The upcoming Cathedral Stewardship Picnic on Sunday, October 9, 2016 is a great chance to get to know other members of our parish family. All of our Cathedral parishioners and their families are invited to this enjoyable afternoon of fellowship, merriment and food on Lafayette Square between 5:00 and 8:00 PM.

Fellowship — Father Schreck is in full agreement that all of our Cathedral parishioners and their families will enjoy the casual dinner in beautiful Lafeyette Square overlooking our beloved Cathedral. “I encourage everyone to meet their fellow parishioners. Many people usually attend the same Mass each week and don’t really know the other parishioners who attend a different Mass.”

Merriment — Enjoy the Equinox Orchestra with their Big Band, Frank Sinatra Sound. Need we say more?

Food — Delicious BBQ will be prepared by our wonderful Knights of Columbus, Council 631, with all the fixings. Veggie burgers will also be available. Brusters Ice Cream truck will also be onsite for a delightful end to your dinner.(Brusters Ice Cream on Victory Drive is owned by fellow Knight, Patrick DeLaRosa)

Shhhh. Father Schreck is picking up the tab.
He encourages us all to have a good time together, in our beautiful “front yard,” with a lovely view of our magnificent Cathedral and celebrate all the good work that we have done together as a Parish, thanks to your generosity.

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
Stewardship Picnic
Sunday October 9th — 5:00-8:00 pm
Lafayette Square
In case of rain, join us in the SVA gym.
Only rarely do opportunities arise where one can become part of an established heritage. Becoming part of a history, a tradition, and a legacy often seem reserved for only the most influential and prestigious. However, a new plan allows for every parishioner, new and established, to become part of the history of our Cathedral and to help ensure it is always as beautiful and sound as it is today.

The preservation of our stunning Cathedral is a herculean task. Preserving and maintaining a historical building is complex and expensive and yet absolutely worth it. The Cathedral Heritage Endowment has been funded by the Heritage Ball for the last fifteen years. All the hard work and commitment from the volunteers and donors is hard to understate. The success of the Galas has been meaningful and we need to honor the past volunteers and donors by keeping the endowment secure.

After considerable research, consultations, and serious thought, a new strategy has been developed to grow the fund. Our new model means that everyone who makes a donation will become part of Cathedral history. With any donation you automatically become a member of the Cathedral Heritage Preservation Society. Whether you are new to the Cathedral or newly interested or maybe you have been around a long time but never really been a part of the activity or perhaps you have been here and been active a long time…in any case, this new opportunity includes you and needs you. We hope this appeal will encourage more donors and will result in more funding, more friendships, and more fun! Now, we can all be part of something truly historical. Donate to join a tradition.

To become a member of the Cathedral Heritage Foundation Circle of Friends one can donate any amount up to $499. You will be named a Friend of the Cathedral Heritage Preservation Society and become a permanent part of our long history and forever a part of the Cathedral’s legacy.

Those donating $500-$999 will be designated a part of the Monsignor William O. O’Neill Circle. Monsignor O’Neill was the rector at the Cathedral for 17 years. In 1996, he was placed in charge of the $11.7-million-dollar Cathedral renovation project, which included the removal, cleaning, and re-leading of more than 50 stained glass windows, major roofing and structural work throughout the building, and the restoration of the interior. His role in the renovation is legendary.

Those donating between $5,000 and $9,999 become a members of the Bishop J. Kevin Boland Circle. The Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland was the thirteenth Bishop of Savannah. He served as a priest for 57 years and a bishop for 21 years. He is currently Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Savannah. While bishop, he announced a major restoration project for the Cathedral in September 1996, brought Msgr. O’Neill to the Cathedral to oversee the work, and was invaluable to its success.

The Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough Circle is named for those donating amounts above $10,000. This group honors the contributions of The Most Reverend Thomas Joseph McDonough, who was an active priest for 60 years and a bishop for 51 years. He served as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, for seven years and as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, for 14 years. Here in Savannah, he was a vital part of the Cathedral’s major renovations including work on the plaza entrance, modern temperature controls, lighting systems, and additions to the altar.

All those donating $500 or more will receive an invitation for two to dine with Bishop Hartmayer and other donors at the Savannah Golf Club on November 19th. The Cathedral is important to our community, our parishioners, and our faith. Please donate to The Cathedral Heritage Preservation Society today at http://savannahcathedral.org/cathedral-heritage/
Upon entering the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, most visitors are overwhelmed by the 8,000 pound octagonal shaped baptismal font before them. We are indebted to Bishop Boland and Monsignor O’Neill for conceiving this most impressive liturgical feature. They were inspired by their Irish Heritage in coming up with the design for this feature, drawing on the memory of the font in St. Colman’s Cathedral in Cobh, Co. Cork, the cathedral church of the Diocese of Cloyne. During his summer sojourn in Ireland, Monsignor O’Neill made two trips to Cobh to visit St. Colman’s to gather design details and take several photos of their font for use in this article.

That baptismal font is an elegant octagonal shaped marble structure, incorporating columns alternating with carved panels containing various liturgical symbols such as the Alpha and Omega as well as a Chi Rho plus several others. It sits atop a cluster of marble columns, crowned with an elaborate ornamental brass cupola.

When I asked Monsignor O’Neill how the design for our font came about he said, “We first thought of having the font in the south transept in front of what is now the Calvary altar. But liturgical preference is for it to be at the entrance to the church, hence the present location. Bishop Boland and I talked about different styles and something octagonal with no lid or cover, which was the dominant thought.”

Comparing the St. Colman’s font to ours, you note the similar use of alternating carved panels and columns in our design, an homage to their font, albeit on a larger scale.

“We had both seen St. Colman’s but we wanted ours to sit on the floor and be larger in order to accommodate the symbols we wanted to use, matching those on the Reredos (old high altar) which were cast in the 1870’s. We also wanted to accommodate any requests for baptism by immersion. Molds were made of the Reredos carvings and sent to Carrara, Italy, where they were reproduced, and then incorporated into the Baptismal Font (as well as on both sides of the Main Altar) which were both installed during the renovation. When we went over to Italy to sign off on all the marble work, it was decided to lower the height of font by three inches, because it seemed too high for
holding a child over the water. One inch was taken from each of the three sections, the base, middle and upper.

The number eight represents rebirth or resurrection which is the essence of the Sacrament of Baptism. The number eight is also the perfect number. The Latin transcription which winds around the font translates to “He who sent me to baptize with water, he it is who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” The text comes from John 1:33.

Inside the font is displayed an elegant image of the Celtic Knot from the Book of Kells which symbolizes eternity. The green color in the design represents life and the gold represents Christ. A cross symbolizing Christ lies at the center of the knot. The design is made of Venetian smalti glass in which a base pattern is covered with 23-karat gold leaf and sealed in glass. The black marble interior is absolute black from Turkey and stands for darkness and dying which precedes resurrection. The Water of Baptism flowing over the medallion makes the Celtic Knot appear three dimensional.

This too is a result of the Boland & O’Neill collaboration, considering various options over several months of discussion and playing with ideas until the final picture came together. The Rohn Design Group, liturgical consultants from Pittsburgh, PA, was responsible for the final design which included the addition of the holy water bowls over each of the columns. Master Craft Flooring of Augusta, Georgia, installed the font.

On December 10, 2000, Bishop Kevin Boland officiated at the first Baptism using the font to baptize Brandy Christine Parrott, daughter of Taylor and Tonia Baker Parrott.

Ed. note:

Cobb (formerly Queenstown) figures significantly in maritime history as it was the last port of call for the Titanic before departing for New York on April 11, 1912. The last sight of land many of those doomed pas-sengers saw was the 300 foot spire of St. Colman’s Cathedral.

On May 7th 1915, the Lusitania with 1,959 people on board, was torpedoed by a German U-boat and sank about 10 miles off the Old Head of Kinsale. The 761 survivors were ferried to Queenstown, while the majority of the 1,198 passengers, who lost their lives, were never recovered; only 150 of her victims were buried in the Old Church Cemetery. This event substantially contributed to bringing the United States of America into the Great War.
Kids aren’t the only ones focused on learning as they head back to school this fall. The Cathedral’s Adult Enrichment Group is also offering new opportunities to learn. Starting on September 12th and running for eight weeks, a Bible study began meeting on Monday nights in the Parish Hall from 6–7:30 PM.

The Adult Enrichment Group is dedicated to the spiritual growth of our parishioners. We believe it is the Holy Spirit who calls people to an encounter with God and we strive to offer opportunities for everyone to make time to invite God into their lives on a daily basis. We are all called to communion with God but have different ways of serving Him and expressing our devotion and love for Him.

We hope to provide an open invitation to anyone interested in closer aligning their will to the will of God. We have an on-going book club, prayer group, as well as special event speakers and select programs planned for this year.

The group is using Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmeyer’s Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible series. This eight part study consists of 30 minute videos and a group discussion each week. This program provides an overview of the Bible so participants can better understand its form and structure while learning the important connections between the Old and New Testaments. It highlights how the Bible relates to everyday matters and shows how the sacraments, the Church and our entire Catholic faith are rooted in scriptures.

This is a chance to grow in faith and have fun with your fellow parishioners.

Jeff Cavins explains that, “God wants to reveal himself to us and talk to us about all aspects of our lives. He meets us in the Bible. When you study the Bible you gain a better understanding of who God is and who you are.

“We find our story in His. Once you are taught how to read the Bible you discover a story that makes sense out of life. The Bible can be complex but this study helps us see that it is also, in a way, quite simple.”

The student workbook includes lesson summaries, talk outlines, engaging study questions and the fold-out Bible Timeline Chart and bookmark. The timeline chart is an important cornerstone to the program. It arranges the books of the Bible into 12 color-coded time periods, and shows how they all fit together to tell the story of our faith. If coming to every class for eight weeks is a problem due to your schedule this program allows for online access to every video.

The Bible study is expected to continue throughout the year. You do not have to start at the beginning and are welcome to join any session at the beginning or anytime that suits your schedule. The group is flexible and happy to help anyone get situated.

This is only the first of many opportunities the Adult Enrichment group will have to offer this year. Please check the Cathedral’s calendar for upcoming programs, speakers and book club activities.

Everyone is welcome and they would love to have you join them. Email threenovacks@gmail.com with any questions or to become involved as a participant, facilitator or volunteer.
Faith formation is ongoing. The Cathedral’s Children’s Religious Education (CRE) program’s mission is to provide faith formation for Cathedral children, in collaboration with their parents, to help them become lifelong disciples of Jesus. We accomplish this mission in a safe and inspiring environment with catechists who provide age specific religious education. We have children enrolled in our program in 5 different sections; kindergarten/1st grade, Eucharist preparation, 3rd/4th grade, 5th/6th grade, and Confirmation preparation.

A major part of CRE is to build on the Catholic foundation provided by the parents and grandparents in the home. We keep each parent involved in their child’s religious education through various means. Specifically, during weekly contacts with the catechists and the semi-annual reports that identify the Catholic faith traditions discussed during the past few months. Each month the students in one of the classrooms presents a prayer assembly attended by all the children. Parents are encouraged to attend these prayer assemblies. We also conduct an annual celebration for the parents at the end of the year to share what was presented during the school year.

Shortly after the school year begins, we celebrate a Children’s Mass during the Cathedral’s 10:00 Sunday Mass. A majority of the children and their families attend and sit together in the first few rows. The children preparing to receive the Eucharist for the first time take up the gifts and children who are interested assist by acting as altar servers.

The CRE program is grateful for the support we receive from our rector during his visits to our Sunday classroom sessions and the financial support we receive to purchase educational materials and supplies. We also thank the parents who have enrolled their children and entrust us with the Catholic education of their children. We are honored by their ongoing support of the CRE program and their support of their children who are on the path of becoming disciples of Jesus.

Our catechists are delighted to have a part in ensuring that the Cathedral’s students understand their faith and are adequately prepared to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist as well as the sacrament of Confirmation.

At the end of the year, there is a pageant for the parents to show off what the children have learned during the year. Each class makes their own visual aids to display one element of the theme. It is a wonderful and uplifting way to end the Sunday school year.

If you are a member of the Cathedral parish and have children who are not enrolled in Catholic school, CRE is for you. If your child is not already registered, please call the church office at 912-233-4709 to enroll him or her. Classes start in late September and are held each Sunday morning during the school year from 8:45 to 9:50. It is never too late for your child to begin. We are confident that if a child is enrolled in religious education throughout childhood they will become active members in their Catholic community through adulthood.

LIFELONG DISCIPLES OF JESUS
By Janee Przybyl
File Photos by Mary Clark Rechtiene
The Cathedral was the host congregation for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) for the week of July 3–10, 2016. The IHN works in collaboration with Family Promise of Greater Savannah to provide healthy home cooked meals and lodging for homeless families with children, in a safe home-like environment.

Our guests arrived at the parish hall each evening at 6:30 PM for dinner followed by planned activities with volunteers. The mothers prepared lunch for themselves and their children before retiring in the evening.

They were served a continental breakfast the next morning before boarding their van at 6:30 AM to return to the Day Center. The Day Center serves as a home base for the families and provides an opportunity for them to prepare resumes, apply for jobs, seek housing, and rebuild their independence through dedicated and intensive on-site case management.

The overall goal of the program is to help families end their homelessness and learn the skills necessary to avoid it in the future.

We hosted three families, each having two children, for the week. Upon their arrival on Sunday, July 3rd, we set aside some time for the families to get settled into their private rooms in the parish hall and then had a meet and greet session before they were served dinner provided by Gigi Lacanilao and Mary Johnson.

After dinner, teen volunteers helped the children tie dye red, white, and blue T-shirts to wear on July 4th. Vickie McCuen and Katy Mell brought in dinner on Monday. We all walked to Colonial Park after dinner so that the children could have some outside play time. We returned to the parish hall courtyard for sidewalk art, then lit sparklers to celebrate Independence Day.

Ansley Williams, owner of Spanky’s, donated the dinner on Tuesday evening. After dinner the mothers were treated to manicures and therapeutic massages courtesy of Virginia College, while the children worked on craft projects with teen volunteers.

On Wednesday, we walked to Mellow Mushroom for pizza and refresh-
ments compliments of owner Missy Johnson. After dinner, our guests were taken on a carriage tour through downtown Savannah thanks to Kelli Whitney and owner John Tarr of Historic Savannah Carriage Tours.

Meg Hearn provided dinner on Thursday evening after which we walked to Savannah Coffee Roasters for dessert. Owner Jim Collins had a special table set up for us with free samplings of all the wonderful desserts that are prepared in his restaurant.

After dinner prepared by Norene Buckstine and Mary Downs on Friday evening, we walked to Leopold’s Ice Cream shop where we were treated to ice cream cones donated by Stratton Leopold. It was the perfect ending to a hot and balmy summer evening!

Saturday was movie and popcorn night after a dinner arranged by Alizon McLaughlin and Kate Hasse. Our visitors were very appreciative and thankful for making their time with us so special.

The host week was a success due to the support of so many of our Cathedral parishioners who donated their time, talents and treasure to make a difference by offering help, hope, and hospitality to the homeless in our community. Many thanks to Charlie and Cheryl Ganem, Patty, Eddie, and Mark Mizelle for their overnight stays at the parish hall and our teen volunteers Io Ermoli, Emma Hohnerlien, Hannah Sasser, and Jaelin Cummings.

A special thanks goes to Fr. Schreck for his support and encouragement of Cathedral’s participation in the Interfaith Hospital Network.

We will be IHN host again for the week of June 4—11, 2017. If you would be interested in volunteering that week, please contact Carol Herb at 912-658-7539.
The Cathedral Community
Always eager to help
By Melanie Brooks with Crystal Brooks

As Cathedral parishioners, we are often called upon to assist with some project or contribute to some concern and we always respond with generosity and enthusiasm. These last weeks of summer have seen that Cathedral spirit manifest itself as our members have responded to the urgent call to restock the Social Apostolate food pantry, several opportunities to serve meals to the homeless, and the first PACK event of the new school year.

Besides all our “regular” activities, at the request of several of our members, we became involved in the #SAVforLA drive to assist families in the flood devastated parishes of Louisiana. The first overture was for goods to be delivered to several centers in Baton Rouge via Amazon Prime. Social media quickly picked up on the activities and emails were forwarded. Word spread quickly and many orders were placed. Several people even drove to Baton Rouge to assist in the clean-up. And then the relief efforts were aided by a donor who offered an 18-wheeler to deliver supplies to the area, a huge truck that would pick up in Savannah in one week.

Savannah came together and Cathedral parishioners were all over the place. At a dozen donation sites set up around the Savannah area, we donated water, cleaning supplies, pet food, non-perishable food items, and paper goods. Chrissy Ruscoe and her family filled bags with clothing, pillows, and toiletries. Joe and Mary Moriarty made a trip to Sam’s and dropped off a carload. Jason Cucchiara drove to Louisiana to help family and friends clean up. The CCW bought 100 pairs of new underwear and 100 gallons of bleach. Ann Heid, a new parishioner, took her donations to Johnnie Ganem’s. Everyone it seems donated cases of water. Colleen Casey and her kids collected items to keep the children of Louisiana busy while their parents cleaned up. Even Peter and Barbara Papolucci, on summer vacation in Maine, got into the act by adding three box fans to the ever-growing piles of donations. A new friend, Courtney, and I were coordinating the donations and we were everywhere — on television, on the radio, in the newspaper. And Savannah responded.

By Friday, all donation sites were overflowing. It was time to begin the process of separating and palletizing before the truck picked up Saturday morning. Benedictine cadets arrived with three cars full of donations and stayed to help. Many others came to help. It took hours but in the end, we didn’t fill one truck, we filled four!

Trying to thank everyone was a big task. Many desired to remain anonymous. I posted the following message which was also sent to the Time and Talents volunteers. I think it says it all:

"It was hot. We were sweaty. We got sunburned. We drank our weight in water and Gatorade. But you know what we really did? We came together. We made friends. We laughed. We put aside all differences as humans and chose compassion because it’s what was needed. We did it. As a city. As friends who had just met a week ago. It’s what needed to be done. WE did this. SAVANNAH did this. I could not be prouder of this city and could not be more grateful. We didn’t just FILL THAT TRUCK, we filled 4 TRUCKS. We did this in a week, imagine what we could all do in a lifetime. THANK YOU SAVANNAH! #SAVforLA."

The drive for Baton Rouge was overwhelmingly successful, thanks in no small amount to the dedication and generosity of Cathedral parishioners. The weekend of September 3 – 4, a collection was taken up at all Masses for the flood relief efforts. The money donated will be sent by Bishop Hartmayer to dioceses in the areas affected by the flood waters. In this effort, Cathedral parishioners were again very generous. The Catholic schools and churches in Louisiana will benefit directly from our donations.
With the beginning of the new fiscal year and school year comes the beginning of a new term for your Parish Council. Members are elected by a written vote of the parish each spring and serve a two-year term. They may be re-elected once. The 2016 – 2017 council began work in June with the election of officers and committee appointments. The council met again in August to plan out the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year.

Parish Council officers for 2016 – 2017 are Anna Kaluzne, chairperson, Bart Traywick, vice-chairperson, and Melanie Brooks, secretary. Committee chairs include Moira Novack, Adult Faith Enrichment; Ann Hall, Christian Service; Bart Traywick, Development; Carol Herb, Parish Activities; Walt Harper, Property; and Melanie Brooks, Stewardship.

Members of the Finance Council are appointed by Father Schreck. Finance Council member, Eddie Mizelle, is a newly elected Parish Council member. Eddie brings many years of accounting experience with Savannah Sugar and Colonial Oil as well as previous parish financial experience at Blessed Sacrament and with the Social Apostolate to his new position. He reports to the Parish Council on actions taken by the Finance Council.

Tom Haase is also a newly elected member of council. Tom and his wife, Kate, joined the Cathedral parish in 2001 when moving to Savannah after retirement from the Army. He volunteers at Mass as a lector and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and helps out at the Social Apostolate. Tom is also a published author, currently working on the next story in his best-selling series. He will join Bart on the Development committee.

Joe Mullin is the third member elected this year to the council. Joe and his wife, Angeline, have recently relocated to Savannah, her hometown, and he has quickly gotten immersed in our activities. Joe left the CIA as Senior Intelligence Officer and is now working as a consultant. He is helping with our security plans for the Cathedral and will also assist Moira with Adult Faith Enrichment.

Gretchen Reese is the Respect Life representative to the council and represents the Cathedral on the Deanery Pro-Life Committee. Alizon McLaughlin is the new president of the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women and will represent the CCW on the Parish Council.

Of course, Father Schreck and Deacon Smith are also members of the group. Father Schreck’s monthly report on the parish provides guidance to the council. If you have comments, suggestions, or questions, you may contact any of the above by calling the church office.
October 2016

Address Service Requested

A church as big as our Cathedral and a parish as active as ours, requires plenty of volunteer help to fill all of the positions of service. The 2016 Ministry Volunteer Drive starts October 9th and continues throughout the month of October with a special emphasis on works of mercy — both corporal and spiritual. The month-long event will provide many occasions for you to learn more about the ministries and organizations within our parish. You may choose to serve during Mass as a Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, lector, or usher. Or you may wish to join one of our choirs or help with religious education. Maybe you’re looking to strengthen your faith through prayer or adoration. Many have chosen to serve the less fortunate by providing meals, pantry food, clothing, and toiletries and sharing time and space with them. You might have a place in your heart for children or for the elderly or home-bound. Many of you have found fulfillment in the faith enrichment activities offered for adults. All of these and many more opportunities are available. All you need to do is select the one or ones that best fit your skills, talents, and abilities.

Keep an eye out for this year’s Ministry Volunteer Drive as ministries, organizations, and teams are looking for new members. Last year’s theme, Without You We Fall to Pieces, was introduced with Reese’s Pieces. Who knows what you might find in this year’s activities? The need for caring, compassionate servants within our church, within the diocese, and within our community is great. Think carefully about how you can best serve and look for the surprise.