

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 45 No.4

The Second Sunday in Epiphany

January 19, 2014

## ABIDING IN LIGHT (PART II)

Christmas celebrates the coming forth of the Word of God *from all eternity*, the eternal begetting of God the Son, co-equal, co-eternal, consubstantial with the Father. But Christmas is also about the Word's coming forth *in time*, his being conceived and born of the Virgin Mary. Throughout human history, the Creator has reached out in his Word, across the infinite distance that separates him from the creature, to invite man into a relationship with himself - fellowship and communion which man could not establish for himself, yet without which he is not complete. The Christmas Day Epistle lesson (Hebrews 1:1) acknowledges this history: "God... at sundry times and divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets", but chiefly as a point of comparison: for "in these last days" God "hath spoken unto us by his Son". Greater than the prophets, greater also than the angels, the Word of God spoken in the Son is not less than God, he is not other than God, he is not a vague approximation of God. With his coming God reveals himself fully and definitively from within history. St. John has his own way of expressing this idea. The Word of God, that in the beginning was with God, and was God, that Word by whom all things were made, and without whom was not anything made that was made, *that* Word, declares St.

John, "was made flesh, and dwelt among us".

Now "flesh" is a kind of loaded word in scripture. Whereas "spirit" means all that is light, and clear, and quick, living and powerful about God, "flesh" means everything heavy, slow, dark, and powerless about man. (One thinks, for instance, of Isaiah's warning in 31:3 against those who trust in Egypt and its horsemen for help: "Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together"). If "spirit" speaks of the glory of the skies above Bethlehem, "flesh" speaks of the darkness and poverty below. It is the difference of infinite and finite.

We might therefore think that the Word of God would be slowed and darkened by his descent from the realms of light into the darkness - but the witness of John is otherwise: when the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, he says, "we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Such is the greatness of God the Son, that the light of the Word is not dimmed by his taking on flesh - it is rather the

*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.

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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.stjohnsav.org](http://www.stjohnsav.org)

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. William C. Rodgers

**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. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. Rhett N. Willis  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff  
Mrs. F. Debele Maner, Mrs. Howard Kearns  
Mrs. Sam P. Inglesby

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** John Osborne  
**10:30** Lawson Turner, Mikel Kelly  
Jamie McClellan, Henry Osborne  
Hawkins Pindar, Joseph Saffold

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. David A. Young

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

- Fr. O'Brien *Upper School*, Fellowship Hall
- Fr. Dunbar: *St. Mark*, Reading Room
- Dr. Noble: *Shakespeare's History plays* 3rd flr Cranmer Hall

**WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS**

- Monday Noon: **Women's Study** *Athanasius on the Incarnation*, Dr. Bergstrom (Reading Room)
- Tuesdays 7 a.m. **Men's Breakfast**, *Offices of Instruction*, Parish House Dining Room (enter by kitchen), with Fr O'Brien
- Thursdays 7 a.m. **Men's Bible Study**, on *Judges*, Reading Room (Fr Dunbar)
- Thursdays 9:15 a.m. **Women's Study**, on *The Imitation of Christ*, with Fr O'Brien

**Thursday at Noon: MEN'S FORUM**

Good food for body and soul. Donation requested,  
Visitors welcome.

*A Christian Man and Politics*  
(Fr Dunbar).

Food served 11:50, Talk runs 12:10 to 12:50.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes sent to zip codes other than those beginning 314 were either lost or destroyed in the mail. If you did not receive offering envelopes and you want them, please call the church office.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

flesh that is transfigured, irradiated with the splendor of divine Sonship. That is why our lesson from the epistle to the Hebrews can speak of the incarnate Son's being "the brightness of God's glory, and express image of his person". That is why Paul can speak of him as the [visible] image of the invisible God (Col. 1:18). To us who were immersed in the darkness of the sensible, and rendered insensate by things audible, visible, and tangible, the Word of God made himself audible, visible, and tangible, in the flesh, that he might deliver us from bondage to darkness and recall us to the invisible kingdom of the Spirit.

Everything follows from the great mystery of Godhead incarnate. That flesh which is utterly transparent to the glory of the Word is also utterly responsive and obedient to the gracious purpose of the only begotten Son. His coming forth from and return to God in our human nature, is also its purgation and exaltation: "when he had himself purged our sins, he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as he that by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they". Here is the sovereign freedom of the infinite God: that he can act without let or hindrance even within the weakness and finitude of a human nature (the 'flesh') which he has taken upon his own person, both to reveal himself to man, and also to redeem man to God. Which leads to the question, can the glory of the only-begotten transfigure the darkness of our minds also? GGD

*(To be continued)*

## OYSTER ROAST & BARBEQUE

**Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**

**at Bethesda Academy**

Tickets are on sale in Cranmer Hall after the 8am service, during Coffee Hour and in the Church Office. **Advance tickets:** Adults - \$20, Children 6 to 12 - \$7, 5 and under – No Charge. **At the gate** Adults-\$25, Children 6 to 12-\$10. *Proceeds to benefit Bethesda Academy.*

## PARISH KALENDAR

**Monday to Friday: Daily Prayer**  
8:15am & 5:30pm

**In addition, on Wednesday:**

9:45 am *Litany*

10am *Sung Eucharist*

**Saturday 25th January**  
**CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL**  
**THE APOSTLE**

9:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*

## THE ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

**Saturday February 8th**

If you are cleaning out your closets, please keep this Sale in mind! Donations received Monday to Friday February 3rd - 7<sup>th</sup>.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

At the meeting of the Wardens and Vestry of St. John's Church on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Roland B. Williams, Esq., was elected to serve as Vestryman Emeritus.

## THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

**\*\*NEW ENROLLMENT ADVANCE  
REGISTRATION\*\***

*For families of St. John's Church  
16 months old to Pre-K*

**Wednesday January 29th -  
Tuesday February 4th**

Contact: Cathy King 232-1225  
childrenschool@stjohnssav.org

**8:00 A.M. —HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel ..... Prayer Book pp 111, 113  
*A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**9:00—12 Noon NURSERY** (Cranmer Hall)

**9:30 A.M. —ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** (Cranmer Hall)

**10:30 –Pre-school Program continues—**3 year olds through Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)

**10:30 A.M. —MORNING PRAYER & SERMON**

**CARILLON**

HYMN #53 <i>Songs of Thankfulness and Praise</i> .....	Salzburg
Sentences, Confession, Absolution, and Lord’s Prayer .....	Prayer Book 3-7
Versicles, Responses and Gloria Patri .....	7-8
VENITE (Hymnal #610) .....	9
Psalm #66 .....	417
First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-13.....	<i>insert</i>
JUBILATE DEO (Hymnal #645).....	15
Second Lesson: Romans 12:6, John 2:1 ( <i>Note this is found on the next page over</i> ) ..	111, 113
BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638).....	14
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Versicles and Responses .....	16
Collect for the Day.....	111
Other Collects, The Grace .....	17-20
HYMN: #50 <i>Saw You Never in the Twilight</i> .....	Chartres
<i>Children through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade may exit following the Cross for Junior Music.</i>	
THE SERMON .....	Deacon Bergstrom

**OFFERING**

Sentences	
Anthem: <i>Here is the Little Door</i> .....	Herbert Howells
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)	
Prayer and Blessing	
HYMN #52 <i>As With Gladness Men of Old</i> .....	Dix
ORGAN: <i>Psalm XIX</i> .....	Benedetto Marcello

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*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.*

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**12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Church - Collect, Epistle, Gospel BCP pp 111, 113.)**