NEW YEAR'S EVE! Like an early bird celebration? Join us at 6 pm for a SPECIAL, newly created service and refreshments after. Get smart - 6 pm in Augusta is midnight in Jerusalem! RSVP with number in your party. Rooms available for overnight stays.

Three Saturdays, January 8 and 22, February 12, 9:30 - noon.
Donations appreciated.

Wisdom of the Enneagram - workshops with Sr Linda Julian, OSH

“While a number of psychological and spiritual maps delineate the realm of ego, none that I have been exposed to is as powerful as the enneagram, which I have worked with and taught for almost three decades. The enneagram of personality describes nine different personality or ego types, each with characteristic mental, emotional, and behavioral patterns. It also describes, if properly understood, how and why these patterns arise as we lose touch with our spiritual depths in early childhood. Additionally, it describes the affective and behavioral transformation each type will undergo if engaged in serious spiritual work that results in gradually reconnecting with those depths. We will speak more about these dimensions of the enneagram later because they form an integral part of truly using the enneagram as it was intended: as a tool for spiritual transformation. (Excerpt, The Spiritual Dimension of The Enneagram by Sandra Maitri, pg 3)

Prerequisite - read one of these three books: Discovering The Enneagram, An Ancient Tool for A New Spiritual Journey by Richard Rohr. The Enneagram: Understanding Yourself and The Others in Your Life by Helen Palmer. Understanding the Enneagram: The Practical Guide to Personality Types by Don Richard Riso.

8 Thursdays beginning Feb 3: 6:45 pm body prayer, 7:00-8:00 book discussion group The Meaning of Mary Magdalene, Discovering the Woman at the Heart of Christianity by the Rev Cynthia Bourgeault. "A remarkable invitation into the origins and wisdom of Christianity, through the apostolic witness of Mary Magdalene. Expect a challenge, perhaps more than you’re ready for. This book should change something, as it invites you to deepen your capacity for love, through the witness of Jesus’ beloved disciple." - The Most Rev Katharine Jefferts-Schiori, Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church USA.

Fri, Mar 25, 5:30 pm thru Sun, Mar 27 lunch Mary’s Miracle, a Lenten Retreat with Sr Ann Prentice, OSH. Program fee: $80.
We will use scenes and images from Miracle and Mystery plays of the Middle Ages on the theme of the Annunciation. Some acting techniques derive from deep contemplation of the characters and situation—for this weekend, the Archangel Gabriel inviting Mary
the Maiden to become the Mother of the Savior. We will use the imaginations God has given us to freshly experience "Mary's Miracle" in our own minds and bodies. We will consider how this impacts our Lenten journey. Women and men are welcome.

Sat, Apr 2, 9:30 - 3:30
Demystifying the Convent
Donations appreciated.
Everything you've ever wanted to ask about monastic life. Get all your FAQ's about the convent answered today, and enjoy the spring glory of the convent gardens and grounds. PS: Is monasticism calling you??

Icon Workshops with Fr Damian Higgins
WED evening, Apr 6, 6:15 pm Vespers and 7:00 pm Introductory iconography presentation. Program fee: $15.

THU morning, Apr 7 - SUN evening, Apr 10, Icon Writing Workshop. Program fee: $375, includes meals.
All materials are provided, and each participant will complete an icon. Fr Damian will also explain the traditions and history of iconography. No previous experience or art training is required. Maximum 11 students.

Fri, May 20, 5:30 pm through Sun, May 22 lunch. Wisdom of the Psalms, a retreat with Lynn C Bauman, PhD. Program cost: $80.
Explore the beauty and depth of the Psalms, probably in a way you've not experienced before! This ancient collection of Hebrew hymns is a treasury of ancient wisdom and spiritual consciousness that sprang into being in the critical axial age of humanity's history. Inside this text is a spiritual archaeology of the human evolution of consciousness historically and of our own personal becoming. Everything is there, ancient and modern - as the world turns from conventional religion toward the process of enlightenment and the truth of oneness and nonduality. We will discover this archaeology, within history and within ourselves, and the shifts of consciousness that occur in each realm. The main text for our work will be Lynn's Ancient Songs Sung Anew: The Psalms as Poetry, which can be ordered through www.praxisofprayer.com.

"The whole community of humankind has been praying from its first conscious inception to the present moment, joining with the creation itself in its ancient song to the Creator. The universe is alive with dialogue: communication and news of the Holy One runs through it. We are receptors and reflectors of the good news that we are not abandoned, but are heard even in our despairing moments when it feels like this is only a monologue and our voices fade into seeming nothingness. In the no-thing-ness, a Presence awaits us and always has. The answering voice of the dialogue is sometimes the "still, small voice within," and sometimes the full volume of the universe speaking to us." Lynn Bauman in Ancient Songs Sung Anew.

Dr Lynn Bauman is a retreat leader, poet, Biblical scholar and an expert on the Wisdom traditions of the great Eastern and Western faiths. He and his wife, Jackie, lived in the Middle East for ten years, and Lynn speaks and translates a number of Middle Eastern languages. Over the last dozen years, Lynn and Cynthia Bourgeault have been teaching partners at wisdom academies across the US, and Lynn facilitated a 2007 workshop at the convent introducing the Gospels of Thomas, Mary Magdalene and Philip. See these books: Gospel of Thomas, Wisdom of the Twin and The Luminous Gospels; and these websites: www.praxisofprayer.com and www.orientalorthodoxorder.com.

ASCENSION DAY ~ The Order of St Helena was founded in 1945, and Ascension Day marks 45 years for us in Georgia! Join us in our "Chapel of the Ascension" on Thursday, June 2, at 11:00 for Holy Eucharist, followed by a buffet lunch. RSVP to the guest office with the number in your group.