

THE HERALD

Volume XL, Issue I

January 2014



St. John's Lutheran Church
5 Clifford Street, Charleston SC 29401
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"Moments of Importance"

The very nature of pastoral ministry provides certain insights into the wishes, desires, and "wish I had done it differently" late in life confessions. As we enter this new year, it is my hope that some of what I have seen and heard and witnessed might offer us a moment for reflection even before we make our famous new year's resolutions.

Forgive me if this sounds a bit "preachy," but I've heard this a hundred times, and each time it saddens my spirit. So often as age takes its toll, we lose our independence. That is a hard pill to swallow. The car keys are taken away. If we want to go someplace, we must get someone to take us. Cooking loses its joy because cooking for one or even two, strangely enough, is harder than cooking for four or more. But what breaks my heart is when someone says, "I love my church and I wish I could get there," or "I miss my church," or "I'd love to be there for Christmas this year." This is heartbreaking because there is a desire among so many to come home to the place where their faith was nurtured and where they confessed Christ as Lord and Savior. For some there is no substitute church that satisfies this need to come back, and yet they can't do it by themselves and often their health prevents it even if someone would bring them. This reality confronts too many of us at some point in our life. The church and the worship and the hymns and the people and the smells of our church will elude us because we can't get back. But the question that lingers is this: while we are able to get here, are we making the effort to be present for an encounter with God in our church? Today we might be able to, but what about tomorrow? Take advantage of your moments of importance at church.

Then I often hear about how much the family is missed. Distances create difficulties for sons and daughters and parents to travel. Birthdays and anniversaries and holidays come and go, and families miss opportunities to connect and occasions to say, "I love you." Life gets so busy that we take care of the busy and forget the "why" of what we are doing. Then one day we look up from our career to see the children grown, our parents aging, and the marriage

unrecognizable for what it was in the beginning. All this happens over time, and no matter what our age, an investment in tomorrow needs to be made today. So spend the time to cherish the moments of importance in your life.

On occasion someone will share the feeling that their life never seemed to get on track. A goal was never established. A work ethic never born. A priority never set. Life was never lived fully or taken seriously until it seemed too late. Make the decisions necessary in a timely fashion so that your life is filled with moments of importance.

Perhaps what I am encouraging us to consider is those aspects of life that will one day be valued as having been the most important. I am asking you to think of the future so that you don't look back regretting the past. From my vantage point, it seems three categories jump to the forefront for our consideration: 1) our relationship with God through Christ and how we live that life in our church; 2) our enjoyment of and availability to those who love us and whom we love; and 3) the setting of priorities that make our life meaningful to ourselves and others.

I never get very far from Christmas without thinking of Mary, the mother of our Lord, who pondered all these things that had happened and what they meant. Mary gave birth to a child who is Christ the Lord, and she is pondering what the future holds. Beginning a new year, perhaps we may ponder our life in ways that set priorities in position where we do not regret, but we celebrate, our moments of importance with our faith and our God, with our families and friends, and with the things that ultimately matter.

I wish you a most blessed New Year. I pray you will ponder those things that are and will become your moments of importance. I encourage you not to put off till tomorrow the life God is calling you to live today.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Butler +

2013 Congregational Meeting Results

St. John's Lutheran Church held its annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2013, following the combined worship service. President Mike Andersen called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. The following represents the actions taken and approved by the congregation.

Finance Chairperson Dan Prickett presented the proposed 2014 Mission Budget. Following explanations, the vote was called for and the budget was approved.

President Andersen presented the recommended slate of nominees to serve as officers: President - Dan Prickett; Vice President - Dan Lackland; Secretary - Gayle Hilton; and Treasurer - Anne Lake. The vote was called for, and these nominees were elected as the officers of the congregation and Vestry.

President Andersen then presented the recommended slate of nominees to serve as new members to the church Vestry: Chris Antley, Deborah Bussey, Peter Holmi, and William Dowd. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The vote was called for, and these nominees were elected to serve a three year term on the Vestry.

The final item of business was the vote to ratify the recommendation that Mr. Fred Martschink, III, be elected to serve a two year term as a trustee on the St. John's Endowment Committee. This recommendation was approved, and Mr. Martschink was elected.

President Andersen expressed thanks to everyone for being present. He then called Pastor Butler forward to offer a prayer, and following the prayer the meeting of the 2013 Congregational meeting was adjourned.

Christmas "Thanks You's"

As we enter a new year, I want to "thank you" for the many acts of kindness displayed to Judy and me during the Christmas season. Not a day went by when I did not experience the power of your prayers, and the mail truck stopped every day with Christmas cards containing well wishes for us and our family during this season. Judy and I are always humbled and touched by the many expressions of thoughtfulness and graciousness you shower upon us. During a season when we celebrate the gift of a Savior, you displayed the spirit of giving so often and in so many ways that we are at a loss for words to adequately say "Thank You." Please know that we are thankful to God for each and every one of you, and we thank you for making us a part of your family this Christmas.

With our love and thanks,

Pastor and Judy

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 8th, at 10:30 a.m.

Tovey Circle

The Tovey Circle will meet at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 9th, at the home of Anita Mitchum (870 S. Piccadilly Drive, James Island).

The Ladies Sewing Society

Organized 1825



The Ladies Sewing Society will meet on January 12th in the Parish Building, beginning with refreshments provided by Linda Stephens at 3:45. Donna Counts will present a devotional. Guests are warmly welcomed. Pastor Butler installed the 2014 Officers at our December meeting. President: Anita Mitchum; Vice-President: Linda Stephens; Secretary: Becky Courtney; Treasurer: Marsha Mikell.

Goldenaires

Goldenaires will meet on Friday, January 17th, 6:00 p.m. for a Pot Luck Dinner at the Ehmanns'. If you plan to attend, please call 853-1991 by Tuesday, January 14th.

Lutheran Men

2014 Lutheran Men Meetings and Speakers Announced

The Lutheran Men are kicking off the new year with a bang as they bring in two wonderful programs for January and February. On Thursday night, January 23, we will welcome Mike Rogers as our guest speaker. Mike had a wonderful career working for the FBI, and he will speak candidly about what such a career involved and what it was like serving as an agent. Mike is a Citadel graduate and presently serves as the Director of Alumni Association and Executive Director of CAA. Join us for our social beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting and meal beginning at 7:00 PM.

The Lutheran Men have a special night planned for Thursday, February 27, as they will host Susan Stevens as our guest speaker. In addition, the men are inviting spouses and other women in the congregation to join us as our guests. Our speaker, Mrs. Stevens served as the Executive Director of the Charleston International Airport and has been an employee of the Charleston County Aviation Authority from 1987-2013. Mrs. Stevens has held a number of other Executive Positions for firms such as LS3P Architects, LTD, Advanced Technology, Inc., Northrop Services, Inc., and Tracor, Inc.. She is a graduate of James Madison University and has taken graduate level courses at George Mason University. he is married to Doug Stevens and is a member of The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Charleston. Again, join us for our social beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting and meal beginning at 7:00 PM. An RSVP will be required for this meeting.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

On Thursday evening, December 19, 2013, the St. John's Vestry met to conduct the current business of the church. The following represents highlights of that meeting.

- 1) President Mike Andersen called the meeting to order, and Pastor Butler offered prayer.
- 2) The November 2013 Vestry Meeting Minutes were approved, as were the minutes from the 2013 Congregational Meeting.
- 3) The Treasurer's Report was received as information.
- 4) Pastor Butler provided church membership and attendance numbers through November 30, 2013, as well as noting the following persons were received as new members: Deborah Green Fletcher, Jennifer Green, Tom Springer, Lynn Springer, Dorothy Flottman, and David Hansen.
- 5) Sheila Sines Thomasson reported on another successful Children's Christmas Pageant and the joy so evident in the faces of our children as well as those sitting in the audience. She also commented on the recognition award presented to Betty Evans in appreciation for her many years of nurturing our young children's faith through her constant devotion as a teacher in our Sunday School program. The search continues for a Director of Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministries.
- 6) Bryan Counts reported on the Evangelism Committee's efforts to provide information about our church to both visitors to our church and our community. T-Shirt sales have gone well so far. The new church design/logo has been well received.
- 7) Frickie Martschink reported that the Property Committee continues to review property needs and handle issues as they come up. A new cleaning service has been hired to clean the parish building and the church.
- 8) Karen Moore reported that charitable contributions were being made to the following charitable organizations: Low-Country Orphan Relief; Water Missions International; Lutheran Hospice; and Homeworks of America. There was a brief discussion of what defines a "Toxic Charity."
- 9) Becky Courtney shared the most current results of the Stewardship Campaign and provided analysis of projected contributions to the 2014 Budget based on pledges received to date. The Vestry thanked Becky Courtney and Bob Pickard for their thoughtful approach to the stewardship campaign, temple talks and mailing.
- 10) Pastor Butler shared several insights from the Worship and Music Committee about how St. John's might better handle guests and parking at times when we have a combined service. Pastor also discussed both upcoming Christmas Services.
- 11) President Andersen thanked Pastor Butler and the Vestry for their hard work during this past year. He expressed special thanks to those members whose terms on Vestry are concluding on December 31, 2013: Becky Courtney, Jenny Edwards, Dan Lackland, and Capers Poulnot.
- 12) The next Vestry meeting will take place Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 6:30 PM.

75+ Celebration

January 26, 2014

On January 26, our congregation will be honoring all members that have celebrated 75 years or more of life and wisdom. On this special day, there will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a covered dish luncheon. At the luncheon, we will recognize and honor the contributions of our platinum members over the years.

Please mark your calendars with this special date: Sunday, January 26th, 2014. The chicken and red rice will be provided for the luncheon. To make sure that we have plenty of room and food, we ask that you fill out the RSVP form that will be in the bulletin beginning January 5th for this covered dish luncheon.

Our distinguished guests are encouraged to invite their friends and family so they may share in this special day. If you have any questions or comments, please speak with any member of the Christian Education Committee

New Members at St. John's

During December we welcomed the following persons into our church family:

Dorothy Flottman

1626 Bull Creek Lane, Charleston, SC 29414
(843) 718-2476

Jennifer Green

4207 32nd Road South, Arlington, VA 22206
jennifergreendc@gmail.com

Deborah (Tom) Green-Fletcher

139 Eston Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445
(843) 607-6444
dmgreen53@aol.com

David Hansen

8 Trachelle Lane, Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 556-6892

Tom and Lynn Springer

23 Longitude Lane, Charleston, SC 29401
(860) 490-6588

Please extend to these new members your warmest welcome and add their names and contact information to your congregational directory.

Committee Meetings

January 13	Social Ministry Meeting	6:00 p.m.
January 16	Vestry Officers' Meeting	5:30 p.m.
January 16	Vestry Meeting	6:30 p.m.
January 20	Evangelism Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.



MUSIC NOTES



Happy New Year!

I want to begin by thanking the Vestry for welcoming Pastor Butler, Carole, and me to its annual Christmas party on December 19. I enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with Vestry members and share some Christmas cheer. The generous gift from the Vestry and Congregation was much appreciated by my family and me—thank YOU!

December is always the busiest month for music at St. John's, and this year was no exception. At our combined service on December 8, we hosted two groups from Porter-Gaud School: the Alison Fitzgerald Handbell Choir and the Treblemakers. Each group performed throughout the service, and Hugh Knight and I enjoyed the chance to combine forces, performing a piece for choir and handbells. We also finished the service with an organ/piano duet. On December 15 our own Handbell Choir lent its talent to both services with a lovely rendition of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." On December 22 we were joined by trumpet player Kyle Lane, who brought some festive joy to our Christmas hymns and performed several trumpet/organ duets with me.

Christmas brought a flurry of musical activity in our beautifully decorated sanctuary. The St. John Chorale presented excerpts from Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols," accompanied by CSO harpist Kathleen Wilson and featuring a solo by one of my 5th grade singers from Porter-Gaud. Traditional Christmas music for harp and organ was presented, both men's and women's choirs performed, Brink Norton gave his annual rendition of "O Holy Night," and the Handbell Choir performed two contrasting Christmas works, the pensive "I Wonder as I Wander" and the rollicking "Kling, Glockchen, Kling."

Have you made it a New Years' resolution to get more involved at St. John's? Consider joining one of our music programs! We are always seeking new singers for the St. John Chorale and new ringers for the St. John's Handbell Choir. No experience is necessary, so come give us a try! The Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 5:30-6:10 and the Chorale follows from 6:15-7:45. Hope to see you there!

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy New Year!

In music,

Todd

German Friendly Sunday

The officers and members of the German Friendly Society of Charleston cordially invite the Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church to attend a luncheon at the German Friendly Society, 29 Chalmers Street, Charleston, SC immediately following the 11:00 AM. service on January 12, 2014. It is requested that an RSVP be made with the church office to provide planning information.

William F. Schupp, President
 Arthur L. Ellis, Jr., Senior Warden
 William J. Freshe, Jr., Junior Warden
 Gordon L. McCay, Treasurer
 C. Fletcher Carter, III, Secretary

Thank You!

To St. John's Vestry and the congregation of St. John's;

It is hard to believe that 2014 is right around the corner! I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of St. John's for their thoughts and prayers during 2013. Thank you to everyone that volunteered at St. John's over the course of the year, as I don't think I could get everything done without your help. And last but definitely not least, I thank the Vestry and congregation for the generous Christmas present that I received. It truly is a blessing to be a part of the wonderful family of St. John's!

I wish each and everyone a blessed Happy New Year!

Carole



Memorial Gifts were given in loving memory of:

Pauline (Polly) Califf Martschink

Tommy and Martha Harken, Billy and Anita Mitchum, and Jim and Kathryn Tolley

Paul Pelland

Lynn and Diane Bean, John and Sara Jane Foltz, Tommy and Martha Harken, Dennis and Connie Jeff, Mark and Carole Jordan, Louie Koester, Frickie and Linda Martschink, Ian and Margaret Mac Donald, Dolores Nelson, Capers and Sandra Poulnot, Barbara Siegling, Barbara Tamsberg, Jim and Kathryn Tolley, the Mike Vertucci Family, and Crayton and Louisa Walters

Financial Update

The Finance Committee provides each month an update of the contributions received in the current year as compared to the amount in the budget adopted by the congregation. The following is the budget to actual comparison through November 30, 2013:

Contributions received	\$ 277,130
Contributions per budget	<u>274,260</u>
Receipts over (under) budget	\$ 2,870

Congregational Concerns and Prayers

We remember in our prayers: Ed Andersen, Bobby Babson, Judy Greer, Roger Hawkins, Nell Jones, Geneva Kahrs, Betty Lemacks, Eleanor Luden, Ed Rugheimer, Tiffany Sikes, Susan Spoon, Margaret Stephens, Cele West, all those who are infirm and recovering from illnesses and our members who have experienced losses of loved ones.

Our Loved Ones Away From Home

We have a prayer list of those members of St. John's and our extended family who are in the military and/or involved in this current military situation. When filling out your blue attendance card, please add the names to it and indicate "military," and we will include your loved ones on our prayer list. Presently included are: Derek Bean, Alex Bedenbaugh, Lt. Joseph Gibbons Clark, Mark Evans, Captain Justin Golden, Ryan Hanson, LTC Jeffery A. Jones, Jason Jordan, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- January 1 Bob Adden
Ernest Hollings
Geneva Kahrs
Helen Musselwhite
- January 3 Mike Andersen
Sara Pickard
- January 8 Mason Hoffman
- January 9 Ed Andersen
Cille Fancher
Brian Hoffmann
Mark Lee
- January 12 Anita Mitchum
Cassie Siegling
- January 13 Gene Metts
Dan Prickett
- January 14 Chad Beckmann
T.A. Fulmer
Debra Green-Fletcher
Nicoletta Leathers
- January 17 Francesca Counts
- January 18 David Butler
- January 19 Edward Counts
- January 23 Frank Dorsey
- January 25 Henry Siegling, Sr.
- January 27 Donna Counts
Linda Martschink
- January 28 Carla Kinnett

JANUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

8:30 a.m.

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
ACOLYTE	Ellis Moore	Ella Grace Thomasson	Deborah Bussey	ONE SERVICE 10:00 A.M.
LECTOR/LAY ASSISTANT	Barbara Allen	Deborah Bussey	Jane Pelland	
LAY ASSISTANT	Carl Beckmann	Christi Kunkle	Sheila Thomasson	
COMMUNION SET-UP	Deborah Bussey	Carole Jordan	Linda Martschink	Cheryl Kostanesky
GREETER	Barbara Lawton	Frickie Martschink	Miles Martschink	Dolores Nelson
MANAGER	Deborah Bussey	Tommy Harken	Frickie Martschink	Karen Moore
USHERS	Carl Ehmann, Jeff Williams			

11:00 a.m.

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
ACOLYTE	Jaden Andersen	Cille Fancher	Parker Hoffman	Laura Holmi
CRUCIFER	Owen Antley	Lynn Bean	Gracie Lesemann	Henry Siegling
LECTOR/LAY ASSISTANT	Mike Andersen	Lynn Bean	Don Courtney	Gayle Hilton
LAY ASSISTANT	Chris Antley	Judy Butler	William Dowd	Nancy Prickett
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP	Martha Clark	Mary Lou Coombs	Gayle Hilton	Sandra Poulnot
GREETER	Judy Butler	Mary Lou Coombs	Evelyn Dolven	Henry & Jane Siegling
MANAGER	Chris Antley	Bryan Counts	William Dowd	George Galante
FLOWER DELIVERY	Joy Cornwell Evelyn Dolven	Barbara Lawton Claudia Morton	Dolores Nelson Sandra Poulnot	XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX
EVANGELISM CALLS	Marianne Albrecht	Diane Bean	Evelyn Dolven	Jenny Edwards
USHERS	Dan Marchant, Ben Albrecht, Joe Clark, George Galante, Bobby McClary, Capers Poulnot			

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2014 STAFF, OFFICERS, VESTRY, & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education	Larry Kreyling Sheila Sines Thomasson
Endowment	Frickie Martschink
Evangelism	Bryan Counts
Finance	TBA
History	Edward Counts
Lutheran Men	Rick Fisher
Nursery	TBA
Property Committee	Frickie Martschink Tommy Harken
Shepherd Program	Marianne Albrecht Diane Bean Brenda Brannen Martha Clark
Social Ministry	Karen Moore George Galante
Special Projects	Tommy Harken
Stewardship	Robert Pickard
Strategic Plan	Carl Ehmann
Women of the ELCA	TBA
Worship & Music	TBA

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. David Butler
Office Manager	Carole Jordan
Director of Music	Todd Monsell

VESTRY OFFICERS

President	Dan Prickett
Vice President	Dan Lackland
Secretary	Gayle Hilton
Treasurer	Anne Lake

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Chris Antley ,Deborah Bussey, Bryan Counts, William Dowd, George Galante, Peter Holmi, Tommy Harken, Gayle Hilton, Larry Kreyling, Dan Lackland, Anne Lake, Frickie Martschink, Karen Moore, Bob Pickard, Dan Prickett, Sheila Sines Thomasson