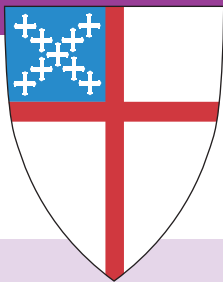


The Vineyard

Christ Episcopal Church - Valdosta, Georgia

September 2008



Mark Your Calendar

September 1

Labor Day
Office Closed

September 2

First Day of Preschool

September 6

Night of Joy @
Disney World

September 13

Presiding Bishop
Jefferts Schori @
St. Peter's Savannah

September 20

Confirmation and
Inquirers Class
9 am - 3 pm
Parish Hall

September 27

Everest Challenge
at Disney World's
Animal Kingdom
and visit to EPCOT

[www.christchurch
valdosta.org](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org)

CONTRACTS AND COVENANTS

The church was a spectacular example of late nineteenth century Roman Catholic architecture, spacious and colorful, filled with icons and statues of saints, with a high altar and soaring vaulted blue ceiling filled with gold stars. The occasion was the wedding of a nephew in Annapolis, Maryland. The wedding with its accompanying, customary grand family reunion was an altogether joyous occasion. The priest's wedding homily spoke of "contracts" and "covenants." The difference between a contract and a covenant, he said, is the word "if." Simply stated, a contract says "if you will do thus and so, then I will do thus and so." God, he said, does not have a contract with us. God puts no conditions on the receipt of His love for us. God places no obstacles between us and His grace. God says "I will be your God; you will be my people." That is a covenant. If conditions are imposed, or obstacles raised, they are, he said, our doing, not God's. What splendid assurance in times of stress or crisis or simply in the living of every day. How easily forgotten in times when we feel overwhelmed by events and carry the world's weight on our rather inadequate shoulders. It's a thought that should accompany us every moment of every day.



Peter+



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will visit with the lay people of the Diocese of Georgia on Saturday, September 13, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Savannah, Georgia. Christ Church has 22 tickets.

The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Henry Louttit will visit Christ Episcopal Church Sunday, November 2, 2008.



The Vineyard On the Web

The Vineyard is posted to the Christ Church Valdosta Web site in color at <www.christchurchvaldosta.org> . Double click The Vineyard tab to view this publication.

The Vineyard Deadline

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send information to <juliacariail@bellsouth.net> or phone 229-559-7329.

Christ Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Henry I. Louttit,
Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Peter Ingeman, Rector
The Rev. Tar Drazdowski, Priest
in Residence
Stella Clark, Deacon
Patricia Marks, Deacon
Molly Greneker, Parish Secretary
Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper
Sue Ellen Rumstay, Organist
Kathy Armstrong, St. Gregory
Choir Director
Dr. John Curtis and Maggie Roberts,
St. Francis Choir Leaders
Julia and Julius Ariail, Newsletter

Vestry

Mimi Allen	Sandra Fletcher
Hugh Bailey	Phyllis Holland
Clinton Beeland	Pepi Nelson
Charles Boatwright	Bill Nunn
Tom Carroll	Buddy Pitts
Jan Carter	Joe Singletary
Carolyn Eager	Al Turner
	Sylvia Warrick

Phone Numbers

Church Office	242-5115
The Rev. Ingeman	245-0799
The Rev. Drazdowski	249-0895
Deacon Clark	559-6159
Deacon Marks	244-5159
Molly Greneker	292-8215

www.christchurchvaldosta.org

Happy Birthday Katherine Mixon

Katherine Mixson was born in Quitman, Georgia, to Zenas Wise and Juanita Bullard Oglesby. Her family was involved with the South Georgia Railroad, and among Katherine's favorite tales are those about "riding the trains" as a young girl. She met and married Harry Mixon, and they enjoyed a long and happy marriage until his death in 2001. She has been a member of Christ Church for over sixty years, served on the Altar Guild, taught Sunday School, and was a faithful member of the choir along with one of her longtime cherished friends, Bill Gabard. When asked, she will tell you that the heartfelt loves of her



Katherine Mixon on her 98th birthday

life have been her Church, her family, and the Arts. Today, she spends most of her time with what she calls "my most beloved and dearest companions, . . . my books."

Grill for Men in Blue

Thurman Larson, son of Willie and Hambone Larson, recently donated a grill to the Men in Blue for Christ Episcopal Church barbecues, fish cookouts, the Oktoberfest, and other "cookin's." The grill is not new but was one that was custom built for Hambone for American Legion cookouts. The Men in Blue have cooked many suppers for the congregation to raise money for worthy causes as well as just for fun.



The grill has its own travel trailer.

Iraqi Pencil Project

Thanks to the wonderful support from the congregation, Katherine Mayer, Phyllis Hiers, Gil Gjertsen, Deacon Patricia Marks, and David Schert packaged and mailed the second shipment of school supplies to Iraq. This is an ongoing project, so contributions are still being accepted. If you wish to write a check, make it payable to Christ Church and put "Iraqi Children's Fund" on the memo line. Thanks for your generosity.



Gil Gjertsen, (l to r) Phyllis Hiers, and Katherine Mayer pack up the supplies.

Ronald McDonald Pop Tabs

Deacon Stella Clark is organizing an effort at Christ Episcopal Church to collect pop tabs from aluminum cans to support The Atlanta Ronald McDonald Houses. The recycling of aluminum pop tabs has been a fund-raising project of the Atlanta group since 1998. The project generates a necessary income that allows them to continue to provide comfortable housing and emotional support to families of critically ill and injured children being treated at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities, Inc. (ARMHC) is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation which creates, finds, and supports programs that directly improve the



health and well-being of children. You can visit their Web site at <http://www.armh.com>. Information about the pop tab campaign is under the heading, Get Involved. The site encourages individuals, schools, businesses, churches, and corporations to raise money by saving pop tabs from any aluminum cans. The tabs should be



Raini Singleton helps her grandmother, Deacon Stella Clark, sift through the pop tabs which will go to Atlanta as our contribution soon.

dropped off at one of the Atlanta Ronald McDonald locations.

Stella Clark recently heard a Georgia Public Broadcasting program about the closing of a Ronald McDonald House in Atlanta where she and her husband Dave and their son Michael had stayed when Michael was in the Atlanta hospital suffering from cystic fibrosis. When she called the headquarters, the Ronald McDonald staff assured her they were not closing, only moving to a larger location. When she asked how she could help with the project, they encouraged her to save pop tabs.

Perhaps you have seen the triptych display, seen in the photo above, in the parish hall with the bowl of pop tabs, information sheets, and folded cardboard pop tab houses. Pick one up and take it home. Fill it up with pop tabs and

return it to the church parish hall. Stella plans to go to Atlanta soon with the first load of pop tabs, but the project will be ongoing.

Your contribution of pop tabs, no matter how small, together with others from our church really will make a difference. Since 1998, the Atlanta Ronald McDonald Houses have raised over \$60,000 by collecting more than 125,000 pounds of pop tabs.

Collecting Pop Tabs

1280 tabs	= 1 pound
1 gallon jug	= 3,660 tabs
1 small RMH tab collector	= 700 tabs
1 large RMH tab collector	= 9,000 tabs

Words for Season After Pentecost
Commandments, Discipleship, Mercy

Sunday School Teachers Honored



Christ Episcopal Church honored the 2007-2008 Sunday School teachers at a reception between the 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday services on July 27. Norma Tomberlin, Lucy Tomberlin, Stefani Carroll, Jane Peeples, Jeana Beeland, Mike Tanner, Diane Holliman, Beth Baker, Susan Elliott, Dan Schert, Bonnie Hanson, Jacquie Thigpen, and Leigh Prime received the gift of Episcopal flip-flops or an apron with the Episcopal Shield on it. Beth Baker, the Christ Church Christian Education Director, and Fr. Peter Ingeman thanked the teachers on behalf of the congregation for their excellent work and generous sharing of God's word with our young people.

The Vineyard, p. 4, September 2008

SPECTACULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

by Beth Baker

The 2008-2009 Sunday School year begins the first Sunday after Labor Day. Not only are the teachers excited to begin the new year, but the students will be thrilled to see that Louttit Hall has undergone a fabulous transformation. The floors have been redone, the crummy couches are "outta there," and we will have a new, clean space to grow in our faith. NO MORE MILLER HOUSE, either... YEA YEA YEA! The 2nd through 5th Graders will now be meeting in Louttit, as well!

Youth News

This August, the youth at Christ Church invited guests from St. Marks, Brunswick to join us for a Lock-in Swap. We hope that they will return the favor and invite us to the beach in the spring. Our plans included a Lock-In in the Parish Hall and a "shoot" down the Ichetucknee River.

We are in the early stages of planning a High School Ski Trip scheduled for January 2nd-5th.

Our super fabulous Rachel Greneker has been asked to serve as the Rector for Happening #82 in January. This is a HUGE honor and her peers are VERY proud of her!

Please look at the posters in the Parish Hall about upcoming Christ Church Youth Events. Join the fun!

Senior EYC

Christ Church's Senior EYC will kick off another great year on Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elliott's home! (1112 Cloverhill Road - 245-7930) Dr. Dan and Mrs. Susan hope to see you there!



Special Days Remembered in September



BIRTHDAYS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Jim Drazdowski | 17 Tim Pitts |
| 3 Trent Coggins | 19 Lucile Griffin |
| 5 Norma Barnidge | Tom Shafer |
| Robin Coleman | 20 John Bennett |
| Beth Curtis | Charles Boatwright |
| 6 Margaret Anderson | Judy DeMott |
| Tamara Dennis | Amanda Harrell |
| Elonda Holcomb | Gus Elliott |
| Brandi Parsons | Will Hanson |
| Randi Parsons | 21 Betty Chason |
| Steve Roberts | Gnann Moser |
| 7 Ron Borders | Dylan Phillips |
| Karen Gunter | 22 Mandy White |
| 9 Robert Gilchrist | 23 Monique Bajalia |
| Sylvia Warrick | Paul Leake |
| 10 Jo Church | Jacque Thigpen |
| 11 Jim Zager | 24 Rick Coleman |
| 12 Alex Lind | Christopher Hanson |
| 13 Frances Hatcher | Karyl Miller |
| 14 Kymberly Parsons | 28 Jeana Beeland |
| 15 Will Armstrong | 29 Jim Nelson |
| Caitlin Kirk | 30 Bill Armstrong |
| Jake Mims | Wade Coleman |
| 16 Ellie Copeland | Molly Greneker |
| Stephen Sandbach | Danny Mansukhani |
| 17 Nicky Balanis | Dale Marshall |

- 3 Richard & Debi Saeger
- 6 Jim & Karyl Miller
- 7 Jeff & Mandy White
- 8 Merrill & Frances Guice
- David & Caitlin Kirk
- 10 Russell & Mary Lou McRae
- 11 Jim & Tar Drazdowski
- 12 Wilby & Gloria Coleman
- Charles & Tamara Dennis
- 19 Grif & Lucile Griffin
- 22 Frank & Diane Corker
- 23 Chip & Allison Curington
- 28 Jeff & Cathy Hanson
- 30 Jeff & Lauren Rutledge

- 4 Julie Jackson
- 12 Alex Elliott
- 17 Holly Querin
- Katie Querin
- 22 Tyler Johnson
- Katie Wisenbaker
- 24 Peter Ingeman
- Adair Pizer
- 27 Jerry Byrd

If your special day is not included in our calendar, please call the church office at 242-5115 to let us know.

Vestry Report from the July 21 Meeting

- Voted to move the church's operating account to Park Avenue Bank. PAB has superior reconciliation documents, making it easier to assess and audit statements.
- Received report from Facilities Committee. Barganier has provided a preliminary summary that has been reviewed for accuracy by the committee as well as the church interest groups that were involved in the interview process. The edited document was returned to Barganier and will serve as the basis for their report to the congregation, to be delivered in approximately a month.



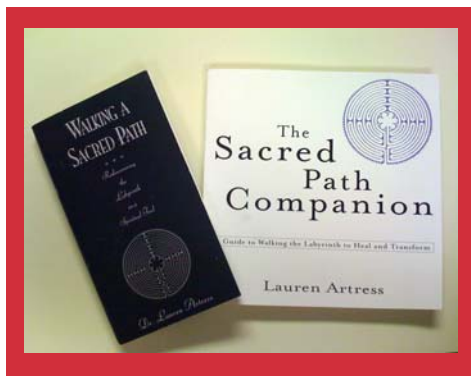
Pepi Nelson, Senior Warden and Clint Beeland, Junior Warden

- Reviewed results of an evaluation of repair and refresh needs for Louttit Hall. The vestry previously decided to place as many children's Sunday School classrooms in this building as possible so as to avoid using Miller House. The vestry approved facelift work for the building.

- Approved purchase of furniture for Louttit Hall downstairs room to replace old pieces that have been removed.
- Received report of progress on the renovation of the rectory kitchen.
- Voted to provide \$1,000 to the diocese for financial support of seminarians.
- Received a gift of two concrete tables with benches from Charles and Carmen Boatwright, one in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary and another in thanksgiving for Sandy Sandbach. Charles also gave a St. Francis statue to honor Carmen.

The Church Bookshelf

by Patricia Marks



Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool, by Dr. Lauren Artress. Riverhead Books, 1995; and *The Sacred Path Companion: A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform*. By Lauren Artress. Riverhead Books, 2006.

Bless to me, O God,
The earth beneath my foot,
Bless to me, O God,
The path whereon I go . . .

This Celtic blessing, a prayer for protection, is a good way to begin any journey, long or short. And it is a good way to bring peace to mind and spirit before walking the labyrinth, the ancient pathway that Lauren Artress writes about in her two books.

Walking a Sacred Path recounts her own journey to, through, and beyond this archetypal pattern.

Seeking spiritual renewal, this priest and psychotherapist sets foot upon a labyrinth, a meditative space in use for over 2000 years. Her account of discovering the pattern at Chartres Cathedral and moving the chairs to walk the sacred path will resonate with any traveler who has wished to pull aside a dusty curtain to see the fresco underneath.

Her explanation of recreating the labyrinth at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco is an inspiring introduction to the history of this beautiful and evocative pattern that once served as an alternative to a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Shining through the story of her own spiritual journey is her conviction that finding a quiet space for prayer, for self-examination, away from everyday stress is essential to spiritual grounding.

Artress's other book, *Sacred Path Companion*, is a comforting guide to this sacred path. It begins with the idea that there is no wrong or right way to walk, and then points the way to healing and transformation. Like her first book, this one is threaded with real-life comments and accounts.

Often spiritual "guide-books" defeat their purpose by including too many worksheets. Artress does offer leading questions for those who wish a somewhat structured approach; but more to the point, it is her quiet, welcoming tone that leads the reader into a consideration of relationships, grief, and self-forgiveness. In short, she provides a helping hand not only on the sacred path of the labyrinth, but on life's journey as well.



Deacon Patricia Marks

Labrynth Web Sites

Reliable labyrinth Web sites include the one for the Labyrinth Society <<http://labyrinthociety.org>> and for *Veriditas* <<http://veriditas.org/>>, where the locator lists Christ Church's outdoor labyrinth, built by Alex Elliott as his Eagle Scout project. The church also has an indoor labyrinth.



Catherine Oglesby

Catherine Oglesby, Professor of History at Valdosta State University and member of Christ Episcopal Church, recently published *Corra*

Harris and the Divided Mind of the New South, published by the University of Florida Press and scheduled to be released August 31, 2008. This is Ms. Oglesby's first book. It is available at Amazon.

When asked about the book, she said, "For the readership of a church newsletter it would be fitting to know about Corra Harris (the subject of the

book), that although she grew up in and remained somewhat constrained by the narrow moral and social vision associated with early 20th century southern Methodist evangelicalism, as a naturally deep-thinker, she evolved well beyond the religious constraints of her time and place to embrace a progressive, some might call, universalist theology."

Around the Parish



Lindsey Wisenbaker

Lindsey Wisenbaker Awarded Scholarship

Lindsey Wisenbaker is the recipient of the 2008 Michael Clark Scholarship for \$1000. She graduated from Lowndes High School in May 2008 and is an entering freshman at Valdosta State University for Fall Semester. She has declared her major as Biology-Pre-Med. While she also qualifies for the HOPE Scholarship because of her superior grades, she will use the Clark scholarship to pay for housing and books.

"This was a real surprise," Lindsey said. Lindsey, her parents Elizabeth and Larry Wisenbaker, her sisters, Amy and Katie, and her grandparents, Brooks and Mary Lovelace, are members of Christ Episcopal Church.

EPISCOPELICAN Expedition Everest Team

There have been 8 people brave enough to accept the 5K challenge in Orlando! September 27th, Pepi and Jim Nelson, Amber and Mike Tanner, Molly Greneker, Paul Stevenson, Beth and Cliff Baker will embark on a fun filled road trip/5K/EPCOT visit! There will be plenty more Episcopalian events in the near future...so, be on the lookout and remember that anyone and everyone is invited to join us!



Are you in need of blessings?

Aren't we all? I know of a quiet ministry that brings blessings with little effort. On Thursdays for the last several years, I along with Deacon Patricia have been taking the Sunday flowers to those in the hospital and/or shut-ins. I can puff myself up by saying that I am doing God's work to bring some "sunshine" into the lives of those who receive them, and I do hope this is the case. However, without exception, I am always the one receiving the blessing...the smiles, the interchange of conversation, the gratitude (sometimes of people I have never met before) "lifts me up so I can stand on mountains." I don't "do this" to be blessed, but that is always the by-product.

If you would like to share in this ministry, please contact me (242-4104), Deacon Patricia Marks (630-8644) or the church office (242-5115). It only takes about 30 minutes or at most an hour of your time each week. The blessings last much longer.

God bless...Judy DeMott



Raini Singleton and Georgi Banks

At ten years old, Raini Singleton, daughter of Jennifer and David Singleton, already has a career field in mind.

"Ever since I was three years old, I've been interested in the weather, its impact on our lives, the good and the bad," said Raini, who recently finished fourth grade at Lake Park Elementary. Her mom used to get everyone in the closet when bad weather approached, so Raini wanted to understand weather so she wouldn't be frightened by it.

And she's doing just that. She attended the National Young Scholars Program at Lake Buena Vista, Florida, July 12-17. She was nominated for the honor by her P.E. teacher, Ms. Georgi Banks.

One interesting feature of the program is the "Weather Station Earth: In the Eye of the Storm" where they experience the effects of climate change on the atmosphere, winds and oceans.

Foyer Groups Forming in September

Foyer groups are now being formed for September. A foyer group is a small group of church friends who gather for dinner at one another's homes or in a restaurant. It is a great way to meet new friends or reconnect with old ones. Please sign up now in the parrish hall. A wine and cheese party will be held

on September 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall to kick things off.

Foyer groups will meet once a month. Some members will offer rides to those who don't like to drive after dark.

Sign up today to make new friends and share good fellowship.

EFM Set to Begin in September



Jim Elliott signs up with Nancy Richardson for this year's EFM class

Nancy Sartin Richardson will mentor this year's Education for Ministry classes at Christ Episcopal Church. The entire program is four years long, but people only commit one year at a time. The first year is Old Testament study; the second is New Testament; the third is Church History, and the fourth is Theology. Theological reflection is taught and practiced during the classes as well. Students meet

once a week on Sundays from 4 to 6 p.m. A limit of 12 is the usual class size.

When asked why someone should study Education for Ministry if they have no plans to go into ministry, Nancy replied, "If you look at a telescope, it's just an instrument. If you look through it, whole new worlds open up. The Bible is like that."

The classes are about spiritual growth. If you are interested in exploring this resource, call the church office at 242-5115.

More than 30,000 people in the world have taken EFM, and more than 50 at Christ Church have participated for at least one year.

There is a financial commitment as well, but some scholarship money is available. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, examine the Web site at www.sewanee.edu/EFM.

Bush Bryan Honored



World War II ace pilot Bush Bryan was joined by his grandson Michael, his daughter-in-law Rosa, his son Kevin, and his wife Frances, as well as 125 others at a surprise 87th birthday party Friday, August 15 at the Lowndes High School Cafeteria.

The party was planned by the Air Force Junior ROTC unit at Lowndes. Karen Guenter organized a large contingent of well-wishers from Christ Church who surprised Bush. He was also given the Order of the Sword at the event.

Join us for Regular Services

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

11:30 a.m. Holy Communion*

Tuesday: 10:30 a.m. @ Langdale Place

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion*

6:00 p.m. Vespers

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.*

10:45 a.m. Christian Education*

Thursday: 7:00 a.m.

*Nursery Available

Christ Episcopal Church

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