

the monthly BANNER



A monthly publication of Saint Anne's Episcopal Church 3098 Saint Anne's Lane · Atlanta, GA 30327 · 404-237-5589
SaintAnnes.com



I spent the last week of October attending a continuing education class on writing (painting) an icon of Saint Mary Magdalene. This was my second experience in iconography, but this time we used a different paint medium—egg tempera. The instructor separated an egg yolk from the white, added water, and mixed in natural pigments that she had ground from elements taken from the earth: clay, stones, and minerals. It is a beautiful process to watch unfold as the paint is created. We then worked on prepared wooden boards adding layer upon layer of pigment to create the image (“icon” in Greek) of Mary of Magdala.

There are three distinctive features in the version of the icon we created that tie to stories found in the gospels and legends that have survived for centuries about Mary. She is known as the apostle to the apostles, a name given to her because she was sent by Jesus after she encountered him outside the empty tomb to share the news of his resurrection with the disciples. I gave her a voice box that is generally missing from female images on icons—usually, in iconography, women are silent figures.

In Mary's right hand I placed a scroll, which is reserved for the writers of the gospels, epistles, or early theologians. One of the gospels that did not make it into the New Testament is the Gospel of Mary Magdalene. Her text is among many that were excluded from the approved list of books in the Christian testament.

Finally, I placed a red egg in her left hand. In an early Christian legend, Mary visited Tiberias Caesar, to bring the news of Jesus' resurrection and make a complaint against Pilate. Mary picked up an egg from a table to try to explain the resurrection, of life bursting forth from the shell. But before she could proceed, Caesar interjected that a human being could no more rise from the dead than the egg she was holding could turn red. Immediately, the egg turned a deep dark red. To this day, Eastern Orthodox Christians exchange red eggs on Easter day.

Writing an icon is a contemplative, meditative endeavor. Each day, we began and ended with prayer. Before starting the process, our hands were anointed with holy oil as the work we did was filled with prayer and the Holy Spirit. And at the end, we placed our works together and asked God to consecrate them as instruments through which we may encounter the divine. The experience of writing an icon in a group is grace filled, as we sat together, breathed together, and looked past the flaws of our creations towards the beauty of God made possible through the gift of creation.

One of the prayers we said each morning was a reminder that God loved us enough to become one with us, and in doing so redeemed the whole creation.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. May Christ, the one who became incarnate through the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became human, may this same essence of Christ have mercy on us and forgive us, for he is gracious and truly loves human-kind.

Buddy +





Saint Anne's to visit Church of the Common Ground on Sunday, November 12 to worship and serve bag lunches. All are welcome to join us and/or to make lunches for the day. We need 80 bag lunches, and instead of doing separate ingredients we are asking volunteers to sign up to make 10 lunch bags. Scan the QR code to get details.



NEW KEYS/OLD KEYS

Discussions regarding security at the church and day school have been happening for close to two years. Changes to the school include new cameras inside and out, a security app to enter the day school, new doors from the lobby into the hallways and also new exterior door keys. The church side of the property is also moving forward with changes by ending the use of the GMK key for exterior access. Here is an overview of this project:

- Why are we doing this? With the internal joke of “there are more people at Saint Anne’s with a GMK key than without” the basic need is to “reset” the process of handing out keys. There are GMK keys out there for vendors we may not use any more, teachers who have left the school, parishioners who have moved on, etc. In the end, it’s simply critical to know who has access to the church via a key.
- How are we doing this? A locksmith will be removing the locking cylinders for the existing GMK key access on exterior doors and installing new cylinders for a Master Key. Note that some of the doors will simply be “dummied out” meaning they will not have any locking cylinder and will not be able to be unlocked from the outside.
- When are we doing this? The locks will be changed in early to mid-November and communication regarding this will be sent to all via an email.
- How will I get into Saint Anne’s without my key? The church office is open every day from at least 9 -4, but generally 9-5. The staff and office volunteers are more than happy to let you in at the office door which then allows you access to anywhere in the church. But we are making the new Master key available to those who are leading/ chairing groups, or volunteering/serving on the weekend when the church is not open.
- How can I get a new Master key? If you need a new Master key as the leader/chair of a committee or group, or if you come into the church on the weekend to set up for events and services, you can come to the church office between 9-4 and be assigned a key. To prevent from the “too many keys out there” situation from happening again, we’ll ask that you return your key once your leadership role ends, or you no longer need access outside of office hours. Again, once we have the locksmith scheduled, we will contact all via email to come to the office to check out a new Master key.
- What about the interior doors that use the GMK? The many closets and interior access points that use the GMK will remain as they are. Thus, if you need to open closets and rooms, your GMK will still work on the interior doors.
- What other security measures are taking place? With the days getting shorter, you will notice the property is much better lit at night than it was. We’ve swapped out many lights with bright LEDs and will be adding more in underlit areas. We also are looking at adding several Ring-type video cameras at entrances to see who is entering certain doors.
- What again is the reason? Honestly, it just makes sense. We’ve been asked “what situation caused this change?”, and the answer is simply “Society today.” In checking with some other Metro Atlanta churches, we seem to be one that stands out in terms of access by many after hours. It’s possible we’ll go even further with electronic access at some point, but for the moment, we’ll make this change with just a locksmith.



If you have any questions, feel free to let me know via emorgan@saintannes.com or 404-237-5589 x 126.

Elaine Morgan, *Facilities Manager*

THE WISDOM OF ANIMALS

A few weeks ago, we had a couple of roosters appear on our church property. In the midst of finding food for them, building a temporary shelter for them, and contacting rescues, Elaine Morgan shared a piece of wisdom about roosters that I had never heard before. She shared that roosters are a symbol of hope for those who are mourning, because they are creatures who trust that light is coming, no matter how dark it may be outside. This trait of roosters is often highlighted in Jewish communities, and it is remembered in a morning prayer service that thanks God “for giving the rooster understanding to distinguish between day and night.”

While literally distinguishing between day and night comes easily for us today, a rooster’s crow that comes before first light symbolizes optimism, hope and belief. In our lives, there are periods of light—peace of mind, clarity of purpose, a sense of blessing—and there are also moments of darkness—loss of purpose, interpersonal challenges, pain and grief. In those periods of darkness, I find myself wishing for the embodied wisdom of the rooster, who knows that light will come, no matter how dark the night may feel.

This month marks one year from the loss of my childhood dog, Biscuit. I feel a little silly writing about this loss to you all, worrying that it seems silly to grieve a pet for this long. But our blessing of the animals on Saint Francis Day, combined with the remembrances of pets lost by this community, assured me that it is ok to allow our beloved animals to make a lasting impact on our lives.

In honor of Biscuit and all the animals that have made an impact on your lives, I wanted to share with you some wisdom from a couple other animals that I’ve been thinking about this month:

1. Lobsters: Did you know that lobsters outgrow their shell about twice a year? If you remember what it feels like to go through a growth spurt, this is a really uncomfortable sensation. When a lobster starts to experience this kind of growth, they go into hiding. They move more slowly to give themselves time to adjust to their new shape, burrowing and protecting themselves in the midst of their vulnerability.

There is so much to learn from this behavior in lobsters! In times of transition—moving, changing jobs, leaving relationships—I’ve noticed a pressure to operate at the same pace as usual, to act like everything is completely fine or that I’m untouched by the difficulty of the changes in my situation. The wisdom of a lobster reminds me that it’s ok to step back, to slow down, and to give yourself the grace and time to grow into the new version of life without putting on some shiny, hard exterior armor. Who knew the molting habits of a crustacean held so much wisdom?

2. Mice: Did you know that mice are comforted by the presence of other mice? Wood mice are the first non-primates that have been observed to experience relief from suffering when in the presence of another mouse that they have known for at least 14 days. The wood mice that were studied also endured pain longer when they were accompanied by mice that were not in pain.

A lesson I’m taking from these wood mice is the value of community support when going through a difficult time. The more time we spend with one another, the more comfort we will be able to bring to each other when painful situations arise. Additionally, the ability of the healthy mice to comfort the mice in pain reminds me that I do not need personal experience with a particular type of suffering to be able to offer quality support. It’s easy to be intimidated or worry you won’t say the right thing when visiting someone who is sick, but these mice remind me that our sheer presence is enough to make a difference.

There is so much to learn from all kinds of species that walk, crawl, swim and fly around the Earth. All of these beautiful, unique creatures have so much to teach us about our own inner life, and about the whole of creation. Throughout the Bible, animals are used as examples of obedience to God’s covenant: the ravens that bring Elijah food in the wilderness, the donkey that rebukes Balaam, the whale that swallows Jonah. In addition to these biblical creatures, the wisdom of roosters, lobsters and mice have been on my mind this month: what animals would you add to the list? As you go through the next few weeks, I invite you to notice all the creatures you encounter and to think about the surprising wisdom they may hold. What can they teach you about life? What can they teach you about God? My inbox is open if you are willing to share your thoughts with me.

See you in church!

Hannah+



IT IS GOOD TO HAVE FUN!

SAINT ANNE'S IS GOOD AT FUN!





SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29: BLESSING OF COSTUMES, CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIRS SANG DURING THE SERVICE AND WE GATHERED FOR TRUNK OR TREAT + WINE AND CHEESE.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

St Dorcas:

A small but mighty group of Saint Dorcas ECW Chapter members met on Thursday, October 12. Our own Edith Woodling talked about her life, connecting it to her collection of icons. She explained the process of writing icons and the symbolism inherent in each. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 9, at 10 a.m. in the Commons Room. We will enjoy a demonstration of creating holiday table decorations, while enjoying a tasty brunch. We are known for our delicious food and lively conversation. Everyone is welcome - you do not have to be a member of the Saint Dorcas Chapter to attend our meetings. For more information, contact Amanda Marie on marie_amanda@comcast.net or 770-329-7370.

Monday Night ECW:

We meet on Nov. 13 at 7pm at CeCe Coleman's home (110 Lake Forrest Lane, Atlanta, GA 30342). The guest speaker is Rev. Hannah and she will tell us about her journey to becoming a priest and coming to Saint Anne's. In December, we'll meet Dec. 11 at 7pm at Catherine Haining's home (359 Glen Arden Place, Atlanta, GA 30305). We will have our annual Christmas Ornament swap - everyone that comes needs to bring a Christmas ornament with a max value of \$10. If anyone has any questions or would like to receive the Evites please have them contact Heidi Swygert (404-513-3250 | hswygert@hotmail.com).



Dear Saint Anne's Community,

Warm. Safe. Known. Collaborative. These were the words most frequently used by parents and staff to describe Saint Anne's Day School and Enrichment Programs in the accreditation surveys collected this year. Every six years, the Day School engages in a self-evaluation process that prompts us to reflect on our culture, programs, and structures with a strong focus on continuous improvement. Through this process, we identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth, and we set a path forward. I am pleased that the initial feedback from our self-study reflects the Day School mission and who we aspire to be as a community. It is both the carefully planned events and experiences and the daily acts of kindness that form the culture and reputation of the Day School. I look forward to sharing more details from the accreditation process with you over the next few months.

Family Fall Fest is one of the Day School's most beloved community-building events. It has historically been the only whole-family event we host that is open to the community. Despite having to reschedule because of the weather, Fall Fest was fantastic! We had an excellent turnout, with current families, past families, future families, and family guests in attendance. Everyone had such a wonderful time with the activities, which included pony rides, bouncy houses, a petting zoo, face painting, games, and yummy treats. Most importantly, everyone enjoyed spending time with each other. Thanks to the Fall Fest POPs Chairs, Caroline Engram and Katie Rollins, for the excellent planning and for working quickly to reschedule the event due to rain. And a special thanks to the Day School and Enrichment Programs staff who helped plan, set up, and facilitate the activities. We would not be able to host the event as we know it without them. This year, we are adding a new family event, and it will be open to the community. Save the date for The Day School Dash on Saturday, March 16th. Stay tuned for information about how you and your family can join us for a morning of fellowship and movement.

Finally, as we enter the Thanksgiving season, I'd like to close with a note of thanks to everyone in the Saint Anne's community for contributing time, talent, and treasure to the Day School over the years. The Day School is a magical place because of the love and care given by people like you every day and over time. Happy holidays.

Take care,

Rhonda
Day School Director



Children and Youth Ministry

The Holidays Are Coming!

The holiday season at Saint Anne's is not one to be missed! There are tons of opportunities for us to gather and build community. Check out these events below and make sure they make it on your calendar.

November:

- **11/11:** POLO Friendsgiving: Parents of Little Ones will gather for a Thanksgiving feast to remember. Each child is encouraged to bring their favorite dish. If that's goldfish crackers or pizza rolls, awesome! That's the point, to let the kids design a meal made for them.
- **11/19:** Club 45 Friendsgiving Lunch Feast following the 10:30 service.
- **11/19:** EYC Thanksgiving Potluck: EYC youth will bring sides and desserts for our feast. Don't worry about the turkey, Tabi has that covered!



December:

- **12/3:** Advent Wreath Build: Join us during the formation hour and make your family's Advent wreath! We will have some other activities for everyone plus some opportunities for outreach.
- **12/10:** Lesson and Carols: A beautiful service that takes you on a journey through the scriptures and hymns of advent. Following the service we will gather for the Parish Christmas Party. We will have lasagna, decorate the Christmas Tree and sing some Christmas Carols. A super fun night for everyone.
- **12/24:** Christmas Eve Services 4pm and 9pm: the 4pm service will feature our children as they walk through the Christmas story. At 9pm we have a candle light service with a Prosecco toast following.

So as you can see the rest of the year is flying by fast but Saint Anne's will have so much fun!

Blessings - Tabi

CALLING ALL SOCCER PLAYERS!

If your child was unable to participate in choir because of a conflict with soccer or other sports, they are welcome to join us beginning the week of November 7th. The Primary Choir (K – 1st grades) meets on Tuesdays from 4:30 -5:15 PM; the Junior Choir meets on Wednesdays from 4:30 – 5:15 PM; and the Youth Choir (6th – 12th grades) meets two Sundays a month at 4:15 PM (right before EYC). For more information or to register your child, please contact Dr. Joyce Schemanske at jschemanske@saintannes.com.

Music at Saint Anne's



Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19 | 4–6:00 p.m.
Ahavath Achim Synagogue
600 Peachtree Battle Ave NW, Atlanta, GA 30327

Sponsored by Ahavath Achim Synagogue, Northside United Methodist, New Hope AME, Northside Drive Baptist Church, Saint Annes Episcopal St. Lukes, and Trinity Presbyterian

Free and open to the community

For more information and to join on our virtual platform
visit aasynagogue.org



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SAVE THE DATE!

What's coming up at Saint Anne's

Sunday, Nov. 5 **All Saints' Sunday**
Special All Saints' Covered Dish Breakfast 8:45-9:30
Bring a favorite breakfast dish of yours or a loved one.
Cross Decorating, 9 am

Sunday, Nov. 19 **Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service**
4-6 pm, 600 Peachtree Battle Ave. NW 30337

Thursday, Nov. 23 **Thanksgiving Day service, 10:30 am**

Sunday, Dec. 3 **Breakfast, 8:45-9:30 am**
Advent Wreath Build, 9am

Sunday, Dec. 10 **Lessons and Carols, 5 pm**
Parish Christmas Party,
Lasagna dinner, tree trimming, wine, caroling & more follows Lessons and Carols

Saturday, Dec. 16 **KC Crewdson's Ordination**
Celebrate KC's ordination to the transitional diaconate at the Cathedral of St. Philip, 2 pm

Sunday, Dec. 24 **Advent IV Rite I, 8 am**
Christmas Pageant, 4 pm
Christmas Eve Rite II, 9 pm

Saturday, Jan. 6 **Epiphany Chili Supper, 5:30 pm**

Saturday, Feb. 3 **Mardi Gras Party, 6 pm**