

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 44 No. 3

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## GOOD NEWS ABOUT MARRIAGE

In the last three weeks at the Thursday Men's Forum we have been thinking about Christian marriage, under the tutelage of Jeremy Bergstrom. His first paper was a ground-clearing exercise – dispelling some of the myths about marriage. Marriage has been hard-hit since the 1960's, first by divorce and latterly by cohabitation. These trends are perplexing, because (as abundant social science demonstrates) by all objective measures of temporal well-being – income, health, employment, education, and so on – married persons are much better off than divorced or cohabiting persons. Their children also are much more likely to do well in most areas (including the capacity to form successful adult relationships) than children who do not grow up within stable families. The union of a man and a woman in life-long exclusive commitment provides children with the best psycho-social formation for leading a productive, responsible, and happy life.

This is good news about marriage that deserves celebration. However hard it may be to live within it, the alternatives are usually worse. That's an incentive for couples to choose marriage (or single continence) rather than cohabitation; and it's encouragement for couples already married – and above all those with children – to persevere. It is an incentive for the church and society to support marriage, rather than enabling destructive alternatives.

In some accounts, what is eating away at marriage is the romantic ideal of the "soul-mate" – defined as the imagined partner

who makes you happy by meeting your every need without demanding any thing in return. The quest is futile – there is no one out there to match that description – and it undermines marriage, by turning men and women into emotional consumers who measure marriage in terms of self-fulfilment. The "soul-mate" is a succubus; and we seek her at risk to our souls.

Marriage is not a means of self-gratification, but on the contrary, demands self-denial and sacrifice, the subordination of one's own interests and desires to the common good, and to the sacred bond it imposes upon the individual's freedom. Those who enter into this 'holy estate' are changed profoundly, dying to sin, being trained in virtue. As they are made holy, so are they made capable of happiness, made ready to receive the blessings which God has promised in his Word.

As a divinely-ordained means of blessing in this world, marriage is also a sign of blessing in the world to come. In Saint Paul's words, marriage is "a great mystery" or "sacrament", a holy sign of our redemption: "but I speak concerning Christ and his Church". A seventh-century Advent hymn testifies that Christ came "the Bridegroom to the bride, / as drew the world to eventide". The measure of Christ's love for the church is that "he gave himself for her, that he might sanctify and cleanse her, by the washing of water by the word, that he might present her to himself a glorious

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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](http://www.stjohnssav.org)

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. William C. Rodgers

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory 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.

And in joyful and loving celebration of the birthday of Rence Schmidt by her loving husband, Peter Schmidt.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff  
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

**SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30 A.M.**

**"Caffeine & Christianity"** (Dr Bergstrom, Reading Room) \* **Thirty-Nine Articles** (the Rector, Chapel) \* **Christ in Old Testament** (J. Wray, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Classroom – continues through January 6) \* **History Plays** (David Noble, Conference Room) – resumes January 6<sup>th</sup>

**MEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Tuesday** 7 a.m. Breakfast & Study (with Fr. O' Brien), Parish House. *Church Doctors: Ephrem the Syrian and Hilary of Poitiers.*

**Thursday Rector's Bible Study** 7 a.m. *Acts.* Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.

**Thursday Men's Forum**—~~No Men's Forum~~ December 20 or 27<sup>th</sup>.

**WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

*Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.*

**Monday Noon. Romans** (with Dr. Bergstrom) – Last meeting.

**Thursday Discussion:** 9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. (with Father O'Brien). No meeting this week. Next Meeting January 3<sup>rd</sup>: *The Song of Songs*

**WREATHS, GARLANDS 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 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

church ... holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:25-27). And her glory is revealed in St. John’s vision of “the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle [dwelling] of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God” (Revelation 21:2, 3).

By its nature, the union of a man and a woman in holy matrimony bears witness to the mutual indwelling of God and Man in the holy fellowship and blessed friendship of Christ and his Church. When this witness is marred by human sin, it bears false witness to this mystery; but sign and witness is what it remains. Conversely, when married couples let the sign and witness borne by the institution more fully govern their minds and actions, they will know more fully its blessings in this world and the next. GGD

## PARISH KALENDAR

### Monday to Friday

8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

*Morning (or Evening) Prayer and Holy Communion*

### In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

### Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*

## 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.

## AN ADVENT COLLECT

O LORD, we beseech thee, give ear to our prayers; and by the grace of thy visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts; by Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

## 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.*

## ST. JOHN’S YOUTH ICE-SKATING AND TREE-TRIMMING Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Meet in the Parking lot at 3:15 for Ice Skating at the Civic Center (please bring \$15.00). Supper, Tree-Trimming and Carol-singing around the piano follows in Green-Meldrim House. Pick up will be 8:30 p.m. RSVP Mrs. Hayes [cqhayes@gmail.com](mailto:cqhayes@gmail.com) or 232-1251. Your friends also welcome!

## CHRISTMAS TROLLEY RIDE

*Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>:* bring the whole family and join us at Cranmer Hall for refreshments at 7:00 p.m. From 7:30 p.m. until 9 we will ride trolleys to view our beautiful city in its festive garb. To reserve seats, please reply by **December 21<sup>st</sup>** [cqhayes@gmail.com](mailto:cqhayes@gmail.com) or 232-1251

**8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel..... Prayer Book, page 93, 90  
*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, AND CHILDREN’S CLASSES** (*Chapel and Cranmer Hall*)

**10:30 A.M.**—Pre-School continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (*Cranmer Hall*)  
Jr. Choir—1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grades

**10:30 A.M. —MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON**

HYMN #10 *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry* ..... Winchester New Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer..... Prayer Book, pages 3-7  
Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8

VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (*with antiphon*) #606..... 9  
Psalm #85.....446  
First Lesson: Isaiah 35 *The flourishing of Christ’s kingdom foretold by Isaiah.*

ADVENT PROSE: (*Choir - the congregation may remain seated*) ..... *see page 3*  
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 4:1 and St. Matthew 11:2.....94

BENEDICTUS #638 .....14  
Apostles' Creed .....15  
Collects for the Day .....93, 90  
Fixed Collects & other prayers..... 17-20

HYMN #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* ..... Frankfort  
*1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir exit after the cross.*

THE SERMON..... Fr. Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *The Truth From Above* ..... Ralph Vaughan Williams

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139

Prayer and Blessing.

HYMN #440 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* ..... Aberystwyth

ORGAN: *Variation on Aberystwyth* ..... Paul Lindsley Thomas

*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. 93, 90