

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 44 No. 9

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 20, 2013

LEARNING WISDOM

The feast of the Epiphany, and its octave, and season of weeks after, celebrates the manifestation of God's glory in Christ, the showing forth to all the world, in the humanity of Christ, of God's infinite goodness, his infinite power, and first and foremost, his infinite wisdom. It is no doubt a strange kind of wisdom. What kind of king is born in a manger? What kind of kingly authority can he possibly exercise? To Herod, in the crafts and guile of *his* wisdom, this must have looked like utter foolishness, and perhaps at times it seemed such to the magi also. ("With the voices singing in our ears, saying / that this was all folly"). Even to his parents, to whom his dignity and office has been revealed by God, Jesus is a cause of perplexity: "when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us?"

St. Paul addresses the strangeness of God's wisdom in Christ in his first epistle to the Corinthians. In it he reminds them how he first came among them, preaching the gospel of the cross, which confounds the wisdom of this world. "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: but we preach Christ crucified" – or God's Son in a manger - "unto a Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and

Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." The wisdom of God incarnate and manifested in Christ confounds and contradicts the wisdom of this world, and it may appear indeed to the world as mere foolishness; but "the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men".

Like Mary and Joseph we should therefore expect to be perplexed by the child who has been born to be our Saviour and Lord. Insofar as the spirit of Herod moves in us, the spirit of proud rebellion against God, we may be moved to dismiss his epiphany with contempt and malice; insofar as the spirit of Mary moves in us, we shall be moved to follow her example, who "kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart", seeking to understand and will more fully that which has been revealed to her; like the Gentile wise men from the east, we shall be moved to hear and receive the testimony of Scriptures, and be led to Christ, in the humility and obedience of *faith*. For it is faith alone which can receive this wisdom, and without faith, we shall be held captive by this world's wisdom, and blinded in our hearts.

Do not expect to find the incarnate wisdom of God obvious, or easy. It is not made manifest in order to

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President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Richard L. Wright

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, as hospitals are reluctant to give out any information.

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 Dr. J. Davidson Carson

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 loving memory of Mrs. William J. Deal and Mr. Edward J. Derst, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Derst III and family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Mrs. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. F. Debele Maner
Mrs. Michael F.P. Maloney, Mrs. James Grandy

ACOLYTES

8:00 Clayton Compton
10:30 Cord Helmken
John Osborne, Charles Perrie
Patrick Perrie, Lindsay Pindar
Hawkins Pindar, Jamie McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. J. Pride Sheahan

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast St. Basil
the Great — Fr O'Brien (Parish House, enter
by Kitchen)

Thursday 7 a.m. Acts of the Apostles (Reading
Room, with the Rector).

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.

Thursday: 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Song of
Songs (with Fr O' Brien)

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

MONDAY – FRIDAY (CHAPEL)

8:15AM - Morning Prayer

5:30PM - Evening Prayer

in addition ON WEDNESDAY

9:45am Litany

10AM – Sung Eucharist

THURSDAY

No Men's Forum this week

APPLES OF GOLD

This 6-week Lenten Fellowship and Study for young married women on Saturday mornings begins Feb. 9th. It is a proven means of deepening ties within our congregation and growing spiritually, and is highly recommended. If interested, email Coren Ross mom4travel@aol.com.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

confirm worldly appetites and carnal ambitions, but to confound them, to contradict them, and to teach us a new outlook, a new perspective, a new basis of judgment, expectation, and decision. That is why St. Paul in the twelfth chapter of his epistle to the Romans (read on the Sundays after the Epiphany) challenges us to offer our bodies a living sacrifice unto God, and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds in the wisdom of God, "that ye may prove" (discern, approve, experience) "what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God". We must expect to be changed by the wisdom of God, radically, deeply, and greatly - changed in how we see ourselves and the world, changed in how we live our lives, changed in the criteria we bring to bear on the decisions and choices that we make.

St. Paul says that this wisdom entails *humility*: 'not thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think'. As interdependent members of Christ's body, endued with diverse gifts of word and service for the benefit of the body as a whole. This wisdom issues in an active *charity*. "Let love be without dissimulation" says the apostle, "abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good". Love is not intense feeling, easy sentiment or anything-goes tolerance: it is a steadfast willing of the good, the willing of God's holy will and commandments manifest in his Word. As Mary counsels, in today's gospel lesson, our transformation begins in obedience: "whatsoever he saith unto you, do it".

There is nothing easy or obvious about the wisdom of God. It may be that when our years are done, we

shall have only just begun to learn what it means. If so, then our years shall not have been wasted. GGD

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

An **Art Auction Benefit** for *The Children's School at St. John's Church* will be held on Friday, January 25th at 7 pm at the Green-Meldrim House, with tours of Cranmer Hall at 6:30 p.m. Or **Drop in for Coffee** at Cranmer Hall Monday, January 29th, 9 – 10 a.m. For more information, call Caroline Hayes at 232-1251 or email her at cqhayes@gmail.com.

MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL

OYSTER ROAST AND BARBEQUE

Saturday, January, 26th 1:00—4:00 p.m.

at Derst Park on West 52nd Street

Tickets are on sale after 8 a.m. service, during Coffee Hour and in the Church Office. **Advance tickets \$20 Adults, \$7 children 6-12.** Children 5 and under free. Tickets at the gate are \$25 (Adults) and \$10 (Children 6-12.)

THE ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday February 9th

If you are cleaning out your closets, (clothes, shoes, handbags, linens, curtains, etc..) please keep this Sale in mind! Donations received Monday February 4th to Friday February 8th. Call Nita Ann Klein 927-4270.

NEW TO ST. JOHN'S, ADULTS SEEKING BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION?

A class to prepare adults for baptism and/or confirmation (or a refresher for those already members) will be announced next week. If interested, please give your name and contact information to the Church office.

ORDINATION

Please remember in your prayers (see prayers in BCP pp. 38-39) the Rev'd Horace Tipton, who is to be ordained priest this Sunday, January 20th, by the Bishop of Thika, in the Anglican Church of Kenya.

8:00 A.M. –HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL111,113
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:00—12 Noon NURSERY (Cranmer Hall)

9:30 A.M. —ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Chapel, Conference Room, Cranmer Hall)
10:30 –Pre-school Program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. —SUNG EUCHARIST AND SERMON

HYMN #545 *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*..... Woodbird
ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity Prayer Book page 67
Ten Commandments 68-69
KYRIE ELEISON (Hymnal #710)..... Healy Willan
Collect..... 111
Epistle: Romans 12:6..... 111
HYMN #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*..... Frankfort
The Holy Gospel: St. John 2:1 (*on next page of Prayer Book*) 113
The Nicene Creed..... 71
HYMN #54 *Alleluia, Song of Gladness*..... Dulce Carmen
1st through 4th Grade Children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross
SERMON Fr. O’Brien

OFFERTORY

Sentences
Anthem: *The Morning Star*Southern American, arr. Virgil Thompson
Presentation of Alms #139
Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution..... 75
Sursum Corda #734 76
SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #711)..... Healy Willan
Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation..... 80
The Lord’s Prayer and Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*) 82
AGNUS DEI (Hymnal # 712)..... Healy Willan
HYMN #210 *Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness* Schmucke Dich
Motet: *We Have Seen His Star* Everett Titcomb
Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Hymnal #739) Old Scottish Chant
The Blessing (*Kneeling*) 84
HYMN #261 *O Sion, Hasten, Thy Mission High Fulfilling* Tidings
ORGAN: *Voluntary in D* John Alcock

*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—same as 8 a.m.)