

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 50 No. 50

Twenty-first Sunday of Trinity

November 10, 2019

Vol. 50 No. 50 Twenty-first Sunday of Trinity November 10, 2019

8 A.M. – THE HOLY COMMUNION, Church

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPELPrayer Book, page 218-220
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – **Nursery** for birth to age 3 in Cranmer Hall, 1st Floor

9 A.M. – FAMILY MORNING PRAYER, Chapel

10 A.M. – ADULT, YOUTH & CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, Cranmer Hall

11 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER

HYMN #370 <i>Spirit Divine Attend our Prayers</i> Graefenberg	
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's PrayerPrayer Book, pages 3-7	
Versicles and Responses7-8	
VENITE, EXULTEMUS DOMINO (Hymnal #608, page 705) 9	
Psalm #50..... 401	
First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 12 <i>God will bring every deed into judgment.</i>	
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS (Hymnal #615, # 619, page 708) 10	
Second Lesson: St. Matthew 25:31-46 <i>The Son of Man comes in judgment.</i>	
BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #634, page 716) 14	
Apostles' Creed 15	
Versicles and Responses 16	
Collect of the Day218-219	
Other Collects & Prayers, Commemoration of the Departed 17-20	
Welcome & Announcements Father Dunbar	

OFFERING

Sentences

ANTHEM <i>O Lord, Increase My Faith</i> A. Avalos	
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141 (Stanza 4)	
General Thanksgiving (<i>kneeling; said by all</i>) and Aaronic Blessing 19	
HYMN #257 <i>Hasten the Time Appointed</i>Lancashire	
<i>Non-members may leave during the hymn if they wish.</i>	

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

Vestry Nominations & Elections.
Reports to the Congregation.

12:15 P.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Chapel

THIS SUNDAY AFTER 11 A.M. MORNING PRAYER Annual Congregational General Meeting

Reports and elections for Vestry. Active members (on the rolls, worshipping and contributing) are entitled to vote.

JOSH HARRIS, THE BIBLE, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The evangelical Christian sub-culture in North America was rocked recently by news about Christian author and pastor Josh Harris. Harris became a best-selling author as a twenty-something with his 1997 book *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, which argued that courtship rather than dating is the "biblical" model of relationships. In the past few months he announced that he and his wife were separating. This news was followed a week later by his announcement that he was no longer a Christian.

Probably the weirdest headline attempting to describe Harris' deconversion began "Purity Expert Josh Harris Announces, 'I am Not a Christian'" What exactly is a purity expert? How do you become one? It's not exactly clear. What is clear is that at the age of 21, Joshua Harris' views on sex and relationships had influenced millions of people.

Harris and I both grew up in a Christian sub-culture with an emphasis on being "biblical." At its best, it teaches that the Bible applies to all of our life, which is true. At its worst, this subculture teaches that the Bible has an answer to every question we could ask in life, because it's basically a book of rules. All we need to do is look hard enough.

Classic examples of this phenomena are

the books *Growing Kids God's Way* and *Preparation for Parenting* by Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo. While the books claim to offer comprehensive guidance on how God wants you to raise your child, it is filled with the advice and opinions of its authors with Bible verses tacked on. To give one example: not sure if you should let your baby cry? Easy, the Father let Jesus cry on the cross, therefore the biblical thing to do, according to the authors, is let your child cry. While this may sound surprising, these books and others like them are considered by many to be giving *the* biblical answer to the question. To be sure, does the Bible contain principles that apply to parenting your kids? Yes, it does. It even contains specific verses about parenting. Does the Bible give a comprehensive blueprint on how to raise children God's way, including when to let them cry? Absolutely not. In all fairness, the Ezzo's first book probably would not have sold as well if the title had been *Growing Kids Gary and Anne's Way*.

Harris' book was the same "biblical" impulse applied to the topics of dating, sex, and marriage. Harris likely ran into trouble early on in the writing process, since neither the word nor the concept of dating can be found in the Bible. Because courtship is described in certain Old Testament narratives, and in Mary and

Special Collection for Episcopal Youth and Children's Services

Your donations help provide need-based college scholarships for undergraduates and financial assistance for children to attend summer camp at Honey Creek.

THE PARISH PAPER
OF

St. John's Church

ONE WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

www.stjohnssav.org

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

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly with a bonus edition for Christmas by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar Rector

1 West Macon Street, 31401 (912) 429-3384

The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt Assisting Priest

Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster

Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager

Mrs. John C. Nelson (Margaret) Adm. Assistant

Mrs. Jeremy J. Harvey (Heather) Comm. Coordinator

Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet Financial Administrator

Mr. David M. Svihel Minister with Youth

Mrs. Joseph Ross, Jr. (Sarah) Children's Ministry Director

Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

Master of Ceremonies Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.

Vergers Mr. B. Ray Summerell

Senior Warden Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq.

Junior Warden M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

Clerk of Vestry Mr. R. Leslie Johnson

Treasurer Mr. Holden T. Hayes

Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford

Chancellor M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

Vice Chancellor Richard C.E. Jennings, Esq.

The Vestry: Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq., M. Tyus Butler, Jr.,

Esq., Dr. J. Davidson Carson, Captain John K. Ross, Mrs.

Christian M. Arden-Joly, Mrs. Gary M. Schubert, Mrs.

Martin R. Sullivan, Sr.; Mrs. Sean F. Finnegan, Mr. Edwin

H. Culver, Mr. Holden T. Hayes, Mr. Benjamin W.

Baxter, Mr. John M. Wilson III, Mr. R. Leslie Johnson

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath,

Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

President, Women of St. John's Mrs. Stuart W. Soule

President, Chancel Society Mrs. Roland S. Summers

President, Men of St. John's Mr. Sean F. Finnegan

Church Office (912) 232-1251

Fax (912) 232-5559

Parish House (912) 233-3845

Cranmer Hall (912) 232-8887

E-mails (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

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 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

11 a.m. Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr.

Usher Chairman

Mr. Sean F. Finnegan

Coffee Hour Chair

Mrs. R. Kran Riddle

Roaming Greeter

Mrs. W. Howard Helmken, Jr.

Acolytes

11 a.m. Thomas Burdell, Malcolm

Worsham, and Wesley Worsham

Chancel Society

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G.

Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs.

James C. Pedrick, Mrs. Edward J. Derst

III, Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. Adolphus J.

Carter III, Ms. Maury Weed, Mrs. Jeanne

H. McMillan, Mrs. Roland S. Summers,

Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Mrs. Richard C.

E. Jennings, Mrs. Michael Thompson,

and Mrs. Wesley H. Lewis

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the Veterans for their service to our country.

And in loving memory of Lisa and King Simkins, and Mary and Dick Stoneby Marshall, Lynah and Wesley Stone.

And in loving memory of G. Philip Morgan, Jr. by his family.

And in honor of Eddie and Robbie Culver for their kindness.

And on the occasion of the marriage of Laura Sossong and Charles Compton III on November 9, 2019.

The flowers on the chapel altar on Wednesday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lombard Morgan Reynolds by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hewson.

CONDOLENCES

We extend condolences to the family of Mack Carter Wansley, father of Caroline Berry, who died Oct. 30, 2019.

And to the family of Edward Charles Hill, father of Kathie Harlander, who died Oct. 26, 2019.

And to the family of Mary (Kippy) Kemper Adams, St. John's parishioner, who died Nov. 5, 2019.

PRAYER CIRCLE

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, Nov. 13th** on The Prayer of Asa at 6:15 p.m. in Cranmer Hall.

Joseph's relationship, according to Harris, it is the biblical option. When the Bible is treated as simply a practical guide for living, you run into trouble.

The same thing happens in preaching. It's common in many churches to hear a set of sermons on a topic like relationships, money, finding God's will, etc. Most of the time the goal is to help people see that the Bible has practical wisdom for their day to day life. That is a good thing, because the Bible does apply to our lives. These sermons are typically filled with good advice that includes a mix of biblical teaching and common-sense wisdom. But is that the main reason for the sermon?

The trouble is, making "practical tips for living" the primary focus of the sermon shifts the focus away from Jesus, and onto us instead. In an effort to be practical and relevant, the most practical and relevant aspect of the Christian faith, the gospel of Jesus Christ, is lost in the process. We can appreciate good advice, but what we really need is good news.

If we are basically good people who just need instruction in how to live life, then it makes sense that we would want books and sermons full of practical application. We just need to know what to do, and then do it. But according to the Bible, the situation is more dire. We are sinners. We love the wrong things and do the wrong things – even when we know better. Good advice is not enough.

Author and Philosopher Phil Cary describes the problem well, "Once you forget that you're a sinner, you start to forget what the Gospel is about, because the Gospel is only for sinners. Indeed, you start losing interest in the Gospel and looking for ways to make it more relevant to your life, precisely because you no longer hear it as good news for people like yourself, but as a theory that has nothing to do with you, really, which is why you need to figure out how to apply it to your life. And then, of course, you start resenting the very mention of the word sin, as if it was an insult to your self-esteem, and so on."

We need the gospel of Jesus Christ. Advice on dating or parenting is helpful, but it cannot save you. Tim Keller summarizes the gospel this way: "We are more sinful

and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." This message is power of God unto salvation. It is also the only message that empowers us to love God and our neighbor, which is best practical application there is.

— DMS

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated items, and attended our 2019 Holly Days Bazaar.

PARISH OUTREACH

Children's Coat Drive: Every Sunday through Dec. 31st, we will collect new and gently worn coats (boys/girls sizes 4-18) for Urban Hope. Designated bins are in Cranmer Hall. You may also purchase new coats from Urban Hope's wish list at StJohnsSav.org/coats (Ships to church).

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2020

Parishioners who have not yet made their pledges for 2020 are requested to do so at their earliest convenience. Pledge cards are available at the office.

For a full list of events, sign up for our weekly emails, visit StJohnsSav.org, or check the Sunday Service Booklet.

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ **WEEKDAY WORSHIP** ◆

Monday-Friday

Morning & Evening Prayer

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

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*, Chapel

10 a.m. *Eucharist of Benefactors,*

honoring the memory of

Lombard Reynolds, Chapel

A reception will follow the service in the Green-Meldrim House.

In addition, on Thursday

5:30 p.m. *Holy Communion with*

Evening Prayer, Chapel

◆ **NEXT SUNDAY** ◆

Nov. 17th, Trinity 22

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Chapel

11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church

12:15 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Please remember St. John's Church in your will.