

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 44 No. 35

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

July 14, 2013

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 15TH—19TH * 9 A.M. - NOON

Open (free of charge) to children 3 years old (and potty trained) through to those who have completed 2nd grade and are moving into the 3rd grade. Register Now! Volunteers Welcome.

CELEBRATING AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Around 1750, about *thirty* percent of Americans were members of the Church of England: by 1850, this group, now known as Episcopalians, had fallen to *three* per cent of the American population. What explains this stunning decline was the American Revolution. Although more than half the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Episcopalian laymen, most of the Episcopalian *clergy* were Tories, for whom loyal allegiance to the Crown was a matter of religious conscience. Many left after the defeat of the Loyalist cause – leaving Georgia without any clergymen and giving the Canadian colonies their first bishops – but many also remained, and in the manner of the losing side in a civil war, made their peace with the new regime. In the aftermath of the war, the former Church of England was widely despised as a relic of tyranny and was in a state of organizational turmoil from which it took decades to recover. At the very time when the surging population and advancing frontier was being churched by Baptists and Methodists (minor players hitherto) the Episcopal Church fell far behind. As a result, here in Savannah, it

took over a hundred years for the second parish in the city (our own) to be founded (in 1841).

One of the tasks facing the newly organized Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America was the adoption of a Prayer Book. American churchmen had used the English Prayer Books of 1559 and 1662, and proposals were advanced in 1786 for a new American version of the same. It suffered somewhat from the contemporary theological climate – deist, rationalist, doctrinally minimalist: the Athanasian Creed was omitted, and the Nicene Creed retained, but only after Bishop Seabury pitched a fit. Despite these idiosyncrasies the liturgy remained in recognizable continuity with the English Prayer Books that had been in use in America for two centuries.

There was a question, however, about the liturgical observance of Independence Day. A rather finely crafted set of lessons and prayers was proposed in 1786, but in the end not accepted. Bishop William White, himself a supporter of the revolution, later recalled the reason why: “the notorious fact, that the majority of the clergy could not have used the service, without subjecting

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
1 West Macon Street 31401(912) 234-2209
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate
201 E. 49th Street Upper flat 31405(912) 308-4441
Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom..... Licensed Lay Minister
5 Autumn Leaves Court 31410(912) 656-3807
Brian J. Taylor, DSM..... Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr..... Parish Secretary
Mrs. Peter W. Schmidt..... Financial Secretary
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Mrs. Holden T. Hayes..... Christian Education Coordinator
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Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

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The Vestry: Esqs., M. Tyus Butler, Jr., John M. Hewson III, Dr. S. J. Davidson Carson, Roland S. Summers, Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford, Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. R. Bartley Turner, Messrs. Charles B. Compton, Jr., W. Barron Crawford, E. Brian Culver, Lawrence L. Heam III., John C. Helmken II, Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr., Mr. R. Scott Howard, Mr. William C. Rodgers, Paul D. Troxler, R. Gilbert Wells, Floyd G. Whittington, Jr., Richard L. Wright.

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Dr. Edwin C. Shepherd

President, ECW Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr.
President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Richard L. Wright
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 Dr. Roland S. Summers

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. John Riley

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and loving memory of Robert V. Martin, Jr. by his family.

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Miller, Sr. and Mrs. Louise Duskin Dillard by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Dillard III.

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Howell III and Kathyne H. Koritz by Jeanne, Caroline and Claire.

In loving memory of Miss Sarah Alexander Patterson Summers by her family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III
Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Sr.
Ms Cameron Spencer

ACOLYTES

8:00
10:30 Chris Dixon
Lawson Turner
Mikel Kelly
Hunt Wasden

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Jeremy Taylor's The Marriage Ring Dr. Bergstrom, Chapel.

"From Roaring Lions to Resurrection Life"
Jack Wray, 3rd Floor S. classroom, Cranmer Hall

MEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Thursday 7 a.m *Judges, Samuel, Kings*, Reading Room (Dr. Bergstrom).

All other Women's & Men's Groups are in recess.

The Church Office closes at Noon on Fridays until Labor Day.

VACATION CHOIR CAMP

July 22-29th (9a.m.—5p.m.)

Camp Cost (Field Trips) \$105.00

Contact Dr. Taylor 232-1251

JANE'S CANNERS

Jane's Canners are once again hard at work on Wednesdays and need figs, apples, peaches, pears, mangos, peppers, onions, and sugar. If you'd like to help or get involved with this activity call Jane Pressly 232-6551.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

themselves to ridicule and censure”, by giving thanks for events they had publicly resisted.

This liturgical reticence continued in the second American Prayer Book of 1892, and when provision was made in the third Prayer Book of 1928, the lessons did not reflect the religious convictions of the Founding Fathers.

And religious convictions they undoubtedly had. Many no doubt were men of their age, and some of them deists in all but name. Thomas Jefferson notoriously put together a New Testament from which all miracles and manifestations of Christ’s divinity had been excised. But for many American Christians, the revolution was undoubtedly understood in religious terms. George Washington was not exceptionally devout; but he could, "with a kind of grateful and pious exultation, trace the finger of Providence through those dark and mysterious events” which led to American independence.

In 1793, he expressed himself in similar terms in his letter to the synagogue in Savannah: “May the same wonder-working Deity, who long since delivering the Hebrews from their Egyptian Oppressors planted them in the promised land – whose providential agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an Independent nation – still continue to water them with the dews of heaven and to make the inhabitants of every denomination participate in the temporal and spiritual blessings of that people whose God is Jehovah”.

This conviction, that the independence which had been proclaimed, fought for, and won, was the gift of divine Providence to his faithful people in

the American states, also found expression in the Collect proposed in 1786:

Almighty God, who hast in all ages shewed forth thy power and mercy in the wonderful preservation of thy church, and in the protection of every nation and people professing thy holy and eternal Truth, and putting their sure trust in thee; We yield thee our unfeigned thanks and praise for all thy public mercies, and more especially for that signal and wonderful manifestation of thy providence which we commemorate this day; Wherefore not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy Name be ascribed all honor and glory, in all churches of the Saints, from generation to generation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(To be continued)

****TRASH TO TREASURE****

This year the Holly Days Bazaar will try a fun new activity for parishioners to showcase their craft and creativity! “**Trash to Treasure**” will be a contest for the best transformation or repurposing of an unwanted or unusable item. To learn more, please plan to gather at Erica Jarman’s house on August 8th at 7pm! For more information please email ericacjarman@gmail.com or margaretnorthup@gmail.com

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

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

Morning or Evening Prayer

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

NEW SUNDAY CLASS

Dr. Bergstrom will teach a class at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel on Jeremy Taylor’s classic short treatise on marriage, “The Marriage Ring”. *Copies available in Church office.*

8:00 A.M. — HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL.....198
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30-12:00 Noon —Nursery (Cranmer Hall)

9:30—10:30 A.M. —ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
(Chapel & Cranmer Hall)

9:30 A.M. – NOON— PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN SUMMER PROGRAM

(Cranmer Hall –activities for children during the 9:30 education and/or 10:30 service times)

10:30 A.M. MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

HYMN #288 *O Worship the King*..... Hanover
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer 3-7
 Versicles and Responses 7-8

VENITE #610 9
 Psalm #59 411
 First Lesson: 1 King’s 17:1-24 *Elijah and the Canaanite widow of Zarephath*..... 201

TE DEUM #613, 617 11
 Second Lesson: Romans 6:19 & St. Mark 8:1 199

BENEDICTUS #634 14
 Apostles' Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collect for the Day 198
 Collects, Prayers, and Grace 17-20

HYMN *I Feel the Winds of God Today*..... Kingsfold (*insert*)
 Children attending Jr. Choir (grades 1—4) exit following the cross

THE SERMONDr. Jeremy Bergstrom

OFFERING

Sentences
Anthem: *Laudate Dominum, from Vespers Confessore*..... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Miss Tessa Morris, soprano
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141

PRAYER AND BLESSING

HYMN #385 *Glorious things of thee are spoken* Austria
ORGAN: *Prelude and Fugue in G minor (BWV 558)*..... attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

*Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Green Meldrim 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 198.