

The Bridge

1734

2012



St. John's Parish
Johns Island, South Carolina



February 2012



FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The Rev. H. Dagnall Free, Jr.

A Collect for Fridays: *Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (79 BCP, pg. 99)*

This collect is said on Fridays (the day of our Lord's crucifixion) during the daily office of Morning Prayer. It is most poignant, in pointing out that there is much pain and suffering Jesus had to go through, and much life to live, before He was glorified.

Do you feel like there is too much to deal with in life at times, whether it be problems with: bills, cars, houses, spouses, health or children? We find ourselves saying things like: "I just want to be happy, or I just want things (you fill in the blank) to be taken care of! I don't want to be saddled with problems. I have had enough of this!"

Well, the beginning of this collect may not give much solace. Our problems seem to come and go, ESPECIALLY if you are walking in the way of the Cross. That's right. This is not a Gospel of prosperity, but one of living into Jesus' life and His Cross. This can sound so gloomy and depressing, but it is not really. It is powerful! Before I address that, look at Jesus' life.

Jesus lived life to the full, went to weddings, funerals, raised people from the dead, worked as a carpenter (the list can go on). Jesus, most importantly though, constantly sought the Father's will before going out; and His whole life pointed to the Cross, which is the ultimate self-giving and offering. This offering He made is in obedience to the Father, and for our benefit. It was a con-

stant mindset of: "Thy will be done," and not "my will be done." Even before the Cross, Jesus was pointing out what it means to crucify the flesh—to kill all things between you and God.

The good news is that Christ did ultimately go the cross, and died for our sins, and He was then glorified. And what that means for us is that there is a means for us to be rid of all that pulls us down (and comes between us and God); we must lay it at the foot of the cross for Jesus to deal with. What might you lay at the foot of the cross today: some idol in your life you can't live without, a really bad habit, an anger problem, a lack of faith, or finally, the *problems* of life that we are unable to *fix* on our own? If you are at a loss as to what to lay down at the foot of the cross, pray for the Lord to make you aware of something, and He may. If you then leave it (whatever it is), leave it! If you pick it back up again, re-leave it!

And in doing so, this business of "walking in the way of the cross" begins to make sense. Because in walking this way in life, things are being discarded off our shoulders, allowing us to actually get to the foot of the cross of Christ, so that we may have His peace and joy, through trusting in Him with our whole life. It **may not** be easy; it **will not** be without problems and hurdles in life, but in it we "**may find it none other than the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ!**" How do I know this? Because the Bible is full of this promise, and the One who made it lived it, through and through!

Blessings In Christ,

Fr. Free+

Upcoming Events

- February 2, 9, 16 & 23, 6 pm - ALPHA
- February 5, 9 am Daughters of the King
- February 5, 12 & 26, 4 pm - Dave Ramsey Financial Peace
- February 11, 8 am 8 am - Men's Breakfast
- February 12, 12:30 pm - Acolyte Training Meeting
- February 24-26 Christian Men's Conference, St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center
- March 2-4, ECW Women's Retreat, St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center
- March 9 & 10, 221st Diocesan Convention, St. Philip's Church

IN THIS ISSUE

Angel of the Month.....	9
Annual Meeting & New Vestry.....	7
The Bridge Goes Digital Submission Form.....	3
Calendars.....	5 & 6
Financials.....	11
From the Associate Rector.....	1
Help Wanted.....	10
Men's Conference.....	11
Men's Groups/Men's Breakfast.....	2
Missions of the Church.....	12
Saints Alive!.....	10
Sunday Breakfasts.....	11
The Spoken Past.....	8
Transformation.....	4
Vestry Person of the Month.....	11
View from the Third Shift.....	3
Women's Conference.....	11
Women's Groups.....	2

SMALL GROUPS OF THE CHURCH

By Nancy Scales

MEN'S:

Mondays at 7 am Men's Prayer and Share meets in the PLB. It is an interdenominational group of men who meet for coffee and prayer. There is no specific format, and strict confidentiality is maintained. All are welcome. Contact Bucky Stackhouse at 559-1278 for details.

Wednesdays, from 7-8 am, a number of men meet in the PLB for breakfast and Bible study. Members take turns bringing breakfast. Led by Bill Kitchens, the group has recently begun the study of the book of Revelation. If you've never studied this book, now is your time! New members are welcome; contact Bill at 795-8411.

For men who have been through Cursillo, a **Reunion Group** meets the 1st, 3rd, and 5th **Wednesday at 8-9 am** at the Town & Country

Hotel on Savannah Hwy. The group has breakfast, then follows the Cursillo Reunion card. All Cursillo men are urged to belong to a Reunion Group. For more info, call Tom Gopsill at 559-9811.

Thursday at 6 am is Bible Study in the PLB with homemade breakfast. They are studying the **Book of Acts** by John Stott and will continue through the summer, so you can easily come and pick up with where the group is. For details, call Ford Walpole at 559-4220. New members are welcome.

Saturday, February 11 is the Men's Breakfast. Men from several area churches gather in the PLB at 8 am for breakfast. The speaker this month will be **Rob Schluter**, our Youth Minister. Contact Tim Jones at 768-1665 for more information.

CO-ED:

"The Journey" Bible Study: This coed group meets **Wednesdays at the Golden Cup at noon** to discuss the day's reading from "The Journey." Contact Bruce Saxman at 557-0673 for more information or just drop by for lunch and discussion!

WOMEN'S:

Tuesday, 7 am, Ladies' Prayer and Share meets for breakfast at the Sunrise Bistro. Not a Bible study, this group is open to all who want to share their Christian walk and join in intercessory prayer for the group and others. Contact Paula Stackhouse at 559-1278; new members are welcome.

Tuesday, 9:15-11:00, Moms' Bible Study Group. Open to all women, with childcare available for a small fee. They are studying the study of the book of John. New members are always welcome! Contact Libby Puckette at 559-0977.

Tuesday, 10 am, a Bible study meeting in the PLB. The group continues the video series **THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW**, by Ray Vander Laan. New members are welcome. Contact Judy Edgerton at 559-1807.

Thursday, 10 am, the **Bible Babes** meet in the former Peach Room. Beginning January 5, they will follow the study "Magnificent Obsession" by Anne Graham Lotz. Members keep an ongoing prayer list. New faces are welcome. Contact Bouy Peeples at 795-1673.

Thursday, 2-4 pm, This group meets in the former Peach Room in the Parish Life Building. They are studying Angela Thomas' "Beautiful Offerings." Call Emogene Christie at 571-4484.

First Saturday at 9:00 is the usual meeting time of **Daughters of the King** in the PLB.



THE BRIDGE STAFF

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Please email all articles and/or announcements to: [thebridge9560 @ yahoo.com](mailto:thebridge9560@yahoo.com). The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Thank you.



A VIEW FROM THE THIRD SHIFT

By Deacon Brian Gill

*For we are all strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were.
Our days on the earth are alike a shadow and there is no abiding.*

1 Chronicles 29:15



Dear St. John's Family,

I was recently blessed by the Holy Spirit introducing me to "the Epistle to Diognetus." All we know of this epistle is that it was written by a Christian to a high-ranking pagan named Diognetus, sometime in the late second or early third century. It is a beautiful epistle that focuses on the uniqueness of the Christian life. Space does not allow me to share all twelve chapters, but I am drawn to introduce you to what to me is a wonderfully insightful few verses. These verses all come from Chapter 5:

For Christians are not distinguished from the rest of mankind either in locality or in speech or in customs...They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland is foreign. They marry like all other men and they beget children; but they do not cast away their offspring. They have their meals in common, but not their wives. They find themselves in the flesh, and yet they live not after the flesh. Their existence is on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven.

My prayer is that this small taste of the epistle will be as meaningful and as enlightening to you as it is to me. What a joy to know that these words, written some 1,800 years ago, still define the Christian life here in the 21st Century. See you on the Night Shift.

Your Servant,

Brian



THE BRIDGE GOES DIGITAL!

(Remember, if you currently get the E-News, you need do nothing).

Please complete and return to the church office:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email(s): _____

Beginning with the March 2012 edition of "The Bridge," I would like:

to receive "The Bridge" by email at the address(es) above.

to receive "The Bridge" by mail at the address above.

to stop receiving The Bridge and be taken off the church mailing list.

TRANSFORMATION

By Walt Miller

It has often been said that parenting is not rocket science. It is kind of like plumbing with a few simple rules— like water flows downhill and will find a way out under pressure. If you have those down then you can do a good job. The problem is, if you leave out a small step you can ruin a million dollar home in one night. Same with parenting. It *is* simple to do but it is hard to keep paying attention to the details.

Here are three Parenting Tips from the St John's website. http://www.stjohnsparish.net/resources/parenting_tips/index.html

Give them a try.



Refrigerator Parenting Tip # 12



The brain discards 40% of its power (synapses) during childhood (so you actually are losing your mind). The brain discards connections if the brain is not using them. This actually saves calories. So “Use it or lose it” is a physical reality in brain development. This explains why learning a language in high school and beyond is so hard. It is very important, then, that children exercise their brain in a variety of ways. Reading is the most critical. Set aside time each day for your child to sit and read with you or alone. No reading = no screen time on TV, computer, video games.

Refrigerator Parenting Tip # 13

Everything has a home. Shoes have a home. Pants have a home. Dresses have a home. Toothpaste has a home. The cereal box has a home. The hair brush has a home. Dishes have a home. Clean socks have a home. Dirty socks have..... a home. Help your child grow up knowing that there is a place that things go immediately after you have used them. “Train up a child in the way he should go.” I know, I know, it is hard for you to stop everything and follow kids to the dirty clothes hamper to make sure their “living room socks” end up “home” but in five years you will be sooooo happy you did.



Refrigerator Parenting Tip # 14



Remember Tip # 1..... Praise. Praise! Praise!! LOUDLY !!! Praise children louder than you fuss. If you are a screamer, be sure you scream praise. Quiet and Serious? Have a quiet, serious talk about how wonderful they are. Celebrate your child. “WOW! Look at that corner of your room! It is so neat!” “WOW! You shared your lunch cookie with Ted? You are SUCH a nice kid!” Good behavior follows praise.

Walt

February 2012

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
8:00 HE 1 10:22 HE 1 Mod 10:30 HE 1- 1,5 HE 2 - 3rd MP 1- 2 & 4 4:00 pm Middle 4:30 pm Kidz Klub 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm High School	7:00 am Men's Prayer Group	7:00 am Women's Prayer & Share 9:15 am Mom's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Bible Study at Gilligans 6:00 pm CORE 6:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 am Men's Group 10:00 am Bible Babes 2:00 pm Women's Bible Study	6:00 pm Young Adults Bible Study (every other week)	

			<i>1</i> 3:00 pm Bridge Committee 6:30 pm Outreach Committee Mtg	<i>2</i> Alpha - 6:00 pm	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9:00 am Daughters of the King
<i>5</i> Dave Ramsey Course - 4:00 pm	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Alpha - 6:00 pm	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 8:00 Men's Breakfast Art Club 10-11 am
<i>12</i> Acolyte Train- ing at 12:30 Dave Ramsey Course - 4:00 pm	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 7:00 Vestry Meeting	<i>15</i> <u>Bridge Deadline</u>	<i>16</i> Alpha - 6:00 pm	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> No Dave Ram- sey today	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 7:00 pm Finance Committee Mtg	<i>22</i> Ash Wednesday Services 12 noon & 7 pm	<i>23</i> Alpha - 6:00 pm	<i>24</i> ← Men's Conference →	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> → Dave Ramsey Course - 4:00 pm	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>			

<p align="center">The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 5, 2012</p> <p>Services: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:22 am Holy Eucharist Rite I M 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite I</p> <p>Scripture Readings (8:00 & 10:30): 2 Kings 4:8-37 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 Psalm 142</p> <p>Scripture Readings (10:22): Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 8:1b-13 Mark 1:21-28 Psalm 111</p> <p>Preacher: 8:00 am and 10:30 am Fr. Dagnall Free</p> <p>10:22 am Fr. Greg Snyder</p> <p>Lector and Lay Readers 8:00 am Jane Charles</p> <p>10:22 am 1st Lesson and Prayers - Karen Jones Psalm and 2nd Lesson - Thom Pennington</p> <p>10:30 am 1st Lesson - Ginni Quisenberry Psalm and 2nd Lesson - Neal Edgerton Prayers - Claudia Boyce</p> <p>Ushers 8:00 am Bob Johnson</p> <p>10:30 am Nick Roark and Gordon Jenkins, Sr.</p> <p>Altar Guild Linda Hihn, Mary Seabrook and Ellen Torres</p> <p>Flower Guild Beth Snyder</p> <p>Nursery Walt and Louise Miller</p> <p>Acolytes 10:22 am Crucifer - Greg Quisenberry</p> <p>10:30 am Crucifer - Emma Gervais Torches - Anna Gervais and Ivey Gibbs</p> <p>Acolyte Master - Tom Gibbs</p> <p>Vestry Person - Tom Gibbs</p> <p align="center"><i>The flowers on the altar are to the Glory of God</i></p>	<p align="center">The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 12, 2012</p> <p>Services: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:22 am Holy Eucharist Rite I M 10:30 am Morning Prayer Rite I</p> <p>Scripture Readings (8:00 & 10:30): 2 Kings 5:1-15 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45 Psalm 42</p> <p>Scripture Readings (10:22): 2 Kings 4:8-37 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 Psalm 111</p> <p>Preacher: 8:00 am and 10:30 am The Rev. Brian Gill</p> <p>10:22 am Fr. Greg Snyder</p> <p>Lector and Lay Readers 8:00 am Earl Sease</p> <p>10:22 am 1st Lesson - Rob Schluter Psalm and 2nd Lesson - Mike Edwards Prayers - Bill Anderson</p> <p>10:30 am 1st and 2nd Lesson - Katherine Seabrook Psalm, 3rd Lesson, and Prayers - Nancy Seals</p> <p>Ushers 8:00 am Bob Johnson</p> <p>10:30 am Nick Roark and Gordon Jenkins, Sr.</p> <p>Altar Guild Nancy Brown and Beth Gibbs</p> <p>Flower Guild Carmen Benz</p> <p>Nursery Claudia Boyce and Susie Schaffer</p> <p>Acolytes 10:22 am Crucifer - Katie Hogan</p> <p>10:30 am Crucifer - Savannah Friar Flags - Zac Hanratty and Matthew Yandle</p> <p>Acolyte Master - Kathy Hogan-Edwards</p> <p>Vestry Person - Tom Gibbs</p> <p align="center"><i>The flowers on the altar are to the Glory of God</i></p>	<p align="center">The Last Sunday after the Epiphany February 19, 2012</p> <p>Services: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:22 am Holy Eucharist Rite I M 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Scripture Readings (8:00 & 10:30): 1 Kings 19:9-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Mark 9:2-9 Psalm 27</p> <p>Scripture Readings (10:22): 2 Kings 5:1-15 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45 Psalm 42</p> <p>Preacher: 8:00 am and 10:30 am Fr. Greg Snyder</p> <p>10:22 am The Rev. Brian Gill</p> <p>Lector and Lay Readers 8:00 am Keith Bryan</p> <p>10:22 am 1st Lesson - Robin Larocque Psalm and 2nd Lesson - Charles Wallace Prayers - Charles Jenkins</p> <p>10:30 am 1st Lesson - Paula Stachouse Psalm and 2nd Lesson - Gretchen Horlbeck Prayers - Beth Gibbs</p> <p>Ushers 8:00 am Bob Johnson</p> <p>10:30 am Nick Roark and Gordon Jenkins, Sr.</p> <p>Altar Guild Susan Hanckel and Marsha Johnson</p> <p>Flower Guild Sara Jackson</p> <p>Nursery Lella Baldwin and Anna Schluter</p> <p>Acolytes 10:22 am Crucifer - Jay Gervais</p> <p>10:30 am Crucifer - Miller Hiers Torches - Emily Bennett and Meri Beth Hiers</p> <p>Acolyte Master - Charles Jenkins</p> <p>Vestry Person - Tom Gibbs</p> <p align="center"><i>The flowers on the altar are to the Glory of God</i></p>	<p align="center">Ash Wednesday February 22, 2012</p> <p>Services: 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist Rite I 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite I</p> <p>Scripture Readings: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:16, 16-21 Psalm 103</p> <p>Preacher: Fr. Greg Snyder</p> <p>Lector and Lay Readers 12:00 noon 1st Lesson - Laura Stock Psalm and 2nd Lesson Jay Withington Prayers - Bill Anderson</p> <p>7:00 pm 1st Lesson - Darlene Blitch Psalm and 2nd Lesson Charles Jenkins Prayers - Karen Jones</p> <p>Acolytes 7:00 pm Crucifer - Brian Gibbs</p> <p>Acolyte Master - Brian Gibbs</p> <p align="center"><i>The flowers on the altar are to the Glory of God</i></p>	<p align="center">The First Sunday in Lent February 26, 2012</p> <p>Services: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:22 am Holy Eucharist Rite I Modified 10:30 am Morning Prayer Rite I</p> <p>Scripture Readings (8:00 & 10:30): Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-13 Psalm 25</p> <p>Scripture Readings (10:22): 1 Kings 19:9-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Mark 9:29 Psalm 27</p> <p>Preacher: 8:00 am and 10:30 am Fr. Dagnall Free</p> <p>10:22 am Fr. Greg Snyder</p> <p>Lector and Lay Readers 8:00 am Jane Charles</p> <p>10:22 am 1st Lesson - Libby Puckette Psalm and 2nd Lesson - Ginni Quisenberry Prayers - Thomas Puckette</p> <p>10:30 am 1st and 2nd Lesson - Ken Stock Psalm, 3rd Lesson, & Prayers - Buck Stachouse</p> <p>Ushers 8:00 am Bob Johnson</p> <p>10:30 am Nick Roark and Gordon Jenkins, Sr.</p> <p>Altar Guild Lisa Fair and Barbara Hair</p> <p>Flower Guild Lorie Eaton</p> <p>Nursery Jason Younce and Charlotte Crosland</p> <p>Acolytes 10:22 am Crucifer - Peter Hogan</p> <p>10:30 am Crucifer - Julia Puckette Flags - Caroline Puckette and Erin Puckette</p> <p>Acolyte Master - Frances Puckette</p> <p>Vestry Person - Tom Gibbs</p> <p align="center"><i>The flowers on the altar are to the Glory of God</i></p>
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ST. JOHN'S HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

By Nancy Scales

St. John's held its annual meeting Sunday, January 15, 2012, immediately following the 10:30 services. Fr. Greg Snyder opened the meeting with prayer. The tellers were the outgoing Vestry members: Jerry Houston, Claudia Boyce, Perry Jameson, and Bubba Jenkins. Polly Sosnowski served as clerk, and Ken Stock as parliamentarian. The minutes were approved as written.



These four are Boyd Baker, Dannie Barteet, Bill Leland and Thomas Puckette.

Treasurer John Blicht went over the Treasurer's Report, noting that we are debt free and have no mortgage. Of particular note was the fact that by December we were facing a \$60,000 shortfall; however, giving in the amount of \$131,000 negated the shortfall and allowed us to end the year \$285 in the black.

John Blicht has completed his three years as treasurer; Jerry Houston will take his place. Brian Gibbes is taking the place of Danyelle Blicht as Acolyte Master until he leaves for college in August.

The second of two votes (the first was at last year's Annual Meeting) was taken on making changes to the Constitution. These changes will keep us in close relationship with the Diocese, while removing us slightly from the national church. The vote to make the changes was 118 for, 10 against, and no abstentions.

The following were elected to be delegates to the Diocesan Convention March 9-10, and to any other similar meetings that may be called during the year: Al Bagdonas, Bubba Jenkins, Gretchen Horlbeck and John Blicht. The following alternates were elected: Cindy Pennington, Claudia Boyce, Tom Brown and Nancy Scales.

The congregation then voted on new Vestry members.

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS ELECTED

By Paulette Withington

One of the main things addressed at the 2012 Annual Meeting of St. John's was to elect four new vestry members. All four of the men elected have had previous experience serving on the vestry. The bios of those who were elected are as follows:



Boyd Baker: Boyd has attended St. John's for 36 years. He lives on Johns Island and has been married 35 years. He and his wife Susan have two children and one grandchild. He has been a member of the St. John's choir for many years and also teaches an adult Sunday school class. He has served on the vestry about four or five times, as Junior Warden three times and Senior Warden one time.

Dannie Barteet: Has attended St. John's for 24 years. He lives on Johns Island and has been married 30 years. He and his wife Deanna have two children and two grandchildren. He taught Jr. high Sunday school for a long time and has served as an usher for many, many years. He previously has served on the vestry one time.



Bill Leland: Bill has attended St. John's with his wife Emily and three children for 35 years. He lives on Wadmalaw Island and has served on the vestry five or six times. He has been a member of St. John's choir for many years and also has served on the vestry as Junior Warden twice.

Thomas Puckett: Has attended St. John's all his life. He lives on Johns Island and has been married for 23 years. He and his wife Libby have three children. He has served on the vestry twice before and also has served as Junior Warden once.



THE SPOKEN PAST

By Paulette Withington

The first miracle that Jesus performed was in turning the water into wine at the wedding feast. Wine was used as a celebratory drink in Bible days, and it has been produced ever since. The earliest known wine production was in the country of Georgia around 6000 BC. There is some evidence that the “domestication of the grape vine” came as early as the Bronze Age. While vineyards around the world have reached world acclaim, one of our parish couples have made great strides as vintners right here on Wadmalaw Island. **The Irvin House Vineyard** has flourished under the ownership and management of **Jim and Ann Irvin** since it began in 2000. It produces the only domestic wine in Charleston.



Jim hails from Louisville, Kentucky and brought his *Irvin Home Builders* construction business to this area, when homes were being built on Kiawah Island. After his relocation, Jim lost his wife to cancer, but later met Ann, a Johns Island native, and former kindergarten teacher. They were over fifty when they met and married in 2000. As they approached retirement age, they decided that sitting on the porch becoming older by the day, was not appealing for two active people who had worked all their lives. Having both grown up on farms, they purchased 48 acres of land on Wadmalaw Island from the former owner of a downtown carriage company. They were swayed toward growing melons and vegetables, but when this did not prove successful, they plunged into “retirement venture research,” and decided to start their own vineyard. Among their winery discoveries was the Muscadine grape, which has over 150 varieties and thrives in the low-country area. It is also immune to diseases, which is a blessing for any vintner.

This adventurous couple literally plowed into their dreams, when they set aside eleven and a half acres for the vines. Ann drove the tractor to help Jim set 3000 posts,



and along with the her son, they planted 2700 vines by hand. After the grueling work was complete, Ann wanted their harvest to be blessed. Father Greg gladly obliged with what has now become the annual “Blessing of the Vine”

ceremony that takes place at the beginning of every growing season, the 2nd week in November. This is done when the vines are in bloom, thus the blessing is on the grapes all through the season. The first year the Irvin’s were astonished to see their vines develop so quickly. Since it takes 2½ pounds of grapes to produce one bottle of wine, they were delighted that their first crop yielded abundantly and produced 4000 cases of wine!

Now twelve years later, after renovations to the farm buildings and progressive changes to the business, the Irvin House Vineyard is well established and going strong. It still remains a single-owner venture with the grapes being harvested singly, instead of by the bunch by only 10-12 people. They grow four varieties of purple and bronze Muscadine grapes. Jim’s college chemistry major is beneficial, since he works incessantly with experiments and formulas to continually improve their wines and new product lines. This is done in conjunction with MUSC Research Department and the Clemson Agricultural Research Station on US#17. Bitter melon and Muscadines contain antioxidants, which have been proven to lower bad cholesterol and raise good cholesterol. They also have properties that fight inflammation in the body. Most grapes have only one chromosome, but Muscadines have two, which have been utilized in cancer research. The Irvin’s sell five varieties of Muscadine wine in their gift shop, along with many other delightful gifts and products such as their natural grape juice. They’ve had customers from every country around the world except Greece. While they’re hoping a Greek visitor will show up one day, they openly welcome all guests for their weekly wine tasting and special events. They even have a petting zoo for the kids.



The Irvin’s graciously have hosted our annual Que ‘N’ Blue Festival since it started. Presently, they are working with other area farmers and vintners to establish an agricultural co-op which will jointly process their alcohol and preservative-free grape juice that must be pasteurized off site. They also produce other bottled products such as Firefly Vodka and Bourbon. Visiting their winery and vineyard was a treat, and one that I won’t soon forget. For business hours, further information and photos go to their website at: www.charlestonwine.com.

“ANGEL OF THE MONTH”

By Paulette Withington

When we think of the months of the year and the special days associated with them, February has always symbolized love. With a precious heart that exudes spiritual love for our Lord and her fellow man, a more fitting month could not be chosen to recognize our February Angel, **Robin Seyle LaRoche**. I have always found Robin to be deliberately focused, deeply spiritual and truly caring in her interaction with others. She was one of the first people that welcomed me as a visitor to the parish in January of 2000, when Jay and I were still dating. Since that time, I've counted it a special privilege to know her.

Robin was born in Charleston and was raised on Johns Island. She was a basketball star at Bishop England and went on to earn her college degree in dental hygiene from Winthrop and MUSC Colleges. Robin's religious background is rooted in the Roman Catholic Church, but she felt the atmosphere at her church lacked the spirited experience that she longed for. It was while attending MUSC, that her roommate helped end that search and led Robin to a personal relationship with Christ.

Robin met her husband Richard in 1976 during her senior year, when she was a waitress and he was a cook at Rast Barbecue on Johns Island. “It was love at first sight,” Richard said. “She was different and I knew she was a keeper the first time I laid eyes on her. My mom loved her to death, even before we were married.”

Richard joined the US Air Force in 1978, and in August of 1980, he and Robin were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church downtown. Robin graduated from MUSC, as a new bride six months after their wedding. They lived at Duluth Air Force Base, in Duluth, Minnesota until Richard was reassigned to McChord AFB at Tacoma, Washington. While serving there they joined the Christian college group, “The Palla Navigators,” and loved their bible-based ministry. The young LaRoches returned to Johns Island in 1982 after Richard completed his duty. Soon thereafter, Rick Belser and a group of men visited the returning couple, encouraging them to come to St. John's. They accepted the invitation and their presence in the parish was thereafter established.

In the fall of 2000, Robin and Richard helped host the very first Alpha at St. John's. It proved to be a success, and became the forerunner to all the Alphas that have followed. Robin possesses a special interest in advancing God's Kingdom, which naturally gravitates her to new converts and new

comers to the parish. She and Richard share this interest and have invested years of work in programs such as “Marriage Builders.” Together with Karen and Peter Tetrev, this ministry became an integral part of their lives. For a time, Robin worked as a children's Sunday school teacher, with our youth group, with the Newcomers Committee, the Altar Guild, and with the DOK. As Joyce Meyer says, “God is progressive. He may call you to do something, but He can also call you away from it when your time is no longer needed in that place.”



Robin experienced this, and knew when her time had come to move on to other ministries in the church. There have been many areas of service in Robin's work for St. John's. Many parishioners can attest to her abilities as an adult Sunday school teacher. Her artistic talent has also been put to use over the years with VBS. She loves to help in our parish kitchen, and not to overlook the youngest, she has also helped with the nursery. Like so many, when Feeding the Multitude was new, Robin was right there to lend a hand, and the same thing happened with Que 'N' Blue. Her hobbies are gardening and exercise. I've never seen her yard, but I've been told that it's so beautiful, she should have been a landscaper.

Robin and Richard raised three children, Dan, Andrew and Lucy. “We have been blessed with three lovely kids,” Richard shared. “They all have been so special. When Drew was taken, God delivered us. We knew immediately that Drew was in heaven. Losing a child is something you never get over,” he continued. “It's a club no one wants to join. The loss leaves a hole in your heart and the only thing you can fill it with is God.” And that is exactly what Robin, Richard and the children did. To quote her daughter Lucy, “Mom has always been a friend and a role model for me. She has always taught me to rely on God no matter what—and it's true. He has yet to disappoint!”

Karen Tetrev shared this with me: “Robin has a true desire to see others live out their destinies, which is a life lived for Jesus. Her anointed gifts of teaching the Word and mentoring are what allow her to be so effective in encouraging others. One of the most beautiful things about Robin is that she allows God to use her whole life for His glory. Robin loves the Lord God with all her heart, soul, and strength.”

I can only say: thank you God for sending Robin LaRoche our way. She is a true example of a Christ-embodied life and I'm so glad she has been a part of our lives.

SAINTS ALIVE!

By Nancy Scales

What if I had lived in the time of Jesus and had actually met Him? And if not that, what if I'd known people who had known Him? Certainly, we have all wondered that. **St. Polycarp** (69-155 AD), early bishop and martyr, had the good fortune to have been a disciple of the Apostle John and to have associated with others who had known Christ. He came from Smyrna, called Izmir in present-day Turkey on the coast of the Aegean Sea, then part of the Roman Empire. That he had followed John is noted in the writings of both Irenaeus and Tertullian, early church fathers and recorders of events in the early Church.

Polycarp's early life is not known, yet he came to a belief in Jesus early on. It was John who appointed him Bishop of Smyrna. It was during the rule of Marcus Aurelius that the persecution of Christians intensified. After many years of faithful ministry, a Roman proconsul ordered him to utter the phrase "Caesar is lord" and to drop incense on the statue of Caesar. Refusing to do so, he was ordered to be burned at the stake. In "The Martyrdom of Polycarp," a letter to the Smyrnians and others, his death is recorded. Heard by all the believers in the crowd, a voice from Heaven



said, "Be strong, Polycarp." Given one last chance to renounce Christ, Polycarp responded, "Eighty-six years have I served my Lord; how can I now blaspheme my King who saved me?" He was then bound to the stake, and the fire was lit. But to the amazement of the observers, the flames merely swirled around his body without burning him. The executioner then ran his sword through the old man. The blood which gushed forth was said to have quenched the flames.

There is only one work of Polycarp's still existing, "Polycarp's Letter to the Philippians," which is preserved in Irenaeus' account of the bishop's life. Beyond the martyrdom of Stephen in the Book of Acts, "The Martyrdom of Polycarp" is one of the earliest accounts of a Christian martyrdom. When we look at his

life, we might wonder that he went to his death for refusing to utter a simple phrase that would have satisfied the authorities. And while his story is almost 2000 years old, Christians today are still being persecuted. Were we in the same situation, could we refuse to bow to anyone but Jesus? Polycarp's feast day is February 23, thought to have been the date on which he was martyred.



POSITION: A Fourth Publisher for "The Bridge"

QUALIFICATIONS: Working knowledge of MS Word; proficient in managing email and email attachments; working knowledge of Publisher (**or** willingness to learn). Ability to function as both a team member and independently.

HOURS: Monthly one hour meeting, plus time for layout and publication of newsletter only three times per year.
Work primarily from home.

CONTACT: Al Bagdonas (793-1225), Barbara Davis (768-1143), John Lockwood (843-224-8596) or the church office.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CONFERENCES

The Knight's Code

Christian Men's Conference
February 24-26, 2012

St. Christopher Camp
and Conference Center
Seabrook Island South Carolina

Robert Noland, Speaker
Author of *The Knight's Code*

The Rev. Ron Greiser, Chaplain

“This teaching and book were born out of over 30 years of ministry and being ‘in the trenches’ disciplining men of all backgrounds and walks of life. Regardless of the symptoms a man may display, we all, including myself, suffer from the same root issues. My desire is to train men in how to build a Biblical arsenal to fight today’s spiritual battle and become leaders on the front lines of the faith.”

Robert Noland, Author of *The Knight's Code*

To learn more and register,
visit www.dioceseofsc.org.

Growing
As Women in Christ's Kingdom

ECW WOMEN'S RETREAT
MARCH 2-4, 2012



Joanne Ellison, Speaker
Of Drawing Near to God, www.drawingneartogod.com

Join with women from across the Diocese as we learn from acclaimed Teacher, Joanne Ellison of Drawing Near to God Ministries.

Joanne will be teaching a series from the book of James on living in the kingdom and how that is reflected in the way we handle suffering and trials, how we grow to be Christ like through the testimony of our faith.

To learn more and register, visit www.dioceseofsc.org.
Registration deadline is February 20, 2012.

Sponsored by the Diocese of South Carolina ECW

HELP NEEDED WITH SUNDAY BREAKFASTS



Liz Yandle is sending out an **urgent SOS** for people to sign up to prepare breakfast for the remainder of the Sunday School cycle. It doesn't have to be gourmet, but these breakfasts have become a wonderful opportunity for fellowship before Sunday School. Please contact Liz at 559-0364 (home) or 209-8388 (cell), or email her at Liz@benefitconceptsinc.net.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL NEWS

	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGETED YTD
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$793,043	\$792,758
EXPENSES	\$757,292	\$786,412

VESTRY PERSON OF THE MONTH

February - Tom Gibbs

March - Bruce Saxman

MISSIONS OF THE CHURCH

By Nancy Scales

This month's article on missions will feature **Blessing Basket**. As with MOMs in December, this is a group based outside St. John's Parish Church. Blessing Basket is a ministry of Stono Baptist Church that provides food for islanders whose food stamps do not last the whole month. The majority of the recipients live in the apartments across the street from the church.

St. John's participates by sending volunteers (two or more) each third Saturday to help with the distribution. They back their car up to Stono's warehouse where they are given four or five bags of food and a list of recipients.

As they greet each recipient, they offer to pray for those receiving the food. We also help Stono Baptist with food collection. Currently, they are asking for one-pound bags or boxes of grits. Food donations are placed in the large blue tub on the left in the entry to Guerry Hall. Blessing Basket, along with MOMs, is a valuable mission that helps feed the hungry on John's Island. "When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat."

Anyone wishing to help distribute food should contact Nancy Scales at 224-1177. Donations of grits are gratefully accepted from anyone at any time.



The Bridge

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Walter Gordon, Sexton

Vestry Members

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Boyd Baker

Dannie Barteet

Steve Brantley

Charlie Davis

Tom Gibbs

Tom Gopsill

Gretchen Horlbeck

Bill Leland

Thomas Puckette

Bruce Saxman

Ford Walpole