“Meeting Seafarers’ Needs Since 1982”

Thank you to all of our community partners and volunteers. Because of you, Christmas-At-Sea has been a tremendous success. We have been overwhelmed by the generous response to our request for help this year. People and churches from as far as Clarksville, GA have donated money, supplies, fully wrapped gifts and their precious time in helping us deliver over 1700 Christmas-At-Sea gifts to our Seafaring friends. A special thanks to Jo Lyn Pariseau and Cecile Settles who, once again, have worked tirelessly to pack, shop, and keep us all on the right track during Christmas-At-Sea.

We had four different groups from the community come and help pack bags this year. Leadership Glynn packed about 200 bags; Debbie Hoffman brought her classroom from Brunswick Christian Academy and they packed about 30 bags. First Baptist Church of Blackshear packed over 200 bags in a little over 2 hours! A group from Union Baptist replenished our supplies, and gave the distribution center a much-needed cleaning.

The response from Seafarers has been overwhelming gratitude. The smiles on their faces as they see our volunteers approaching with gifts makes it all worthwhile. If you are like me, we can easily take for granted the time we have to spend with friends and family during Christmas. When serving our seafaring friends, we

Continued on page 3...
Welcome to 2019. As we enter into this brand-new year, the mandate of our Lord is our cry, “To love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37) Jesus did not classify a “neighbor” as one living next door to the speaker BUT anyone we come in contact with. Therefore, we love and support ALL seafarers coming to our Ports regardless of race or religious beliefs.

As 2018 began to close its chapter, in our reflection, there were great highs and devastating lows. Our “anonymous” donor gave us monies to renovate ½ of our Newcastle center and the “homey” feel now resonates to the seafarers. We won the “Clean Sweep” award for our beautiful and inviting new landscaping. This same amazing donor has now given us another very large sum to renovate the other half of the center and also replace the decking behind the structure that is rotting. A HUGE THANK YOU once again. The ITF Blessed us with a grant to purchase a brand new 2018 Chrysler Pacifica to more safely transport our “friends” from all over the World. THANK you from the bottom of our heart (picture and article on page 12). Also, the Baptist Chapel on Jekyll Island, gave a very substantial donation to the ISC. Oh my, God is so good!! Thank you JI Baptist Chapel. Two Chaplains, and possibly a third, have been added to our volunteer roles for which we are very thankful.

Now on the flip side, we have been devastated by the loss of three members of our family of volunteers in 2018. With heavy hearts we said good-bye to Ross Smith, Keven Cloonan and Ray Scott. They are gone BUT will never be forgotten.

When I came aboard as the Executive Director in 2017, I was and still am determined to make the ISC a household name. We have been in the paper several times this past year and great articles have been written. People are beginning to know WE ARE HERE AND WHAT WE DO!!!

We embrace this new year with all of its highs and lows because we know that in all things, we are more than conquerors and that God will turn what the enemy means for harm into good for all concerned.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 it says, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven....”, I believe we are in a season of acceleration. The world is in a rapid decline of hate, lies and great disunity. God is NOT about any of those things. As we here at the ISC endeavor to take Christ to the Nations, not only in word but more importantly by action, time is short and great things are underway. We have just come through the Christmas Season, where at the first announcement of Christ’s birth, the Angelic Hosts proclaimed...“Peace on earth, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14) As we press forward in this new year, we will do our part to see this happen. LIVING LOCAL-REACHING NATIONS is our reality at The International Seafarers’ Center.

Now is a great time to come on board with the ISC as a volunteer, as a monthly donor, or better still - BOTH. I speak to all, a very prosperous NEW YEAR.

Blessing,
Vicki
LIVE LOCAL- REACH NATIONS
**Christmas-At Sea continued from page 1...**

begin to gain perspective to understand just how difficult it is to be away from loved ones for so long and at such a precious time as Christmas. What a great reminder of why our Savior came - not only for our salvation, but to abide with us even in the most difficult of circumstances. He promises to never leave and to draw close to those in need. He calls us to be His hands and feet and that is precisely what all of you have chosen to do this Christmas for our Seafarers. We bless all of you who have given so graciously of your talents, gifts, and time.

Many Blessings,
Clay

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Hello International Seafarers’ Center Brunswick,
Many thanks for all the nice X-Mas presents received last time 2018-12-10 in Brunswick.
The Filipino and The Swedish crew really appreciated all your good efforts!

*Brgds Martin Wahlbacke, m/v Mignon*

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Merry Christmas! The Captain and crew aboard the m/v Fidelio wishes you a Merry Christmas. We would also like to say thank you for the Christmas gifts we received. You make a difference for us aboard during this holiday, thank you.

**Captain & crew of the m/v Fidelio.**

Good day all that help and work at the International Seafarers' Center Brunswick G.A.
First of all the Captain and crew of m.v. Dynamogracht wish to send their best wishes and gratitude for the gifts, and attentions that we received through your seafarers Centre. We called on the port of Brunswick GA on the 6th of December this year.
Fortunate enough in time to receive some attentions for the crew, brought together by the volunteers working for the Seafarers' Centre. This helped, to no small degree, to lighten the Christmas spirit and help celebrate Christmas-At-Sea in good spirits.
As we are in a different time zone at the moment and we made a lottery handing out the presents we already unpacked all presents. All went well in good humor and friendly banter.

Thanks for your attentions and good work for seafarers as this is highly appreciated by the crew.

**Best regards John Hoogland/Dynamogracht/PCDE**
St. William Catholic Church
2300 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island

Rev. Msgr. John Kenneally, Pastor

“We, the community of St. William Parish, St. Simons Island, led by the power of the Holy Spirit, are committed to serving God and our brothers and sisters in Christ by living the message of the Gospel. We believe we are called to share our time, talents and our material gifts as an outward sign of the Treasure we hold in Jesus.”
On Friday, December 14th, volunteers, staff, board members and friends of the International Seafarers’ Center gathered together at the First United Methodist Church of Brunswick for the annual Volunteer Christmas Party. Even though the weather was rainy and cold, it didn’t dampen the spirits of those in attendance.

Bill Dawson, Chairman of the Board, and Vicki West, Executive Director of the International Seafarers’ Center, welcomed guests and wished everyone a Merry Christmas! Vicki then gave a very special welcome to Jim Adkins, who was once a port chaplain for the ISC, and Penny Smith, whose husband Ross was a faithful volunteer until his passing in June of this year. Afterwards, Joe Carter, one of our new port chaplains, asked God’s blessings on the evening and the meal.

A downhome southern style fare, which featured delicious pulled pork and brisket, was provided by Southern Soul. Rounding out the meal were mouthwatering, homemade side-dishes, salads, and desserts - each lovingly prepared and provided by those attending. YUM!

We were blessed again this year to have Dan Battles as our music aficionado. Dan entertained us with a variety of traditional and contemporary Christmas favorites. He even opened the floor for a little Karaoke style rendering of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, which was sung by Vicki West, Bebe Cook, and Doris Wadd.

To finish the evening, Vicki hosted a game of Christmas Trivia in which partygoers were expected to listen to and remember facts about Christmas around the world and then answer questions. All I can say is we have a lot of good listeners!

A big thank you to Linda Haines and Doris Wadd for the beautifully festive table decorations and to the many volunteers who stayed behind to help clean up after the event.

Special thanks to First United Methodist Church of Brunswick who allowed us to use their beautiful fellowship hall for our event. The use of their facility was given in memory of Ross Smith.
ISC Christmas Party Photo Gallery continued from page 6...
Back on December 6th, I was performing my usual duties of shuttling seafarers between Walmart/Target and either Colonel’s Island or Newcastle. On that particular day, I was based on Colonel’s with our hospitality volunteer, Donald Clifton. At the conclusion of one of my trips from Walmart to Colonel’s, Donald asked me to deliver 22 gift bags to the seafarers stationed on the Swan Ace. We loaded the bags into my trunk and I then asked the sailors whom I had just brought back from Walmart if they wanted a ride back to their ship, the Swan Ace. They accepted my invite and off we headed for the Swan Ace.

Upon our arrival at the ship, one of the sailors suggested I drive right up the loading/unloading ramp. I was skeptical and questioned the wisdom of doing such a thing. I quickly recalled a discussion I previously had with one of the ISC “powers that be” which confirmed the fact that if all of the vehicle loading/unloading had ceased on the transporter, it was admissible to drive one’s personal car up the ramp. Of course, there should be a legitimate reason to do so. Well in my case, what is more legitimate than “Santa” delivering gifts to the crew? So up the ramp we went, and, upon arrival at the top, were met by several more crew members. They all assisted in removing the gift bags from my trunk. After all had been removed, one of the young sailors took out the last item in my trunk and asked, “does this go too?” It happened to be a brand new, large souvenir umbrella from the race-track in my hometown, Saratoga Springs, NY. I said, “heck no, that stays.” We all said our goodbyes and Merry Christmas’s and I got into my car to leave. As I sat in my car and observed the sailors, I thought, “Dang, it’s Christmas; I don’t need that darn umbrella.” I got out and presented it to the young sailor, to everyone’s delight. I backed down the ramp and, at the last second, glanced back up at the young sailor and his buddy who were posing and waving under the umbrella.

Admittedly, this was an extremely minor gesture on my part. But I still smile every time I think about this exchange between complete strangers, who, despite cultural and language barriers, can still have an impact on the other. I continue to observe how the other ISC volunteers and our staff members share in the belief that if we continue to treat our seafarer friends with dignity and compassion, all of us will benefit in the long term.
A Visit Aboard the Marguerite Ace  

John Samuelson

I was fortunate to do a ship visit on the car carrier *Marguerite Ace* along with guests, Jack & Carol Nolen. Upon arriving to the security desk, I gave my best rendition of “Merry Christmas” in Tagalog and was greeted similarly but with a better accent.

Once the official business of the ship visit had been completed with the captain, Steven, an AB, who had more keys in his possession than I have ever seen, he gave us a really great tour of the ship except for the engine room. Steven said there was some maintenance being performed and that it would be hazardous for us to enter the confined space of the engine room.

We delivered 22 ditty bags for Christmas. The sailors were very appreciative of the gifts and thanked us several times. The captain promised the presents would be placed under the tree and that they would be given out at the planned Christmas party.

The previous stop for the *Marguerite Ace* was Osaka, Japan - a journey of about 30 days. The next port of call will be in Baltimore, Maryland and then across the Atlantic to ports in Europe. The Christmas party is scheduled to take place while the ship is at sea.

The ISC gets a new Flagpole

A new flagpole with "Old Glory" flying proudly along with the State of Georgia Flag, which was given to us by State Rep. Don Hogan. The International Seafarers’ Center would like to thank Woody Woodside and the Chamber of Commerce for the flagpole, David Proctor for getting the solar light on top and all the others who made this possible.

Amazon Smile  

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

www.smile.amazon.com

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*Ship visitor, Carol Nolen, at the helm of the Marguerite Ace, accompanied by ISC volunteer, John Samuelson*
WANTED!!

GOOD WINTER CLOTHING

Our clothes closets for the seafarers are in need of warm winter clothing, particularly heavy coats for men.

Bring your donations to our main Center at 307 Newcastle Street in Brunswick.

The seafarers will thank you.
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!

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10/2018
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Christ Church, Frederica is proud to sponsor the International Seafarers’ Center!

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters; they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress; he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

Psalm 107:23-25, 28-30

6329 Frederica Rd. • St. Simons Island, GA 31522 • 912-638-8683 • ccfciatl.org

(912) 267-0631

www.seafarerscenter.org
A Safe Ride for Our Seafaring Friends
By Vicki West

On November 23, 2018, the International Seafarers’ Center purchased a brand new 2018 Chrysler Pacifica thanks to a grant from the International Transportation Federation (ITF). Our seafarers like it, but it is our volunteers that have fallen in “love.” Up to this point, we had been driving a 2005 Dodge Caravan that has served us well, with 190,000 miles on it. From the bottom of our hearts, a huge THANK YOU to the ITF for your extremely generous grant to allow us this new ride. It will serve us well for many years to come!