

Quarterly Newsletter



ADVENT

2016

Announcements

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Vestry Nominations Due

At our annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 26, 2017, we will elect two new Vestry members. Nomination forms will be available beginning Sunday, January 15, 2017, in Hebron Hall and on the website. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Vestry nominees must be 18 years of age, confirmed communicants in good standing, and subscribe to CCA's Rule of Life for Parish Leadership, found on the nomination form and on the church website. All Vestry nominees will be interviewed by the Parish Council on Sunday, February 5, 2017, after church.

Parish Register

New Members Welcomed on November 6, 2016

 Milli Adams, Brandon Anderson, Tracy Brown, Elizabeth and Rutledge Coleman, Alyssa and Joe Gasbarre (and their son, Joey), Rachel and Tim George (and their children Kate, Matthew and Daniel), Avis Haynes, Lesley and Harry Manning, Leigh Powell, and Neely Saturday

Congratulations to:

- Kacey and Clay Ratterree and Bridget and Jim Gardner on the birth of their first grandchild, Joseph Duffie Ratterree IV, on October 11, 2016
- Betty Morris (great-grandmother) and Jack and Libby Kingston (grandparents) on the birth of Rivers Putnam Myers on October 28, 2016
- Anissa and Russ Goeken on the birth of their daughter, Sabine Elizabeth Grey Goeken, on November 11, 2016
- Kayla Brown and Cody Davis on their marriage on November 12, 2016
- Samantha Haley and Bryan Kerr on their marriage on November 19, 2016
- Jordan Bazemore and Ben Harrison on their marriage on November 26, 2016
- Fr. Joe Gasbarre on the 2nd anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on December 14, 2016
- Fr. Marc Robertson on the 35th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on December 15, 2016

Sympathy extended to:

- Lynn and Vanessa Tootle on the death of Lynn's grandmother, Jean Kearns, on August 2, 2016
- Kim Hebron on the death of her father, Herman Smith, on August 31, 2016
- Pat Canady on the death of her mother, Alberta Canady, on September 4, 2016
- Becky and Andy Hughes on the death of Becky's mother, Joanne Griner, on September 5, 2016
- Dirk Hardison on the death of his mother, Lois, on November 14, 2016



New Members were welcomed to CCA on November 6, 2016; from L-R: Rutledge Coleman, Avis Haynes, Brandon Anderson, Harry and Lesley Manning, Milli Adams, Fr. Joe and Alyssa Gasbarre, Fr. Marc, Neely Saturday, Leigh Powell and Tracy Brown. New members not available for the picture include Elizabeth Coleman,

picture include Elizabeth Coleman, Joey Gasbarre, Rachel and Tim George and their children , Kate, Matthew and Daniel.

Letters of Thanks

Two parishioners, John Marshall and John Novikoff, want to share their thanks with the congregation.



Dear loved ones,

Cindy and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to you for your faithful prayers, generosity, hospitality, visits and all encouragements during my recent hospitalization and afterward. We were astonished and overwhelmed by your kind expressions of love toward us.

We are reminded of the blessings bestowed within the Church, especially during difficult times as brothers and sisters lift each other up in prayer. When we are unable to help ourselves, often despondent, deeply troubled and feeling hopeless, we can be assured that others are praying for us, and God will provide.

Thank you again for your loving care.

John and Cindy Marshall





I want to take this moment to express on behalf of Margot and me, our deepest appreciation for the many prayers that have been offered in our behalf. Believe me, those prayers do make a difference in our lives!

I also want to share dear Margot's situation as many have asked about her condition. Margot has a disability known as Cerebellum Ataxia (SCA-6). It is the result of a gene passed on from her mother. Margot has three sisters and a brother. The oldest sister and her brother were spared but two sisters have the same condition as Margot's. Presently, there is no cure for this disease.

Ataxia did not manifest itself until Margot was age 59. Loss of balance, loss of hand coordination, slurred speech and the onset of double vision gradually took over. Mentally she was doing fine but now as she approaches age 83, there are some signs of dementia as I experience it. But she still has a good appetite and enjoys eating out for her meals. I try to get her out at least three times a week. Most of her days are spent in bed or in a wheel-chair. When we have meals at home, I have fun doing the cooking and preparing meals.

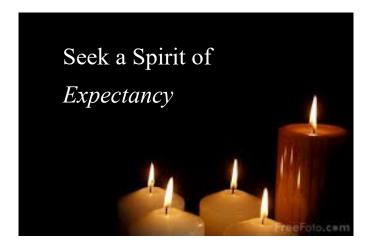
As her primary caretaker, caring for her has been a challenge but I am also thankful for help I am receiving from a medical student, who is giving us her time and talent and assisting Margot with her basic needs. I thank God for sending us an angel to care for her!

I just thought since many ask from time to time about Margot, and that prayers are offered in her behalf as well as mine that I should offer a written explanation and at the same time offer my thanksgiving to the brethren of Christ Church for their many individual and corporate prayers.

From the Rector

Why Do We Do That?

Editor's Note: This column appears in each issue and is intended to help explain various Anglican traditions to the newcomer and may serve as a "refresher course" for the "oldcomer." If you have a question for this column, please submit it to the church office or email jmalley@ccasav.org.



You will receive this issue of our parish newsletter on or about the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a rich and wondrous season, the beginning of the Church Calendar, and a time of preparation for our Lord's Coming (both at Christmas and His final, Second Coming).

The ancient season of Advent, tracing its roots to the 5th century A.D., is a season of *expectancy*. "Expectancy" is a significant word, and distinguishes itself from "expectation," which has become the label given this time of year by the world.

As we approach the Christmas season, the media is filled with appeals for purchasing this product or that service, convincing us in no uncertain terms that we simply can't live without it. People who don't spend exorbitant amounts of money on Christmas gifts are condemned as "Scrooges," and the more we purchase, either for ourselves or for others, becomes a barometer of our joy of the season. But this is the problem with expectation: rarely is it ever met.

I remember as a child being so excited about Christmas. I planned my Christmas list accordingly. When I was younger, my Christmas list was about what I wanted for Christmas. As I got older (and, I thought, more

noble), I planned my gift list for others with equal energy and focus. Alas, when all was said and done, Christmas lasted for just the day (I didn't really get the Twelve Days of the season then), and I either found that my expectations for what I wanted were not completely met, or the gifts that I gave others did not meet their expectations, giving rise to the painfully patronizing response, "Don't worry, it's the thought that counts." Bleah.

But then I began to see Advent as a season of *expectancy*, not expectation. Expectation seems to carry with it a fixed set of desires, desires that must be met precisely and substantially. When such desires are not met, disappointment sets in and the consumeristic cycle of a needs-driven spirituality is promoted. Expectancy, however, is something different. Though coming from the same root, the word "expectancy" carries an open-endedness to it, a sense of child-like wonder and delight, much like the joy of orphans or refugees who receive a simple gift with deep gratitude as compared to the spoiled rich who whine and complain when the opulent gifts they receive just don't seem enough.

This Advent, seek from God a spirit of *expectancy*, not *expectation*. Be open to what the Lord may have for you. Discover that this season offers us in a most profound sense that "less is more." Jesus was not born into royalty, but in a stable. He was not the son of a University President, but a carpenter. Those who celebrated His birth were not celebrities, but shepherds. Look for ways to see the glory of God in the simple things this Advent: simple pleasures, simple gifts, meaningful relationships. Be willing to be surprised (pleasantly surprised) this Advent. It can happen, if we trade in our spirit of *expectation* for one of *expectancy*.

- Fr. Marc

Annual Parish Meeting Scheduled

The 2017 annual Parish Meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday**, **February 26th**. A joint worship service will be held at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Annual Meeting at 11 a.m. Reports will be given by the Rector and members of parish leadership and two new Vestry members will be elected. Hospitality time will held after the Annual Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

From the Rector

Advent Conspiracy 2016

Worship Fully ... Give More ... Spend Less... Love All

"Love for the Least," a mission of compassion and mercy spearheaded by the Rev. Jerry Kramer and his wife, Stacy, will be focusing on three East African orphanages and Christian refugees in Iraq in the "Advent Conspiracy" for 2016.

We encourage parishioners to consider a special way to set apart the Advent season with some of these ideas for the Advent Conspiracy 2016:

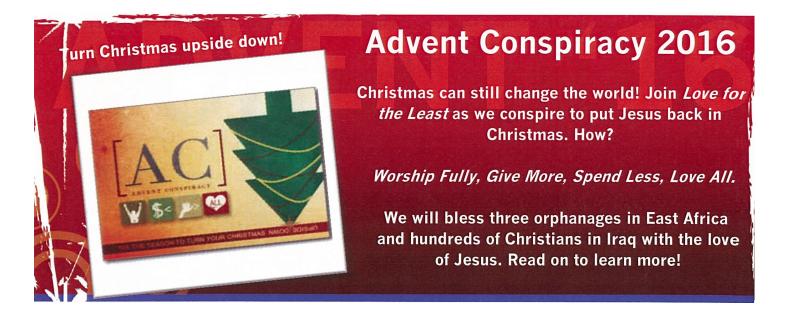
- Take at least one gift you were planning to give this holiday season and send a check in the amount of the gift to CAA, noting "Advent Conspiracy" on the memo line.
- If you are throwing a holiday party, take 10% of the budget for the party and send it to CCA, noting "Advent Conspiracy" on the memo line.
- Ask one person from whom you expect to receive a gift this season and to redirect it to CCA, noting "Advent Conspiracy" on the memo line.
- Grab a tag off our Jesse Tree (beginning Sunday, December 4th) and give a gift in honor of a loved one

This is a "no overhead" movement. The Kramers guarantee that 100% of your gift will go directly to assist the needs of orphans, widows and refugees in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Look for further information on display during hospitality time at church, or you can get more information at www.LovefortheLeast.org.

We ask that all checks be made payable to Christ Church Anglican, noting "Advent Conspiracy" on the memo line. We will then present Jerry and Stacy personally with a check from our parish when they come to visit us on January 8, 2017!

- Fr. Marc



Introducing



Jason Mehl was interviewed by Mary Ann Sunday for this article. Her questions and his responses are shown below.

Q. What is your and Louise's previous history with the CCA? I understand you were married there.

I was born in New Jersey in 1973, moved with my family to Nigeria where my parents were missionaries with SIM and lived there from 79-82. We then left Nigeria and moved to Kansas where my father was from. In 1985, we moved to Brunswick, GA for my father and mother to work with MAP International. My older sister, Anne, went to Armstrong for college and met her husband Corey Bosarge and they attended Christ Church. I first went to Christ Church when I'd come home from college and visit them (1991-95).

Years later, 2003, I went to work at Uganda Christian University for one year with the Episcopal Church's Young Adult Service Corps. The folks in Uganda invited me to stay beyond one year, but in order to stay I would need to remove myself from the umbrella of the Episcopal Church and align myself with an Anglican organization. I was happy to do that, and returned to the US to establish a relationship with an Anglican mission-sending organization, Global Teams, and to raise support to return to Uganda.

I remembered my worship experience at Christ Church and was comfortable with the theology of Marc Robertson's sermons, so I included Christ Church among the many orthodox Anglican churches I visited to raise funds in the US.

That was the beginning of my relationship with Christ Church in 2004. Several months later I met Louise in Uganda and we were dating when a Christ Church mission team visited. Louise and I spent valuable time with that team, most notably we took a trip with Marc and Clark Smith and our vehicle broke down and the four of us spent a few hours in a road-side shack sipping Cokes and talking. That time solidified our relationship with Christ Church as more than church/missionary.

Q. What about being a "missionary kid"?

I loved my time as a missionary kid in Nigeria. I have very few bad memories or associations of that time. I was there in 1st through 3rd grade. When we moved back to the US—to Kansas, and then to Georgia—I valued that Nigeria time as unique and valuable, but I never thought of returning to Africa to pursue missionary work. I went to Toccoa Falls College and played basketball. Basketball was my primary focus for those four years.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE: John 9:4-7

HIS HERO: Bob Dylan

ALWAYS IN HIS FRIDGE: snap peas and hummus

In my Junior year I was told I would need to pick a major. Writing was the only thing I somewhat enjoyed among my academic pursuits, so I chose Journalism. The brand of Journalism I was being taught was "Who? What? Where? When? How?" I quickly realized those questions did not interest me. I took a Literature class and discovered volumes of writing that addressed those other questions, but ultimately challenged the audience to consider "Why?" That was interesting. I graduated with a Journalism degree and a minor in English in 1995.

I moved from Toccoa to Athens, GA with the plan of pursuing a graduate degree in English. I worked as a maintenance assistant at an apartment complex in Athens and took undergraduate English classes at UGA to beef up my transcript for grad school applications.

In Athens I was completely on my own for the first time. While this came with significant complications, it was ultimately an opportunity for me to find my identity and own it. I had been a believer since I was six years old and had been a relatively obedient, Christian kid since. I was a faithful member of a Baptist church youth group in Brunswick, then went on to four years at a Christian college where I attended required chapel services four days a week. In Athens I began attending St. James UMC and was involved in a weekly Bible study.

It was an important time of me working out my relationship with God and the world without parental or cultural filters that had been chosen for me. I made some bad choices in that time, but even those were used by God to direct me toward a more authentic pursuit of Christ-likeness. This pursuit was not confined to church-related activities. I became increasingly aware that all of my choices—academic pursuits of reading and writing, cultural pursuits of movies and music—were opportunities to experience God more fully.

While I enjoyed my small-town years in Nigeria and Kansas and Georgia, there was a growing piece of me that longed for the cultural offerings of a big-city. After three years of valuable development in Athens I talked to God and others about my desire to go to either New York or Chicago to pursue writing. A few weeks later, after a wildly providential conversation with a fellow apartment complex employee in Athens, I packed everything in my car and moved to suburban Chicago —Wheaton, Illinois.

(continued next page)

Introducing

As I researched grad school options I discovered the MFA (Master of Fine Arts). Unlike MA programs that culminated in a researched thesis, MFA programs culminated in a creative thesis. I got a job driving a forklift in a book warehouse, began attending an orthodox Episcopal church, and continued reading and writing. For one year in Wheaton, I shared a house with a Nigerian who lived three doors down from me in Nigeria and was my best friend for those three years. After two years of working and writing and reading and living in Wheaton, I applied and was accepted into the MFA program at Columbia College Chicago. Three years later, I graduated and went to work at Uganda Christian University.

Q. How did you and Louise meet?

Louise began leading annual short-term mission trips to Uganda from Ireland in 2000. She started a non-profit and, through that organization, assisted in the establishment of a home for street children and a village school. In 2004 she came to Uganda to spend six months observing those projects and strategizing future development. Her sister, Denise, had come along on one of her short-term teams and decided to return to Uganda to work full-time in 2003, a few months after I arrived. So when Louise came for her six months, she stayed with Denise, who lived just up the hill from Uganda Christian University where I was working.

Louise and I met at the beginning of that six months, but didn't really talk until the very end of that time. I was hosting a barbeque and invited Louise and Denise. After eating, I asked Louise how she could afford to leave her job for six months to come to Uganda. She told me she had quit her job to come on that visit, but had something lined up to do when she returned. She explained that she took jobs that allowed her to do what God wanted her to do in Uganda. I thought, "That makes perfect sense." A few days later she flew back to Belfast, but we stayed in contact by email and phone. Six months later she returned for another six-month visit. Near the end of that visit we were engaged.

Transitioning from a single missionary to married missionaries was more complicated than we had anticipated. The most expedient way to accomplish the transition was to return to the US for a few months for application, interview, and more fundraising with a different sending organization – CMS-USA. Knowing we were going to be in the US to complete this process, without a true home base and home church, Christ Church volunteered to host us for the wedding portion of our new enterprise. We were married at Christ Church on Sunday, March 5, 2006.

Q. What else should we know about you and your opinions and goals?

Since accepting Jesus in New Jersey, I've had a clear awareness of an interior compulsion and exterior expectation to follow Jesus and do something important for Him. In college that energy was focused on basketball. In those Athens and Chicago years, I matured, but set my sights on writing a life-changing literary work that would send people flocking to the foot of the cross, and would also get me an interview on Letterman. Then I went to Uganda and was given the opportunity to combine the academic discipline of writing with collegiate athletics and work closely with individuals as a teacher and a mentor and also establish programs at a Christ-centered institution that would provide opportunities for others to continue doing that work. The work in Uganda provided me with the professional experience to continue that work at Christ-centered institutions in the US—for six years at Toccoa Falls College, now at The Habersham School (where I serve as the Director of Athletics).

Writing is still the activity that brings me the most personal joy and satisfaction. Over the years I have published a few small stories in small publications with very small distribution. In 2012, with a friend I met through the Bible study in Athens, I have co-written a novelized textbook (*A Narrative Introduction to Corporate Finance*) that is being used at Georgia State and the University of Georgia. I am working on novelizing another Finance textbook for use at Clemson and Georgia Tech. I have many (mostly unfinished) stories on file and am slowly working through finishing and submitting those for publication.

I have not written a life-changing literary work that has sent people flocking to the foot of the cross, and David Letterman has retired. During those Athens and Chicago years, I could not have imagined being content at 43 years old without having written that big book. But I thank God for the maturity and perspective he blessed me with in Uganda. Life as a husband to Louise, as a father to Lily and Moses, as a son and brother in my family, as a professional tasked with helping shape individual and institutional Christ-centered culture, and as an individual continuing to try to be more like Christ, is richly rewarding and I am content to be so blessed.



Who will be in our next issue? This photo should give you a hint!

Global Missions

Mission to Kachin State, Myanmar

Traveling through rice paddies ripe for harvest with Bishop John Zau Li of Myitkyina Diocese, we found that the bishop's enthusiasm for evangelism and healing ministry was irresistible. The Bishop expressed his hope that his clergy would work with more zeal and dedication. Bishop John set a high bar as he planned for us to preach, teach and offer prayer ministry in eight Anglican churches in eight days. He invited other denominations (which don't always lay aside their differences) and they attended in large numbers as the Anglican Church seems to serve as a bridge among Christians in this region.

A music and sound team of Christ Church Cathedral Youth had preceded us and they joined us at each location. We found that the Lord was at work in all the parishes we visited. The Lord had led people from many different denominations to the Anglican churches to hear about healing and to receive prayer. We shared the Gospel and Jesus' mission to bring healing. We formed prayer teams with clergy, catechists and laity and saw the Lord perform miraculous healings as we ministered until late afternoon each day.



Carol prays with Bishop John Zau Li and his wife, Daw Ja Bawk, for the healing of an elderly woman.

A seven-year-old boy who had been partially paralyzed in an accident five years earlier regained feeling in his right leg and began to walk again. Cloudy eyes in the elderly were made clear and sight was restored. A former soldier from the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) accepted the forgiveness of Jesus for his actions. When he came for prayer, he could only see about three feet but after prayer he could see about 20 feet and after further prayer his sight was fully restored.



Clark and Esther Htoi Bu pray blessing over a child.

Many people with various pains and physical restrictions received relief.

In this region where the civil war has intensified in the last few years, the greatest need may be inner healing. Many began this process as they told their stories through interpreters, wept and received prayer. Many testimonies were offered in worship services the following Sunday and there is hope that the healing ministry will grow.

The Kachin people have endured 65 years of war. The KIA, which generally maintains a defensive stance, refuses to disarm as the people do not trust the government. The Myanmar Army, in their attempt to destroy the KIA, has resorted to the use of helicopter gunships, conventional bombing and, recently, the use of chemical weapons. While we were well away from any war locations, we heard a clear, first-hand report from a priest who serves in the war-torn area and ministers to the KIA. The world is largely unaware of the atrocities and persecution aimed at the gentle people of Kachin.

Back in Myitkyina we led a three-day Clergy Conference/Bible Study on Discipleship, Spiritual Disciplines and Healing. We sought the Lord's guidance in multiplying discipleship and spent time planning and praying. There was joyous worship and wonderful fellowship. Join us in praying for Kachin State and the work of His church. May the Lord's healing and transforming power be felt by many.

— Clark Smith

Global Missions

Nepal Mission 2017

The Nepal mission was rescheduled because of ongoing monsoon rains causing mudslides. A team of six CCAers will depart Savannah on January 4th and return on the 15th.

The team will travel by jeep to Dhuseni and then trek four hours to the village of Tawal for two nights. After another four-hour trek, they will fly to the town of Pokhara in western Nepal.

The local pastors there are discouraged at the thought of evangelizing the unreached people of the western region, but Rev. Lewis Lew is called to do just that. The CCA team will work with Rev. Lew to build a vision and plan for this evangelism effort. The region is 99.9% non-Christian.

The team includes Alexia Lemaigre, Micah Sprunger, Lori and Tom Kennedy and Carol and Clark Smith. We are very grateful for the donated winter clothing. Two duffels have been delivered to Singapore by the Smiths for onward shipping to Nepal. The 2017 team will carry six more duffels with them in January.

— Clark Smith

Global Missionary Updates

On Sundays and at the end of the email Blast sent out each Thursday, the names of missionaries supported by CCA are included and you are asked to keep these few who are well known to us in your prayers. Below you will find a brief update on the ones you may have met or have been hearing or reading about for some time along with four new ones, all working under SAMS. Please keep these particular missionaries in your prayers as a part of our effort to give both financial and spiritual support to them.

E412 Ministries (Clark and Carol Rogers Smith) – fulltime home-based missionaries who teach in this country and around the world, offering discipleship training to lay people and clergy. Pray for their ongoing work in many nations.

Henry and Wendy Clay – after years of fulltime service in Argentina, Henry is the Director of Staff Care and Development for the Navigators.

Dave and Jen Cox – fulltime missionaries in Romania under Reach Global

Nathan and Kiri – fulltime missionaries in the Middle East under Anglican Frontier Missions

Serving under SAMS (Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders):

Guy and Summer Benton - Guy and Summer serve in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with their daughter Quinn and foster son Pirum. Summer is a social worker and Guy is the Director of Youth Ministry for the Anglican Church of Cambodia. Pray for Guy and Summer as they continue to try to adopt Pirum who has lived with Summer for many years, Quinn, and a baby on the way.

Please add to your prayers these four people also serving under SAMS who are known to people in our congregation and to whom we are offering some small support for the first time in fall 2016:



Rev. David and Mary Beth Alenskis –

San Ignacio, Belize

In summer 2014, David worked with our team of 21 kids and adults who spent a week teaching along side their lay people in VBS and refinishing pews in the Anglican Church there. David and

Mary Beth are newly married and serve in church development in western Belize. Pray for their marriage and for their work in Belize.

Jessica Hughes - Mukono, Uganda

Jessica lectures in the biblical studies department and oversees the student-led chapel services at Uganda Christian University. She also assists in the chaplaincy for the university.



Janine Legrand - Masindi-Kitara, Uganda

Janine serves in a ministry of health education in Africa where they face many health challenges.

 Compiled by Claudia Thomas for the Global Missions Team



Music Ministry

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 18th, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service the Music Ministry of Christ Church Anglican will present the Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols. The history of the service of Lessons and Carols hails from King's College Cambridge and is a lovely part of our tradition as Anglicans.

Our many choirs will present anthems and carols interspersed with scriptures proclaiming the coming of the newborn King. This is a terrific event to invite neighbors, friends, and relatives to attend with you as we celebrate the coming of Christmas.



with you as we celebrate the coming of Christmas. Hope to see you in worship on Sunday, December 18th!

— Mark Williams, Parish Musician



The Choristers serenaded Fr. Joe on his birthday recently! Our children's choir is an enthusiastic group of young people who love singing to the Lord on Sunday mornings and have a great time at their rehearsals on Wednesday afternoons.

From L-R, back row: Mark Williams, Parish Musician, Fr. Joe, Parish Catechist, Tina Williams, Chorister Assistant; from L-R, Choristers: Kate George, Moses Mehl, Janelle Nickles, Robert Dennison, Kaitlyn Duckworth, Carol Dennison, Lauren Beaumont, Matthew George, Lily Mehl and Walker Beaumont.

Christmas Pageant/Services

Christmas Pageant



Our annual Christmas Pageant will take place **Friday, December 23rd, at 6 p.m.** with a reception afterwards. Eucharist will be included. Deacon Steve Dantin is serving as director. **Rehearsals will take place after church on December 4th, December 11th and December 18th.** Costume assignments will be made while all participants enjoy a pizza party on December 18th. Help is needed to make this the best pageant yet...costumes, make-up, oversight of small children, chair of the reception to follow, pizza party help, etc., etc. Please email Steve at sdantin@earthlink.net or call him at 912-484-8843 to volunteer. Don't wait to be asked!

— Dn. Steve Dantin

Schedule of Christmas Services at Christ Church Anglican

December 23rd Children's Nativity & Reception 6 p.m.

(The Christmas Story with Carols, Costumes & Communion)

December 24th Seasonal Music 8:30 p.m.

Festival Eucharist 9 p.m.

(with Choir and Candlelight)

December 25th Isaiah 58 Christmas Breakfast 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist (1928 Prayer Book) 10 a.m.

(with "Blessing of the Gifts")

The Church Office will be closed December 26th through January 2nd.

Women of CCA

Renew Retreats

The Women of Christ Church Anglican have been so blessed this fall to spend one Saturday morning each month being Renewed! We've gathered at scenic Wesley Gardens on Burnside Island to be nourished, connect with other women and reflect on what the Lord may be saying to us in a time of retreat, away from the everyday demands.



"Renew is a mini-retreat, a time and place to disconnect with the world and connect with God."- Jill Luse

Our mornings include quiet time, guest speakers, personal testimonies, snacks, community building, and time in small groups to reflect on and discuss what we've heard. Healing prayer as well as Alpha Yoga Omega by Jane McNeal Saunders are offered following the retreat.

In August, Abby Sprunger shared from the heart the challenges of living out our sometimes mundane days all the while seeking to remain connected to Christ the vine. We learned the secret to contentment is "me in Christ", not "me in a different set of circumstances." (Elizabeth Elliot)

In September, we heard from guest speaker and spiritual director Kim Robertson on growing closer to God. Kim talked about stumbling blocks that can keep us from being close to God and offered some practical ideas on ways we can draw closer to the Lord. Yes, and there was even time throughout the morning for some pampering (massages!)

In October, Liz Albert spoke on Living in Christ and how we as believers are all disciples walking along the holiness road. We were challenged to pray about what step God may be calling us to take next in our individual walks.

In November, Claudia Thomas shared the challenges of living with others, particularly those who may have hurt us. We looked at what it means to forgive our brother or sister from our heart (versus from our head) and learned that Jesus desires that we extend the same love and forgiveness to others that He so mercifully shows to us.

The WCCA would like to thank Louise Mehl, Abbie Sprunger, Claudia Thomas, Vicki Posey, Lori Kennedy, Diane Saturday, Wray Williamson and Heather White for working together and using their gifts and vision for the women to plan and execute the monthly "Renew" gatherings!

If you have any questions call Abbie Sprunger (abbiepsmith@gmail.com or 912-547-0558), Louise Mehl (mehllouise@yahoo.com or 912-308-3069) or Claudia Thomas (cathomas45@bellsouth.net or 912-667-6795).

Save the following dates and come to learn, play, pray and grow:

- **Sunday, December 4th**: We will gather at the Whitefield Center at 7 p.m. for a time of fellowship and holiday fun before attending Compline together at 9 p.m..
- Saturday, January 7th: Living with Purpose
- Friday—Sunday, February 17th-19th:
 ALL THINGS NEW RETREAT (see ad on page 18)
- Saturday, April 1st: Living in Your Call
- Saturday, May 6th: Looking Ahead
- Saturday, June 10th: Annual WCCA picnic

— Mary Jane Dennison, WCCA Secretary

WCCA Yard Sale

On September 24th, the Women of Christ Church Anglican held a yard sale at the Whitefield Center. The Lord provided us with perfect weather and a good crowd of shoppers. The sale brought in close to \$4,000! The proceeds will be added to the WCCA funds which are used for supporting Christian growth of our women and funding some special needs of the Church and its members.

Many hands worked hard for several weeks leading up to the sale in order to ensure a successful event. Special thanks to the Committee: Heather Ford (and her husband Matt!), Mollie White, Betty Morris, Jeanne Wright, and Helen Marshall.

Thanks also to Paula Baumgartner and the countless other worker bees...Betty Morris and Claudia Thomas (for the beautiful garden section!) Dottie Courington, Nancy Luse, John and Liz Albert, Jim and Janet Stevenson, Carol Rogers Smith, Eden Combes, Gay Park, Susan White, Katie Beaumont, Karen Cooper, Bruce and Debby Jamieson, Lori Kennedy, Sharon Lawson, Jean Levens, Gail Prevatt, Katie Remick, Marian Thomas, Anne Marie Grant, Anna Sisk, Louise Mehl, Diane Saturday, Ed Wischmeyer and many others.

Special thanks to the many members who gave generously to make the preview sale and the yard sale so successful! Also, a big thank you goes out to everyone who came out to purchase items, provide snacks for our volunteers, and support the yard sale!

— Mary Jane Dennison, WCCA Secretary

Tour of Homes

Faith, Grace and Good Works: Christ working through us for our community

Tour Dates: March 23-26, 2017

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:8-10

For those of you who know me well, there is nothing I like better than diving into God's word to shine light on our lives. When I decided to take on the leadership of the Tour this year with Diane Saturday, I felt that it would be a way for me to live out God's word in faith, as I didn't necessarily see myself as equipped for this role. So far, so good! You, dear reader, will be reading this sometime after Thanksgiving just as Advent is beginning. What a great time to tell you about the gift that *you* can give to your church family, your community, and ultimately to our Lord through the 2017 Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens

For those of you who are new to our church, it's important to know that the Tour of Homes is the largest church-wide charitable event of the year. The Tour is officially sponsored by the Women of CCA and we partner with Historic Savannah Foundation (who receives half of the profits to benefit historic preservation throughout our city). Last year our portion of the profits was around \$50,000 which we were honored to present to the following organizations: Ansley's Rainbow of Hope, the Barnabas center for (Christian) Counseling, The Children's School, Hugs, Kairos Prison Ministry, The Living Vine, The Savannah Baptist Center, Urban Hope and The Whitefield Center. We have also sponsored our global missionaries with funds raised through the Tour of Homes. Unfortunately many worthy grant requests are denied due to a lack of funds. In order for us to raise these funds we need to produce an exceptional Tour and it is quite literally impossible to do this without the support of every parishioner!

We are working hard to finish procuring the homes which are the bones of the Tour. This year we are offering several new special events to attract a younger crowd to join the ranks of satisfied Tour customers. One example of this is a tour of a local brewery – now that is different! The hope is to appeal to a different demographic and thus increase our profits so that we can return these to the community.

Sometime in January you can expect to receive a card from the Tour asking for your volunteer preferences. We have all kinds of jobs and we need literally hundreds of volunteers to make this Tour a success. God has graciously gifted every single one of us with skills and this is a wonderful opportunity to offer your gifts to the Lord and watch how they bless our community! We will need cooks and cleaners, brochure distributors and house docents and every job imaginable to welcome the hundreds of visitors who come each day to our

Tour. If you are not physically able to participate then we covet your prayer covering for our Tour. Start praying now for the leadership, for health, for our visitors, and that we can be the image of Christ loving our neighbors through the good works that He has set before us through his grace. By faith, we invite you to join us as we bring glory to God through the 2017 Tour of Homes.

— Susan Moore, 2017 TOH Co-Chairman

"Wray-abration" Celebration



The Women of CCA and The Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens held a special celebration on October 28th to honor Wray Williamson, the Tour of Homes poster artist for the past 25 years! The event was attended by a large number of Wray's family and friends who gathered to thank her for her incredible contributions to the Tour of Homes

and to see her artwork for the 2017 Tour of Homes poster revealed for the first time. Fr. Marc Robertson offered a special "Ode to Wray" which was followed by a toast in her honor.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all who participated in my reception, to all who helped with the planning, the hanging of all the posters, the refreshments, the flowers, the toast, and to all who prayed. Special thanks to the women for the gift certificate and to Fr. Marc for the poem. Many thanks to all those who attended!

Featured prominently in my painting for the 2017 poster is the winged lion fountain in front of Savannah's Cotton Exchange. The winged lion is the symbol of Saint Mark; the lion represents the power of the Apostle Mark's Evangelist work. When the Cotton Exchange was built in the late 1800's, Savannah was a very important seaport, as it is today. It was sometimes referred



to as "The Venice of the South." St. Mark is the patron saint of Venice, a major port city, and his remains are reputedly buried under the cathedral there that bears his name, as does the main square – Place San Marco. How interesting that the builders of the Cotton Exchange felt a connection to St. Mark through the city of Venice.

— Wray Williamson

Art March

Fall Recap and Upcoming Events

September: Eight SCAD professors exhibited a variety of 2D work from paintings to drawings to photographs, entitled "Nature Nurtured," based on the theme of Nature. Although First Friday was canceled due to Hurricane Hermine, Second Friday saw a good turnout for the artists' lecture.

October: Two SCAD BFA Painting alumni, Lauren and Sarah Pizzi, presented paintings based on their individual interpretations of a series of written phrases. Because they are identical twins, the assumption might have been that they perceived the same written thought in a similar fashion; but their show, entitled "The Unveiling" revealed to the audience as well as to each other how they responded in very different ways. The twins kept their work veiled until the reception. Once again, Hurricane Matthew put a halt to First Friday, but Second Friday saw approximately 125 visitors to the show and the artists' lecture.

The Textile Society of America held their annual conference on "Cotton, Beads & Sugar: Textile Triangulations of Coastal Exchange Between India, Africa, and in Savannah," and the Whitefield Center hosted a show of three internationally-known textile designers which featured textile design, beading work, and embroidery pieces. A seminar was held on Friday, October 21st, to discuss the relevance of these industries on the regions of the world that produced rice, cotton, and sugar, and how the agriculture influenced textile design. Over 250 visitors came through the Whitefield Center during the three-day conference.

Also in October, Wray Williamson was celebrated with her own art show that encompassed examples of her paintings for 25 years of design for the Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens. The congregation turned out in full force to recognize her dedication to this mission.

November First Friday Art March: "Slipstream," Professor Liz Sargent, Fibers artist and textile designer

December First Friday Art March: A repeat of "The Unveiling," paintings by Lauren and Sarah Pizzi, since their First Friday event was canceled in October.

January 2017 First Friday Art March: Christian Fuentes, M.ARCH. SCAD graduate student. His work will exhibit recent photographs of both architecture and the landscape.

February 2017 First Friday Art March: Katie Godkin de Morales, SCAD M.ARCH. alumna. Katie was in the first group of SCAD students to travel to Pass Christian to help aid in the recovery after Hurricane Katrina. Since she graduated in 2012, she established a non-profit group, the Batey Rehab Project, which seeks to enhance the lives of villagers in Batey communities of the Dominican Republic through sustainable programs and projects designed by university students and executed alongside locals that aid community development. BRP currently works in numerous Bateyes and Barrios within the southern region of Barahona. BRP is committed to serving all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. Her website is: http://www.thebrp.org

Katie will be exhibiting and selling beautiful jewelry and other products made by the women in these poverty-stricken communities, which go to sponsor the rebuilding of homes, schools, and clinics in the Dominican Republic.

CCA's Art March events are held at the Whitefield Center and all parishioners are invited to attend!

— LaRaine Papa Montgomery, SCAD Professor and CCA Member



The Catechist's Corner

Joyful Thanks

It is such a joy to be here at Christ Church Anglican. In the season of Advent we are watchful, preparing, and anticipating the Lord's return. In many respects, in this new season of ministry with you we are watching, preparing, and anticipating what the Lord is going to do through our life together.

Alyssa, Joey, and I feel incredibly loved and welcomed already. While I was a bit intimidated by the "pounding of the pastor" (not knowing if I was the next human piñata), we were overwhelmed by the sheer generosity of the church. Thank you so much for your gifts and contributions for our family, and helping us transition into a whole new place. Another word of thanks goes to the families who made delicious meals to help us settle into our new home. Again, there is such an abundant generosity in the life of Christ Church Anglican, and we are so very grateful to be here.

As we enter into a new liturgical year together, I pray that the Lord opens our hearts to move forward into His vision and mission within the life of the whole parish. Our Lord's calling is certainly personal; yet it is never private, but always communal. Let us journey together towards our God who called us out of darkness and into His glorious light.

- Fr. Joe Gasbarre, Parish Catechist

Mark your calendars for Epiphany House Blessings and Progressive Dinners

What is the season of Epiphany, and how do we celebrate its place in our liturgical life together? The word "epiphany" means "to show forth." In our worship, Scripture readings, and praise, we seek to show forth Jesus in His life and ministry. In Advent, we anticipate the Lord's coming (both in His first appearance, but also His second). Now that our waiting is over in our first Advent with the celebration of Christmas, we show forth our Messiah and engage how he has revealed Himself to us.

The Feast of Epiphany (January 6th) recognizes how Jesus revealed Himself as the eternal Son to the Magi in their visitation. In their visit, they came bearing gifts of blessing for the whole household. Overwhelmed by the presence of Jesus, they offer their gifts but cannot help to fall down and worship Him. In this season of blessings, a common liturgical custom is the blessing of homes. We pray against all spiritual darkness, and petition Jesus to reveal Himself through the life of the household.



In celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany, Christ Church Anglican will hold a progressive dinner at various homes that we will bless on **January 6th**. The dinner will be potluck, involving appetizers, main dishes, and desserts. Like the Magi, parishioners are asked to bring a food item to one or more of the homes. As the song goes, "We three kings of Orient are; **bearing gifts** we traverse afar." Those receiving blessings do not need to provide food, but simply host their home and receive our blessing.

If you would like your home to be blessed, and to be part of the progressive dinner (whether attending or providing food), please contact Fr. Joe as soon as possible. If you cannot make it to the Progressive Dinner, but would like your house blessed, please contact Fr. Joe or Fr. Marc and we will make those arrangements with you. Also, there will be a sign-up sheet specifying your involvement in the event. Please sign up and or contact us to plan accordingly. In this season of the Church, may the Lord continually reveal Himself to you and your household!

- Fr. Joe Gasbarre, Parish Catechist

Finances/Stewardship

Year-end Giving Reminders

If you plan to make a year-end stock donation, please do so before Christmas so that your giving can be properly recorded for tax and pledge purposes. Contact Harry Moore at Wells Fargo Advisors (912-921-3406) for further instruction. Please remember that for IRS tax purposes, in order to receive credit for tax deductible contributions, all donations for 2016 must be postmarked or hand delivered to the church office no later than Saturday, December 31st. (There is a letter slot in the door if the office is closed.) Checks in envelopes postmarked after December 31st (or dropped in the offering plate on Sunday, January 1, 2017!) will be included as 2017 donations, even if the check is dated 2016. Please write a separate check for any Building Fund donations. You may also make year-end donations online. Just visit our website at ccasav.org and click on the "Donate Here" button on the home page. The church is charged fees for all online donations, so please consider adding a little extra to cover them! Please contact Joan in the church office with any questions (jmalley@ccasav.org; 912-355-7730).

— Joan Malley, Executive Administrator

Building Fund Update

To say that our Building Fund is a "God Send" would be an understatement. Over four years ago when we were without a church building to call home, we began looking for property to build a church and started a Building Fund to support such an effort. We are forever grateful to Independent Presbyterian Church (IPC) for allowing us to worship in their facilities while we searched.

We found the Whitefield Center property at 37th and Drayton Streets, then a florist and now the Whitefield Center, our outreach center and the site of many parish events. We purchased the property with a short-term loan (which has now been paid off in full). We then began work with an architect to plan our new facilities and include all that we felt we needed. We conducted our first Building Fund Campaign that would provide funds over an initial five-year period. While the campaign was very successful, the reality was that we could not afford the facility that was designed for us even with several modifications. Now what?

God heard our prayers and led us one block west on 37th Street to 2020 Bull Street where we were able to buy the Christian Revival Center (CRC) property. Our Building Fund allowed us to make the down payment and continued contributions will allow us to pay back the balance of the purchase price over ten years. The Building Fund also allowed us to secure a renovation loan to be repaid over the same time period. The renovation work involved the volunteer time of many of our members and the professional work of many contractors and we were thrilled to begin worshipping in our newly renovated space in February 2015.

Our members have been paying their pledges annually, providing the funds to make additional property improvements such as our large commercial kitchen, our parking lot, the playground and most recently the Tour of Homes office and new landscaping, as well as many other repairs required of our 1914 vintage church building. Building Fund pledges represent a real sacrifice and commitment to the church as these donations are offered above and beyond everyone's annual stewardship pledge.

Many people may see all the work that has been done and not realize that the Building Fund will continue to repay the remainder of the loans taken out to purchase and renovate the 2020 Bull Street property for the next eight years. It is critical that we all complete our pledges in order to retire our debt and continue to make repairs and improvements as needed.

If you made a pledge to the Building Fund during the initial campaign, please review your quarterly giving statements to see how much you have left to pay and make plans to complete your pledge by 2018 (or earlier if you elected to give over fewer than five years). If you have joined CCA since the initial Building Fund campaign, you can still join us in providing for our church property by making a pledge of your own! New pledges may be made as one-time gifts or over multiple years by contacting the church office.

God has provided us with many generous Building Fund pledges, allowing us the financial resources to find and renovate a wonderful place to worship. Please be faithful stewards and help us keep it going with your current and future pledges!

— Jim Stevenson, Treasurer

CCA Living Fund

Christ Church Anglican has established the **CCA Living Fund** to be used for the general wellbeing of the church and community. Uses of the fund would include, but not be limited to, Facilities, Mission, Ministries, Special Projects and Family Emergencies. The Living Fund resources are a means to enable ministries beyond what is possible through annual operating funds.

The Living Fund will be infused by bequests and the planned giving of parishioners and friends of CCA. Church members will be provided with information on the fund that may be used with wills and estate planning.

Uses of the Living Fund shall be approved by a twothirds vote of the Vestry, as recommended by members of CCA. The Living Fund will be administered by the CCA Finance Committee.

Come to our Annual Meeting on February 26th to learn more about the Living Fund!

— Jim Stevenson, Treasurer

Parish Life Calendar

November 2016

24—25	Parish Office closed for Thanksgiving Day
	Holidays

27 First Sunday of Advent

December 2016

1	11 a.m.	Isaiah 58 Ministries Hebron Hall
	6 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting Hebron Hall
3	12 p.m.	Men's Gathering at the Robertson's Chainsaw Massacre & Beer Tasting
4	9 a.m.	First Sunday Breakfast Hebron Hall
	12:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Nave
	12:30 p.m.	Usher Training Wesley Wing Room #8
	7 p.m.	WCCA Advent Gathering Whitefield Center
6	7 p.m.	Younger Adults Porch Party 618 Maupas Avenue
11	12:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Nave
13	6 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting Hebron Hall
15	4 p.m. 6 p.m.	TOH Board Meeting Vestry Meeting Hebron Hall
18	10:30 a.m.	Advent Lessons and Carols Hebron Hall
	12:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal/ Pizza Party Nave/Hebron Hall
23	6 p.m.	Christmas Pageant/Reception Hebron Hall
24	8:30 p.m. 9 p.m.	Seasonal Music Festival Eucharist Nave
25	8:30 a.m.	Isaiah 58 Christmas Breakfast Hebron Hall
	10 a.m.	Feast of the Nativity Nave

26—30 Parish Office closed for Christmas Holidays

January 2017

8 & 10:30 a	.m. Regular Worship Services Nave (No Sunday School today)	
Parish Office closed for New Year's Day		
	Nepal Mission Team leaves	
11 a.m.	Isaiah 58 Ministries Hebron Hall	
6 p.m.	Epiphany Progressive Dinners/ House Blessings	
9 a.m.	WCCA Renew Wesley Gardens	
9 a.m.	First Sunday Breakfast Hebron Hall	
6 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting Hebron Hall	
	Vestry Nominations Open Nepal Mission Team returns	
Parish Office closed for MLK Jr. Holiday		
11 a.m.	Isaiah 58 Ministries	
4 p.m. 6 p.m.	TOH Board Meeting Finance Committee Meeting Hebron Hall	
	Finance Committee Meeting	
6 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting Hebron Hall Newcomers Luncheon	
6 p.m. 12:30 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting Hebron Hall Newcomers Luncheon Whitefield Center Vestry Meeting	
6 p.m. 12:30 p.m. 6 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting Hebron Hall Newcomers Luncheon Whitefield Center Vestry Meeting Hebron Hall Prayer Walk	
	Parish Office 11 a.m. 6 p.m. 9 a.m. 9 a.m. 6 p.m. Parish Office 11 a.m.	

Porch Party For Younger Adults

on St. Nicholas Day, December 6th, at 7 p.m.

Hosted by Sharon Mays and Lily Davis 618 Maupas Avenue

Snacks and drinks will be served—come and bring a friend!

Parish Life Calendar

February 2017

2	11 a.m.	Isaiah 58 Ministries Hebron Hall	
5	9 a.m.	First Sunday Breakfast Hebron Hall	
	12:30 p.m.	Parish Council Interviews Vestry Nominees	
9	6 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting Hebron Hall	
12	Founders' Day		
	12:30 p.m.	Oyster Roast	
	1	Whitefield Center	
16	11 a.m.	Isaiah 58 Ministries	
	4 p.m.	TOH Board Meeting	
	6 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	
		Hebron Hall	
17—19		WCCA "All Things New" Retreat Wesley Gardens	
23	6 p.m.	Vestry Meeting	
	•	Hebron Hall	
26	9:30 a.m.	Joint Worship Service	
	11 a.m.	Annual Meeting	
		Nave	
	12 p.m.	Hospitality Hebron Hall	
28	6 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Hebron Hall	

Baptisms offered

The Sacrament of Baptism will be offered at the Baptism of our Lord on Sunday, January 8,2017, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

If you are interested in being baptized or in having your child(ren) baptized, please contact the church office at 912-355-7730 no later than Wednesday, December 21st.

Lent Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the 2017 Lent Newsletter is Monday, February 6, 2017.

Please submit all articles and photographs to Joan Malley at jmalley@ccasav.org.

WCCA "All Things New"

Back by popular demand, and as a continuation of what we've been seeing the Lord do at our monthly women's gatherings, the WCCA invites all ladies to our 2nd Annual Women's Retreat.

When: Friday – Sunday, February 17-19, 2017 (Spending the night is optional for those who want to stay)

Where: Wesley Gardens on beautiful Burnside Island

What: Joining us again from Ireland will be Maureen Ross Jones and her team of Irish ladies to dig into the life of Esther.

Look for registration information in December!



Maureen Ross Jones

Born into a Christian family, Maureen had a childhood experience of understanding her need of salvation and trusting Christ to be Savior and Lord. In her own words this was the beginning of her love affair not only with the Lord, but with His Word.

Whilst she subsequently faced many losses and challenges in life, Maureen discovered that what the enemy meant for evil, God was more than able to turn for good and perhaps her mission statement for life could be summed up in Romans 8:28.

Through Bible teaching and prayer ministry, Maureen's passion is to encourage and motivate others to find salvation, healing and freedom in the Lord so that they will fulfill their spiritual destiny and extend the kingdom of God.

Christmas Poinsettias





2020 BULL STREET SAVANNAH GA 31401

2016 VESTRY

Lynn Tootle, Vestry Warden
Richard James, Council Warden
Lea Ste

Jim Stevenson, Treasurer

Dottie Courington Murray Marshall Bob McWilliams Jim Gardner, Chancellor Lea Stevens, Clerk

Harry Moore Craig Shoemaker Warren Thrasher

2016 PARISH COUNCIL

Marc Robertson, Rector Richard James, Council Warden Joan Malley, Executive Administrator Mark Williams, Parish Musician

Donnette Brown-Ansah
Jimbo Bass
Steve Dantin
Toni Dunham
Heather Ford
Toni Dunham
Gay Park
Diane Saturday
Claudia Thomas

The Right Reverend Neil G. Lebhar, Bishop

CLERGY

The Reverend Marcus B. Robertson, Rector The Reverend Joseph G. Gasbarre, Parish Catechist The Reverend Gregory J. Malley, Deacon The Reverend Sally Lufburrow, Deacon The Reverend Stephen Dantin, Deacon The Reverend Kirk Duffy, Deacon

The Reverend Bob LeFavi, Mission Priest

PROGRAM STAFF

Mark K. Williams, Parish Musician Cindy Marshall, Assistant Parish Musician Keith & Jane Saunders/Lily Davis, Youth

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Joan Malley, Parish Administrator Becky Hughes, Secretary Janet Stevenson, Administrative Assistant

FACILITIES

Bryan Kerr, Manager

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN

Serving Savannah and the World with the Love of Jesus

Address: 2020 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401 Office: 912-355-7730 Fax: 912-355-1526 web address: www.ccasav.org Tour of Homes Office: 912-234-8054