

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

January 2021



New look in the Greenhouse

Things have really been happening at Mepkin. As you can see from the photograph above, the Greenhouse has been reorganized and propagation of new plants has started. Cypress Garden shared many of their “extra” plants, for which we thank them.

December was a time of continued clean up and helping get the Monastery decorated for Christmas. In January our tasks will be intense with winter pruning shrubs (that do not bloom in Spring), shaping hedges, amending soils, removing vines, and taking care to remove spent Camellia blooms (to avoid disease).

On the grounds, we continue with beautiful photographs Father Jonas has sent.



Butterfly in Lantana at Store



Winter berries on Nandina at Store

St. Clare:



The Tractor Seat continue blooming

Cloister:



Cloister heading towards the Refectory

A new feature in the Cloister is the birdhouse that Dennis gifted the Brothers:



Birdhouse in Cloister



New Covid candle wind protector from Jamie

Orchard:

The orchard is doing well despite the recent cold weather. Dennis brought in a heavy non woven cloth that he and Jamie used at their greenhouse. It doesn't look too professional but we used reinforcement rods to support the cloth held

together by wire ties. A spotlight inside gives a bit of warmth. The remaining lemon tree is wrapped with sun protection cloth. Not to look the best but the all we had. So far so good.

I was out cleaning the bluebird houses after my check of the orchard. There were bluebirds scouting the area but no houses actively occupied. I emptied last years nesting material and sprinkled some sulfur to control mites. George Neil built most of the houses and they have held up very well. I will have to touch up a few but none in very bad condition. Best wishes for 2021. Howard

Greenhouse:

It is so exciting to see all the various activities going on in the Greenhouse. The goal is to raise plants for color in the pots and various garden beds. These will also be for sale. Take a look:







Odds and Ends:

Each year, the Mepkin Community celebrates Joy Never Ending Sunday, which commemorates the anniversary of the foundation of the monastery in November 1949. This year, it was celebrated, without any guests, the 71st anniversary of Mepkin's foundation.

On Sunday, Nov. 15th, Mass was celebrated in the church preceded by the annual blessing of the monks' graves. This is a particularly meaningful celebration because it allows us to remember and pray for those on whose shoulders we walk.





Fr Gueric's arrangement for Service

The Bluff behind the Church:

Clearing the Bluff behind the Church and the 12-Man Cottage has been an ongoing program. A project to do so has started. Here is a photograph where you can see how difficult this is. There is a very steep drop (hence, a bluff).



We will watch the progress of this and report again.

Church at Advent and Easter:



Advent



Our Lady

Christmas:

The Volunteers were a big help to getting Christmas decorations up. Here we see our Mormon Volunteers, Elder Jeremy and Elder Jessie, hanging a wreath on one of the cottages.



The Breezeway



A Mosaic Creche

Christmas:



Church at Christmas

This photo is not as clear as I would like. I had to take it off the On-line Mass.



Christmas Mass (Father Joe and Father Kevin)

I am delighted to have a photo of Leslie Wingenfield (new Volunteer announced last month). Welcome, Leslie. We are delighted to have you with us!



. To Volunteer: contact Dennis Nelson at 843-830-9349 or by email at MepkinAbbeyVolunteers@gmail.com

Thanks to Howard for his report. My thanks to Dennis, Kathleen, Leslie, and Father Jonas for the photos.

To close, at the end, I have put photos of “the place”. The place where we all find peace and the beauty of God.





**Happy New Year to each of you. May your year be full of peace and beauty.
dottie**