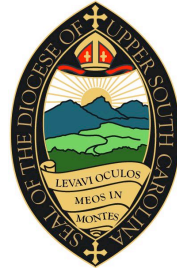


THE GRAPEVINE



*God Willing
and
The People of God Consenting
The Right Reverend W. Andrew Waldo,
Bishop of Upper South Carolina
will ordain*

Charles Jeremy Smith

*to the Sacred Order of Priests
in Christ's One Holy Catholic
and Apostolic Church
on Saturday, the Fourteenth of January
in the year of Our Lord
Two Thousand and Twelve
at eleven o'clock in the morning*

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
101 St. Matthew's Lane
Spartanburg, South Carolina*

*Your prayers and
presence are requested*

Reception following

*Clergy: cassock
surplice
red stole*

The Curate's Corner: An Exploration of Our Faith

Here are a couple of questions posed by a curious Christian. Be sure to think of your own tough questions and try to stump the Curate. Please submit any and all questions to Fr. Charles at, fathercharles@stmattsepiscopal.com.

Terry Charette poses an interesting question about one of our Advent practices. **What is the significance of the blue hangings and vestments used during Advent? Why do we use blue instead of purple?**

To respond to this question a brief discussion of liturgical colors is helpful. For each day of the Church Year a color is assigned and used in liturgical observances. The color assigned to each day is usually dictated by the season. The color appointed for each season was decided, by the church, based upon the symbolic meaning attached to each color. The colors are usually employed in this fashion:

Advent: Purple
Christmas: White
Ordinary Time: Green
Lent: Purple
Holy Week: Red
Easter: White
Pentecost: Red

Traditionally purple has been used for Advent, as it is for Lent, because these are penitential seasons. Purple reminds us of the need for repentance and a return to the Lord. However, the cathedral in Salisbury, England began the practice of using blue hangings and vestments during Advent and that tradition continues today. The color blue is linked to the Blessed Virgin Mary and like Mary we too are to be waiting in joyous expectation for the coming of our Lord during the season of Advent.

Juanita Thaxton ponders, **“What exactly is a Christian apologist?”**

Very simply put a “Christian apologist” is one who makes an apology for Christianity. At first glance it would seem that we would not really want to be considered Christian apologists because there is nothing wrong with Christianity and no apology is required. While there is nothing that is wrong with Christianity an “apology” is not always a request for forgiveness for a wrong.

The word “apology” means “a formal justification [or] defense” (www.m-w.com). It is this first meaning of apology that is drawn to mind when speaking of a Christian apologist. Thus, a Christian apologist is one who makes a case for the Christian faith and we would all be well served to do that.

Coat and Blanket Giveaway

Louise Wickersheim

Many thanks to the family of St. Matthew's for donating coats and blankets to those who are less fortunate. Thank you to Alex Pinto for bringing coats to us that were collected at her high school. Also a big thank you to those who helped at both giveaways: LouAnn, Norman, Emily, Marlys, Ethel and her husband, Roy, Shirley, and Denise Cannon. This year we gave away a total of 211 coats, 131 blankets, 36 hats and 5 mitten sets (all made with love from our sit and stitch group). The coats left over were donated to Church builders for them to donate to those in need.

01/01/2012	No EYC Event
01/08/2012	EYC 5-7
01/15/2012	EYC 5-7
01/20-22/2012	EYC Ski Trip to Winterplace no Sunday evening EYC Event. Note: We will meet at the church after school and depart for Winterplace. An exact time will be announced closer to the trip.
01/29/2012	EYC 5-7

Food Pantry Update for November 2011**Norman Tyler**

Food from Second Harvest	5,486 lbs.
Paper goods from Gifts in Kind	5 carloads
Food from St. Christopher's	25 cases
Food from St. Matthew's	Approx. 1,000 lbs

We served 393 households:

- 526 - 18 & under
- 602 - 19-64
- 117 - 65 & up

We had approximately 20-22 volunteers each week. Some of us give 1-2 hours a week, some a lot more. We need and appreciate all who volunteer. Over the past 3 years the Food Pantry has provided food for approximately 2,800 families.

If you can help please come. You will be very happy you did.

Merry Widows**Louise Tower**

Our gratitude for all who bought our small boxes of candy. A check to the Food Pantry for slightly over \$300.00 - it will certainly stack the shelves. For the widows who created those boxes from your old Christmas Cards, purchased the candy, or sat at the table in the foyer heartfelt thanks.

We'll meet Tuesday, Jan. 10th, to reorganize the supplies, discuss our next project and go to Barnes & Noble for coffee.

Our regular luncheon date has been moved ahead to Sat., Jan. 21st, at the City Range at noon. Invite a friend (or not). Father Charles will be ordained Jan. 14 at 11am – reception following. We wouldn't miss that great moment for Charles and Chrissy and our family St. Matthew's.

Happy New Year!

So, I'm writing this the weekend of the 4th Sunday of Advent, so a lot of what I'll be talking about is speculation. But first, let's backtrack a bit, so Thanksgiving!

Was a lot of fun- and yet didn't have the same feeling that I normally get from Thanksgiving. The food... oh the food, was simple yet amazing. The Brothers made the meal and trust me they're not slouches when it comes to food. The deserts were simple yet also very good. We had a lot of people over for Thanksgiving, the refectory was made up, with tablecloths, centerpieces, and candles; we even had place cards, very fancy.

First Advent was a lot of fun for me, in-particular, I got to be crucifer, that was only the second time I have processed since I've been here, the first was way back at the Service of Thanksgiving in September. The cross is huge, probably 6 or 7 feet tall, at least, so when I carried it, it was very tall. The other interesting part about being crucifer here is that there are gates and doorways in the chapel that one has to go through. With a bit of practice the night before, and some work on distancing myself from the thureffer, which we practiced in the morning, everything went off without a hitch. One of the Brothers was funny the other day, he said that I had done such a good job that they hired me to do it again. I'm going to be Crucifer on Christmas Eve, I'm excited.

So on Friday the 16th, we started doing the 'Oh Antiphons' at Evening Prayer. The first was Oh Wisdom, the one we did Saturday night was Adonai, and the one we did Sunday was Root of Jesse. There are 7 or 8 of them and they go until Christmas Eve. The different words are words we use instead of Jesus, I think.

So, I've decided when I'm coming home, it's going to be the week of the 27th to the 5th of March. The 11th is my birthday and I'd like to be here to celebrate it with the community, and I have to be here for Holy Week and Easter, and it just felt too busy the couple weeks after my birthday to be able to come home, and I'm thinking of visiting some family that live in New Jersey in April- once the weather's better for traveling around, I just hope the weather's ok for traveling in late February. Ash Wednesday is February 22, so I will have gotten an idea of what the routine is like during Lent, and then I can come home, and have a break from it, and not feel bad about it either!

So, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, I have to say, it's nice to not be surrounded by all the hubbub of the Holiday Season here at the monastery. The only decorating that's been done is that the Advent wreath is in the chapel, aside from that, you wouldn't know it is a week till Christmas- weird. I heard that we're going to decorate on Christmas Eve. According to the Brothers, the 12 Days of Christmas is absolutely amazing, with lots of fattening food and lots of fun, one of them was joking the other day that one of the good things about having us interns around is that they can foist all of it onto us. Personally, I'm a bit abstemious when it comes to sweet stuff, but I know one intern in particular won't have a problem with that, the boy can eat like a horse and doesn't gain weight, totally unfair!

Our Christmas Eve service is going to be pretty cool, lots of smells and bells, and I found out the other day that I get to be the acolyte for the Feast of Holy Innocence, on the 30th. To be an acolyte here means to be the lector, the book holder, assist in setting the table and to also be one of Chalice bearers. So there's a lot to learn. I'm a little nervous but the Brother who asked me if I'd like to do it said that he had confidence that I could do it, which means a lot.

So, I think that's about it from me.

Nancy VanderBrink

Prime Timers

Norman Tyler

On Thurs., Nov. 17th, a bunch of us met at Apollos for our regular monthly get together. We had a great crowd. If you missed this one, you missed a very good one. As usual we talked about our health and the current economic situation. We, as a group, are very optimistic.

After a bit, it was time to order and this went like clock work. Before we knew it our food was served and we all joined hands and Roy said the blessing. We all dug in – very good food.

The talk turned to the current vestry and the 2012 vestry. The new vestry will have a tough time topping this year... Father Charles, bank sale, new roof, etc. God's help will guide St. Matthews, as in the past, in the right direction.

This month we will meet on January 19th at Apollo's at noon.

Serving this month at 9:00 am

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Vested Eucharistic Minister	Kathy Amick	Susan Pretulak	K. C. Price	Susan Pretulak	Debbie Rutledge
Eucharistic Minister	Debbie Rutledge	Kathy Amick	David Rutledge	Kathy Amick	Ray Cannon
Lessons	Marie Tewkesbury	Debbie Rutledge	Angie Painter	K. C. Price	Hazel Cannon
Prayers	Angie Painter	David Rutledge	Carol Wishard	John Richardson	Marie Tewkesbury
Crucifer	Erler Meyer	Brittany Moore	Erler Meyer	Brittany Moore	Erler Meyer
Torch Bearers Alternate	Lynda Amick Will Amick Rini or Zani Ewing	Harrison Moore Dana Cumbee Will Amick	Zani Ewing Rini Ewing Lynda Amick	Harrison Moore Dana Cumbee Will Amick	Lynda Amick Will Amick Rini or Zani Ewing
Eucharistic Visitor	Carol Wishard Chuck Frank	Debbie Rutledge David Rutledge	Mike Georgion Carol Wishard	Debbie Rutledge David Rutledge	Chuck Frank Carol Wishard
Greeters	Mike & Kathy Wood	Rick & Brenda Lenderman	Tom & Ena Stapleton	Don Davis Norman Tyler	Joyce Moesley
Ushers	Shep Miller Zach Pretulak	Will Boyd Robin File	Dewey Halford Aaron Pretulak	Ron Coleman Jeff Jennings	Ron Coleman Jeff Jennings
Altar Flowers	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Nursery Vol.	Open	Nichols	White	Price	White
Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour	Christian Formation	TBA	TBA	TBA
Wed. Evening Prayer Officiates	January 4 Debbie Rutledge	January 11 Erler Meyer	January 18 Andy Gmitter	January 25 Debbie Rutledge	
Network of Care	David Rutledge				
Vestry of the Month	Louise Wickersheim				

Serving this month at 11:15 am

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Vested Eucharistic Minister	Michelle Pierce	Lynn Kerfoot	Lynn Kerfoot	Michelle Pierce	Louise Rambo
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Margaret Richards	Lori Winkles	Carol Wishard	Mary Margaret Richards	Mary Margaret Richards
Lessons	Sally Galbraith	Angie Painter	John Richardson	Carol Wishard	Michelle Pierce
Prayers	Lori Winkles	Jean Wales	Sally Galbraith	Louise Rambo	Carol Wishard
Crucifer	Luke Turner	Allison Fowler	Luke Turner	Hank Lovelace	Allison Fowler
Torch Bearer Torch Bearer Alternate Special Duty	Josh Whitworth Olivia Whitworth Elias or Sami Ewing Open	Elias Ewing Sami Ewing Josh Whitworth Jocie Ewing	Josh Whitworth Olivia Whitworth Elias or Sami Ewing Open	Erler Meyer Madison Shelton Michelle Pierce Will Lovelace	Madison Shelton Elias Ewing Josh Whitworth Jocie Ewing
Greeters	Lewis & Rosemary Moore	Mike Georgion Glyn Shackelford	Bill & Suzanne Searson Joe & Kathy Ellis	Danny & Madison Shelton	Doug & Wendy Clark
Nursery Volunteers	Open	Open	Ewing	Peahuff	Griswold
Ushers	Dave Pretulak Helen Cook	Brandon Turner John Kimball	Hugh Rambo Daniel Cude	Larry Dodd Danny Shelton	Dave Pretulak Brandon Turner
Vestry of the Month	Donna Hicks				

Veterans News



Norman Tyler

On Friday, Dec. 2, a few of us got together at the Golden Corral. The food was good, cheap, and quick. What not to like? We will return.

Rosemary Moore was our guest. We all talked about the new vestry, and what we want to happen in the future. We all believe St. Matthews will continue on the positive path it has been on the past few years. With the good leadership and God's help we are in for a great ride. We all agreed that we liked the work in the Memorial Garden.

Next month we are going to Cotton & Frances Richardson's home for lunch and know we're in for a treat. The date is January 6th.

I will e-mail or call everyone with the directions and time. Don't miss this one!

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Mike Roach	16	Marisa Coleman
2	Lynn Upton		Jimmy Pruitt
3	Zach Pretulak	17	Paul Coleman
	Brenda Smith		Dianne McArthur
	Joshua Whitworth	18	Clark Broughton
	Mary Jo Riely	19	Felicity Marie Vance-Upton
4	Dana Broughton		Courtney Giles
5	Ashley Turner	24	Betty Goepel
6	Doug Hubbell		Carol Wishard
	Max & Gina Hamer (A)		Tino Suarez
7	Jonathon Watson	25	John Price
	Anne Rodrick		Sami Ewing
	Braden Putnam		Josie DePaol
8	Costa Jennings	26	Katharine Slemenda
	Shirley LeClair		K.C. Price
	Roy Wickersheim	27	Jeanette Bridges
9	Alicia Wilson	29	Colin Foley
	Ethel Tortorice		Beryl Gray
11	Rosalind Georgion		Colin Gerard Courier
12	Ashley Courier		Liam James Courier
13	Dorothy Blackwell		Gerry and Lou Ann Fishbeck (A)
	Suzanne Searson	30	Stacia Griffin
14	Hester Martin		John Townsend
	Will & Beth Boyd (A)		Robin & Jacqueline File (A)
15	Corbin Walter White	31	Mary Sue Brewton



A Prayer for Those Celebrating Birthdays

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The 2012 Vestry

Father Rob Brown, Rector	583-8112	Louise Wickersheim	541-7903
Jeff Jennings, Treasurer	587-7237	David Rutledge	595-0401
Helen Cook, Clerk	587-6770	Susan Cherry-Casey	585-7229
John Price	574-3599	Rosemary Moore	895-8254
Jay Hope, Jr. Warden	809-9796	Erin Stewart	415-9853
Donna Hicks-Wood	804-2474	Rob Nichols	592-2822

December Worship Service Attendance

	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/24	12/25		12/7	12/14	12/21	12/28
9:00 am	91	102	126	155 (5pm)	57	Wednesday 6:30	19	31	21	N/A
11:15 am	111	96	124	110 (11pm)						

Congratulations to our "high attendance" winners for the children's CF classes:

Preschool-Annabelle Price

Kindergarten/First Grade-Connor & Brayden Price

Second/Third Grade-Alli Go, Lillian & Emily Nichols

Fourth/Fifth Grade-Chris Price

Middle School-Rini Ewing, Julia Nichols, Nikki Go

The CF team is very proud of these children (and their parents) who are using our wonderful resources to make their spiritual walk even more meaningful!

May we suggest that attending a CF class go right to the top of your New Year's resolutions lists? We guarantee a success rate of 100%...just show up Sunday mornings at 10:15 and we'll do the rest!

CURSILLO WEEKEND-is an amazing spiritual opportunity for adults and the next one is coming in February. St. Matthew's would be honored to sponsor lots of candidates! Our own Father Rob will be on staff so you're guaranteed a good time! Please contact me (595.9466) or the church office for more information.

NEW ADULT FORMATION CLASS WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 8th- a combination DVD and opportunities to journal is the format for "The Revolution" series. It helps us to expand on Jesus' greatest commandments of serving others through His love and examples. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, or just plan to join us in the conference room at 10:15.

2012 is a great year to volunteer and help out with our "littlest angels" in the nursery-stop by our nursery on Sundays (across from the kitchen) and choose the dates that work best for you!

And finally.... TOP SECRET EPISCOPALIAN CODES (shhhh-only share with fellow pew partners!!):

1. *BULLETIN: your receipt for attending a service*
2. *CHOIR: a group of people whose singing allows the rest of the parish to lip sync*
3. *HYMN: a song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range*
4. *RECESSIONAL HYMN- the ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the service led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot*
5. *PEW: a medieval torture device still found in our churches*
6. *TEN COMMANDMENTS: the most important Top Ten list not given by David Letterman*
7. *AMEN: the only part of a prayer that everyone knows*

For His Sake and Service,

Debbie Richardson

January 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3:00-5:00 Food Pantry</p> <p>6:30 pm Night Prayer & Healing</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>EFM - 6:30-9:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Noon Veterans lunch at Cotton & Frances Richardson's</p> <p>6:30-7:30 pm - NA's</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Sit-n-Stitch 9:30-11:30</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am Christian Formation EYC 5-7</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p> <p>10:30 am Merry Widows Library/Conf.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:00-5:00 Food Pantry</p> <p>6:30 pm Night Prayer & Healing</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>EFM - 6:30-9:00</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30-7:30 pm - NA's</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Sit-n-Stitch 9:30-11:30</p> <p>Father Charles Ordination 11:00am</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am- Christian Formation</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3:00-5:00 Food Pantry</p> <p>6:30 pm Night Prayer & Healing</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>EFM - 6:30-9:00</p> <p>Prime Timers meet at 12:00 at Apollo's</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30-7:30 pm - NA's</p> <p>EYC Ski Trip to Winterplace</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Sit-n-Stitch 9:30-11:30</p> <p>Merry Widows Noon at City Range</p> <p>DOK-4:00pm Library/Conf. Room</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am- Christian Formation</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Deadline for February Newsletter!!</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p> <p>6:30 pm Spinal Cord Injury Support Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:00-5:00 Food Pantry</p> <p>6:30 pm Night Prayer & Healing</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>EFM - 6:30-9:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30-7:30 pm - NA's</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Sit-n-Stitch 9:30-11:30</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am- Christian Formation EYC - 5-7</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p>				