

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 44 No. 2

Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2012

THIS SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. – CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT

CHURCH NEWS NEAR AND FAR

Early this summer I thought that the Episcopal Church was returning to some kind of stability, at least a cessation of hostilities. Though tensions continued, the will to fight had abated. How wrong I was! The divisive edge was re-asserted in the General Convention's authorizing a trial rite for same-sex blessings. It re-appeared in the legal assault the national church office launched on the diocese of South Carolina, triggering provisions in the diocesan constitution and canons for its withdrawal from the Episcopal Church. It appeared again in the attack launched through the Disciplinary Board against some conservative bishops, because in some recent litigation they had filed amicus briefs about the Episcopal Church's constitution that were opposed to the national church office's arguments. I do not have the heart to go into further detail about these matters - the information about them is freely available on the web - but the aggressive role of the national church office is both damaging and so *unnecessary*. Perhaps they think the stirring up of further strife is justified, because they are on crusade against the powers of darkness - *viz.*, other Episcopalians. If that is so, then the church is likely to suffer yet more damage from their zeal.

Here in the diocese of Georgia, Bishop Benhase has announced that permission to make use of the trial rites for same-sex

blessing will be granted, albeit only in parishes whose rector and vestry request it, under stringent conditions, and in a modified form, with minimal resemblance to the solemnization of holy matrimony. This approval has its theological problems. How can the church presume to bless that which the word of God has not declared blessed? Still, it demonstrates a moderate approach to these painfully divisive questions, and a regard for minimizing damage to the church's unity. I fear, however, that this provision is unlikely to satisfy the partisans of same-sex blessing.

The most surprising development this fall was the rejection - by the vote of the house of the laity - of a measure authorizing the consecration of women bishops in the Church of England. There was some angry expostulation by those disappointed at this set-back for their cause. In a democratic church polity it is, it seems, unacceptable for the laity to have a mind of their own, or for theological conservatives to refuse to be doormats. Though conservatives played a key part in this defeat, I think it was chiefly a triumph for moderation: too many moderates cared for the church's unity and were not willing to sacrifice the church's unity for the sake of "progress" on a social agenda. But then the Church of England has a historic and abiding

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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.

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 and recordings of Services and Sermons are to be found on our web site:
www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. McDonald A. Fawcett

The flowers at the altar on Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Mrs. William E. Hutchinson., Jr. In loving memory of Josephine Osborne by her family.

And on the occasion of the celebration of the birthday of Max Cooper Hamilton, by Dr. and Mrs. Max Cooper.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorff
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. John R. Reiter
Mrs. Edwin C. Shepherd, Jr.

DAILY ADVENT SERVICES

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Neil H. Victor
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. Timothy E. Coy
Mrs. William B. McNeal II

ACOLYTES

8:00 Cord Helmken
10:30 Lawson Turner
Chris Dixon, Charles Perrie
Lindsay Pindar, John Osborne
Turner Stevens, Jamie McClellan

COFFEE HOUR

MRS. C. DAVID DIXON

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

Men's Bible Study & Discussion Groups

TUESDAY 7:00 a.m. – *Ecclesiastes* with Fr. O'Brien.
(after Breakfast in Parish House Dining Room)
THURSDAY 7:00 a. m. — *Acts*, with Fr. Dunbar
(Reading Room, 3rd Floor, Cranmer Hall)

Women's Study & Discussion Groups

(READING ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CRANMER HALL)

MONDAY – NOON- 1 P.M. Romans (Dr Bergstrom)

THURSDAY 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. – Dorothy Sayers
The Mind of the Maker (Fr. O'Brien).

NEW SERIES

BEGINNING DECEMBER 11TH

The Thursday morning Woman's study will begin a new series, *The Doctors of the Church* by St. Athanasius, with Fr. O'Brien.

Dr. Noble's Sunday class will not meet the month of December. Class will resume January 6, 2013.

WREATHS, GARLAND AND POINSETTIAS

If you would like to give a Poinsettia, Wreath or Garland for the decoration of the Church, please send a check to the Church Office, made out to **St. John's Chancel Society**. Please include with the check a note of *how the memorial should read and by whom it is given*. Poinsettia--\$30, Wreath or Garland \$80.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

commitment to being a church for the whole nation, whereas the Episcopal Church has long been the church of a tiny minority. It has been all too easy for Episcopalians to adopt the sectarian mindset that has prevailed in recent decades. Still, let us be not dismayed: the oppression of a pagan empire, and the corruption of the holy priesthood, did not prevent Christ's being born. Neither will the disorders of church or state prevent his coming now to his people in salvation and blessing. "Fret not thyself because of the ungodly". GGD

ADVENT PARISH KALENDAR

Monday- Friday (Chapel)

8:15am & 5:30pm

Morning or Evening Prayer

With Holy Communion

Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*

Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*

A PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S? CONGREGATIONAL FORUM

A proposal for a pre-school at St. John's to open doors in late summer 2013 will be presented this Sunday, December 9th, at 9:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Room of Cranmer Hall. All interested parishioners are invited to attend the presentation.

Thursday December 6th

MEN'S FORUM

Good Food for Body and soul.

Thursday at Noon. Guests welcome.

Christian Marriage III: Living it out
(Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom)

Questions on the topic of Christian marriage will be addressed and may be submitted in advance to

jbergstrom@sjohnssav.org

ADVENT PROSE

sung after the First Lesson

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down
righteousness.*

Cantor. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Refrain.

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. *Refrain.*

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Refrain.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry. I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. *Refrain.*

AN ADVENT COLLECT

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of thine only-begotten Son: that through his advent we may be found worthy to serve thee with pure minds: who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

PRE-CHRISTMAS CD SALE

All the Choir's remaining CDs are now on sale at \$5.00 each. Pick up your stocking stuffers at Coffee Hour.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel..... Prayer Book p.92

A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon NURSERY (Cranmer Hall)

9:30 A.M.—ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Chapel, Cranmer Hall)

10:30 a.m.,—Pre-school Program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)

Jr. Choir—grades 1 through 4 (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

HYMN #8 *O Word, that Goest Forth on High*..... Rex Gloriam

Confession, Absolution & Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book pp. 3-7

Versicles and Responses 7-8

VENITE (*with Advent antiphon* Hymnal #606) 9

Psalm #80..... 441

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 *Christ’s kingdom foretold by Isaiah.*

ADVENT PROSE (*Choir*)Text, page 3 of this Paper

Second Lesson: Romans 15:8 and St. Luke 21:25.92, 93

BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638)..... 14

Apostles’ Creed 15

Versicles and Responses 16

Collects of the Day.....92, 90

Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace 17-20

The Exhortation..... 86

HYMN #9 *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding*Merton

Children in Grades 1- 4 may exit to Cranmer Hall for Junior Choir

Sermon Fr. O’Brien

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Teach Me, O Lord!*Thomas Attwood

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN # 5 *Lo! He comes with Clouds Descending*..... Helmsley

ORGAN: Chorale Prelude on *Helmsley*Alan Ridout

Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately following 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 p. 92, 90

5:30 P.M.—EVENSONG FOR ADVENT