

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Sunday after Holy Cross Day (Trinity XVI)

September 15th, 2013

TRANSPARENCY (PT II)

Commenting on 2 Corinthians 4:6, Thomas Aquinas says: "not only are we given light to let us see; we also have light for giving to others". Here is a purpose and possibility of the office of a deacon: to be a servant of divine revelation, a servant of the revelation entrusted to the apostles in the gospel. He does not stand over the gospel as its master, remodeling, reinventing, adding and subtracting, improving it according to his own judgment and taste, but rather to stand under it as a servant, obediently to set it forth as he has received it from the apostles, and from his master Christ. "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord: and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor. 4:5).

As St. Paul acknowledges, not all will see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ: for "the god of this world" - that is, the Devil - "hath blinded the minds of them that believe not" (2 Cor. 4:4) to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel. In view of the resistance of the unbelieving world, the task set before a deacon is daunting. With Jeremiah he may well be moved to say: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a child" (Jeremiah 1:6). But the answer comes: "Be not afraid of their faces, for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord" (1:8). His grace shall be sufficient for the task. "Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth" (1:9).

"Therefore having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart" (2 Cor. 4:1 RSV).

But how shall he speak God's word? As it is the very nature of this world's god to conceal and deceive, so it is the nature of God to reveal, for he can neither deceive nor be deceived. Therefore those called to the service of the gospel cannot be deceivers either: "[we] have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God" (4:2). The apostolic ministry is transparent to "the light of the glorious gospel of Christ". "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor. 4:5).

Transparency is key. There is a story told of an ancient philosopher, Diogenes the Cynic. In a public critique of the powerful and the prosperous, he made a virtue of poverty, begged for a living, and slept in a large ceramic jar. On one occasion Alexander the Great, then a brash young tyrant with big dreams, came to see him in Corinth, and found him lying in the sun. Eager to gain glory as a patron of the philosopher, the king asked him if there was anything he wanted. Diogenes drily answered, "stand out of my light".

No doubt Diogenes relished demolishing the pretensions of the

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1 WEST MACON STREET

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Table listing church wardens and treasurers: Senior Warden (Mr. R. Gilbert Wells), Junior Warden (Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.), Clerk of Vestry (Mr. William Howard Helmken, Jr.), Treasurer (Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford), Chancellor (M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.)

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

Table listing church officers: President, ECW (Mrs. Christian Arden-Joly), President, Chancel Society (Mrs. Roland S. Summers), President, Men of St. John's (Mr. Richard L. Wright)

Table listing church contact information: 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 Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and memory of loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Warren L. Traver.

And in living memory of Jo Francis Deal and Edward John Derst, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Derst III.

And in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Helmken, and loved ones, and in thanksgiving for St. John's Church by Howard, Deborah, William and Jonathan Helmken and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Schubert.

And in loving memory of Mary Lou Hague and in remembrance of those lost on September 11, 2001 by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph H. Kulp, II.

The flowers in at the altar in the Chapel are given to the glory of God and in honour of Fr. Dunbar's birthday, on Wednesday, September 11, 2013.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr, Mrs. T. Herbert Guery III, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorff, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. Nicholas Farley, Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan, Mrs. William H. Dearing, Mrs. Wiley A. Wasden III, Mrs. Richard W. Adams

ACOLYTES

8:00 Lawson Turner
10:30 Lindsay Pindar
John Osborne, Mikel Kelly
Henry Osborne, Finn Repella
Edwin Shepherd, Phillip Inglesby

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David C. Barrow III

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- Upper School students 3rd floor classroom on the right (Dr. Bergstrom).
Adult Forum What is St. John's Church? for oldtimers and newcomers in Reading Room (Fr. Dunbar)
Shakespeare and Sin Conference Room above the Chapel (David Noble).
The Book of Daniel in the south west corner room, 3rd floor in Cranmer Hall (Jack Wray)

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

- Tuesdays 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast: The Book of Ruth - Parish House Dining Room (enter by kitchen door), with Dr. Bergstrom -
Thursdays 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study, on Judges, Reading Room, Cranmer Hall. (Fr Dunbar)
No Men's Forum this week - next meeting Thursday, September 26th.
MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET. Thursday September 19th. Tickets are on sale after Church on Sundays.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

powerful prince of Macedon. But his request is also taken by many Christians today - I think mistakenly - as a principle of Christian ministry. The church, it is thought, often gets in the way of the light of the gospel (as it no doubt can). In their view, the best we can do is to introduce others to Jesus, and then get out of the way, to stand out of their light. Longing for an immediate relation of God and the soul, they regard with a degree of suspicion the external means of this union - sacraments, liturgy, the church and its clergy.

Yet what Paul has been recommending to us is not so much getting out of the way as letting the light shine through us: *transparency*. Transparency means that a deacon manifests the truth not in only what he says, but also in how he lives. According to the Venerable Bede, that is how Aidan taught the faith: "it was the highest commendation of his doctrine with all men, that he taught nothing that he did not practice in his life among his brethren". He is even more pointed about Cuthbert's teaching of the faith: it was "by example first and precept later", which, Bede adds, "is the real way to teach".

Perhaps the greatest witness to our theme is the sixteenth century priest and poet George Herbert, in his poem *The Windows*. He compares the office of preaching to the windows in a church - especially to windows of stained glass:

Lord, how can man preach thy eternal word?
He is a brittle, crazy glass.
Yet in thy temple thou dost him afford,
This glorious and transcendent place,
To be a window through thy grace.

Yet when thou dost anneal in glass thy story,
Making thy life to shine within
The holy preacher's; then the light and glory
More reverend grows, and more doth win,
Which else shows wat'rish, bleak and thin.

Doctrine and life, colors and light, in one.
When they combine and mingle, bring
A strong regard and awe; but speech alone
doth vanish like a flaring thing,
And in the ear, not conscience, ring.

Today we pray for "doctrine and life, colors and light" combined and mingled; we pray that the life of Christ may shine within the preacher's. We pray that through the grace of Holy Orders, and the mark and character of a deacon impressed on his soul, Jeremy may become transparent to the light of the glorious gospel of Christ. *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.* GGD

JOYFUL NOISE

If you are old enough to have old favourites (sacred *and* secular), please join us at the Green Meldrim House Saturday September 21st at 5:30 p.m. for a glass of wine as Stephen Branyon plays the piano and we sing along. Young and old are welcomed.

RSVP 232-1251 or at
www.stjohnssav.org/contact/

PANTRY AIDES

Pantry Aides needs your help! Can you prepare a meal, deliver one, or both? Please contact Holly McClellan by email (hbmcclellan@yahoo.com) or by cell (912-247-2040) if you can be a part of this very valuable outreach in our parish.

8:00 A. M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL.....*Insert* & Prayer Book, page 212
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30-10:15 A. M.—ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Conference Room, & Cranmer Hall)

9:30 A.M. - end of 10:30 service: PRE-SCHOOL & PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Playtime at 9:30 a.m. and Lesson at 10:30 a.m.

10:30 A. M. —SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON

HYMN (*insert*) *The Royal Banners Forward go*..... Gonfalon Royal

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity.....Prayer Book page 67

Decalogue.....67-69

KYRIE ELEISON: (Hymnal #710)..... Healey Willan

Collects and Epistle.....*Insert*, page 212

HYMN #66 *Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle* Oriel

The Holy Gospel.....*Insert*

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN: (*insert*) *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*..... Cross of Jesus

Children up to grade 4 may exit following the cross for Jr. Choir.

SERMON..... Fr. Dunbar

OFFERTORY

Sentences; Anthem: *Crux Fideles*..... John IV of Portugal

Presentation of Alms (Hymnal #139)

Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution..... 75

Sursum Corda (Hymnal #734)..... 76

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #711) Healey Willan

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation..... 80

The Lord's Prayer, Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*) 82

AGNUS DEI (Hymnal #712) Healey Willan

MOTET: *Stabat Mater* German, 17th cent.

HYMN #189 *And, now, O Father, mindful of the Love* Unde et Memores

MOTET: *Adoramus te, Christe* Giovanni da Palestrina

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Hymnal #713)..... Healey Willan

The Blessing (*Kneeling*)..... 84

HYMN #357 *Hail, thou Once Despised Jesus!* In Babilone

ORGAN: *Toccata in E minor* Johann Pachelbel

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 as at 8 a.m.