

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, September 9, 2018

10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Sermon & Children's Church



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH

The Truth of the Bible

In the Beauty of the Anglican Tradition.

Believe. Worship. Love. Serve.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

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 (1st floor), is available from 9:30a.m. till 12:15 p.m.

Children's Church Children (age 4 - rising 5th 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.

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

Founded in 1841, the first rector, Stephen Elliott, was also the first bishop of Georgia, and he consecrated the present church on May 7th 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: DIVINE SERVICE

It's commonplace to speak of public worship as a "service," or more precisely, as "divine service". But who is serving whom? Is it human beings serving God – or is it God's serving human beings? Surprisingly enough, it is both. The gospel canticle called *Benedictus* speaks of our vocation to "serve him in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life", and the General Thanksgiving speaks of "show[ing] forth his praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to [his] service, and by walking before [him] in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life". In divine service (in public worship) we are dedicating ourselves to his divine service (in daily life). Yet the canticle and the General Thanksgiving acknowledge with gratitude that we are only able to serve God because of what he has done for us first. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people; / And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us, in the house of his servant David; ... That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear". Accordingly, "We bless thee ... above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory". Jesus himself said, "the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). We are able to serve him, because he first served us. In Divine Service, we look for God himself to serve us in the ministry of Word and Sacrament by his Word and Spirit, that we may be of service to him in our lives.

If you have questions or topics to suggest for this feature, please send them to the rector gdunbar@stjohnssav.org

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

September 9, 2018

10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 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.

PREPARING IN PENITENCE

At the sound of the bells all kneel.

HYMN (*all stand*) #158 *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*.....Puer Nobis

Sentences*Prayer Book, pages 3-5*

Confession (*said by all, kneeling*)*Prayer Book, page 6*

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Continue kneeling as priest stands to pronounce the Absolution:

Absolution *Prayer Book, page 7*

Lords' Prayer (*said by all, kneeling*)..... *Prayer Book, page 7*

OUR Father, who art in heaven, 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. Amen.

PRAISE AND PROCLAMATION

Opening Versicles and Responses.....*Prayer Book, pages 7-8*

Minister: *O Lord open thou our lips*

Answer: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise

(all stand)

Minister: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;*

Answer: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Minister: *Praise ye the Lord.*

Answer: The Lord's Name be praised.

VENITE Hymnal (*all stand*) #609 Prayer Book, page 9

Psalm #146 (*all stand - read antiphonally*)..... Prayer Book, page 522

First Lesson (*all sit*) Joshua 24: 1-28 *Joshua challenges the people to serve the Lord alone.*

And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said unto all the people,

Joshua rehearses the benefits Israel has received from the Lord; in the time of the patriarchs.

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. ³And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac. ⁴And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.

The benefits Israel has received from God in the time of the exodus.

⁵I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagues Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out. ⁶And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea. ⁷And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.

In their sojourn on the other side of Jordan.

⁸And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you. ⁹Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you: ¹⁰But I would not hearken unto Balaam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand.

In their conquest of the promised land

¹¹And you went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I delivered them into your hand. ¹²And I sent the hornet before you, which drave them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow. ¹³And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

Joshua appeals to Israel to fear and serve the Lord alone.

¹⁴Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. ¹⁵And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

The people acknowledge God's benefits and promise to serve him alone.

¹⁶And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; ¹⁷For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: ¹⁸And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

Joshua warns the people of the consequences of breaking their promises to God.

¹⁹And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. ²⁰If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. ²¹And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

The people commit themselves to serve the Lord and to obey his word.

²²And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. ²³Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. ²⁴And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

Joshua ratifies a covenant with the people, to serve the Lord only.

²⁵So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. ²⁶And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. ²⁷And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God. ²⁸So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615.....*Prayer Book, p. 10*

Second Lesson (*all sit*) St. Matthew 6:24..... *Prayer Book, page, 211*

During this canticle Children (age 4 - rising 5th grade) are invited to follow the cross to Cranmer Hall for Children's Church.

BENEDICTUS Hymnal (*all stand*) #634.....*Prayer Book, page 14*

PRAYERS AND PETITIONS

Apostles' Creed (*all stand*).....*Prayer Book, page 15*

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Versicles and Responses 16

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*
Answer: *And with thy spirit.*
Minister: *Let us pray. (All Kneel)*
Minister: *O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.*
Answer: *And grant us thy salvation.*
Minister: *O God, make clean our hearts within us.*
Answer: *And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

Collect of the Day (all kneel).....*Prayer Book, page 210*

Fixed Collects, others Prayers and the Grace.....*Prayer Book, pages 17-20*

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

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

SERMON

Welcome and Announcements (*all sit*) The Rector

Charge to the Confirmation Class..... The Rector

HYMN (*all stand*) #567 *Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us*..... Dulce Carmen

Sermon (*all sit*) Father Dunbar

OFFERING AND GIVING THANKS

Sentences (*all stand*)

Anthem: *Pax Dei*..... C. Whitney Coombs

Remain with us O peace of God, remain that we may bear our daily load, nor feel the strain.
Strong in Thy might we triumph find,
Thy calmness gives the quiet mind, Thy benediction, comfort kind O peace of God remain, remain.

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

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; / Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

America, Hymn #141, Stanza 4 (*all stand*):.....America

Our fathers' God to thee, / Author of liberty, / To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright / with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might, / Great God, our King. Amen

General Thanksgiving (*said by all, kneeling*)Prayer Book, p. 19

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Aaronic BlessingNumbers 6:24-26

HYMN: #279 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation..... Praise to the Lord

VOLUNTARY: Fanfare..... Healey William

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.)

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

Sunday, September 16th is Connection Sunday

Staff and volunteers will be on hand after 8:00 a.m. service and before and after 10:30 a.m. service, to help parishioners “get connected with St. John’s online/smartphone directory and have photos taken for it.

ST. JOHN’S IS PODCASTING:

You can listen to St. John’s Sunday lessons and sermon on your smartphone, any time you like, using the free Podbean App: search for St. John’s Church Savannah, Ga. If you need help using the app visit the Church website at www.stjohnssav.org, pick up a how-to leaflet at the Church, or call the church office at 232-1251.

PRAYER REQUEST BOXES

To encourage praying with and for one another, parishioners are invited to submit Prayer Requests (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).

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:22

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

8:00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Church)
8:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (Fellowship Room, Cranmer Hall)
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Nursery for children up to Kindergarten
9:30 a.m.	Adult Classes: 2 Kings Class with Father Dunbar (Chapel) Collects Study with Father O'Brien and Will & Mary Helen Burdell (Cranmer Hall 3rd Fl. - Reading Rm.) Youth Classes: Middle and High School with David Svihel (Cranmer Hall - 3rd Fl.)
10:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Sermon and Children's Church (Cranmer Hall) Nursery for children Newborns to Kindergarten until end of the service.
Noon	Holy Communion (Chapel)

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers on this Sunday are given to the glory of God: And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Herbert Mather, Mr. William P. Thompson, and Mr. Robert M. Thompson by Mrs. William P. Thompson.

And in honor of the life of Col. Lindsey P. Henderson, Jr. from his loving family.

And in loving memory of Mr. Andrew Gay Labrot by Mrs. Andrew Gay Labrot and his children.

And in honor of Father Gavin Dunbar's birthday on September 11th.

And in loving memory of Mary Lou Hague and all of those lost on September 11th, 2001, by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph H. Kulp II 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) Wylly at (912) 656-6235.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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, Miss Amara DeRienzo, Mrs. William E. Dillard III, Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillian, Mrs. Samuel P. Inglesby

Coffee Hour Chairman: Mrs. Nicholas K. Farley

Roaming Greeter: Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells

Usher Chairman: Mr. E. Brian Culver & Mr. Edwin H. Culver

Vestry Offering Chairman: Mr. R. Gilbert Wells

Acolytes: Jack McClellan, Jacob Perkins, Finn Repella, Edwin Shepherd, 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 or through the church office at (912) 232-1251

WORSHIP THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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

In addition, on Friday—HOLY CROSS DAY: 8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Morning and Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

Next Sunday, Sept. 16th -The 16th Sunday After Trinity: 10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist & 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

IT'S TIME TO... FALL BACK INTO CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

CHILDREN'S CHURCH OPENING DAY:

Join us to celebrate at 10:00 a.m. in Cranmer Hall.

YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL BARBEQUE:

All youth 6th – 12th grades and parents are invited to join us after the 10:30 service as we start our new year together.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE BEGINS

9:30 a.m. Adult, Youth, and Confirmation classes (3rd floor Cranmer Hall).

Nursery for infants and toddlers (1st floor Cranmer Hall). Supervised fellowship for potty-trained **3 years old's - 5th grade** (2nd floor Cranmer Hall)

10:30 a.m. Nursery for infants and toddlers (1st floor Cranmer Hall) Fellowship, lesson, and music for potty trained 3 years old's – Kindergarten (2nd floor Cranmer Hall)

Children in 1st – 5th grade will attend church with their parents and follow cross over to Cranmer Hall for a lesson and fellowship time (2nd floor Cranmer Hall)

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

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH AT 6:15 P.M.

A new Bible study begins. The topic is effective prayers in the Bible followed by congregation prayer requests, additional intercessory prayers and prayers of thanksgiving. This is a good time to join the group in Cranmer Hall, following the Evening Prayer. All are welcome.

SCIENCE & TRUTH: Is there room for God in our understanding of reality?

FIVE TALKS BY JON SPRAGUE

THURSDAYS SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11 AT 6:15 P.M. – 7:15 P.M.

♦ **Childcare is Available by Prior Registration Only:** Advance registration is required. Contact the Church Office 912-232-1250.

♦ **Interested but not sure you can come to all?** The first four talks can stand alone – the fifth is where the themes are pulled together. Come to all, or come to one.

♦ **Free Admission**

MEN OF SAINT JOHN'S

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast 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, Third Floor Cranmer Hall.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Annual Steak Dinner November 1st - Look for complete details coming soon.

WOMEN OF SAINT JOHN'S

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday book study, "The Spire" by T. H White with Father O'Brien. 9:15 a.m. in the Reading Room.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Holly Days Bazaar November 7-8

YOUTH OF SAINT JOHN'S

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

YOUTH FALL RETREAT

Save the Date: Friday, November 16th - Sunday, November 18th. The Youth at St. John's Fall Retreat at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island. Complete details and registration information coming soon.

STARTING THIS WEEK - SUNDAY SCHOOL High School – The Apostles Creed – with Rick Wright and Martin Sullivan

For more than 1,600 years the Apostles' Creed has united the Church around core Christian doctrines as revealed in Scripture. This historic confession points us to the life-changing truth of the gospel. High School students will dive deeply into what Christians

believe, why we believe it, and how to apply our beliefs in a life of informed, active, and practicing discipleship.

Middle School – Jesus in the Beginning: How Genesis is Good News – with David Svihel

Genesis is the book of beginnings. The beginning of the world, humanity, and ultimately God's story of redemption in Jesus. We will focus on how all the stories and events in Genesis point to Jesus. Throughout the study, students will discover key doctrines of the faith and be equipped with Christian wisdom to live faithfully in the world.

MUSIC OF SAINT JOHN'S

BRASS FOR MICHAELMAS

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the brass at Michaelmas (Sept. 30th), please make checks payable to St. John's Church marked "brass" in the memo line, and add (if desired) a note as to intention (thanksgiving or memorial).

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S HAS OPENINGS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

If you have any questions or would like to register your child for the upcoming year please contact Laura Mattocks at 912-232-1225

PRAYER BOOKS AND HYMNALS

Mark a special occasion, or leave a lasting memorial to a loved one, by dedicating a Prayer Book or a Hymnal for use at St. John's Church. Each dedication will be recorded by a bookplate. The charge of \$50 per book will offset the costs of replacing Hymnals and Prayer Books in the Church or Chapel. Contact the Church Office if interested.

PARISH PAPER ESSAY

SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM

Vacation is over, kids are back in school, and the church's "program year" is moving into gear. This Sunday we begin a new year in Children's Church, Grade Six Confirmation Class, and Sunday School for Youth and Adults. After church St. John's youth and their parents are invited to a barbecue with David Svihel in Cranmer Hall, where they can find out what he is offering this fall and winter. I hope all our young people will take up this opportunity. Meanwhile, the Women of St. John's are back in action after their summer break; preparations for the Holly Days Bazaar are moving forward; weeknight choir rehearsals are resuming for the Parish Choir; the Men of St. John's are lumbering into action too, and Small Group Fellowships are meeting (for study, discussion, and prayer) - and to that brief list we must add an ambitious series of talks on Science and Truth that begin next Thursday evening. Moreover, to keep information about these opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and service at your fingertips, we have spent the last year in modernizing our communications, with a new St. John's website, weekly parish emails, sermon podcasting, Parish Paper, and the Sunday service booklet.

In our highly consumerized culture, it is easy for us to look at these diverse activities as a cafeteria buffet from which we may pick and choose options according to personal taste and inclination. Though a certain amount of picking and choosing is required, it is a mistake to do so by the consumer criterion of personal taste. The real choice is (as last Sunday's epistle lesson from Galatians 5 put it) a choice to *walk in the Spirit* or to gratify the *desire of the Flesh*. The choice to live by the Spirit or the Flesh is not a choice between soul and body, but between a life turned in upon itself, in self-gratifying greed (life according to 'the Flesh'); or a life turned outward to God and neighbor, in God-glorifying gratitude (life in the Spirit). We can live by the Spirit, or we can live by the Flesh - that is the choice we are

making; and all our particular choices of how and where we invest our time and energy will embody that fundamental decision.

This coming Sunday's gospel (Matthew 6:33) reminds us of our true priority: *seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness*. We might fruitfully reflect on that imperative, and our response to it in the choices we have made. To break it down a bit - if we are not feeding our minds with God's truth, then with what are we feeding it? if we are not aligning our wills with God's will, then what power is directing our wills? if we are not offering ourselves, our souls and bodies, all that we are, and all that we have, in the service of God, then what gods are we serving instead? To quote this Sunday's gospel again, *ye cannot serve two masters*. If we are too busy to give these questions the rigorous thought and honest answers they deserve, then our over-scheduled lives are the enemy of spiritual health. *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God*. What are we doing to seek His kingdom for ourselves, our church and our neighbor?

That gospel imperative is the theme of this fall's Stewardship campaign, which begins this Sunday and will culminate on Sunday October 21st. You will be hearing more about this in weeks to come, but it's not too soon to begin reflecting on our priorities, in the choices we make about the use of our own gifts of time, talent, and treasure. The stewardship of our resources begins in the good stewardship of our soul and body. May we discern rightly, and choose wisely!

GGD

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

Worship in the Anglican Tradition

Parish Chartered in 1841 Church Consecrated in 1853

325 Bull Street On Madison Square OFFICE: One West Macon Street 31401

***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.***

www.stjohnssav.org Office: 912.232.1251 Fax: 912.232.5559 Parish House: 912.233.3845

Bishop of Georgia..... The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase
Rector - The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar.....(912) 429-3384 gdunbar@stjohnssav.org
Priest Associate - The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien (912) 308-4441 cobrien@stjohnssav.org
Assisting Priest - The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt (912) 777-9968
Organist/Choirmaster - Mr. R. Steven Branyon.....sbranyon@stjohnssav.org
Business Manager - Mrs. Janice W. Woods.....(912) 232-1251 jwoods@stjohnssav.org
Administrative Assistant- Mrs. John C. Nelson (Margaret)(912) 232-1251 mnelson@stjohnssav.org
Communications Coordinator - Mrs. James G. Sharpley (Lisa)(912) 232-1251 lsharpley@stjohnssav.org
Financial Administrator - Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet (refer financial inquiries to Mrs. Woods)(912) 232-1251
Minister with Youth - Mr. David Svihel.....dsvihel@stjohnssav.org
Children's Ministry Director - Position Open
Buildings Manager - Mr. Sinisa Domazet.....sdomazet@stjohnssav.org
Senior Warden - Dr. J. Davidson Carson.....jdcarson47@hotmail.com

Junior Warden - Mr. Holden T. Hayes; Clerk of Vestry - Mr. W. Miller Glover, Jr.;
Treasurer - Mr. David C. Barrow III; Assistant Treasurer - Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford;
Chancellor - M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.; Vice Chancellor - Richard C. E. Jennings, Esq.

The Vestry: M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq., Dr. J. Davidson Carson, Mrs. Christian M. Arden-Joly,
Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy, Mrs. Gary M. Schubert, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr.; Messrs. David C. Barrow III,
Edwin H. Culver, R. Gilbert Wells, Mr. Holden T. Hayes, Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter, Mr. John M. Wilson III
Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpiller,
Roland B. Williams, Esq.

President, Women of St. John's.....Ms. Laura Reid
President, Chancel Society.....Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. Martin R. Sullivan, Jr.