

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 9, 2014

IN SEARCH OF THE SOUL

What is the soul? In contemporary idiom, the question is framed in terms of the self – a term which may or may not mean the same thing. The question has a long, complex history, but in our time, it is usually answered in terms of the autonomy and completeness of the existing historic individual. So great is the completeness of the existing historic self that it seems to have no need of God or the sacred traditions of mankind; to the contrary, these dissolve before its demands. In its more moderate forms, God and the institutions of man are treated as instruments for the realization and liberation of the self. In its more extreme form, it falls into an annihilating, atheistic, technological, sensual materialism. Its adherents pursue its revolutionary logic more and more fully, finding in the destruction of every limit a new extension of freedom. To many, this looks not like freedom, but precisely the elimination of what is most precious to man above all, his relation to God. Has the self, emancipated from any constraint or limit, imprisoned itself in a hall of mirrors? Aghast at the annihilating power of the contemporary self, some conservatives turn away in despair from the modern freedom of the self as utterly corrupting, and seek, as it were, a return to the monastery.

Perhaps, however, despair is not the only or best response to the problems of the contemporary self. Last week Dr.

Neil Robertson led the clergy assembled at Elliott House through a reading of Descartes' *Meditations*, which is regarded as one of the benchmarks in the development of the modern self. In his reading – to which no summary of mine could do justice – there is in Descartes not a turn away from the ancient religious and spiritual traditions of Christianity, but rather a further development of them, grounded still on the unity of God and Man accomplished in the Incarnation. As he acknowledged, Dr. Robertson's reading of Descartes is not conventional wisdom, but neither is it idiosyncratic; and it holds open the possibility that the modern freedom of the self might be lived out without destroying man's relation to God in Christ. One can put this even better: that only in relation to God can the freedom of the modern self be truly realized.

In the final analysis, we don't just want to be ourselves and nothing more. We don't want to be imprisoned in a hall of mirrors. We want to be *souls*. It is in spiritual communities – the Christian church, state, and family – that we learn to be something more than ourselves. There is in them an education of the self which brings it into relation with the neighbor and with God, in accordance with the truth of our

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1 WEST MACON STREET

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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, as hospitals are reluctant to give out any information.

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. R. Scott Howard

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert Brannen, Jr.

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministry of rectors past at St. John's Church, by Fr. Dunbar.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. William E. Osborne, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr.
Mrs. Anne Mingledorff, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard
Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. F. Deble Maner
Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons, Mrs. Howard Kearns
Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr. r

ACOLYTES

8:00 Jamie McClellan
10:30 Charles Perrie
Hunt Wasden
Finn Repella, Philip Inglesby
Turner Stevens, Edwin Shepherd

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. R. Kran Riddle

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 fr Cranmer will not meet this Sunday.

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 Samuel, 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

"The Gospel and the Ballot Booth: a primer for Christians and citizens" (Dr. Bergstrom)

Good Food for Body and Soul.
Guests welcome. Donation suggested.
Food served 11:50, Talk starts 12:10
Ends sharp at 12:50

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

being and his. Undertaking this education of the self in what it means to be a soul - through living out the vows of baptism as a member of the church, or the vows of marriage as husband or wife - can be challenging and painful. But the effort to do so is an act of hope. GGD

ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER SEARCH:

St. John's Church is engaged in a search for a new Organist and Choirmaster. As it begins this process, the Search Committee, chaired by John Hewson, warmly solicits the views and ideas of the congregation - including also the choir. To share your comments or suggestions on any aspect of this search, please send them **THIS WEEK** to, Mr. John Hewson, at 200 East St Julian St, P. O. Box 9848, Savannah 31412-0048, or at jhewson@huntermaclean.com.

ADULT CATECHISM

Adults seeking baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church (from another denomination in which they have been confirmed by a bishop in historic succession) - or adults seeking a refresher course in the fundamentals - are invited to take part in the Adult Catechism class at 9:30 a.m. which begins **next Sunday February 16th (Septuagesima, the 9th before Easter)**. Confirmation is set for Sunday, May 4th. To register, please email Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom jbergstrom@stjohnssav.org.

Note: If you have been confirmed - but not by a bishop in historic succession - please speak to the clergy .

NEW CLASS

THE SEVEN PENITENTIAL PSALMS

A study of these psalms, central to the Lenten disciplines of repentance begins this Sunday and runs to Palm Sunday, April 13th. If interested, please speak to Jack Wray or Maryan Harrell at mharrel@stjohnssav.org.

RECTOR'S UPDATES

News from the Rector, Wardens and Vestry was enclosed in the recent mailing of Quarterly statements. Additional copies are available this Sunday at the church door for interested parishioners.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR

JANUARY 2014

Andy Perkins

Jacob Perkins

Emiline Baxter

Ashlynn Forkner

Sam Forkner

Jackson McClellan

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

demonstration by Gay Estes, at Christ Church, on Johnson Square, Saturday, February 8, from 9 until 11 in the nave. All welcome.

ART AUCTION & COCKTAILS

to benefit the Scholarship and Enrichment fund of the Children's School at St. John's Church.

Friday March 7th at 7 p.m., at the Green Meldrim House. \$75 per guest.

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

MONDAY – FRIDAY

8:15AM & 5:30PM- *Daily Prayer*

in addition ON WEDNESDAY

9:45am *Litany*

10 am *Sung Eucharist*

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel.....p. 115
A continental breakfast is available in the 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)

10:30 A.M.-END OF SERVICE: PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

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

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

HYMN #545 <i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>	Woodbird
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer.....	3-7
Versicles and Responses	7-8
VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (Hymnal #609)	9
Psalm #97, 98.....	460
First Lesson: Malachi 3:13-4:6	<i>insert</i>
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS (Hymnal #613 & 617).....	10
Second Lesson I Colossians 3:12 & St. Matthew 13:24.....	116
BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638).....	14
Apostles' Creed	15
Versicles and Responses	16
Collect for the Day.....	115
Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace.....	17-20
HYMN #54 <i>Alleluia, Song of Gladness</i>	Dulce Carmen
Kindergarten through 4 th grade children may exit following the Cross for music.	
THE SERMON.....	Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Arise, Shine, For Thy Light is Come* Healey Willan

Presentation of Alms: (Hymnal #139)..... Gardiner
 and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN #282 *Praise my soul the King of heaven*..... Lauda Anima

ORGAN: *Trumpet Tune in C*..... David Johnson

*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 (Church- as 8 a.m.)