his eye, a hole in his ear drum (due to connective tissue issues), and he has this very rare and life-threatening syndrome, but Grant never complains!

I am grateful to the Women of St. John's Church for making a donation in honor of Grant Martin to the Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Foundation. It is a special benefit of being the Bazaar Chairman! Thank you.

## *Tours of St. John's Church* by: Jack Wray

For the past two years, we have provided tours of the church during our annual bazaar. The tour includes a brief history, the installation of the stained-glass windows, the organ, six 18th-century Greek icons, and the beautiful reredos above the altar with thirty-seven Christian symbols. These tours last about 20-25 minutes and the response from visitors has been extremely positive. The tours are educational, inspirational, spiritual, and informative.

We are attempting to set up tours twice a week for two hours when the Green-Meldrim House is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Right now, I am doing the tours with the help of Frank and Denny Somoskey, Joe Flanders, Ray Summerell, and Holly McClellan. In addition, seven people are in training or considering. If you would like to be a tour guide, please give me a call to arrange to observe a tour, get the printed booklet with the information, and consider the times you are available to help. I have been amazed how easy the narrative is and how responsive visitors are.

Our goal is to offer tours twice weekly year round, eventually three times weekly. We can do this with about 18 to 20 tour guides on hand. Please consider this opportunity to serve your church. You can reach me at [jcwright12@gmail.com](mailto:jcwright12@gmail.com) or 912.596.2950 to discuss opportunities to serve.



## *St. John's Takes a Fresh Look at Giving Back*

by: Cathy Baxter

We have such talented and hard-working parishioners; and they once again joined together to spruce up the Fresh Air Home in preparation for the arrival of summer campers. Sally Fiveash headed a large, very capable landscaping team to mulch around newly planted fruit trees, weed, prune, and create an herb garden in front of the pavilion. Beverley Reynolds generously provided the plants, and the hope is that campers will learn about where their food and spices originate! Our artists whipped out their brushes and paints to brighten up the underside of the pavilion. A crew sanded and painted every slat green and were so enthusiastic they touched up the exterior slats, too. Julie McIntosh's beach mural vision came to life as Cathy Jarman, Key Bartow, and Debbie Helmken provided color and detail to sea birds, dolphins and other fun Tybee creatures. Winslett Watson finished her cute crabs on the changing room doors. Our children also shared their art talent by painting sand buckets for the camp children to use in their daily trips to the beach. Not only are there gardeners and painters amongst us in the pews but plumbers as well—Frank Somoskey, Henry Morgan, Sean Finnegan, and Roland Summers installed two new toilets and all new shower heads kindly donated by Sandpiper Supply. (Thank you, Linda Pounds, for making that happen.) After all the hard work, Clayton Kennedy and Kim Scott were heroes organizing a cookout. Thanks to Rick Wright and the Men's Club for grilling burgers and dogs and for recruiting Haddon Watson as your top chef! There were so many volunteers I cannot name them all individually, but each one was essential! Thank each of you for sharing your talents—we look forward to more laughter and fun at our next outreach day.





*Financial donations to our hands-on outreach program may be sent to the Church Office earmarked as “Fresh Air Home Outreach”.*

## *Music Happenings*

### THE RSCM: WHAT CAN ST. JOHN’S MUSIC PROGRAM GAIN FROM IT?

The Royal School of Church Music was begun in 1928 by Sydney Nicholson to help churches, colleges, and schools of all kinds directly with their music-making, and indirectly by training those who have it in their power to make or mar it—priests, organists and choirmasters. To elaborate on this, the mission of the RSCM is to make each chorister (both adult and youth) a healthy singer for life. This systematic approach to church music is offered to all singers at St. John’s.

St. John’s Church has been a member of the RSCM for many years, beginning with the leadership of the late Mr. Kenneth Yates. Our choir members currently wear the St. Nicholas Medal, the patron saint of the RSCM. This medal is not a recognition of the level of individual achievement, but rather a reminder of the standards the choir seeks to attain. In this RSCM system, progress can also be marked by graded ribbons of different colors, which some of our singers have expressed interest in achieving.

The RSCM, as part of their mission, offers summer courses both in the states and in England. Most of them are just one week in length. During the week, they offer both Morning Prayer and Choral Evensong daily interspersed with structured rehearsals, individual voice and theory lessons, and activities. At the end of the week, they sing a festival Evensong, which is opened up to the surrounding community.

We have two members (under the age of 18) in our Adult Choir who have expressed interest in attending the Carolina Course, held in Charlotte from July 10 – 16. It would be great to offer both Madison Alva and Kaleb Wimes the benefit of this opportunity. The cost of this course is \$650 for each person. If you would care to help sponsor them, please make your contribution to St. John’s and include a footnote on the check indicating Summer RSCM.



**STEVEN BRANYON**  
Organist and  
Choirmaster,  
St. John’s Church

## *Saint Michael's Conference*

The Saint Michael's Conference is an important and exciting opportunity for young people at St. John's Church, ages 14-21. More than ten young people from St. John's have joined me at the Saint Michael's Conference over the years. We have all found the conference to be a spirit-filled and mutually-enriching experience of life in Christ and the Church. The Women of St. John's have generously—and notably to the wonder and gratitude of the Conference leadership—underwritten conference tuition for participants from our parish.

Enrollment is now underway. If you are interested, speak to Father O'Brien, or you may contribute to our participation through the Women of St. John's. Below you will find answers to some commonly-asked questions.



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

### **What is the Saint Michael's Conference?**

Saint Michael's Conference is a week-long summer conference that centers on worship, discussion, recreation, and relaxation, so young adults can seek a clearer vision of God in Christ. The conference is held from July 30-August 5, 2017 at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, Connecticut.

### **Is the Saint Michael's Conference a Summer Camp?**

It's not your typical Christian summer camp! At Saint Michael's Conference, you won't find cabins, mess halls, or archery. But you will experience engaging conversations about Jesus, daily worship, and plenty of time to hang out with new friends.

### **So what's a day at the conference look like?**

We meet each morning to worship together and start the day in prayer. After a hearty breakfast, we spend time in an informal setting, learning and exchanging ideas about Christianity, and the influence it has on society and each of us. Most afternoons, we're playing volleyball, basketball, kickball, frisbee, or lounging on the lawn. Before dinner, we reconvene for Solemn Evensong. Evening activities range from square dancing and talent shows, to scavenger hunts and dance parties. Free time follows before it's time for lights out.

### **Who are the conference staff?**

Our ministry is to guide young people in their journey of understanding and embracing faith in Jesus Christ, and we take it seriously. The conference is directed by a dedicated staff of more than 25 clergy and lay leaders, many of whom were conferencees themselves. Father O'Brien has been on the conference faculty for nine years.

### **Why Saint Michael?**

The Revelation of Saint John describes the war in heaven, when Michael and his angels cast out Satan and his fallen angels. This battle between Michael and Satan is a picture of real Christianity. It's not soft or weak. Quite the opposite, it's dangerous, challenging, exciting and joyful. Saint Michael serves as our Patron to fight evil and serve God.

For more information, please visit the Saint Michael's Conference website at  
[www.SaintMichaelsConference.com](http://www.SaintMichaelsConference.com)  
or view the Conference Promotional Video at  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6602ZuU\\_fCQbG5vUVBHdEU3UVU/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6602ZuU_fCQbG5vUVBHdEU3UVU/view?usp=sharing)

## *The Women of St. John's Picnic at The Fresh Air Home*



## *Is the Green-Meldrim House Haunted?*

Well, the Rectory certainly is! That is right. We have our very own ghost, and he dates back to the Meldrim era. His name is Joe, and he lived in the room above the garage, which is now our Rectory. That room would have certainly been very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. He was most likely hired by the Meldrim family to take care of their car in a time where cars were quite dirty and broke down frequently. He could have possibly been their driver as well. Why is he still around? According to Father Dunbar, there are only two reasons for a ghost to stay around, guilt or grief. Whichever may be the case, Joe has never been a problem for Father Dunbar.

It was his predecessor, the late Father Ralston, who had to deal with Joe. Whenever he played music in the Rectory, he would hear a racket, a sound of all sorts of things clanging around. Father Ralston loved to play music so this was often a disturbance. One day he opened the door and addressed the ghost. He said, "Joe, you are welcome in the Rectory anytime I'm playing music. Just let yourself inside." And just like that the racket stopped. Father Ralston regained peace, and the ghost was not heard from again in the Rectory. Although, there have been reports that Joe can now be found lurking around the Green-Meldrim House late at night.



EASTER SUNDAY 2017

## DEATHS OF OUR LOVED ONES

Susan Dyan Grandy

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

## MARRIAGES

On Saturday, February 25, 2017,  
Katherine Leland Oelschig & Steven William Spartin, Jr.  
were united in Holy Matrimony.

On Saturday, February 25, 2017,  
Julia Groves Train & Gregory Lynn Smith  
were united in Holy Matrimony.

On Friday, April 21, 2017,  
Elizabeth Morgan Derst & Sean Robert Miller  
were united in Holy Matrimony.

On Saturday, April 29, 2017,  
Sara Ashford Dale & Devin Valfrid Thomas  
were united in Holy Matrimony.

## BAPTISMS

On Saturday, February 18, 2017,  
Benjamin Foster Bradshaw,  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Landon Bradshaw

On Saturday, April 18, 2017,  
Taylor Grace Lenchner,  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Mitchell Lenchner

On Saturday, April 18, 2017,  
Harper May Lenchner,  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Mitchell Lenchner

On Saturday, April 29, 2017,  
Amanda Elizabeth Smith Lewis,  
Sponsored by her husband, Wesley Hall Lewis IV,  
and her grandmother, Frances Byrd Grayson

## The Women of St. John's Church

### BEING BLESSED BY GIVING TIME

Almost 12 years ago, when Scott and I were in our pre-marriage counseling at another church, the minister (who knew I was moving my membership to St. John's) told me to get involved "110%". So, I took his advice to heart. And he was right.

I came in not knowing many people or much about the Anglican traditions. I had to follow Scott along in the Prayer Book; I was always confused about when to sit and when to stand. As a Presbyterian, many things we do at St. John's were foreign to me. But I knew I had to get involved to get more out of it. My mother taught me to be involved my community; and she was always volunteering for something!

My first church volunteer position came in the Spring of 2008, two years after we married, when I was asked to be the Treasurer for the Women of St. John's. I like being behind the scenes and I really enjoy "easy math". It took me a year or so to learn the ropes, but after that first year, I figured things out and it became a lot easier and interesting. Our monthly board meetings became a place of refreshment for me because the other ladies were so gracious and kind. I loved listening to the thoughtful and gracious way they interacted with each other and the way they handled any issues that arose. They have so much respect and genuine love for each other and the members of our church. And they made me feel welcome and appreciated. These ladies are effective, generous and joyful! It is one of God's many blessings for me to have the opportunity to know them and learn from them.

In every volunteer position I've had, God has shown me his provision. Being the President of the Women of SJC was not my idea as I am not a natural-born leader. When I was asked, however, I felt led to accept despite my shortcomings. And since taking on this position, I have been blessed in ways I wouldn't have thought I needed. Many times God has shown me that he will provide. I trust that God will help me get done what he called me to do. When I lie awake at night wondering

how something will get done, somehow God shows up to make it happen. In the past two years, God has shown me that his grace is sufficient. He has equipped me to be the leader I need to be.

Another way I have been blessed is that I know God is sanctifying me through this position. (I still have a long way to go!) I am learning that when I submit my will to his, he blesses me. I am (still) learning to be joyful in everything. I am learning to accept my own iniquities and weaknesses and watch how he makes me strong and capable, often through the help of others. I am so grateful for the people he has placed around me: the women on the board, the many accomplished volunteers, the office and church staff, the priests, my husband—they have all contributed to making these past two years an incredible experience.

Do you want to grow in your relationship with Christ? Do you want to get to know the other members of our church on a deeper level? Are you struggling to find purpose or meaning in your life? Then volunteer! The most joyful people I know are those that volunteer. God will not let you down! You will find meaning and fulfillment in volunteering your time, resources, and talents.



BETSY HOWARD

President

The Women of St. John's

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# Savannah Antiques and Architecture Weekend 2017

by: Susan Arden-Joly, GMH Preservationist



On March 3 and 4, St. John's was the site of a new annual event in Savannah: the Savannah Antiques and Architecture Weekend (SAAW). The weekend was created by the Women of St John's Church and the Colonial Dames of Georgia to focus attention on the value of history education and historic preservation, as well as to raise funds to benefit the Green-Meldrim House and the Andrew Low House.

The two days of events this year were entitled "What's in YOUR Attic?" and featured celebrity appraisers, Lark Mason and Amanda Everard, nationally-known stars on the PBS television series, *Antiques Roadshow*.

Chaired by Mary Lee Stevens, a member of St. John's and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Colonial Dames, the weekend consisted of five events, beginning on Friday with the elegant Historic Madeira Luncheon at the Chatham Club. Over 100 guests were in attendance to hear the highly-entertaining stories of speaker, John Sheftall, recounting his adventures while returning original furnishings to his family home in Columbus. The delightful luncheon ended with Dr. Paul Pressly saying a few words about the significant role Madeira wine has played in American history and leading all present in a toast to the success of the coming weekend and a tasting of the rare wine.





Friday evening's exciting event was a sumptuous cocktail party and live auction, held in the beautifully decorated Green-Meldrim House, to honor sponsors and patrons. Guests could also meet our star appraisers, Lark and Amanda, who were joined by Savannah's own Jane Mullino. The Sensational Seven of the Women of St. John's prepared a veritable feast that was as lovely as it was delicious, and, while the Men of St. John's served as bartenders, our own Steven Branyon was on the keyboard to provide beautiful music. The 125 guests marveled at the stunning flowers, arranged by Sylvia Summers, and the bidding was lively as Amanda Everard auctioned one-of-a-kind items. A great time was certainly had by all.

Saturday was the day for verbal appraisals by Lark, Amanda, and Jane—which ran all day in Cranmer Hall. For only \$15 per item, ticket holders could discover the value of family treasures. Needless to say, all 100 appraisals were sold out!

Also on Saturday, were the Lunch and Learn lectures. Once again a capacity crowd came to hear presentations, this time by Susan Arden-Joly and Stephen Bohlin, who talked about the French connections of treasures from the Green-Meldrim House and Andrew-Low House.

Created especially for the SAA Weekend were private trolley tours of John Norris buildings—scripted by our own Beth Reiter—including the GMH and ALH sites and, for the first time, tours of St. John's Church, thanks to Jack Wray and his team. The tours ran all day and introduced visitors to the beauty of our architectural heritage, much of it created by the premier architect of 19th century Savannah, John Norris.

The weekend's events were deemed so successful—and profitable—that next year's Savannah Antiques and Architecture Weekend is already on the calendar for the first weekend in March 2018. Many thanks are due to our gold-level sponsors—Regions Insurance, Bouchillon, Ham, Dekle Group of Merrill Lynch, and Old Town Trolley Tours—to our bronze sponsors—Bouhan Falligant and Celia Dunn International Realty—and to our party patrons and appraisers. Thanks also go out to the SAAW committee members who worked for a year to make an idea a reality, to all the volunteers and staff members of both institutions who made five events in two days run so smoothly, and to everyone who supported the events through their attendance. Mission to educate and appreciate accomplished!

## Candlelight Dinner



## Men of St. John's

The Men of St. John's are heading into our spring social season, with the annual golf tournament to be held on Friday, May 12 at the Landings Club and the annual tennis tournament to be held on Thursday, May 18 at the Savannah Golf Club. We are always happy to enjoy the fellowship of these annual events, and relive the many stories of past events.

In keeping with our social theme, we are very excited this year to host a fundraiser at the Green-Meldrim House on Thursday, May 25 to benefit the Green Collection restoration. We believe this is a critical event in our recent history, and we seek, in our own small way, to compliment the efforts of the Women of St. John's, the Rector, and faithful parishioners such as Susan Arden-Joly and her husband Christian, Dale and Sonny Thorpe, Ty Butler, Bill Rodgers, Brian Harlander, and countless others who made this amazing 125-year journey a reality. This project is about restoring the furniture and the home to its original state, but beyond that, it is about a church community working together for a common cause. It is evident how much our church is loved, by countless parishioners, both past and present. But, this is also, as Father Dunbar states, "a parish community that came together to bring back to Savannah a long-lost part of our cultural heritage, and of the providence that worked in and through them." So, please take your place, and join us for a wonderful evening full of good food, drink, and fellowship on Thursday, May 25 at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale in the Church Office, or you may contact me at 912.598.3811 to reserve your place. You may also speak with Joe Mercer, Treasurer of the Men of St. John's and the chairman of the event, or Martin Sullivan, Secretary of the Men of St. John's. We hope to see you there!



SCOTT HOWARD

President

Men of St. John's

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## Coming Home: The Green Collection Inaugural Exhibition

Representing one of Savannah's most important historical developments, this exhibition is the first public viewing of selected objects from the recently-acquired collection of over one hundred examples of antique furniture, china, silver, family photographs, and other items originally associated with the Green-Meldrim House.

Most of the objects on view were part of the collection of Charles Green, a wealthy cotton merchant, who commissioned the magnificent house and its rich furnishings in 1850. In 1892, his son Edward sold the house and moved his family and their belongings to France. Now, 125 years later, these objects have returned home via the estate of Julien Green, Edward's youngest son.

Though born and raised in France, Julien Green - the first non-national member of the prestigious *Académie française* - is recognized as one of the giants of 20th century French literature. He preserved his American heritage through his writings. Green wrote about his family's inherited furniture: "In the little drawing-room ... was gathered my grandfather's violet-coloured, wooden furniture, relics of a time long ago and of a distant land, that unfortunate South which

continued to live in our hearts." The image below depicts Green posing with the same bookcase which he described as "the rosewood bookshelf whose curved pediment was decorated with a carved wooden diadem, a strange piece of furniture handed down to us by our paternal grandfather."

Conserved, thanks to Historic Savannah Foundation's William H. Stuebe Fund, this exquisite 19th century rosewood bookcase, made in New York, is just one example of this local, national, and international story. These furnishings bear witness to the memory of the Green family who owned them, the skilled craftsmen who created them, the enslaved people who cared for them, and the many guests who used them. In Savannah, their visitors included writer William Makepeace Thackeray, singer Jenny Lind, and Generals Sherman and Lee. In addition, in January of 1865, twenty African-American leaders, mostly Baptist and Methodist preachers, assembled for a historic meeting with Sherman and U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. In Paris, the Green family guests included Gertrude Stein, André Gide, Jean Cocteau, Marie Laurencin, Jacques Maritain, and the future Pope John XXIII.



## Savannah Green Exhibit Opening Events

by: Susan Arden-Joly, GMH Preservationist

The last two weeks of April were even busier than usual around St. John's and the Green-Meldrim House, as we celebrated the opening of *Coming Home: The Green Collection Inaugural Exhibit*. After 125 years away from Savannah, a selection of seven pieces of furniture original to the house—and a number of other furnishings, china, and silver—returned to public view in a special exhibit, open to the public from April 25 to October 21. Surrounding this happy occasion were nine events in eight days, as St. John's shared her treasures with private groups in special showings.



Of course, the first group to get a look at the exhibit had to be our St. John's Church family, who have supported the seven-year effort to bring these objects home, since their discovery in Paris in 2010. Accordingly, on Wednesday, April 19, the Women of St. John's held their monthly meeting in the evening, inviting all parishioners and their guests to a celebratory reception, with a presentation by Tania Sammons, Curator of the Green Collection. Festive food was provided by the ECW Board and President, Betsy Howard, and beautiful floral arrangements were created by Tracey Inglesby for the exhibition and dining rooms. It was a true St. John's event in every way. Father Dunbar, in his remarks, mentioned how good it was to see a standing-room-only, enthusiastic crowd of close to 140 people.

It was not family, but guests from all across America, who got the second preview of the new Green Exhibit on the following evening. The Decorative Arts Trust, based in Philadelphia, but with a national membership of individual collectors and professionals in the field of decorative arts, came to Savannah April 20-23 for their biannual symposium, held at St. John's. The opening night lecture was held in Cranmer Hall, followed by a beautiful catered reception in the Green-Meldrim House. Susan Arden-Joly was on hand to talk about the Green exhibit to guests, while Jane Pressly and Kathryn Tanner held forth on the house and permanent collection upstairs. Much information was shared back-and-forth, as we learned from guests that there is a sister piano to ours in the Meldrim Library in the Lightner Museum in St Augustine and that the original fabric on a Green sofa was probably made by Rubelli in Venice. The lectures of the symposium continued over the next two days in Cranmer Hall.



Meanwhile, a third event was taking place in the Green-Meldrim House on April 21 and 22—the annual NOGS garden tour. One of the highlights of this lovely event for a number of years now is tea in the Green-Meldrim House. For this special occasion, the NOGS ladies go all out, creating dramatic, magnificent flower arrangements in every room; dainty and delicious tea delicacies; and wearing lovely and colorful hats. The event draws crowds of visitors into the house, some from Savannah and surrounding cities, many from as far away as Maine and Oregon. All were impressed by the beauty and grandeur of the Green-Meldrim House and asked many questions about the Green family and the return of the original furnishings.

Last, but certainly not least, St. John’s was pleased to host, in partnership with the Historic Savannah Foundation, a very special event on April 26: the William H. Stuebe Memorial lecture and reception. Following an inspiring presentation by New York architect and author, Peter Pennoyer, members and guests of HSF were invited to a reception hosted by the Women of St. John’s and the Sensational Seven, led by Laura Wimbish. Funds donated to Historic Savannah Foundation in memory of Bill Stuebe, member of St. John’s Church and husband of Isabel, were used—at the request of Isabel—to restore a first piece of the Green furniture: the magnificent Brazilian rosewood and satinwood bookcase. The bookcase is now placed in the exhibit exactly where it stood in the time of Charles Green, the home’s original owner. William Stuebe was a strong advocate for history and preservation, doing much good for his adopted city of Savannah. How appropriate that his legacy will now be associated to one of the most significant historical developments in Savannah’s recent past—the return of the original Green-Meldrim House furnishings.



**Next Deadline:  
July 31, 2017**

Send articles, photos and  
announcements to:

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## *Be Our Guest*

The Men of St. John's cordially invite you  
to a Cocktail Reception benefitting

### *The Green Restoration Project*

Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 6:15 p.m. in the Evening

The Green-Meldrim House

*If you wish, you are welcome to join us prior to the reception as we  
celebrate the Feast of the Ascension at 5:30 p.m. in the Church.*

Cocktail Attire • Heavy hors d'oeuvres & full bar • Music by harpist Kristin King

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*Tickets are \$75 each and are available to the entire Savannah community.*

*To purchase tickets, call the St. John's Church Office at 912.232.1251.*

ON THE COVER: Sean, Melanie & Patrick Finnegan • Brian, Kerri, Helen & Hayes Culver • Edwin, Melanie & Sandy Shepherd • Bill & Cathy Rodgers; William & Candice Taylor • Olin Anne, Holden, & Elizabeth Hayes