



March 2009

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Off the top of my head, from the bottom of my heart

Heart By-Pass

This article will reach you in the midst of the season of Lent. Lent is a time of self-examination, and the more I reflect on this discipline, the more I come to realize that I have not nurtured the discipline of self-examination within my own life, nor do I see it exercised faithfully among my fellow Christians. I am reminded of the strangely humorous counsel given to me by a wise Christian leader during a time in my life of frantic and frazzled behavior. He turned to me and said, "Don't just do something. Sit there!" "Sitting there" is very difficult for us. Our society tells us to do this, do that, do the other. As a result, our hearts are left untended, our "inner life" goes neglected. Like any garden or seed-bed, the "weeds" of this world quickly come up and choke out that which was intended to bear fruit, and we wonder why, though we strive so hard, our lives are bereft of that deep and abiding fruit of godliness and peace.

The human heart – a metaphor for the center of our intellect, emotions, and will – is a critical component in the Christian life, and the proper focus of our spiritual development.

Scripture teaches us that God knows the secrets of our hearts (Psalm 44:21), that a "merry heart" produces true happiness (Proverbs 15:13), that, left without God's touch of grace, the heart remains deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9), and that the messianic promise of the prophets has to do with a "new heart" (Ezekiel 36:26). Jesus blessed those who were "pure in heart" (Matthew 5:8), and teaches us that fulfilling the Law has, in part, to do with loving God with our "whole heart" (Matthew 22:37), while Paul teaches us that by believing "with the heart" that God raised Jesus from the dead constitutes our salvation (Romans 10:9). These are but a smattering of texts that teach us the constant theme that the Christian Faith is a "heart-faith" – one that requires a prayerful examination of one's heart.

Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury and English reformer and martyr, understood this with great alacrity. He begins the act of public worship with the "collect for purity," which immediately establishes our need to give attention to our hearts: "Almighty God, to you all hearts are open... cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit...." When the Decalogue is read, the closing petition is for God to "write all these laws in our hearts...." The Liturgy of the Table begins with the "sursum corda" – "Lift up your hearts." The primary act of worship in the context of the Eucharist is the offering up of our hearts to God. They may be joyful hearts, slothful hearts, distracted hearts, or broken hearts, but they are offered to God in worship. When receiving the sacramental Body of our Lord, we are encouraged (through the longer version of the words of presentation) to "feed on him in you heart by faith, with thanksgiving." One of the most common forms of the blessing comes from Philippians, where God is asked to 'keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.'

As you continue your Lenten disciplines, you may find them a bit laborious, somewhat dry, and perhaps lacking in practical benefits. Ask yourself, "Where is my heart?" If your Lenten disciplines have not included an honest and deliberate examination of your heart, the end result may very well be less than you had hoped for. In your recipe for a life of Lenten self-examination, don't by-pass your heart. Give it the attention it deserves – give it the attention God requires – and you will find a fruitful Lent before you.

— Marc Robertson

Spring Ahead!

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward Saturday, March 7 so that we'll see you right on time Sunday, March 8!



Newsletter Deadline

Just a reminder that the April newsletter deadline is Friday, March 20 by 12 Noon. Thanks!

Affiliate of the American Anglican Council and Associate of the Anglican Communion Network.

# Founders' Day 2009



*Getting to work on those oysters!*



*The crowd enjoys the beautiful day in Gordonston Park!*



*Katie Remick and Nancy Solana*



*Susan White and Claudia Thomas*



*Still working on the oysters!*



*Betty Kaynor, Katherine Albert and Nancy Solana*

## The Couples Workshop

A focus on marriage for married and engaged couples

April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
(Friday Evening & Saturday)  
At Christ Church  
Savannah, Georgia



Here is a chance to build and strengthen your relationship and discover practical ways of improving the quality of your time together. We will explore positive ways of communicating, listening and being listened to, opening ourselves to each other, dealing with all parts of a couple relationship, and in the process developing our understanding and acceptance of each other....All of this without any public sharing.

It's an opportunity to look at marriage as a lifetime of relationship building & working together to create a deepening love for one another. The workshop is from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Cost is \$50 per couple.

Contact Furman or Eden Combes at 912-898-8344 for more information or to be mailed a registration form. You can also contact Furman or Eden at [furmancombes@comcast.net](mailto:furmancombes@comcast.net) or John or Liz Albert at 912-897-5908 or their email at [jlbert45@comcast.net](mailto:jlbert45@comcast.net)

## Tour of Homes Thanks Christ Church

On the eve of the Tour of Homes, we'd like to take this moment to thank the members of Christ Church! Thank you for your involvement, support, sponsorship, for opening your homes and gardens, for purchasing tickets and your encouragement. We are looking forward to a wonderful event, March 26 – 29, with beautiful weather, thank you for specifically praying for this.

If you've not yet purchased your tickets, give us a call (912) 234-8054 or visit us online, [www.savannahtourofhomes.org](http://www.savannahtourofhomes.org).



## Lily Mehl's Baptism-

February 15, 2009 in Uganda



Jason's dad, Ian and Denise (Louise's sister), Lily, Stephen Noll, Louise, Jason, Jason's mom

Dear Christ Church Family,

Sorry it has been so long since we have been in touch. I will write you soon and give you a proper update.

In the mean time I just wanted to tell you that Lily got baptized today. We still wish that you could have done it, Marc, but it seems it was not to be when you were here. Steve Noll did a great job in your place - and the service was lovely. Lily loved it - and gave the congregation some big laughs. When Steve did the cross on her forehead with the water and said she was sealed with the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever - she did that gesture where she slaps her hand over her mouth and acts all surprised and delighted! She was cute, and well behaved - which was a great relief to us all!

Anyway - we were thinking of you all - even though you weren't here.....probably because you weren't here. We miss our church family today - but it felt better having the Dennisons here. That made me feel a bit closer to Christ Church today!

I will be in touch soon.

Blessings,  
Louise

*Jason and Louise Mehl are Christ Church supported missionaries serving in Uganda.*

## Upcoming Baptisms:

Baptisms will be offered Saturday, April 11 at 8 p.m. at the Easter Vigil. If you are interested in being baptized or having your child(ren) baptized please contact the church office at 232-4131 no later than March 16.

# Christ Church Children's Ministry

## Nursery Needs

“Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?  
[People respond] *We will.*”

–baptismal liturgy from *The Book of Common Prayer*

On Sunday, February 1, there were 24 children in the nursery!!! What a nice problem to have, right? Well, this is the time when our baptismal liturgy is put into practice and we have the opportunity to serve as the body of Christ. Because we are down to only one nursery worker and our families are growing, I am in need of about 8 additional **volunteers in the Infant Nursery**. If you love babies and could commit to volunteer once or twice per quarter, the children of our church need you! This commitment would be during the 10:30 service to rock, feed, or play with the youngest ones in our church. You will not have to chase after toddlers and you will not have to change diapers if you don't want to. Miss Liz, our paid nursery worker, is also in this nursery on Sunday mornings, but we need to have at least one more person to help in this room each week. If you'd prefer to help during Sunday School or during special church events, there is a need there as well. If you are willing to help, please contact me, Meg Welch, at the church office.

I am also in need of **volunteers for Palm Sunday and Easter**. As you can imagine, not many people are excited to miss these special services, so if you go to the 8:00 service and would be willing to volunteer on either of these Sundays that would be greatly appreciated. I would expect many of the toddlers to go to the service with their parents. I hope to have the nursery open until the offertory on Easter Sunday, at which time parents will be asked to pick up their children to participate with the congregation during communion.

Parents...Please send your child with a **labeled sippy cup** or a cup with a lid for the older kids (empty or full) when they come to the nursery. We have Crystal Light that we will gladly serve them, but this will help prevent sticky spills. Thank you!

## Save the Date

Mark your calendars for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11 in Reynolds Square. We'll have a pot-luck breakfast. More details to follow.

## Sunday School

Changes... When you drop your kids off for Sunday School, please *sign them in* on the blue sign-in sheet and *make note of your location* during Sunday School, should there be some kind of emergency (sickness, etc.). There is one sheet per class. I'm going to be in the stairwell landing to try to ease the traffic flow and to be present for visitors. When you pick them up, you'll *initial* this same sheet. My hope is that these efforts will ensure a safe environment for your children.

A Word of Thanks...“I am so thankful for all of the teachers that give their time to teach Sunday School! This is such a great time of fellowship and of learning about Jesus. I also love that my children and their teachers are getting to know each other, like a family should. Last Sunday night I asked Matthew (5 years old) what Mr. and Mrs. Buss had taught that morning in Sunday School — he told me, in great detail, with arm motions, how Jesus calmed the storm!”

–Sally Roth, mother of Matthew, age 5.

## March Memory Verse

1 Timothy 2: 5-6a

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all

Great job to all the kids who memorized February's memory verse! We had a record number of kids to recite it!

\*Just a reminder, if your child knows the month's memory verse, they need to say it to me when you sign them in at the *beginning* of Sunday School.

— Meg Welch, Children's Ministries Coordinator



*Bible Based Family Focused Mission Minded*

# MARCH 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8 AM Worship (C) 9 AM 1st Sunday Blast (PH). 10:30 AM Worship (C) 5 PM Youth Group 9 PM Compline	<b>2</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER) 6:30 PM Bells of Christ Church (C)	<b>3</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER)	<b>4</b> 12 PM Worship (C) 1 PM Brown Bag (ER) 4:30 PM Chorists (Chr Rm) 6 PM Choir Dinner (U) 7 PM Parish Choir Reh (Chr Rm)	<b>5</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER)	<b>6</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> 8 AM Worship (C) 9 AM Sunday School (PH). 10:30 AM Worship (C) 12 PM Parish Forum (C) 5 PM Youth Group	<b>9</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER) 6:30 PM Bells of Christ Church (C)	<b>10</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER)	<b>11</b> 12 PM Worship (C) 12:30 TOH Board Mtg (CF) 1 PM Brown Bag (ER) 4:30 PM Chorists (Chr Rm) 6 PM Choir Dinner (U) 7 PM Parish Choir Reh (Chr Rm)	<b>12</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER)	<b>13</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER)	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8 AM Worship (C) 9 AM Sunday School (PH). 10:30 AM Worship (C) 5 PM Youth Group 9 PM Compline	<b>16</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER) 6:30 PM Bells of Christ Church (C) 7 PM St. Patrick's Day Youth Lock-in (L)	<b>17</b> <i>St. Patrick's Day Parade— Office Closed</i>	<b>18</b> 12 PM Worship (C) 1 PM Brown Bag (ER) 4:30 PM Chorists (Chr Rm) 6 PM Choir Dinner (U) 7 PM Parish Choir Reh (Chr Rm)	<b>19</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER) 6 PM Finance Cmte (CF) 8:01 PM Adorations (C)	<b>20</b> <b>12 PM Columns Deadline</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER)	<b>21</b> 10AM Schubert Dress Rehearsal
<b>22</b> <i>Schubert's Mass in G</i> 8 AM Worship (C) 9 AM Sunday School (PH). 10:30 AM Worship (C) 5 PM Youth Group 9 PM Compline	<b>23</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (Conf Rm) 6:30 PM Bells of Christ Church (C)	<b>24</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (Conf Room) 6 PM Vestry Meeting (U)	<b>25</b> 12 PM Worship (C) 1 PM Brown Bag (Conf Room) 4:30 PM Chorists (Chr Rm) 6 PM Choir Dinner (U) 7 PM Parish Choir Reh (Chr Rm)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12:45 PM Savannah Music Festival Organ Recital (C)	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8 AM Worship (C) 9 AM Sunday School (PH). 10:30 AM Worship (C) 5 PM Youth Group 9 PM Compline	<b>30</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER) 4:30 PM Worship Cmte (CF) 6:30 PM Bells of Christ Church (C)	<b>31</b> 1 PM Brown Bag (ER)	<i>Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens</i> →			

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## **2009 VESTRY**

Carol Rogers Smith, Senior Warden  
Mike Lee, Junior Warden, Treasurer  
Neil Creasy, Chancellor  
Janet Stevenson, Clerk of the Vestry

Sam Adams  
John Albert  
Tom Cooper  
Gordon Denney  
Cindy Jones  
Lance Levens  
Murray Marshall  
Clay Ratterree  
David Reeves  
Nancy Solana  
Don White

## **STAFF**

The Right Reverend John Guernsey, Bishop  
The Right Reverend Charles Obaikol, Bishop

### **CLERGY**

The Reverend Marcus B. Robertson, Rector  
The Reverend Layne C. Hansen, Assistant Rector  
The Reverend Gregory J. Malley, Deacon  
The Reverend Sally Lufburrow, Deacon

### **PROGRAM STAFF**

Joey Phillips, Youth Minister  
Mark K. Williams, Parish Musician  
Cindy Marshall, Assistant Parish Musician  
Meg Welch, Children's Ministries Coordinator

### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Joan Malley, Parish Administrator  
Stephanie Lynch, Communications  
Becky Hughes, Clergy Assistant

### **MAINTENANCE STAFF**

Jesse Dillard, Sexton

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