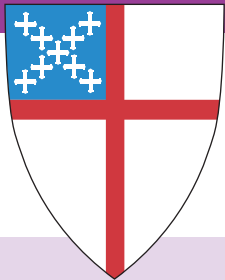


The Vineyard

Christ Episcopal Church - Valdosta, Georgia

February 2013



Mark Your Calendar

February 3

St. Francis Ministry for Animals
Cookout Fundraiser
Pickup 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

February 5

Self-Study Forum
7 p.m.

February 7 - 9

Convention of the Diocese of Georgia in Tifton

February 10-16

Drazdowskis and Ariails in the Dominican Republic

February 12

Pancake Supper
6 - 7 p.m.

February 13

Ash Wednesday Services
7 a.m., 12 noon., 6 p.m.

February 17

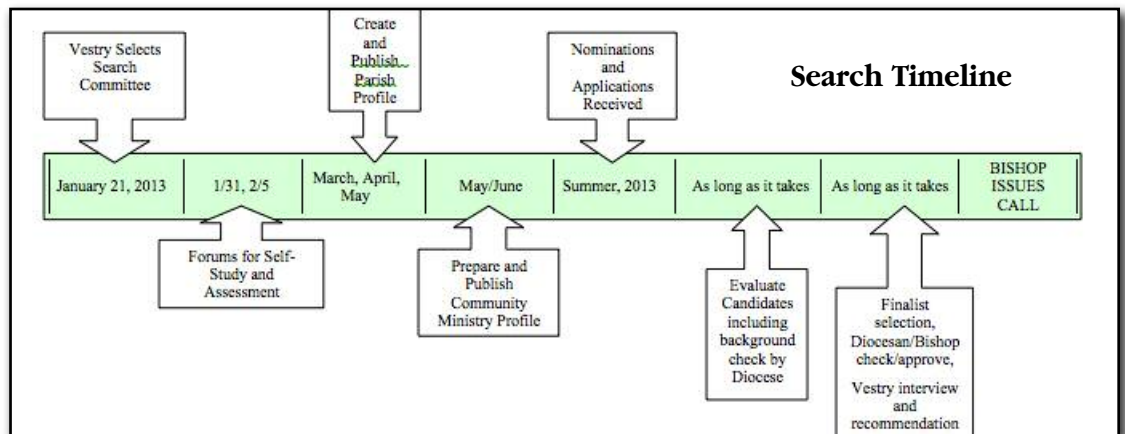
Third Sunday Lunch
12:30 p.m.

February 18

Vestry Meeting
5:30 p.m.

www.christchurchvaldosta.org

Search Committee Chosen



The Diocese of Georgia has guidelines for the intervening period between the time a rector leaves a parish and a new rector is called. That period calls for an interim rector to guide the congregation through a time of self-study that results in writing a parish profile document, forming a search committee, and conducting a national search for a new rector. The Transition Handbook is available online at <http://gaepiscopal.org/docs/TransitionHandbook.pdf>.

After much consideration, the Vestry selected the search committee from our parishioners at a meeting on January 21. They are: Dr. Phyllis Holland, chair; Jeani Synyard, vestry liaison; Michael Black, Allan Dear, Mike Tanner, Helen Tucker, and Nikki Yarbrough.

The next step in the process is to examine where we are as a parish, where we have been and what God is calling us to do in the future. The information we gather is necessary to guide the search committee as well as to inform prospective candidates about our church. This Congregational Self-Study and

Assessment process will begin with two forums: the first at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31st; and the second at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5th. Everyone in the parish is encouraged to attend one of these meetings and to participate in the discussions that will take place. The information gathered in these meetings and in future focus groups will be compiled into a Parish Profile that will be posted online as a part of the overall search process.

"The Search Committee will have organizational and clerical duties for the search, but the search process is truly a parish-wide activity," said Phyllis Holland. "The forums scheduled for January 31 and February 5 are critical to developing an understanding of who we are as a parish and the skills we are seeking in a rector. Please make attendance and participation in one of these discussions a priority. The forums are the first step in producing a parish profile which is central to recruiting candidates for the position," she concluded.



The Vineyard On the Web

The Vineyard is posted to the Christ Church Web site in color at www.christchurchvaldosta.org. Look in the "Publications" area to see this newsletter.

The Vineyard Deadline

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send information to juliacaraiail@bellsouth.net.

Christ Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Scott A. Benhase,
Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Joye Cantrell, Interim Rector
The Rev. Tar Drazdowski, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Jim Elliott, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Deacon Stella Clark
The Rev. Deacon Patricia Marks
Kim Dudley, Parish Administrator
Stefani Carroll, Youth Director
Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper
Sue Ellen Rumstay, Organist
Kathy Armstrong, St. Gregory Choir Dir.
Maggie Roberts, St. Francis Choir Leader
Julia and Julius Ariail, Newsletter Editors

Vestry Members

Clinton Beeland - '13	Jeff Hanson - '14
Stefani Carroll - '13	Will Hanson - '15
Robin Coleman - '14	Phyllis Hiers - '14
Sparky Greneker - '13	Steve Roberts - '13
Frances Guice - '15	Sandy Sandbach - '14
Karen Gunter - '15	Jeani Synyard - '14
Nancy Lutsko - '15	Lucy Tomberlin - '13
Larry Wisenbaker - '15	

Telephone Numbers

Church Office	229-242-5115
The Rev. Cantrell	H-229-253-1003, C-803-873-1995
The Rev. Drazdowski	H-229-249-0895 C-229-630-1832
The Rev. Elliott	229-242-3333
The Rev. Dcn. Clark	229-559-6159
The Rev. Dcn. Marks	H-229-244-5159 C-229-630-8644
Kim Dudley	229-242-5115

Vestry Report from December 17, 2012

- Approved the traditional Christmas bonus for the salaried staff of Christ Church.
- Approved the hosting of the Collegiate Challenge Team for Habitat for Humanity in March.
- Announced the completion of the renovation of the fountain and the exterior lighting project.
- Received report by Deacon Marks of the success of Langdale Place programs; the ordination of a new deacon in Darien, Karulynn Koelliker, whom Patricia mentored; the Haven



Steve Roberts
2012 Senior Warden

Aaron Parten
2012 Junior Warden

"Adopt a family" program; and the Imagination Library program in conjunction with the Rotary Club.

- Approved the housing allowance for The Rev. Tar Drazdowski for 2013.
- Approved delegates to the Diocesan Convention, Feb. 7-9, in Tifton.

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Please accept the thanks for the generous donation from the Vestry and Christ Church Family in support of the Sister-to-Sister Summit organized each year by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Valdosta Branch.

I hope you will share our heartfelt thanks with your congregations. On behalf of the 100 or so girls who will benefit from your gift at the 2013 Sister-to-Sister Summit . . . thank you!

Sincerely, Anita Ondrusek, Sister-to-Sister Summit Coordinator

Dear Members of Christ Episcopal Church,

I wanted to thank everyone for the many prayers that all of you kept going during my illness and time in the hospital.

Thank you for the many visits and e-mails that you sent me. Words cannot express how much this meant to me.

Without the love and support of my church family, I feel that I would never have made it through this illness.

The beautiful flowers that were brought to me from the altar were not only uplifting to me, but also to the staff of the hospital. I got many comments about how awesome and beautiful they were.

God Bless you all, Bill Nunn

Prayer for the Search Committee

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Interim Rector



The Reverend Joye Cantrell

Your Faith Your Life: an Invitation to the Episcopal Church

It seems to happen every year. I have just finished getting the Christmas decorations put away and all of a sudden I am looking at Lent. Yes, Lent and here we are again.

Ash Wednesday is February 13, 2013. The evening before, the EYC will sponsor the always popular Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. We eat and celebrate before we begin the season of Lent. There will be numerous things taking place during Lent.

On Wednesday nights, following supper at about 7:15, I will be teaching a class based on the book *Your Faith Your Life: an Invitation to the Episcopal Church*. This will be a starting point for our group study of our Christian history, our Bible stories, our sacraments and how we respond to God's love for us. These and other topics may be old news to some but new information to others. Whichever category you find yourself in, you will be challenged to grow as we study together.

During this transition time at Christ Church as the parish seeks to set a vision for the future, each member has something to offer. As you take communion, as you pray and as you enjoy fellowship with your fellow members, you are encouraged to think not just about your parish's future but what God is calling you to do in this place at this time. I say it often, but just because you have always done something, does not mean that you must always do it. Maybe God is calling you to do a new thing. Now is the time to pray about it.

Joye+

A Prescription for Godly Living



The Reverend Tar Drazdowski

A few years ago I had the opportunity to attend the Young Adult Summit in the Diocese of Atlanta. Their bishop at the time, Neil Alexander, was the keynote speaker, and he challenged the participants to read Romans 12 every day for the next six weeks. He spoke about how this passage from Paul's letter to the Romans had a large impact on his daily life. He told the participants this chapter had transformed his life. I decided to take the challenge.

What I found in Romans 12 was a prescription for Godly living. The chapter begins with the reminder that as we present our souls and bodies to God, we are making a holy, living, and acceptable sacrifice to God. In this chapter of Romans, Paul gives us guidelines on how we are to live as a community, on how to love each other and treat our enemies, and how to live into our faith. Paul encourages us to not be overcome by this world but to be transformed by renewing our minds in Christ.

A sacrificial life is our spiritual worship. This entire chapter in Romans is a guide on how we are to live our lives. If you have not found a spiritual practice for the New Year, it's not too late, I suggest you take the challenge issued by Bishop Alexander. I am taking up this practice again and would love to hear what the Word of God is saying to you or how it is helping to transform your life.

Tar+

Senior Warden's Corner



Christ Church Family,

First, I would like to say that I am humbled by the request to act as your Senior Warden. As a life-

long member of Christ Church, I hope that my service will reflect the dedication I feel to my church family.

My primary goal is to be accessible. Please feel free to contact me via cell phone or email anytime. During this transitional time in our church, it is my hope and prayer that we grow stronger and closer as a parish. We need each one of you: your input, your presence, and your positive attitude in determining the future direction of Christ Church. I look forward to the journey we have ahead of us as we discern our mission and find our new rector.

Sandy Sandbach

Sandy's contact information:

email - davidsandbach@gmail.com

cell phone - 229-630-5385

SENIOR EYC OFF TO A GREAT 2013!

by Susan Elliott

After a much needed break from school our young people hit the ground running as they reconnected and renewed their commitment to each other. But first we all want to give our belated THANKS & GRATITUDE to the Wisenbakers for the wonderful Christmas Party they hosted for us! It was fun, delicious and a great way to start the holidays!

We started the new year focusing on real life situations and how to face them with God's love, grace and wisdom. Random acts of kindness were discussed, and we discovered even something as little as a smile to someone can make a positive change for everybody! Paying it forward – as in paying for a stranger's coffee in the drive thru – is a healthy practice we can all do that just multiplies. We also talked about relationships focusing on when to intervene and when to stay out of the mix, especially when friends are having a conflict. We came to the conclusion that sometimes there isn't an easy answer to some situations and that is when we need really discern God's will for us.

We celebrated Holly's 18th birthday on the 16th and made plans for the ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER on Tuesday, February 12! Mark your calendars for this yummy event!

As always, we thank our Christ Church family for love, support and prayers!

February - March 2013 High School EYC Schedule

February – 6 – Elliotts; 13 – Querins

20 – Church; 27 – Church – Valwood on Class Trips

March – 6 – Elliotts; 13 – Church

20 – Querins; 27 – Church



ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

In preparation for the Lenten Season our High Schoolers will once again cook pancakes for the parish! There is no service that evening – just the meal! Donations will be gladly and graciously accepted. Proceeds will go towards Scholarships for our Youth for Honey Creek events such as Summer Camps, New Beginnings, Happening, Winter Blast, etc. These events have changed the lives of so many of our young people and they want to give back to the next generation!

Thank you for supporting our youth!



New Year's Day at St. Marks

by Phyllis Hiers

On January 1st Christ Church nature (and food) lovers, along with some families and friends, met at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge for our 28th annual New Year's Day adventure. A caravan of 15 left the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. but that group had expanded to 40 by noon. We walked along the Gulf coast near the lighthouse enjoying a variety of wintering ducks, shorebirds, and wading birds. We felt especially fortunate to find a friendly Tallahassee birdwatcher who shared his birding scope to show us rare visiting Razorbills, penguin-like Arctic birds rarely seen from shore and then seldom further south than New York.

At noon we gathered in the picnic area to pool the lunch items each person had brought. There were hot black-eyed peas for luck and wealth in 2013, sandwiches, meats, salads, cookies, cakes, chips, nuts, candies. Two bald eagles flew overhead as we picnicked, and a contingent of our little girls had the unforgettable experience of seeing an eagle drop its lunch prey near them. After lunch folks walked further into the refuge to spot the eagles' nest, wandered over to a nearby pond for birdwatching, or sat in the picnic area and visited.

By mid-afternoon, a slightly smaller group (many of them checking the score for the UGA/Nebraska game) headed to nearby Wakulla Springs for a boat ride along the Wakulla River, where they had close-up views of the manatees, aningas, alligators, ducks, turtles, and wading birds who call Wakulla Springs home during the winter.

As evening drew nigh, 16 happy travelers drove a few miles to Spring Creek Restaurant for a delicious seafood meal and more good fellowship before the drive home.

Come join us next January 1st. It's a great way to start the New Year.



Epiphany 2013



Under the direction of Youth Coordinator Stefani Carroll, the children of Christ Church and two stand-in shepherds presented the nativity pageant on Epiphany, January 6, during the 9:30 Sunday morning service. The actors and their parts were: John David Greneker, cow; Blake Yarbrough, horse; Cassidy Honeycutt, Mary; Noah Carroll, Joseph; Grace Tanner, Maddie Yarbrough, and Morgan Davis, angels; Cecilia Carroll and Julia Ariail, shepherds; Jack Warren, Sam Warren and Parker Chase, kings. Amy Warren and Nikki Yarbrough assisted in costuming and direction. Maggie Roberts and the St. Francis Choir provided the musical accompaniment for the pageant.



The Vineyard to Change Format

The Vineyard, monthly newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church, is going online in a web log, or "blog" format. The February and March editions will be published in both print and blog format. Those parishioners who do not have computer access can request a paper printout of the blog by calling Parish Administrator Kim Dudley at 242-5115. Those needing a paper copy can pick them up in the church entrance on the first Sunday of the month. The copies will be printouts of the blog.

The Vestry approved the request to change formats at the January 21st meeting after a request from the new communications committee. The committee members include: Julia Ariail, Julius Ariail, Michael Black, Eleanor Parten and Ann Kasun.

"There are about 12 good reasons for the change," said Julia Ariail. "The three top reasons are:

- the change will save the church approximately \$4,000 a year for printing and mailing costs;
- the change allows for more immediate news posting and editing rather than waiting until the next month;
- and the new format will allow multiple authors to post their articles from anywhere."

Communication is the most difficult thing in the world! In order to reach all the parishioners with schedules, news, and events, we must distribute the information in various formats hoping that one is the preference of everyone while keeping in mind the church budget and finances. Currently, our church gets its information in the Sunday Bulletin; *The Vineyard*, monthly newsletter; the church website; the church Facebook page; the Canterbury Club Facebook page; the church Twitter account; signs; the church photos on Picasa; announcements during the services; and emails from the church office.

We are also updating the weekly email from the church office as a weekly news bulletin with all the immediate news and service rotations listed.

New Vestry Officers Elected

At the January 21st meeting of the Christ Church Vestry David "Sandy" Sandbach was elected as Senior Warden; Steve Roberts as Junior Warden; Lucy Tomberlin as Secretary; Carolyn Eager as Treasurer; and Bonnie Hanson as Assistant Treasurer. Thanks to all who serve on the Vestry for your service and gifts of time and talents.

Christ Church 2013 Vestry



Clinton Beeland



Stefani Carroll



Robin Coleman



Sparky Greneker



Frances Guice



Karen Gunter



Nancy Lutsko



Jeff Hanson



Will Hanson



Phyllis Hiers



Steve Roberts



Sandy Sandbach



Jeani Synyard



Lucy Tomberlin



Larry Wisenbaker



Carolyn Eager, left, and Bonnie Hanson, right, are ex-officio members serving as treasurer and assistant treasurer.

SPECIAL DAYS

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

2 Ash Croft	18 Elizabeth Lauckhardt
Kyle Stevenson	Kip Nunn
3 Dori Carter	19 Cheryl Hatcher
4 Pepper Croft	Matilda Stubbs
Jane Peeples	20 Dick Campbell
6 Bonnie Hanson	Mary Lou McRae
7 Owen Coggins	Wilby Wolfson
Greg Prine	21 Cliff Baker
Fred Quinn	Mike Holland
8 Kristeena Parsons	Keven Parks
Bobbie Warren	Amy Terrell
9 Andy Drazdowski	22 Dottie Pitts
14 Dave Armstrong	23 Dean Failor
Patrick Teasley	Martha Leake
16 Lucille Sineath	24 Barbara Jane Rigby
Emily White	26 Freddie Bajalia
17 Fred Bajalia	Graham Coggins
	27 Tammy Borders



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

1 Julia Ariail	21 Christopher Hanson
Brandi Parsons	Claire Hanson
Randi Parsons	Joshua Hanson
2 Jeani Synyard	23 Sarah Parrish
20 Caty Carter	25 Emory Warrick, III
Mary Peeples	26 Patrick Teasley

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

4 Dean & Kathy Failor	17 Troy & Leigh Long
15 Tommy & Frances Hatcher	
Steven & Maria Taylor	

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

Cafe Grace

Cafe Grace has a new co-leader, Tammy Burroughs, pictured in the photo on the right with Brenda Keller, left. Cafe Grace is a young adults' group meeting on Monday nights at 8 p.m. in Louttit Hall. They are defining "young adult" as 18 to 35 years old.



The group meets for approximately an hour to talk about contemporary Christianity in a secular world. The group has a Facebook page which you can check out at: www.facebook.com/cafeGracechristepiscopal. They also organize holiday special events. Recently, Brenda hosted the Christmas party at her home. They welcome casual drop-in "when you can" participation, so don't be afraid of a lifetime commitment if you just want to check it out.

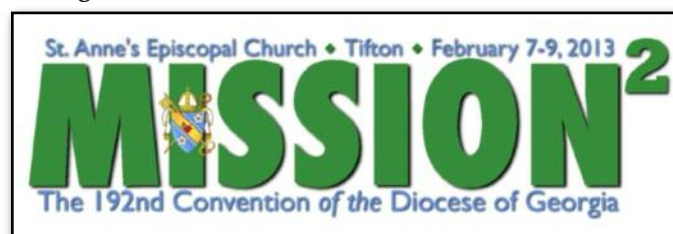


The Vineyard, p. 8, February 2013

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Phyllis Hiers, Frances Guice, and Nancy Lutsko will serve as Christ Church delegates to the 192nd Convention of the Diocese of Georgia to be held in Tifton, February 7-9, at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center just off I-75, exit 64. St. Anne's, Tifton is hosting the convention with Rector Lonnie Lacy in charge. The Rev. Lonnie grew up at Christ Episcopal Church and attended the Virginia Theological Seminary. There is a hilarious, hype-filled trailer online at <http://convention.georgiaepiscopal.org>.

The theme of the convention comes from our mission to build up the Body of Christ and our mission to go out into the world in evangelism and service. When this inward discipleship is combined with outward love and service, the church is stronger than with either form of mission alone.



Third Sunday Lunch Returns!



For many years Christ Church served lunch on the third Sunday after the 11:30 a.m. service. It is back...at least for the three months of January, February and March. Gene and Sandra Seago, Bobbie Warren, and Danny Mansukhani are organizing this treat for us in an effort to extend our hospitality outreach.

"Our church family needs to get together and share a meal more often," said Danny Mansukhani at a recent information sharing session. He and others will make that happen for us. The January meal was catered, but the February and March events need our contributions. Someone may call to ask you to bring a small part of the meal.

"The most important part is to bring yourself, your friends, and families," said the Rev. Tar Drazdowski.

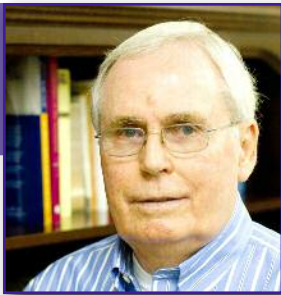
Join us for the Third Sunday Lunch. It is not just for those who regularly attend 11:30. All are welcome.

Hosting the Collegiate Challenge

Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity has asked Christ Church to host two Collegiate Challenge Teams during the week of March 10th-16th. Collegiate Challenge is a program which invites college chapters of Habitat for Humanity to come into their community and build for a week during their Spring Break. The students forgo their Spring Break, pay a construction fee for materials, and provide their own transportation. To help keep down their additional expenses, local area churches provide them a place to stay and their evening meals for the week. The new Gabard building gives us an opportunity to provide housing for the students this year.

Christ Church has been involved in the Collegiate Challenge program for many years providing a home-cooked meal one night during the week. This year, with the Vestry's approval, we have the opportunity to provide sleeping accommodations for 29 students and their chaperones. If you are interested in helping with the meal on Thursday evening, please call the church office at 229-242-5115.





Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

As related in the January *Vineyard*, on February 25, 1950, Christ Church paid \$7,555.56 to Mrs. Simpson, the holder of the \$15,000.00 mortgage on the church's property that financed construction of the Parish Hall. After reporting that development to the Vestry on March 4, 1950, Treasurer Noah Fry explained that subsequent payments had "so been arranged as to clean up the balance of the obligation [in] four years," meaning that the last payment would be in February 1954.

In the meeting of February 4, 1951, Mr. Fry reminded Vestry that the next mortgage payment of \$2,305.56 was due on February 25th "and that adequate funds were not yet on hand. . . ." He warned that some church members would have to be asked to pay their pledges early and divulged that "some \$650.00 of 1950 pledges had not yet been received." Vestrymen agreed to attempt to collect 1950's outstanding pledges but conceded that, if their efforts failed, the unpaid pledges would have to be written off. The Minute Book offers no explanation of how Vestry actually raised the necessary funds, but Mr. Fry noted in the meeting of March 4, 1951, that Christ Church had paid \$2,305.56, "thereby accordingly reducing the principal and interest payments yet ahead. . . ."

The year 1952 brought slightly less anxiety among vestrymen about paying the necessary installment to Mrs. Simpson. In the Vestry meeting on January 4, 1952, Jamie Carroll

broached the mortgage issue and sought suggestions about how Christ Church could discharge the entire balance when the yearly payment fell due on February 25. The ensuing discussion apparently yielded no substantial ideas, so Mr. Carroll's effort proved fruitless. In the next session, on February 3, Glenn Robinson offered a motion, seconded and approved, for payment of the required amount instead of the total balance. Mr. Fry, the Treasurer, pointed out that almost the full sum to be paid was on hand, and Marion Tucker offered "to advance any balance due on loan without interest." Thus, Mr. Fry was able to report at the March meeting that the installment had been paid, had reduced both the principal and interest of the mortgage, and a balance of \$4,176.21 remained to be dealt with in the next two years.

Vestrymen focused next upon the mortgage in their February 1, 1953, meeting, in which there was extended discussion. At that point, Christ Church was \$859.00 short of the total of \$4,176.21 "needed to clean up the mortgage, funds having been pledged, in excess of regular pledges, for the purpose of liquidating mortgage." Ultimately, an unidentified member moved that the balance of the mortgage be paid in full; the motion was seconded and approved, with Robert G. Macks, the Clerk, abstaining. In addition to requiring payment of the mortgage in full, the motion stated that Vestry should rely "on assistance from the various guilds for the balance necessary." After the motion had carried, vestryman Harry "Hap"

Davis made "some pertinent remarks" about publicizing the need for extra funds to eliminate the mortgage and claimed that "many families had not been solicited." Mr. Davis and Rufus B. Jones, Jr. thereupon were assigned to contact families that had not previously been reached. Just how the additional amount of \$859.00 really was raised is not clear from Vestry records. What is certain, however, is that Christ Church remitted the entire remainder of the mortgage to Mrs. Simpson on February 25, 1953. Then, on Sunday, March 1, 1953, the parish had a 4:00 p.m. service at which Bishop Middleton S. Barnwell finally consecrated the "new" church building, which had been in use for four years. One feature was "the presentation of cancelled mortgage to the Bishop at the service at 4 P.M. this date. Copy of the program entered into the Vestry notes."

Why, other than a natural aversion to debt, was Christ Church's Vestry in such a hurry to disencumber the parish of the Simpson mortgage? The short answer is that the church still needed additional Sunday School space and sought in 1952 to borrow \$16,000.00 from the American Church Building Fund Commission to construct classrooms while still paying the Simpson mortgage. After A.C.B.F.C. had already approved the loan, Bishop Barnwell made clear that he wanted the Vestry to turn down the offer and, as he put it, fortify Christ Church's financial situation "before attempting any further expansion." Vestry did as the bishop desired, but the critical necessity for classroom space still existed and so did the need to borrow more money.

Join the Dominican Republic 2013 Mission Team



If you are planning on joining us on the 2013 Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic, please let Tar+ know as soon as possible. Following our Diocesan Convention, the Ariails and the Drazdowskis are headed to Santo Domingo. Tar+ and Julius will be attending the Dominican Development Board Meeting, and then they will go to El Pedregal to plan for this summer's mission trip. It will be important for Tar+ to know how many people are planning to go this year, their skill level, and their interests. As of the printing of the *Vineyard*, eleven people have indicated they are going. We have people who have expressed interest in knitting, VBS and construction.

Superbowl Sunday Cookout



Super Bowl 2013 is right around the corner, and once again our St. Francis Ministry for Animals will be grilling pork ribs, pork tenderloins and chicken. February 3rd is the date, so go ahead and place your order(s) on the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall or email us at separten@windstream.net. For more information or to call in your order, call Karen Gunter at (229) 794-8146 or (229) 560-4472.

Prices: Ribs - \$25/slab;

Tenderloins - \$25 for two loins;

Chicken - \$5 for half of a chicken.

Pick up between 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 3rd, behind the Parish Hall.

The proceeds of the cookout benefit the St. Francis Ministry for Animals. Every year many dogs and cats are healed of injuries and find homes thanks to your generosity.

The Church Bookshelf

by Patricia Marks

God Speaks in Many Tongues: Meditate with Joan Chittister

Benetvision: 2013. <https://www.monasteriesoftheheart.org/>



This year, I again offer a book review in the form of a Lenten resolution—to read Joan Chittister's *God Speaks in Many Tongues* and to respond to its invitation to do more meditation than reading. It promises to be a way of entering what Sister Joan, a Benedictine nun, calls the "monastery of the heart," a guide to living "a holy life, a good and happy life in the midst of our everyday activities." Available as a book and/or set of email meditations, *God Speaks in Many Tongues* offers selections from the world's wisdom traditions, along with daily meditations for the season of Lent. The first one, for Ash Wednesday, begins with a quotation from Hildegard of Bingen, the Benedictine Abbess whose musical, literary, and scientific writings have been universally praised. It is a meditation that ends, "You are encircled by the arms / Of the mystery of God." In the coming season of revision, reconsideration, and repentance, that promise is a comfort indeed.



Deacon Patricia Marks



Men's Softball to Begin Practice

Sign up on the list posted on a bulletin board in the Christ Church Parish Hall. Practice begins in late February. Contact Paul Stevenson at 229-560-8526.

Grace Notes

Community service is now required by most college clubs and organizations and even some in high schools. The collective thought is that community service, though it takes on many different forms and serves many different purposes, is recognized as a way to teach compassion. Compassion is not easily taught, and in most cases it requires one to honestly consider another person's circumstances.

As Christians we are called to be compassionate, because it is at the heart of our ministry. -- Tar+



Canterbury Club

The new semester has begun and we have a new College Intern. Canterbury is pleased to welcome Annalese Zusack. She is from Rome, Georgia and is a senior at VSU. She will be in charge of our ministry at Louttit Hall and coordinating our activities on the VSU Campus. Louttit Hall will be open on Mondays from 12-4, Wednesdays 12-6, and Fridays 12-4. The house is open so that students can gather to study, eat, and enjoy a respite between classes. One of the things the students look forward to on a weekly basis is the Sunday evening meal provided by one of the members of our parish. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please use the sign up sheet in the parish hall. As always, Canterbury Club is grateful for your support.



Annalese Zusack

Join us for Regular Services

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

11:30 a.m. Holy Communion*

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion*

6:00 p.m. Vespers

***Nursery Available**

10:45 a.m. Christian Education*

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.*

Thursday: 7:00 a.m.

Christ Episcopal Church
1521 N. Patterson Street • Valdosta, GA 31602

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