

THE HERALD

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St. John's Lutheran Church **5 Clifford Street, Charleston SC 29401**

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"Rethinking The Things We Take For Granted"

Wow, I never saw it coming. All the newscasters blamed Polar Vortexes but what really got our attention was not the Polar Vortex but the Ravenel and the Don Holt Bridges being closed. With those bridges closed, people living in Mt. Pleasant pretty much stayed in Mt. Pleasant, because no one was heading West easily.

Truthfully, with those bridges closed and travel practically impossible, I had great opportunity to think about important things that are all too often are taken for granted. The bridges immediately come to mind. Day-in and day-out our community uses those bridges to get from place to place. We go to important and not so important places. And it is these two bridges that make it possible for us to get around quite nicely. But these storms rolled in and the routine became anything but routine and we realized how much we take them for granted. Never again!

But once I got over the bridges being closed and those sheets of ice hurtling down at cars to remind us to take nothing for granted, other things we take for granted came to mind. Other things far more important to us than just a bridge or an inconvenience.

I'd like to share a few with you and hope you not only agree with me but that you might add some of your own to this list of things we take for granted.

- 1) Families and loved ones. Isn't it true those people closest to us are the ones we take for granted, simply because we can! Spend a moment each day saying "I love you" to those in your family. The dividends will compound daily as you realize how truly blessed you are today.
- 2) Listening to the news I saw the numbers of people reported as out of work or underemployed. And yet, everyday those employed often take their jobs for granted. Certainly every day at every job is not the most exciting day ever lived, but every day does present an opportunity to make a difference for the place where you work or for a person you will encounter. Be thankful for your job and do your best. It makes a difference.
- 3) Whether you agree or disagree with the "Affordable Care Act" it does make you think about your health. We all take our health for granted until there's a problem. Look around and you'll see some one whose health is worse than yours. Be thankful for the healthy days you do enjoy and make the most of them.
- 4) And this is the most important. People of faith often take their Christian faith and their relationship with God through Christ for granted. Of all the things we take for granted, our relationship to God and our response to His love is the one we ought never overlook, neglect, or take for granted. Worship of the creator and redeemer is an honor. A moment in God's Word is nourishment that sustains us. To bow our heads in prayer, to sing a hymn of praise, to know that God loves us, are all things we need in order to survive. And yet, this is the one most quickly neglected, simply because we can and no body calls it to our attention.

A bridge closing inconveniences us. What will we experience if our church closes or if we lose sight of that same church as the place where Christ chooses to encounter us? Certainly more than being inconvenienced!

Take time to think about those things you're taking for granted. If your faith and the church made your list, don't let another day pass before you thank God for His grace, for your brothers and sisters waiting to worship with you, and for the opportunity God gives us every day to Know Christ and Make Christ known. The Lenten season is a wonderful time to start.

Taking nothing for granted, we are God's people in this world.

Pastor Butler +

Shrove
Tuesday



Pastor's Pancakes

Pastor and Judy Butler invite you to join them on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. for Pastor's Pancakes. Come be a part of the annual tradition of preparing ourselves to enter the Lenten season. As Lent is a season where we practice certain disciplines, such as fasting and avoiding rich foods, Shrove Tuesday has become the final festive day when all the rich foods stored in the pantry are used up. This has often been associated with pancakes and syrup and baked goods.

We hope you will join us this year to celebrate our blessings, fellowship, and an all you can eat pancake supper. Please sign up on the Pastor's Pancake insert sheet found in the bulletin.

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 12th, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Diane Bean (2945 Seabrook Island Road, Seabrook Island).

Tovey Circle

The Tovey Circle will meet at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 13th, at the home of Judy Butler (3216 Sand Marsh Lane, Mt. Pleasant).



The Ladies Sewing Society
Organized 1825



St. John's Ladies Sewing Society
invites you to Brunch
Sunday, March 16, at 9:45 a.m.
in the Parish Hall
to honor our Seminary Students,
Adam Carnell and Lisa Isenhower

To help us with food preparation, please RSVP to the church office via the bulletin insert.

On Seminary Sunday, March 16th,
St. John's will have a designated offering envelope provided in the bulletin
for the work of the Ladies Sewing Society.

2014 Lenten Services Schedule and Meals

The following are our additional worship opportunities presented during the 2014 Lenten season. Please note them on your calendar and join us for a light Lenten supper and worship each week as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week and the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. There are multiple opportunities for worship each Wednesday during Lent. The ecumenical mid-day worship service is hosted by different churches each week, and then we have our own Wednesday evening worship service here at St. John's. Our services will take place in our social hall.

Worship and Opportunities at St. John's

March 4	Shrove Tuesday	Pastor's Pancakes	6:00 PM
March 5	Ash Wednesday	Worship Service Worship Service	12:00 PM 7:00 PM
March 12	Wednesday	Lenten Supper (host needed) Lenten Worship	6:15 PM 7:00 PM
March 19	Wednesday	Lenten Supper (Tovey Circle) Lenten Worship	6:15 PM 7:00 PM
March 26	Wednesday	Lenten Supper (host needed) Lenten Worship	6:15 PM 7:00 PM
April 2	Wednesday	Lenten Supper (Lee-Freyschmidt Circle) Lenten Worship	6:15 PM 7:00 PM
April 9	Wednesday	Lenten Supper (Worship & Music) Lenten Worship	6:15 PM 7:00 PM
April 17	Maundy Thursday	Worship	7:00 PM
April 18	Good Friday	Tenebrae Worship Service	7:00 PM
April 20	Easter Sunday	Lumen Christi Service Festival Service of the Resurrection	8:00 AM 11:00 AM

Ecumenical Mid-Day Worship Opportunities

March 12	Wednesday (St. Michael's)	Community Worship Reverend Butler preaching	12:30 PM
March 19	Wednesday (French Huguenot)	Community Worship Reverend Zadig preaching	12:30 PM
March 26	Wednesday (First Baptist)	Community Worship Reverend Dr. Massie preaching	12:30 PM
April 2	Wednesday (St. John's)	Community Worship Reverend Bryant preaching	12:30 PM
April 9	Wednesday (First Scots)	Community Worship Reverend Blalock preaching	12:30 PM
April 18	Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	12:00 PM



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

On Saturday, February 8, 2014, the Vestry met for an off-site retreat that was then followed by the February Vestry Meeting. The Highlights of the Vestry Meeting follow.

- 1) The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer offered by Pastor Butler.
- 2) The January 2014 Minutes were approved as submitted.
- 3) The January Treasurer's Report was received as information.
- 4) Pastor Butler recommended Kelly and Cindy Donahue for membership by Affirmation of Baptism. Approved. Pastor also recommended that Charleston Day School be allowed to use the church social hall for their annual Valentine's Day Event. Approved.
- 5) The Christian Education Committee reported on the 75+ Birthday Celebration event held on January 26. The event was well-received, and plans will be made to celebrate this event again in 2015. The Committee Chairpersons noted that Sunday School attendance could be better and encouraged Vestry members not attending to make an effort to join a class. This invitation will be extended to the entire congregation. Larry Kreyling shared that the class he attends is averaging 17 persons and the lessons have been engaging and well-received.
- 6) The Evangelism Committee continues to offer the St. John's tee-shirts for sale and work on developing a brochure for placement in local hotels and restaurants.
- 7) The Property Committee reported on current maintenance items being handled. A possible plan and/or course of action was discussed for those occasions when the church might be closed for safety reasons. A policy will be developed.
- 8) The Social Ministry Committee shared information about current ministry opportunities and discussed the process they are developing for evaluating charitable contributions for 2014.
- 9) The Worship and Music Committee presented the 2014 Lenten Worship schedule. Services begin on Wednesday, March 5, and continue weekly for the five following weeks. Services will be held in the social hall with a light supper available before the worship service. The Vestry approved the recommendations that the Savannah Children's Choir be present on May 4, 2014, and the Porter Gaud Treblemakers be present on May 18, 2014.
- 10) The Lutheran Men's request to serve German Beer at the February Lutheran Men's meeting was approved.
- 11) The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2014.

Committee Meetings

March 3	Worship and Music Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
March 10	Social Ministry Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.
March 11	History Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m.
March 20	Vestry Officer's Meeting	5:30 p.m.
March 20	Vestry Meeting	6:30 p.m.



Memorial Gifts were given in loving memory of:

Pauline (Polly) Califf Martschink

Peter and Cudsie Creticos, Bill Lesemann, III

Paul Pelland

E. William Aylward, Deborah Bussey, Harriett Hutson, Bill Lesemann, III, Ann Taylor

Our parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Jeffers and Mr. and Mrs. John Gamble, Sr.

John and Caroline Gamble

Ladies Sewing Society

Silent Auction Bid Sheet

The Ladies Sewing Society is holding a Silent Auction for a framed, signed, and numbered print of Mary Ingalls Cote's "Sunday Morning" donated by Mrs. Cele West. Opening bid is \$100, with bids in increments of \$10.00. You may view and bid on this art work beginning March 16th thru Palm Sunday, April 13th, and it will be on display in the Parish Hall along with the bid sheet through April 13th at 12:30 p.m. Proceeds support the Ladies Sewing Society's mission of providing grants to LTSS Seminary Students. Please print contact information clearly so the winning bidder can be notified. Thank you!

MUSIC NOTES

Greetings!

What weather we've been having! I do not ever remember having to cancel Wednesday Chorale and Handbell rehearsals due to ice, and yet I had to do so twice in two weeks. Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be back to the great Charleston weather we all love!

I would like to share with you about the first excursion ever taken by the St. John Handbell Choir outside of our beautiful church. On Saturday, January 25, our handbell choir, consisting of Lynn Bean, Judy Butler, Sarah Christenberry, Martha Harken, Gayle Hilton, Randy Lesemann, Norma Luden, Cynthia McDonough, Penny McKeever, Rebecca Mercer, Chris Tant, and Kathryn Tolley, packed up our bells, mallets, music, music stands, foam pads, and table covers (quite an undertaking) and headed over the bridge to Hibben United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant to attend the 2nd Annual Lowcountry Handbell Workshop.

This workshop, sponsored by the community handbell ensemble Palmetto Bronze, consisted of a Friday night clinic for directors only, a full Saturday of massed ringing under the baton of noted handbell composer clinician Jason Krug of Indiana, topic breakout sessions, and a Saturday evening concert.

The Friday night directors-only beginning to the workshop consisted of a few local directors watching Jason Krug work with the Hibben ringers, learning particulars about effective handbell direction, and then conducting the Hibben Ringers while Jason offered critiques. I was the first to volunteer to conduct, and I enjoyed the chance to lead a different group though Jason's arrangement of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty." He videoed me on his iPad and then offered a few helpful critiques in what was a very enlightening exchange.

Saturday began bright and early. After taking a few minutes to get set up in our designated area among other area church and school handbell choirs, we began rehearsing four pieces for an evening concert. What a joyful sound it was to be in the midst of so many other ringers--nearly 150! Seeing how other groups arranged themselves and how they arranged their music was enlightening as well, as we picked up some ideas about how we might want to alter our own setup at St. John's. Many of us purchased some flashy tie-died handbell gloves as well!

The lunchtime hour bought some breakout sessions on a number handbell topics. While I attended a conductor roundtable, St. John's members attended sessions on 4-in-hand ringing, bell switching, articulation techniques and the like. All learned something valuable that was shared with the group at our next rehearsal.

The day culminated in an evening concert attended by Pastor Butler and a few St. John's members. We got to enjoy some performances by a few of the groups in attendance, including some truly amazing ringing by Palmetto Bronze, without question one of the finest handbell groups in the country. (Who knew Adele, Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Katy Perry songs could be played on handbells?) But surely the highlight was performing our four combined pieces--O Worship the King, Grazioso, The Lily of the Valley, and Praise to the Lord, the Almighty--under the baton of Jason Krug, with a combined 150 ringers and probably 3 times as many bells sounding together in beautiful harmony.

All in all, the Lowcountry Handbell Workshop was a wonderful experience we won't soon forget, and we thank the people of St. John's for making it possible! Please see the St. John's Facebook page for several pictures of our Handbell Choir at the workshop.

I look forward to seeing you at our Wednesday night Lenten services!

In music,

Todd

Music quotation of the month:

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy." -Beethoven

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 January 31, 2014.

Contributions received	\$ 20,346
Contributions per budget	<u>18,589</u>
Receipts over (under) budget	\$ 1,757



- March 1 Ashley Gosnell
- March 2 Jackie Andersen
- March 3 Scott Counts
Elaine Ehmann
Elizabeth Marchant
- March 4 Sara Jane Foltz
John Lowe
- March 5 Jim Lawton
- March 8 Diane Bean
- March 9 Lena Doscher
Gregory Pickard
- March 13 Barbara Tamsberg
Cas Siegling
- March 16 Morgan Fancher
Ella Grace Sines Thomasson
- March 18 Glen Hoffman
- March 19 Sarah Christenberry
John Evans
Debbie Sellars
- March 20 Jack M. Doscher
Joanne Stukes
- March 21 Martha Harken
- March 22 Doris Gerard
Matthew Jordan
- March 23 Rebecca Antley
- March 24 Jared Snell
- March 26 Grayce Osgood
- March 28 Jenny Edwards
Joel Rigter
- March 29 Caitlin Tuggle
- March 30 Haagen Williams
Tom Springer
Jason Stuber
- March 31 Karen Christenberry

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, 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, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIAL FUNDS POLICY

PURPOSE OF POLICY: The policies specified herein will be used to administer and memorial gifts to accomplish the following objectives:

- Memorials are administered and used, to the extent feasible, as intended by the donor.
 - Those persons for whom memorials are created are remembered in a visible way in the church.
- Memorials are encouraged and are used to the greatest benefit for the church and its members.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF MEMORIALS: The church's policy is to encourage memorials as a way to memorialize church members and friends and as means of supporting church programs beyond the operating budget. As policy, memorials received shall not be used for any part of the general operating needs of the congregation. The Vestry should ensure that the congregation is advised annually of the church's encouragement of and policy for memorials. Accordingly, a copy of this policy will be published annually in The Herald.

RECEIPT AND HANDLING OF MEMORIAL GIFTS: The Office Manager, Treasurer and Finance Committee are responsible for accomplishing the objectives of this policy through its handling of memorial gifts. They shall:

- Ensure that the church responds in writing to each memorial gift.
- Maintain a recording of the memorial in the church's ACS database.
- Notify the family of the deceased or honored to inform them of the contribution to the account.
- For gifts greater than \$200, advise the Vestry if, within one month of receipt of a memorial gift, the family of the deceased or honoree states a wish for the gift to be used for a specific purpose. The Vestry will have the discretion to evaluate the reasonableness of the family's request and its compatibility with the Church's values and activities, and will decide whether to agree to the request.
- Attempt to identify the most appropriate use for the assets in the memorial if such uses are not fully addressed in the wishes of the family or honoree. These planned uses are not required and may be changed by the Vestry in its judgment.
- However, memorial gifts shall not be viewed as a means for the church to balance its cash flows or to pay routine administrative expenses such as utility bills or any other aspect of the annual operating budget. The Finance Committee and the Vestry must be strict guardians of memorial assets to ensure the objectives of the policy are met.
- Use of the Memorial Funds is at the discretion and direction of the Vestry. The Vestry shall review the memorial funds on at least an annual basis.

MEMORIAL FUNDS MANAGEMENT: Memorial gifts should be spent or designated for a specific purpose within one year of receipt when reasonable. After two years all memorial balances must be designated by Vestry's suggestion. The Treasurer maintains a chart of accounts to document amounts of gifts and remaining funds in each. While each gift is its own account for internal church record-keeping purposes, all memorial gifts physically reside in one bank account.

VISIBILITY OF MEMORIALS: To ensure memorials appropriately honor the donor and the person in whose name each memorial is made, memorial gifts will be entered into the church's Memorial Book. Additionally, memorial gifts will be mentioned in the monthly edition of The Herald. For large memorials, or for other cases in which the Finance Committee believes additional recognition is needed, the Finance Committee may make additional recommendations to the Vestry.

REVISIONS TO THIS POLICY: The provisions of this policy may be revised or amended from time to time by the Vestry. Any amendment or revision shall not affect memorials made prior to such change.

Approved 5/21/09