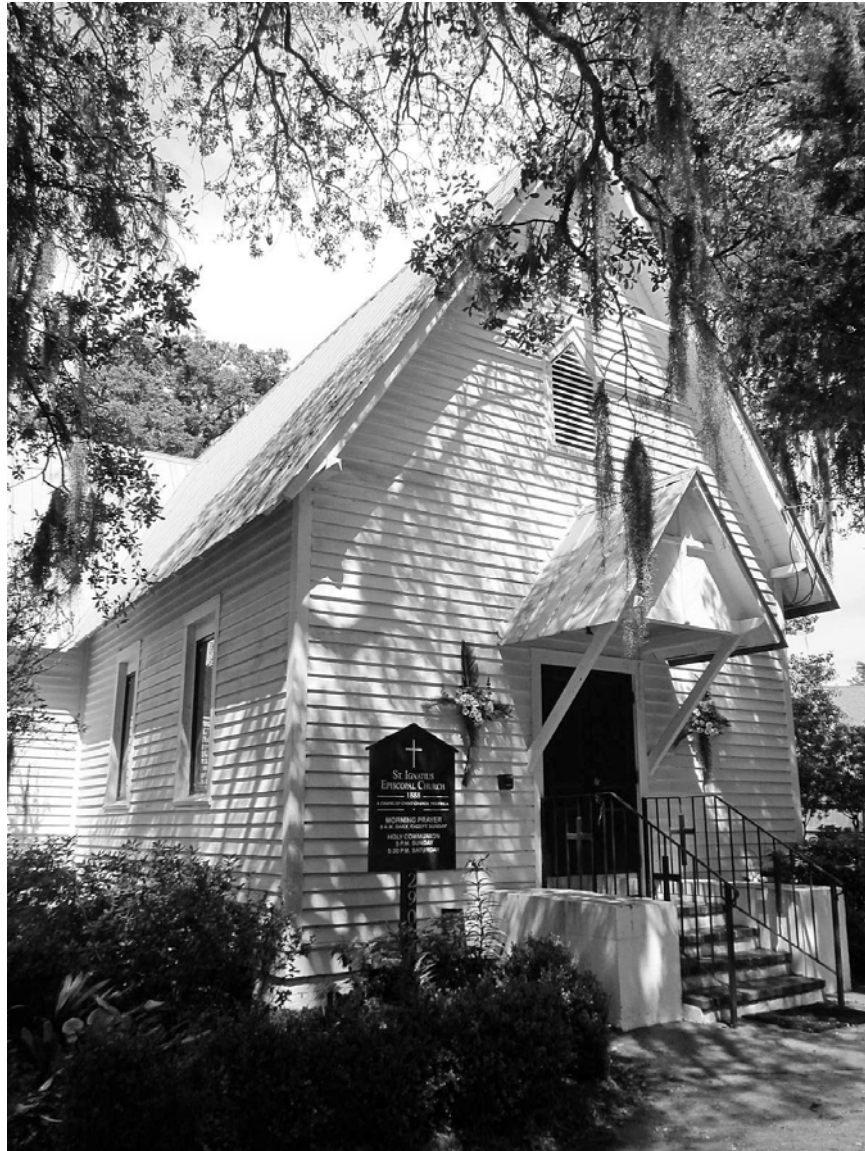


Saint Ignatius Church

2906 Demere Road
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

SAINT IGNATIUS CHURCH was built in 1886, as a Mission of Christ Church, Frederica, for the African-Americans living on Saint Simons Island. Anson Dodge had Saint Ignatius and three other mission churches built on the island and, under his direction other Episcopal missions were built on the mainland. The hurricane of 1897 – recorded at the time as a cyclone – almost destroyed the little church, and it was rebuilt. Originally located off a little lane leading to Union Memorial (aka Stranger’s) Cemetery and facing East, St. Ignatius was rebuilt in 1898 on Demere Road, facing South. It is built in the traditional cruciform, of heart pine, which inside naturally aged to its present color, the same as Christ Church, Frederica.



Saint Ignatius Church – 2015

THE ORGAN was originally in Christ Church, Frederica; a gift of the Berolzheimer family of Little Saint Simons Island and Stockton, California. It is a reed action pump organ. The original pump handle can still be seen on its side. When electricity came to the north end of the island the organ was electrified. It was placed in Saint Ignatius in 1959.

THE LECTERN, BISHOP'S CHAIR, and PRIEST'S CHAIR were from the Union/Saint James Church at the mill-site. They were placed here when that church was de-consecrated and used as a recreation center. That building has been re-consecrated and is now Lovely Lane Chapel at Epworth-by-the-Sea Conference Center.

THE ALTAR RAIL is hand carved.



Saint Ignatius Church Altar – 2014



Susan Shipman
Festival Co-Chair, CCF Senior Warden and Head of
Festival Flower Design for Saint Ignatius Church



L to R: Josephine Follins Porter, Mary Beth Keys, Janice Walker,
Buck Buchanan, and Celia Buchanan – longtime Saint Simons
Island residents who were baptized at Saint Ignatius, with Christ
Church parishioners who serve as St. Ignatius docents.

The Stained Glass Windows of Saint Ignatius Church

The windows behind the altar were made by Willetts of Philadelphia and placed in 1968. Those gracing the chapel were designed by parishioner Mary Beth Keys, crafted by Wippell and Company of Exeter, England, and placed in November 2000.

As viewed from the left front door in a clockwise direction

1 – The Great Blue Heron – The shorebirds which inhabit our marshes are wonders to behold. Whether standing in a tidal creek, or winging across the sky, the herons and egrets are never alone. They are always placed within a greater picture, and so, by the grace of God, are we.

2 – A “Fisher of Men” with a Cast Net – Jesus used the nets of fishermen Peter, James, John, and Andrew as symbols of their new vocation of proclaiming the Good News and gathering God’s people to share in the kingdom. When the net is drawn in, it is always a moment of possibility, an opportunity for a miracle, as we never know what, or in the case of the Gospel, “who” will appear.

3 – “Lift Every Voice” – The musical notes of this window commemorate the Negro National Anthem, Lift Every Voice. During a February, 1900 celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, a children’s choir in Jacksonville, Florida introduced the hymn by brothers James Weldon Johnson, lyrics, and J. Rosamond Johnson, music. The song has become a hymn of praise, thanksgiving and hope for all peoples.

4 – Resurrection Lily – Tradition has it that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden by the teardrops of repentance that Eve spread while leaving the Garden of Eden. For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life—the spiritual essence of Easter. This window also features resurrection fern and a palm branch from the gardens at Saint Ignatius.

5 – Saint Ignatius – *Gospel side, left of the Altar* – Ignatius, the second Bishop of Antioch, used his superior intellect and profound faith in Jesus Christ to struggle to maintain the unity of the Church and to maintain the truth of its teaching. He was arrested and taken to Rome, where he was martyred in 115 AD when he was thrown to the lions. During his journey to Rome Ignatius authored seven letters which said that the Church’s unity comes through Baptism, the Eucharist, and priests and bishops who join us all one to another.

6 – The Trinity – The Hand depicts God the Father, the Lamb depicts God the Son, and the Dove depicts the Holy Spirit. Given by Mrs. Malcolm McKinnon and daughter Mrs. Glen A. Wilkinson in memory of Malcolm B. McKinnon, namesake for Saint Simons’ McKinnon Airport, the windows were made in Philadelphia by the Willet Company and placed in 1968.

7 – Deaconess Alexander – *Epistle side, right of the Altar* – In 1894, Anna E.B. Alexander, whose parents had been slaves on Saint Simons Island, became the first African-American ordained as a deaconess in the Episcopal Church. Her ministry primarily in Pennick in Glynn County focused on education for both white and African American children and their families. She established Good Shepherd Church, and Episcopal school, and camp programs, which brought the two races together.

8 – Industry & Commerce: A Sawmill and A Ship – Man has enjoyed use of God’s creation in the pursuit of commerce. With the gifts and skills of the artisans who built and were later members of Saint Ignatius Church, and with the lives of those who have worshipped here, we are all beneficiaries of the industry and commerce of this island. The wood for "Old Ironsides" and the Brooklyn Bridge came from Dodge Lumber Mill on Saint Simons Island.

9 – The Live Oak – From the first chapter of Genesis to the last chapter of the Revelation to John, God graces his people with the gift of trees. Anyone who walks these islands is extravagantly blessed: God’s gift of the “sacrament”, teeming with meaning, is never more than a few yards from us. This live oak stands today in the side yard of Christ Church, Frederica.

10 – Morning Glories – Morning Glory’s expressiveness and its daily cycle of opening in the morning and closing at night commend the flower to us as a sign that God offers to us both constant renewal to meet the tasks of each day as well as a restorative refuge from the struggles and perils of the world. This window honors those who in the past, present, and future adorn the altar with vessels, linens, candles, and flowers.

11 – The Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Georgia – This emblem draws part of its design from the four men who first brought Christianity from England to Georgia: Dr. Thomas Bray, who encouraged the first mission to Georgia (one silver band), Dr. Henry Herbert, the first English priest in Georgia (one silver band), Gen. James Oglethorpe (the boar’s head), and the Right Reverend Stephen Elliott, first Bishop of Georgia (wavy gold bands). The Cherokee rose, the state flower of Georgia, represents truth, honor, and enlightenment. The Bishop’s mitre bathes the entire crest in the light of the life of the Episcopal Church and the faith and teaching of the Apostles.



Plaque in Saint Ignatius Church of Baptisms 1870-1970

Saint Ignatius Church is now considered a chapel of Christ Church, Frederica.

Morning Prayer is read Wednesday thru Friday at 8:00am by a lay person.

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated each Saturday at 5:30pm.