

# THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, October 14, 2018

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist, Sermon & Children's Church



## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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### SAVANNAH

*The Truth of the Bible*  
*In the Beauty of the Anglican Tradition.*  
*Believe. Worship. Love. Serve.*

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

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**For Guests and Visitors.** We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us. If this is your first visit to Saint John's, please let us know by filling out the visitor card in the pew and dropping it in the collection plate. All are invited to join us in the Parish House immediately after the service for the abundant and delicious refreshments at Coffee Hour. We look forward to getting to know you!

**Children's Nursery** for birth - age 3 (1<sup>st</sup> floor), is available from 9:30a.m. till 12:15 p.m.

**Children's Church Children** (age 4 - rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade) begin in church with their parents, and may follow the cross to Cranmer Hall.

**Interactive Worship.** The congregation participates actively in worship, and this booklet is a guide to taking part in it. For many parts of the service it will refer you to one of the two books in red bindings in the pew racks – **the 1940 Hymnal**, and the smaller **1928 Prayer Book**.

**Receiving Communion.** Those visiting with us from other churches who are baptized and admitted to communion may receive the sacrament. Unless prevented by reason of infirmity, please kneel at the altar rail. To receive the host, place right hand over left, palms upward, and lifted to about chest level. To receive the chalice, hold head erect, and place hands on base or bowl to guide it to your mouth. If you prefer, leave the host visible in your open hand and the minister will dip it for you, and place it on your extended tongue. **If you are not receiving Communion, you are welcome to receive a Blessing:** to do so, kneel and cross your arms over your chest.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN SAVANNAH

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Founded in 1841, the first rector, Stephen Elliott, was also the first bishop of Georgia, and he consecrated the present church on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1853. In 1943, one of Savannah's historic mansions, the Green-Meldrim House, became its Parish House and Rectory. Later, Macon Street in the block between the church and Green-Meldrim House was closed and laid out as the present garden Mall. Cranmer Hall, the Christian Education building, was renovated and enlarged in 2004. St. John's is one of a handful of parishes in the Episcopal Church that continues to worship using the classical Book of Common Prayer (in its 1928 edition). We are committed to transmitting unimpaired to our posterity the historic Faith and Order it sets forth, within the fellowship of the Anglican Communion.

## HOW WE WORSHIP AND WHY – OFFERINGS AND OBLATIONS

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Is giving, collecting, and managing money a “spiritual” activity? Many people think it as purely materialistic business – a necessary evil, perhaps, for paying the church's bills, but not a *spiritual* activity. Yet Christ says that our use of money, and our attitudes to it, as a sure indicator of our spiritual state. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). Because “faith without works is dead” (James 2:17), the giving of money - generously, sacrificially, in proportion to our means - for the relief of the needy (“alms”) and the support of the ministry (“oblations”) is actually a *spiritual discipline*. What we do with our body, and our material goods, affects and expresses what is happening in our souls. When we put our money to use not only in gratifying our own needs (the service of Mammon), but in grateful service of God and neighbour, we are taking a big step from a life centered on self to a life centered on God. Just as the ancient Israelite came to worship God with an offering made in proportion to his blessings – a bull, a goat, a pair of doves, a sheaf of grain, wine, incense – so Christians bring offerings from the gifts God has given to them. That's why the historic Prayer Book integrates the offering of alms and oblations into public worship. It recognizes that the collection and offering of money is not a regrettable material necessity for paying the church's bills, but an act of worship that strengthens our relationship with Christ. That's why the ministry of the Word (Scripture, Creed, Sermon), in which faith is nourished, is followed immediately by the Offertory (collection and Prayer for the Church) in which our faith is exercised in good works, and especially in the offering of “alms and oblations” together with “these our prayers” for all. This material action is a deeply spiritual acknowledgement that we owe God “ourselves, our souls and bodies” – all that we have, and all that we are.

*If you have questions or topics for this feature, please send them to the rector [gdunbar@stjohnssav.org](mailto:gdunbar@stjohnssav.org)*

# THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

October 14, 2018

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist, Sermon & Children's Church

*Nursery Infants to age 3 - 9:15 a.m. til 12:15 p.m.*

*Please silence all electronic devices. In the time before the service begins, we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of thy faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Amen.

HYMN (*all stand*) #477 *God Himself is With Us* .....Tysk

## THE ANTE-COMMUNION

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The Collect for Purity (*all kneel*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 67

The Summary of Law (*all kneel*)..... *Prayer Book*, p. 69

KYRIE ELEISON: (*all kneel*) Hymnal #710.....Healey Willan

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect (*all kneel*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 217

The Epistle (*all sit*): Ephesians 5:15 ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 217

HYMN (*all stand*) #287 *Give Praise and Glory unto God*.....Elbing

The Holy Gospel: (*all stand*) Matthew 22:1.....*Book*, p. 218

The Nicene Creed (*all stand*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 71

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Welcome and Announcements (*all sit*) .....Father Dunbar

*Children up to Grade 5 may exit following the cross for CHILDREN'S CHURCH*

HYMN (*all stand*) #378 *Come, Gracious Spirit*.....Mendon

Sermon ..... Father Dunbar

# THE OFFERTORY

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Sentences (*all stand*)

ANTHEM (*all sit*): *To Thee, O Lord*..... S. Rachmaninoff

To Thee, O Lord,  
do I lift up my soul,  
my God I trust in Thee.  
(Text: Psalm 25:1)

Presentation of Alms: (*all stand*) #139 Doxology ..... Old Hundreth

Biddings and Commemoration of the Departed:

*Minister.* Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.  
*Answer.* And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
*Minister.* May they rest in peace.  
*Answer.* Amen.

Prayer for the Church (*all kneel*)..... *Prayer Book*, p. 74

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

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Invitation, Confession (*said by all, all kneeling until Blessing*) .....*Prayer Book*, p. 75

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution and Comfortable Words .....*Prayer Book*, p. 76

Sursum Corda ..... Hymnal #734 or *Prayer Book*, p. 76

*Priest.* The Lord be with you.  
*Answer.* And with thy spirit.  
*Priest.* Lift up your hearts.  
*Answer.* We lift them up unto the Lord.  
*Priest.* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*Answer.* It is meet and right so to do.

<b>The Proper Preface</b> .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 77
<b>SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS</b> #711.....	Healey Willan
<b>HOLY, HOLY, HOLY</b> , Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Amen. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.	
<b>The Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation</b> .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 80
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b> ( <i>said with the congregation</i> ) .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 82
<b>OUR Father, who art in heaven</b> , Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. <i>Amen</i> .	
<b>Prayer of Humble Access</b> ( <i>said with the congregation</i> ) .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 82
<b>WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord</b> , trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.	
<b>AGNUS DEI</b> #712.....	Healey Willan
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world <i>Have mercy upon us</i>	
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world <i>Have mercy upon us</i>	
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world <i>Grant us thy peace.</i>	
<b>HYMN</b> #462 <i>Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee</i> .....	Windsor
<b>Motet</b> ( <i>all sit</i> ): <i>Purge Me, O Lord</i> .....	Anonymous, set by Thomas Tallis
Purge me, O Lord, from all my sin, and save Thou me by faith from ill, that I may rest and dwell with Thee upon Thy holy blessed hill: And, that done, grant that with true heart I may without hypocrisy affirm the truth, detract no man, but do all things with equity.	
<b>Prayer of Thanksgiving</b> ( <i>said with the congregation</i> ) .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 83
<b>GLORIA IN EXCELSIS</b> ( <i>all stand</i> ) ( <i>Hymnal</i> #713).....	Healey Willan
<b>The Blessing</b> ( <i>all kneel</i> ) .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 84
<b>HYMN</b> ( <i>all stand</i> ) #484 <i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i> .....	Trur

# THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

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8:00 a.m.	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Church)
8:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (Fellowship Room, Cranmer Hall)
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Nursery</b> for children up to Kindergarten
9:30 a.m.	<b>Adult Classes:</b> 2 Kings Class with Father Dunbar (Chapel) Collects Study with Father O'Brien and Will & Mary Helen Burdell (Cranmer Hall 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl. - Reading Rm.) The Gospel According to John with Jack Wray (CH3-309) <b>Youth Classes:</b> Middle School with David and Kalista Svihel High School with Rick Wright and Martin Sullivan (Cranmer Hall - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl.)
10:30 a.m.	<b>Sung Eucharist, Sermon and Children's Church</b> (Cranmer Hall)
	<b>Nursery</b> for children Newborns to Kindergarten until end of the service.
Noon	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Chapel)

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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The altar flowers on this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory and honor of loved ones by the John Helmken family.

And in honor of Mrs. Jack E. Altman's birthday and Sarah Elizabeth Brigdon's birthday by Mr. and Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr. and family.

*If you would like to offer flowers for the Altar, please call Mrs. Robert (Mary) Burnett at 912-351-9622. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-in: if you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please call Mrs. John (Margaret) Wyllly at 912-656-6235.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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**Chancel Society:** Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry, Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Mrs. Charles B. Compton, Jr., Mrs. William E. Dillard III and Mrs. Thomas C. McCay

**Coffee Hour Chairman:** Mrs. Mark. D. Stevens      **Roaming Greeter:** Ms. Linda H. Pounds

**Usher Chairman:** Mr. G. Edward Warner    **Vestry Offering Chairman:** Mrs. Christian M. Arden-Joly (Susan)

**Acolytes:** Philip Inglesby, Finn Repella, Daniel Sills, William Sills, William Taylor, Haddon Watson, Whit Watson

*Women parishioners of St. John's Church are invited to serve Christ and his Church in the St. John's Chancel Society, taking care of the linens, silver, flowers, vestments, and preparing the altar for services on Sunday and weekdays. For more information, contact the President, Mrs. Roland (Sylvia) Summers at [ralstonspeaches@yahoo.com](mailto:ralstonspeaches@yahoo.com) or through the church office at 912-232-1251.*

## WORSHIP THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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**Monday to Friday:** 8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Morning and Evening Prayer

In addition, on **Wednesday:** 9:45 a.m. Litany & 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

In addition, on **Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> - SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST:** 8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist

**Next Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> - Dedication Sunday (Trinity 21):** 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Sermon & Children's Church

# FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S

**WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER** To stay up-to-date with our weekly Church email, send your name and email address to [information@stjohnssav.org](mailto:information@stjohnssav.org)

*Seeking  
God's Kingdom*

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR GIFT TO ST. JOHN'S GO FURTHER

Most people who want to support St. John's Church write a weekly or monthly check. That works well for most, but for some people the tax code allows several ways to leverage the your gift to SJC – to increase its value to St. John's without further cost to you.

### Here are two examples

- ♦ **Gift of Appreciated Assets (usually stocks)** - By giving a gift of appreciated stock, you will not have to pay any capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the stock. More than a dozen parishioners already take advantage of this provision in the tax code.
- ♦ **Qualified Charitable Distribution** - This is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA, owned by an individual who is age 70½ or over. It is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. As such, it is probably one of the most tax efficient ways to give, if you qualify, because ordinary income tax at both federal and state levels are eliminated.

If either of these processes interests you, please contact Janice Woods in the church office at (912) 232-1251. She will work with you and your advisors to make this happen!

Your financial commitment for St. John's is, of course, our lifesblood. If we can work with you to better support your annual pledge, we are committed to making that as easy for you as possible.

## 5 WAYS TO GIVE

1. **Collection Plate** - In the offering at the Eucharist or the offering at morning prayer, perhaps using an offering envelope.
2. **Text** - Simply text **1928BCP** to 73256. This will send you a link where you can donate online.
3. **Online** - Visit our website at [www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org) and click GIVE to make a one-time donation or recurring gift.
4. **Automated** - You can have your donation given automatically by setting up bill pay through your checking account.
5. **Mail** - During the week, you can give by mailing your gift to St. John's Church, 1 West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

Please contact Janice Woods in the church office at (912) 232-1251. She will work with you and your advisors to make this happen!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### SCIENCE & TRUTH

IS THERE ROOM FOR GOD IN OUR  
UNDERSTANDING OF REALITY?

**Five Talks by Jon Sprague**

**Final session this Thursday**

**October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.**

### VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Submit written nominations by **November 4<sup>th</sup>** for four 3-year terms to the Nominating Committee or to the Church Office in a sealed envelope. Nominees must:

- 1.) Be members of St. John's 3+ years.
- 2.) Support St. John's financially.
- 3.) Worship regularly at St. John's.

### 2018 Vestry Nominating Committee

- Dr. J. Davidson Carson
- Mr. Richard L. Wright
- Mr. Joseph R. Ross (Rusty)
- Mrs. Mark D. Stevens (Chambliss)
- Mrs. Neil H. Victor (Patti)

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

### PRAYER CIRCLE

St John's Prayer Circle has been rescheduled to meet Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. following Evening Prayer in Cranmer Hall, First Floor. The Bible study is The Prayer of Jacob, Genesis 32:26.

## MEN OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

**Tuesday Men's Breakfast and *Philippians 3-4*** with Father O'Brien, 6:45 a.m., Parish House

**Thursday Men's Bible Study *Jeremiah*** with Father Dunbar 7:00 a.m., Reading Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl. Cranmer Hall.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Annual Steak Dinner November 1<sup>st</sup> - Look for complete details coming soon.

## WOMEN OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

**Thursday book study, *A Glastonbury Romance*** by John Cowper Powys with Father O'Brien 9:15 a.m. in CH3-Reading Room

### ELEVENSES

For Parish House Guides and Docents on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. RSVP with either Jane Pressly or Martie Campbell Thomas

## HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

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**We need your help!** White Elephant and Treasures donations will be accepted from November 4- 6<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help unload thrift items after church on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided.

Soup and Chili donations can be accepted each Sunday in the Cranmer Hall freezer. We'll need over 60 gallons!

Donations of delicious, homemade pies, cakes and cupcakes will be needed each morning of the Bazaar (November 7-8<sup>th</sup>).

Volunteers are needed on both days of the Bazaar to serve as waitresses, in the Chapeau Shoppe, Garden Shop, Take outs, and as Cashiers. Childcare is available for all volunteers.



Please contact Melanie Finnegan (912-856-6210, [melanietfinnegan@gmail.com](mailto:melanietfinnegan@gmail.com)) with questions or to volunteer. Male volunteers also needed.

## YOUTH OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**YOUTH PAINTBALL: Sunday, Oct 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Hopper's in Savannah**

Join us in the action-thrill sport of paintball at Hopper's. They have a field based on the Call of Duty level "Nuketown". **The cost is \$45** and includes: paintball gun, air, 500 paintballs, and a mask. Must have a signed parent consent form and Hopper's safety waiver to go. Bring a packed lunch. Wear several layers of clothes and long pants.

**GOD AND THE GALAXY: Students and Families discussing faith in a scientific age** with Kitty Ferguson on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. in Cranmer Hall. This talk is free and open to the public.

This talk is based on a letter Kitty wrote to her daughter published as "What I Want My Teenager to Know about the God/Science Debate" in the book *God for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* edited by Russell Stannard. Kitty Ferguson is an American science writer, lecturer, and former professional musician.

### FALL RETREAT

**YSJ Fall Retreat 2018: November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> at Epworth by the Sea.** Join the Youth of St. John's for our first annual Fall Retreat! Epworth by the Sea is the perfect location with beautiful surroundings for worship, study, play, and fellowship. Our theme is the Grace of God, which we will discuss over the weekend. During free time youth will be able to play almost all traditional sports (bring your own gear), try out the GAGA Pit, rent a bicycle, hang-out, or try to take a nap. Don't miss the opportunity to connect with friends, discover God's grace, and make memo-

ries that will last a lifetime! Confirmands are strongly encouraged to attend.

Please visit the youth page at [www.stjohnssav.org/grow/youth/](http://www.stjohnssav.org/grow/youth/) to register online by November 1<sup>st</sup> and download the consent form and packing list.

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

**9:30 a.m. Nursery for infants and toddlers** (1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Cranmer Hall). Supervised fellowship for those who are potty-trained.

**10:30 a.m. Nursery for infants and toddlers** (1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Cranmer Hall) Fellowship, lesson, and music for potty trained.

**3 years old's – Kindergarten** (2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. Cranmer Hall)

**Children in 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade** will attend church with their parents and follow the cross over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. of Cranmer Hall for a lesson and fellowship.

*\* All children are to be picked up at the conclusion of the 10:30 service.*

### COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Children are encouraged to bring a small offering to our worship service on Sunday morning. Children are raising money to support a little girl in Africa through Compassion International. The children started this project last year during Lent and we continue to give monthly.

### CHILDREN'S REGISTRATION

Please remember to return the completed registration form for each child and join our Facebook Page, Children of St. John's for weekly updates on the lesson. Volunteers are needed to serve as teacher's aides and building supervisors each Sunday. Please contact Melanie Finnegan (912-856-6210, [melanietfinnegan@gmail.com](mailto:melanietfinnegan@gmail.com)) with questions or to volunteer.

# MUSIC OF SAINT JOHN'S

## MISSION WINDS CLARINET QUARTET

The free concert featuring the United States Air Force Band of the West will be Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. here at St. John's. Please plan to attend.

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

### CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to the family of **Mr Samuel Zemurray III** who died last Saturday. Mr Zemurray's funeral originally scheduled for Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

We also extend our condolences to the Rev. Rick Buechner, sometime priest associate at St. John's, on the death of his mother **Elinor Buechner**, this past Tuesday.

### SUPPORT FOR PRISON MINISTRY

In the gospel Christ offers God's grace and help to those who don't deserve it – to those who have broken God's law. That's why prison-ministry has always been so important an element in the church's witness and mission. "I was in prison, and ye visited me" (Matthew 25). Through the gospel even convicted criminals can find both hope and honesty to turn their lives around. That's why this ministry to convicted criminals is an important element in the renewal of our crime-soaked culture. Yet Christians may well find that ministry intimidating. That's where a specialized ministry like Kairos Prison Ministry can make a great difference – and here is how you can support and be a part of their work.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day! – forty-two male prisoners selected by the prison chaplain will take part in a four-day Kairos weekend at Coastal State Prison. It's an intense and immersive weekend of ministry with them, using talks, small-group discussion, personal reflection, to bring them into deep and right relation with God and neighbor through repentance, faith, and amendment of life. David Crowley, a newcomer to St. John's, will be part of the Kairos team.

**Here's how you can be part of that effort:** we are being asked for forty-two parishioners to write one of these prisoners a one-page personal letter of support and encouragement, and to make a commitment to pray for him. *They need to hear that the community outside the prison walls has not forgotten them but is rooting for their success.* You will incur no risk in doing this, as no identifying information about you or address is included with the letters, and no further correspondence will ensue. Children may also draw pictures or make a card with a similar message. (Suggestions for content are provided.) In addition, we are asking the Wednesday night Prayer Group (which meets next Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> after Evening Prayer) to pray them also. If you can be part of this effort, please write to Clayton Kennedy (Vestry Outreach Committee) at [c.kennedy@comcast.net](mailto:c.kennedy@comcast.net) She will send you templates for the letters. Please return them by Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

### PRAYER REQUEST BOXES

To encourage praying with and for one another, parishioners are invited to submit a Prayer Request (supplication or thanksgiving) to the Prayer Boxes set up in the narthex and at the Chapel entrance. These will be collected and prayed for during the monthly meeting of the St. John's Prayer Circle (to which all are welcome) – second Wednesdays after the 5:30 evening service, in the Cranmer Hall Fellowship Room. (To keep prayers up-to-date, prayer requests must be renewed each month).

### ARDF COLLECTION

We collected \$1,430 during last Sunday's Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) collection.

The ARDF leverages the power of our Global Anglican relationships to identify and invest in projects that have the highest probability of success. Projects are managed through local church leaders on the ground, which provide a relational and spiritual component to our projects that larger development agencies simply cannot.

# PARISH PAPER ESSAY

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## SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM (6)

Why is living in community so hard? Why are relationships so difficult, even and especially with those to whom we are most close? The gospel invites us to a life in relationship with God and neighbour, in a community that is both reconciled and reconciling. And yet to our shame, and the reproach of the gospel, we Christians are not very good at community. (Of course, non-Christians are no better, though that does not stop them self-righteously denouncing our failings.) Why is this?

Let me suggest one way of thinking about this that I have found helpful. *We all have the virtues of our vices.* If someone is careful with money, he may be stingy; if he is generous, he may be extravagant. The courageous person is reckless, and the cautious person is timid. An optimist ignores problems, and a pessimist thinks everything is a problem. The organized person can never be spontaneous, and the hard worker does not know how to relax. And so on.

Not only does every virtue, every personal strength, have its "shadow side", its limitation, but we are also often blind to them, and to some extent wilfully blind. We don't see them because we don't look for them, and we don't look for them because we don't *want* to see them. That would be too painful for our carefully-curated self-images. It is in conflicts with those who are in relationship with us, that we become aware of our limitations. That encounter with the reality we usually ignore can be a painful experience: we may react defensively and angrily. When we respond that way, however, we are missing the opportunity this painful experience gives - of seeing ourselves more fully, in our virtues and in our vices. If instead of trying to defend ourselves, we listened, we might learn something very important about ourselves - we might learn the limitations of our own selves to which we ourselves are blind.

Such self-knowledge, of course, is useless if it does not lead to positive change ('amendment of life'), and change is painful. To avoid the pain, we may walk away from the relationship in which the conflict takes place. But if the pain of losing the relationship is greater than the pain of change, then we will embrace change rather than lose the

relationship. That's why community is the matrix of spiritual growth. Moreover, the same community where we discover the painful truth about ourselves, can also provide the forgiveness and loving encouragement we also need in order to change. Truth alone is harsh and judgmental; love alone is sentimental and enabling; positive change requires we "speak the truth in love" (Eph 4:15) - and hear it spoken to us. The Christian community - church, family, city, country, friendship, workplace - can have this outlook and perspective, because the gospel *is* the truth spoken in love - the painful truth of sin (that we are much worse than we like to believe), and the amazing truth of grace (that we are more loved than we dared hope for). If we have received this truth spoken in love with the gospel, then we shall be able to hear it, and speak it in our lives.

So what does that require of us? First, to be ready to hear the truth spoken about ourselves. For all this is important, but especially if we are prone to be touchy, irascible, or censorious, and find it all too easy to confront others about their faults. The policing of the behavior of our neighbours is a way of distracting attention from our own. Yet we must also be ready to speak up when others trespass against us. Unlike the touchy and censorious, agreeable persons find it hard to speak up, they avoid confrontation. They would rather 'let it pass', and sometimes this is reasonable. But there is a danger there too. If you don't speak up, and resentment emerges in your soul, one way or another it will harm the relationship and perhaps the whole community, emerging in a variety of forms: either passive aggression (e.g. the "silent treatment"), withdrawal, an explosion of anger, harsh accusations, or malicious gossip. If such resentment emerges in your soul, don't ignore it. It is a sign that you need to address the problem with the person concerned. Either he is in the wrong, and needs to know it, so he can make amends, and change; or you are. Either way, it must be done - with as much charity and civility as you can muster (always assume blindness rather than malevolence in the offender), but also with as much is necessary to penetrate defensiveness. Of course we must forgive each other - but the forgiveness that restores community requires truth as well as love; honesty, humility, and compassion.

GGD

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***Our Mission: Saint John's Church is building a community in Christ  
That is grounded in historic faith and reverent worship  
And is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.***

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