



## COMMENCE

JUNE 2016



*W*e have so many

graduates to be proud of this year. Many of our high schoolers are graduating and moving on to a new season of their life. Many Christ Church staffers,

including choir members, Christy, Jonathan, and Joseph earned college degrees to improve their gifts offered to the Church. Milestones such as these involve ceremonies where we celebrate accomplishments with fellow journeyers and others who have supported our goals, often called commencement.

The root word "commence" is a fancy way to say begin. There is nothing in the history of the word that means continue. Commencements recognize that one season has ended, but the journey is not over. Every ending must usher in a new beginning. No matter what is ending or what comes next, a new beginning takes energy, motivation, hope, and usually support to take the next step.

On the 7th day, God rested. After all, God had been busy. Separating light from dark, heaven and earth, pushing back water to reveal some dry land, creating animals and birds and fish and plants and trees and people ... and it was good! A well deserved break. I get tired just thinking about it. I get tired after each day working my meager (in comparison) to-do list, of which I usually only complete a fraction of my optimistic goals. While it seems after Creation God only rested, our history with our Creator commenced ... over and over, again and again.

We have all traveled the busy liturgical year: an expectant, labor filled Advent, a celebrated birth and Incarnation, reality

changing Epiphany, our mortality facing Ash Wednesday and a penitent Lent, a climactic Holy Week, the resurrection of Easter and our "Alleluias", new worship of the risen Christ ascended to the throne of God, and the draining of our selves to be filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Whew! Liturgical living is hard work. It would be easy to rest after the journey so far, and dwell in the "finished" part of commencement and seasons completed.

It seems we deserve a summer break, and many will succumb. As Julia challenged us last month, however, if we take a break from Church, we just might miss out on the fruits of our spiritual labors. All of the experiences of the liturgical year so far prepare us for beginning. We have learned to recognize and participate in endings and beginnings ... anticipation and birth, seeking and finding, repentance and reconciliation, death and life, reaching out to God and receiving the Holy Spirit. It is the rhythm of our spiritual lives to mark time with beginnings, endings, and beginning again. The season after Pentecost is called Ordinary Time, but the now is anything but ordinary. It is extraordinary! This time is about growth and harvest. The lessons each Sunday focus on the life, teaching, works, and ministry of Jesus. New lessons for living in Christ are offered every week. Fellowship opportunities through the summer allow us to build experiences and relationship with each other. We are all invited to gather around the coffee pot, join the summer choir, or learn about our faith through Legos.

We could rest in this long season building up to the new church year on Advent I. Or, we could commence, beginning again, and moving to a new season of our relationship with God and each other, filled with maturing faith, growth, and harvest. Let us commence!

Bryan+

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*New lessons for living in Christ are offered every week."*

*Photo:  
Children at the  
Sunday School  
Pentecost  
Celebration.*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



my  
Bible

Sunday Mornings @ 9:30  
Throughout June & July

Join us for some faith building fun each Sunday in June and July at 9:30. Children of all ages, their families and the "young at heart" are welcome. We'll tell classic Bible stories using everyone's favorite toy bricks, then have a chance to make our own creations. Parents, you are welcome either to stay and have fun or to enjoy some "down time" at Coffee Hour. Questions? Please contact the Rev. Julia Mitchener ([jbomitchener@gmail.com](mailto:jbomitchener@gmail.com)).

### Got Legos?

Christ Church could use them! If you have some Legos you'd be willing to donate to our new summer "Lego my Bible" program for children, please bring them to either the parish offices or Christ Church Central by Sunday, June 5. We have a particular need for the following: Lego people (*Note: These do not have to look "biblical"—even Superhero figures are fine!*), Lego bases (*the square type that you can use to build scenes*), Lots of basic rectangular bricks, Lego windows and doors, Blue Legos for stories with lots of water, & Lego Duplos for the youngest children.

# Vacation Bible School

Hosted by  
St. Francis  
June 6-10

5:30 pm – 8 pm

Please contact Cara at  
[cmmchenry17@gmail.com](mailto:cmmchenry17@gmail.com) or  
770.617.2034

ANYONE AND EVERYONE CAN HELP!!  
All talents needed!!



God's Good Green Earth

## EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY

### Youth Week Makes A Difference (by Jack Grist)



Last summer I participated in Youth Week 2015, a partnership with the Christ Church EYC and four other churches. Together, more than 50 middle school, high school, college students and adult leaders volunteered at Lynmore Estates, one of Bibb County's most impoverished neighborhoods. Southside Community Baptist is connected with the Bibb County Board of Education and is responsible for feeding around

ninety children each day during the summer months and had serious needs for repairs, especially in the community center and the playground. Christ Church and St. Francis also partner with Southside Church and offer Path to Shine, an after-school tutoring program that meets once each week during the academic year. I am proud to say I believe the services we provided, one really hot week in June, drastically impacted and improved the community.

We purchased more than 125 bags of brown cypress mulch to cover the entire playground area. Two other friends with trucks joined me in moving all the bags of mulch to Southside. When my friends and I drove up with the mulch, we were joined by others who helped us unload and quickly began spreading the mulch all over the playground. The children of the community seemed really glad to meet us, and we played games like football, soccer and freeze tag with them. We also played with the children on the playground, and some who brought iPads along made the children laugh by taking selfies with them. The sense of community in this place took me by total surprise.

The most daring endeavor we undertook during Youth Week was painting the entire floor of the community center. It took several days, several coats, multiple gallons of paint, and a can-do attitude to paint that floor. By the end of my service, I had gone to Lynmore Estates four days in a row and spent more than fifteen hours doing physically taxing yet very rewarding work.

My original assumption entering the job site was that I would feel like a total outsider. I had nothing in common with the people I was about to help. These people and I had grown up in two different worlds, even though we live just across town. Astonishingly, I did not once feel like an outsider. The people of Lynmore Estates welcomed me with open arms. I worked and played and bonded with everyone I met in the community. They were genuinely nice people, and we had no problems getting along. The sense of community was

very strong at Southside. Everyone knew each other and truly cared for each other. They did not treat me and my youth group as invaders; instead, they welcomed us as their friends.

My personal understanding of the community changed drastically after my service. I had previously assumed the community we were entering would be somewhat scary. The community was incredibly far from what I expected, and I am almost ashamed that I thought it was going to be rough. The people in this neighborhood fit none of the descriptions social media or television would have you believe. This community works totally different from my own. In this community, they were all one. When someone needed somebody to watch their children for a few minutes, somebody always stepped up to the plate and was completely fine watching out for children who weren't their own. The love and happiness that I observed was shocking. The people of Lynmore understood each other and knew each other well because they share so much with one another.

Lynmore Estates is very different from the world that I have grown up in. In my own little world I have very few needs that are not met the next day at the least. The people of Lynmore have it totally different. It astonishes me that they don't have some of the services that I would consider to be basic. For instance, many people at Lynmore Estates have serious problems such as busted pipes and other utilities that need fixing. Those who can't afford to have them fixed simply have to do without. It's amazing to me that people can have so little and still be happy. I hate to sound cheesy, but just seeing Lynmore firsthand humbled me deeply. I get upset when my Wi-Fi is down. After seeing the conditions that other people experience, Wi-Fi no longer seems that important.

If we are to help improve areas like Lynmore and try to solve our nation's problem with poverty, I believe we start by building relationships and doing public service projects and improvements. If we want to be compassionate and live good and meaningful lives, we need to increase our drive to help people in areas like Lynmore Estates. Every bit helps, and we all can make a difference.

*Jack is a Rising Senior at Mount De Sales Academy.*

**YOUTH WEEK 2016 IS JULY 11-15**



*“In June we celebrate the Nativity of John the Baptist on the 24th; sort of a little Christmas in June... While we share in the hope of our children, the celebration of John’s birth can serve to inspire us all too faithfully grow from our own childhood experiences of Hope.”*



*The Birth of John the Baptist,  
1660, Bartholomé Esteban  
Murillo – Norton Simon  
Museum, Pasadena CA*

## FROM THE DEACON

### “What’s Hope?”

Back in the summer of 2000 I took my nephew, Brandon, on a mission trip to Ecuador. Just before heading down, the State Department posted a travel warning. The Sucre (their currency) was sharply losing value. But, that didn’t deter us. However, the Sucre lost its value and became basically worthless just after we arrived. I only had large US dollar bills and American Express traveler’s checks. With a zero economy, my money was virtually unusable. Our dollar bills were too large to exchange and our traveler’s checks cost too much for village banks to cash. We were stuck with the few smaller bills that Brandon brought until we got back to Quito. So, we eat what was given to us by our mission host. At one point, Brandon, a growing teenager, was still hungry after one of our free meals. So, he wanted to purchase something from a nearby kiosk. At that time I only had a few \$50 dollar bills with no way to exchange them. I’m sure the kiosk attendant would have been happy to take 50 bucks for a 50 cent burrito. I told Brandon that we will just have to wait until we get back to our guest home for dinner. Frustrated, Brandon threw a temper tantrum and squatted down on the street curb. He started yelling and said “I can’t believe that at home I’m just a broke kid. But, here we’ve got so much money; we can’t even afford a taco!” I knew he was hungry. But, could I do? In that moment he tilted his head up toward me and said, “This is really their problem isn’t it?” Right then I felt a little glimmer of hope grow from Brandon’s discovery. As hungry as he was, I went back to work on our building project. This time he began to make friends; lifelong friends. You can’t know how much my spirit is lifted when I learn of the hope we discover in our children and youth. I was deeply moved after reading Jack Grist’s article about his vision of hope after working last summer in Lynmore Estates. He discovered that, “in this community, they are all one”. Our children get it!

In June we celebrate the Nativity of John the Baptist on the 24<sup>th</sup>; sort of a little Christmas in June. The art you find with this article is yet another religiously themed painting by Murillo depicting the first bath of John the Baptist. Notice how the child seems to glow wrapped in linen that’s unbelievably white for the day. The painting, according to experts is said to inspire hope in a time of plague; after all, John’s father and mother were elderly and childless until he was born. While we share in the hope of our children, the celebration of John’s birth can serve to inspire us all too faithfully grow from our own childhood experiences of Hope.

Grace and peace  
Deacon Arthur W. Villarreal

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**SUMMER CHOIR OPPORTUNITY:** It's almost time to begin our summer worship schedule and I would like to invite you to join us in singing for the 10:30 Eucharist. There will be one rehearsal per week on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the loft. Our summer choir schedule will begin on Sunday, June 5.

**NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** I am pleased to announce that there will be a new musical offering beginning in September for children. The *Novice Choir* will be a training choir for children in Kindergarten (possibly pre-K) and first grade, and all other new choristers. This choir rehearses every Wednesday afternoon during the program year (September–June). Each Chorister will be introduced to the Royal School of Church Music curriculum (RSCM) where they will learn basic musicianship and voice training skills. In addition, this choir will learn various elements and symbols of the church, creeds, prayers, as well as social etiquette and communication skills. Novice Choristers are presented in the annual Whiting Ceremony at the conclusion of the choir year, during which time Choristers receive their cottas as a sign of their personal achievement and commitment to the music ministry of Christ Church. More detailed information on how to register will be presented during the coming months. Feel free to contact Jonathan anytime with questions or comments.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information about any of the musical offerings mentioned above please contact Jonathan Poe, Organist/Choirmaster by email at [jonathan@christchurchmacon.com](mailto:jonathan@christchurchmacon.com) or by phone 478-745-0427 ext. 134.

Jonathan Poe  
Organist/Choirmaster

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: THE EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY

The Youth Ministry at Christ Church is a vital part of our parish community. With a primary focus on students in grades 6-12, our Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) includes youth, their families, friends, and adults leaders. The ultimate goal of the EYC is to provide a safe environment where students can experience God. Our young people are cherished by our church, and all members of our parish are responsible for their guidance and support. The years spent in middle school and high school are some of the most influential and exciting – as well as stressful and challenging – years of a person's life. As Christians, being there for each other is part of what we are called to do, and the EYC offers unconditional love and friendship along the journey to adulthood. Each of us develops at our own pace in various ways, but our shared experiences help define who we are and how we live and grow. Throughout each year, the EYC participates in worship, community service projects, lock-ins, retreats, prayer breakfasts, Bible study, crazy fun trips and various adventures as we play and pray together.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. **PRAY...** for youth, their families and their leaders.
2. **ENGAGE...** by getting to know the youth of our parish and showing interest in their lives and activities.
3. **SHARE YOURSELF...** by volunteering to help with events, providing meals for gatherings, offering scholarships to various opportunities.

For more information, contact Youth Ministry Coordinator John Mark Parker - [johnmark@christchurchmacon.com](mailto:johnmark@christchurchmacon.com) or 478.718.0041.

## PRAYER REQUESTS



Alice, Andrew, Bailey, Betty, Beverly, Bill, Bill, Bill, Carmen, Carolyn, Charlie, Chuck, Cloyd, Crawford, David, Doris, Eddie, George, George, Jack, Jeffery, Lynn, Malinda, Margaret, Margarete, Mary, Millie, Molly, Nina, Paula, Peggy, Ron, Russ, Sandy, Scott, Sparky, Susan, Alan, Beth, Camille, Christina, Colin, Ed, Felecia, Gail, Henry, Irene, Joan, Lucille, Lynn, Maddox, Matthew, Quinn, Ray, and Suzanne.



We pray for all those who serve in the military especially, Austin, Brian, Caylee, Charlie, George, Owen, & Terry. We pray for our Staff, Vestry, & Search Committee; for Jeff White, for our Parish Commission on Ministry, and for all those discerning God's presence & purpose in their lives, that they may take the next faithful step. We pray for the students & staff of St. Marc's School in Trouin, Haiti. We pray for the tired and lonely; for those affected by severe weather, natural disasters, civil unrest, and violence throughout the world. We pray for the wholeness of the Anglican Communion.

## JONES CHAPEL RECEIVES HISTORIC MACON FOUNDATION PRESERVATION AWARD

While rector of Christ Church from 2008 to 2015, Reverend Harriette Simmons articulated a vision that Jones Chapel be a place for more events beyond the weekend lunch program and a meeting place for Alcoholics Anonymous. The church needed a space for small church services such as weddings, funerals, christenings, as well as for smaller weekly worship services. At her urging, the Vestry embraced this vision and identified funds to renovate a building that has been an important part of the historic Christ Church campus since its construction.

Both the namesake and the benefactor of Jones Chapel were active and devoted members of Christ Church. John L. Jones was an early Macon settler who worked as clothing merchant with A.M. Blackshear & Co. until about 1867, when he became Treasurer and later Secretary of the Macon Gas Company. Jones married his wife Julia Parkman in 1830, and they both joined Christ Church. Mr. Jones amassed a fortune and invested in several community businesses. While a member of Christ Church, he served as both Secretary and Treasurer of the Vestry and advocated for many years for a Sunday school room for the parish children even though Mr. and Mrs. Jones had no children of their own.

Julia Parkman Jones was involved in nearly every activity at Christ Church. In 1838, she helped to found the Pastoral Aid Society, later reorganized as the Ladies Sewing Society, which finally evolved into the Episcopal Church Women. She served as the first secretary and treasurer, and in 1851, she assumed the presidency, which she held until 1880. Julia Jones also taught Sunday school for nearly 40 years. She took an active part in the mission work of the parish and in caring for and visiting the poor. Julia's will left provisions for establishing the Julia Parkman Jones Home for Indigent Women, and the endowment bearing her name remains today a principal funding element of Christ Church's outreach activities.

John Jones died on March 9, 1879, and after his death, Mrs. Jones donated \$4,350 to erect a building in her husband's memory where Sunday school lectures and other activities could take place. Rector Otis A. Glazebrook and a building committee oversaw construction. Designed in the Gothic style by Chicago architects Randall & Miller, Jones Chapel could seat 350 persons. The brick building featured numerous stained and painted glass windows, including eleven arched windows rising seven feet in height, four small circular windows, a rose window seven feet in diameter, and an enormous arched window that rose seventeen feet high in the rear wall. The auditorium was lit with gas by a massive reflector fixture. Benches featured reversible backs for versatility. There was a cabinet style organ, and the pulpit was outfitted with a hooded brass light. The interior walls were painted French gray with woodwork grained to look like walnut. Four side rooms for Bible classes could be connected to the auditorium or closed off by a series of sliding wood sashes.

When Bishop John Beckwith toured the newly completed chapel on February 9, 1880, he commented: "In this Parish a very handsome Sunday School building has been erected by a Christian woman in memory of her dead. Men build monuments of sculptured stone and place them over graves, and the world passes by and wonders at such extravagance; far better and wiser is it to dedicate houses to God,

where little ones may come to be trained in His nurture and admonition." At the request of parishioners, Bishop Beckwith did not consecrate the chapel to allow for secular programming in the space as well as holy worship.

Jones Chapel served Christ well for almost fifty years before a new Parish House was erected in 1926. Sunday school classes moved into the new, modern building, and the Great Hall became the gathering place for lectures and special events. Over time, Jones Chapel became an under-used space. At some point, the movable wood sash walls along the edge of the chapel space were exchanged for plaster walls, portions of some of the arched windows in the northeast side wall were removed, the large arched window was removed from the rear wall, and, and the rose window was moved from the front of the building into what had been the large arched window opening. The building was relegated to use by outside concerns including the Boy Scouts and the National Guard.

In 1958, Christ Church determined that extensive renovations and repairs were required to Jones Chapel in order to prevent its demolition. Architect Barnard Webb, a member of the parish, oversaw these changes. An addition was made along the southwest elevation of the original chapel structure, and the stained and painted glass windows in the original wall were relocated to the new outer wall of the building. A brick wall was erected along the rear alley to enclose the courtyard created by Jones Chapel and the rear wing of the Parish House. Inside Jones Chapel, a wall was dropped to create a vestibule entrance from the courtyard. Eventually, storage closets and a bathroom were installed. In 1973, under the direction of a new, young curate, Jones Chapel was given over to the youth of the parish for their use. Later, a full kitchen was installed in the southwest addition of the original building, and the Meals on Wheels program moved into Jones Chapel. In 1990, the Weekend Lunch Program was established to serve under-nourished citizens of the city, and the kitchen served both organizations. Meals on Wheels later moved to separate quarters, but the Weekend Lunch Program continued to use Jones Chapel as its staging space. About 2009, Christ Church opened Jones Chapel to a local Alcoholics Anonymous chapter for meetings each weekday.

Once the Christ Church Vestry embraced the vision of Reverend Harriette Simmons to renovate Jones Chapel for expanded use, a significant challenge of renovating the space was to not interrupt ongoing use of the chapel. AA meetings were moved to a room in the Parish House, and the weekend lunch program shifted to a bagged "picnic lunch" served from the rear door of the kitchen.

The building needed much repair. Plaster walls had sustained damage from the leaky stained glass, and the exterior brick had become porous, allowing additional water to seep in. Existing lighting was primitive, vinyl sheet flooring covered the original wood floor, and the rose window, now the only stained and painted glass window visible in the chapel space itself, was in desperate need of restoration.

The project began with a scavenger hunt in the basement of Christ Church. Architectural elements removed during numerous renovations of all of the Christ Church buildings over decades were stored in that space. A lattice and

paneled enclosure designed to conceal the pipes of the old 1953 organ became a primary focus for salvage. In addition, old handrails, columns, balusters, doors, hardware, and elements of both the 1910 and the 1957 organ cabinets were all recycled to create a more inviting worship space. Under the talented eye of carpenter Michael Phillips, a giant puzzle of materials was assembled and incorporated to create a spectacular altar and paneled rear wall for the chapel. A minimal amount of new material was purchased to complete the project. A platform was added to create an altar area under the rose window, and wood molding was added on the edge of the plaster arch to enhance the detail of the arch and the rose window. Wood pilasters were created to break up the vast blank spaces on the plaster side walls, where the original movable wood sashes once gave view to the stained and painted glass side windows beyond.

Double doors closing off the vestibule from the chapel were removed, and the opening was enlarged to create better traffic flow for the weekend lunch. The larger opening also enhanced the view of the chapel from its entrance and also allowed overflow seating to expand into the vestibule. A single door that opened into a storage closet was replaced by double doors in order to facilitate movement of folding tables and a cart for the future purchase of stacked chairs. Door trim was removed from around a small closet on the front wall and another under the stairs to make them less noticeable from inside the chapel.

The vinyl flooring was removed with the hope that a useable wood floor would be found, and the intact original oak floor was discovered. New wood flooring was used to create an altar platform, and the riser for the platform was constructed from old material. The stair treads were new oak. Determining a final floor finish was a challenge given that the multiple uses planned for the chapel require a constant process of setting up and taking down of tables and chairs. In the end, both the old and new oak were finished with Danish oil because neither wax nor polyurethane could withstand the traffic and abuse necessary to accommodate all of the intended building uses.

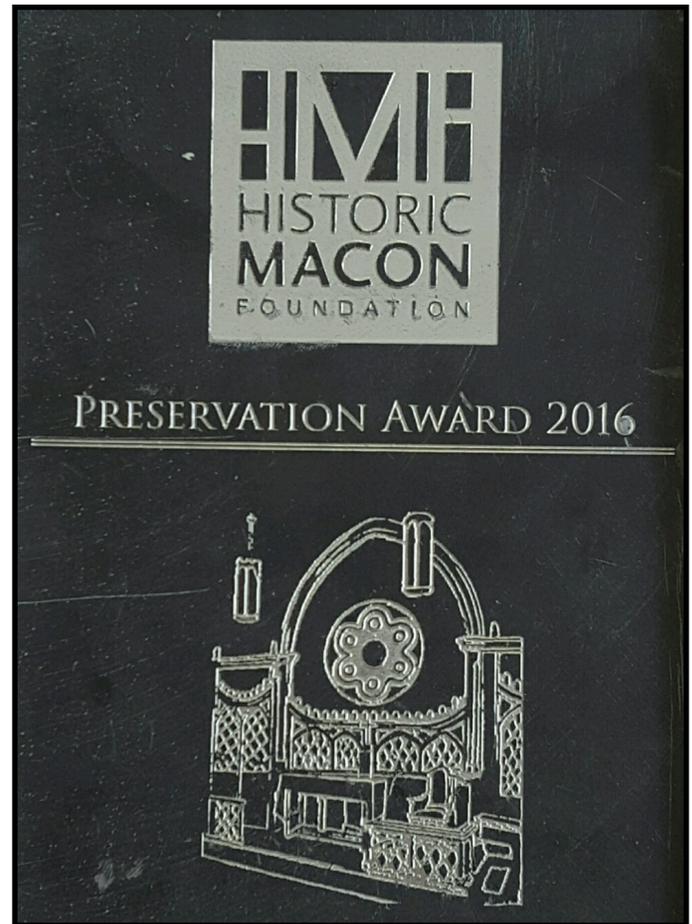
Lighting was a significant issue in the chapel. Existing fluorescent tubes were housed in galvanized gutters run along the walls like a cornice. During the renovation process, the gutters were grained to look like wood, and higher-grade fluorescent fixtures were installed inside the troughs. Ceiling-hung, galvanized fixtures were purchased from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, where recent renovations had rendered the lanterns as surplus. They were rewired and painted, missing glass panels replaced, and new chains and canopies added where necessary. Two smaller antique hanging fixtures were purchased and installed in the vestibule.

The ceiling of the chapel was painted a midnight blue and stars were laid out to recreate the night sky as seen on February 9, 1880, the date that Bishop John Beckwith visited Christ Church and first viewed Jones Chapel after its completion. Stars were and still can be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one. Track lighting was added behind newly grained existing trusses to illuminate the gold stars of the night sky.

The stained and painted glass rose window was restored with funds from Dennis Chance in memory of Marcus S. Frank, Jr. One of the arched glass windows in the front wall of the chapel is scheduled for restoration with funds from alumnae of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity to honor Revered

Otis A. Glazebrook, the rector of Christ Church when Jones Chapel was constructed and one of the three founders of the first chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity while he was a student at Virginia Military Institute.

On May 14, 2015, Christ Church had its first official service at Jones Chapel. Bishop Robert Wright of the Diocese of Atlanta led the procession of parishioners inside and celebrated Holy Eucharist. He offered blessings and consecrated the chapel for a new century of use by Macon's oldest religious congregation.



**PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED  
IN JONES CHAPEL RENOVATION**

Michael Phillips, master carpenter, puzzle genius  
 Tony Long, painting contractor  
 Buddy Prosser, flooring contractor  
 ATG Studio, stained and painted glass restoration  
 Starr Electric

**VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS**

Robbie Beeland, architect, church member, consultant  
 Bonnie Dowling, vestry member and project manager  
 Julie Groce, church member, historian, consultant  
 Phillip Groce, church member, designer of night sky  
 Tony Long, church member, night sky project  
 Scott Pipkins, church member, engineer, consultant  
 Jeff White, church member, star sales  
 John Willingham, church member, chair of Buildings Committee



Christ Episcopal Church  
582 Walnut St.  
Macon, GA 31201

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# The Chimes

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The EYC Serves Weekend Lunch  
June 4 & 5 from 10 am - 1 pm in Jones Chapel.

*The Deadline for Newsletter Submissions is 3rd Monday of each month.*

THE FIRST CHURCH OF MACON, GEORGIA. ESTABLISHED IN 1825

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*Extraordinary  
God!*



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