

Mepkin Abbey Garden Volunteer Newsletter

January 2015



Church Door at Christmas

December found us busy with many new projects being completed, and with our usual garden cleanup. The most exciting event was the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord after the month of Advent when all were preparing for His coming. Father Gueric, with his God given talent, was there to give The Church it's special décor for Christmas, and once again he did his usual outstanding job. See how beautiful the Church was for the Christchild.



The Creche in the Entry Hall



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Many thanks to Father Jonas for these wonderful photos!

December was also the month for planting. We were able to use most of the gift plants from John Deere Landscaping that Jamie acquired for Mepkin. The excitement was high because we finally were able to step up the look at St. Anthony.



St Anthony

We used six hollies that had outgrown the pots in front of the Church, various evergreen plants that Jamie used in the Creche Exhibits, two Sego Palms that were babies from the large Sego on the walk to the Breezeway, and, we planted 2 memorial oaks (not pictured) which will provide color in the Fall. We call this re-cycling!

While we are on the subject of landscaping, I thought I would also feature the areas we landscaped two years ago. They have matured nicely.





Garden Updates

As I have been gone since the middle of December, there will be no report on the various garden areas this month, except for Howard's Orchard and the work at the Columbarium.

The Orchard

The Garden/Orchard crew is mainly on holiday sabbatical. George's raised beds look great and I imagine there will be some lettuce and bok choy for the brothers in the New Year.

We put a mushroom box around each of the Satsuma oranges to protect them from frost. So far so good. Let's hope for warmer weather and a quick spring.

Howard

Columbarium:

We planted six new Palmettos to the left of the top of the stairs, and two magnolias at the entrance beds. (Thanks to Jamie once again!)



Palmettos

Greenhouse:

We spent most of December re-potting, washing pots, bringing into Greenhouse 1 planted pots that will not winter-over, and, re-potting new pots for Winter. Greenhouse Bob has obtained a large fan to replace the one that has died and promises to install it in January. Thanks to all who helped move pots in and then move pots rehabbed for winter back out.



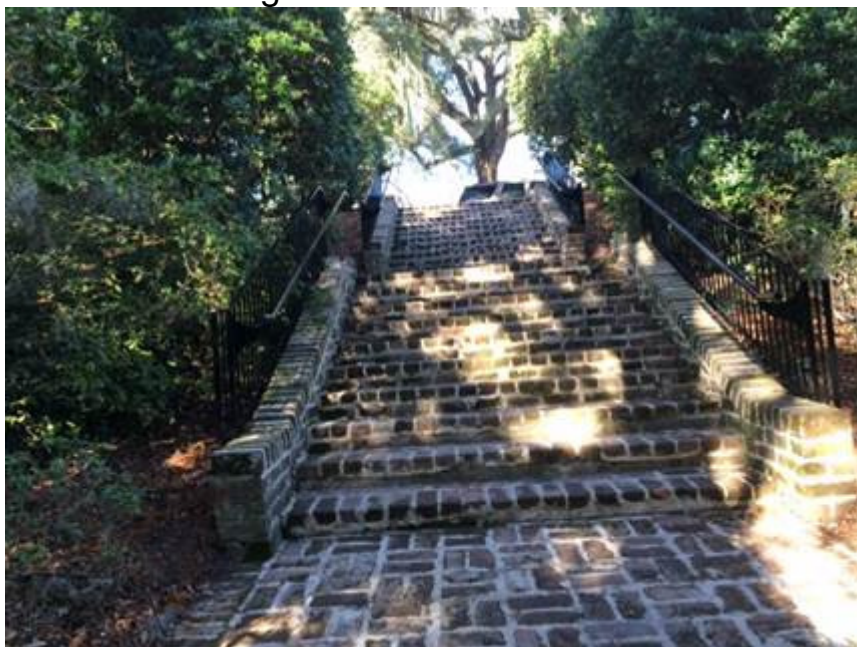
Greenhouse 1

Odds and Ends:

At last the railings on the main steps of Luce Garden have been installed. It took me three years to find someone who would actually give us an estimate. Many thanks to Doris' son.



Section of railing at Luce



Railings on each side of steps in Luce

Only the Garden Volunteers can appreciate what Santa brought the Breakroom. It is a vast improvement over what we had before.



Renovated Breakroom bathroom

The first of the year we received another surprise gift from Paul and Suellen Biel. Paul not only built the picnic table and brought it down, but also cleaned up and sorted all the various tool boxes in the Tool Room. Thank you, thank you.



L to R: Bob, Tom, Ursula, Paul, Suellen and Howard

Many thanks to Howard for The Orchard Garden Report, Brother Anthony Maria for Scott's photo, Brother Jonas for the beautiful photos of the church and new picnic table, and to Langhorne for editing.

I will be in Tennessee for business and regular health tests during January. Ursula is doing a wonderful job (as usual), as have our loyal Volunteers. They mostly run themselves now and I so appreciate it. Happy New Year to each of you. As Russ said, "I think the year to come is going to be a good one." Amen, Russ, amen. dottie