OCTOBER 23, 2026

IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School

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Dear Mead Hall Families,

One of my favorite things about Mead Hall is the way this community shows up for our students and for one another. During Annual Fund Giving Week, you did just that—and I want to begin with a heartfelt thank you.

We set a goal of 55 participating families, a nod to our founding in 1955. By the end of the week, 68 families had contributed $46,454.11, surpassing our participation goal and giving us so much to celebrate. From the enthusiasm in carline to the friendly competition between grades, your school spirit made the week memorable. Congratulations to first and fourth grades, who tied for the highest class participation! Our students also earned a schoolwide dress-down day on Thursday, October 22.

Behind those results are families choosing to invest in the people and experiences that make Mead Hall special. As both a school leader and a parent, I know that every gift represents a thoughtful decision, and I am grateful you made our school a priority.

The Annual Fund touches daily life at Mead Hall. It helps support the salaries and benefits of the teachers who know our students personally, encourages learning through classroom resources and hands-on experiences, and sustains the arts, activities and everyday operations that keep our school moving. Tuition provides much of what we need, but Annual Fund support helps us deliver the full Mead Hall experience.

I also want to recognize St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church for its generous $30,000 contribution to the Annual Fund. We are deeply thankful for this partnership and its continued investment in our students and our mission.

To everyone who gave, encouraged another family, helped with an activity or brought a little extra Panther spirit to the week: thank you. And to those who have supported the Annual Fund throughout the year, please know that your generosity is part of this shared success.
It is a privilege to serve a school whose families care so deeply. Thank you for the trust you place in us and for helping our students learn, grow and feel known each day.

With gratitude,

Frank Sawyer

Head of School

Advancement & Development

BEYOND THE BOARDROOM

As we continue our introductions to Mead Hall's Board of Trustees, we are pleased to spotlight Josh Stewart, who joined the Board this year and chairs the Facilities Committee. A structural engineer and owner of J. E. Stewart Engineering, Inc. in downtown Aiken, Josh brings experience in building design, construction and small-business ownership to help evaluate campus needs, contractor proposals and project costs. An Aiken native, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Aiken, serves on the board of the Aiken Center for the Arts and is a past chair of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce. Josh and his wife, Erin, have three children: Parks, who now attends Aiken High, and Ansley and Connor, who attend Mead Hall. Having entrusted Mead Hall with the education of all three children, Josh is committed to helping the school use its resources wisely as it addresses its facilities needs. We are grateful for his expertise, thoughtful leadership and personal investment in Mead Hall's future.



Development Office Contact
Director Advancement & Development
Emily Murphy
emurphy@meadhallschool.org

GROWING TOGETHER: A STRONG START FOR MEAD HALL

By Emily Murphy, Director of Development.

As we reflect on the first months of this school year, there is so much to celebrate at Mead Hall. From meaningful recognition to new learning opportunities, our progress reflects the dedication of our teachers, the curiosity of our students, and the commitment of families and supporters who believe in our school.

We are proud to celebrate Mead Hall's A+ overall Niche rating and our move to No. 1 among Christian high schools in the Augusta area, serving our Aiken–Augusta community. This recognition gives us another reason to share the school we love with others. Behind that distinction are the daily moments that matter most: a teacher offering extra encouragement, a student finding confidence, and a classroom where questions lead to discovery. That spirit of discovery is also growing through Project Lead The Way (PLTW). With Mead Hall now certified and Mrs. Ferguson on staff as a certified instructor for our STEM and robotics program, we are opening new doors for students to explore, design, build, and solve problems. Mead Hall is the only private school in our area offering this opportunity with a certified teacher on staff—a distinction we are excited to celebrate.

These experiences help students connect classroom learning to real challenges. As they test ideas, work through obstacles, and collaborate with classmates, they build skills that will serve them well beyond school: creativity, critical thinking, perseverance, and teamwork.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also want to remind families that Mead Hall is an Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) partner school, accepting ESTF funding for eligible current and new students. We encourage families to contact our Admissions Office to learn more about this opportunity and share it with others who may be considering a Mead Hall education.

From my perspective as Director of Development, these milestones are especially meaningful because I see the community support that helps our school move forward. Every gift, volunteer hour, encouraging word, and introduction to a prospective family contributes to Mead Hall's future.

Thank you for investing in our teachers, believing in our students, and helping us strengthen the Mead Hall experience. We have much to be proud of this year, and I am grateful to be part of a community that continues to make such good things possible.



Outside Influences Enhance Education



The STC had an amazing week last week. Students enjoyed the Touch a Truck event, a zoom author presentation, a visit from an owl who lives at the Ruth Patrick Science Center, and an assembly with Smokey the Bear.

School for Mead Hall students is not just about learning the fundamentals of math and reading, but also about learning from others, learning by doing, and learning by going out into the world around us.

We are fortunate, indeed, to have these opportunities that enrich the learning experience for our students.

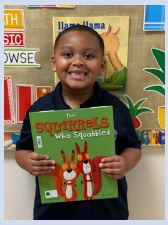
See you at school!

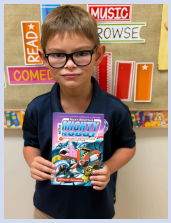
Joanne

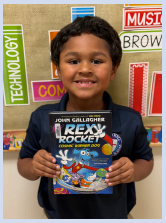
PS - Thank you to our STC parents for taking the time to come into school on Monday for Parent/Teacher conferences. These important meetings with faculty allow us to highlight strengths and areas of growth as well as to provide opportunities to build on communication between home and school.

October Birthday Book Club

Jackson Knopp, Emma Claire Doran, Laurel Tucker, Kyler McCurry, Mark Mckellar, Caroline Bevill, and Henry Premaza. These students enjoyed picking out a title from our new book selection in the library. After reading the book they donated the book to our library for other students to enjoy! We are thankful to these students.






The Great Pumpkin Wall

It's a Mead Hall tradition! Bring a decorated pumpkin to place on the carline wall **Friday, October 30.** Drop off your pumpkin in carline and take it home after school to enjoy for Halloween.



Upcoming Dates

October

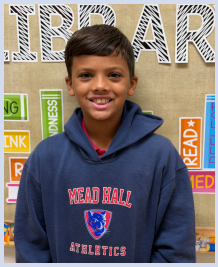
24 Fall Festival 10:30-12:00 on STC soccer field
27 STC Choral Program for Grandparents 1:30pm in STC gym
30 "Great Pumpkins" at Mead Hall
30 STC Fall Parties/Dress Down
30 Field Trip - 4th grade to Aiken State Park

November

2-10 Boosterthon PTO Fundraiser
3 Dress Down Day for Boosterthon registrants
3 Field Trip - 4th Grade to BEEP
10 Boosterthon Fun Run
12 Field Trip - 2nd grade to Edventure
16 Field Trip - 1st Grade to RPSEC
18 Field Trip - 4th grade to APC One Table Thanksgiving
20 Field Trip - PK to Trinity - 9:45am
20 Chick Fil-A Day
20 STC Science Day
23-27 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

Top AR Readers: First Quarter

The 1st Quarter Top AR Readers who have the most Accelerated Reader points in their class.
Zoe Kistler, Jackson Rhoades, Colin Ring, Conor Burke, Max Lancer, Win Rudnick, Prescott Sanders, Kyler McCurry, and Eva Miniard.







Books









Choral Program for Grandparents

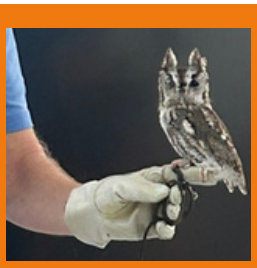
On **Tuesday, October 27,** our students will have a special choral program for our grandparents and special guests.

NOTE: 1st – 4th grade Students should wear white shirts and khaki bottoms to school for the performance. Mead Hall Sweaters, jackets, and sweatshirts can be worn over white shirts if it is chilly and will be removed for the program.

PS/PK/K students please wear regular red/blue polo with khaki bottoms.

Lina the Owl Visits Kindergarten

October is the perfect month to learn about owls, and what better way to end the unit than with a visit from a real owl. Chris Defever (husband of kindergarten teacher Thais Defever), brought Lina, an eastern screech owl, from the Ruth Patrick Science Center to teach students about the habits and habitats of owls.



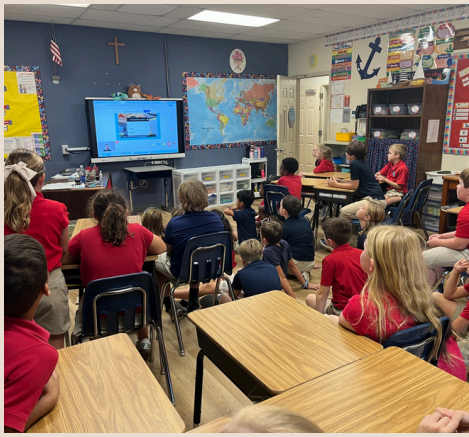

A Web of Lies

Students in Mrs. Brigg's fourth grade ELA classes learned first hand how a single lie can lead to another and another until a web of lies is formed, trapping a person in deceit. The hands-on activity was part of a novel study of the book *Shiloh*.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Fourth grade students enjoyed "meeting" Jeff Kinney, author of the popular children's series, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid,* through a zoom author visit. Kinney spoke about his career as a writer, about his book series, and to the excitement of all, he announced a new book release in the series coming soon.

Touch a Truck

The weather was perfect Friday morning for our Preschool - Kindergarten students and teachers as they walked over to the APC for our annual Touch a Truck event. The children, the teachers, and even the participating drivers and pilots all enjoyed the time together. Students were able to climb into the vehicles, listened to adults describe the parts and purposes of each, and even got to watch and participate in the action. Thank you to Allie Kistler for her help in organizing the event and to Larry Johnson for photographing all of the fun.















Only You can Prevent Forest Fires!

This timeless safety message from Smokey the Bear has been shared with three generations of students through story and visits at schools across the country. Our students enjoyed hearing the history of the real Smokey the bear, learning about fire safety, and then giving a high-five and hug to Smokey himself.





Congratulations Honor Roll Students for Q1

3rd Grade
Charly Bates
Conor Burke
Ryan Clark
Shena Cohen
Lulu Ferland
Genevieve Foura
Camille Jasani
Henry Kisner
Sylvia Lawson
Nash Martin
Grayson Nabus
Faith Owen
Shyna Patel
Colin Ring
Mason Seger
Kensley Sokolik

4th Grade
Lily Belliveau
Dhrihaan Bhavsar
Sasha Cohen
Caroline Fallaw
Hoyt Fielder
Zoe Kistler
Blair Lancer
Robert Miniard
Emmett Rajoy
James Reynolds

5th Grade
Luke Bruckner
Emmy Brown
Rosalind Carter
Bennett Derr
Elloree Faulk
Meyer Grande
Doran Dora Lin
Henry Reynolds
Michael Whitehead

6th Grade
Preston Boyd
Davis Fielder
Kaden Franchetti
Eli Greer
Win Hartnett
Zava Jackson
Henry Johnston
Ella Kucharski
Burck Meyer
Mason Rhoades
Cam Smith
Beckham Thomas
Dallas Trowell-Simpkins

7th Grade
Asher Thomas Akins
Cooper Alexander
Liam Belliveau
Ellie Fraley
Finley Free
Kate Grande
Kate Kisner
Harper Raines
Sky Siegfried
Christiana Speller
Elle Wendel

8th Grade
Avery Cooper
Cara Ferguson
Miranda Henley
Emma McMurtrie
Carson Moreno
Ivy Parrott
Carson Smith
Leighton Wyatt

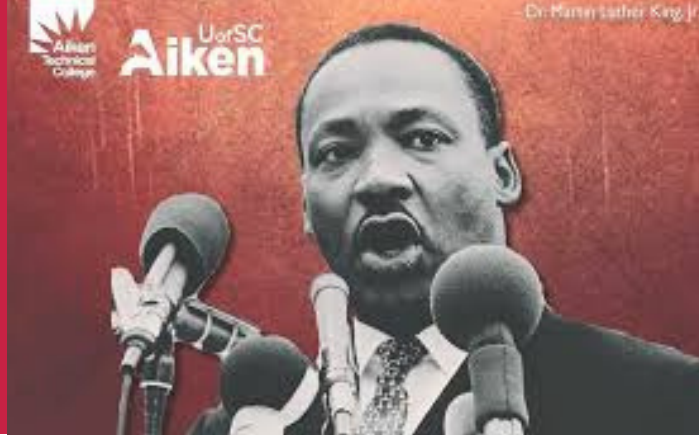
9th Grade
Kaeden Philbeck

10th Grade
Chase Shepherd

12th Grade
Carly Brown
Wilson Lee Lawson
Pippa Elliott Sawyer
Ryian Sanders

Students! You are all invited to participate in the annual poster/essay contest in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday celebration, which will be held January 24, 2027 @ USC Aiken. Prizes will be awarded to winning posters/essays. The deadline to participate this year is Monday, November 16, 2026. I hope you will participate! Attached are the directions! Let me know if you have any questions!
Thanks!

~ Dr. Pontoo



2027 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Essay and
Creative Visual Posters Contests

Aiken Technical College and the University of South Carolina Aiken will present the annual community-wide celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. virtually on Sunday, January 24th, 2027, at 3 p.m. at the University of South Carolina Aiken Convocation Center. The celebration is a time to reflect on the past and focus on the future of humanity as a whole. Dr. King's legacy has taught us to commit ourselves to service by serving each other and those in our communities.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Steering Committee is inviting all Aiken County students to submit an original poster or written essay that draws on their experience to respond to the following questions:

- For Kindergarten-5 th grade creative visual poster contest: **"What does Martin Luther King, Jr. Day mean to you?"**
- For 6th -12th grade essay contest: **"What does it mean when Dr. King said, *"... we must never allow ourselves to become satisfied with unattained goals."*** - Quote from Rev. Dr. King's sermon at Temple Israel of Hollywood.

Successful creative visual posters/essays will answer the question and refer specifically to personal experiences and observations.

Essay Categories: Middle School (up to 1,000 words)
High School (up to 1,500 words)

Creative Visual Posters Categories:
Kindergarten - 2nd grades (should be no larger than 8 by 11.5 paper)
3rd -5 th grades

Eligibility: Must be a student attending a public, private or home school in Aiken County.

Prizes: 1. First place essay and poster winners will receive a grand prize.
2. Creative Visual Posters will be displayed during the program.

Deadline: Monday, November 16, 2026
Winners will be announced on or before December 15 th , 2026.

Creative Visual Posters and Essays should be submitted to the teacher who will then forward to the District Office. For private school students, please submit to your teacher who can contact USC Aiken to pick up. First and last names, name of school, grade level and teacher should be included on contest submissions. For those students who are studying virtually this semester, please mail your entry to the address below.

For more information, please contact Ahmed Samaha, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the University of South Carolina Aiken, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801. Or you can call 803-641-3411 or email ahmeds@usca.edu.

Middle & Upper School News

Battle of the Books Visits the Aiken County Public Library!

On October 13, the Battle of the Books team enjoyed an exciting field trip to the Aiken County Public Library! Students received their very own library cards, toured the library, and learned about the many careers and helpful resources available to library visitors. The highlight of the trip was getting to check out as many books as they wanted! It was a wonderful opportunity to encourage a love of reading and explore all that our local library has to offer.





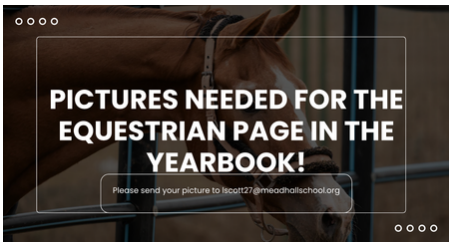
Interact Club Joins Cleanup!

On Saturday, some members of the Interact Club joined in a cleanup of a former homeless encampment with C4 Impact. C4 Impact seeks to transform the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness, addiction recovery, or re-entry from incarceration by meeting immediate physical needs and guiding them toward long-term stability and faith. We are grateful for the many ways that our students serve our community.

Weekly Happenings

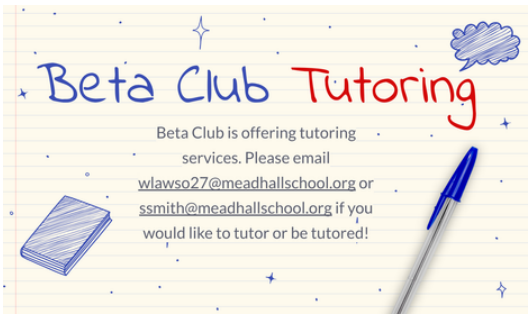














Panther Planner

View Full Calendar

October 23	October 24	October 28	October 30	October 30
High School Lock-In.	Fall Festival STC	Makeup Picture Day	5th Grade Art Block Showcase	MS Halloween Dance 6-8 p.m.

OCTOBER

PTO NEWSLETTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 TSHIRT VOTES DUE Chick-fil-A	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 BOOSTERTHON REGISTRATION OPENS	20	21 PTO DAY	22	23	24 FALL FESTIVAL STC 10:30-12
25	26	27	28	29	30 STC PUMPKIN WALL	31

FALL BREAK

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE DESIGN SUBMISSIONS! WE HAD ALMOST 70. WE HAVE NARROWED DOWN TO THE TOP 10 AND NEED YOU TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE!

CLICK HERE

SEPTEMBER'S STAR TEACHER

MR. MCCUEN WON PTO STAR TEACHER FOR SEPTEMBER. HE WILL BE TREATED TO A LUNCH OF HIS CHOOSING, RECESS COVERAGE FROM PTO VOLUNTEERS, AS WELL AS A BLUE COLLARD CASSEROLE TO TAKE HOME FOR DINNER!

BOOSTERTHON

BOOSTERTHON IS BACK! REGISTRATION OPENS 10.19 AND THE EVENT KICK OFF IS NOVEMBER 2ND. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO

THIS MONTH

10.2 CHICK-FIL-A DAY

10.5-10.9 FALL BREAK

10.19 BOOSTERTHON REGISTRAION OPENS

10.24 FALL FESTIVAL

10.30 GREAT PUMPKIN WALL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH FALL FESTIVAL AND BOOSTERTHON! PLEASE EMAIL US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH EITHER!

FALL FESTIVAL: SET UP, TAKE DOWN, DAY OF OPERATIONS, HOSTING A GAME TENT

BOOSTERTHON: DAY OF LOGISTICS. WE WELCOME ALL PARENTS TO COME!

NEXT MONTH

11.2-11.10 BOOSTERTHON

11.10 BOOSTERTHON RACE DAY

11.11 CFA ORDERS DUE

11.20 CFA DAY

Fall Festival

Bake Sale| Games | Music



24 *October*

STC Playground
10:30-12

PTO Pumpkin Sale Fundraiser

CONGRATULATIONS!

The winning t-shirt design was Design #1 by Cora Kate Dannelly-Rush in 7th Grade! The PTO will work with Cora Kate on finalizing the graphic design.



Design 1

((mockup not exact))

WHERE DOES PTO MONEY GO?

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS THAT PTO FUNDS HAVE ALREADY HELPED THIS YEAR!

QUAVER (MUSIC CURRICULUM)

AR

RECORDERS

SOCCER BALLS

BLUETOOTH SPEAKER

$1,700 IN STC FIELD TRIPS

IXL 3RD & 4TH

NECKLACES FOR GRANDPARENTS CONCERT

SCHOOL STORE HOURS

WEEK OF OCTOBER 26 - 30

MONDAY	8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.
TUESDAY	8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.
WEDNESDAY	8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.
THURSDAY	8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.
FRIDAY	8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.

IMPORTANT UPDATE - THE SCHOOL STORE WILL BE CLOSED 10/21 - 10/23 FOR TRAVEL, PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY. I WILL REOPEN AT 8AM ON MONDAY, 10/26. THANK YOU!

FOR APPOINTMENTS:

EMAIL MHSTORE@MEADHALLSCHOOL.ORG

MEAD HALL PANTHERS

Season Wrap Ups!



Well done!

MS Golf

The Middle School Golf Team concluded their season at the League Championship at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Edgefield on Monday. Mead Hall placed 6th out of 9 teams. Coach Bennett noted that "it was a tough course. There were some good holes by our guys and some tough holes but overall we were pleased with the outcome."
Congratulations Panthers and thank you to Coaches Bennett Tucker and Jenks Meyer for your dedication to the team this season.

Players: Cash Walker, Nathan Tucker, Burck Meyer, Preston Boyd, Win Hartnett



MS Tennis

The Middle School Tennis Team concluded their season at the AAMSL Championship on October 15th at Newman Tennis Center in Augusta. Big congratulations to Burck Meyer on winning 4 matches and finishing in 2nd place! Coach Mcalhaney noted, he had an amazing run that started with a win over the #2 seed after being down 6-1 in the match tiebreaker. He followed that with back to back 8-6 wins." Shout out to Aurora B., Jackson M. and Meyer G. who waited patiently and cheered Burck during his streak. Well Done, Panthers!



MS Flag Football

The Middle School Flag Football season came to an end on Tuesday at the semi-final game against the Augusta Prep Cavaliers. The Panthers and Cavaliers played a very tight game with the Cavaliers ultimately taking a 2 point lead with minutes left in the game. Coach Plouffe notes that "every game, you left it all on the field and maintained a great attitude while doing so." Congratulations Panthers on a great season and thank you to Coach Nick for your time and dedication to the team.

MEAD HALL PANTHERS



JV Volleyball

The JV Volleyball Team wrapped up their season on Monday with the WIN against Curtis Baptist. Congratulations girls! What a great way to conclude a great season. Thank you to Coach Nikita for all her hard work and dedication to the team!



Varsity Volleyball

The Varsity Girls Volleyball Team also wrapped up their season on Monday against Curtis Baptist. Despite best efforts, the Lady Panthers were defeated in the final match up. Thank you to Coach Katirah for her hard work and dedication to the team this season.

We also recognized our fall sports Senior Athletes - Pippa Elliott-Sawyer, Ryian Sanders, Carly Brown and Willson Lee Lawson (not pictured). Each senior was escorted by family and presented with a framed jersey and flowers. The families also enjoyed a lovely reception following the game. Thank you to the parents who made this night even more special!

Varsity Cross Country

Carly Brown and Willson Lee Lawson will represent Mead Hall in the Varsity XC State Meet at Heatwood Hall in Columbia on October 31st. Good Luck, Girls!!

Appreciate you!

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St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church

Worship Service

Sunday

7:45 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Being held in the Chapel of the Holy Apostles

9 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Contemporary Music

Being held in the Cheatham Parlor

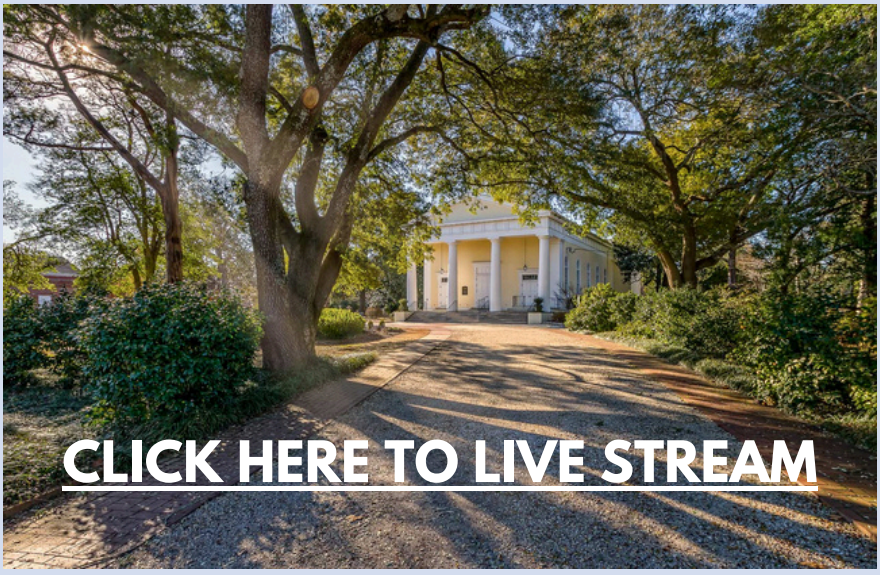
11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir & Organ

Being held in the Cheatham Parlor

Wednesday

11:30 am - Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Being held in the Chapel of the Holy Apostles



ST. THADDEUS CAMPUS 803.644.1122 AIKEN PREP CAMPUS 803.648.3223