



The Eagle

Fall 2014



Pictured above: Singers performing at the Voice Concert, Father Dunbar holding newly baptized baby Coleman with happy parents Jeremy and Jackie Bergstrom

Pantry Plead

Will you help with Pantry Aides??? I could really use some help making meals and/ or delivering meals to our parishioners in need!

Anyone interested can call me at 247-2040

or email me at hhmcclellan@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Holly McClellan

Lovely Ladies

Calling all lovely ladies at St. John's Church!!! We need your help! Please become a G.G., gracious greeter, gorgeous gran, godly gal. The most important part of being a G.G. is to greet the young families as they bring their precious children to the nursery. As a bonus you will get to rock babies and read stories to these sweet angels. There will be a training luncheon, Thursday, September 4th, at 11:30. To RSVP to the luncheon or to pick out which dates you would like to serve, please contact Emily Mello at emily@notsomello.com or 898-9443. This is a small and easy way to make a big impact in our parish for these young families. Please say you will!

Nursery News

Attention all parents and grandparents that have sweet ones in the nursery. We have updated the nursery forms to ensure that we can make sure your child is happy. Please make sure to fill these out each week as we all know baby and toddler schedules change often.

Also, we will no longer provide snacks or drinks in the nursery. Please pack any snack or bottle/sippy cup that they may need during their stay. This is to ensure that all children are given just what you would like for them to have and allergies are addressed.

For any questions or suggestions, contact:

Caroline Hayes - chayas@gmail.com or 232-1252.

Retirement Recognition

Congratulations to Maryan Harrell (pictured right) on her retirement after 16 years of service to the children of St. John's Church. Her smile and enthusiasm will be missed during Sunday School and each summer during Vacation Bible School. She worked to keep the church school program going and helped write the curriculum for VBS. Beverly Carson remarked "I worked with Maryan three days a week for two years, and she taught me how to be good. She taught me how to be kind. She taught me the bible by preparing the lessons every Sunday for the children. What a fine lady." What a fine lady indeed.

Bazaar Bite

The St John's Junk Gypsies want to remind you to clean out your attic and closets. Please donate your unwanted goods to the White Elephant Sale, or the Treasure Room, or the Book room. You may drop boxes and items off in advance to the storage units. Please call Nita Ann Klein for White Elephant questions @ 658-1005, Jettie Johnston @ 598-7488 for Treasure Room questions, and Cameron Spencer for Book Room questions @ 663-0318. One man's trash is another man's treasure!

Please remember the White Elephant and the Treasure Room team cannot come pick up your donations- by the time we rent a truck or pay someone to help load donations, it is not cost effective. Thank you for your understanding.

Backpack Buddies

Join the backpack buddies on Wednesday afternoons 3:30-4:00 at Second Harvest Food Bank. We pack 48 bags of food for children at Thunderbolt Elementary to take home over the weekend, so they have food to eat. This is a great way for adults and children to volunteer. Call Martha Sullivan 912-897-9673.





Written by:
Susan-Arden Joly
ECW President
sardenjoly@aol.com

From the Episcopal Church Women's Chairman

In the press this summer we have been reading sad news of war and the threat of war in many places in the world. As I sat on my porch at Tybee, feeling the peace we are so blessed to enjoy here in Savannah, I thought of another time, 150 years ago, when our lovely city was not at peace, but lay in danger of total destruction. I was reminded of early September 1864, when General Sherman had captured the city of Atlanta and ordered the evacuation of the civilian population, preceding the burning of that city. Savannah was to be his next objective, and although the world press did not accompany Sherman's army of 65,000 in the famous (or infamous) March to the Sea, the nation and the world were watching this military campaign, which would be long remembered and significant in history. Sherman's role in Georgia influenced not only the re-election of President Lincoln but also future military leaders such as Rommel and Patton. The enormous destruction produced by Sherman's "total war"—\$100 million dollars worth of property damage, by Sherman's own estimate--would also inspire Herman Melville to describe and question the cost in human suffering with his poem, "The March to the Sea," written in December of 1864:

For behind they left a wailing,
A terror and a ban,
And blazing cinders sailing,
And houseless households wan,
Wide zones of counties paling,
And towns where maniacs ran.
Was it Treason's retribution--
Necessity the plea?
They will long remember Sherman
And his streaming columns free--
They will long remember Sherman
Marching to the sea.

When Melville penned this poem, Sherman had reached Savannah. And yet, here, in one of those beautiful moments that can appear even in the midst of horror, General Sherman made the decision that our city would be spared from burning and, instead, presented to President Lincoln as a Christmas gift. This moment of history calls to mind the famous Christmas Eve break in the terrible hostilities of the trenches of WW1, where mortal enemies paused for a few hours to mark and celebrate the faith they held in common and to make a temporary peace of their differences. Of course, the resting point of General Sherman's march was our own beloved Green-Meldrim House, where Charles Green received the conquering leader with grace and courtesy. So lovely were the manners and friendships of that time that, as many of you know, the general returned to Savannah and visited with Mr. Green twice after the war, once bringing his daughters. Later, in 1881, at the time of Charles Green's death, General Sherman wrote a lovely letter about the gentlemanly character of Mr. Green to his surviving family.

Of course, the war was not over with General Sherman's stay in Savannah. His army would go on to march through the Carolinas, once again with terrible destruction, such as the burning of Columbia. Yet here in Savannah we can remember and celebrate peace between enemies in a time of war.

How remarkable it seems that St John's has been entrusted with the stewardship of the building that symbolizes this moment of grace in a time of war and what can be good in the world. As our beloved Parish House, we have made it a place for the comfort of Sunday fellowship as well as for receptions of the joys of weddings and the shared sorrows of funerals. But it is important to note that this very special house has another role to play; it is also a miraculous survivor of a particular and important moment in history, when shared humanity triumphed over hatred. It is an example of the very finest that men, removed from us by 150 years, could produce materially--and spiritually.

In the coming months we will take a look at the place the Green-Meldrim House holds in the history of the Civil War. On November 21, we will present a brief talk, with book signing and reception, from 4:30 to 6:30, with Mr. Hugh Howard, the author of a beautiful new book on the great houses of the Civil War period. Our very own Green-Meldrim House is featured in Mr. Howard's book. Later, in the first week of December, we will host a special event

to take us back to that earlier time of peace and goodwill and to relive the celebrations that took place while Sherman was resident. Plans are also in the works to offer free tours to our parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to hear the stories our house has to tell. And it most certainly has wonderful stories to tell.

I wish to give sincere thanks to those individuals who help us fulfill our mission of sharing the treasures and history of the Green-Meldrim House with the public. Thanks to our dedicated guides and doorkeepers, we are able to offer tours four days of the week and bring in an income of over \$44,000. The skills of Jane Pressly and Martie Campbell, as Chairmen of the guides, and of Kathy Miller, Nicola Stein, and Joanne Troxler, as day chairmen, organize the 112 volunteers who keep the magnificent doors open and the visitors enthralled. These men and women, from both within and outside of our parish, are aware of the privilege we enjoy in being able to walk in these rooms of history and hear the past speak.



O'Brien's Orations: Songs of Innocence and Experience

by: Father Craig O'Brien

Boyhood (2014) Austin, Texas filmmaker Richard Linklater's summer feature now in theatres was 12 years in the making. What's different about it is that it's 12 years in real time, sketching the fictional boyhood and early adulthood of a contemporary Texan youth using the same unknown actor from around the age of 8 to 19, along with his sister, played by the director's daughter, and parents, played by Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette. The result is an epic, by turns draggy and extremely moving, of growth, maturity, love, loss, pain, hardship and social commentary in present day America, never quite captured on film in this way. The opening shot of the Texas sky seen through the wondering eyes of the boy lying on the grassy schoolyard to the strains of Coldplay's 'Yellow' encapsulates the whole perspective of the registered wonder of the passing world tempered by the hard knocks of self-knowledge and the insight of experience that hopefully never quench the childhood spirit of the 'present, our happiness'.

Things as They Are (1951) is Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Horgan's own lovely novelistic ode to boyhood set in turn of the century upstate New York. The vision of Horgan's Epyponymous boy character Richard is augmented by his Catholic upbringing, which in no way stifles the wonder but rather perfects it with the ennoblement of grace to look in to reality, to see *Things as They Are*.

That Eye, The Sky (1986) is perhaps my favorite living writer, Australian novelist Tim Winton's story of a young boy's optic on a world where nature and grace are often blurred. In common with the other two, the boy in this novel still has the wonder to look up to the sky and see even as he is seen. *When you look at it long enough, he muses, like I am now with my nose up in it, it looks exactly like an eye...One big blue eye. Just looking down. At us.* Fr. O'B

Gavin, Craig and Jeremy- What is your favorite Psalm and why?

Psalm 146 because it teaches us to praise God, trusting not in the power of mortal man, but in his power to comfort the afflicted, right wrongs, protect the weak, raise the dead, and confound the perverse.

Psalm 139 because The Lord sees all things.

Psalm 73 because it wrestles with a very difficult question, and the Psalmist only comes to understand through worship and humility.

Last Issue: What's the most important teaching or question that a Christian should be thinking as he prepares for Confirmation?

Jeremy - Self-examination

Craig - They are being given the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit and will be receiving the Body & Blood of Christ in their first communion

Gavin - Confirmation arms and strengthens us with the gifts of the Spirit for the spiritual battles of mature Christian faith against sin, the world, the flesh, and the devil. If I am so strengthened and armed, will I fight?

Childhood Education



Written by:
Caroline Hayes
chayes@stjohnssav.org

I love this time of year! Fresh sharpened pencils, new notebooks, and the excitement and hope for the upcoming school year. (My family would say “nerd alert!”). Big planning has taken place over the summer for our Christian education program from the nursery all the way up to adults.

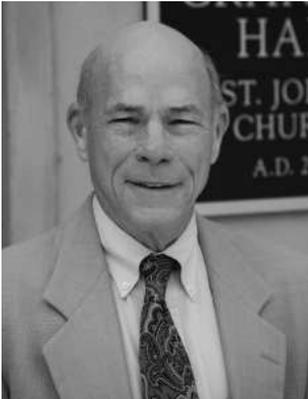
Sunday school will begin Sunday, September 7th. Please bring your children to their classrooms on the second floor of Cranmer Hall and then head down to the first floor for a parent meeting with Father Dunbar.

The children in preschool through 5th grades will be studying the New Testament along with the special event days that highlight the liturgical year. There is an exciting class for youth (3rd floor of Cranmer Hall) and more class options for adults. It really is going to be a great year!

One aspect of the church school we would like to focus on this year is giving. The bible song, “They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. . .” comes to mind. Throughout the year we will focus on different areas of our community that need assistance, or our love. More information to come.

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

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me - Caroline Hayes - chayes@stjohnssav.org or 232-1251. As always, we can use all the help we can get! Please let me know if you would like to help out, big or small. I look forward to seeing all of you on September 7th!



Harlotry, Compassion, Shepherding & Jesus

by: Jack Wray

The Old Testament in general points to and beyond a future fulfilment of restored creation – a return to Eden. There is forward motion from event to event, story to story, tragedy to tragedy, restoration to restoration, but that motion is unfinished at the end of the New Testament.

The OT prophets spoke God’s word to a moment in time calling for repentance and healing, yet pointed to a future time when mankind would be fully restored to perfection. Hosea, Jonah, and Zechariah especially have very strong crossovers to Jesus’ life, death, Resurrection, and ascension, and to St. Paul’s writings.

Hosea used vivid imagery including harlotry, adultery, and prostitution to paint a horrible picture of Israel’s sin of stepping out on God as casually as a husband stepping out on his wife (and vice versa) today.

Jonah was a prophet who received an overdose of God’s compassion and observed God’s compassion for outsiders (Nineveh) leading the prophet to resent such compassion upon ‘unworthies’ who were not of the family of faith. The story ends with God’s unanswered question to Jonah about his right to be compassionate to all people, a question we must answer for ourselves.

Zechariah’s judgment on wicked shepherds among Judah and beautiful portrait of the good shepherd who will replace them sometime in the future point vividly to Jesus the Good Shepherd in the gospels.

All three of these prophets’ images fulfilled in Christ are used by St. Paul to nurture and strengthen the early formative years of the church and provide sustenance to us in our own pilgrimage toward greater faithfulness.

This study is designed to take a look at these prophets and the images they provide for us in order to gain greater faith and hope in coping with our challenges of life.



by: Mary Kendall Dawson
Diocesan President,
The Order of the Daughters
of the King®
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The Order of the Daughters of the King®
Is Returning to St. John's!

In the last issue of the Eagle, I gave you a bit of information about The Order of the Daughters of the King® and its history at St. Johns. I also invited you to consider learning even more. Several of you responded and we got together for an informational meeting in late May. That meeting bore fruit!!! So it is my pleasure to invite you to join the small group of soon-to-be Daughters of the King on Saturday morning, September 27 at 10 a.m., as we finalize plans to begin training.

Becoming a Daughter of the King doesn't change WHAT you do in your spiritual life and journey so much as it changes WHO you are. Being a Daughter means you take on life-long vows of prayer and service through your church. Living those two vows automatically provides a framework of prayer for all the services you are already involved in. It doesn't add more responsibilities or take away more time. Rather, it validates who you are – a Godly woman already involved in God's work.

If you missed the May meeting and are interested in learning more, or even in joining us, this is an ideal opportunity for you to catch up on what you may have missed. At this meeting, we'll talk a bit about those vows and a lot about the process moving forward. We'll also begin scheduling the training sessions around our already-busy lives. So if you're even a little bit curious about The Order of the Daughters of the King®, join us! Again, the meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 at 10 a.m. Check the parish calendar for location, but we'll be somewhere in Cranmer Hall.

Introducing our new Organist/Choirmaster

For many of our members at St. John's, Steven Branyon needs no introduction, but for those members who are new to the parish, we would like to re-introduce Steven to our worshipping community.

Steven, a native of York, SC could play music "by ear before he learned to walk", says his mother, Helen Branyon. "He would crawl up to the piano and pull himself up on the bench, playing tunes that could be recognized as ones heard in the church services". When he began taking lessons from the church organist, Mrs. Frances Jones, she stated, "Steven was very difficult to teach because his ear had developed so quickly before any reading skills were expected". Steven's father, Ralph Branyon, was also influential on his continuing music studies. Steven said, "I wanted to quit taking piano when the music became difficult and no longer fun", but his father insisted that he keep taking lessons, no matter the end result. "I spent fifty cents a lesson and that is too much of an investment to give up", said his father. "I am so glad my father had vision enough to insist on my seeing it through to the end". Many parents let their children 'flip-flop' from one thing to the next without any real long-term commitment, but sometimes parents should insist on teaching their children how to follow through. We forget the importance of structure. Steven stuck it out and eventually music - once again - became fun and even easy.

Steven took his first church job at a small Church in York County, SC at age thirteen. As of this year, he has been serving parishes for forty-two years, in Florida, NC, SC, Washington DC, PA, and NJ. (continued on next page)



Sermons Online

Want to hear more from our priests??? Don't forget all of the sermons are online at:
www.stjohnssav.org/sermon-recordings/

Steven received his education from North Greenville University, Winthrop University, and Westminster Choir College. He has recorded with the choir of St. Peter's, Morristown, NJ; St. Paul's Lutheran, Savannah; and also with our St. John's Choirs. He has accompanied choirs to Salisbury; Bristol; Truro; Lichfield and Wells Cathedrals. He at various times has taught Music Appreciation for the Elderhostel classes for Mercer University. Recently, he taught a course entitled, "Understanding the Organ" at the local Savannah Senior Citizens Center. In addition, Steven has served as a critic for the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra during its recent year of interim conductors, and you can read his articles on The Island Packet website. Steven wrote as a guest columnist for the Yorkville Enquirer/Herald. In this article: A Lifetime of Service, he writes honoring the seventy plus years of service to the community of his beloved teacher, Mrs. Frances Jones. You may find this article on the Internet. Other professors and teachers have included Sir. David Willcocks, Dr. David Lowry, Dr. Jackie Griffin, Murray Sommerville, and Joseph Flummerfelt. "I have gained much from watching these musicians work over the years", and yet there are so many others that space will not allow for in this column. "We owe everything that we are and have become to those who paved the way for us".

Steven's relationship with St. John's began in the early nineties, when he was asked by Kenneth Yates to substitute for him while he was on vacations. At this time, he was serving as the Organist/Choirmaster of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In 2002 he came to St. John's Church as the Associate Organist/Choirmaster. He left in 2007 to take the position of Organist/Choirmaster at All Saints, Hilton Head, SC. While at All Saints, he started with a choir of seventeen members, and the choir soon peaked at forty-three members. During his years at Hilton Head, he helped the church to acquire two new pianos, and a new organ. He implemented the rebuilding of the balcony in the main nave of the church. We look forward to Steven's ministry at St. John's and we welcome him with open arms.



Dr Bergstrom's Dissertations

by: Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom

One of the interesting bits of 'real world' ministry experience I've gained over my past two years here at St. John's has been the surprisingly common experience of meeting young couples with small children who've made a renewed commitment to coming to church. Case-by-case, the story is remarkably similar: "Ever since I left home for college, going to church hadn't been a top priority for me. But now that we're out of the baby stage and our child is growing up quickly, we've come to realize that there is something missing in our family life. I truly enjoyed growing up as part of a church family, and I realize that if I don't act now, my child will grow up without the benefits of a loving community and Christian education that were such a valued part of my own childhood."

These parents are absolutely correct, Sunday morning church school is an essential part of a properly Christian upbringing. There simply is no substitute for quality Christian education, and this is precisely what we strive to offer to your family: sound Christian teaching, conducted in a safe, clean, and loving environment. Fr. Dunbar has asked Caroline Hayes and me to lead and further develop our Church School, and we are excited about the opportunity. Our approach for the years to come will be one where Biblical literacy and moral formation occur in an environment that's fun, happy, and loving: after all, the love of God and neighbor in Jesus Christ is the point of all Christian teaching, and this is best conveyed by teachers who are not simply doctrinally sound, but are also living examples of the love of Christ. 1 Timothy 1:5 has long been a theme verse of my own ministry: "Now the end of the commandment [or, "our instruction"] is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."

Our hope is that our Church School will be characterized by this same love of Christ, and that through it our children will have many joyful memories and be built up in the traditional faith, receiving a firm foundation—the only true foundation—which will equip them to live adult lives rich in faith, hope, and love. Please join us, and expect many wonderful things to come.

9:30 Sunday School Classes for Youth & Adults

Youth Forum: All confirmed youth, ages 12-18 are invited to join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 for a series of discussion on the Christian life. Our theme this Fall and Winter will be the Seven Deadly Sins, so come join us for some real and serious talk about vice and virtue, and the things that matter. We'll also enjoy visits from various members of our congregation, who will share their experience of living the Christian life in various careers, and also hear about opportunities to make a difference in our community through Christian service.

Received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Thomas Clark Horne
Saturday, July 5, 2014

Colman Elias Bergstrom
infant son of
The Rev'd Dr. & Mrs. Jeremy W. Bergstrom
Sunday, July 6, 2014

Charlton Baxter Ray
infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Dustan Elroy Ray
Saturday, August 2, 2014

United in Holy Matrimony

Annette Irene Bader to William Ross Burrus
Saturday, May 24, 2014

Lillian Chisholm Sprague to Louis Carlton Dixon
Saturday, June 7, 2014

Two new groups for adults:

Ready to give Adult Sunday School a try, but not quite up to an intense study with the clergy? We have a pair of new courses just for you. This Fall we debut two new classes at 9:30, one for men and another for women, focused around easy and approachable discussions of the things that matter to you: current events, parenting, marriage, reflections on Scripture, etc. The discussions will be led by seasoned laypersons, with occasional visits from the clergy. We hope to see you there!

Coffee Hour Recipe:

The Very Best Hummus

2 cans of chick peas, drained
2 cloves of garlic, minced
1/4 cup lemon juice
1/4 cup tahini
2 t ground cumin
1/4 t cayenne pepper
1/4 cup pitted olives or jarred tapenade

Puree in blender or food processor.
Serve with lightly toasted pita triangles.

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*

John Williams
Dr. Edwin Collier Shepherd
Lilian "Betty" Walford Siler
James Robert Matthew Farrer
Judge James Wesley Head
The Rev. Addison Dawson Teague, Jr.

Italian Itinerary

Some parishioners are planning a small group trip to Italy next spring (probably late April or May).

Lots of art, architecture, history, good food, good company – and LOTS of walking.

Plans are still in development, but if you are interested in being part of them, or receiving updates about them, please email Elaine Barrow ehbarrow@aol.com or David Carson jdcarson47@hotmail.com



Paid Missions

by: Angela Najam

How can we spread the gospel in our everyday lives? I've always wanted to be a missionary, or at least I've always wanted to travel to other countries and meet people of different cultures. Being a missionary or in the ministry seems more worthwhile than other vocations. Yet, I find myself working as a teacher during the school day and as Title I tutor in the afternoons. Not only can I not spread the gospel, I cannot be seen to promote my religion to my students in any way. I have found much comfort in a saying attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: Preach the Gospel every day, and if you have to, use words.

Fr. Dunbar asked me to write about my teaching; I have always called it my "paid missions" job.

The Lord has placed me in a school with almost 1,000 students between 11 and 16 years of age. I personally greet every 7th grade student who walks in the building, and I have a minute to speak with the majority of those students as they line up for breakfast each morning. I compliment them on their dress, or style, or smile and ask them how they are, or how was their weekend, and did they get all their homework done. It's a very, very small part of their day, but I hope that I am able to share that God loves them in those few moments. With 100 students on my own team, I spend more time building relationships and hopefully listening more than I talk. Of course, I help with their academics, but I hope that I offer more than the answer to an algebra problem. I do not have much tangible evidence that I am preaching the Gospel without words, but every once in a while, a student will ask about my cross-necklace. They'll spontaneously tell me they are a Christian too. They'll ask if I always smile because I am a Christian, and their questions allow me to give an answer for the hope that I have. I tell them I always smile because the Lord is always with me and I am confident that all is well because He is always Good. Students notice that I pray during the moment of silence because I close my eyes and I'm still (and pay them no mind, at least for those few quiet minutes). Many students ask me to pray for their family members who are sick, just because I seem to be praying during the moment of silence, and because I smile or make time for them, they perceive that I am blessed and they want that same blessing. My colleagues also ask for prayers, and over the years we have held Bible studies after school just to encourage each other. The school may be the last big battlefield for the soul of America; it certainly is a large battlefield and there seem to be many, many casualties. It can be overwhelming when I forget that my job is just to share, and not to fix.

One day I may go someplace where the people have never heard the Gospel of Christ, but for this time, I am sent to the children and teens in the Savannah area. The Lord knows how much mission-field I can handle, and at this moment, it's the mission-field that is close enough to my own children, close to the beach, not too far from the mountains, and with my own strong Church. Thank you for your sustaining prayers in the work of sharing Christ with young people...for those who teach and those who learn.

Pictured: Angela Najam with one of one of her favorite after-school students who created the quilt behind them through Loop-it-up Savannah.

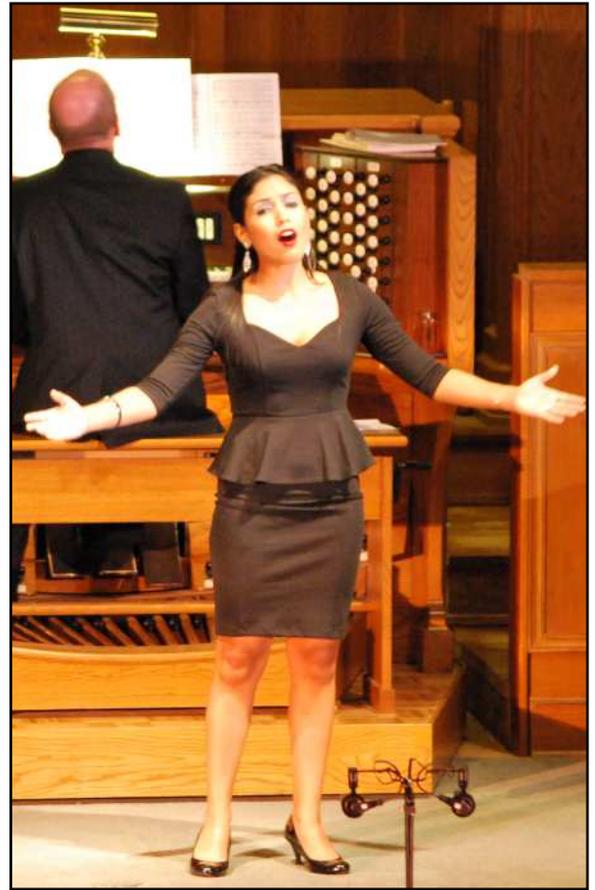


Written by:
Scott Howard
Men's Club Secretary

The Men's Club Reports

The Men of St. John's ended the spring with our Second Annual Men's Steak Night at Derst Park. A special thank you is owed to Alex Jarman for once again organizing a fantastic night of great food and fellowship and to Mr. Edward Derst for graciously allowing the Men to use the Derst Park facility again. Over 45 men convened to enjoy grilled steaks and great conversation. As we look forward to the fall, the Men are preparing to resume the Men's Forum under the leadership of Rick Wright and his team. Please stay tuned for announcements regarding the Men's Forum as it truly does provide some mid-week sustenance for body and soul. We also look forward to our Annual meeting to be held on Thursday, September 18th in Cranmer Hall. President John Helmken will report on the results over the past year and we will announce upcoming programs for the year and nominate and elect a new slate of officers for the Club.

As we look forward to fall and contemplate the upcoming stewardship season, we encourage all Men of St. John's to think of stewardship not just in terms of giving of your financial resources, but also in giving of your time and talents. St. John's is blessed to have so many Men with diverse talents to fill all of the necessary roles in our ministry. Some possible opportunities for service include the Dad Squad to be an example for our children, a Lay Reader for both Morning and Evening Prayer, or a volunteer at one of the many Men's Club functions throughout the year. Please reach out to the Rector, office staff, or an officer of the Club so we can identify where your special gifts for service can be best utilized at St. John's to glorify God, serve, and worship together.



Pictured Above: The talented opera singers from the Voice Festival that took place at St. John's and other Savannah venues in August. Thank you to Dr. Roland Summers for the photos.

Conservation of the 15th Century Flemish Tapestry at St. John's Church

by: Elyse Carroll

The 16th century tapestry owned by St John's Church is a magnificent example of Flemish Tapestry making. Flemish tapestries are amongst the most cherished tapestries in the world. By the 16th century Flanders had become the center of European tapestry production. The tapestry owned by St Johns Church, commissioned by a Cardinal and his son shows wonderful Christian imagery. These images are the Coronation of the Virgin Mother by the Holy Trinity, the "Great Church Fathers"-Ambrose, Jerome, Augustine and Gregory the Great, as well as a beautiful representation of other Holy Figures.

Tapestry weaving is an art that has been used for millennia to create a fabric in which the design is integral to the structure of the piece. When the yarns start to deteriorate it not only affects the image but also the tapestries structural integrity. The tapestry owned by St Johns Church has been repaired and rewoven throughout its lifetime. Some of these alterations are damaging to the tapestry's overall stability. When first presented with the tapestry, I noticed immediately that the tapestry was suffering great damage due to the current hanging system. The system was constructed of metal rings along the top edge. These rings where sewn haphazardly through the tapestry's backing and into the yarns of the tapestry itself, causing damaging tension to the tapestry fibers. After removing the rings and backing I saw that the border of the tapestry had also started to detach. This border was originally attached to areas consisting of silk threads. With age and constant tension this silk had become brittle and disintegrated completely in some parts.

Before any further action could be completed the tapestry needed to become more stable. I created a large cotton muslin support patch to cover the damage. This patch would allow me to sew the detached border and top edge of the tapestry together without having to sew into the weak threads. I am also reweaving sections of the upper tapestry and stitching down to the patch for added stability. I am also stitching along the patch every inch to add a continued line of tension to ensure there is no stretching or warping when the tapestry is hanging.

There is a great deal more to be done on the tapestry after the support patch is completed. These repairs include fixing of damages and holes, a new support system sewn onto the back of the tapestry to prevent sagging and distortion, a new cotton broad cloth backing to prevent dirt and debris build up and most importantly a new Velcro hanging system will be installed. The Velcro will ensure consistent tension along the piece so as not to add extra stress onto the aging fibers.

Tapestry conservation treatments are integral to the structural stability of the tapestry. It is not only about bringing back the visual glory of the tapestry but ensuring that no further damage will take place. My name is Elyse Carroll and I learned the skill to preserve tapestries while working under the talented women at the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine Textile Conservation Laboratory in New York. St. John's is one of the leading textile conservation labs in the world. While at the Lab, I learned how to clean, support, re-back and hang tapestries. I not only learned to restore tapestries, but I grew to love and admire the character and strength a tapestry represents. A tapestry can be used as a metaphor for a strong community. A tapestry essentially is only yarns woven together, supporting one another. These yarns need each other, giving and taking with the force of nature upon it. All these yarns, each one integral parts of the tapestry, come together to make a whole. Much like the strong community at St. John's Church.

Bazaar Book Nook

by: Cameron Spencer

As we all are aware, the Holly Days Bazaar has a tendency to come upon us before we realize it! Please remember the Book Store when you are deciding whether to keep a book on the shelf; why not make room for another one? We eagerly accept books the week of the Bazaar, but there is storage available if you need it. We are interested in all books-children's books, how-to books, non-fiction, and fiction are all welcome. If you have any particularly old or possibly valuable books (for example, first editions or autographed), please put those aside and mark them so that Marilyn and I can research their value. We also hope to have a best sellers table this year, so if you have any current or recent best sellers, we would love to have them. Please set them apart and mark them as well. We are not accepting magazines, journals, or periodicals. If you need information, please call me at 912-663-0318. Thank you once more for your support!

**Next Deadline:
October 24, 2014**

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Are You Ready to Bid or Donate?

by: Holly Montford

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We have some great contributors but we need some dinner parties, vacation homes, a hunt, and we are always on the look out for wine, jewelry, rugs, antiques, art, etc. We have received a 1985 Charles Dickens complete Christmas Village set Department 56. We are most anxious to market it correctly. Any ideas on whether the set would be more interesting whole, in groupings, or individual pieces??? All of our parishioners have been so enthusiastic and generous. Wow what a group of great people!!!! Here is a list of some of our fabulous donations/ donators thus far:

- Rug from Culver Rug Company
- The Charleston Academy of Domestic Pursuits
- The Stephen Williams B and B Inn
- The Vinyards Downtown Condo
- Chef Services from Bryn Futrell
- Art from Debbie Helmken
- Ireland Cottage from Anna Smith
- Grace Merritt's Etiquette Class
- Art From Frosty Montgomery
- Art from Beth Reiter
- Cocktail Party with Father Dunbar
- Tea Party with C S Brown

- Fine Art Appraisals with John Hazzard Forbes
- Art from Jessica Osborne
- Number Four Eleven Courtland Stevens
- Silver from Argyll and Jasper
- Painted furniture from Courtney Nanninga
- John B. Rourke Gentlemen Clothiers
- Art from Charlie Ellis
- Art from Julie McIntosh
- Yoga Lessons from Cathy Baxter

- And Many More.....
- Such enthusiasm from every donor.
- I am overwhelmed!!! Thanks so much.