



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL NEWS

August 2015

Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist / Morning Prayer
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (with music)
5:45 p.m. Holy Eucharist
(Alternating Wednesdays)

St. John's Episcopal Church is a diverse, welcoming Christian family. We are committed to using our God-given talents to continually grow and improve in our desire to worship, spread God's love, and minister throughout our communities.

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



I want to share with you an excerpt from *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, on the value of grace.

Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the

forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing....

Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth, the love of God taught as the Christian 'conception' of God. An intellectual assent to that idea is held to be of itself sufficient to secure remission of sins.... In such a Church the world finds a cheap covering for its sins; no contrition is required, still less any real desire to be delivered from sin. Cheap grace therefore amounts to a denial of the living Word of God, in fact, a denial of the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Grace alone does everything they say, and so everything can remain as it was before. 'All for sin could not atone.' Well, then, let the Christian live like the rest of the world, let him model himself on the world's standards in every sphere of life, and not presumptuously aspire to live a different life under grace from his old life under sin....

Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy, for which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the

(Continued on Page 2)

Rector

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832-444-8153

Vestry

Mary Katherine
Blackburn
(Senior Warden)

Mike Strausser
(Junior Warden)

David Cassard
(Cemetery Warden)

Tucker Handley
(Clerk)

Jessica Guidry
Mickey Guillory
Sue Herpel
Gloria Hunter
Fred Sollars

Parish Treasurer

Sue Herpel

ECW President

Betty Duplantis

Organist

LaDonna Alexander

Secretary

Chris Robichaux

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only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

Costly grace is the sanctuary of God; it has to be protected from the world, and not thrown to the dogs. It is therefore the living word, the Word of God, which he speaks as it pleases him. Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus. It comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. Grace is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

On two separate occasions Peter received the call, "Follow me." It was the first and last word Jesus spoke to his disciple (Mark 1.17; John 21.22). A whole life lies between these two calls. The first occasion was by the lake of Gennesareth, when Peter left his nets and his craft and followed Jesus at his word. The second occasion is when the Risen Lord finds him back again at his old trade. Once again it is by the lake of Gennesareth, and once again the call is: "Follow me." Between the two calls lay a whole life of discipleship in the following of Christ. Half-way between them comes Peter's confession, when he acknowledged Jesus as the Christ of God....

This grace was certainly not self-bestowed. It was the grace of Christ himself, now prevailing upon the disciple to leave all and follow him, now working in him that confession which to the world must sound like the ultimate blasphemy, now inviting Peter to the supreme fellowship of martyrdom for the Lord he had denied, and thereby forgiving him all his sins. In the life of Peter grace and discipleship are inseparable. He had received the grace which costs.



Pastoral and Communion Visits to Parishioners

Please contact the office at stjohnoffice@bellsouth.net or 985-447-2910 to give Fr. Doug contact information to schedule a pastoral visit to homebound members of St. John's. We also schedule Communion visits on Sundays. All visits can be scheduled through the office Tuesday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon, or you can leave a message on the phone if you call outside of office hours. The email and telephone messages are checked daily.

Update on the Historic St. John's Cemetery

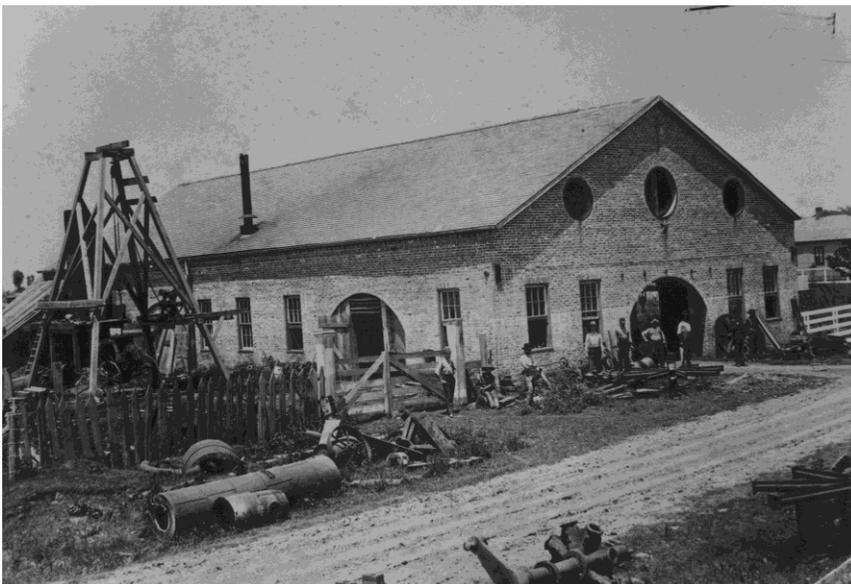
By David Plater

If you have not taken a stroll in our Cemetery lately, I hope you will do so soon. You will be pleased to see so many former area residents interred here receiving overdue recognition with tasteful, informative signage.

The next St. John's Historic Cemetery newsletter will be published in September. The issue will contain an article about the Szush family, some of whom are buried in our churchyard cemetery. The original family member, John Szush, migrated from Hungary to the United States as a child in the 1890's and moved to Thibodaux around 1920. He married Olive Singleton, of Thibodaux, and began work at and ultimately owned the West End Foundry on today's LA 308. Only a small shed of the once-thriving foundry and machine shop remains. The foundry was originally established in the 1870's by Thomas Jeffries, a native of England, who also is buried here.

The Historic Cemetery contains many other names of people associated over the years with Thibodaux foundry manufacturing establishments – Larkin, Keefe, and Ragan, among them. From its founding until today, the community has provided this essential service to area sugar mills and boat businesses.

The Cemetery Association works to maintain and preserve the cemetery, including restoration work on the many beautiful tombs. The annual Art at St. John's event helps raise funds and awareness of the Cemetery in the community. Parishioners who are members of the St. John's Historic Cemetery Association receive the semi-annual newsletters. See Alice Strausser for membership forms.



The old Jeffries Foundry, also known as the West End Foundry, owned by John Szush in the 1920's or 30's. This photograph, circa 1890, is from the William Littlejohn Martin collection at the Archives, Ellender Memorial Library, Nicholls State University.

St. John's Calendar

Call or email the office
to schedule activities at the church or parish hall.
985-447-2910 or stjohndoffice@bellsouth.net

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 26 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality	27 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	28 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	29 5:45p Evening Service	30 7p AA	31	August 1 11-5 Private Event-Hall 5p GRACE LUTHERAN
2 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality	3 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	4 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	5 6:30p Choir Practice	6 7p AA	7	8 5p GRACE LUTHERAN
9 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality 11:30: ECW Mtg	10 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	11 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	12 5:45p Evening Service 6:30p Choir Practice	13 7p AA	14	15 5p GRACE LUTHERAN
16 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality VESTRY AGENDA DUE	17 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	18 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	19 6:30p Choir Practice	20 6p VESTRY MTG 6:30 TaWaSi 7p AA	21	22 Horgan Hall Reserved (private party) 5p GRACE LUTHERAN
23 8a Eucharist 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Eucharist 11:30 Hospitality	24 Vestry Newsletter Article Due 6p AA subgroup 7p CODA	25 6:30p Bible Study 7p AA	26 5:45p Evening Service 6:30p Choir Practice	27 7p AA	28	29 5p GRACE LUTHERAN

Fr. Doug's Thibodaux Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am to 4pm.
Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, from 9am to noon.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marty Clement (8/4)
Lilly Breeding (8/4)
Sue Herpel (8/5)
Lance Duplantis, Sr. (8/11)
Gilbert Gonzalez, Sr. (8/12)
Alric Mejia (8/16)
Marie Chauvin (8/18)
Eleanor Pugh (8/18)
Brayden Herpel (8/25)
Heidi Breeding (8/29)
Jessica Guidry (8/29)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



David & Fran Middleton (8/14)
Charles & Peachy Melancon (8/19)

Weekly Meetings

Choir

Join us for choir practice on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Contact LaDonna Alexander at ladonna_alexande@bellsouth.net, or tel. 985-803-0652, for more information.

Bible Study

All are welcome to join Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Contact Alice Strausser for details and location.

AA Infinity Group

Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the parish hall Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00pm.

CODA

Co-Dependents Anonymous meetings are on Monday evenings at 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the parish hall. For more information, call 985-447-8159 or 985-526-8565 or visit www.coda.org.

Wednesday services

Wednesday evening Holy Eucharist services began in May, and alternate between Trinity and St. John's. The schedule for services during the month of August is listed here, and is included in the weekly bulletin and on the calendar at our website.

Wednesday Service schedule

July 29 St. John's 5:45 pm
August 5 Trinity 6:00 pm
August 12 St. John's 5:45 pm
August 26 St. John's 5:45pm
September 2 Trinity 6:00 pm

Pastoral Care While Fr. Doug is Away

Fr. Doug will be on vacation from August 15 through August 22, 2015.

In the event of a pastoral emergency, and you are in need of a priest while Fr. Doug is out of town, please call the office (985-447-2910) or Senior Warden Mary Katherine Blackburn (985-859-6675).

Paula D'Arcy- Listening to Your Life

October 16-18, 2015

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

Paula D'Arcy - Listening To Your Life

Learning to listen and see with the eyes of the heart how the thread of Divine love moves in everything, summoning us to live with a new intention.

When: October 16-18, 2015

**Where: Solomon Episcopal Conference Center
Loranger, LA**

**Cost: Single Occupancy Room: \$300; two nights / six meals
Double Occupancy Room: \$250; two nights / six meals
Saturday Only: \$80; lunch only**

**Registration Opens: Friday October 16th, 2015 from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Dinner : 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Paula's 1st Presentation: Will begin shortly after dinner

**Questions: Contact The Rev. Canon John Kellogg
jkkellogg@edola.org (504) 895-6634**



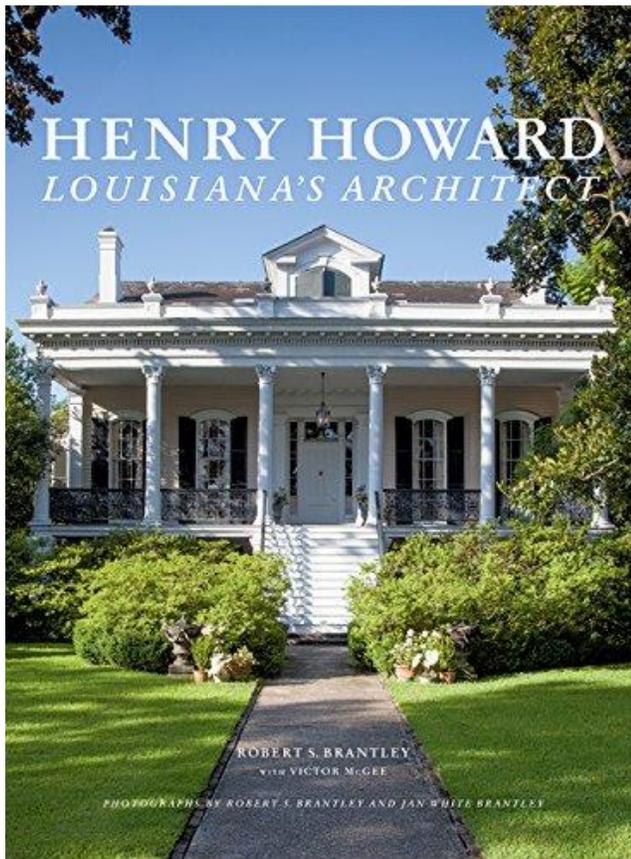
Carol Britt in Concert in New Orleans

Dr. Carol Britt will present an organ recital on the newly restored c.1875 Jardine & Sons organ at St. Joseph's Church, 1802 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, at 3:00 p.m. next Sunday, August 2, 2015. St. Joseph's Church is the largest church building in New Orleans. Renovations were recently completed following extensive damage by Katrina. This will be the first recital on this historic organ since Katrina. This organ was built by the same builder that made the historic organ in Christ Episcopal Church in Napoleonville.

Contact LaDonna Alexander if you are interested in carpooling.

A Blessing for the New School Year

Join us Sunday, August 2, for a blessing for the beginning of the school year at the 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. service with Fr. Doug. All students, teachers, and others who work in education are invited to come forward for the blessing.



In the recent publication, *Henry Howard, Louisiana's Architect*, by Robert S. Brantley, there is quite nice coverage of St. John's, especially on pp. 138-141 and 291. The New Orleans-based architect was busy in the country parishes in the 1840's and 1850's. In addition to the renovations of St. John's in 1856, he designed the original St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Houma (1857), the Lafourche Parish Jail (1858) and Courthouse (1859) in Thibodaux, and Nottoway (1858) in White Castle. Also familiar to us is nearby Madewood (1846), designed for Thomas Pugh. Many original Howard structures remain, most of them in New Orleans.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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