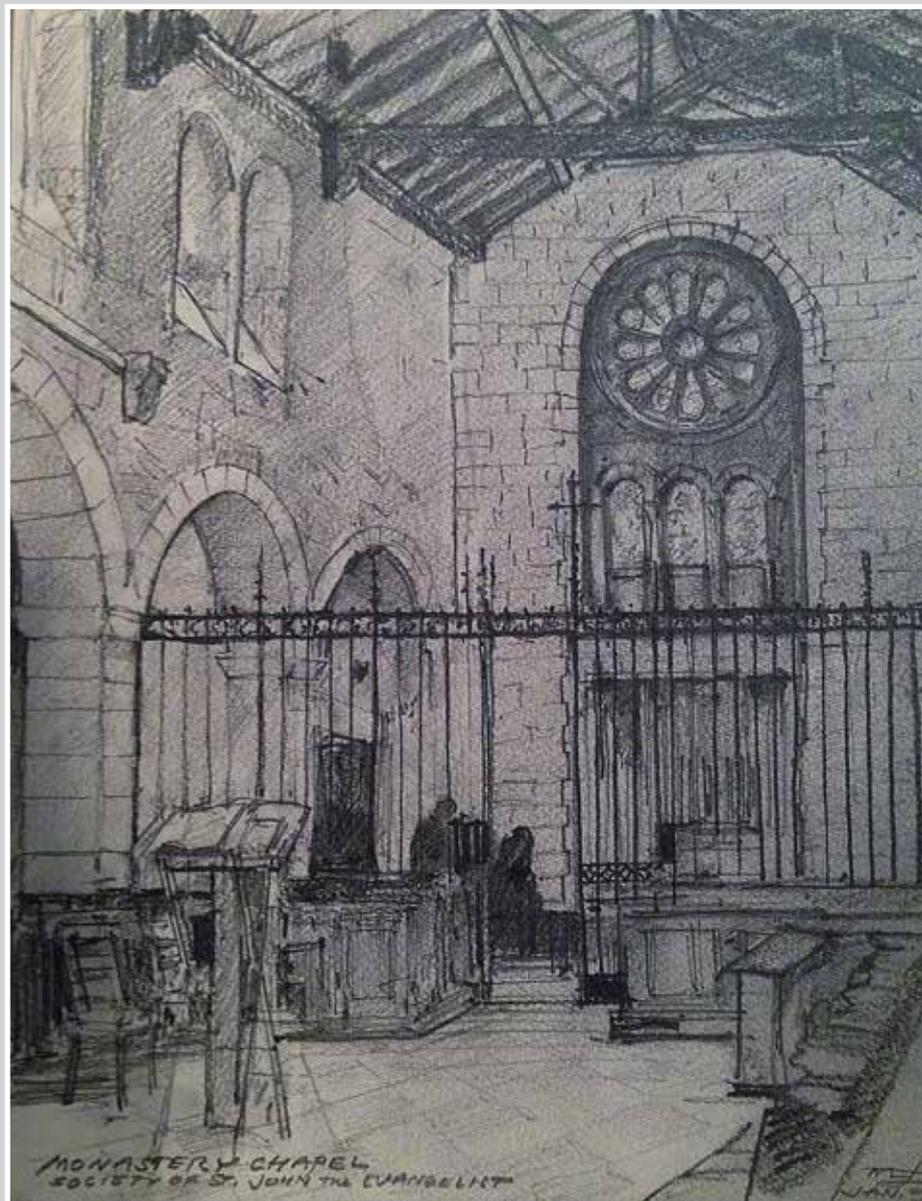


Cowley

SOCIETY OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Volume 41 • Number 3

Summer 2015



IN THIS ISSUE

In the Superior's letter, Br. Geoffrey Tristram shares words of **thanksgiving** for the gifts of God, and invites us to experience Eucharistic living.

The Society's **Bishop Visitor**, Frank Griswold, offers his report on the past year in the life of the community: a year of growth, online and at Emery House.

Br. Geoffrey Tristram peers into the mystery of the Trinity to find a **dance of love** that involves us all.

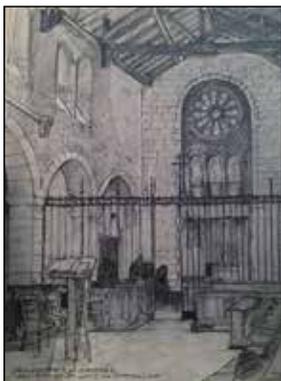
In the **Annual Fund Report**, the Brothers express their gratitude for all those who support their life and help spread Jesus' message of love.

The Spotlight on Community Life announces the publication of Br. Eldridge Pendleton's **biography of one of the Society's founders**, Charles Grafton.

Update your address with us! To remove your name from our physical mailing list and sign up for our electronic mailing list, please call 617.876.3037x55, or email friends@ssje.org.

To follow the latest news from the Brothers, visit www.SSJE.org where you can listen to weekly sermons, watch videos, and view photo galleries.

We would welcome hearing what you think of this issue of Cowley Magazine. Visit www.SSJE.org/cowleymagazine to share comments, ask questions, or see Cowley in color!



Cover image:

A beautiful sketch of the Monastery Chapel by Marc Mazzairelli. Marc visited the Chapel this winter along with Anne McGhee, a longtime friend of the community and professor in the Harvard Design School, who regularly brings her classes to sketch in the Chapel.



A Letter from the Superior

Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE

Dear Members of the Fellowship of Saint John and other Friends,

Here at the Monastery and at Emery House, we celebrate the Eucharist every day. This daily celebration of the Eucharist (which in Greek means “thanksgiving”) invites us to enter ever more deeply into that “Eucharistic living” which can transform our lives.

I love the story of the woman who was out shopping on Black Friday. She was in the middle of the packed mall and felt the need of a coffee break, so she bought herself a little bag of cookies, put them in her shopping bag, and got in line for a coffee. She found a place to sit at one of the crowded tables, across from a man reading a newspaper.

After a minute or two she reached out and took a cookie. As she did, the man across the table reached out and took one, too. She was a bit shocked at his rudeness, but didn't say anything. A few minutes later she took another cookie. Once again, the man did so, too. Now she got upset, but still didn't like to say anything.

After a couple more sips of coffee she once again took another cookie. So did the man. She was really upset now – especially as there was now only one cookie left. Before she could say anything, he took it, broke it in half, offered half to her, and proceeded to eat the other half himself. Then he smiled at her and, putting the paper under his arm, rose and walked off. She was so angry. How dare he! Her coffee break ruined,

she folded her magazine and opened her shopping bag, and there... discovered her own unopened bag of cookies!

The woman had been so angry that the man had been helping himself to her cookies. Then, when she looked in her shopping bag, she realized that they weren't really hers at all, but were a gift – shared generously and with a smile.

Seeing life as a gift is at the heart of Eucharistic living. It's about not forgetting, about remembering that everything we have, everything we are, is a gift from God. We do not belong to ourselves. Our wealth, our talents, our very life are not ours – not our possession – but are gifts from our generous God.

In order to keep before us this truth that everything we have has been given to us freely by our good and generous God, the Scriptures tell us quite clearly – and time and time again – that the key is thanksgiving. “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever” (Ps 107:1). Saint Paul urges us, “Give thanks to God the Father at all times, and for everything – in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20). But giving thanks is not always easy; we have to practice.

The best time to practice thanksgiving is as soon as we wake up. When the alarm goes off on Monday morning, instead of groaning and allowing waves of anxiety or weariness to wash over you



as you think of all the things you have to do that day, at once say, "Thank you God for the gift of a new day." And then maybe think of at least five things to be thankful for: your health, your family, a roof over your head... Name them and say, "Thank you God." And before you know it, something has changed inside. God loves to be thanked. When we give thanks, God changes us; he softens our hearts, and we become more generous towards others and towards ourselves. We are converted through thanksgiving.

This issue of *Cowley* includes the Annual Fund Report. As I read through the names of all you who have so generously given gifts towards our life and ministry, I am filled with enormous thanksgiving for so much kindness. As well as those who are listed, there are also many others who have shared their gifts of time and wise counsel with us, and countless others who remember us in their prayers. We Brothers are deeply grateful.

The annual Bishop Visitor's Report gives me the opportunity to say publicly how very blessed we Brothers are by the ministry of Bishop Frank Griswold to us. His loving and pastoral care, his wise and experienced counsel, his spiritual wisdom and insight are wonderful gifts to us, and a great inspiration.

On Sunday December 7, we had the joy of officially blessing Grafton House, our new home for our Emery House interns. It was a great celebration and an

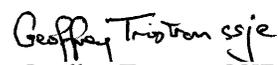
opportunity to express our thanks to all those who have helped make it possible: firstly to the Sisters of the Holy Nativity, who helped us purchase the house, and then to all those who so kindly gave us the many gifts of furniture. It now looks beautiful!

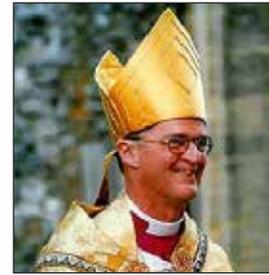
During that day's celebration we were delighted to present Brother Eldridge Pendleton's new book, *Press On, The Kingdom: The Life of Charles Chapman Grafton*. It was a very apt place for the presentation – in the house dedicated in Bishop Grafton's honor.

This year is an important one for the Society because it marks the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Fr. Richard Meux Benson. We will also mark the occasion by inviting Columba Stewart, OSB, from St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN, to preach at our Saint John's Day celebration. Fr. Columba is a very dear friend of the community and an eminent scholar and teacher of the religious life. It is a joy to welcome him back to the Monastery.

On behalf of all my Brothers, thank you for all your support and prayers. We are so grateful for the gift of your friendship.

Faithfully,


Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE
Superior



Letter from the Bishop Visitor

The Right Reverend Frank T. Griswold, III

Dear Friends of SSJE,

Father Richard Meux Benson, who founded the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in 1866 in Oxford, England, challenged members of the Society saying, "we must be men of the moment." His words continue to challenge the Society to this very day.

The fruit of prayer and monastic life is a sensitizing of the heart and mind to read with accuracy and insight the signs of the times in their varied aspects: cultural, religious, historical. The Society, therefore, is in a stance of constant discernment of how its members might best meet the deep hungers of men and women who are searching and seeking, as well as those who strive to renew their experience of life in Christ.

In this last year the Brothers have continued in their ministry of offering hospitality and spiritual companionship at the Monastery in Cambridge and at Emery House in West Newbury. This has been a blessing to many visitors, old and new. As well, members of the community have gone forth to extend the ministry of the Society to the broader Church. I know from my own experience how the presence of the Brothers in parishes and dioceses can enrich and renew our common life in Christ.

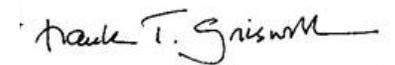
These days we hear someone declare that he or she is "spiritual but not religious" so often, the phrase has become something of a cliché.

According to the Pew Research Center, the number of people who are unaffiliated with any religious body is continuing to grow at a rapid pace, with the number somewhere around one-fifth of the U.S. public and one-third of adults under thirty. At the same time, of this unaffiliated group, two-thirds say they believe in God. I am not surprised that many of these seekers find their way to monasteries, drawn by the rather counter-cultural aspect of monastic life and searching for an authentic experience of the Divine. The Brothers continue their ministry to this group of seekers.

In this past year an ever-widening audience of pilgrims who may never find their way to the Monastery or Emery House has been fed by what I might call the Brothers' virtual ministry of presence on the Internet and through other social media. Using tools and technology that Father Benson could not have imagined, his heirs are indeed "men of the moment."

As the following pages of this report well indicate, the community continues to be steady, stable, and forward-looking in all aspects of its life – for which we can give thanks.

Yours sincerely,


The Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold, III
25th Presiding Bishop

Growing and Living within the Means of a Balanced Budget

In the current fiscal year (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) SSJE anticipates a balanced budget. Projected operating expenses are supported by:

- Gifts to the Annual Fund – 37%
- Guesthouse income – 14%
- Other sources – 16%
- Spending from Endowment (with a 4.8% draw) – 33%

The community continues to grow, and so grows the budget. Two novices took initial vows. There are two additional novices. In September 2014 the community welcomed six interns. The Society has a new home for interns at Emery House – Grafton House. The Brothers plan to fully absorb the cost of running Grafton House and the Intern Program within three years and raise restricted gifts to cover the start up costs. The majority of funding for these start up costs has been raised.

The fiscal 2015 Annual Fund is budgeted at the same level as 2014, which produced an extraordinary 10% increase over the prior year. All indications currently project that the fiscal 2015 target will be met.

Friends have been very loyal in supporting the community at a time of growth and fulfilling the pledges made to both The *STONE & Light* and *Green & Light* Capital Campaigns. The Brothers hope that news of new men, new interns, new workshops, and new online offerings will bring continued support. The Brothers continue to dedicate themselves to providing quality Christian formation offerings to the wider Church. The daily meditation “Brother, Give Us a Word” continues to double and now reaches 20,000 viewers daily via email. The Brothers developed #AdventWord, a digital Advent Calendar for the Anglican Communion, that received over one million views in eight days.

The Brothers are also reviewing their expenses – in this they are assisted by the expertise of lay advisors who serve on four fiduciary committees: Financial, Investment, Stewardship, and Building & Grounds.

Sacred Space, Completion at the Monastery, Growing at Emery House

The underlying bridge financing for The *STONE & Light* Capital Campaign was fully repaid during November 2014, six months ahead of schedule. Neither SSJE’s Endowment nor the Annual Fund was used to fund this capital expenditure. The *STONE & Light* Capital Campaign raised the funding necessary to complete this project.

At Emery House, the Grafton House property, purchased in September 2013 with the incredible assistance of a loan from the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity, is now fully operational. The property houses several interns who are currently engaged in a Monastic Internship Program to give young people in their 20s and 30s an opportunity to experience life in a Christian community, in order to provide them with a period of formation and discernment. Repayment of this loan is scheduled to commence in 2018.

Long-term Capitalization

The Brothers, with the advice of their Advisors, created a Building Fund six years ago, dedicated to the renewal of the Monastery and Emery House buildings. This is a good and responsible discipline. However, with the renovation largely completed, the Brothers are under-capitalized for the size of the physical plant they now have.

The Brothers continue to address this issue with planning around increasing the range of the Brothers’ ministry at Emery House in West Newbury. The Brothers remain in consultation with Massachusetts Audubon Society, Essex County Greenbelt, and the Town of West Newbury to both conserve the land and to raise an Endowment for SSJE’s ministry at Emery House through a series of environmental initiatives and sale of conservation rights. SSJE has renegotiated a 30 year-old legal agreement with the Town of West Newbury to allow new conservation areas and trails along the Artichoke River.

With the completion of The *STONE & Light* Capital Campaign, the Brothers are now directing bequests and receiving new gifts into the Endowment, as well as continuing to encourage more people to remember SSJE in their wills.





A Dance of Mutual Love *Perichoresis and Our Life Together*

Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE

In the fourth chapter of the *Rule of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist*, we express how and why we understand that all human beings are called to live in community: “In community we bear witness to the social nature of human life as willed by our Creator. Human beings bear the image of the triune God and are not meant to be separate and isolated.” All of us, as human beings, are called to share in communities of one kind or another, because we have all been made in the image and likeness of God. And God is community: “The very being of God is community; the Father, Son and Spirit are One in reciprocal self-giving and love.”

The theology used to express and explain God’s divine, relational community actually has fascinating implications for our human communities. The Greek word “*Perichoresis*,” which has been used in the Orthodox tradition to capture the dynamic relationship of love that is God’s very essence, is theologically defined as the “co-indwelling” or “mutual interpenetration” of the three persons of the Trinity. It’s often been understood imaginatively as a kind of divine dance: three persons moving rhythmically and dynamically, distinct and yet united in a shared dance of love.

This dynamic dance does not exist



independently of our lives, a theological mystery we can simply ponder. No, Jesus came to invite us into that loving dance of Father, Son, and Spirit. In John 17, Jesus prays: “As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us.” We are drawn into the dynamic relationship that the members of the Trinity share. “I in them and you in me,” Jesus weaves us together, “that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” The instruction Jesus leaves us with is quite clear: The more we get drawn into God’s very being and are swept into its dance of love, the more we are called to share that same kind of dance with one another as members of the Body of Christ.

The model of *Perichoresis* opens up a wonderful freedom for how exactly we are invited to be with one another in our Christian communities. Surprisingly enough, it also offers a helpful answer to some of the discord and strife that such communities inevitably encounter. For whilst the three persons of the Trinity are united in a relationship of love, each person nevertheless remains quite distinct.

As a community of monks, we Brothers try to apply this model directly to our shared life – its rewards as well as its challenges. In the case of one such reward, we recognize that SSJE’s ministry does not come just from the Brothers, but it emerges out of the community’s relationships with you, our Friends and Advisors, with whom we share in a dance of mutual love.

And for challenges within our community, we follow the model of *Perichoresis* as we strive to honor the distinctness of each Brother, as well as to appreciate one another’s individual gifts, an ideal that is not always met without difficulty. Our Rule again guides us: “We are given to one another by Christ,” we read, “and he calls us to accept one another as we are. By abiding in him we can unite in a mutual love that goes deeper than personal attraction.” When we understand every member as being called by Christ and formed by Christ, we can begin to relish those personal differences that might otherwise snag us as we struggle to work and live together. As the Rule puts it, “Mutual acceptance and love call us to value our differences of background, temperament, gifts, personality and style. Only when

we recognize them as sources of vitality are we able to let go of competitiveness and jealousy.” As we abide in Christ, we begin to see those who are different from us through the eyes of love. And we recognize what others are contributing to the whole of the group, even (or perhaps especially!) if they have different gifts from us, because we know that we are part of a body with them, made richer by their presence alongside us. The good and the bad affect all of us, because we’re bound together in this mutual love, one for the other, as Christ has called us to be.

One practice that has helped our community as we strive, day by day, to meet this call, might have helpful implications for community leaders in other contexts, or even for families: Every morning, we listen together as a chapter of the Rule of Life is read aloud. As we hear it afresh, we say “Yes” again to how we want to live in community, which this shared document articulates for us. Reading it, we reaffirm our desire to live in the intentional community that it

describes and helps to order. This Rule means that our common life is not just dependent on our moods and feelings. Instead, we have an external document that incarnates for us how we desire to live together.

For us Brothers, the Rule and the perichoretic dance are quite closely related. You might say that our Rule describes the steps of the dance we hope to share, and that, as we live by it and refer back to it, we become more adept at dancing together. At the very least, we become less likely to step on each other’s toes! Without such a common understanding, there will always be the risk that everyone is doing a different dance, which can only lead to a lot of bumping into one another, treading on toes, and falling over. The question every community needs to ask, then, is: How do we want to dance together? By laying down, as a community, the framework we mutually agree upon, we open up the freedom to love. 🙏

Prayers of the People #Prayersof

SSJE is pleased to be taking part in an online “Prayers of the People” during the 2015 General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Everyone is invited to add prayers in words & images by using double hashtags on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

Visit prayersofthepeople.org for more details.

Date	Prayer Theme	The day before, write...
Thu Jun 25	#prayersof #Life	God of life: I love ...
Fri Jun 26	#prayersof #Thanksgiving	God of grace: I give thanks ...
Sat Jun 27	#prayersof #Praise	God of glory: I praise you ...
Sun Jun 28	#prayersof #Adoration	God of love: I adore you ...
Mon Jun 29	#prayersof #Penitence	God of forgiveness: I am sorry ...
Tue Jun 30	#prayersof #Intercession	God of compassion: I pray for ...
Wed Jul 1	#prayersof #Petition	God of the ages: I ask your help ...
Thu Jul 2	#prayersof #Oblation	God of vision: I offer to you ...
Fri Jul 3	#prayersof #Celebration	God of joy: I celebrate ...



The Society of Saint John the Evangelist The Friends of SSJE Annual Fund 2014

In our life of faith we are upheld by the wisdom and loving ministry of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist: their prayers, their guidance, their loving concern for all whom they encounter. As brothers and sisters in Christ, the Friends of SSJE are called to work alongside the Brothers, by supporting this ministry. We are inspired to watch how you Friends have sustained this community with your support, by being as radically generous to them as they are to us and our fractured world.

**– William Kendrick & Polly Chatfield,
Co-Chairs of the Annual Fund**



Living a radical life of faith can be pretty scary at times. It means every morning recommitting ourselves to this life. Every morning, saying “Yes” to the Lord who first called us all those years ago, “yes” to the one who is faithful. We Brothers are so grateful for your constant help and encouragement in living out this call. Your trust enables us to entrust God with our lives.

**– Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE
Superior**

The kindness of Friends to the Brothers makes me stop in wonder.

**– Mr. Jamie Coats,
Director, Friends of SSJE**



LEVELS OF GIVING

The Brothers rely on Friends who give at all levels.

# of Donors	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
• All donors	1,709	1,423	1,506	1,839	1,981	2,173
• \$5,000 +	32	32	26	25	34	43
• \$2,500 - \$4,999	35	26	31	31	27	24
• \$1,000 - \$2,499	145	114	123	139	147	158
• \$500 - \$999	161	149	156	165	199	229
Total Donations (US Funds)	936,267	754,039	733,033	814,679	893,438	1,031,425

The Annual Fund of SSJE is made up of gifts given by the Friends of SSJE and it includes collections in the Chapel, the spring and fall appeal gifts, gifts from members the Fellowship of Saint John, Annual Fund pledge payments, and donations given at other times. It does not include restricted gifts or bequests. This report is based on records of gifts from Friends going back to 2002. **Please let us know if our records do not match yours. Many thanks.**

WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

The Brothers welcome new donors who joined the Friends of SSJE in 2014.



Some years ago, Br. James Koester came to Kingston (ON) for a Quiet Weekend in the City. Since then, the Way has been drawing me closer to God, slowly, slowly. About nine or ten years ago, my husband developed Parkinson's disease, and later cancer as well. In spite of my formerly lackadaisical relationship with Jesus and our Eternal Saviour, I prayed to God. I asked to be granted patience, compassion, a loving heart to deal with the daily stresses. God's gifts, in answer to my prayers, came silently in the night, and my husband John and I did our best with His help. I discovered then, and more recently, that my time is not God's time.

SSJE's founder, Richard Meux Benson, wrote: "We cannot bound into the depth of God at one spring...God draws us on." How very true. All the blessings and gifts I have been granted are continuously undergirded by the Brothers' morning words. My morning begins by putting on the kettle, switching on the computer, making my cup o' tea, and settling down for my time with a Brother's morning sermon. Thank you, dear Brothers, for bringing daily blessings to so many of us. I feel I know you, and some of the other responders. I hope to get to Boston one day to meet my SSJE Brothers.

– Christina McKerrow



SSJE is carrying the highest mission and calling of the Episcopal Church USA and of the global Anglican Communion. Every day I find a reflection – Brother, Give Us a Word – in my inbox and I share it with those close to me, local and far-flung.

By holding up to so many the fruits of their deep prayer and devotion to their monastic calling, SSJE carries a lamp for Christian laity worldwide. SSJE has indeed become, through the miracle of electronic technology, a lamp unto all nations. I salute the community and wish to express the depth of my gratitude to them for everyone to see.

– Constance Holmes

THANK YOU ABIDING FRIENDS

The Brothers are grateful for Friends who abide with them, giving year after year.



In my relationship with the Brothers, I have learned so much about who God is and about the qualities of honesty and transparency, love and patience, and the Fruits of the Spirit. After having worshiped at SSJE for three years, I feel that the depth of my faith has grown so much. There is an authenticity here in the Brothers' humility, their warmth, their generosity of spirit. It's taken my perspective on God to a totally different level; I see that God is affirming and loving, accepting and yet encouraging and challenging at the same time – not "kick you in the pants" challenging. It's much more of an invitation:

"Grapple with this. Here is an invitation for you to grow."

It's also been really powerful for my boyfriend to witness the richness of the Brothers' style of life and spirit. He says that the most important thing that he's learned from the Brothers is to slow down and intentionally enjoy the present moment in life. He and I have had many conversations about the Brothers' way of life. When he first started coming to worship at SSJE, he would say, "Wow, these are guys – some of them aren't that far away from my age – who don't have a salary or any of the worldly things that, as a guy, I'm told that I should have." It's been really powerful for him to see the richness of life the Brothers experience without any of those things.

The Brothers bring a richness to my life that's hard to put into words; instead, it's clearly lived out. They model a way of living that is extremely full – overflowing even – with love and generosity and gratitude and praise and humility. Their exemplification of God's love stirs within me the desire to reciprocate, as well as to share the gifts with those around me. It's a natural reflex. When we are given something really precious, we want to respond with the same generosity by which we have received.

– Alexis Kruza

THANK YOU ABIDING FRIENDS



Through “Brother, Give Us a Word,” I have an everyday kind of relationship with SSJE, because that e-mail pops into my box every morning and either challenges me or focuses me or comforts me. I just love that, even on busy days, I receive that little something – not just a blurb; not just some simple thought, promising me a happy day. No, the word is almost always challenging. It holds real-life questions and provocative ideas to make me think.

Typically, I’ll star the day’s word in my inbox because I want to come back to it. Then eventually, I realize that my inbox is full of so many flags waiting, I can’t possibly go back to each one of them, so I just save them all. They’re all worthy of going back to and thinking about some more!

I support the Monastery so that the Brothers are able to continue that work and continue the ministry from which I have benefited. I’ve gotten to where I feel like I know the Brothers now, having had chats with them every day for several years! It’s a gift of gratitude.

– Carol Petty

I first discovered the Monastery around 2007. Living a mile away, I could walk over whenever I had a really bad day and just needed someplace quiet and peaceful. I knew that every day of the week, except Monday, I could sit in on a Compline service. It became a sort of sanctuary for me: a place that I could go when I just needed to soak in God’s presence and be with other people who were deep in prayer. There is so much history of faithful service and prayer at the Monastery, that just entering the building feels like stepping into a river of prayer and letting the current carry me along.



I think it’s vitally important that a community like this exists right in the heart of Harvard Square, where so many students and young people are looking for that kind of sanctuary and the stability of a faithful community. I support SSJE partly because I personally have felt fed and nourished by the Monastery, but also because I think it’s such a great thing to have a community like SSJE living right in the heart of the city, available for all who wander in, really needing it.

– Michael Zahniser

THANK YOU ABIDING FRIENDS

Being a member of the FSJ, I share a mutual bond of prayer with the Brothers. Just knowing that makes a difference in my life, really. I know that I am part of a circle with this group of men who are living a life of prayer for the world. The relationship of mutual prayer is a very stabilizing thing – both subtly and strikingly effective. It’s a preview of the Communion of Saints.



It’s been helpful to me, in really practical ways, to have this relationship of mutual prayer as I’ve discerned a call to ordination. I have felt supported in this by the Brothers, even though I haven’t had any conversations about it with anybody from SSJE. My decisions or directions have felt the added discernment and support of a body of men who are very committed to what they’re doing, and that’s helped me, just as following the FSJ Rule has helped me to have a clear head and a clear heart as I discern forward with my own life.

Supporting SSJE financially is just a practical, material part of this relationship. Imagine how it would be to say you love someone, but never doing anything for them. How would that work?

– Ross Bliss



I am a far-flung, antipodean member of the Fellowship of St John, and have been since 1994. I met SSJE in their southern outpost, Durham, NC and joined FSJ at CDSP in Berkeley, CA. Keeping in touch through prayer or electronically, the brothers of SSJE remind me that, wherever we are, Christ meets us with an understanding heart. With thanks for your presence to so many. Arohanui.

– Nancy Barnard Starr



Legacy Society

The Society of Saint John the Evangelist

"After you leave this world, a legacy gift can continue radiating love, leaving a mark of love on your life." – **Polly Chatfield, Friends of SSJE**

"I care passionately about the continuation of the Society of Saint the Evangelist and the Brothers' work to help us all experience Jesus' love today in our broken world. I am so grateful to everyone who joined the Legacy Society."

– **The Rev. Mark S. Anschutz, Friends of SSJE**

"The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

– **"Thanksgiving for a Child," Book of Common Prayer**

Below are the names of Friends of SSJE who remember SSJE in their legacy planning.

Mark & Peggy Anschutz	Julia & John Gatta	Kathleen O'Doherty
William S. Anthony*	Elizabeth Wade Grant	Jonathan & Jessie Panek
Marc Aubertin &	Donald L. Hamer	Edward & Susannah Perkinson
Michael Kleinschmidt	Constance A. Hammond	Christopher Rivers
Kalita & Ed Blessing	Eileen Harakal	Steven Shore
Worthington Campbell, Jr.*	Frances Ann Hills	Kristy Snyder
Peter Chase*	Douglas & Sallie Craig Huber	Nancy Sparrow
Mary P. Chatfield	Cissy Humphrey	Jennifer R. Strawbridge
John Clauss *	Curtis & Carol Johnson	Jeanine Taylor*
William J. Coe*	Alvin P. Lafon	Peter Trenholm*
Mary Coogan	James LaMacchia	John Van Sielen
Elizabeth G. Cook	Mary Jane Lide	Joseph B. Webb
Patsy Couper	Neal E. Logue	Jack Zamboni &
Marcia Dodge*	Robert H. Mace, Jr.	Judith Yannariello*
Susan & Richard Doll	Christopher H. Martin	
Martha Dunn-Strohecker	Barbara P. Mathues	
Paul Evans	Marcia P. McCampbell	
Dave & Betty Jane Ferner	Lois E. Murphy*	
Linda Good Fischer	Charles Nichols & Christine Niles	
Donald R. Fritz	Agatha Nolen	

If you would like information about remembering SSJE in your legacy planning please contact Jamie Coats: friends@ssje.org 617 876 3037 x 57

Why a Legacy?

Friends share what inspired them to remember SSJE in their legacy planning.

"The Brothers have been the presence of Christ in my life. I rely on their prayers. I believe in the work they do in the world, and I want it to continue, with God's help, and a little something from me." – **Linda Fischer**

"Over many years, the Brothers of SSJE have been an oasis of light and genuine Christian hospitality to me and to so many others. I have been the beneficiary of their friendship and spiritual formation, and I would like to secure this blessing for others on the journey into Christ." – **The Rev. James LaMacchia**

"The SSJE Monastery has provided inspiration to my spiritual pilgrimage and continued to influence my life since I first visited during early adulthood. The Monastery is a sacred place to encounter the Living and Life-giving Lord. Shalom." – **Neal E. Logue**

"To do some good in this broken world in support of a community of men who care, who pray, who love, in a culture which discourages such virtues. In addition, as one of the very few monastic / apostolic religious congregations in the Episcopal Church, this is a way of witnessing to the significance and vitality of the Society and supporting its objectives." – **Robert H. Mace, Jr.**

"SSJE is the majority beneficiary of my estate because: 1) I believe in the God-given 'goodness' of the Brothers' love, motivation, goals, and accomplishments. I'm so proud to be a part of SSJE. 2) I have experienced first hand the love, acceptance, and respect with which they treat all comers. 3) I believe that the financial rewards of my career should go to the 'greater good' – not to be used for consumerism. I live a frugal life, and this all just feels so right ... really does. I trust SSJE and its future." – **Marcia P. McCampbell**

"I was first introduced to SSJE when I was in the Deacon School of R.I. studying and exploring a vocation to the diaconate. Many years later, it still resonated with me, and I have been a faithful associate for more years than I can count. Much of my spiritual journey I owe to SSJE." – **Kristy Snyder**

"SSJE is my spiritual 'home base,' even more than my church community, which can change over time. SSJE has provided a sense of stability to my life, especially during tumultuous times. My gift is an expression of care and gratitude, for the Brothers and for the place." – **Nancy Sparrow**

"The monastic traditions have always been a resource for the Church, a guide that is steady and balanced, and offers renewal and hospitality to all. I am most satisfied to support my SSJE Brothers now in my will to continue their work, worship, and hospitality." – **Joseph B. Webb**

Is God Deaf?

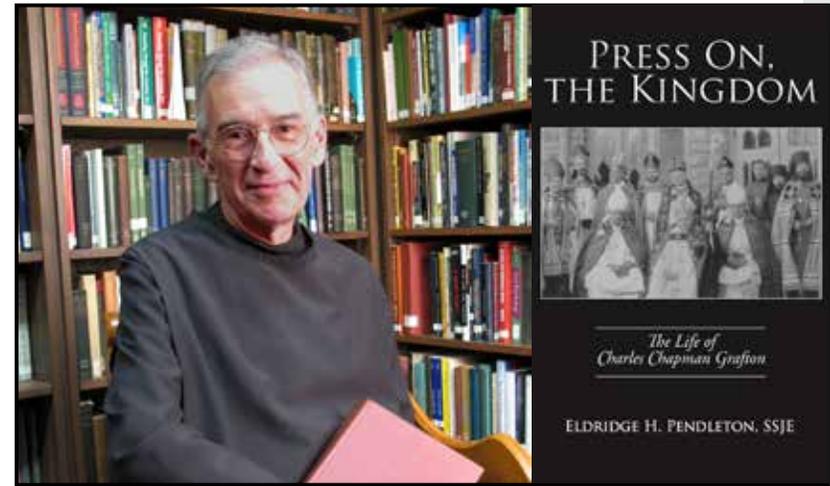
For the past several years, I have had the privilege of working closely with Dick Mahaffy, a profoundly Deaf man who is studying for the priesthood at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. Dick and his life partner, Doug Woodworth, who is also Deaf, are members of the Fellowship of Saint John. This year Dick and I have done two independent studies together: during the fall semester, we studied “Deaf Theology,” and in the spring, “The Pastoral Care of Deaf People.” As is so often the case, I’ve received as much as I’ve given in this relationship, and learned as much as I’ve taught.

Dick has never had the ability to hear sounds. Like many other Deaf people, he grew up in a hearing environment where he often felt isolated and unsure of what was going on around him. He felt – and still feels – left out of conversations dominated by hearing people. Because he has never heard spoken language, he finds reading and writing at a graduate school level a challenge. His accomplishments, in spite of these obstacles, speak to his intelligence and determination. He holds a Bachelor’s degree from Trinity College in Hartford, and hopes to graduate in 2016 with a Master of Divinity degree from EDS.

Through him, I’ve come to appreciate even more the challenges that Deaf people encounter in the Church. Few dioceses offer any kind of ministry for the Deaf, so gaining access to worship and the sacraments is a significant obstacle. Beyond obvious constraints like these, there are deeper questions, even about God. In the Bible, God communicates easily and readily with hearing people. God speaks and they listen; they speak and God listens. Is God hearing? In the gospels, a hearing Jesus heals a Deaf man, restoring his ability to hear and speak. Does this indicate that “God’s will” is for Deaf people to be healed (i.e. to become hearing people)? Likewise, is it God’s desire that blind people see, and that people in wheelchairs walk? Based on the gospels, it seems so. What does this say to a person whose disability is an accepted part of his or her identity?

It’s always a challenge to see the gospel through another’s eyes. Seeing through Dick’s eyes has certainly been enlightening for me.

– Br. David Vryhof



Press On, The Kingdom

The Community is thrilled to celebrate with Br. Eldridge Pendleton in the publication of *Press On, The Kingdom*, his biography of one of SSJE’s founders, Charles Chapman Grafton. The completion of this book represents the culmination of more than a decade’s work in archives on both sides of the Atlantic.

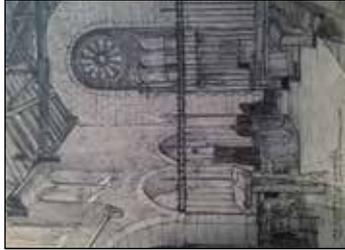
Many people today may not have heard of Charles Grafton. Yet, as Eldridge explains in the biography’s preface, one hundred years ago, more than any other Church leader, Charles Grafton changed the face of the Episcopal Church in the United States. It is thanks to Grafton that the Eucharist is now the Church’s principal form of worship. He was a champion of the Anglo-Catholic movement, an ecclesiastical visionary who helped the Church reclaim the richness of its ancient Catholic heritage, while at the same time moving into a broader mission in the twentieth century by evangelizing the poor and disadvantaged. His vision for the Society of Saint John the Evangelist was as a group of “Mission Priests” who could go into the slums and minister to the most desperately needy, whom ordinary clergy might shun. In his later years, Grafton also sought to establish ecumenical ties with other branches of Christianity, in order to fulfill Christ’s admonition “that all may be one.” Eldridge’s biography is a tribute to the remarkable life and inspiring example of this pioneering soldier for Christ, who was determined until his final hour to “do something more for the Master’s sake.”

A longtime friend of the community and rector of Saint Stephen’s, Richmond, the Reverend Gary Jones, shared with us his enthusiasm for the volume and his hopes that it would find a wide readership: “I cannot imagine a more powerful inspiration and guide for ministry today. This beautifully written and meticulously researched biography should spark a renewed enthusiasm for the ministry of the Church in the twenty-first century.”

Press On, The Kingdom can be ordered online at:
www.SSJE.org/grafton



980 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02138
U.S.A.



 printed on recycled paper

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Osterville, MA
Permit No. 3