

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 44 No. 49

Feast of Dedication (Trinity XXII)

October 27th, 2013

THE FEAST OF DEDICATION of ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



STEWARDSHIP

Offer unto God the sacrifice of thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High. Psalm 50:14

8 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION—followed by Breakfast in the Green Meldrim House

10:30 A.M. MORNING PRAYER—followed by Brunch in DeSoto Hilton Hotel

Junior Choir at 10:30am. Nursery 9-1:30pm. **NO SERVICE at NOON**

DEDICATED

The story of St. John's begins in the year 1840, with the election of Stephen Elliott as first bishop of Georgia and the decision to found a second parish in Savannah in which he would serve as Rector. Its first vestry was elected from the congregation of Christ Church on December 3rd, 1840. Legal incorporation followed in November 1841, in a charter of the Georgia Legislature, vesting the property in the Wardens and Vestry of St. John's Church, but the congregation had already begun to meet in a frame building at the northeast corner of Jones and Whitaker Streets.

In the early years funding came mainly from an annual pew "auction" on the day after Easter, with most pews going for thirty dollars apiece. Fifty-three pews were thus rented in April 1841. After Bishop Elliott was succeeded by another lawyer-turned-priest, Rufus White, the needs of a growing parish led the Vestry in 1848 to purchase two trust lots on Madison Square for a permanent building, and, beginning in

June 1849, to take up a weekly offering, as the Prayer Book requires. Calvin Otis, an architect active in Buffalo, was selected to design the new building. His design for St. John's Episcopal Church in Buffalo had been completed in 1846. Though demolished in 1906, contemporary illustrations show a nave roofed with open timber truss work supported upon hammer beams and spandrels - said to be the first example of its kind in North America, and a prototype for the design of St. John's in Savannah.

At roughly the same time other buildings in the Jasper Ward were going up, both designed by John Norris - the house of Joseph Fay (a senior warden of St. John's) in an Italianate style, and now the home of the Knights of Columbus; and the luxurious mansion of Charles Green, an English cotton merchant, in an eclectic style overlaid with Gothic ornament. In contrast, the design for

THE PARISH PAPER

OF

St. John's Church

1 WEST MACON STREET

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, 1 W. Macon St., Savannah, GA 31401.

The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar Rector
1 West Macon Street 31401 (912) 234-2209
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien Priest Associate
243 E. Gaston Street 31401 (912) 308-4441
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom Deacon
5 Autumn Leaves Court 31410 (912) 656-3807
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Brian J. Taylor, DSM Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr. Parish Secretary
Mrs. Peter W. Schmidt Financial Secretary
Mrs. William D. Harrell Christian Education Director
Mrs. Holden T. Hayes Parish Fellowship Director
Mr. Rich Mays Associate Organist
Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

Senior Warden.....Mr. R. Gilbert Wells
Junior Warden.....Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.
Clerk of VestryMr. William Howard Helmken, Jr.
TreasurerMrs. Stuart C. Clifford
Chancellor..... M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.

The Vestry: Esqs., M. Tyus Butler, Jr., John M. Hewson III, Drs. 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. Christian Arden-Joly
President, Chancel SocietyMrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's Mr. Jonathatha

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 Mr. P. Drew Troxler

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Sam Forkner

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Barrow, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Thornton M. Deas by Mr. and Mrs. Craig Barrow III.

And in loving memory of Mr. Robert Brooks by Mrs. Robert Brooks.

And in loving memory of Fr. Ralston on his birthday.

And in loving memory of Joanne S. Merritt by her husband, Bob Merritt.

And in loving memory of George Anderson Mercer IV by Elizabeth Mercer Gilbert, Wayne Mercer Willis, and Betssie Mercer Halsey.

And in memory of Mr. William Clark Summers by Dr. and Mrs. Roland Summers.

And on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Lisa Marie Maurer and Dr. George Edward Miller III on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, with love by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Edward Miller, Jr.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Mrs. Thomas E. Johnson, Mrs. Nicholas Farley
Mrs. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons
Mrs. L. Dale Hendrix, Jr., Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons

ACOLYTES

8:00 Lawson Turner
10:30 John Osborne, Chris Dixon
Patrick Perrie, Jamie McClellan
Finn Repella, Edwin Shepherd

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

No Coffee Hour this Sunday

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. Ralston Room.

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

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

- Mondays Noon: Women's Study Athanasius on the Incarnation (Dr. Bergstrom) - No Meeting October 28th
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, Reading Room, Cranmer Hall. (Fr Dunbar)
Thursdays Noon: Men's Forum Moses' Forecast of Failure - and what comes after (Fr Dunbar) Food served 11:50; Talk runs 12:10-12:50; Guests welcome, donations suggested.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

St. John's demonstrates a more advanced attention to the Gothic style as a structural system.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid by Rufus White on March 13, 1852. Shortly afterward he had to resign due to poor health, and died late in 1854, at the age of thirty-four. But the construction continued even without a rector, and in early 1853 was complete. On May 7th, 1853, Bishop Elliott "consecrated and set apart to the Service of Almighty God, a building under the style and title of Saint John's Church in the city of Savannah, to be henceforth separated from all unhallowed, ordinary and common uses, and dedicated to God's Service, for reading His Holy Word, for celebrating His Holy Sacraments, for offering to his Glorious Majesty the Sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing his people in his name, and for the performance of all other Holy Offices according to the Book of Common Prayer...."

Building St. John's was not an easy task. The total cost - excluding bells, gas lighting, chancel chairs, and font, which were gifts - came to almost forty thousand dollars, fifteen thousand more than expected, leaving a debt that the church would carry for some years. (The stained glass, the enlargement of the chancel, the reredos, and the pipe organ all came later.) Though growing, the congregation was not large - just one hundred and nine active members. Rufus White was nursing his wife through the illness from which she died in 1850, and was frequently absent due to his own ill health. A year after the church was completed it was unroofed by a hurricane, and its congregation devastated by a yellow fever epidemic.

Building this house of God took grit,

self-denial and sacrifice, and such *dedication* is not possible without even greater prior grace. We may take our cue from Bishop Elliott: "let our first act be one of humble adoration and heart-felt gratitude for such an unmerited mercy, our first song within this consecrated building, a song of thanksgiving for blessings undeserved". GGD

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Nominations for four five-year terms should be submitted in writing to the Nominating Committee (John Helmken, John Hewson, Tracey Inglesby, Austin Kennedy, Floyd Whittington,) or in a sealed envelope to the Church Office by November 6th, 2013. Elections take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 17th, 2013. Nominees must:

1. Be Members of St. John's for at least 5 years;
2. Support St. John's financially;
3. Attend worship regularly at St. John's.

BAZAAR NOTES

Kick up your heels and **Do the Charleston in Savannah!** Don't miss out on a roaring good time 11/8 at 7 p.m. \$50 will save your place: contact Patti Cooper at 897-4977.

Soup and Chili: Georgia Fans have a "bye" this weekend! Great time to make soup and chili! Call Christiana Turner at 898-1810 or Sherry Holtzclaw 897-3889.

Silent Auction submissions requested: wine, art, vacations, parties! Please contact Coren Ross 897-2381 or mom4travel@aol.com

Waitresses--needed for both days. Please email Jessica Osborne-osbornejes@mac.com.

Home-Made Desserts needed for both days of the bazaar (NO cookies or breakfast breads, please). Call Marsha Berger & Kathy Johnston.

Chicken Choppers - Needed for Nov. 6th for chopping chicken. Bring a sharp knife! contact Leah Brunson at 335-7883.

Craft donations welcomed. Please submit week before. Call Marilyn Glen 704-6989

STATEMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

for the third quarter were mailed this week. If you did not receive yours, please call the Church Office for a replacement copy.

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION AND SERMON (see insert)

BREAKFAST follows in the Green Meldrim House

Enter by Main doors (under scaffolding). All Welcome

9:00 A.M.—1:30 P.M. NURSERY (Cranmer Hall)

Special Extended Nursery for this Sunday only

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

Cranmer Hall

9:30 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M. (or end of service) – PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Activities in Cranmer Hall during the 9:30 education/10:30 service times

10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON (See insert)

Guest Preacher: Father Patrick Bright

BRUNCH follows 10:30am service

at the DeSoto Hilton Atrium & Ballroom – ALL WELCOME

NOON: NO SERVICE THIS SUNDAY

PARISH KALENDAR

All Services In The Church

Monday through Friday

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

Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer

In addition on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

HOLY DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday, October 28th

ST. SIMON & ST. JUDE THE APOSTLES

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

Morning or Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

Friday, Nov. 1st

ALL SAINTS DAY

service schedule as Monday

Saturday, Nov. 2nd

ALL SOULS DAY

9 a.m. Holy Communion