

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 36

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

August 5, 2018

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday, August 6th

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

*Morning and Evening Prayer
and Holy Eucharist*

8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. Litany

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

In addition, on Thursday

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Holy Eucharist

Next Sunday, August 12th

THE SUNDAY AFTER TRANSFIGURATION

TRINITY 11

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

representing the Word of God, yields an unexpected crop in due time. Paul makes a similar point about his gospel ministry in 1 Corinthians, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." In both cases, spiritual growth is described as something that parallels the growth of a plant. Plants grow slowly, and you really cannot accelerate the process.

As Christians we are, spiritually speaking, plants. In the same way that seeds do not plant themselves, we did not begin our spiritual life on our own. In the same way that plants do not water themselves, we cannot strengthen ourselves spiritually. Is there anything a fledgling plant can do to grow? Jesus tells us what we can do - we can *abide*.

Vine and Branches

In John 15, Jesus tells his disciples that he is the true vine, his Father is the vinedresser, and that we are the branches. Bishop Greg Brewer once preached a sermon where he noted, "Jesus did not say, 'I am the vine, want to be a branch?'" The passage assumes that we are already branches on Christ the vine. It is important to note that we do not abide in order to earn the privilege of becoming a branch on the vine, but because

ABIDING IN CHRIST

The Scriptures are full of farming imagery. Trees and fruit. Seed and soil. Vines and branches. Why is this the case? Obviously, the societies in which the various books of the Bible were written were farming communities. Agricultural analogies connected with people (and still do!) and helped them understand spiritual truths.

Jesus used farming imagery in many of his parables. One such is the Parable of the Sower. The sower goes out to sow seed in the field, and then must wait to see the crop his sowing yields. This soil and seed imagery can help Jesus' hearers understand the importance of patience in their spiritual lives. The seed,

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To receive the Parish Paper by email (on Fridays), send name and email address to information@stjohnssav.org

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STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mr. John M. Wilson III

USHER CHAIRMAN

Dr. Lee M. Alderman and Mr. Thomas C. McCay

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Jack McClellan Jacob Perkins
Edwin Shepherd Daniel Sills
William Sills William Taylor

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Georgia Tolly Shelton by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O. Mercer.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
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COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. William C. Rodgers

ROAMING GREETER

Ms. Laura M. Reid

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH:

CRANMER HALL-3RD FLOOR

Upper & Middle School – D. Svihel

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:

Collects Study With Father O'Brien and Will & Mary Helen Burdell. CH3-Reading Room
Father Dunbar's Class on 2 Kings - Chapel

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- *Jeremiah* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m. Third Floor Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday Book Study: T. H. White's "The Once and Future King" with Father O'Brien
Will Not Be Meeting This Week

◆ **UPCOMING EVENT** ◆

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR APRON ORDERS

Nita Ann Klein will be taking orders for Holly Days Bazaar aprons. If you've never had one, but would like a personalized apron for the Bazaar, or if yours is worn from years of use, please contact Nita Ann (912-658-1005, nak618@gmail.com). Aprons will match current color and embroidery and will be 100% cotton twill. Checks for \$21.40 can be given to Nita Ann. We would like to place an order at the end of September. Thank you!

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Wednesday, August 8th at 6:15 p.m.
following Evening Prayer in Cranmer Hall, first floor. We invite you to join us in praying for the prayer requests from the parish. After the Prayer time, participants will plan the remaining 2018 studies. All are welcome!

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

Christ has already united us to himself and made us a branch of the true vine. We received the gift of union with Christ (becoming a branch on the vine) through baptism. We continue to grow by abiding.

What is abiding? Abiding is not trying harder and doing more. Some people try to turn abiding in Christ into a formula. (In fact, while writing this, I found an article that claimed to explain abiding in Christ in eight easy steps!) The best and simplest explanation of abiding is this: staying close to Jesus.

A reasonable follow-up question is: how do I stay close to Jesus? The same way you stay close to anyone – by spending time with them. Jesus promised to be with his disciples until the end of the age. We can find Jesus where he has promised to be present: in Scripture, in the Sacraments, and in fellowship with other Christians. But again, this is not a formula.

Jesus tells us that if we abide in him, and he in us, we will bear much fruit. We like to think we are the ones in control, and that if we could only do one hundred days of Bible reading, receive the Eucharist fifty times, and have weekly Christian fellowship, then we will get the guaranteed result of greater holiness in the way we want. Jesus is trying to disrupt this expectation. He simply promises that we will bear fruit.

This promise takes the pressure off us. Jesus is the one promising that we will bear fruit. He cannot lie. Those who abide in him will bear fruit, which means we do not

have to ‘fake it until we make it’. It also means that our spiritual growth is like fruit. It grows slowly. Sometimes fruit is not in season. Jesus even tells us that sometimes we will get pruned, which usually means suffering, but with the promise of more fruit!

An Invitation

Ultimately, Jesus is inviting us to abide in his love. He says, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.” Why would we not want to abide in Christ’s love? Christ’s love for us is the same perfect love that the Father has for the Son, and the Son from the Father from all eternity. Augustine famously described the Holy Spirit as the love between the Father and the Son. Jesus is inviting us into the love of the triune God. In addition, Jesus tells us exactly why he wants us to abide, “that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be full.”

The farming imagery of Scripture helps us to see our lives as branches on the vine that is Christ. It forces us to slow down and abide in him. In due time, there will be growth. And joy. Jesus promised it. - DMSvihel

NOW OPEN TO ALL YOUTH & CHILDREN

The Book-A-Trip Summer Reading Program is now open to ALL St. John’s Youth and Children, aged 18 and under. Complete six hours of reading over the summer, fill out the log book or send us a note by August 31, and you’ll receive a prize and a chance to win the grand prize, two tickets to Get Air or Monkey Joe’s! Prizes will be awarded at the Church School opening day party, September 9, at 10 am in Cranmer Hall. If you have questions, please contact Melanie Finnegan or David Svihel.

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL Prayer Book, page 203
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

Summer Children’s Nursery for birth - age 3 (Cranmer Hall, 1st floor),
 is available from 9:15a.m. till 12:15 p.m.

9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

HYMN: #370 <i>Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers</i>	Graefenberg
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses	7-8
VENITE: #609	9
Psalm #17	358
First Lesson: Jeremiah 8:22 – 9:11	<i>Insert</i>
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615, 619	10
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1 & St. Luke 19:41	203
BENEDICTUS#634	14
Apostles' Creed	15
Responses	16
Collect of the Day	203
Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers	17-20, 41
Welcome and Announcements	The Rector
HYMN: #378 <i>Come, Gracious Spirit, Heav’nly Dove</i>	Mendon
Sermon	Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Solo: *Ave Maria*..... Giulio Caccini
 Jessica Fishenfeld, Soloist

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing..... 19

HYMN: #253 *Spread, O Spread. Thou Mighty Word* Luebeck

VOLUNTARY: *Joyful Recessional* Rosalie Bonighton

Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.

If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.

12:00 P.M. (Noon)—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel - as at 8:00 a.m.)