

Jubilate Deo

The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

Winter 2021

An Advent Meditation

The Marriage of the Virgin

By The Rt. Rev. Mark J. Lawrence, Bishop, The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

Until I was standing before Corrado Giaquinoto's Marriage of the Virgin, I had never thought about the wedding of Joseph and Mary. Certainly, I had read countless times in Matthew's Gospel how Joseph took Mary to be his wife, but of the wedding, I had given little attention. Seeing the Italian painter's rendition changed that. He portrays Joseph looking humbled, stooped—as if bent by life—weighed down by burdens. Mary, conversely, stands upright, aglow and with an otherworldly gaze, illustrative of a graceful abandonment to a divine providence.

Behind them stands a Hebrew priest replete with regal robes, bearded dignity, and wonderment at the descending dove hovering above the couple, emblematic of the Holy Spirit's immanence. Behind and above the priest is the Ark of the Covenant, the holiest symbol of God's promise and presence. Further back and higher still, a cloud-filled sky that on closer study reveals not clouds but rather seven angelic faces.



Marriage of the Virgin, by Corrado Giaquinoto

Painted in 1764-65 as part of a larger work entitled Scenes from the Life of the Virgin it graced the Church of San Francisco in Palazzo, Naples. A fire eventually destroyed the Church and the individual paintings were separated. The Marriage of the Virgin now displays its captivating portrayal of the coming incarnation of our Lord in the Norton Simon Museum of Art in Pasadena. The painting and even more the event it portrays makes for a timely meditation during these last days of Advent as Christmas draws near; for the wedding took place before the birth—but according to St. Luke and St. Matthew not before the conception of the child. Only Matthew's Gospel gives us the pertinent information that Joseph, distressed about Mary's pregnancy, knowing he had

known her not, was planning to put her aside, until of course the dream. The pioneer psychiatrist, Carl Jung, writes in one of his books about the "great dream"—the dream that gives profound direction for one's

Continued on Page 10

Connecting Through the Arts

Newly Welcomed St. Thomas, Mt. Pleasant, Invests in the Arts and Artists as Outreach to the Community

By Dave Wright, The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

St. Thomas Anglican Church was welcomed into the Diocese at our Diocesan Convention in October. By way of introduction, the church prepared a brief "who we are" video. Their emphasis on the arts seemed worth exploring further, so I sat down with their Rector, the Rev. Hamilton Smith, to learn a bit more about what makes St. Thomas unique. (View video: <https://vimeo.com/459396362>)



DRIES VANDENBERG

Shane Williams (left), the church's Creative Arts Director and Warren Bazemore (center), who together perform as Finnegan Bell, also lead worship on Sundays. Drummer, right, Tim Maurer.

How did your commitment to love the world through the arts emerge?

I love the arts. I enjoy music and visual art. But, as I read more of Tim Keller on contextualization and ways of decoding culture, I learned of the importance of finding out where the bridgeheads or touch-points are in a culture. How do we speak the unchanging truth of the gospel in a language and methodology that people understand? Keller's book *Center Church* talks a lot about the role of the arts.

In the secular mind the artist has become the vehicle for transcendent wisdom. In looking at the

culture of Mount Pleasant I realized that people are drawn to what might be described as Lowcountry Americana music and art. And in the arts, people are more willing to engage in deeper conversations that allow us to speak to the transcendent desires of the heart.

What does your church do in supporting the arts that might be unique?

Early on we had the opportunity to support an artist in residence. Shane Williams became our Creative Arts Director which is how we are able to connect to the arts

community. Shane and Warren, who together perform as Finnegan Bell, also lead worship for us on Sundays. Shane put together a concert series called STAC House Shows which seek to expand the Charleston music scene. These have been at the Old Brick Church in Cainho, a uniquely special venue. They aren't Christian concerts because the only people who come to Christian concerts are Christians. We are looking to provide a unique arts experience. Remember, the secular or modern mind is looking to connect to the transcendent through the arts. We partner with local people like

Continued on Page 2

Bishop Coadjutor Search Process

By The Very Rev. John Burwell and John E. Benson, Communications Comm., Search Committee

As part of the newly formed Bishop's Search Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to report on our initial meeting and our progress so far. The Committee, chaired by the Rev. Jason Collins of St. Paul's, Conway, consists of lay and clergy chosen by every deanery as well as ad hoc members of the Standing Committee. The Committee works under the direction of the Standing Committee who will be tasked with the final decision on the selection of candidates for the Bishop Coadjutor of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina.

At the end of October, our Committee met overnight at St. Christopher Camp & Conference Center for an organizational meeting. We began the retreat by sharing Communion with the entire Standing Committee and we spent our first afternoon getting

to know each other a little better. We held a Zoom conference call with Bishop William Murdock who has been appointed by Archbishop Beach to help shepherd us through the process and we also discussed our initial timeline of events.

After dinner we looked at what we believe are Biblical qualifications for a bishop including 1 Peter 5:2-3, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and Titus 1:7-9. The next morning, we divided into various subcommittees (Prayer, Communications, Diocesan Profile, Bishop's Job Profile, Hospitality and Logistics, Solicit and Receive Suggested Nominees, Walkabout) and set a timeline for our search process (see below).

One point agreed to by all of us is that we genuinely believe our Lord has already selected our next bishop and that our task

Continued on Page 3

Five Ordained to the Priesthood

Five clergy were ordained to the priesthood this fall. The Rev. Bill Clarkson was ordained on November 22 at Church of the Holy Apostles in Barnwell. Clarkson now serves as the Vicar of the church. The Rev. Jeff Jacobs was ordained on November 30 at St. Paul's, Summerville, where he is serving on staff. The Rev. Chip Bateson was ordained December 3 at Reconciliation Anglican Church in Ambridge, PA where he has been called to serve as Rector. The Rev. Zach Miller was ordained on December 5 at the Parish Church of St. Helena's, Beaufort where he is serving and the Rev. Tom Hample was ordained December 10 at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul.

Read "Five Ordained to the Transitional Diaconate" on page nine of the last issue of the *Jubilate Deo* for a related story about these clergy. A fuller introduction to them will appear in our next issue.



JOY HUNTER

Above: Bishop Lawrence, right, speaks with Tom Hample following his ordination.

2020 Convention Held Online

By Joy Hunter, Communications Director, The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina held their first online Diocesan Convention, Saturday October 3, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the event, which was moderated by the Rev. Canon Jim Lewis, was held on Zoom. Nearly 260 clergy and lay delegates participated online.

Bishop Lawrence's Address

In his address to the convention, Bishop Mark Lawrence reflected on lessons he'd learned from his predecessors, Bishops Temple, Allison and Salmon. With the last 12-15 months of his episcopacy remaining he answered the rhetorical questions, "What do I need to accomplish for the good of the Diocese? What do I need to give myself to? I've come to the conclusion I need to give myself, as much as I can, to the clergy of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina.... To the rectors, vicars, associates and curates: I want to double down on my prayers for you, your families and ministries and to spend as much time with you as I can fit into my calendar." He spoke of trimming time spent on committees, boards and speaking engagements "which often draw you away from what your heart wants to do."

Analyzing the clergy of the Diocese by age, he said 10% of our clergy are between the ages of 25-39; 23% between 40-54 and 67% are age 55+. "We need to fan the flame of the gift of the Holy Spirit in the young men and women of the Diocese that God might call them to offer themselves, if God so calls, to the ordained ministry of the church." He asked those listening to join him in praying for the work of St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center, where many young people have heard a call to ministry. "Pray for a spiritual revival on our clergy and lay leaders alike."

He also said the Diocese needed to put an increasing emphasis on church planting, expressing his thankfulness for the work of the Rev. Todd Simonis, our (very part-time) Canon for Church Planting, stating that by 2023 he hoped the Diocese would be able to fund a full-time church planting position.

The Bishop also stressed the need for a

deeper focus on stewardship, telling a humorous story about his grandson's initial reticence and later resolve to be generous. "We don't need to worry about money, but we do need to talk and teach about it," he said.

Regarding race, he said we can seek a form of "repentance that leads to relationships that bless the bonds of affection." He spoke of efforts embarked upon by St. Timothy's, Cane Bay and St. Luke's, Hilton Head and St. Michael's, Charleston and spoke appreciatively of his relationship with the Rt. Rev. Alphonso Gadsden, Bishop of the Diocese of the Southeast (Reformed Episcopal Church).

He also spoke of new efforts to work in common mission and partnership with the Diocese of the Carolinas, noting that they are (along with our Diocese and the REC Diocese of the Northeast) part of the ACNA. "As we (all) step more fully into our affiliation with the ACNA I believe God will bless this region with a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and people will say, 'look how they love one another.'"

Report from the Bishop's Search Committee

The Rev. Jason Collins, Chair of the Bishop's Search Committee, presented what he called a "very ambitious" proposed timeline in which the walkabout and special electing convention would be held October 2021 with the consecration possibly following in the fall of that same year. (Note: this schedule has changed. See pg. 3) The members of the Bishop's Search Committee include the Rev. Jason Collins (Chair), John Benson (Georgetown Deanery), Jennifer Bryan (at-large), The Rev. John Burwell (Orangeburg Deanery), The Rev. Mary Ellen Doran (Florence Deanery), Emma Drury (Youth Commission), Bill Ervin (Florence Deanery), The Rev. James Gibson (Beaufort Deanery), Penn Hagood (at-large), Justin Johnson (West Charleston Deanery), The Rev. Hunter Jordan (at-large), Francis Mack (Orangeburg Deanery), The Rev. Andrew O'Dell (Charleston Deanery), The Rev. Tyler Prescott (West Charleston Deanery),

Henrietta Rivers (Charleston Deanery), Alan Runyan (Beaufort Deanery), The Very Rev. Ken Weldon (at-large).

Elections

The convention elected the following individuals to serve on diocesan committees: Standing Committee: The Rev. Tripp Jeffords, The Very Rev. Ken Weldon, Mr. John Benson and Mr. Frances Mack; Diocesan Council: The Rev. Will Klauber, The Rev. John Sosnowski, Mrs. Olivia Sporinsky and Mr. Chet Houston; Trustees: Mrs. Ann Hester Willis and Mr. Kenny Wilson; Ecclesiastical Court: The Rev. Michael Ridgill, The Rev. Tom Woodle, Mr. Philip Biswell and Mr. Brandt Shelbourne.

Welcoming St. Thomas Anglican Church

One of the highlights of the convention was the introduction and welcome into the Diocese of St. Thomas Anglican Church of Mt. Pleasant. [The church provided a video in which the Rector, the Rev. Hamilton Smith, along with members of his staff and vestry, told about the church's founding and its ministry.](#)

Conclusion

Bishop Lawrence thanked Bob Kunes for his service as the Diocesan Chancellor and appointed Ben Hagood as the new Chancellor. He thanked Alex Perri and others who worked to put the convention together. The meeting concluded with the singing of the Doxology via video by the Palms Project, a fundraising effort on behalf of St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center. The 2021 Convention will be held March 12-13.

Videos of the convention, including the Bishop's address and ministry presentations may be viewed at <https://adosc.org/news-events/convention/>

Legal Update

By The Rev. Canon Jim Lewis, Canon to the Ordinary

In June, interpreting the 2017 ruling of the South Carolina Supreme Court, Judge Dickson found that, under neutral principles of law, the Diocese and parishes who withdrew from The Episcopal Church in 2012 were still the owners of their real and personal property. Several further noteworthy actions have taken place since that time.

The first was the anticipated appeal of Judge Dickson's order by TECSC (The Episcopal Church in South Carolina) on July 13, filed the same day he denied their motion for reconsideration of his ruling. The South Carolina Supreme Court moved the appeal from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court on August 26th and the briefing process has begun. TEC (The Episcopal Church) and TECSC filed their initial brief on November 12. The Diocese will soon file its responsive brief. No hearing has yet been scheduled before the Supreme Court but it is anticipated that it will be sometime in 2021.

In the related trademark litigation in the federal court, the Federal Fourth Circuit Court in Richmond, granted our motion for an abeyance of the appeal proceedings in the trademarks case. It did so under a rule that allows an appeal to be placed on hold when there is a "pending disposition of matters before this court or other courts which may affect the ultimate resolution of an appeal."

The underlying, controlling legal issue in both federal and state court continues to be the conflicting interpretations of the 2017 ruling of the S.C. Supreme Court. Judge Dickson's ruling on that, with which we strongly concur, is now before the state Supreme Court. Pray that they act promptly to affirm his interpretation of their ruling and enable us all to move ahead with unimpeded Gospel ministry. While the issues are still not settled, our legal position continues to improve, and for that we can truly say, "Thanks be to God!"

New Sanctuary Consecrated

Christ the King-Grace Waccamaw



On Sunday, November 1, 2020 Bishop Mark Lawrence consecrated the new sanctuary at Christ the King-Grace Waccamaw in Pawleys Island. The 3,000 square foot sanctuary is designed in such a way to enable expansion to twice the size in the future. Presently, about 75 upholstered chairs and kneelers are spaced for social distancing. Light, sound and screen systems support organ, piano and band music. Prominent features include: a 10 ft cross made from local reclaimed barn lumber (over the entrance); energy efficient foam insulation; and hurricane resistant glass. With an architectural theme of Low Country Vernacular, the campus of 'School House' Offices, 'Live Oaks Center' Parish Hall and New Sanctuary were all blended together to enhance the property.

St. Thomas Focuses on The Arts

Continued From Page One



When asked what he sees for the future, Smith says, "We want to change the perception people have of the church by being something other than what they expect while at the same time holding true to Biblical orthodoxy."

Eddie White of Awendaw Green. People are surprised when they learn that STAC stands for St. Thomas Anglican Church. They don't expect a local church to do concerts and serve the arts community without expecting anything in return.

Why do the STAC House Shows in an old church?

Churches are beautiful spaces. They speak of transcendence. Churches have an opportunity especially now to be a blessing to the arts community. For example, Christ Church has been hosting a local theatre group for

outdoor performances because they have a beautiful space in their quad. (See story on pg. 16) The backdrop is a beautiful church. It is absolutely shocking to the art world when the church approaches them to say how can we love and serve you? The pandemic has shut down the local arts venues but many of our churches have facilities that are big enough or have outdoor space to allow artists to carry on.

Can you give us another example of supporting the arts that St. Thomas has done?

For Holy Week each year we commission a local artist to paint a series of pictures that capture the scriptures we give them. We don't look for Christian artists specifically, which means we are getting a non-believer to engage with God's word. We saw a woman come to faith a few years ago simply by engaging the passion narrative in a series of paintings. She had never read the scriptures and was deeply moved by it. After Easter we auction them off at an event. Naturally the artist invites friends and neighbors which means we have a room full of non-believers. The artist then talks

through the paintings about how they came to be. Essentially, we have a secular artist explaining how the passion narrative moved them to create what they did. The proceeds from the sale funds the next year's commission.

Tell us about the building you recently signed a lease on called the STAC Arts Center. What is it getting used for?

We partnered with a local performing arts company and leased a building where we have different artists making use of the space. We will continue to worship in the building, but it will be taken over more by the performing arts company. As soon as we got the building, people started referring to it as the church, but we have emphasized it is the STAC Art Center because that is what we are intending.

What do you see for the future of St. Thomas?

We want to do more of what we are already. Ultimately, we want to help more Christians who are artists engage with the culture outside the church. So, like the work that Shane is doing alongside Warren with Finnegan Bell, we want Christians who are artists to do excellent art for a broader audience than just the church. We want to change the perception people have of the church by being something other than what they expect while at the same time holding true to Biblical orthodoxy. We continue to lean into the idea that we are seeking to build relationships that enable us to love and serve others where we live, work, play,

Marten Ordination December 21



David Marten who currently serves as the Director of Student Ministries at Church of the Holy Comforter, Sumter, will be ordained to the transitional diaconate at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 21 at the Church of the Holy Comforter.

A native Kansan, David received his Master of Arts in Christian Thought from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC. He's been living

in the Carolinas since 2011 and has been at Holy Comforter since 2014. He has several interests ranging from biking to reading, coffee to graphic design, and amateur carpentry to computer gaming.

If unable to attend in person, view the ordination live on [Youtube](#).

Church Meets Needs Following Apartment Fire

By Caroline Swift, Church of the Resurrection, North Charleston

On October 4, 2020 a colleague at work sent me a message about a fire in the nearby Chicora Cherokee neighborhood of North Charleston which devastated and displaced more than 12 households causing significant damage to their property. I normally ignore these messages as they often seem geared to people with more free time than me, but the name caught my eye because our church regularly prays for the Chicora Cherokee community and look for ways to reach out in that area.

Immediately God stirred my heart for these families and opened my eyes to the opportunity for our church to help. I reached out to our vestry and we made a donation to the GoFundMe account as a church, but I felt the calling was for more than that.

I reached out to Anjene, the man running the GoFundMe campaign, and he said the donations were being used to help the displaced families and individuals stay in temporary housing, but that all levels of need, and opportunities to help would come in the following months. I also knew that initial donation responses tend to start high but then slow with time and he understood the same. Our church started collecting food and laundry goods for the fire victims, as Anjene had nowhere to collect donations.

With time, some of the families were able to move back into the minimally damaged apartments, and others worked with Anjene to find new housing.

One family, a grandmother and her three grandchildren, had the few undamaged things remaining after the fire stolen while they were displaced from their apartment. Anjene worked with them to find new housing and we were able to donate Walmart gift cards, a table and chairs, and other home goods to help them in their new home.

An elderly man currently undergoing cancer treatments lost everything in the fire. Anjene has him in temporary housing and is searching to find him a permanent place to live. When he moves, he will have nothing, so we are continuing to make ourselves available to help with his needs as much as we can.

In my most recent update to our congregation, I asked them to set aside items for him as various gifts for Christmas flowed through their families.

In the past two months of this outreach, the connections we made came with God's placing it continually on my heart, followed closely by the generosity of our congregation; because, while we're a small community, they acted quickly to offer all the help they could.

Luke 6:27-36 says "Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you...Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High...You must be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate."

Continued from Page One

August 1, 2021: Publish list of nominees – 30 days prior to election as required by diocesan canons (only those candidates who pass the background checks will be published)

September 11, 2021: Walkabout(s) for diocesan delegates to meet candidates

October 16, 2021: Special Election for the Bishop Coadjutor

January 11-14: ACNA College of Bishop's meeting at which our Bishop Coadjutor Elect will be interviewed and, God willing, approved.

March 2020: Consecration during Diocesan Convention

Search Committee Members:

The Rev. Jason Collins, Chairman, Mr. John E. Benson, Mrs. Jennifer Bryan, The Very Rev. John Burwell, The Rev. Mary Ellen Doran, Ms. Emma Drury, Mr. Bill Ervin, The Rev. James Gibson, Mrs. Penn Hagood, Mr. Justin Johnson, The Rev. Hunter Jordan, Mr. Francis Mack, The Rev. Andrew O'Dell, The Rev. Tyler Prescott, Mrs. Henrietta Rivers, Mr. Alan Runyan, The Very Rev. Ken Weldon.

Bishop Coadjutor Search

as a diocese will be to discern whom God has already picked out for us. We believe our bishop's search will narrow down the names, and we are convinced that with much prayer and petition, our diocese will indeed choose the very person God has already chosen for us. We in the Committee approach our task with excitement, fear, and trembling. We urge you to join us in daily prayer for both the process and the person.

January 5, 2021: Standing Committee approves Diocesan Profile and Bishop Coadjutor Job Description

February 1, 2021: Search Committee begins receiving suggestions for candidates

April 1, 2021: Deadline to receive suggestions for candidates

Late April 2021: Search Committee retreat to review suggested names

Late April – Late May, 2021: Travel time to meet with potential nominees

June 1, 2021: Standing Committee to approve nominations

June 1 – July 30, 2021: Eight weeks for background checks as required by the ACNA

That Facebook Preacher

St. John's Chapel Experiences Growth through Social Media During COVID Pandemic

By Pringle Franklin, St. Philip's Church, Charleston

Before the lockdown, the Rev. Matthew Rivers wasn't a fan of Facebook. But last spring when COVID-19 shut the doors of St. John's Chapel, he reluctantly ventured into preaching via social media. To his surprise, the sermon and worship videos

up with Pastor Matthew's longing to shepherd a diverse flock.

"Early on, I had said a prayer to God to give me a church that was cross-racial, that looked like the Kingdom of Heaven," Pastor Rivers said.



SUSAN LLOYD

The Rev. (Pastor) Matthew Rivers has been recognized as "that Facebook preacher" by strangers at Costco and a local doctor's office. Pastor Rivers knows no strangers.

allowed the church to grow during the pandemic and expand the ministry far beyond its Eastside setting.

"God used the thing I wasn't really enamored with, to enlarge the church," Rivers said with a laugh.

In recent months, 22 new members have joined St. John's Chapel, with about 30 percent discovering the church through its Facebook postings. In addition, more than 60,000 people around the world are following its Facebook services, which also feature the First Lady of the church, Chaplain Henrietta Rivers.

"The online ministry has been pivotal; St. John's has been exposed," Henrietta says. "We know God's vision is larger than our small building."

St. John's celebrated in November as Bishop Mark Lawrence confirmed 15 people into their new life in Christ during a laying-on of hands service. In addition, four transfer members were received by the Bishop. The array of newcomers included blacks and whites, men and women, with an age range from 13 to 70-plus years. This lines

When St. John's was founded in 1839, its membership included 13 whites and 10 blacks. "God gave me a church where that kind of diverse history had already been established," Rivers said. He is enthusiastic about reviving that tradition.

The spirit of inclusiveness was a magnet



KJ MEYERS

St. John's celebrated in November as Bishop Mark Lawrence confirmed 15 people into their new life in Christ during a laying-on of hands service. In addition, four transfer members were received by the Bishop. Above, members of the Meyers family are confirmed.

to Dr. Ann Kulze, who recently transferred her membership. "I love the full spectrum of diversity amongst the church members—black, white, wealthy, poor, young, old," Kulze said. "Diversity is at the bedrock of a true and resilient community."

The Riverses began their leadership at St. John's in mid-2018 with only 18 members. Today, the church has about 110 members, plus others from the community who regularly attend. Even though the church doors are open again, Pastor Matthew plans to continue the online services. He's even been recognized as "that Facebook preacher" by strangers at Costco and a local doctor's office. Pastor Rivers knows no strangers. He invites all to visit St. John's if they are seeking a church home.

"Matt is a pastor to the people of St. John's Chapel, but he's also a pastor to the Kingdom of God," Henrietta said. "He reaches beyond the walls of St. John's."



JOY HUNTER

The First Lady of the church, Chaplain Henrietta Rivers, pictured left, teaches on Facebook every Friday at noon for "First Lady Fridays."

Anglican Women Go on Retreat, Virus or No Virus!

By Pringle Franklin, St. Philip's Church, Charleston

Is it wise to hold a large retreat, in person, during a global pandemic? Around mid-summer, parishes across the diocese were just tiptoeing out of the lockdown world of virtual worship. No one knew what to expect, or how things would work as churches reopened. At this juncture, board members of the Women of The Anglican Diocese of South

Carolina were discussing whether to host their annual fall retreat—in the flesh. Would the coronavirus be surging again October 23-25, when the retreat was scheduled? Would anyone be willing to attend? Powered by faith, the board took a risk and worked for months to prepare an uplifting weekend of teaching, worship, good food, and praise music at St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center. Susan Alexander Yates, author of 15 books on Christian parenting, marriage, and family life, signed on as keynote speaker. Yet no one knew whether the women of the diocese would feel safe enough to gather.



PROVIDED

Besides meeting en masse, the women periodically broke into small discussion groups to dig more deeply into Yates's teachings.

The gamble paid off. Within two weeks of its announcement, the retreat's registration was full—and, they had a waiting list, according to Patricia Smith, president of the board. "It was like a feast. They were so hungry to be in community that they ran to sign up," Smith, a member of St. Paul's, Summerville, said. The event drew almost 100 women from 22 parishes in the diocese.

Many intuitively trusted that all would go well, in spite of COVID-19. "I was not going to worry about that," the Rev. Dr. Tabitha Wang, of St. Michael's, Charleston, said. "I knew if you come to this camp, it's going to be safe.

Not only do they know what they are doing, but we are covered in prayer." Safety measures included shrinking attendance to about one-third the usual number; requiring face masks; keeping a safe distance between people in the cafeteria line; reorganizing food service to prevent communal touch points (for instance, the gloved server would hand you a piece of whole fruit, rather than your reaching into the fruit bowl); setting only four places per dining table to create more personal space. During the large teaching sessions, audience members sat in chairs separated by six feet. People respected the guidelines and seemed grateful for the opportunity to gather together, virus or no virus.

"We came wondering if it was the right decision, but we never thought of not coming," Peg Dale, of St. Helena's, Beaufort, said. "It's been fabulous. Susan was the perfect person, speaking on how our God is bigger than any of our problems, or any of our fears."

Yates has a flair for humor, often weaving in captivating stories from her life as a busy mother of five children, 21 grandchildren, and as the wife of the Rev. Dr. John Yates, rector of Falls Church Anglican in Falls Church, Virginia. For example: when she was potty-training her twin toddlers, she dressed them for church in lovely dresses, but forgot to put their diapers back on before leaving home. As the tiny girls walked down the aisle at the Sunday morning worship service, they mooned the entire congregation. Yates could laugh at herself while keeping her audience smiling and engaged.

During three teaching sessions, Yates drew material from her book, *Risky Faith*. She spoke on the theme "Finding Shelter in Times of Uncertainty," inspired by Ephesians 1:17-19. From the start, Yates encouraged believers to acquire a proper understanding of sin and self-centeredness. Sin must be faced, confessed, and then, let go.

"God loves a broken heart," Yates said. "If we confess, He will forgive us and cleanse us." Yates asked retreatants to write down any

sin they felt was too big for God to forgive. Women were invited to place these sins in a bucket at the foot of a cross. On Sunday morning, after worship and Holy Communion, the notes of regret were carried outside and burned.

During her talk, Yates stressed the need to recognize the enemy, describing Satan as a hungry lion who wants to steal our joy, tempt us, and accuse us. Whenever we find ourselves feeling guilty, we must discern the source. "Satan speaks generally, but the Holy Spirit speaks specifically," she said. Satan fills our minds with negative feelings about our self-worth, whereas the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to a particular situation that needs addressing.

Later in the weekend, Yates expounded on the difference between spiritual growth and natural growth. As humans mature, they become more independent; as believers mature in faith, they increase their dependency on God. As people grow up, their lives become more complicated; as they grow spiritually, their lives become simplified. In the material world, people value fast results; yet spiritual growth stresses patience and waiting on the Lord.

In these uncertain times, Yates encouraged believers to avoid spiritual self-centeredness and keep their eyes locked on God. "Focus on who He is, not on your worries," Yates said. She advised listeners to fill their minds with thoughts about God and his character traits, leaving no room for fear and fretting. Her timely message struck a chord.

"What I kept hearing over and over in my head is, God is so big, He can deal with all of our stuff. He is bigger than all of us," Paula Sutcliffe, of St. Helena's, Beaufort, said.

During the weekend, Psalm 91, referencing God's protection, came up time and again. Bishop Mark Lawrence recited the first



PROVIDED

"God loves a broken heart," Yates said. "If we confess, He will forgive us and cleanse us." Yates asked retreatants to write down any sin they felt was too big for God to forgive. Women were invited to place these sins in a bucket at the foot of a cross. On Sunday morning, after worship and Holy Communion, the notes of regret were carried outside and burned.

four verses when he spoke to the crowd on Saturday, including, "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings, you will find refuge."

Bishop Lawrence recalled when his daughter Chelsea fell out of an upper-story window as a toddler, yet miraculously was unhurt. That same child, whom the Bishop believes was carried safely to the ground by angels, led the praise music during the weekend. Chelsea Lawrence Hamshaw is now the mother of four boys and the clergy spouse of Jason Hamshaw at All Saints, Florence. Chelsea sang, played the keyboard and various guitars. Sarah Lawrence, her niece, accompanied her soulfully on the violin. The Bishop joined his daughter and granddaughter for a song, playing his guitar and singing. During the worship music, retreatants stood and sang through their face masks. Many raised hands to God. Some blinked back tears of joy.

"Being together nourishes and quenches your thirst for God," Smith said.

Besides meeting en masse, the women periodically broke into small discussion groups to dig more deeply into Yates's teachings. In addition, on Saturday afternoon Jane Gurley led a workshop on Women Mentoring Women, using the Book of Ruth to explore

Continued on Pg. 5

LADIES: DON'T GIVE UP ON YOUR MARRIAGE

Join our weekly discussion group for women Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom, for one hour. A new session begins Jan. 19 - March 16, 2021. *Hope & Healing in Marriage: True Stories of Renewed Love* led by the author, Pringle Franklin.

hopeandhealinginmarriage@gmail.com

On the Road To Bethlehem

Seeing the Beauty and Power of Mentoring

By Jayne Gurley, St. Philip's Church, Charleston

At our recent Women's Conference Jane Gurley taught on Mentoring. Here she shares her key teaching points.

Two women one older one younger travelled the road from Moab to Bethlehem. Naomi, the elder is a Hebrew returning to Bethlehem after the death of her husband and two sons. Ruth, a young widow is a Moabite and daughter-in-law to Naomi.

The book of Ruth is a relevant depiction of a mentoring relationship. At the Anglican's Women's Retreat I presented a seminar on mentoring, examining the lessons we learn from the book. Mentoring is a relational experience with one person empowering another.

We read in Proverbs 15:22, "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed."

While living in the hideous culture of Moab where the god, Chemosh was appeased with ritual human sacrifice Naomi may have told Ruth about Yahweh. Having heard about the one true God, Ruth did not want to part from Naomi.

Lesson Learned: Mentors expose the works of the enemy and offer true freedom through Jesus Christ.

Ruth pledges herself to Naomi and Naomi's God. "For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God." With this vow Ruth severs herself from the pagan culture of Moab. Because

Ruth makes a clean break with the past she moves with no strings attached towards her destiny.

Lesson Learned: Mentors aid mentees in breaking off the bondage of their past. Through confession and repentance Jesus enters our lives to cleanse and redeem us.

The Book of Ruth foreshadows another young woman who travelled the road to Bethlehem. Ruth and Mary are inextricably linked in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Yes! Jesus' roots can be traced back to Ruth, the Moabite. Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer born to save us from sin and darkness!

Once in Bethlehem Ruth gleanes during the barley harvest. Boaz, the owner of the field discovers who she

is and invites her to continue gleaning there. Naomi realizes Boaz could be one of their kinsman redeemers. She encourages Ruth to remain in his fields.

Lesson Learned: God often gives mentors eyes to see beyond present circumstances.

Naomi tells Ruth to bathe, anoint herself with perfumes and cover herself with a cloak. With this preparation she sends Ruth down to the threshing floor to lie at the feet of Boaz. Read Ruth to discover the joyous ending!

Many young women today are schooled by the surrounding culture in regard to sexual behavior. As mentors we need to communicate

Continued on Pg. 16

Anglicans for Life to Hold Annual Summit Virtually

Participate in the January 16 and 23 Summit From Your Church or Home

Anglicans For Life (AFL) is the only global Anglican ministry dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia through ministry, education, pastoral care, and biblical advocacy in partnership with churches in the Anglican Communion.

In January, AFL is taking one of the biggest steps it's made in more than 25 years. The ministry will livestream its annual Summit on January 16 and 23. For the first time ever, every single Anglican with an internet connection can access the Summit's life-changing, life-affirming training.

Summit 2021 will feature outstanding keynote speakers and workshop leaders, equipping attendees with Life-Affirming teaching and ministry inspiration.

SUMMIT 2021 takes place on two consecutive Saturdays in January, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST.

January 16 features keynote presentations, as well as discussion time for those participating in watch parties and chat rooms for those watching as individuals. There will be conversations about "real life action steps" and plans for ongoing ministry and education in the local community.

- January 23 offers topical workshop tracks allowing participants to dig deeper into specific life issues that interest them.

Churches are encouraged to host a Summit 2021 Virtual Watch Party at their parish (if COVID-19 state standards allow). This will

create an opportunity to build a team of folks interested in developing life ministry in the church. If your church cannot do so, encourage parishioners to participate from home. Learn more and get promotional resources by visiting the [AFL Summit website](#).

Summit website.

"Concerns about the Covid-19 prompted AFL's decision to take Summit 2021 virtual," explains AFL President Georgette Forney. "The pandemic is generating real concern about the value of life, and our message is needed now more than ever. There is a silver lining, however. In 2021, instead of only 125 people attending the Summit about life, death, abortion, and euthanasia, everyone in churches coast-to-coast can be equipped to uphold the Sanctity of Life! When I consider how church life-ministries will be mobilized, I am in awe."



St. Michael's Launches PODZ

Parish Outreach Dedicated by Zip Code

By Linda P. Prince, St. Michael's Church, Charleston

The COVID-19 outbreak presented all leaders with far more than a problem to solve. It has given us a dilemma. You can't really "solve" a dilemma but you can flip it. Bob Johansen, author of *Leaders Make the Future* defines dilemma flipping as reframing an unsolvable challenge as an opportunity.

At St. Michael's we reframed the COVID challenge with an opportunity for PODZ – Parish Outreach Dedicated by Zip Code. For 12 weeks, from September 13 to November 22, we offered Lowcountry Vespers or PODZ on Sunday evenings in six neighborhood locations: downtown Charleston, West Ashley, James Island, Johns Island, Mt. Pleasant and Isle of Palms/Sullivan's Island.

PODZ were a way for St. Michaelites who lived near each other, but might not know each other, to get to know one another better and it was a welcoming way to invite others into fellowship. After all, who doesn't enjoy a garden gathering in the autumn bliss of the Lowcountry?

Here's how they worked:

- Hosts graciously offered their garden, lawn or (in one case) large screened porch.
- Bible teachers volunteered their gifts and talents.
- Each location had a clergy member to lead the worship.
- Everyone brought their own BBBLC (Bible, Blanket, Beverage and Lawn Chair). People sit with



Above: The Copenhavers arrive for the West Ashley PODZ.

MICHAEL LALICH

their family and those they invited.

- PODZ took advantage of the cleansing power of God's fresh air—and the easy distancing of the outdoor settings.

- Seating arrangements differed based on garden and size of the gathering.

- People gathered at 5:00 p.m. and a vespers service commenced shortly thereafter, with a brief liturgy followed by an interactive Bible lesson.

- The lessons came from the book of Acts, providing a real look at the first churches who met in homes.

- The entire service lasted 45-50 minutes.

- People stayed and talked for a few moments after the service.

- Inviting friends became the norm.

Though to some it may seem like these were small groups, we intentionally focused on worship and Bible lessons so the gatherings would be non-threatening to newcomers. We had a number of people join in who didn't go to church at all.

In the words of one clergy member who described himself as having FONO (Fear Of New Opportunities), "Frankly, I dreaded adding one new thing—but found our PODZ gathering refreshing instead of draining." And in the words of one of the teachers, "... I left with joy!"

To learn more about the PODZ, contact Linda Prince at lindaprince@mindspring.com.



Women's Retreat

Continued from Page 4

how elders in the faith can disciple younger women. During this same time slot, others participated in a guided nature walk, learning more about the camp's wildlife and ecosystems from a staff naturalist. For all, the seaside setting of St. Christopher elevated the soul. Throughout the weekend, women took advantage of unusually mild and sunny weather to spend time alone, walking on the beach, or exploring the lush, tropical grounds.

"This gives me a sense of connectedness, a sense of peace," Joan Wynter, of Church of the Resurrection, North Charleston, said. "Just looking at the ocean, the birds, the trees, just sitting in the wilderness and thinking, makes me more appreciative of my Creator."

Everyone agreed the retreat was a huge success, and more precious than ever after so many months of isolation. "There's something so powerful about being in community," Smith said.

"Incredible" Alpha Held Even During Pandemic

By The Rev. Trevor Spencer, Church of the Holy Cross, Sullivan's Island, Daniel Island

It was an early Saturday morning in November when 100 or so joined together for an Alpha Retreat like none I had experienced before. The fall weather was delightful. We had heard some great teachings, had some great conversations, and grown in relationships within our small groups. Then, we sat in our groups to pray to be filled with God's Holy Spirit. "Come, Holy Spirit." And He came.

What made this whole "time away" different was that we did it from the comfort of our own homes. It was Alpha Online. Online is nothing new for any of us now. We're doing so much online including worship, work, and even family gatherings. The question was: would Alpha work online? At one point in years past, Alpha's Nicky Gumbel said doing Alpha online wouldn't work. Yet, even before COVID-19, he had come to realize he was wrong.

Here at Holy Cross, we were looking for a couple of things. First, we hoped Alpha would help us engage more of our church members, especially those who weren't in Life Groups, who might be experiencing isolation in the midst of the pandemic. Second, we knew it would help our members in their lives as disciples as they follow Jesus. Even longtime Christians are searching for answers to some of life's toughest questions. Third, we knew Alpha

was a great way to introduce people to Jesus and find life in Him.

It's been incredible! God has done exceedingly more than we could have imagined. More than 150

revised Alpha videos are incredibly well produced and gave participants permission to ask the tough questions and to engage one another in conversations.

internet as if to lay hands on our group members' shoulders as prayers reached out to our Heavenly Father. Send your Spirit, we asked. And God gave us his Holy Spirit abundantly. Fill us, we prayed. Spines tingled, warmth was experienced, God came near, and peace was had. It was incredible.

We wondered what praying for one another would be like over the internet. In hindsight, our concerns seem a little unwarranted. Our Heavenly Father wants His children to be filled with His Holy Spirit. He wants to release the gifts and grow the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us. He wants to do that for all of us.

We're looking forward to running Alpha again in the spring so God can give this good gift to others. While I hope we can do it in person, I'm happy to do it online. Alpha USA has made it incredibly easy with online videos and thorough instructions for running the course online via Zoom. In fact, anyone can go to www.alphausa.org and learn how to lead Alpha at church, at home, in the workplace or online.

Our prayer, and our expectation, is that God will do much more through this incredible 10 weeks together as his daughters and sons are filled with the power of His Holy Spirit.



There we were, in our living rooms, on our porches, some certainly wearing their slippers, and God moved. "I want to know His presence." "I'm depressed and want to be healed." "I want a sense of purpose." "I need assurance." And our hands reached out across the internet.

Holy Cross members and friends signed up for one of our four Alpha courses this fall. Some met as Life Groups and others as new groups. The largest course was 110 people meeting on Monday nights. It was no small feat to get 110 people into the right breakout rooms! The

There we were, in our living rooms, on our porches, some certainly wearing their slippers, and God moved. "I want to know His presence." "I'm depressed and want to be healed." "I want a sense of purpose." "I need assurance." And our hands reached out across the in-

Bishop Speaks on “Faith in the Home: Beacon of the Light” at Fall Men’s Summit

By Jay Crouse, Diocesan Coordinator for Men’s Ministry

If you haven’t heard his message yet, please take a few minutes and listen to the two talks Bishop Lawrence gave at the 2020 Men’s Summit. You can find them on The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina’s website (www.adosc.org) under our Men’s Ministry tab. <https://vimeo.com/475558733>

As you will hear, the Bishop’s two teachings were grounded on Psalm 51. He was open about his reluctance to talk on Faith in the Home, but he is transparent in the

stories he tells about his journey, reminding us that faith in the home can be a messy journey. A few take-aways: restored relationships always need to be a top family priority; lifestyle evangelism as a Christian family can have transformational outcomes on both family and non-family members; a desired faith outcome in one’s family can take years before any fruit is evident. You will be blessed by his Faith in the Home messages.

The Men’s Summit was also

a very important technological breakthrough. Our leadership team successfully broadcasted our first live streaming men’s event—successfully. This was a significant communication breakthrough for us to now feel confident about

providing similar events in the future.

How were we able to successfully provide this virtual event?

- A magnificent team effort beginning with our technology guru and our producer, Alex Perri, and including Scott Myers, Bill Read, Les Sease and Tom Hample.

- Next, thanks to Arthur Jenkins who invited us to use the St. James broadcast facility which is totally

state of the art, we had the ideal platform from which to broadcast.

- Many churches, due to the coronavirus’ curtailing in church services, have invested in technology to broadcast their services. Thus, they were in an ideal situation to receive our broadcast and host the men in their church for the Men’s Summit.

- God’s provisions for overcoming the insurmountable.



JAY CROUSE

Above: the Rev. Arthur Jenkins (left) welcomes men to the Summit from Saint James, Charleston, At right, the Rev. Rich Giersch prepares to lead the worship music.



SEAN COUGHLIN

Men gathered in churches around the Diocese to participate in the Summit together. Above, men from the Cathedral, Charleston, gather.

Every man’s heart is yearning for an adventure, a battle, and a beauty...

Diocese Offers First Wild at Heart Basic Retreat at St. Christopher

By Lee Jones, Prince George Winyah, Georgetown

This past October I had the opportunity to join 11 other men for the diocese’s first Wild at Heart Basic Retreat. It was great to be at St. Christopher. The camp used their personal retreat format to safely provide lodging, meals, meeting space, and outdoor encounters for this adventure based on the book *Wild at Heart*. In over 70 live Boot Camps John Eldredge and his team have presented this to tens of thousands of men worldwide over the past 20 years. They offer their entire Boot Camp via video session and call it Wild at Heart

Basic. This was our fourth event in South Carolina and our first at St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center.

After arriving Thursday afternoon and enjoying a delicious meal in the cafeteria, we began the quest with evening and morning sessions. During free time Friday and Saturday afternoons we hiked, fished, kayaked, relaxed, and simply enjoyed God’s creation in the unique St. Christopher setting. Saturday evening, we had a steak cook out on the pavilion as the sun set over the ocean. We left Sunday at noon to continue our search for truth.

The video sessions include scenes from movies including *Braveheart*, *Gladiator*, *Robin Hood*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and others that stir masculine souls and reveal truths common to us all. The team then uses scripture references and biblical teaching, testimony, prayer, and codes of silence. The goal is to allow men to hear God speaking directly to them and invite Him into their hearts. Mission accomplished!

“Written on every man’s heart is a yearning for adventure, battle, and a beauty,” Eldredge says.



JUSTIN JOHNSON

During free time Friday and Saturday afternoons we hiked, fished, kayaked, relaxed, and simply enjoyed God’s creation in the unique St. Christopher setting.

Why Do I Need Wild at Heart Basic?

As John Eldridge says in his book, “A man needs a deeper understanding of why these longings govern him—and why God made him just like that. And he needs a deeper understanding of why women long to be fought for, to be swept up into adventure, and to be the beauty.

What if?

What if those deep desires in our hearts are telling us the truth, revealing to us the lives we were meant to live? God gave us eyes so

that we might see; He gave us ears that we might hear; He gave us wills that we might choose; and He gave us hearts that we might live. The way we handle the heart is everything. A man must know he is powerful; he must know he has what it takes.

This is not a retreat about the ‘seven things a man ought to do to be a nicer guy.’ It is a four-day quest into the recovery of a man’s masculine soul, the release of a man’s heart—his passions and his true nature—all given him by God. It is an invitation to rush the fields at Bannockburn, to go West, to leap from the falls and save the beauty. For if a man is going to know who he truly is as a man, if he is going to find a life worth living,

New Men’s Curriculum Now Available:

Being a Strategic Father

By Jay Crouse, Diocesan Coordinator for Men’s Ministry

I am so pleased to present our newest men’s curriculum “Being a Strategic Father” for your consideration, for the Dad’s in your church. We field tested the curriculum



last year and the outcome was so positive I have published the curriculum in this finished form.

Plus the curriculum is free!

The curriculum includes all of the details to allow two men in your church to co-facilitate the program and along with my own fathering experience, is based on these two books: *Raising a Modern Day Knight* by Robert Lewis and *Strong Fathers/Strong Daughters* by Meg Meeker.

Plus the curriculum is free!

As I point out in the Welcome to “Being a Strategic Father,” “There is only one place in which to faithfully accomplish such a big, holy, audacious adventure (being a strategic father): the Christian Church!”

Plus the curriculum is free!

To order your copies please contact Jay Crouse at jaycrouse@aol.com or 941-320-0271.

love a woman deeply, and not pass on his confusion to his children, he simply must get his heart back. Join us.” John Eldridge

Our mission is to continue hosting Wild at Heart Basic events and training others to do likewise. We plan to offer several events throughout the year. We are planning for January 14-17 2021. Our team would also love to help you host an event. All we need are: Men committed to getting away and unplugging from the world for four days/three nights (or longer), and a place for the men to sleep, eat, enjoy, and engage. FYI, we encourage you to read *Wild at Heart* by John Eldridge.

To learn more visit <https://wildatheart.org/basic/> For diocesan opportunities contact us for more information: Lee Jones ljones14@sc.rr.com; Rags Coxe coxe.rags@gmail.com; Tom Rowland trc@americantimberlands.com; Brad Wasserman bwasserman@debor-dieu.com

Christian Men’s Conference with John Yates postponed until the fall due to COVID-19.

The Lost Soles Men's Hike

Sure, There's the Physical Aspect, but it's Much, Much More

By The Rev. Tripp Jeffords, Rector, St. Paul's, Summerville

Despite the restrictions put on indoor ministries, due to COVID-19, the Men's Hike ministry is still going strong. A Men's Hike is a wonderful, safe way to do ministry outdoors.

This past November, 19 men of various ages and backgrounds joined in St. Paul's, Summerville's Men's Hike at Walnut Bottom just outside of Waynesville, North Carolina. We began our journey departing Summerville at 7 a.m. on Thursday, November 12, and we arrived at the parking area of Walnut Bottom around 1 p.m. With packs loaded with gear enough to last us until Sunday, we began the adventure.

We prayed at the trail head and asked the men the first of a series of questions which would be posed throughout the weekend. "Why am I here?" For what reason has the Holy Spirit opened up this time for me to be in God's wonderful creation for the next few days?

On a Men's Hike we hike in and out with spiritual purposefulness.



TRIPP JEFFORDS

After each hike, I am always in awe of how God uses the Men's Hikes to transform lives. Sure, there is the physical aspect. Much like a boot camp environment, when a man is pushed physically, he is often willing to go to places emotionally, he would not have gone in the comfort of his normal life.

Later that night, we sang and worshipped around a campfire. We heard testimonies from seasoned hikers who had had profound, life-altering experiences on prior Men's Hikes. We then discussed another question. "What is getting in the way between me and God?" Is it anger? Pursuit of wealth or status? Perhaps pornography or alcohol dependence? This was a profound time of sharing with genuine transparency. The Holy Spirit moved and there was a willingness in each man to become vulnerable with one another.

Friday, we went on our first big hike of around 11.2 miles, half of which was on the Appalachian Trail. We began our journey with another question. "What is holding me back spiritually?" Are there family wounds, particularly "father wounds" in my past that have negatively shaped my relationship with my Father in heaven?

That day we saw some absolutely wonderful vistas. On one side of the ridge line we saw North Carolina and on the other side Tennessee. What an amazing artist God is!

After lunch we prayed over Holy Scripture verses that had been printed, cut into strips and laminated. Then we walked for the next hour or so individually with no other hiker in sight. For this hike each man walked alone with God, with God's holy word in his hand. Each man was instructed to ask God to speak a word to him as he walked.

Around the campfire Friday evening, we discussed what God was impressing on their hearts. That night the men heard a teaching on "What is the Gospel?" We took time to unpack Ephesians 2 (justification) and Galatians 5 (sanctification). A thoughtful discussion ensued.

On Saturday we tackled a bigger hike of around 14 miles pondering the question, "What will I leave on this mountain?" Unforgiveness? Lust? Anger? Impatience? Father wounds? As before there was a Scripture walk that day and a discussion that night.

Saturday night there was more worship and honest sharing around the campfire as we processed what we would leave on the mountain. We later took a rock, symbolizing the burden we wished to leave behind, and we



TRIPP JEFFORDS

That night, we sang and worshipped around a campfire. We heard testimonies from seasoned hikers who had had profound, life-altering experiences on prior Men's Hikes. We then discussed, "What is getting in the way between me and God?"

tossed the rock in the fire as men gave witness to their burdens. We ended with healing prayer and the laying on of hands.

Sunday, we broke down camp in gusty winds of well over 20 MPH! We celebrated Holy Eucharist and unpacked the Gospel teaching of Jesus' parable of the talents from Matthew 25. The men were challenged to think about their stewardship of time, talent, and treasure as they hiked down the mountain to reenter their lives back home.

After each hike, I am always in awe of how God uses the Men's Hikes to transform lives. Sure, there is the physical aspect. Much like a boot camp environment, when a man is pushed physically, he is often willing to go to places emotionally, places he would not have gone in the comfort of his normal life.

But there is more to it than that. On a Men's Hike the Holy Spirit descends powerfully and fulfills the promise of Ezekiel 36:26 in the lives of men. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart

of flesh." Men come home, better men—better husbands, better fathers, better friends, and better churchmen.

The name "Lost Soles" is directly related to a guy who insisted on putting his boots near the fire to dry them out. I knew this wouldn't end well! One day they got a little too close and he melted his hiking boots and had to sit out Saturday's hike. But our adventure was also a "lost souls" hike, where men who had fallen prey to spiritual apathy and perhaps lost their way in life, became whole again as they regained God as their center. "I once was lost, but now am found."

Why not consider sending your men on a Men's Hike? It's a great adventure! I guarantee they will come home blessed.

If your church does not currently have a Men's Hike Ministry, St. Paul's would be glad to share more with you about this. Contact the Rev. Tripp Jeffords at frtripp@stpaulssummerville.org.

Reflections on God's Unexpected Pandemic Gifts

Why is God Doing This For Us?

By Jay Crouse, Diocesan Coordinator for Men's Ministry

One! There was not really one obvious event which brought the pandemic into our reality. Not like when JFK was assassinated or 9/11. Everyone remembers exactly where they were and what they were doing when those tragedies occurred. Not so with the 2020 coronavirus.

It crept up on us. With some believing it was no more dangerous than the annual flu epidemic. Creeping, creeping, creeping and then it was gone. Not the virus but our freedoms!

Many of us were in shock for weeks trying to comprehend what was happening, others suffered the awful shock of losing a loved one to the virus. Some have created "bubbles" which include a few people, mostly family members, with whom they can have physical contact. Social distancing for social people? How awkward and uncomfortable. 14 day quarantined? A worldwide pandemic. Loss of our freedom to

worship. How debilitating.

I am not sure when I first heard this phrase, but upon hearing it, it consumed my sequestered thoughts: "Why is God doing this for us?" A twist on the "Why is God doing this to us." If you pause, as I have over these past months, you might be overwhelmed with appreciation for the answers you come up with.

"Why is God doing this for us: the Crouse family?"

- God slowed all of us down! What a gift.
- My wife, Laura, and I (over an eight-week period) delivered 40 dinners to families shut in by the coronavirus. We learned where many people in our church live!

- We were able to spend five months in northern Michigan due



The Crouse family

to the cancellation of my annual men's pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

• Thus, like many families we were unexpectedly blessed with extended visits with our kids and grandkids living life together in northern Michigan. This provided the blessing of spending loads of time with our grandchildren.

• From this extended living together, we created "Cousin Camp." Moms and Dads took turns mornings and afternoons creatively leading our grandchildren's camp.

• As we lived life together, I intentionally spoke words and told stories of the adventures of Jesus to our grandchildren. Our four-year-old Stanley who lives in Brooklyn continues to look up into the sky and with much enthusiasm shout out "Hello, Jesus." I also discovered the "Action Bible" and read many stories from it to our grandchildren.

- For 10 Sundays we hosted Zoom Home Church with family members.

• Under the emergency of the coronavirus, our Charleston family conducted the baptism of our granddaughter, Eulalah Crouse.

• Our family spent much time in spontaneous prayers.

• The extraordinary book by Andrew Murray, *Abide in Christ* became a centerpiece of inspiration during this time.

• In our family we put a boundary around talking about politics!

• Since God did slow me down, this time gave me the opportunity to think through our diocesan Men's Ministry mission, and God opened up a some very powerful insights and opportunities.

• And the list goes on... Take some time and reflect for yourselves on the question: "Why has God done this for us?" You will be blessed.

We Persist in Hope

St. Christopher During the COVID Pandemic

By The Rev. Bob Lawrence, Executive Director, St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center



BOB LAWRENCE

While we still ask, "how long O Lord?" as we endure scarcity and deprivation of much needed resources, we persist in hope.

By the grace of God, and the generosity of many, St. Christopher Camp and Conference remains a viable entity for ministry in The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. It remains so with the challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic through the legacy of resilience that has characterized those whom God has called to serve in ministry in this hallowed place. While we still ask, "how long O Lord?" as we endure scarcity and deprivation of much needed resources, we persist in hope.

My priority in managing scarce resources has been to preserve employment for a dedicated staff that continue to exude the aroma of Christ in their selfless commitment to do whatever is needed. I believe all that remain truly are essential for the continuation of ministry. We will begin 2021 with only 18 staff.

It is hoped 11 of these can remain full-time, with seven continuing to serve as needed in both food services and guest services. In making people the priority, what is already a long list of deferred maintenance needs continues to grow. There are buildings on campus in need of new roofs that have been covered in blue tarps for over a year. We have HVAC systems that are already past their expected lifespan, and many others that are due for replacement within the coming year. Right now we simply cannot address any of these projects and many more for lack of resources.

While Annual Fund contributions have been particularly helpful in 2020, almost all of those contributions have simply contributed to the bottom line of keeping staff, and paying utilities, contracts, and insurance. Many are happy to make those

kinds of unrestricted contributions to our ongoing operational needs. Others have asked about making contributions to help very specific needs. To that end, a list of projects (see below) that allow contributions at different levels of giving has been created to identify some of what is included in our deferred maintenance. If you would like to contribute toward any of these needs, please know it would bless us mightily.

Most years, St. Christopher has been able to send an end of year Annual Fund appeal to a mailing list of over 14,000 recipients. This year that will not happen simply due to lack of resources to print and mail those materials. If you are reading this article, this is our end of year appeal. Thank you for your response and generosity at any level.



Listen carefully, my dear child, to everything that I teach you, and pay attention to all that I have to say. Fill your thoughts with my words until they penetrate deep into your spirit. Then, as you unwrap my words, they will impart true life and radiant health into the very core of your being. So above all, guard the affections of your heart, for they affect all that you are. Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being, for from there flows the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:20-23, The Passion Translation

Who among us remains untouched by loss in this season, unmoved by upheaval in every sphere of our lives? The book of Proverbs counsels us, "Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being, for from there flows the wellspring of life." Hear this invitation to gather with brothers and sisters in Christ to drink in His healing Word, soak in the loving presence of our God, and find release and rest for your soul. Each morning, afternoon, and evening session includes worship, teaching, and prayer ministry.

St. Christopher welcomes back Judith MacNutt who has ministered here in teaching and healing prayer with her team on several occasions. Trained as a clinical psychologist, Judith is now Director of Ministry and President of Christian Healing Ministries, Jacksonville, Florida—a global ministry she founded with her late husband, the Rev. Dr.

Francis MacNutt. She oversees the organization, writes, teaches, and travels as a conference speaker. Judith co-authored *Praying for Your Unborn Child* with Francis and has written two other books: *Angels Are for Real* and *Encountering Angels*.

Schedule and Location:

Friday, February 5th (beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m.) and concluding on Sunday, February 7th with Holy Communion (before lunch).

Fees include lodging, meals and program costs:

- Single room: \$380
- Double room (per person): \$330
- Commuter (with one lunch and two dinners): \$200

We will observe all safety protocols with physical distancing, wearing masks, in our meal preparation and serving, in sanitizing guest rooms and common areas.

We are limited in this season to welcoming 100 guests; please register early (by January 15) with \$100 deposit (non-refundable after January 15); total amount is due before arrival.

For more information, contact [The Rev. Dr. Sandi Kerner](mailto:Rev. Dr. Sandi Kerner) To register visit <https://stchristopher.org/>

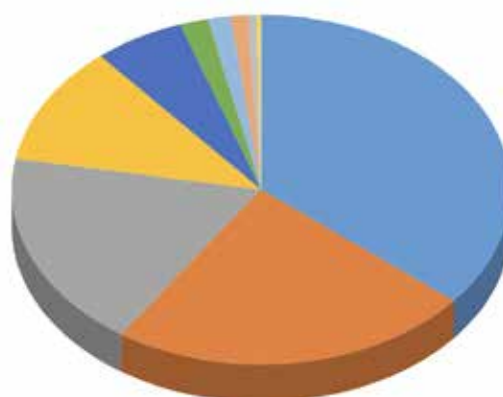
Want to keep St. Christopher humming?

Adopt a project by donating ...

Project	Estimated Value	Notes
1 Renovate Kimbel Chapel	\$ 49,000	Add foundation to sagging canelers, replace foggy windows, quiet the noise of the air handler, replace exterior siding
2 Renovate Carruther's Cottage	\$ 32,000	New roof, new roof insulation, new HVAC system, shore up sinking foundation piers
3 New roof for Bishop Thomas Hall (also known as Arts and Crafts building)	\$ 25,000	New metal on low slopes, new asphalt shingles on steeper pitches, replace rotten rafters, rafter tails and eave trim
4 New flooring in Live Oak Rooms 1 - 12	\$ 15,000	Remove old carpet, prep subfloor, install new faux-wood vinyl planking to make rooms easier to clean and remove musty odor
5 Replace rotten rafter tails on Palmetto Lodge Building	\$ 8,000	And redesign to prevent quick deterioration in the future
6 All new components on Golf Cart #6	\$ 2,500	This aluminum frame cart needs all new batteries, motor, controller, etc. to become functional again
7 Cut down 2 1/2 dead and dangerous trees	\$ 2,000	These are BIG trees requiring professional attention: one hangs over parking spaces, the other over the gas and diesel fuel tanks
8 Replace deck stairs of Bishop's Cottage	\$ 1,500	Replace entire stair with ground-contact treated lumber
8 New motor for Golf Cart #4	\$ 800	All other components have been replaced, new motor on this aluminum frame cart should last for years to come
9 Replace rotten decking and steps at side stair to Prayer Center	\$ 400	Replace decking and treads with ground-contact treated lumber

Estimated Value

- Renovate Kimbel Chapel
- Renovate Carruther's Cottage
- New roof for Bishop Thomas Hall (also known as Arts and Crafts building)
- New flooring in Live Oak Rooms 1 - 12
- Replace rotten rafter tails on Palmetto Lodge Building
- All new components on Golf Cart #6
- Cut down 2 1/2 dead and dangerous trees
- Replace deck stairs of Bishop's Cottage
- New motor for Golf Cart #4
- Replace rotten decking and steps at side stair to Prayer Center



PROVIDED

Put Some Color in Your Summer... Work at Camp!

We are looking for college age young adults to serve on staff, recently graduated high school seniors to serve as volunteer interns, and high school and college aged students, who will be at least 16 years old by the summer, to serve as volunteer counselors.

Learn more by visiting <https://stchristopher.org/home-5/summer-camp/work-here/>

Barrier Island Family Weekend at St Christopher February 19-21, 2021

By Teri Hiers, Director of Student Ministries, St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center

Since 1981, the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program (a ministry of St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center) has provided public and private school students, kindergarten through 12th grades, a unique opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a way that is hands-on, memorable, and lots of fun! Amid the COVID pandemic of 2020, educating our children has certainly been, to say the least, challenging for parents and educators. Virtually all public schools and many private schools made the tough decision to cancel their scheduled field trips to Barrier Island; some of which have been attending the program for 38 years. Classes offered at Barrier Island complete many of the South Carolina science standards, making the field trip an essential part of some teachers' lesson plans. It is not uncommon for chaperones and teachers who attend the field trip with their children to recollect experiences of their own as elementary/middle school students

attending Barrier Island. The popular salt marsh ecology class known as "Let's Sea," which culminates in a visit to the famous mud pit, is often referred to by schools as a "rite of passage" for 5th graders. How disappointing for this opportunity to be missed by nearly 10,000 students this year due to COVID!

In light of so many field trip cancellations, the staff decided to offer a family weekend so students and their families can still have a Barrier Island environmental education experience. In an effort to mitigate the potential of infection on campus, St. Christopher has put in place measures to safeguard guests as suggested by the CDC and the American Camp Association. Additionally, much of the environmental education program is taught outside in nature, which enables social distancing.

To learn more and register visit the [Barrier Island section](#) of St. Christopher's website.



PROVIDED

In light of so many field trip cancellations, the staff decided to offer a family weekend so students and their families can still have a Barrier Island environmental education experience.

Summer Camp is Just Around the Corner Campers, Staff, Counselors and Interns Join Us Here

By Justin Johnson, Summer Camp Director, St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center



Camp is coming and so is King Jesus! I love summer camp! I love the joy and laughter, the fun activities, goofy spontaneity, and worship that seems to permeate everything we do. Few things bring me as much joy as getting to share in the life of summer camp at Camp Saint Christopher. The turn of the calendar to begin the New Year always stirs in me an excitement of knowing that camp is just around the corner. However, I have to say my excitement is almost uncontainable this year as I patiently (or at least try to patiently) wait for the start of camp. Having to drastically reduce the 2020 summer camp season has served as a clear reminder of what a gift camp is and the grace it is to share in this ministry. As I think ahead to this coming summer, my mind immediately conjures up images of campers laughing as they sail out in the estuary or sit around

a campfire, as well as the reuniting of old friends and friendships yet to be made. I can feel my spirit rise just writing these words!

However, the thing I am most eagerly awaiting is the opportunity to again be able to share with our campers the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This summer through our theme, "The True King," we will look at Jesus's journey through Holy week, from His Triumphant entry on Palm Sunday to His resurrection on Easter. In the midst of the chaos and uncertainty that surrounds us during this season of life, we all need time to pause and be reminded that we have a sovereign Lord who has taken on and overcome the suffering of this world and is inviting us into His Kingdom!

As we prepare for this upcoming summer, we are in search of individuals who have a passion

and joy for spending time with children and a desire to see them come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We are looking for college age young adults to serve on staff, recently graduated high school seniors to serve as volunteer interns, and high school and college aged students, who will be at least 16 years old by the summer, to serve as volunteer counselors.

Whether you have a camper who is eager to attend camp or you are interested in serving on our team, I invite you to join us in the joy of camp and the hope of seeing Jesus's Kingdom come at Camp Saint Christopher this summer!

Online camper registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 1st. If you are interested in joining the Summer Camp ministry team, visit our website (www.stchristopher.org) for more information or contact Justin Johnson, Director of Summer Camp, at jjohnson@stchristopher.org.

ST. CHRISTOPHER Camp and Conference Center Summer Camp 2021

2810 Seabrook Island Road, Seabrook Island, SC 29455

Session	Dates	Nights	Grades Completed	Cost
1	Fri-Sat, June 11-12	1	K-2 (Buddy Camp)+	\$260
2	Mon-Tue, June 14-15	1	K-2 (Buddy Camp)+	\$260
3	Wed-Sat, June 16-19	3	2-4	\$410
4	Mon-Fri, June 21-25	4	4-6	\$460
4 OAC	Mon-Fri, June 21-25	4	6-8 (Outdoor Adventure)*	\$475
5	Mon-Sat, June 28-July 3	5	9-12 (Senior Session)	\$575
6	Mon-Fri, July 5-9	4	3-5	\$460
6 OAC	Mon-Fri, July 5-9	4	6-8 (Outdoor Adventure)*	\$475
7	Mon-Sat, July 12-17	5	6-8	\$575
7 OAC	Mon-Sat, July 12-17	5	8-12 (Outdoor Adventure)*	\$590
8	Mon-Fri, July 19-23	4	3-5	\$460
9	Mon-Thur, July 26-29	3	2-4	\$410
10	Fri-Sat, July 30-31	1	K-2 (Buddy Camp)+	\$260
11	Mon-Sat, Aug. 2-7	5	6-8	\$575

+Buddy Camps are for a child and a same-sex parent/guardian to attend together. The total cost is \$260 (\$130 per person). * For details regarding Outdoor Adventure Camp, visit stchristopher.org/summer-camp/camp-faq. General Registration begins at 9 a.m. Monday, February 1st. Visit stchristopher.org/summer-camp for registration and camper forms. Have Questions? Call Student Ministries at 843.768.1337 for more information.

St. Christopher Needs Volunteers

St. Christopher seeks volunteers for lawn maintenance at its spacious campus. Duties include using lawn mowers, string trimmers, and leaf blowers.

Can your church bring a team? "Many hands make light work."

For more information on how you can help, call Steve Zack at St. Christopher. (843) 768-0429.

Yes! I want to join St. Christopher in ministry today!

Name: _____ Address _____
 Signature: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
 Please bill my credit card. Please include your credit card billing address if different from above.
 Visa Mastercard Credit Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date _____ Security Code on back: (CVS Code) _____

ST. CHRISTOPHER Camp and Conference Center
 Make checks payable to "ADOSC" and mail with form to St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center: 2810 Seabrook Island Road, Johns Island, SC 29455
 A Ministry of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

Getting to Know Our Newly Ordained Deacons

Five vocational deacons were ordained by Bishop Mark Lawrence at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, in Charleston October 17, 2020.

"What struck me," said the Rev. Nelson Weaver, when the Bishop laid his hands on him during the service was, "Wow! The diocese recognizes the calling I received truly is from God and how important the ministry I

Favorite Movie or TV Show: The Crown
Favorite/Least Favorite Food: Cheese/Sauerkraut
One Item on Your Bucket List: Touring Scotland
An Adventurous Moment: Traveling to Uganda on a mission trip
Proud Moment: Watching my son receive his MBA from UCLA, and my daughter her MSW from Columbia University last year



JOY HUNTER

The newly ordained deacons are introduced to the congregation.

have is to first responders." Weaver, who is a Fire Chaplain, is "very humbled and honored to be an ordained clergy to serve them."

Reflecting on the ordination, Bishop Lawrence said it was "A moving, albeit masked and socially distanced, ordination of yet another class of dedicated vocational deacons, who have been tutored by Canon Mike Malone and the able staff of diocesan clergy, who give of their time and expertise to help equip those raised up from within our congregations and called by God to this ordained ministry of servanthood." View an ordination photo album at <https://adosc.pixieset.com/ordinationofvocationaldeacons/>

Claudia Carucci
 St. Helena's, Beaufort

Ministry Focus: Ministry in assisted living facilities, Stephen Ministry, Bereavement Ministry
Family: Widow, two adult children and one precious granddaughter, Eloise (one and a half)

Free Time Activity: Foraging for edible mushrooms

Music or Sports Event: Going to the US Open Tennis Tournament or any of the classical music performances at Spoleto
How You Recharge Spiritually: Living on a dirt road in a quiet neighborhood, I like to leave all electronic devices behind and take a long walk. It's a time to be present before the Lord. The sights and

sounds and smells are all reminders of God's love and provision for me.

Harry R. Easterling, Jr.
 St. Paul's, Bennettsville

Ministry Focus: People. Both church and unchurched.

Family: Wife, Renee, three adult children
Favorite Movie or TV Show: It's a Wonderful Life, because if you do not believe it, then you cannot live it

Favorite/Least Favorite Food: Tuna/Liver
One Item on Your Bucket List: Done most of them, but not rushing to finish. Maybe I will become a Walmart greeter. There are people there, right?

An Adventurous Moment: US Army Paratrooper. It lasted three years.

Proud Moment: Becoming a daddy (x3)

Free Time Activity: Learning why Jesus was a carpenter

Music or Sports Event: Music. I love the old hymns set to new melodies.



From left: The Reverends Claudia Carucci, Harry Easterling, Skip Reitmeier, Bill Riggs and Nelson Weaver.

How You Recharge Spiritually: Walking at sunrise. Music—especially Celtic Worship.

Skip Reitmeier
 Holy Cross, Sullivan's Island

Ministry Focus: Pastoral Care
Family: Wife, Ellin, three adult children, seven grandchildren

Favorite Movie or TV Show: Forest Gump, Twelve O'Clock High

Favorite/Least Favorite Food: Favorite – anything Italian and fattening/Least Favorite—Lima Beans

One Item on Your Bucket List: A visit to Machu Picchu

An Adventurous Moment: A flight in a WWII B-17 bomber

Proud Moment: Birth of each and every child

Free Time Activity: Woodworking, Golf

Music or Sports Event: Jimmy Buffett and Eagles concerts

How You Recharge Spiritually: Quiet hikes in the woods

The Rev. Bill Riggs, Sr.
 St. Paul's, Summerville

Ministry Focus: Prison Ministry

Family: Wife, Gail, three adult children, four grandchildren

Favorite Movie or TV Show: The Last Samurai

Favorite/Least Favorite Food: Favorite - North Carolina vinegar based BBQ with coleslaw, Brunswick Stew, cornbread sticks, and sweet tea/Least Favorite - Broccoli

One Item on your Bucket List: Coast to Coast Canadian train trip with tour of the Canadian Rockies

An Adventurous Moment: Twelve-month tour as Officer-In-Charge, U.S. Navy Seabee

Team 0413, Eastern Caroline Islands, U. S. Pacific Territories

Proud Moment: Receiving with joy and thanksgiving each of my children and grandchildren into the great adventure of life

Free Time Activity: Hanging out with family and friends

Music or Sports Event: Music event, except when Clemson is playing for the National Football Championship

How You Recharge Spiritually: Through study of Scripture and daily prayer

The Rev. Nelson Weaver
 St. Timothy's of Cane Bay

Ministry Focus: Fire Chaplain for Whitesville Fire and Rescue, Berkeley County, SC

Family: Married to Margaret for 49 years, three adult daughters, seven grandchildren, and Titus and Tabitha, our Ragdoll cats

Favorite Movie or TV Show: British mysteries on Britbox

Favorite/Least Favorite Food: Favorite - Chinese/Least Favorite - Brussels Sprouts

One Item on Your Bucket List: Canada Rail on the Great Western Way from Toronto to Vancouver

An Adventurous Moment: Traveling to Machu Picchu

Proud Moment: When Margaret told me I was going to be a father

Free Time Activity: I've heard about free time and I'm hoping to try it...

Music or Sports Event: Clemson Football—Go Tigers!

How You Recharge Spiritually: Time in the outdoors enjoying the work of our Lord's hand. Mepkin Abbey!

The Marriage of the Virgin

Continued from Page One

life. That is what Joseph's dream was when the angel told him, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." Joseph followed through with the dream's guidance and the wedding took place.

As I was suggesting, this wedding is worthy of a few days meditation as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. Giaquinto's painting with the images described above of Joseph, Mary, the wonderment of the Jewish priest, the Ark of the Covenant, clouds, which are really angelic faces, the descending dove above the holy couple make good material for meditation, at least as theology, but not as history. The wedding ceremony as portrayed in 18th Century Italian art is not as it would have taken place in first century Israel. Marriage was a purely civil contract and was not a religious rite. As the archeologist Roland de Vaux states, "The chief ceremony was the entry of the bride into the bridegroom's house. The bridegroom wearing a diadem and accompanied by his friends with tambourine and a band proceeded from the Bride's house. She was richly dressed and adorned with jewels, but she wore a veil, which she took off only in the bridal chamber... [while alone with her husband]."

Next came a great feast...which normally lasted seven days or longer." It must have been awkward for Joseph and Mary to go along with the torch procession knowing what they knew, while not knowing so many other things about the future.

Ponder this strange situation for Mary and Joseph. The civil contract with its non-religious ceremonies designed to prepare for a consummation that they knew would not take place (at least until after the child was born, if even then). Imagine also the religious or spiritual dimension unperceived by any except Mary and Joseph, portrayed so profoundly, yet anachronistically by Giaquinto in his painting. I find myself meditating on both dimensions of the wedding—the historical event as biblical scholarship describes it, as well as the theological rendition that the artist has rightly yet unwittingly placed on the event, assuming a wedding with religious rites, influenced as he was by his own era.

To reflect on both helps one to perceive the paradoxical reality that confronts us in the birth of Christ. At Jesus' birth, the historical event and the theological truth occur together. The baby is the Savior; the child is the Son of God, born as all babies are born—it was the con-

ception, after all, not the birth that was miraculous. No one present at the birth would have seen anything particularly unusual. When the shepherds went to Bethlehem, the pertinent detail was a child lying in a manger; otherwise, they would not have been able to tell this birth from any other.

It happens not on a religious day in the Jewish calendar but on just another day. It happens in Bethlehem not only because the prophet foretold (which of course he did), but because a civil ruler decreed an enrollment for taxation. The religious and the civil, the secular and the sacred converging, each playing their role as they always do no matter how much we try to keep them apart or categorize them, and never more so than when God took upon himself our human nature to redeem fallen humankind. I suggest we give a little thought to the actual wedding of Mary and Joseph as both an historical and theological event and to their awkward, even lonely waiting while (as the poet says) "A tiny seed unfolding in the womb/Becomes the source from which we all unfold/And flower into being." It might help us get our minds around what happened on that first Christmas morning and what it means for us today.

Share Your St. Christopher Story

By Lynn Lawrence, St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center

Having had the privilege of being a resident at St. Christopher Camp and Conference center for over nine years as my husband, The Rev. Robert Lawrence, serves as the Executive Director, I have had the honor of meeting many guests and hearing their stories of how God has worked in their lives after an encounter with God at St. Christopher. After numerous nudges from the Holy Spirit, it is now time to collect these stories and share how the Lord has worked in the lives of so many in the wider community of people who know and love this holy place.

I ask you to share your story of God touching your life while at St. Christopher by answering one of these questions:

Did you have a divine appointment with the Lord or receive healing at St. Christopher?

Did you accept Christ as your Lord and Saviour at St. Christopher?

Did you receive a call to ministry while at St. Christopher, ordained or lay ministry?

Did you meet your spouse at St. Christopher?

Each story should point toward Christ so that our Lord receives all the honor and glory. Although this is not meant to be a collection of historical stories, you are welcome to share those, as well as photographs for use, perhaps, in another publication.

As the stories are collected, I am assured the Lord will lead how they are to be presented, either in published book form or an online collection. Please allow me to edit as needed so that as many stories as possible can be shared.

Stories can be short or up to 1,000 words. You may submit more than one story, if you would like.

Submit your story here: <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/47c1d45a-c778-4d63-81bb-e678b3977953>

2021 Prince George Winyah Celebrates 300th Anniversary

Anniversary Mission Statement: "Celebrating 300 years of the life and ministry of the Parish of Prince George Winyah. Proclaiming the love of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Uniting with our community in the love of Christ."

In 2021, Prince George Winyah Parish will celebrate its 300th Anniversary of continuous worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Special events and visitors from all over the Anglican Communion are scheduled for each month of the year and all are welcome to join the celebration.



2021 highlights include a visit from Archbishop Foley Beach, Revival Weekend with Russ Parker, and a 300th Anniversary Tour of Historic Homes & Gardens, to name a few. A reciprocal arrangement with the Diocese of South Maseno, Kenya is also underway, beginning with a visit to Prince George from the Rev. Fred Onyango and concluding with a mission trip for Prince George parishioners to Kenya in 2022. The Anniversary Committee is working tirelessly to invite every member to share their time, talents and gifts in this unique celebration and to encourage community participation through art exhibits, concerts, family movie nights and more.

Rector, the Rev. Gary Beson writes, "This achievement, made possible only by God's grace, moves me emotionally in a way that few things in life can. In this day and age of bigger, faster, slicker religious worship experiences

that if I spend every moment with her she will never experience the joy of college, a career, marriage and having a family of her own. My desire to keep her close to me can become a selfish desire. At that point, I must concede

Continued on Page 13

Church Planting From a Different Perspective

By The Rev. Canon Todd Simonis, Diocesan Canon for Church Planting, The Parish Church of St. Helena, Beaufort

When my daughter was an infant, my role as a parent was to protect her and provide for her. As my daughter grew in age and maturity, my role as a parent changed. I realized how much time I was now spending preparing her for experiences she would have without me at school, with friends, at her first job and (gulp) dating.

I confess that, as a parent, there is a constant wrestling within me. On the one hand, I want my daughter to stay safe with me at home. On the other hand, I know as she matures there are certain joys and accomplishments she will only experience for herself apart from the direct supervision of her dad.

As her dad, I love every moment I spend with her. But, as her dad, I also acknowledge

Those words from Paul not only reflect my love, joy and hope for my daughter. Those words also capture the love, joy and hope we have for new church plants.

that if I spend every moment with her she will never experience the joy of college, a career, marriage and having a family of her own. My desire to keep her close to me can become a selfish desire. At that point, I must concede



JOY HUNTER

the greatest expression of my love for her is to let her leave and become the person God is calling her to be.

Letting her become that person does not mean the end of our relationship. As her dad, I will still talk with her, pray for her and celebrate any time she wants to come home for a visit. But letting her go does mean that there is no longer one home we share. Instead, she will establish her own home, her own family and her own reasons to celebrate.

The heartache of letting her go is overcome only by the joy of seeing her become who she was always called to be...not by her earthly dad, but by her Heavenly Father.

If you have navigated these emotions as a parent, then you already understand many of the emotions we experience while planting churches. There will always be a part of us who wants everyone to safely stay right where they are. However, the Great Commission is not an invitation to stay, but a commandment

to "Go." And when we bless others to go and be the people that our Heavenly Father has called them to be, their joy becomes our joy.

As a parent, I celebrate my daughter for who she is. As a Christian, I joyfully anticipate who the Lord is making my daughter to be. The Apostle Paul wrote, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart..." (Philippians 1:6-7a).

Those words from Paul not only reflect my love, joy and hope for my daughter. Those words also capture the love, joy and hope we

have for new church plants. We are naturally good at protecting and providing for our children. However, preparing our children takes more effort and intentionality. Likewise, many of us are naturally good at protecting and providing care for those in our churches. However, preparing others to go out and lead new churches takes intentionality.

If you or your church are interested in planting new churches, know that we are here to support you. Through prayer, discernment and coaching, we believe the Lord is calling our diocese to plant several new churches in the coming years. I would love the opportunity to speak with you (or your church) about taking the next step toward planting.

In the meantime, may the joy of parenting become our joy for church planting.

To Him be the glory!

From Atheist to Youth Pastor: A Conversation with David Gilbert

By David Wright, Coordinator for Student Ministries, The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina



SARAH SILCOX

What does Youth Group at St. Philip's look like under David's Leadership? "It looks like a family! I want them to know they are never alone."

Our diocese has many fascinating people serving in leadership positions. Some of them are our youth ministers. Here is an opportunity to get to know one of our longer serving youth ministers.

How did you end up in South Carolina?

I was born and raised in Kirkwood, MO and am married with two beautiful daughters (Rayna 16 and Chloe 14). I met my wife Jordan in 1999, when she graduated from Clemson and took her first job in St. Louis. We met two weeks after she arrived, and I proposed a week later. We were married about six months later. She brought Christ into my life.

We moved to Charleston in 2003 when I took a job teaching at Porter-Gaud. I was teaching by day and volunteering at St. Philip's with their youth group on the weekends. I volunteered for three years and then was called by St. Philip's to be their next Youth Minister.

How did you come to faith?

I grew up in a non-Christian home and never went to church. I was a wild child to say the least! As an atheist I hated Christianity and Christians, then moved into agnosticism late in high school, then into Native American spirituality. I travelled following the Grateful Dead and started to see what the Native people called the Great Spirit at work in all things. Their belief

in a creator touched my heart. So, when I met Jordan and her family and they shared the Gospel with me, the one Creator God concept was basically already in my heart. It all came together when we flew to Charleston for Christmas 1999. I was enthralled by the love and grace they showed me. They invited me to a Christmas Eve service at St. Philip's. I went trying to win my future in-law's favor. God had other plans. I realized the severity of my sin and beauty of Jesus' mercy and forgiveness. I accepted Him as Lord and Savior that night!

How have you sensed God's calling on your life and what led you into ministry?

I was in church in St. Louis when the pastor preached on using your talents to build up the Body of Christ. He said, "maybe you have a gift of working with kids, then you should contact our youth pastor." I knew he was talking to me! I was in school studying elementary education and so I started volunteering with the middle school youth group at our church in St. Louis. I loved it! After wrapping up my student teaching, we moved to Charleston and I started at Porter Gaud School. I was praying about full time

youth ministry deeply for about two years and felt like maybe it was not God's timing for me or maybe He was calling me to the priesthood. I sensed that I wouldn't be a priest. I praise God for all the priests out there! So anyway, I went to get a haircut at Great Clips (I used to have hair). I had just been praying about becoming a youth pastor and I was starting to look for jobs. I sat down in the chair and the sweet woman looked me up and down and kept looking in the mirror at me and then she said, "God just told me that you are going to become a pastor!" I almost started crying! I told her I had just been praying about that before I walked in. We had a great conversation! A year later I got the job at St. Philip's.

What do you want parents to know about your vision for youth ministry?

Good question. I want parents to know that their kids are a part of a giant family and that they are never alone! We seek to show students what it means to follow Christ in love, and we will not hold anything back. We preach the truth, we stand



TRAVIS DEW

for life, and we believe in the Holy Word of God! Their kids will get an authentic dose of spiritual reality at our youth group!

What are three things you are passionate about and why?

Other than Jesus...I love spending time with my family and getting into crazy adventures! That brings me so much joy! I love playing and coaching volleyball because I was born an athlete and sports have always played a huge part in my life. So, to get to teach sports and share the Gospel is a win-win in my book! I also love going off-roading and getting stuck in my Jeep Wrangler!

Continued on Pg. 14

Three New Rectors Accept Callings

Good Shepherd, St. Jude's, and Trinity, Myrtle Beach Call New Leadership

The Rev. Will Klauber recently accepted a call to serve as the Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Charleston. Prior to this call he had served as vicar of St.



Aidan's, a church plant on John's Island. Will recently returned to the diocese after receiving his MDiv from Trinity School for Ministry in May. Before leaving for seminary, he served as the Summer Camp Director at St. Christopher for five years. Prior to that he was the Director of Youth Ministries at Christ Church in Mt. Pleasant. He has spent time on the Christian Men's Conference board, and also served for a term as a chaplain delegate to the Health Advisory Committee for the Charleston County School District (CCSD). Will and his wife, Sara, have been married for 14 years and have two children, Elizabeth and William.

The Rev. Newman Lawrence recently accepted a call to serve as the Rector of St. Jude's, Walterboro. He had been serving as the Assistant at Church of Our Saviour on Johns Island where his ministry focus was on families and children's ministries. Newman is married to Trish Sosnowski Lawrence and they have twin sons, Hank and Huck. Prior to seminary, Newman was a member of St. Michael's Church, Charleston, since 2002. While there, he volunteered in the areas of Youth Ministry, Men's Ministry/Hikes, Alpha, and was a Lay Reader. In the midst of that time, Newman and Trish spent two years in Uganda working for One World Health. He received his MDiv from Trinity School for Ministry in May of 2019 and his BS in Education from The Citadel in June of 2006.



He and Kelley have three children: Vera (7), Cate (5), and Jack (15 months). Chance's first Sunday at Trinity was November 29. Chance is passionate about preaching the Gospel of God's grace in Jesus, and how our encounter of grace in Word and Sacrament transforms us—body, mind and soul—into the likeness of Christ. He enjoys cooking, making music and is a lover of church history.... and he couldn't be happier about moving to South Carolina.

The Rev. Chance Perdue has accepted a call to serve as the next Rector of Trinity Church, Myrtle Beach. Chance was raised



in West Virginia and attended college and seminary in Nashville, TN, where he met his wife, Kelley. From 2012-2017 he served on staff at Church of the Redeemer in Nashville. Since the fall of 2017, he has served as Rector of Grace Church, Edgeworth in Sewickley, PA (in the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh).



Institution of a New Rector December 20

The Rev. Chance Perdue Becomes Rector of Trinity Church, Myrtle Beach

The Vestry and Parish of Trinity Church request your prayers and presence at the Institution of The Rev. Chance Perdue to serve as the 10th rector of Trinity Church at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 20. (See article, left). A reception will follow in Gravelly Hall.

Masks and social distancing are required for all services. If you are unable to attend, view the service via live-stream on the church's [Facebook page](#).

People News

Michelle Barnum recently accepted a position as the Parish Administrator at St. Paul's, Summerville. Michelle and her husband, Todd, are



longtime members of the church. Michelle graduated from Eastern Michigan University where she double majored in Communications and Theater Arts/English Literature while obtaining a Secondary Education certificate. She earned her M.Ed from CSU in English. Michelle moved

to South Carolina at the start of her teaching career and taught 28 years in public schools and the last two years in a private school. Michelle has two adult daughters, a new granddaughter, and a stepson.

The Very Rev. Craig Borrett, Rector of Christ-St. Paul's, Hollywood, recently announced, via a video message, his plans to retire, by the end of this calendar year. He has served as Rector of the church for 28 years.



In his message he states, "Nancy and our entire family are so thankful and blessed for how well you all have loved each and every one of us. Your love has been the overriding foundation of what has made this place what it is today, and I know that that same love is the very love that will carry you and this place, and Nancy and I, into this next season together in new and different ways."



Please keep the family and loved ones of the Rev. Elizabeth Bumpas, who serves as a priest at Saint James, James Island, in your prayers. Elizabeth's father, William Wallace "Coach Wally" Bumpas, 84 died of complications resulting from COVID-19 on December 6.

In late October, Christ Church, Mount Pleasant, welcomed Alonzo Crawford as the new Youth Minister on their staff. Alonzo is a Kentucky native and graduate of Murray State University (2013) and the University of Kentucky (2018). While pursuing a career in librarianship, he wrestled with a call to ministry for nearly a decade. During that time, he was volunteering as a youth leader in his church. Alonzo believes it is more important than ever to take the discipleship of young



Christians seriously and decided to answer God's call on his life by focusing on students. He is excited to partner with the other youth ministers in the diocese in doing just that. Alonzo is a fan of good books, good movies, and good coffee (hold the cream and sugar). He and his wife, Lauren, have a two and a half year old daughter, Cora and an eighty-pound pooch named Crosby.



After taking a year off to recover from health issues the Rev. Dan Farley has returned to serving with limited duties as a deacon at Church of the Good Shepherd in Charleston. In speaking about his return, Deacon Dan said, "My wife and I have missed our Good Shepherd family, but the year away was needed for my health. Both Fr. Will and I are looking forward to ministering together."



Valerie Fisher, who has served on the staff of St. Helena's, Beaufort, for the past 18 years, recently stepped down from serving as their Office Manager and Executive Assistant to the Rector. In his farewell, the Rev. Shay Gaillard, wrote, "I can only tell you what I told Valerie this week: 'I couldn't have done it without you.' This was not hyperbole, but the honest truth based on the support I received. ...We want to wish her and Marc well in this new season of life."

Please keep the family and loved ones of the Rev. Jeff Jacobs, who was ordained a priest on November 30th at St. Paul's, Summerville, in your prayers. Jeff's father, Dr. Jon Jacobs died on October 18, 2020. As noted in the obituary, "Jon was a godly man of faith. His deepest passion was for his Lord Jesus, with whom he sought to walk daily and whom he sought to share with others. He was an avid reader of scripture and



brought the word of God to bear in all he did. His strong faith was an inspiration to many."

The Rev. Marcus Kaiser, Rector of Church of the Holy Comforter, Sumter, recently accepted a call to serve as the Dean of St. Peter's



Anglican Cathedral in Tallahassee, FL. In a letter to Holy Comforter, Kaiser wrote, "It has been a privilege and honor beyond anything I can explain to have worked and served alongside you for the past 11 years, and even more so as your rector for the last six. I want you to know that I am not being called away from you, but to St. Peter's and serving the wider Church." His last Sunday at Holy Comforter was October 18.

Please keep Archbishop Ben Kwashi, Archbishop of Jos, Nigeria, and General Secretary of GAFCON in your prayers. He is undergoing treatment for cancer. In a message from GAFCON



Archbishop Foley Beach wrote, "Archbishop Ben & Mama Gloria along with their children are grateful for your prayers and concern. At this stage there is little to report and the family asks for privacy while treatment continues and further tests are carried out. Please pray he will be comfortable and pain free during the chemotherapy, and that it will be effective in dealing with the tumour."

Danielle Lindstrom recently accepted a call to serve as the Director of Children's Ministry at St. Michael's Church, Charleston. Danielle



was born and raised in Charleston and has a strong legacy of faith in the Baptist and AME traditions. She's recently been serving as the Director of Children's Ministry at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lake Mary, FL. She has a bachelors degree in Religious Studies from the College of Charleston and both a Masters of Theological Studies and a Masters of Divinity from Columbia International University. She and her husband, Justin, have a baby daughter. "Children's ministry has been a passion of mine ever since I was a little girl," says Danielle. "I love to implement innovative ways to inspire children to be excited about their faith."

Lauren Sral recently joined the staff of Good Samaritan (Church Plant) in Summerville as their Coordinator for Family Ministries.



Lauren, with her family (James, Aiden, and Anderson), recently moved back to Summerville from Atlanta where Lauren served as a youth minister for the past five years. She will be responsible for providing resources for family discipleship, encouraging and equipping parents as they seek to disciple

their children in Christ. In addition, she will begin seeking safe opportunities to gather the church's older youth for fellowship, study, and prayer on an occasional basis.

Erika Stubbs has accepted a call to join the staff of St. Paul's Church, Summerville, as their new Communications Director. Erika is a



native of Summerville, and an active member of St. Paul's Anglican. She is married to Derrick and has three children, Trace (8), Ella Kate (5) and Sullivan (1). Erika earned a degree in Mass Communication and Marketing from Winthrop University. For the past eight years, she worked at the Summerville Family

YMCA as the Senior Program Director. She is very excited to join the St. Paul's staff team and is grateful to God, and the church's leadership team for this wonderful opportunity.

Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Rob Sturdy, Chaplain of St. Alban's at the Citadel who, after six years of study, received his doctorate from



the Evangelical Theological Faculty (ETF) in Leuven, Belgium in September. His dissertation, "Freedom From Fatalism: Samuel Rutherford's Doctrine of Divine Providence," contributes to a revival of interest in Medieval and early modern scholasticism, while also contributing to the lively ongoing debate concerning Reformed thought on freedom. He will continue as an associated researcher at the Institute of Post Reformation Studies in Leuven.

Armed with Gloves: St. Philip's Holds a Workday at St. Christopher

Six Months of Work Done in Four Hours; 15 Truck Loads of Debris Hauled Away

By Bob Kunes, St. Philip's Church, Charleston

It began with a simple question parishioner Dr. Heather Dawson asked Martha Freshley, the Senior Warden of St. Philip's Church. "With the struggles St. Christopher is having as a result of the pandemic, would the Vestry consider having a St. Philip's workday there?"

Martha brought the question to the Vestry at our September meeting. I serve on St. Christopher's board, so I volunteered to explore the idea with Father Bob Lawrence, St. Christopher's Executive Director. After the Vestry meeting, Vestrymen Todd Brown and Robby Marion approached me and indicated they would be glad to donate an afternoon to go out to do "yardwork" at the camp. I called Bob Lawrence to discuss the idea and then put Robby Marion in touch with him to sched-

ule a time for Robby and Todd to go to St. Christopher.

Robby and Todd, along with vestryman Sam Robinson, went out one Thursday early in September, and Todd wrote a humorous and entertaining email thread about their experiences, leading other Vestry members to comment that they wished they had been able to go! Their interest led me to propose the idea of a "Vestry led" workday at St. Christopher, and we put an invitation in the weekly eSPIRE newsletter so all St. Philipians could join. Others signed up to participate and agreed to bring the equipment they had. David Gilbert, our youth minister, offered to recruit a number of the youth.

Early in the week leading up to the big day, Saturday, October 10,

the weather forecast was abysmal; however, God had other plans and the day was absolutely perfect with temperatures in the upper 70s. Thirty-eight of us gathered on the porch of Susanna's house at St. Christopher at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning. After an opening prayer, the four folks with chainsaws, the three with push lawn mowers, the two with riding mowers, the three with weed eaters, the ones with blowers and with loppers, and the rest of us, armed only with gloves and a willingness to work, spread out across the St. Christopher campus.

The folks with the chainsaws and pole saws took some of the men and youth so, as they cut limbs and trees, others could haul the cut items to the road for pickup. Others dispersed around the campus picking up palmetto fronds, limbs, and other fallen debris and placing those in piles on the roads for pickup as well. Still others tackled a project of removing vines and plants growing on the outside walls of cabins and on the walkways.

After about an hour, as the piles began to grow, some of the volunteers began using two of St. Christopher's trucks to load the limbs, logs, vines, and other debris and haul the materials down to St. Christopher's composting site about a mile from the center of campus.

At 12:30, we reconvened as a group and had Jersey Mike's sand-



BOB KUNES

By the end of our time, we had hauled 15 truckloads of debris to the composting site! Above, Jeff Rink hauls away palmetto fronds.

wiches and water on the porch at Susanna's house. Then we headed back out for our tasks until 2 o'clock. By the end of our time, we had hauled 15 truckloads of debris to the composting site! As we finished, Steve Zack, the St. Christopher official in charge of maintaining the grounds, said it would have taken him and his two other groundskeepers six months to do the work the 38 of us had done in just over four hours!

By the end of the day, we had had a wonderful time together (some people operated lawn mowers

for the first time—and almost drove the riding mowers into the St. Christopher lakes). We had developed new relationships that brought our church family closer together, and had restored some of the luster to the glory of God's creation we are blessed to call St. Christopher.

Our only regret was that there was a lot more that needed to be done—and the thought occurred to us as to whether or not God might be calling other parishes to consider having their own work day at Saint Christopher.



BOB LAWRENCE

Steve Zack, the St. Christopher official in charge of maintaining the grounds, said it would have taken him and his two other groundskeepers six months to do the work the 38 of us had down in just over four hours!

Camp Next Gen: Held in the Midst of the Pandemic

By Melissa Bennett, Associate Youth Pastor, The Church of the Holy Cross, Sullivan's Island and Daniel Island

Bunkbeds. Hugs. A game of tag. Worship. A large group of middle schoolers having tons of fun. Normally these words conjure up warm thoughts, joy and fond memories. In a year of a pandemic, these words bring high anxiety, worries and concerns. As our annual camp planning and the summer progressed, our team slowly came to terms with the fact that Holy Cross's Camp Next Gen 2020 could not happen in its usual way. For the past five years we have held our camp at a campground in the Upstate, but as the coronavirus cases continued to increase, we could not, in good faith, go away on a sleepover camp.

Coronavirus has made all of us in minis-

try have to rethink what we do and how we do it. It has forced us to be creative and to let go of control, routine, and maybe even our ideas of how ministry is best accomplished. Once we got over our initial disappointment and grief, our camp leadership team, which consists of our youth pastors, a worship leader, and two of our priests, put our heads together and came up with Camp Next Gen Hometown.

We created COVID-19 policies and protocols that practically changed everything we did at camp. Instead of a sleep-away camp that would usually run from a Sunday to a Friday, we did a day camp that ran from a Monday to a Thursday for only five hours each day. We took temperatures upon arrival, required everyone to wear masks, and used hand sanitizer frequently. All of our activities and games had to be tweaked in order to keep as much physical distance as possible. We still had a time of worship and teaching inside, but we spaced all the chairs six feet apart and put up plexiglass shields between the worship leaders and the campers. There were so many logistical issues we had to work through, but in the end, all of the work, challenges, and creativity paid off. We were able to offer a camp that we believed was as safe as possible at a lower cost than our usual rate which we hoped would bless families in a time of economic stress.

On the week of July 27, we welcomed 40 very excited middle schoolers to camp at our Sullivan's Island campus. As we talked with parents in the car line for drop off, a clear theme emerged: the parents were so grateful to have a camp for their kids that wasn't cancelled. It had been a summer of disappointments, and here was a glimpse of joy and a sense of normalcy that the kids (and the parents!) had been craving. Yes, some kids were still grieving because they could not have the full camp experience, but there was so much grace and gratitude as well.

Camp Next Gen Hometown was a hit! We had color wars, played messy games, had fun at the beach, made new relationships and built on existing ones, memorized scripture, ate delicious food, and most importantly, heard the gospel. Our amazing leaders presented the gospel each day by focusing on creation, fall, redemption and restoration. We also shared the gospel every day in what we call 'circle drawings.' By the end of the week, most of the students could explain the gospel by drawing stick figures in circles and two of them even shared the gospel on stage in front



JESSICA WILLIS

Camp Next Gen Hometown was a hit! We had color wars, played messy games, had fun at the beach, made new relationships and built on existing ones, memorized scripture, ate delicious food, and most importantly, heard the gospel.

of everyone. To summarize our week: seeds were planted, existing faith was encouraged, and hearts were turned to the Lord. I call that a successful camp!

When I look back on 2020 and all the suffering that occurred this year, I hope I will always remember Camp Next Gen Hometown and how the Lord was at work. Praise be to our God who redeems the broken, who restores joy in those who mourn, who is faithful to his people and to his promises, whose gospel is still transforming lives, who loves us with an everlasting love and who is so much bigger than a pandemic! May we all be encouraged to trust Him. Even in the most uncertain of times, God is still working.



JESSICA WILLIS

Coronavirus has made all of us in ministry have to rethink what we do and how we do it. It has forced us to be creative and to let go of control, routine, and maybe even our ideas of how ministry is best accomplished.

“Trust Me!” Feeding the Multitude Organizers Get a Lesson in Trust

By Claudia Boyce, St. John's Parish Church, Johns Island

On Saturday, November 21, 2020, St. John's Parish hosted the 13th Annual Feeding the Multitude outreach. The following report was sent to leaders of the 23 churches participating the evening after the event was held.

Leaders of the Flock: It was a glorious day! God's people from 23 churches came together today to serve Him, proclaim His glory, and to see first-hand that we are all created in His image.

But the word I really want to focus on is trust, because the consistent message that showed through during the entire experience of the 13th Annual Feeding the Multitude was “Trust Me.” I can't get that out of my mind—trust me!

- We trusted Him when we had to modify the format that seemed to work for 12 years.
- We trusted Him when we exceeded our goal of 600 bags and ended up with 1200 donated.
- We trusted Him when we questioned, “Would that many people come?”
- We trusted Him when we increased our order to 900 turkeys to match the influx of bags and money that were donated.
- We trusted Him when we were concerned, “Did we order more than we needed? What will we do with extra turkeys? Should we order more when the number of bags reached 1100, 1200?”
- We trusted Him when Jesus gave us the idea to hold off on ordering more turkeys and instead get grocery store gift certificates to give if more people came.
- We trusted Him when, days before the Feeding, we realized we were short of volunteers.

- As always, for 13 years, we trusted that He would give us a pretty day to help Him grow His Kingdom, and He did.

Bottom line, Jesus Christ was in charge of the Feeding and this is what happened in response to prayer:

- Three days before the Feeding, people starting volunteering to fill vacant positions. We ended up with cohesive teams that completed all the work still smiling.
- Church teams took 165 plated meals to shut-ins and nearly 200 bags of food/turkeys to rural housing and to families and men in homes in the Hispanic camps on Johns Island.
- On November 21, people started lining up at 10 a.m. to receive food. The lots and fields were full by 11 a.m. and traffic started backing up on the streets.
- We started the Feeding 40 minutes early. It went so smoothly and quickly that we thought we would run out of bags and turkeys. Our volunteers were awesome, working hard all afternoon, and treating our guests with the love and respect they deserve.
- Then it slowed down to an intermittent line of traffic for the next three hours.
- We then wondered if we would have too many turkeys and bags, so we prayed. The phone prayer line prayed, the

Facebook stream that went from 12 noon to 3 p.m. prayed, the people of the island churches prayed. We also prayed over and over the prayers on our united church prayer chain. And Jesus answered our prayers.

- From 1:30 to 4:15 (long after our 3 p.m. closing), people continued to come. They needed food, and we handed it out. When we ran out of turkeys, we gave bags of food and grocery store \$20 gift certificates so they could buy a turkey.

- After closing, we still gave food to people who provide homes to foster children, to people who run community food ministries, and to individual families who are struggling to meet expenses.

- What's left over? Seventy-five bags and a few gift certificates, which we will share with Our Lady of Mercy and the Food programs on John's and Wadmalaw Islands. All 900 turkeys are gone.
- We closed the day with our volunteers and a couple of guests, standing in a circle, masked and social distancing, singing “Amazing Grace” from the top of our lungs.
- And I cried tears of joy and thanksgiving, just like I have done for 13 years.

Please thank your church members for their generosity and the dedicated volunteers who gave their time and love today and in the weeks leading up to the Feeding. Most of all, thank you all for your prayers.

Now the work must continue. Let's work together in other ways to serve our community as God's one, united Church, dedicated to serving Him and each other, and being instruments to grow His Kingdom.

God's grace, peace and a blessed Thanksgiving,

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.



THOMAS PUCKETTE

“We trusted God when we exceeded our goal of 600 bags and ended up with 1200 donated,” says Boyce.

David Gilbert

Continued from Page 11

What does youth group at St. Philip's look like under your leadership? What do you most want to impress on students?

It looks like a family! I want them to know that they are never alone. We say this at every youth group, “God is love! Christ's peace passes understanding. That means you can't understand it. You are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and you are more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen!”

If there is one thing you would want church leaders to know about student ministry, what would that be?

Student ministry is a lifeline and a solid rock for this generation to be rescued by Jesus. It provides a means to teach them how to stand upon His firm foundation in this ever-changing and chaotic world. This generation more than others is so bombarded by lies and constant change.

How is being part of the diocese valuable to you?

The diocese helps me by reminding me I am not alone. I have brothers and sisters in the youth ministry trenches battling and dealing with the same issues. Our monthly Fusion gatherings of youth ministers are a grace to my soul. We study God's word, we pray, we laugh, we cry, we share a meal together and we are united in Christ.

When the Church “Bears One Another's Burdens”

By Jimmy Bailey, St. Philip's Church, Charleston

A few years ago, I sat in a question-and-answer session with (the Rev.) Jeff (Miller), who was still early in his ministry at St. Philip's. One question was about his vision for our church. Among other things, he talked about the importance of getting to know one another, practicing hospitality, the church being a family, and becoming the type of community where we “bear one another's burdens.”

At the time, I fully understood and agreed with the need to be intentional about spending more time in fellowship, getting to know one another, and strengthening relationships. Though I was baptized in and grew up at St. Philip's, I often felt like a stranger within our large congregation. Despite a shared commitment to sound doctrine, we often practiced our faith in comfortable silos. We weren't that great at blending multi-generational St. Philippians and newcomers, young and old, choir people and non-choir people, those from Charleston and those from “off.” Over the past several years, however, I've been heartened to witness and participate in a transformation that's resulted in a much closer church family. I remember sitting at the back of the Chapel of the Transfiguration at Kanuga two years

ago, looking around at all the faces, and feeling like I was at a family reunion. Despite this, I still didn't fully understand beyond the surface of what Jeff meant by “bearing others' burdens.”

A few months later, my son James woke up on a Sunday morning with a mild fever. I took his siblings to church, and my wife, Beth, stayed home to care for him. By the time we returned, his fever had spiked severely and his heart rate was high enough for the urgent care center to refer us to the emergency room. The E.R. physicians determined it was serious enough for him to be admitted overnight, and I was scared. Within a matter of hours, however, our church family was bearing this burden with us. We heard from four members of the clergy, including Jeff and his wife, Kristin. I vividly remember sitting in my car at the MUSC parking garage praying over the phone with Marc Boutan, and feeling so comforted by his words and support. Our phones were lighting up with text messages, emails, calls, and social media notifications from our church family, who were bearing this burden with us and lifting us in prayer. I remember a non-St. Philip's friend saying, “You have a great hospital and friends who pray for you—that's a great team.” James quickly returned to good health.



Later in the year, I began to suffer from a mysterious illness with symptoms that eluded diagnosis for a long 87 days. The physical pain ebbed and flowed, but the uncertainty was constant and taxed me mentally. I tried to keep this situation under wraps, mainly because I didn't want my children to worry. However, solutions continued to elude my medical team and I couldn't bear this burden alone.

I looked to my church family for help, and St. Philip's wrapped its arms around me and hugged tight. The men in my Bible study prayed for me and checked in constantly. Every member of our clergy prayed with me. Hundreds of you prayed for me in your own Bible studies. Occasionally, total strangers introduced themselves and said they learned

about my situation during prayer requests at a Bible study, and wanted me to know they were praying for me, too. During a December service (I think Christmas Eve), while serving communion, Martha Vetter leaned down, took some extra time, and prayed vigorously for me, my family, my doctors, and for healing. My eyes filled with tears of appreciation for this love and compassion, and for her willingness to bear my burden with me, along with so many of you.

I've been blessed with great doctors and medical professionals over the past eight months, but dozens of visits, blood tests, scans, and referrals to specialists came up empty until I asked you to share this burden with me. Soon after you began your prayers, a diagnosis was made and treatment began.

While I don't wish difficulty on any of you, you can be comforted by the fact that when life's storms start blowing, you aren't alone in your struggle. Most importantly, we have our Lord, but we also have each other. We bear one another's burdens, and I'm glad I understand that now. As I type this, I'm sitting at Lowcountry Rheumatology for a four-hour infusion. Shortly after the IV was inserted, I received a text from Andrew O'Dell: “Praying for God to draw close during your infusion today.” Amen.

Care Packages for College Students

By The Rev. Jonathan Riddle,
The Church of the Cross, Bluffton

The following recently appeared in the Church of the Cross, Bluffton's email newsletter:

This past August we, as a Church, prayed over and sent off a group of graduating seniors. Statistics reveal more than any time in our nation's history young people are stepping away from the church in large numbers. What is interesting is they are not walking away from the faith but rather the church in general. There are a host of reasons, some are justified some not. I have never wanted one of their reasons to be because the church did



not care or we forgot them once they moved away. Over the last several years I have worked hard to stay connected to those we raised in this fellowship, and watched them begin new lives in college or a new vocation.

This last month our Youth Pastor, Tim Edwards, designated a portion of his budget to send care packages to every college student associated with our church. Our hope is to do it in the spring as well. Last week the Drury family took on this huge task and put together 33 boxes consisting of gift cards, snacks, candy, and notes which were mailed this past Monday. Sometime this week each of them will receive a package that simply communicates that we love, miss and care for them. Remember your giving contributes to noble causes just like this. Thank you!



ARDF & You: Together We Can Resource the Church

A message from The Rev. Jake Stum, Executive Director of The Anglican Relief and Development Fund

I think we can all say that 2020 will go down as one of the most memorable years of our lives. It has been hard for so many people, and the struggle is well-documented.

I never dreamed that I would become the leader of an international relief and development organization during a pandemic. I now have a front row seat to both the deep need around the world and the provision of the Lord! I can tell you that we need our ARDF donors this year more than ever. We want to grow our donations so that we can keep meeting as many requests for assistance as possible.

I am constantly inspired by the ARDF family of supporters, donors, and partners. I have enjoyed hearing feedback and ideas from many of you. If I have not had the chance to connect with you, know that I would love to! Please reach out to me this Advent and beyond.

This Advent, I am giving you an insider perspective on our newest projects, approved at our October Global Council meeting. I am excited that, together, we can resource the church to be a light for Jesus in these dark times.

New Projects Approved By Council in October

- The Diocese of Oji River, in Nigeria, is completing a conference center. This will help expand its reach into the community. The reason this project excites me is that it will allow for a more strategic partnership with the diocese's Mothers Union. The Mothers Union is a powerful ministry that assists vulnerable women and their children by helping meet both spiritual and physical needs. This is a \$73,000 project.

- The Anglican Church in Marsabit is constructing a high school for boys (with a girls' school to follow.) This project is important because it is in an area that experiences significant tension between different communities. St. Andrew's High School will continue the tradition of Tumaini Academy, a primary school operated by the church. Muslim students are the majority at Tumaini because these parents are impressed with the overall education Tumaini gives their children. Within the school, children are experiencing unity and peace as they learn about the Christian faith. I believe that the high school will bring hope for a peaceful future as these young adults are educated together on the foundation of Christian principles. This is a \$110,000 project.



MARY SISAK

Students at Tumaini Academy in Northern Kenya need a local High School where they can continue their education from a Christian Perspective.

- Our global leaders also approved the expansion of Holy Cross Theological College in Myanmar. A larger building will allow 75 more students to enroll each year. I am personally excited about this project due to its strategic location as it relates to spreading the good news of Christ. It is in a region of the world that is one of the most densely populated, is extremely unreached for Christ, and is very impoverished. Additionally, Myanmar is falling prey to secular influences. From my perspective, these facts make this a vital part of the world to train lay leaders and ministers. This is a \$115,000 project.

- A project in Paraguay will expand a primary school operated by the church. This is the second phase of a project ARDF approved in 2016. ARDF-Canada has agreed to take this project and will be finding partners to help fundraise for this wonderful initiative.

- ARDF-Australia also presented a project that was approved. ARDF will fund students studying community development and Bible ministry. This will strengthen the work of five dioceses of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.

As you can see, the global Anglican Church is working together to bring about change for the Kingdom of God!

The last thing that I will mention is regarding disaster relief. We anticipate that COVID-19 will continue to wreak havoc, especially in countries that are underdeveloped and offer no government assistance. The fallout is massive and we are overwhelmed with requests to help with food scarcity, loss of wages, health care, and many other areas of concern. Our brothers and sisters around the world are in for a long road to recovery from the setbacks due to the pandemic.

Partners, I want to thank you for your past support of our organization. We could not have grown to where we are today without you. I also want to ask you to consider giving again this year. This unique year has created so many opportunities for our resources to meet real needs. We believe that as the Church meets physical needs, the door will be opened to share about the wonderful salvation of Christ.

Learn more and donate here:
<https://ardf.org/donate-now>

Grandparents Gather to Pray in Concert

Recognizing National Grandparents Day

By The Rev. John Sosnowski, Church of the Holy Comforter, Sumter

Sunday, September 13, was National Grandparents Day. It was also the second Sunday of the month which is when the Grandparents at Prayer, (better known as G@P) at Holy Comforter, meets from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. It also marked the fifth anniversary of our Grandparents at Prayer ministry. The picture, right, shows grandparents gathered in our sanctuary who brought pictures of their grandchildren, on their phones or in frames. The focus of the gathering was for each of us to introduce our grandchildren, and to share how God has blessed our efforts in sharing our faith stories with them as we have sought to pass on the legacy of our Christian faith.

As you might imagine this Grandparents at Prayer group shared not just stories, but brief histories as we had opportunity to talk about our grandchildren. This was so beneficial for us all to hear as these stories



reflect what God is doing among us, and it directs our prayers of supplication and our prayers of praise for those we have been given influence over.

After all of us had the opportunity to show pictures and make introductions, we put all the pictures and cell phones on the altar, and knelt down, in a socially distanced manner, to pray aloud for these lives. Here

were 10 grandparents bringing 58 grandchildren, all at once, before God's throne of grace; intentionally and corporately seeking to bless them that they may likewise be a blessing to their children's children. I can tell you the Holy Spirit showed up. It was an hour well spent.

Let this be an encouragement to grandparents across the diocese, for you to join together in each of your churches to regularly pray for your grandchildren. Call, text or email them to say you are doing this, and to simply ask how you might pray for them. You may be amazed at their response. Both asking and offering is rooted in heaven and bears fruit, to be ripened by God's own hand. Whether it is two grandparents who gather to pray or 10, prayer and intentional Christian grandparenting will, for our grandchildren, have its effect.

300th Anniversary

Continued from Page 11

and denominations, to be able to stand with all the PGW Family and declare, 'We've been here worshipping for 300 years!!' seems to me something to not only celebrate but shout from the rooftops!"

As part of the preparation for this milestone, a committee of parish historians and archivists have written and curated a truly unique retrospective entitled, *Prince George Winyah Parish- The First 300 Years*. With a foreword by Bishop-in-Residence, C. Fitz-Simmons Allison, this is a publication to be treasured. Books are available for purchase through the church office or online through the link below.

As stated by our 300th Anniversary chairs, "From the first meeting until today, we realized the focus of the celebration is and will always be Christ.... There are three main elements in the event's mission statement: Celebrate, Proclaim and Unite. 'Proclaim' is in the center—proclaim Christ!" The Prince George Winyah Parish family asks for your prayers that this special anniversary be Christ-centered and Spirit-filled to glory of God! Keep up with the celebration at www.pgwinayah300.com.

Loving Your Community During COVID

By The Rev. Hamilton Smith, Rector, St. Thomas Church, Mt. Pleasant

COVID-19 has put a stumbling block in front of so much ministry. I don't need to go into the litany of things that have been cancelled, moved, zoomed, or put outside. It's easy to see COVID-19 as only an obstacle.

Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant, however, saw it as an opportunity. One business particularly hard hit by COVID-19 has been the performing arts. Like churches, these businesses exist by bringing groups large and small to rehearse, sing, laugh, hug, and watch others do the same. All of that came to a crashing halt in mid-March. Rehearsals could be moved outside, but all of the performance spaces were shut down. This included all publicly owned amphitheatres. Many performing arts companies were forced to hold plays in their parking lots (with the audience watching from cars and lighting the stage with headlights!) or on farms miles away from town.

One such business is FAME Performing Arts Company in Mt. Pleasant (fameperformingarts.org). This family-owned business



Upon hearing about FAME's need, the Rev. Ted Duvall met with his Vestry. Within days, they offered FAME the use of the lawn in front of their worship space (the "Quad") for no charge, for as long as needed.

had "Peter Pan" to perform but nowhere to perform it. They needed an outdoor space with enough room for a 50 by 20 foot stage, room to seat audience members 10 feet apart,

ample parking, access to power, and centrally located in Mt. Pleasant. And they needed it to be affordable.

Upon hearing about FAME's need, the Rev. Ted Duvall met with his Vestry. Within days, they offered FAME the use of the lawn in front of their worship space (the "Quad") for no charge, for as long as needed.

The impact of this grace was powerful. Not only was the performance able to go on, but it caused a great deal of confusion amongst those who attended who were not Christians. More than 50% of those living in Mt. Pleasant do not attend church. Many of those see the church as an institution that cares only for the needs of its members. Christ Church's actions turned those beliefs upside down. Now, Christ Church has a new reputation amongst those who once spurned it.

I think we would all be wise to follow Christ Church's lead.

Upcoming Events

View full calendar at www.adosc.org

Perdue Institution, Dec. 20, Pg 12
 Marten Ordination, Dec. 21, Pg. 3
 Ang. for Life Summit, Jan. 16 & 23 Pg 5
 Summer Camp Reg. Opens, Feb 1, Pg 9
 Healing Retreat; MacNutt, Feb. 5-7, Pg 8
 Diocesan Convention, March 12-13
 BI Family Weekend, February 19-21, Pg 9
 Women's Annual Gathering, April 24, Pg 5
 Int. Grandparenting SE Conf., May 14-15
 Walkabout for Bishop Candidates, Sept. 11,
 Election for Bishop Coadjutor, Oct. 16
 Consecration and Conv., Mar. 11-12, 2022

Diocesan Offices to Close for Christmas Holiday

The Diocesan Offices (which have been operating on a staggered schedule due to COVID-19) will be closed from December 24, Christmas Eve, through January 1, allowing the staff time off to enjoy Christmas with their families. The staff will resume regular hours on January 4, 2021.

Jubilate Deo

PUBLISHED BY
 THE ANGLIAN DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 (843) 722-4075

The Rt. Rev. Mark J. Lawrence
 Bishop, South Carolina

Contributions for the next issue must reach the editor March 5, 2021. Submit articles online at <https://adosc.org/news-events/jubilate-deo-submissions/>

Editor
 Joy Hunter
 109 Arbor Road
 Summerville, SC 29485
jhunter@adosc.org
 (843) 696-1757

Assistant Editor
 The Rev. Canon Dr.
 Kendall S. Harmon
 P.O. Box 2810
 Summerville, SC 29484
kendallsarmon@gmail.com
 (843) 821-7254

**Subscription Questions/
 Address Changes**
office@adosc.org
 (843) 722-4075

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Charleston SC
 PERMIT NO. 330

The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina
 P.O. Box 20127
 Charleston, SC 29413-0127
 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Fort Motte Cookbook Now on Sale

"St. Matthew's Parish' latest publication, Blessings from Our Table, is unlike any church cookbook I have ever seen", says the Rev. Janet Echols. With over 600 copies sold in just two months since its release, cooks from across



the country are excited about this culinary collection. "It took a lot of persuasion to get some of our contributors to share their secret signature recipes... the historic family desserts made with local Calhoun County pecans is worth the price of the cookbook alone", says Mimi Kizer, cookbook editor. At almost 300 pages and 255 recipes, it is a treasure trove of local and international cuisine from members and friends of the Parish. Old family recipes handed down from generation to generation, wild game and seafood delights and amazing desserts are but just a few reasons you will want to have this for your kitchen.

And if all that were not enough, it is one of the most attractive cookbooks on the market, designed by graphic artist, Alicia Wallace Elmore, and featuring a stunning original watercolor by local artist, Bess Brown Duke. At only \$20, it makes a fabulous Christmas gift! All profits from the cookbook sales go to local and international charities. For more information please contact Janis Breazeale at jimmy.janis@yahoo.com or smparishcookbook255@gmail.com.

Mentoring Continued from Page 4

the joy and wonder of what it means to be a woman in control of her sexuality.

Friends, this is no small thing He may be asking of you. We are looking at a generation of Ruths eagerly waiting to be led out of Moab. They will come with a past perhaps unlike yours or mine. Perhaps they heard something about Jesus and wonder if He is real and has meaning and hope for their life.

How do we receive the ones God sends our way? Always with grace and acceptance. Naomi and Ruth show us the courage and trust required to move into our God given destiny. May we too have courage and trust our God as we come alongside those He sends onto our path.

To contact Jayne Gurley to discuss mentoring email her at jayneegurley@gmail.com.

Three Ways to Support St. Christopher

Looking for just a few more Christmas presents and a way to support our beloved St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center? Now you can do both at the same time. Choose one of the fundraising efforts to support the Camp while you share a gift with a loved one.



The Palms Project CD

The Palms Project is an album of worship songs that former camp staff chose to reflect the last decade of worship at St. Christopher.

It was recorded in the Chapel of the Palms in hopes of capturing the sonic qualities that make us all feel so at home. "We worked hard with the time and resources available. We hope you can find joy and peace in this album!"

All proceeds benefit the ministries of St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center.

Learn more about each of these at www.stchristopher.org



PGA Championship Tickets

A generous benefactor has given St. Christopher four Wanamaker Club tickets for the 2021 PGA Championship to be hosted on Kiawah Island. The same benefactor did this for the 2012 PGA to launch our fundraising efforts for the restoration of the Chapel of the Palms.

These four premier ticket packages will be paired with the use of the Historic Bishop's Cottage and offered in a drawing for contributions of \$1,000. The value of this package is \$10,000. The drawing is planned for year's end, and will be offered to 100 entries in hopes of raising \$100,000 on behalf of St. Christopher.

Mary Whyte Prints

Internationally acclaimed figurative artist Mary Whyte loves St. Christopher and she's expressed that love by creating two original works to benefit this ministry.

The first 25 donors supporting St. Christopher with a gift of \$5000 or more will receive, as a thank you gift, one of the signed and framed 30X24, limited edition (25) giclee prints of Veil (above left).

Donors supporting St. Christopher with a gift of \$1,000 or more will receive, as a thank you gift, one of the signed, 8X10 giclee prints of Path to the Beach (above, right).

Donors supporting St. Christopher with a gift of \$10,000 or more will, in addition to the prints above, receive as a thank you gift, an invitation to (social distanced) Tea with Mary Whyte and Margaret, one of the women from the Hebron Saint Francis Senior Center who has served as Mary's model many times.

