



The Eagle

Summer 2009



"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

Spread the Cheer- Volunteer

Sunday School Teacher

Having great Sunday School teachers is one of the best ways to encourage our youth to come to church and participate. Maryan Harrell (355-5232) is looking for volunteers for next year, so please let her know if you want to teach or assist. Think out of the box too, If you have any kind of talent be it musical, artistic, etc that you can share with the youth of the church even just one time next year, the children will love it. Please share your gifts! Thanks to all the teachers who volunteered this year.

Host Coffee Hour

Contact Chambliss Stevens 897-8469 if you would like to host coffee hour after the 10:30 church on Sundays. All that is required is to gather a few friends to bring hors-doevres and serve the tea and coffee. The editors would like to request toffee brownies and fresh fruit!!!

Chancel Society

There are two divisions of the Chancel Society, and both would love your help. The first are those who decorate the altar so beautifully with flowers. If you have experience or would like to learn this art, come join them. The second group are those who prepare the altar for the church services with linens, vestments, etc. If you are interested, please contact Sylvia Summers: 354-6240

Pancake Supper Thanks

A huge thank you to Brian Taylor and the Choir Youth for a fun and successful Pancake Supper. The youth choir was able to raise \$500 thanks to all of you who came and enjoyed dinner.

Also, hats off to the chefs: Kyle Futrell and David Derst. Dinner was delicious!



Deliver Flowers

If you are interested in delivering the altar flowers after church to members who are sick, shut ins, or members who have lost a family member, please contact Margaret Wylly at 656-6235. Any Sunday would be appreciated.

Become a Guide

The Green-Meldrim House desperately needs guides for the upstairs or downstairs as well as people to welcome visitors at the door. No experience is needed, and the commitment is only 3 hours a month! Contact Jane Pressly to help: 912-233-6551 or janepressly@aol.com

Vacation Bible School

Caroline Hayes & Maryan Harrell are doing a great job preparing for VBS coming June 15-19. Call if you want to be a part of this one week of fun for the youth: 897-0343 (Caroline).

Pictured Top: Marshall Futrell

Pictured Bottom: Andrew Callaghan & Randy Brooks, Francis Langley, Cecilia & Mariana Langley



Contact the editors if you have volunteer opportunities, you would like added to the Eagle.

The Latest from the Episcopal Church Women

Organ Recital benefitting the Green-Meldrim House

Come enjoy an organ recital benefitting the Green-Meldrim House renovations. The recital will be held on Sunday, May 10th at 5:30 pm at St. John's and will celebrate the now completed Wicks Pipe Organ. This event is the first sponsored by the Jane T. Trosten/ William H. Ralston Memorial Concert Fund. Tickets are on sale now for \$15 in the church office. This will be followed by an elegant reception in the mall between St John's church and the Green-Meldrim House. It will be quite a treat to listen to the famous organist, Vincent DuBois, who is coming from France to play for the event!

Rummage Sale THIS Saturday

The business women's club and the White Elephant Sale team has a great Rummage Sale planned for this Saturday, May 2nd in Cranmer Hall. Everyone please attend.

The ECW Diocese of Georgia's Annual Meeting

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Georgia are meeting May 1st and 2nd for the annual meeting. This year's theme is "Walking in God's Garden," and St. John's delegates are Jessica Osborne, Caroline Warner, and Jane Pressly. The goal of these meetings is for the delegates to meet and learn from one other and report on what each convocation is doing. The convocations that participate are Albany, Augusta, Central, Savannah, Southeastern, and Southwestern. Friday night our delegates will participate in a banquet and Saturday will be the annual meeting which includes speaker, Sybil MacBeth, lecturing on Praying in Color.

Spring Ladies Luncheon

All ladies of the church are encouraged to attend the Spring Ladies Luncheon on May 6th at Nita Ann Knight's home: 144 Schley Avenue

Directions-

South on White Bluff Road

Go two miles past the light at Windsor Forest Road

Left onto Rose Dhu Road (at the round house)

At the bluff, the road will curve.

Right onto Schley Avenue

Continue to circle to #144

Bring a side item and come join us for a fun afternoon.

New Special Events Co-ordinator/Housekeeper

Please introduce yourself to our vivacious new member of the church family, Emily Cook.

Outreach Programs

If you have any ideas for an outreach program you would like to support, please contact Katherine, with a K, Sallee 238-0225.

Jane's Canners Need You

Jane's Canners are hoping to get an early summer start and could use some help with supplies! All of the following are needed to make their delicious jams and jellies to sell at the Bazaar. Please contact Jane Pressly at 233-6551 for donations.

1/2 pint jars

sugar

Fruit:

Strawberries, Pears, Peaches, Apples, Mangos, Figs

Nuts: Pecans

Vegetable: Squash and Bell Peppers

Holly Days Bazaar

Don't forget the Holly Days Bazaar is coming this November. This is our main fundraiser, and it takes a lot of work and planning. Please let Carolyn Ezelle 272-9711 know if you want to volunteer your time or perhaps some goodies for the Silent Auction. There is a storage unit already available. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Mark your calendars: the Holly Days Bazaar will be November 11-12, 2009. Please Volunteer!

The Men's Club Reports

The Men of St. John's early Spring Events led off with the annual Saint Patrick's Day Hot Dog Sale and Extravaganza, which was successfully masterminded by returning Brat-Meister, George Erwin. As a new twist for our visitors, we opened up the first floor of Cranmer Hall to our visiting Bands where they could cool-off, relax and enjoy their lunch. This proved to be a big hit for our visiting Musicians; those big drums and tubas get heavy after four or five miles, and we can probably expect an even larger turn-out next year.

Also, during this period, we completed our project of providing support to the "Faith in Practice" organization which provides Medical and Dental support to "all comers" in Guatemala. As part of the follow-on support to the Dentist we procured, assembled and provided 500 Oral Hygiene Kits to the children for use, under the supervision of their School Teachers, in continuing the maintenance of their oral health. Included in these kits, at Maryan Harrell's suggestion and supervision, were small "Notes of Encouragement" from our young Sunday School Children, enabling our youngsters to be involved, at a very young age, in Christian Charity.

Written by:
General Leroy Suddath
Men's Club President

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The Sisters of Saint Mary's Anglican Convent, Luwinga, Malawi

St. John's Church has a long association with the Sisters of St. Mary's Community, first housed in Peekskill, NY, and now in Greenwich, NY. St. Mary's is the oldest Anglican convent in America. Fr. Ralston served as a Priest Associate of St. Mary's, Mother Miriam visited Savannah in the 1990s to conduct a Lenten Day Retreat for St. John's members, and the ECW has contributed to various St. Mary's projects over the years.

In 1999 the St. Mary's Community in New York opened a special novitiate program for the formation of a new Anglican religious order in south central Africa. Three young African women trained in New York returned home to Luwinga in 2002 to found the first Anglican monastic house for women in Malawi. Today nine sisters work at the Luwinga convent and maintain a nine acre farm developed to provide food for themselves, guests, and an orphan feeding program. The sisters also work to support themselves by sewing clerical shirts, vestments, and church school uniforms. The boundary walls of the convent surround the farm and include a: convent house and guest quarters, chapel and sacristy, goat barn, chicken house, turkey & pig pens, incinerator & water tank. In 2008 St. John's contributed funds to install a heavier water pump powered by more solar panels when the old pump burned out.

Malawi, along with Haiti, ranks at the very bottom of the world's economies. Along with the rest of the African continent, it has been ravaged by the AIDS epidemic which left thousands of children orphaned. The sisters at Luwinga have recently begun sponsoring a monthly outreach to 150 orphans, providing a solid meal of protein, education classes, and a safe place to pray. The convent is unable to generate much income in cash poor Malawi and is dependent on the generosity of outside donations to maintain its outreach ministry.

Those interested in assisting with this outreach, please speak to Fr. Dunbar.

Meet More People

A good way to meet folks is to participate in the delicious Sunday morning breakfast after the 8:00 Holy Communion Service and before the 9:30 Sunday School hour. We have a wide array of breakfast foods, and this is a great way to get to know the 8:00 parishioners, many of whom stay to eat and attend Sunday School. This was started to make it easier for families to get to Sunday School on time. It is also a lovely time to see our younger families.

-Maryan Harrell

Another way to meet entertaining folks is to take yoga with the St. John's Ladies Friday mornings at 9:30 on Cranmer Hall's 3rd floor. The next 6 week session begins May 1st & goes to June 5th. Drop in to any class! Call 704-5111 for more info or visit twistedwarrior.com

"Though she makes a valiant effort to maintain her yogi calm and poise, Cathy Baxter nevertheless allows a small grin and suppressed chuckle to interrupt her composure. The source of the disruption is the "ladies of a certain age" who are gathered to assume yoga postures, also known as tortuous twisting. Several have assumed nicknames suiting their body habitus: "snap, crackle and pop", "jello" (pliable but soft), and "gargoyle" are but a few. Though their approximations of the norms of yoga poses would be a good source for youtube, nevertheless the ladies invariably find themselves refreshed and almost nimble for the next few days." -Ann Shiels

The Eagle is only as great as its contributors, so please let the editors know if you have an idea for an article!

Welcome New Members

Miss Erica L. Cobb
Mrs. G. William Conrade
Mr W. Guerry Conrade
Mrs. Holden T. Hayes
Mrs. Dorothy R. Jarvis
Mr. John W. Locke
Ms. Elizabeth McLeod
Ms. Kathryn Osborne
Mr. Evan McWilliams
Mrs. Don J. Schwarzrock
Mr. Robert L. Taylor



Back: Drew Troxler, JoAnn Troxler, Mark Stevens
Front: Turner, Meredith, & Chambliss Stevens

Destination: One West Macon Street

Drew Troxler (Drewdaddy) and his wife JoAnn (Dremommy) came to St. John's when his daughter (& current) St John's member, Chambliss, was just two years old. "The learning experience and the feeling St John's brings of regeneration is what brought us here."

This year was time for Mary Chambliss Lehr, his granddaughter, to be confirmed in Knoxville. Her mother (Drew's daughter), Anne Mallory Troxler, grew up in St. John's and was baptized, confirmed, and married here. She wished Mary could be confirmed in the faith that was the legacy of Father Ralston, Father Beatner, and Father Carreker. She and Drew decided with the ease of today's communication that he could attend the confirmation classes for her and share the lessons via email, and so he did! The young confirmands welcomed him into the class and referred to him as Mary although they did have a picture of the real Mary too. Drew transcribed the teachings of Linda Sheahan and Randy Brooks who he raved spoke from his experience and knowledge and love of the church and instilled that same love in his students." Upon receiving the teachings, Mary and her mom would discuss the notes in length. Drew laughed, "She received a double dose."

Drew enjoys the bond he now has with the youth especially the winks and waves he receives in church. He recommends his experience to all granddads saying it "renewed his baptism and confirmation experience." He is proud that "St. John's is Mary and his family's spiritual home where they can hear and feel the love and spiritual regeneration that comes from knowing Jesus."

Member Memories- Mildred Derst

As many of us- Mildreds' memories come in little vignettes. She has many that make her laugh out loud with that infectious Mildred chuckle starting with the image of Binky Compton as the General with that ever present pencil behind her ear. For those who have been at St. John's for a good while, Binky is at the center of many memories as she co-ordinated Sunday School, Vacation Bible School & the Christmas Pageant. Her unbelievable ability to organize and create fun for all ages from having youth spend the night at her house to planning adventures for St John's young couples has made her unforgettable. Mildred most fondly remembers a ski trip (which we hope those who attended will write about for the next issue) and an adventure to NYC with Marilyn and Matt Solana where they barely survived the freezing cold as they learned how to hail a cab. Mildred laughs at the memory of Marilyn using her leg warmer on her head to stay warm. Gavin would have been better prepared for the cold than they, but he had a lot to learn about Savannah's summers. Mildred remembers his early years here- "I've never seen skin so white" as when Gavin was here interviewing, and we took him to the Golf Club Pool. Later, Melene Hatcher and Mildred helped Gavin unpack his boxes (a year after moving here) in anticipation of a visit from his mother. As they enjoyed his eclectic taste in music, they tried unsuccessfully to convince him to throw away his fur window de-icer among other cold weather items. Now, mind you, it wasn't Gavin's fault he was unable to unpack- the ladies of the church had not given him a bit of free time as they tried relentlessly to set him up with woman after woman until they were halted by a rumor that Gavin was engaged. Mildred leaves it up to you to guess who started that rumor....

We'd love to hear a St John's Memory that makes you laugh- contact the editors to share yours!

St. John's Children - A Story about Family Commitment by Caroline Hayes

As the church school year is coming to a close, I want to share with you my family's journey. As many of you know, Holden and I have three children, Elizabeth- 2nd grade, Olin Anne- Pre-kindergarten, and Holden, Jr.- 16 months. Our church attendance over the course of eleven years of marriage and 3 children has been sporadic at best. Knowing in our hearts that no excuse is a good excuse, we managed to, not always guiltlessly, give a reason why church was not in the cards for us that year, month, or Sunday. Someone was always sick or needing a nap.

As Elizabeth started 1st Grade, Olin Anne was three, and a baby brother was on the way. We knew, once again, another year of regular church attendance was going to slip by us. But, we also knew that 1st Grade was the year that the children sit in church with their parents. Sunday school for her was during the Sunday school hour. Mild panic set in as to how she would learn the stories outside of home. We knew it was THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, but life once again overwhelmed us and these thoughts were pushed aside in a fog of sleeplessness.

The creeping worry was always there. Sporadically attending church caused the girls not to want to come and tears would follow. This forced Holden and I to have that same Sunday morning conversation, "Are we going to church today?" We knew this was not a conversation we should be having. On Monday would we ask, "Are we going to school and work today?" Thus leads us to this year. Holden and I sat down and made the decision that we would come to church every Sunday – Sunday school and Church – every Sunday. No questions, no discussions, even if it was raining, even if no one slept the night before, only the sick stayed home.

That first Sunday was a feat. Getting a family of five ready for church in an hour is close to impossible. Maryann and SueAnn almost cheered. We were all there, on time, even early enough for breakfast. With each Sunday, it got easier. It became less of a chore and more of something we all looked forward to. That is not to say that some Sundays I still don't

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Childhood Education

by Caroline Hayes



It is hard to believe that summer is upon us. The church school year is coming to a close and we are gearing up for Vacation Bible School.

Don't forget to put June 15th –19th on your calendars. This is the third year in a four-year series teaching our children the stories of Jesus as shown in the beautiful windows of our church. Maryann Harrell has written the outstanding curriculum for each of these years.

In 2007, we studied the teachings of John with the help of "Lofty", our residential eagle. Last year, "Oxford" the Ox helped us learn more stories about the life of Jesus through the teachings of Luke. This year we will learn more stories and windows while studying Matthew.

Each child not only has the wonderful opportunity to learn about the life of Jesus as shown in our beautiful windows, but also receives a book that includes both the stories and photographs of each window. We are looking forward to another exciting and engaging year.

If you would like to be a part of this amazing adventure please contact Caroline Hayes – 897-0343 or cqhayes@comcast.net.

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If you have any youth photos, we would love to have them complete with names. Send to Cathy@twistedwarrior.com.



Father Hollywood

by: Reverend Craig O'Brien

In December of 1875 a German sea-going vessel bound for the United States, appositely called the Deutschland, went down off the English coast. Among the passengers were five Franciscan nursing sisters expelled from Germany under the anti-Catholic policy of Count Bismark, on their way to a new life and mission in Missouri. They, with the majority of the passengers and crew, were lost in the wreck. Newspaper reports of the disaster would arouse the attention of, and deeply move, a sensitive thirty-one year old English Jesuit novice called Gerard Manley Hopkins at St. Beuno's, the Jesuit theological college in the Clwyd Valley of North Wales, where he was then a student. It would inspire him to pen his poetical masterpiece, 'The Wreck of the Deutschland', which is at once a modernistic poem before its time, a powerful evocation of sailing and shipping, a verbal conveyance of the brute power of nature; and a compassionate ode to the Catholic devotion and piety of the victims.

Your intrepid editors have asked me to write a column, each issue, on literature I've recently read or films I've recently seen. This issue, I give you a little bit of both and more: a novel, a film, and a book about films, including the film I recommend. The novel takes its premise from the events, personages, and artistic creations sketched above. It is Ron Hanson's recently published 'Exiles'. It is the fictional and spiritual portrait of an artist who was also a Christian and a priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins, of whom much is known and many books have been written; and also of his co-exiles in 'the Land of Unlikeness', those five obscure Franciscan nursing sisters, of whom little is known but their death in the wreck of the Deutschland. Hanson, an American lay Roman Catholic, has written deftly and sensitively of the psychology of religious vocation and life

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Rector's Musings

by: Reverend Gavin Dunbar



On the drinking fountain next the porter's lodge in my alma mater, Trinity College, Toronto, there was a small plaque identifying the donor ("Flash" Howard 3T2, whose name lives immortal) and a line from the college song: Nimum cervisii ebriat tirones - "too much beer makes freshmen drunk", a useful reminder to undergraduates. The other motto was underneath the clock in the grand medieval dining hall, where procrastinating undergrads might be tempted to linger long in idle chat: "Slow comes the hour, its passing speed how great". It's a motto whose resonance has grown with time. I am only forty seven years old - not exactly in the autumn of my years, but nonetheless far beyond the midway point of my likely lifespan. Like anyone else in middle age, I am occasionally haunted by the thought of opportunities missed, things undone that I ought to have done, and which will now never be done. As the philosopher said, "You can never step into the same river twice." Perhaps that is why the years from 45 to 65 are the said to be the years of greatest productivity. In youth we luxuriate in dreams of what is yet to come - and sometimes squander our opportunities in self-indulgent dreaming. In old age (I suppose) one takes a more retrospective view (check with me when I am 75). In middle age, we know there is no time like the present for getting things done. The critical question is, what is to be done? There are so many things that could be done, but only so much time and energy. The danger is that relatively trivial things (because pressing and immediate) might take up all our attention, and squeeze out things that matter most. So what matters most? Some thoughts on that question next time.

Craig, Curtis, or Gavin? Which Priest...

eats anything but green vegetables?

conforms to Anglican stereotype and often dines quietly in his club?

chooses lobster as his favorite dish?



Last Issues Answers: Craig: Hiccups, Curtis: Nothing but Barbed Wire, Gavin: Rocking DJ

Received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

February 22, 2009

Max Cooper Hamilton,
son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan C. Hamilton,
grandson of Mr. and Mrs. David A. Young

March 21, 2009

Rosalind Elizabeth Froelich,
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Froelich.

April 8, 2009

Mikel Allen Kelly,
son of Mr. George F. Kelly, Jr.

April 12, 2009

Edward Grant Lemke,
son of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy C. Lemke,
grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Harlander.

April 12, 2009

Katherine Amelia Harlander,
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brent D. Harlander,
granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Harlander.

Deaths of our Loved Ones

*Rest Eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Sarah Jane Kuszak

Rachael Gillis Laird

Ashley Kennon Dearing, Jr.

Pamela McGuire Gordon

Edward J. Bowden, Jr.

Bruce Alan Capra

United in Holy Matrimony

January 24, 2009

Miss Kristin Robertson Culver to
Mr. Randolph Bryan Jones, Jr

April 25, 2009

Katharine Miller Calhoun Farmer to
Mr. Matthew Henry Breaux

2009 Confirmands

Young People:

*Sarah Katherine Glover
Margaret McQueen Hendrix
Emma Moyer Holtzclaw
Mikel Allen Kelly
Carole Sara Kennedy
Mary Chambliss Lehn
Charles Philip Perrie
Audrey Hamilton Turner
Katharine Drayton Warner*

Adults:

*Erica Leigh Cobb
John McLeod DeBacker
Elizabeth Caroline Hayes
Dorothy Regina Jarvis
John William Locke
Patrick Evan McWilliams
Mary Cecile Schaub Soule
Robert Lee Taylor*

Choir Cantations :

Nine Girls Equals One Very Fine Choir

Some of them may still sleep with teddy bears (though none would admit it). Some may still play with dolls. Some would like you to believe they are “cool.” Some are still single-digit aged. One is preparing for college next year. But regardless of how old, mature or “cool” they are, nine young ladies who come together each Wednesday evening to serve as the choir for the mid-week Evensong service. The St. John’s Girls Choir, though not very large, is an ensemble that effectively leads one of our principal worship services each week.

Unlike the monthly Choral Evensong service sung on Sunday afternoons, the weekly Wednesday Evensong is congregational in nature, with the Girls Choir leading the congregation in the hymns and chants of Evening Prayer. In addition, they offer a short anthem in the service. For those who may think that this is a typical American “children’s choir” doing “kiddie music” with out-of-tune voices, they are in for a surprise. The girls are trained to sing with proper tone, and they sing repertoire from the Anglican tradition similar to what the Parish Choir sings on Sunday.

When the Girls Choir began this project three years ago, they had a small repertoire that was often repeated. This year only one anthem was repeated during the season. The sound has grown more polished and the repertoire is starting to become ambitious. On Annunciation Day several adults from the Parish Choir joined the girls to offer Benjamin Britten’s Hymn to the Virgin. The choir also joins in on the monthly Choral Evensong and undertakes occasional special projects. For example, they will be included on the CD to be produced in September. Our hope is that this group will grow in number in the coming year as well as continue to improve in quality. Parents of interested girls (3rd grade and above) are encouraged to contact the Choirmaster for information on becoming part of this ensemble. It is an opportunity for learning, fellowship and service.



Written by
Brian J Taylor
Organist/ Choirmaster

The Green-Meldrim House- Did You Know...

St. John's is working diligently to raise money to help restore the Green-Meldrim house. The parapet stones are currently in Virginia being tested with the plan of future restoration. In December of 2008 the National Park Service awarded the Green- Meldrim House a \$400,000 Save America's Treasure Grant. This money is directed at the restoration and reinstallation of the parapet stones. In order to receive this \$400,000, the church and community must match the contribution dollar for dollar.

We Love Our Parish House

The Green-Meldrim House Restoration Committee
would like to remind our Parish Family that
the Save America's Treasures Grant requires matching funds.
Donations directed to the restoration are tax deductible and may be sent to
the Church Office at 1 West Macon Street.

in community in another novel, 'Mariette in Ecstasy', which I also highly recommend. In 'Exiles' he evokes an exquisitely tender and almost palpable sense of the life Franciscan nuns from their own perspective, through flashbacks of their lives in disparate parts of nineteenth century Germany leading up to their discernment of vocation and solemn profession as nuns, through their fearful disembarkation from Germany, to their deaths in the freezing waters of the Thames estuary. Here is religious faith found confronting the stark realities of life's hardships: loneliness, fear of poverty and misery, hunger, pain, illness and the fear of death; presented sensitively, humanely and above all as a utterly realistic response to the inevitable shadow side of life, in a way that is rare, to say the least, in contemporary letters. Interwoven with the fictionalized account of the nuns, Hanson gives us the life and inner life of the poet and co-religionist who would versify their end. Gerard Manley Hopkins lived his life of exile in relative obscurity. A convert to Rome from Anglo-Catholicism, Hopkins would suffer the plight of many anglophile converts to that great obedience, namely a sense of cultural and aesthetic disconnectedness. As a Jesuit priest he was, by any human reckoning, a failure in the eyes of superiors, parishioners and students alike. His poetry was not published until years after his death. Hanson accompanies him from his happiest days in 'the lyrically beautiful' countryside of North Wales where in an atmosphere of relative peace and serenity, he composed his most inspired poems including the 'Deutschland'; to his death at the age of forty-five in Dublin where, as one of his biographers put it,

"His characteristics-appearance, way of talking, Newmanite conversion, shyness and reclusiveness, educated upper class English and Oxonian mannerisms, scrupulous habits, interests in music and the visual arts, poetic compositions-appeared typical facets of an English aesthete... He could be understood in Dublin only as an example of English aesthetic Catholicism, with which the Irish had no sympathy."

(quoted in Aidan Nichols O.P., Hopkins: Theologians Poet)

(Naples: Sapientia Press of Ave Maria University)

What Hanson above all shows us of Hopkin's mind and poetical genius, both in times of fortune and misfortune, is the way in which the mind and language may participate in the divinely ordered energies of nature. Hopkins was, as those who came before him in the formation of the Anglican and English poetical sensibility, a poet of life and life in nature, and the subject's perception of it, and as such, one open to all the theological implications of the natural order.

"THE world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men now wreck his rod?

...And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastwards, springs-
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! Bright wings"

From 'God's Grandeur'

The most extraordinary film I saw in 2008 was Julian Schnabel's 2007 movie, 'The Diving Bell and the Butterfly'. Schnabel does with camera and narrative much what Hopkins accomplishes with words and sprung rhythm. The film tells the true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby, the fast living, playboy editor of the French edition of Elle magazine, who at the age of forty-three is felled by a massive stroke which leaves him completely speechless and paralyzed save for the use of one eye. The condition is called 'locked-in syndrome'. Bauby could see, hear and comprehend, and so he learned, incredibly, to communicate in a new language by blinking one eye on being offered an audible sequence of frequently used letters. He would dictate the book upon which the film is based in this way. The film is shot from the perspective of Bauby, as if looking out through his one eye, accompanied by his inner monologue. I was introduced to it by the man I would argue is the most elegant and perceptive film critic and historian now writing, David Thomson, who's new book 'Have You Seen...? A Personal Introduction to 1, 000 Films' is fabulous. I conclude with some of what he has to say about 'The Diving Bell and the Butterfly'.

This Movie gathers up 'the disasters of life' with insatiable greed, yet it misses the dead ends that so many people have to face...Julian Schanbel's mercurial picture *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* is a study of that risk, and because it has such an accurate and lifelike sense of death and loss, it shines with the immanence of life...

So what does one eye see-apart from its own wretched handicap? Well there is the slow business of rehabilitation and learning language again...There is also the way in which memory and the new, fragmented moment conspires to keep Bauby in love with life...We are here to notice things, I propose-for if we do not notice, then we and the things might as well not be here. So we guard and remember the things worth loving...And lost in doubts over how often the movies have sought to bury those precious sights and sounds in the ceaseless catalogue of bizarre ways in which we die. A slight touch, a stroke, can turn out the light. But before then, did you see?

(David Thomson, "Have You Seen...?" (New York: Knopf, 2008)

-Fr. O'Brien

Help the Eagle

We'd love a volunteer to be in charge of finding one of the youth members of St. John's to write for the Eagle each issue (four times a year). We aren't hip enough to know many of our great youth and would love help from someone who is! All that is needed is a paragraph or two informing our church family about what neat projects or fun trips are youth are involved in. Pictures are always an added bonus! Call Cathy 352-7245 if you are interested.

Mens Club Reports Continued from page 4...

Easter Morning took us to the majesty of the Green- Meldrim House where Brian Dufour again performed his magic by artfully capitalizing on the beauty of this historic treasure. Under dim lights, he served an elegant and appetizing repast to our wonderfully talented Choir in the midst of their three magnificent performances. Easter was, surely, a Glorious Day.

Now, as the weather truly turns to Spring we sharpen our sights on a brand new venue for our Annual Golf Tournament on May 22. This year we will be playing at the home of the "Legends of Golf": The Club at Savannah Harbor. Who will emerge with the coveted Ralston Cup or the Dunbar Cup? Come on out and we'll see. The longtime tournament Director, Charles Williams, admonishes all: GET READY BOYS—THE GAME IS--ON !

St John's Youth Continued from page 6...

Choir. When Elizabeth sang "I Sing A Song of the Saints of God" in church from memory, I couldn't help but cry. And thereafter, for Holden and I to take a deep breath and we ourselves learn more about God. It allows us as parents to worship Him together, and give thanks for all He has given us. As I reflect on the past year, I realize that because we pledged ourselves to regular church attendance, more of our thoughts and conversation at home were about God. The girls will choose their church song cds over Miley Cyrus, not always, but more than before. They recognize people being good as the right thing to do because it is what God teaches us. They love church and want to go. We never have the discussion, "Are we going to church today?" It made all the difference! We have a long way to go, but I know we are on the right path. So as we close this year and plan for the next, just consider making church THE MOST IMPORTANT THING to your family, and just wait to see what happens.

Editors' Ramblings

Dear Parish,

Please keep the Eagle in mind if you read something inspiring, remember a jolly memory about your time at St. John's- even if it is just a line or two, or if you are involved in a project that needs help: donations or volunteers. As a church community, we want to reach out and help one another, but the only way we can is to know what is needed. We would also love to celebrate your achievements or those of your children, so please send them to us. Our next deadline is July 17, 2009.

Lavinia & Cathy

St John's Church Family Events



We hope all families will join us at the Parish Picnic on Sunday, May 17th right after the 10:30 service. This is a special service. Not only is it the last day of Sunday School but awards will be given for perfect attendance and to those who missed only a few Sundays. This truly is an important accomplishment because it shows great dedication from the children as well as their parents.

The picnic is great fun for all. Bring a tasty dish to share with your fellow church friends and come enjoy one another's company. We'll print the recipe of our favorite dish along with a picture of the chef extraordinaire in the next Eagle, so be creative. A buffet will be spread throughout the grand Green-Meldrim hall, and everyone can enjoy eating in the beautiful house, on the porches or around the fountain. We hope to see everyone there!

Childhood Education Continued from page 6...

children in their Easter finest. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a wonderful and safe event. Where else but at St. John's Church do the children hunt for Easter eggs around the pond of the historical Green-Meldrim house? There were smiles all around for this joyous event.

In closing, thank you to everyone who made this church school year a success. Thanks to the Sunday school teachers and helpers, and especially Maryan Harrell for all she does for the church school. See you next year!

Pictured: (on Cover): Helen Culver, Caroline Hayes and Holden Jr., Amelia Taylor, Sarah Elizabeth Inglesby, & lots of cute Sunday School Easter Egg Hunters!

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