



The Eagle

Summer 2016



The Annual Parish Picnic was held Sunday, April 24, after 10:30 a. m. Morning Service. St. John's parishioners enjoyed a beautiful day of fellowship and good food – and demonstrated some serious competitive spirit!



The Value of Volunteering



Betsy Howard,
President, Women
of St. John's
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Betsy Howard reports on the progress made this year by the Women of St. John's.

It's been a great year for the Women of the Church. We had our most successful Bazaar ever, the Green furniture project is progressing under the competent management of Susan Arden-Jolly, our programs have been compelling, we've hosted countless coffee hours, Evensongs, luncheons, Candlelight Dinner...the list goes on. Our volunteers are invaluable. We would not be St. John's Church without our volunteers, both men and women.

The year isn't over yet! We held our annual ECW Picnic at Nita Ann Klein's beautiful house on the river. And on May 15th, the men and women held a special coffee hour to honor Fr. Dunbar on his 10th anniversary as our Rector.

In 2015, the Bazaar raised over \$53,000! A large portion of that money is donated to those in need both locally and globally. You may read about some of the missions we give to in this and future issues of the Eagle. We want to continue our tradition of giving money to those in need. And it's the mission of the Women of the Church to do so. In order to make money, we need volunteers! The 2016 Bazaar will be Wednesday and Thursday, November 9th and 10th. We need people in leadership roles and volunteers to serve on committees the days of the Bazaar. Will you consider joining us in our mission to serve others? Thank you!

Below:

The annual ECW Picnic was held May 4th at the home of Nita Ann Klein





Written by:
 Caroline Hayes
 Christian Education
 Director
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Church School News

Well, we brought back the Easter Egg hunt, but the weather had other ideas. The children did get to hunt eggs in the Ralston room and had a wonderful time. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate next year. We are blessed to have the perfect place as a backup rain plan.

The Confirmation service was lovely. Bishop Paul Lambert proved to be faithful and entertaining for all the Confirmands and their families when they had the pleasure to meet with him before the service.

The last day of 9:30 a.m. Sunday School will be May 22nd. This will also be the day of Church School Awards, and the Psalm Psingers will sing during the 10:30 a.m. service. The following Sunday we will start our summer schedule. It will be as follows:

- No 9:30 a.m. Sunday School or Nursery for Children
- 10:15 a.m. - Nursery for Babies and Toddlers (1st floor, Cranmer Hall)
 - Preschool - Kindergarten will have music and lesson (2nd floor, Cranmer Hall)
- Psalm Psingers (rising 1st - 5th) will follow the cross over for music and games.
- All children are to be picked up at the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. service.

We are desperate for summer volunteers in both the nursery and the Preschool - Kindergarten room. A website has been created to help with the sign up. Sign up now on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/eMiLmh>. There are paid staff teachers in both rooms. A volunteer's job is to be on hand to help out when needed. When you go to the site, you will simply enter your email (no emails will be shared) and pick a date or two to help out.

Mark your calendar! The first day of church school this fall will be September 11th. If you are willing to help with the church school in any way, big or small, please contact Caroline Hayes - chayes@stjohnssav.org. See you Sunday!

Confirmands



Above: Bishop Paul Lambert and Confirmands
 Below: Confirmands were honored at a reception after their confirmation by Bishop Paul Lambert

(MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH):

taught by Mr. and Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, and Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr.
 Katherine Speer Ezelle
 Olin Anne Hayes
 Charlton Lavinia Strong
 William Isaac Taylor

(UPPER SCHOOL YOUTH & ADULTS):

taught by Father Gavin G. Dunbar
 Madison Anne Alva
 Shannon Davis Alva
 David Robert Eggleston
 Sarah Marina Gilbert
 Kimberly Anne Rice
 Taylor Grace Rice
 Joshua Stephen Roper

CANDIDATES TO BE RECEIVED:

taught by Father Gavin G. Dunbar
 Bartlette Barnes DeWitt
 Kirk Distefano DeWitt
 Thomas Charlie McCay
 Constance Rolloson McCay
 Frederick Lawrence Muller



Prayer Book/Hymnal Donation

This book is given in honour of

*The anniversary of
Amanda and Tom Heath,
who were married at
St. John's Church on
November 2, 2002*
by
Dorothy and Susan Hingory

St. John's Church • Savannah, Georgia

Have you noticed several new hymnals and prayer books sprinkled throughout the church? They have been purchased recently with donations from generous parishioners. Frequently used prayer books and hymnals, such as ours, last approximately ten years. Since most of our hymnals are about ten years old or older, it is time to replenish our books. If you would like to make a donation, for \$50 we will purchase either a new hymnal or prayer book, and you may request that the book be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion such as their baptism, birthday, confirmation or marriage. A book plate will be placed in the front cover with your dedication. Replenishing our much loved prayer books and hymnals is an ongoing project. If interested in donating a book or books, you may call Wendy Corbin in the church office or contact her at wcorbin@stjohnssav.org.

This book is given in the memory of

*Ralph Olin Bowden III
and
Elizabeth Lee Bowden*
by
Paul and Jane Pressley

St. John's Church • Savannah, Georgia



Psalm Psingers gather at Cranmer Hall

DEATHS

FRANK BENJAMIN ARDEN III • JULIA GROVES MARTIN • DAVID ALAN NOBLE

JAMES HABERSHAM SWIGGART • RUFUS "BUD" MITCHELL WILKES • KENNETH GEORGE YATES

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

MARRIAGES

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016, GISELA YVETTE GARCIA AND STEWART WIGTON TRAVER WERE UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY.

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016, CHELSEA NICHOLSON RIDDLE AND REID DAVID CASTELLONE WERE UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY.

BAPTISMS

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016, SMITH RAMSEY POLLAK, DAUGHTER OF MR. & MRS. PETER ANDERSON POLLAK, JR.

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016, JONATHAN TURNER DIXON, SON OF MR. & MRS. LOUIS CARLTON DIXON

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016, CALLIE LELAND RYAN, SON OF MR. & MRS. JAMES CONNOR RYAN



By: Steven Branyon,
Organist/
Choirmaster

Have Music Will Travel

The St. John's Choir has been on the move since the last newsletter. After Easter, the choir presented a concert of anthems at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, GA. Two weeks later the choir traveled to sing an Evensong in Ridgeland, SC. This Evensong was originally scheduled to be sung by members of the Low Country AGO (American Guild of Organists), but they did not have enough participants, so St. John's was called to fill the void. This church in Ridgeland was organized in the 1830's and built in the 1850's by slaves for slaves. It is the only church in Jasper County that has a pipe organ. Two of the ranks on the organ could be traced, but several ranks on the organ were so old, their origins cannot be traced. After that, the choir traveled to Myrtle Beach to sing an Evensong with the combined choir of Trinity Church. This was a larger church with an historic Johnson pipe organ from the 1870's in a generous acoustic. In all of these opportunities, the choir members represented St. John's so very well.

While we were in Myrtle Beach, some of our choir members decided to visit the Myrtle Beach Aquarium. It was not as large as the ones in Charleston or Atlanta, but if you have never visited such a place or exhibit, it would seem impressive upon first sight. While we were there, one choir member commented that he took pride in the fact that he was able to take his own children, when they were younger, to natural habitats, and not places "contrived" or "artificial." Upon reflecting on his comments, I understood and appreciated what he was saying, but I also know that many children and adults would or could not ever be afforded an opportunity to be up close to many of these exotic fish if it were not for such a place as this. The children who visit places like this aquarium will more than likely be the generation that will make sure that such species are saved for future generations.

In the last Eagle newsletter, I shared with you that a music sub-committee had been working on the details of starting separate choirs for both boys and girls. Since that time a brochure has been printed and is ready to be shared with students and their parents. The Vestry has given permission to hire additional personnel to assist in soliciting necessary volunteers. Many things are now in place to start this new ministry in the fall of this coming year. We at St. John's in essence are creating, if you will, an "artificial" situation, in which we can share "up close" our treasures with the next generation of children - treasures of music, treasures of liturgy, and many other treasures. There are some differences from the aquarium, however. Instead of paying to get in, our treasures will be offered to children who are accepted free and with benefits. It is our hope that they will understand, accept, and eventually love these wonderful traditions and will become the ones to pass it on to the next generations.

We ask that you help us make this experience, and St. John's, the place that children and youth will treasure for generations to come.

Docents, Hostesses and Researchers Needed

What a joy to share our beautiful Parish House with visitors locally and around the world. Docents and Hostesses have the privilege of opening the door and telling the story of the Green-Meldrim House on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday mornings. If you are interested in sharing this treasure, please call Jane Pressly, 233-6551 or Martie Thomas, 598-4299.

We also welcome history lovers who would like to work on research concerning the Green furniture and archives. Fascinating work . . . and fun! For more information, contact Susan Arden-Joly at sardenjoly@gmail.com.

Update on Green Family Treasures

The Green family treasures have returned to Savannah, after 120 years of exile in Paris. Susan Arden-Joly gave a presentation of the story of how these objects came back to us. Here are a few highlights of the more than nearly 200 items that are part of our Green heritage.



1. The ledger that John Norris, architect of the Green-Meldrim House, kept from 1850-1853, while the house was being built. Here is a page from the ledger, showing the signatures of some of the men whose labor built the house; they signed the ledger when they were paid. Mrs. Beth Reiter and Mrs. Anna Smith are working on transcribing the ledger.

2. This delicate ball chair--attributed to the famous American cabinetmakers known as the Herter Brothers--knew not only Charles Green and Gen. Sherman in the Madison Square home, but also Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Jenny Lind, and W.M. Thackeray, among other Civil War era notables. Then, in the 20th century in Paris, in the possession of Charles Green's grandson--the famous author Julien Green--this chair was used by great men of French intellectual life, such as Andre Malraux, Jacques Maritain, and the future Pope Jean-Paul II.



3. This magnificent bookcase--made of rosewood on the exterior and satinwood on the interior--is also attributed to the great Herter Brothers cabinetmakers. The exotic woods and the intricate and beautiful pierced carving on the doors provide a wonderful example of the high quality of the objects Charles Green purchased for his richly furnished new home.

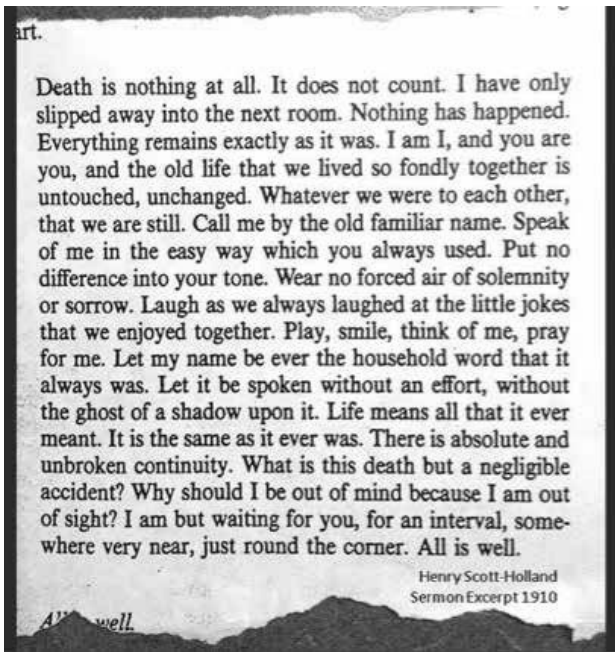


4. Among the remarkable treasures that have come back to us are 48 pieces of the original dinner china used in the house. Here is one plate, with its gold border and the gold lion rampant, borrowed from the Green family coat of arms in England. This lion was used to mark all of Charles Green's personal possessions. We also obtained 48 pieces of Green family silver as well.



5. According to the Green family, this chest of drawers is the one Charles Green brought from England when he first came to Savannah as a young man. In his will of 1881, Mr. Green tells his heirs that he had purchased this chest when he was a young man working in Liverpool, around 1830. He reports that he spent a month's wages on it, clearly showing he had a taste for fine furniture at an early age.





6. Many parishioners who heard Mrs. Arden-Joly's presentation have requested a copy of this text, which was part of the funeral sermon given for King Edward VII, in St Paul's, London, in 1910. Mrs. Arden-Joly described how she had found only this sole text included in a large album of photographs of members of the Green family, kept by the last surviving child, Julien Green. The Roman Catholic author of more than 60 works--fiction, journals, plays, librettos--Julien had chosen this passage, not any of his own writing, to remain with the photographs and treasured objects of the large Green family, all of whom died before him.

ECW Outreach

By Mary Soule, Outreach Chairwoman

Among the many areas the ECW donates to a special emphasis is towards children. This category comprises 17% of the Holly Days and 7% of the entire ECW income. Within St. John's family we give to the Church School, Episcopal Youth and Children's Services (EYCS), and St. Michael's Youth Conference. In the wider community, two of the charities we donate to that impact the lives of children are the Backpack Program and the Fresh Air Home.

Georgia is one of the nine states exhibiting statistically significant higher household food insecurity rates than the national average. Georgia's food insecurity rate is 16.9% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2009). More than 83,000 children in Coastal Georgia are at-risk for hunger. (Georgia Department of Education, 2011). Sixty-four percent of children in Coastal Georgia go hungry everyday. That is equivalent to 1 in 4 children. (America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia website, 2016). Our Backpack Program provides needy children with nutritious, child-friendly food when other resources, such as school lunches and after-school meals or snacks, are not available. Backpacks are discreetly distributed to participating children at school on Fridays. This program helps provide the proper nutrition necessary for overall growth, physical and cognitive development and satisfactory performance in school. The school we sponsor is Thunderbolt Elementary. Our main source of food is from Second Harvest.

The Fresh Air Home (FAH) was founded May 27, 1897, on Tybee Island, Georgia. Every summer the FAH opens its doors to approximately 400 underprivileged Savannah area children during four 10-day sessions. The mission of the Home is to improve the health of the children, to build character, and to help them grow into better men and women both physically and morally. It is operated and maintained by the Froebel Circle, which was named in honor of the German educator, Frederick Froebel, who founded the kindergarten system. They chose as its motto, Matthew 25:40, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." It chose as its text Isaiah 11:6, "A little child shall lead them." FAH is an approved 501c3 tax exempt, non-profit organization. In addition to a monetary gift, this organization was chosen as one of the ECW's "Hands On Giving" recipients.

Hands-On Giving

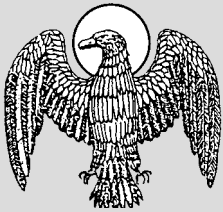
The collection bins for the 2016 Fresh Air Home Summer Camp Collection were overflowing with generous donations from so many parishioners. Many thanks to our wonderful Sunday School for contributing so many items and for their monetary donation too! (Left are just some of the many items collected.)



You all have helped to make this year's summer camp season very happy for many children!

**Next Deadline:
August 22, 2016**

Send articles, photos,
announcements to:
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Left: Crane gingerly removing 1 of 3 “exhausted” heat/air units from west wing roof to make way for new, more efficient units. Just in time for summer!

Above: Martha Sullivan explains to Savannah Mayor Eddie DeLoach how the Backpack Program at Second Harvest helps fight childhood hunger.