

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 8

The Second Sunday in Epiphany

January 15, 2012

'BEAMING FROM EAR TO EAR'

My first notice was a note in the collection plate, telling me St. John's had been visited by an anonymous "church reviewer", whose report could be found on the website of "Ship of Fools". With some trepidation - Ship of Fools can be scathing - I ventured to the site, but found a rather objective description of what it is like to visit St. John's for the first time. You can find it at: <http://www.shipoffools.com/mystery/2011/2292.html>.

The reviewer and her party found the atmosphere before the service "very quiet. There was an almost inaudible murmur but conversation was extremely limited. There was no organ music before the service, which seemed strange to me and my small group." The stillness before the service does feel a little odd when you are not used to it, but it is deliberate. Stillness is a condition of recognizing God's presence and hearing his word. "God is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him" (Habakkuk 2:10). Organ music before the service only encourages people to chat.

Our visitor, and her party, was struck by "how very well dressed everyone was. Obviously going to church was the big occasion and so everyone dressed accordingly". Which is to say, the congregation is dressed as if the worship of God, and not their own comfort, is what matters - complete

with "some distracting hats on display". (Distracting hats? bring'em on!). She was also impressed by the discipline of the congregation during the service: "exceptionally well behaved ... there were no problems with distracting chatting in the service or beeps of technology".

After service, the visitors "hung around... looking lost", waiting to see how the congregation dealt with strangers in their midst: "as soon as the service finished we were immediately quizzed as to who we were and where were we from. We were repeatedly invited to join them for coffee in the parish rooms." I can never know what it is like to visit St. John's as a stranger, and it is deeply gratifying to find that there was nothing chilly or perfunctory about the welcome these folk received. The "after service coffee hour was not just coffee and tea, but hot appetizers and various sweet cakes. We could have had lunch, never mind just a drink! I cannot think of a church where we have been made so welcome on our travels. Well done, St John's Church!" And I say 'well done' too. The ministry of hospitality exercised by the women of the Church at Coffee Hour is one of the great strengths of our congregation - as this visitor's testimony confirms. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase.....	Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar	Rector
1 West Macon Street	(912) 234-2209
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien.....	Priest Associate
201 E. 49 th Street Upper flat.....	(912) 308-4441
Mr. Michael Chastain, MRE,M.Div	Family Life and
College Outreach Ministries	(912) 450-0000
Brian J. Taylor, DSM.....	Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr.....	Parish Secretary
Mrs. Peter W. Schmidt.....	Financial Secretary
Mrs. William D. Harrell.....	Parish Activities Director
Mr. Rich Mays.....	Associate Organist
Mr. Sinisa Domazet	Buildings Manager
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Junior Warden.....	<i>Mr. R. Gilbert Wells</i>
Clerk of Vestry.....	<i>Mr. J. Wesley Krulic</i>
Treasurer.....	<i>Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford</i>
Chancellor.....	<i>M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.</i>

The Vestry: *Esgs.*, M. Tyus Butler, Jr., John M. Hewson III, Dr. J. Davidson Carson, Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford, Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. R. Bartley Turner, Mrs. Neil H. Victor, *Messrs.* David C. Barrow III, Charles B. Compton, Jr., W. Barron Crawford, Edwin H. Culver, Lawrence L. Heam III, Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr., Mr. R. Scott Howard, J. Wesley Krulic, Mr. William C. Rodgers, Paul D. Troxler, R. Gilbert Wells, Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

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<i>President, Chancel Society.....</i>	<i>Mrs. Roland S. Summers</i>
<i>President, Business Women</i>	<i>Mrs. Myrtice A.J. Lewis</i>
<i>President, Men of St. John's.....</i>	<i>Mr. Richard L. Wright</i>
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.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE
Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site: www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert A. Vinyard
and Mr. William S. Willingham

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in Admiral Owen W. Siler and loved ones by the Siler family,
And in loving memory of Bo Schirm by her family.

A permanent memorial in memory of Mrs. Louise Strong Falligant by the Chancel Society.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk,
Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. F. Debele Maner
Mrs. Michael F.P. Maloney, Mrs. Franklin Brunson

ACOLYTES

8:00 Lawson Turner
10:30 John DeBacker
Lindsay Pindar, Peter Stein
Mikell Kelly, Charles Perrie
Hunt Wasden, Patrick Perrie

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Charles B. Compton, Jr.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES

- Clergy: *Epistle to the Galatians* – (Chapel)
- David Noble—*Canterbury Tales*—Reading Rm

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Study—
(Parish House Dining Room, enter by Kitchen)
Thursday 7 a.m. *Acts of the Apostles*
(Reading Room, with the Rector).

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Reading Rm, Cranmer Hall.
Wednesday: 10:45 a.m.-Noon Study on
Philippians begins **January 25th**.
Thursday: 9:15 a.m. - Saint Athanasius' *On the Incarnation* (with Fr O' Brien)

THE ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday February 4th

If you are cleaning out your closets, please keep this Sale in mind! Donations received Monday January 30th to Friday February 3rd.

ECW SENIORS LUNCHEON

All Ladies 70 and older are invited to join the ECW on Wednesday, **February 18th**,
(*NOT January 18th*)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2).

As for the liturgy itself - sung Litany and Eucharist - Dr. Taylor "made the organ sound wonderful"; the choir was "lovely"; Fr O'Brien's sermon, unusually short for St. John's (one wonders how she would have responded to the Rector's twenty- minute discourse), was well received; and, "it was so wonderful to hear again the old liturgy with which my friend and I had grown up." We agree!

One wonders, naturally, how a visitor would have reacted who was *not* familiar with the Prayer Book. How grim if we had failed to reach our "core constituency" - but perhaps the response would be different, and not as immediate, for someone from outside it. That is not an argument against the Prayer Book (outsiders are always with us) – but for adopting a rather more “missionary” stance than Episcopalians sometimes do. If we assume that the Prayer Book is only for those who grew up with it, we set ourselves up for irrelevance.

It is striking how important a role the congregation played in this visitor's experience. Important as the liturgy, sermon, and music are, so also was the congregation's reverence and self-restraint before and during the service, as well as their warm and generous welcome after. The worship of God is a *corporate* act of clergy and people in faith toward God and love for neighbor.

On the question of "how would you feel about making this church your regular (where 10 = ecstatic, 0 = terminal)?" our score was a very gratifying 9. On the question of "Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian? The reviewer answered: "Absolutely. We all left beaming from

ear to ear and felt our spiritual batteries had been well and truly regenerated."

What made this review even more gratifying to me was knowing that I was out of town that Sunday. Well done, St. John's. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

MONDAY – *Church office closed for Public Holiday*

MONDAY – FRIDAY (CHAPEL)

8:15AM - *Morning Prayer*

5:30PM - *Evening Prayer*

Except WEDNESDAY 18TH

8:15AM - *Morning Prayer*

9:45am *Litany*

10AM – *Sung Eucharist*

5:30 PM *Evensong (Girls Choir)*

6pm *Supper & 6:30pm Class*

Fr Dunbar on *Galatians*

THURSDAY

Noon – Men's Forum TBA

VESTRY NEWS

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry received with regret the resignation from the Vestry of Mrs. Edward J. Derst, III. M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq., was elected to complete the remainder of her term, which expires in 2014.

ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST Saturday, January, 28th

1:00—4:00 p.m. at Derst Park

Tickets are on sale after 8 a.m. service, during Coffee Hour and in the Church Office. **Advance tickets \$20 Adults, \$5 children 6-12.** 5 and under free. Tickets at the gate are \$25 Adults and \$5 Children 6-12.

8:00 A.M. — HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel 111, 113
A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 — 12 Noon NURSERY (Cranmer Hall)

9:30 A.M.—ADULT, YOUTH, & CHILDREN’S CLASSES (Chapel & Cranmer Hall)

10:30—Pre-School Program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)
Jr. Choir—1st through 4th grade children (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. —MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #46 *Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning* Morning Star
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution, and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book 3-7
 Versicles, Responses and Gloria Patri 7-8

VENITE (Hymnal #610) 9
 Psalm #66 417
 First Lesson: Romans 12:6 111

JUBILATE DEO (Hymnal #645) 15
 Second Lesson: John 2:1 *Note this is found on the next page over* 113

BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638) 14
 Apostles' Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collect for the Day 111
 Other Collects, The Grace 17-20

HYMN: #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* Frankfort
Children 1st through 4th Grade enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross

THE SERMON Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Here is the Little Door* Herbert Howells

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

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #261 *O Sion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling* Tidings

ORGAN: *Fugue in C* Dietrich Buxtehude

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

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

12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel - Collect, Epistle, Gospel BCP pp 111, 113.)