

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 44 No. 48

Trinity XXI (Sunday after St. Luke, Evangelist and Physician)

October 20, 2013

Next Sunday, October 27th:

ST. JOHN'S FEAST OF DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY.

Preacher: Fr. Patrick Bright. Services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., each followed by Brunch. (No service at noon.) All members are urged to reserve a place.

Reservations (or regrets) to Elaine Barrow (912) 598-9326 or ehbarrow@aol.com

RECEIVING SCRIPTURE RIGHTLY

“The man who fears God seeks diligently in Holy Scripture for a knowledge of His will.” With these words St. Augustine begins an important discussion on how to interpret the Bible rightly; that is, reading not just the words on the page, but through the words discerning the mind of its author, and being transformed by the encounter. For the church Fathers, and especially for Augustine, coming to a greater understanding of the Scriptures depends far

more upon the quality of our hearts rather than the learning in our heads, and the result of such understanding is not merely to learn information, but to grow in Christian love, and to strengthen our faith and hope.

With the birth of the modern university in 18th Century Germany, we began to be told that truly rigorous,

‘academic’ study of the Bible required us to treat the Scriptures as something not of our time and culture, as the ‘classics’ of foreign people who lived long ago, separated from us by great distances in time, geography, culture, and language. To span such great distances and arrive at an understanding of Biblical texts, we were told that great learning in the geography, culture, and politics of ancient Jews, Greeks, etc. was required before one could make any serious headway in understanding the Bible. The interpretation of

the text was best left to the experts, to those who had enough knowledge to penetrate the hidden secrets of these ancient and foreign civilizations.

The legacy of this approach is now widely criticized; indeed, how could it not be? Arriving at a complete and accurate understanding of ancient Hebrew and Greek life is simply impossible. The ambiguities inherent in understanding even the physical remnants of the ancient world are profound, let alone the unending and even more-subjective

task of trying to understand its thought-processes and culture. Tellingly, the ‘modern’ and ‘critical’ study of the Biblical texts, long-touted as the only sure way to arrive at their true meaning, has resulted in a bewildering array of divergent and contradictory interpretations. The continuing search for the ‘historical’ Jesus, which has produced dozens



STEWARDSHIP

being built together in the Lord
for an habitation of God
through the Spirit

Ephesians 2:21, 22

and dozens of versios of the ‘real’ Jesus, is but one comical example of the futility of such inquiry as the way forward. In the end, we generally learn far more about these interpreters and scholars themselves than we do about the historical Christ or any other biblical figure. And I would suggest that recent efforts to correct this practice, through so-called “theological” interpretation, tend to be awkward and forced in spite of their intentions, and merely serve to illustrate that the gap between the academic interpretation of

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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 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. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Hass Philbrick by Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Harlander and family;

and in loving memory of my brother, George Henry, by Janet Riley

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Mrs. Thomas E. Johnston, Mrs. Nicholas Farley
Mrs. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. John R. Reiter
Mrs. Holly S. Montford, Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 volunteer requested

10:30 Lindsay Pindar

Charles Perrie, Jamie McClellan

Hawkins Pindar, Hunt Wasden

Henry Osborne, Joseph Saffold

COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. J. Davidson Carson

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

✚ Dr. Bergstrom will meet with **Upper School** students 3rd floor classroom on the right.

✚ Fr. Dunbar: *Reading the Word of God in the Spirit.* (Reading Room)

✚ David Noble: *Shakespeare makes love AND war in the history plays.* **NEW LOCATION Cranmer Hall-3rd Floor- Middle Classroom on right west side.**

✚ Jack Wray: on the *Book of Daniel* (3rd floor classroom on the left)

WEEKDAY TEACHING AND STUDY GROUPS

- Mondays Noon: **Women's Study Athanasius on the Incarnation** (Dr. Bergstrom)
- Tuesdays 7 a.m. **Men's Breakfast**, *Study of upcoming Sunday lessons*, Parish House Dining Room (enter by kitchen), with Fr. O'Brien.
- Thursdays 7 a.m. **Men's Bible Study**, on *Judges*, with Fr. Dunbar, in the Reading Room.
- Thursdays 9:15-10:30 a.m. **Women's Study**, on *The Imitation of Christ*, with Fr. O'Brien, in the Reading Room.
- Thursdays Noon: **Men's Forum Topic to Be Announced**. Food served 11:50; Talk runs 12:10-12:50; Guests welcome, donations suggested.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Nominations for four five-year terms should be submitted in writing to the Nominating Committee or in a sealed envelope to the Church Office. Nominations will close Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2012.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is on Sunday, November 17, 2013.

Nominees must:

1. Be members of St. John's for at least 5 years;
2. Support St. John's financially; and
3. Worship regularly at St. John's.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

the Scriptures and the Christian faith is alive and well.

The academy might find the Bible to be a foreign text, but catholic Christians understand that the native land of Christian Scripture is the Church, in its ongoing life of liturgy and prayer and proclamation. In church, the Scriptures are at home; or rather, the Scriptures themselves are *our* home. In the heart of the devout Christian, the written Word of God is alive and friendly, timeless and ever-new, and it knows *us* even better than we know ourselves. And in showing us our true selves, through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit leads us to ongoing conversion, repentance, and transformation. One might say that, when read in the Spirit, the Scriptures interpret *us* rather than *we them*, and show us the way forward by revealing what Christ is making us to be.

This has been the approach of the Anglican tradition, historically. Our tradition's understanding of why we pick up the Scriptures in the first place, and to what end, is found complete in a prayer within the Litany: "That it may please thee to give to all thy people increase of grace to hear meekly thy Word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit; *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*" The correct reception of the Scriptures is enabled by grace, is characterized by a hearty desire for the truth, and produces in us right affections and virtuous works. Archbishop Cranmer expresses this more fully and to great effect in one of his homilies, where he instructs us on how to come to the right interpretation of the Scriptures:

"If you be afraid to fall into error by reading of holy Scripture, I shall shew you how you may read it without danger of error. Read it humbly with a meek and lowly heart, to the intent you may glorify God, and not yourself... and read it not without daily praying to God, that he would direct your reading to good effect; and take upon you to expound it no further than you can plainly understand it. For, as St Augustine saith, the knowledge of holy Scripture is a great, large,

and a high palace, but the door is very low; so that the high and arrogant man cannot run in, but he must stoop low and humble himself that shall enter it. Presumption and arrogance is the mother of all error: and humility needeth to fear no error. For humility will only search to know the truth..." (*Homily 1, 12-13*).

To know the truth, our Lord simply bids us ask: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Mt 7:7). The humility of the searching heart is motivated by the love of God, by a hunger for his promises and blessings. This charity leads to true understanding of the Scriptures, and is the same charity which is itself the subject of all Scripture. In other words, it takes love to understand love, in order to grow in love. As St Augustine said, "Scripture enjoins nothing except charity, and condemns nothing except lust, and in that way fashions the lives of men." JWB *to be continued...*

"ELEVENSES"

party honoring our *Guides and Door Keepers on Wednesday, 23rd of October in the Green Meldrim House at 10:30 a.m.*

RSVP by October 18th to Martie Campbell 598-4299 or martiecampbell@bellsouth.net

RESERVATIONS FOR OCTOBER 27TH:

If you know you are going to be out of town for Dedication and Stewardship Sunday, or to reserve your place now, please call or email Elaine Barrow at (912) 598-9326 or at e30HoustonStreethbarrow@aol.com.

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Thursday

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*

8:00 A.M. –HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel Prayer Book, page 218, 253, 219
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

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

(Cranmer Hall, Conference Room)

10:30 A.M.— PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

10:30 A.M. —SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON

HYMN #134 *Come, Pure Hearts*.....Cobb

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AGNUS DEI (Hymnal # 712)..... Healey Willan

MOTET: *Justorum animae* William Byrd

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MOTET: *Verily, verily, I say unto you*..... Thomas Tallis

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GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Hymnal #739)..... Old Scottish Chant

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

HYMN #562 *Stand up, stand up for Jesus*..... Webb

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *A Mighty Fortress*Johann Walther

Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Green Meldrim House immediately following the 10:30 service.If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.

12 Noon HOLY COMMUNION in the Chapel. (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as 8 a.m.)