

# ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

## "Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"

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## A Night of Holiday Fun

By Vicki West

On December 15, 2016, Christmas cheer was definitely in the air. This year, as every year, the evening was filled with fun, fellowship and a smorgasbord of delicious food. This year Paula Garrett (pictured right) catered the event and provided us with a suckling roast pig. Volunteers added to the feast with other items such as scrumptious dips, sensational side dishes and delectable desserts.

Jeff Doke provided wonderful musical entertainment throughout the evening (see photo below). We were also delighted to be serenaded by our first annual (LOL) volunteer Christmas choir with *The 12 days of Christmas*.

Thank you so much to everyone who participated to make this such a success. A special thank you goes out to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Paula Garrett.



### ISC Calendar

Volunteer Party, Soup & Salad ShareFeast 5:30 PM 307 Newcastle	3/2/17
The Golden Isles Maritime Club Golf Tournament	5/6/17



## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

*Valerie Crumpton*



Happy New Year!! Isn't it amazing just how fast time flies? I wish for peace, prosperity, and all things bright and beautiful for you and your loved ones this year and beyond.

2016 was a good year for the ISC after a challenging year in 2015. The Center ended the year with a positive net income of \$8264.276 after expenses. Our overall income decreased by 4.1% compared to 2015. However, we continued to cut expenses on store inventory by being more selective in choosing our store merchandise and applying for more grants to cover certain program costs like Port-as-Classroom. We are very grateful to all our sponsors, donors, and supporters for your generous contributions that have helped sustain our mission to serve the thousands of seafarers who visit our shores.

In 2016 the Port of Brunswick received 564 vessels that resulted in 12,610 seafarer visits to the International Seafarers' Center on both sides of the river. ISC Volunteers worked about 800 different shifts and dedicated more than 12,000 hours to provide hospitality services to weary merchant mariners. To our volunteers who are reading this, words are inadequate to describe our gratitude for your hard work and efforts. Thank you for being a friend to our seafarers and for all that you do to exemplify true hospitality.

The ISC transport service shuttled an estimated 2,162 seafarers for shopping and non-shopping trips that included trips to medical facilities. In 2016 seafarers who shopped at local stores contributed an estimated \$311,399 to the local economy just through what they themselves spent while shopping. This does *not* include other expenditures such as medical fees, dining at local restaurants, accommo-

dations, and other expenses that were not reported. Nor does it include what the ISC spent locally to stock our own retail operation. ISC vans continue to be a critical component of our service to seafarers. The transportation ministry is particularly significant as it not only takes seafarers to their destinations but it also helps to foster a lot of goodwill, cultural exchanges, and friendship between ISC Volunteers and the crew.

As you may have read elsewhere in this issue, the ISC's signature Christmas-at-Sea program was a hit last year! I am grateful to staff Robert Randall and Vicki West for making the appeals and coordinating the distribution of the gifts to seafarers as well as to Volunteers Cecile Settles, Jo Lyn Pariseau, and Shawn Adams for working tirelessly stuffing ditty bags and shoeboxes. We would like to give thanks to all our Christmas-at-Sea donors who made a huge impact on seafarers receiving the gifts. The smiles of joy on their faces are priceless!!

2017 will be another exciting year. I urge you to "Like" our Facebook page, "International Seafarers' Center Brunswick" and be updated on ISC happenings throughout the year.

**Yours in Christ,**

*Valerie*

### Amazon Smile

Don't forget to select the International Seafarers' Center as your supported charity when you shop at:

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

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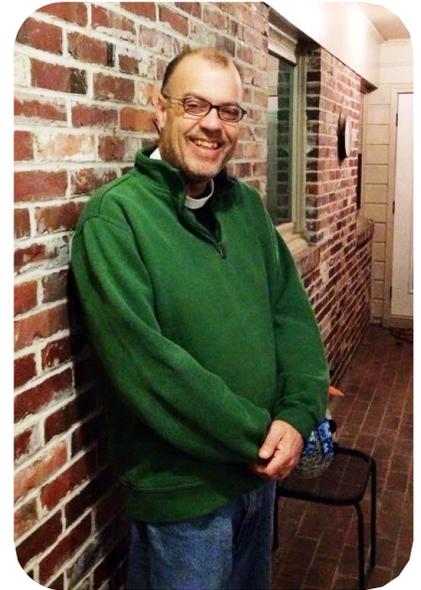
## Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. James McKinnon

“Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!”  
 Hebrews 13:1-2

Christ taught us that God's Kingdom has no borders. In the eyes of God we are one global family. We may speak many different languages and come from many different lands and cultures but we are all created by a God who loves each of us as if we are God's only child. In a world that many times seems hopelessly divided we represent a Holy alternative. At the International Seafarers' Center we create a space where God's family is celebrated.

In my short time volunteering at the Seafarers' Center I have met many angels. They have fed my soul and touched my heart in ways that I could have never imagined before I started this journey. I have come to realize that the beautiful thing about hospitality is that it is a reciprocal relationship. Many times the one showing hospitality will get more out of it than they could ever put into it. I thank God for giving me the chance to volunteer at the ISC and look forward to the angels I have yet to meet there.



# Everyone at sea deserves a safe harbor.

The International Seafarers' Center (ISC) creates a safe harbor for merchant mariners traveling through the Port of Brunswick. The ISC provides resources for visiting seafarers to rest, relax, and receive help if needed.



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## CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA ANNUAL REPORT

*By Robert Randall*

Again this year our local community came through with a successful Christmas-At-Sea ministry, providing presents to seafarers who visited the Port of Brunswick between Thanksgiving Day and Orthodox Christmas (Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>). We gave out 1459 presents!

These gifts, in the form of stuffed ditty bags or wrapped shoe boxes, were provided by 44 different groups (Sunday School classes, churches, schools, businesses, etc.) and numerous individuals and families from throughout the Golden Isles and nearby counties. They were delivered to the vessels by our volunteer ship visitors. And they were received with joy by all the seafarers from so many different countries.

They made real the Christmas hope of peace on earth and good will to all.

Special thanks go again to Jo Lyn Pariseau and Cecile Settles for organizing the ditty stuffing operation and staying on top of everything, both before and after all the deliveries. We are again indebted to the wonderful ladies at First Baptist Church in Blackshear, GA, for bringing more than a thousand sewn ditty bags, hundreds of knitted caps and scarves, a busload of various items from our list of suggestions, and stuffing nearly 300 of those bags in a single morning! Wow!

And we cannot thank enough every single group and person who gave of themselves to put together these presents. Each one carried the love of Christ to some specific seafarer who got to open it on Christmas day, so far from home and family. They know that you care.



**M/V THEBEN***By John Samuelson*

In my driving duties one Monday evening, I was fortunate to meet the captain of the M/V Theben, and as I had some friends in town, I asked him if I could bring them aboard the next day for a short tour of the ship. He agreed.

The visitors included Megan Hoffman, Ziggy her son, age 10, and cousin Ryan Hill. The captain warmly welcomed us into the lounge of the ship, offering soft drinks and cookies. Ziggy was quite taken with the Belgian-made cookies and, as Captain Dennis had a 12 year old son of his own, he was quite taken with Ziggy.

We were given a very thorough tour of the bridge, dining rooms, lounge, sauna, workout rooms, pool, the captain's stateroom and office, as well as one of the other officer's quarters. This ship was only 8 months old and is a PCC (pure car carrier), being designed from the ground up to carry only autos (8,000 of them). My guests were very impressed with the entire operation.



*L to R: John Samuelson and Ziggy Hoffman*

At the end of the tour we thanked the captain for his hospitality and time and I made arrangements to check in with him on his next visit to Brunswick on 12/26 and help him with his desire to visit Jekyll Island. He had visited St Simons Island for his birthday the day before.

To my amazement, upon arriving home, I got a call from Colonel's Island saying a package had been left for me to deliver to Ziggy. Arriving at the port the next morning, I found a large envelope addressed to Ziggy & family from the Theben.

I hurried home and gave Ziggy the package which contained a 2016 Theben basketball flag signed by the master and entire crew! What a surprise! My guests & I are usually treated very well upon visiting/touring a ship but this was a truly special gift.

My (and Ziggy's) thanks and appreciation are extended to the captain and crew of the Theben for their hospitality and their gift.

Post Script: although the Theben did return to Brunswick on December 28 (fog delayed), the captain was unable to get away long enough for a tour of Jekyll. However I left my contact information with him for the next return to Colonel's Island.



*D.A.C. Ramirez  
Captain of the M/V Theben*

## UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA MARINE EXTENSION SERVICE ISC Volunteer Training

By Anne B. Jones



**Lt to Rt: Bryan Fluech, University of Georgia Marine Extension Associate Director, Val Crumpton, Executive Director ISC and Lindsey Parker, Captain of the University of Georgia research vessel 'Georgia Bulldog'**

Bryan Fluech and Lindsey Parker of the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Sea Grant program recently visited the International Seafarers' Center. Bryan serves as the local program's Associate Marine Extension Director. Lindsey is the Captain of the University's research vessel, the *Georgia Bulldog*.

The ISC's conference room was filled with volunteers as the two presented a riveting program related to their research in our coastal waters. Headquartered on Brunswick's Bay Street, they explained how their unit serves as public service outreach. "Our mission is to apply research to promote economic development and resource protection. We try to help balance the needs of our coastal resources and the communities that depend on them. Our coast is changing and it needs to be in a responsible manner. This industry is part of our coastal economy and heritage." Their duties include providing research-based information primarily focused on our area's fishing and shrimping industry.

"We try to answer questions about how local seafood is produced; how healthy it is; and the environmental impact it has. This is important information as we have 1/3 of the eastern seaboard's salt marshes, which are nursery grounds for shellfish and plants." Shrimp is our state's most valuable commercial fishery followed by crabbing and an increasing demand for edible jellyfish, which Bryan compares to "marine tofu." He says there is a "jellyball" plant in downtown Darien, adding "A group of jellyfish is known as a 'smack'"

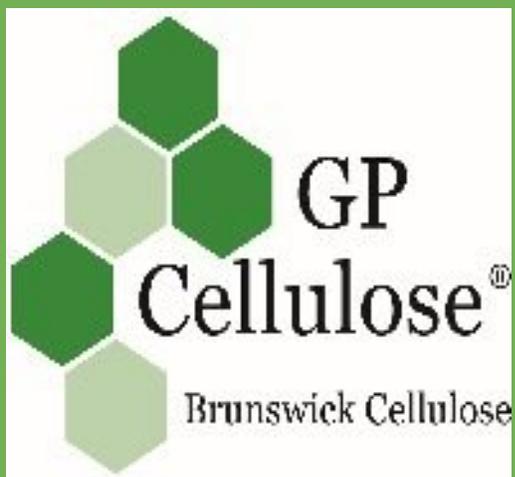
Their staff provides education about a wide variety of related subjects and works with the fishing industry, citizens, and local governments on science-related issues. Their hottest topics include sea turtle safety, issues of by-catch (sea creatures accidentally caught in shrimp nets) and the development of more efficient cost-effective equipment for local shrimp trawlers.

According to Bryan and Lindsey, Georgia used to be #1 in oyster production but they were overharvested, and our shrimp fleet has declined with the influx of imports. Shrimp is basically an annual crop, sometimes subject to cold weather and overfishing, but can rebuild itself in a year. 80% of annual production is sweet-tasting white shrimp.



They emphasize that they work with fishermen, encouraging them to follow rules, but also want them to make a good living. Their cooperation results in benefits that help us all. With development and use of the TED (Turtle Excluder Device), the local sea turtle population is thriving.

Bryan and Lindsey offer themselves as educational speakers and encourage the public to visit and tour their facilities. For information, go to [www.marex.uga.edu](http://www.marex.uga.edu), email [fluech@uga.edu](mailto:fluech@uga.edu), or call (912)-264-7269.



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## MY NATIVITY SCENE

*By Mary Jane Haft*

This nativity scene (or nacimiento) first came to be when I was living in Guatemala City and working for the State Department at our embassy there in the late '70's. There had been an article in the local paper inviting the public to visit the homes of various people in the city to view their nativity sets. The sets ranged from modest paper figures constructed on a rooftop and covered in plastic to hold off the rain to a very elaborate display in the home of a woodcarver who had built streets and buildings and people to represent Bethlehem.

For years I had collected small figures of animals and people as souvenirs from places I had lived and, visited. Other pieces went back to my early childhood. Nothing was ever thrown out! I decided I too could make a display with my many pieces with the idea that all could come together and journey to Bethlehem to visit the Infant Jesus in the manger. And so my nativity scene came to be.

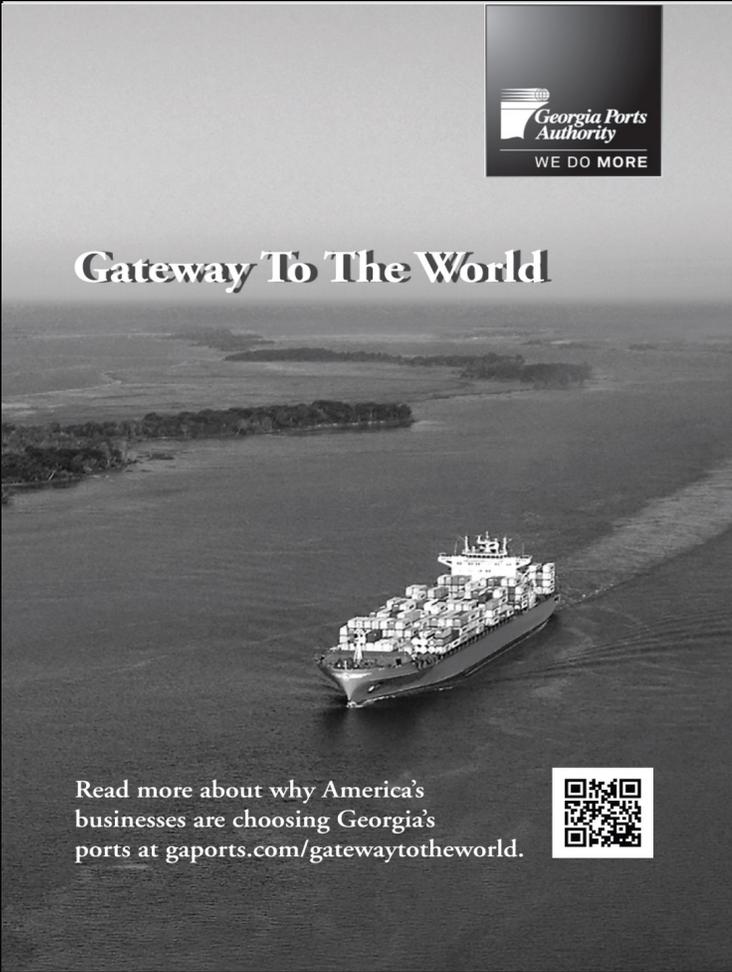
It is 8' x 12' and rests on layers of thick Styrofoam. The manger itself, with the barn, holy family, and some animals, is hand-carved from Oberammergau, Germany. Some pieces are beautifully crafted and others are very simply made. While many are made of wood, others are of straw, clay, wax, bread dough, lead, or cardboard. There are wooden animals from Africa, Peruvian dancers delicately sculptured in clay, and beautiful Guatemalan 'campesinos' made of wax. People are coming to the manger by foot, car, boat, bus and horseback.

It has been displayed in churches, storefronts, and our home. I am retired many years from the Foreign Service now and had served in seven countries. My husband and I still love to travel but our collecting days are over. So too is our putting up the display. It had been a labor of love but aching joints said enough. Fortunately for us the International Seafarers' Center has taken it over very graciously and in their competent hands it can be put together in a day.

The display was set up at the ISC during this past Christmas season where it was viewed by many, many people, including the seafarers seen here. It will be available for viewing again next Christmas.









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### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!

**Have a passion for the maritime life? Enjoy learning about world cultures? Like making new friends?**

**Call us at 912-267-0631 to find out how you can be involved in our mission.**

**Volunteer or Donate, we need your support. Please call 912-267-0631 today!**



### NEW GEAR FOR US!

The ISC has just launched their new Booster T-Shirt campaign through March 9, 2017. These are available in unisex and women's sizes. The Indigo Blue is pictured and is not available in the women's style. We have a beautiful light blue for the ladies which you can see on the web site below. Both the unisex and women's styles are available in long and short sleeves. Please go to the link below and be one of the first to purchase this wonderful shirt.

<https://www.booster.com/internationalseafarers>



## SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM First Dissolvable Heart Stent to Open Blocked Arteries

Southeast Georgia Health System-Brunswick Campus is the first community-based hospital in the United States to use the first fully dissolving heart stent available worldwide.



Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in July, Abbott Laboratories' dissolvable heart stent, Absorb GT1™ or Absorb, was used by Matthew Certain, M.D., board-certified internal medicine and interventional cardiologist with Strickland, Certain & Jones, and a member of the Health System's Brunswick Campus medical staff, for the first time on November 21. As the first absorbable stent approved for use in the United States, it is not yet widely available in all hospitals or in all states.

Interventional cardiologists Michael Butler, M.D., and Marsha Certain, M.D., have also completed the training to perform the procedure.

According to Decisions Resource Group, a health care consulting firm, 850,000 patients a year are treated with heart stents in the United States. Historically, stents are metal wire mesh tubes that are implanted into a blocked artery narrowed by fatty deposits, or plaque, to open it up and restore blood flow. The stent acts as scaffolding to support the walls of the artery so it can heal.

Originally, stents were simply bare metal, but after the turn of the century, cardiologists began using drug-coated stents, which are the most commonly used today. Once the artery has healed the stent remains in place, which can cause adverse affects including scar tissue leading to the formation of blood clots or, heart attack and death.

The advantage of the Absorb stent is that it is a biodegradable polymer that dissolves over time, like dissolving stitches, into water and carbon dioxide, both of which occur naturally in the body and reabsorb. Within two to three years, the stent is completely gone.

Certain explains, "Similar to casting a broken bone so it can be supported and heal, a stent is implanted in a blocked artery after it has been opened up to once again restore blood flow. The stent supports the walls of the artery, giving it time to regain its normal structure and flexibility. And, unlike metal stents that are permanent, the Absorb stent breaks down and disappears over time reducing the risk of complications."

Absorb stents have been available in Europe, Latin American and Asia and implanted in more than 150,000 patients. In the United States it is still considered a relatively new therapy for treating coronary artery disease.

For more information about Absorb dissolving heart stent, visit [dissolvingstent.com](http://dissolvingstent.com); to find a interventional cardiologist, call the free Southeast Georgia Health System provider referral line at 1-855-ASK-SGHS (1-855-275-7447).



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A huge **THANK YOU** to all those who gave so generously to ensure the ISC Christmas-At-Sea program was a success.

**ISC MISSION STATEMENT**

The ISC mission is to provide seafarers with a safe harbor that they can call home. The ISC provides services that meet the spiritual, emotional, physical and material needs of seafarers who visit the Port of Brunswick.