

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 51 No. 41

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sept. 6, 2020

Vol. 51 No. 41

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sept. 6, 2020

THIS SUNDAY FROM ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION (IN-PERSON WORSHIP)

By reservation only. Visit StJohnsSav.org or call 912-232-1251.

9:30 A.M. – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: ST LUKE'S GOSPEL

Will meet via Zoom with Fr. Dunbar.

Email mnelson@stjohnssav.org for connection information.

9:30 A.M. – YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Will meet via Zoom with David Svihel.

Email dsvihel@stjohnssav.org for connection information.

9:30 A.M. – CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

A short video lesson will be posted to St. John's Children's Facebook group at www.Facebook.com/groups/StJohnsSavChildren.

10:30 A.M. SERMON (LIVE-STREAM ON FACEBOOK)

11 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

(IN-PERSON WORSHIP & LIVE-STREAM)

In-person worship by reservation only. Visit StJohnsSav.org or call 912-232-1251.

Available on St. John's Facebook page at

www.Facebook.com/StJohnsSav and YouTube.com/channel.

Have your Prayer Book ready.

Additional resources will be in Friday's email.

Holy Communion begins on page 67 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

Opening Voluntary: Prelude on the tune "Gardiner", Op. 42, No. 4.....

H. Leroy Baumgartner

Hymn #459 Hark, My Soul! It is the Lord..... Campian

The Collect.....207

The Epistle: Galatians 3:16.....207-208

The Gospel: St. Luke 10:23208-209

Offertory Voluntary: Two Reharmonizations on "Old Hundredth" ... Jack W. Jones

Communion Voluntaries: *In Mercy Broken*.....Rosalie Bonighton

Ave Verum W. A. Mozart

Hymn #498 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life..... Gardiner

Closing Voluntary: *Festival Postlude* Domenico Zipoli

LOOKING BACK

This Sunday we reprint one of the last essays written by William H. Ralston before his retirement as Rector in 1999.

This year St. John's parish in Savannah is 158 years old. Twelve rectors have served the parish during this time. Two were or became Bishops—Stephen Elliott, the first rector, and also a founder of the University of the South at Sewanee and Georgia's first bishop; and the ninth rector, Charles Carpenter, whom I knew at Sewanee when he was Bishop of Alabama and Chancellor of the University. We can reflect with pride on both these men, and rejoice in our particular association with them.

One interesting (and I think significant) fact of our history is that three rectors account for more than half the whole time. Dr. Strong was rector for thirty-six years (1878-1914), seeing the parish out of post-war debt, through the great hurricane, and into our own century. Mr. Risley was rector from 1936 until 1965 (or 1969, counting the years we spent on our own outside the official Episcopal family). These were the famous years of growth and service, the acquisition and building of properties (the Parish House, the Church School building, the parking lot), clouded at the very end by dissension and separation. We came near to losing our Church. Mr. Risley died a few months after I came to Savannah, so I never knew him. It is a remarkable testimony to his gifts as pastor that I have never heard anyone in this parish who knew him speak ill of him. Even those who disagreed with him categorically would not defame him. His was still a formidable presence when I came here.

I am the third of those whose tenures as rector make up that more-than-half of

our history. It is not for me to say what those years have meant to the parish, but I will try to say something next week about what they have meant to me.

The phenomenon of only three rectors for over half our history tells me something, however. It occasions a reflection on the special character of this place and its members. There is a felt continuum of life, very powerful, which undergirds our various distresses, and sees us through the worst parts of them. When I came here I had practically no experience as a parish priest, except for some temporary or weekend assignments. But I thought I

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

This Sunday, Sept. 6th – Trinity 13

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*

(In-person worship by reservation only.)

9:30 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*
(Please note new time.)

10:30 a.m. *Sermon*
Live-stream on St. John's Facebook

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*
In-person worship by reservation only
and on St. John's Facebook and YouTube.

Monday, Sept. 7th – Labor Day
Church office closed.

Mid-week Live-stream Services
Tuesday, Sept. 8th – Nativity of BVM

11 a.m. Morning Prayer with
Ante-Communion

Wednesday, Sept. 9th
9:50 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Ante-Communion*

Next Sunday, Sept. 13th
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Service schedule to be announced
Monday, Sept. 7th, by email.

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. Frank Logue 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
Mr. Wesley Perkins Assistant Conductor
Mrs. Angela Fisher Assistant Organist
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.
Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell
Senior Warden Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip)
Junior Warden Mr. R. Leslie Johnson
Clerk of Vestry Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth)
Treasurer Mr. Holden T. Hayes
Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)
Chancellor M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.
Vice Chancellor Richard C.E. Jennings, Esq. (Skip)
The Vestry: Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter, Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip), Mrs. Sean F. Finnegan (Melanie), Mr. Holden T. Hayes, Mrs. R. Scott Howard (Betsy), Mr. R. Leslie Johnson, Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr. (Holly), Captain John K. Ross, Mr. Joseph Ross (Rusty), Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq., Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr. (Martha), and Mr. John M. Wilson III
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. Mary Soule (Stuart)
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.

Services may be limited for now, but your Church ministry is not on hold. Please continue to support St. John's financially.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

11 a.m. Mr. Joseph R. Ross

USHER CHAIR

Mr. Joseph R. Ross

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

Mrs. Joseph R. Ross,

Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Radford by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Roller.

And in loving memory of Frank Perdue Lee by his family.

And in memory of our daughter, Virginia Summerell McMullen, and of William D. Fawcett and Mr. and Mrs. Billy S. Summerell, by Mr. and Mrs. B. Ray Summerell.

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

SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Holly Days Bazaar will be November 11 – 12th. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact co-chairs Catherine Cooper at cmcoop1954@yahoo.com or Betty Sayler Youles at betty_sayler@hotmail.com.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MASKS

If you or anyone you know needs a face mask, please don't hesitate to contact Martha Sullivan at 912-663-6221 or msullivan73@comcast.net.

recognized something here, and indeed it came to me my very first day in Savannah, when through a series of circumstances I had a whole hour to myself sitting in the Church. I knew nothing of St. John's history, recent or past, and had never been in Savannah in my life. But this Church "speaks" to you, if you are quiet and allow it to do so. There was no doubt at all that it was exactly what it looked like, a "house of prayer". Evidences of love and loyalty and devotion were in the very stones and wood. The place possessed a "presence". You felt generations of faith around, behind, and beside you.

In short, it was (and is) "the real thing". And I realized very quickly when you asked me to come as your priest that what I needed to do was get out of your way, provide stability and security in our life of common prayer, and enjoy what I was certain would happen. It did indeed happen. All the old affections and habits began to knit together again, anxiety about the parish began to disappear, and we were happy doing what we do best—loving our parish, trying to be a family of God, and not fooling around with the Christian faith. I know we have seemed to be rather "isolationist" during my twenty-five year tenure as rector. I do not care one bit about that. The old paradox about the rock and the river (and the Church must be a bit of both) leaves choices to make. Our choice has been the rock. We had enough of the river in the 1960's, and almost drowned.

At any rate, the parable of three reactors for such a large stretch of our corporate life reinforces our disposition toward continuity and stability. There are severe limitations in that point of view, but the present vitality and (even more) happiness of our common life here compensate more than adequately for them.

What has amused and pleased me during my quarter century here is the diversity and outspokenness of the congregation. Once you knew your Church was in principle secure and that you were not going to be experimented with or betrayed, all our variety of opinion and sensibility could be displayed. We are not a

fractious Church, but we certainly are a group with strong and uninhibited opinions. That's what made it fun for me. You certainly never hesitated to tell me what you thought, about *anything*, me included. But never meanly or hurtfully.

Se we went along a steady course, as in its best days this Parish always has. Variety of opinion, to be sure; but never any compromise or loss of grip on the basic faith with which we were entrusted.

When I look back over my years here the greatest satisfaction I have is all centered on the worship. The restoration of the Chancel, the enhancement of the already over-whelming beauty of the Sanctuary, the rededication of the Chapel in honor of our Lord's Mother, the communion silver and (yes!) the vestments, the beautiful organ, the holy icons and carved figures in the reredos, the apocalypse and angel windows, the candlesticks and torches, the needlepoint, the chancel gate—and much else. I look at the Church as I looked at it when I first came, with great awe and a continuing sense of its real presence.

I know I am eccentric in many ways and I still think of the surprise on both sides that you chose a person like me and that I undertook the work. It was nothing I had ever imagined or prepared for. But there were enough eccentric people in the congregation to make me feel at home! Everything from being offered a peacock's feather when we first wore the vestments to being told that not ten people understood ten words of my sermons. Somehow all that makes our Church endearing. So a kind of freedom, predicated on stability, is a primary hallmark of our life. The recollection may have some painful moments, as indeed our whole history does, but it is the continuum of our life of faith and common prayer which abide. And I am thankful indeed to have been part of it.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Please join us in sending warm wishes to St. John's parishioner, Olga Usher who celebrates her 100th birthday on Saturday, Sept. 5th.

For changes and updates, sign up for our weekly emails at StJohnsSav.org.