

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No. 8

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2015

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday, January 19, 2015

The Office will be Closed

No Services

Tuesday to Friday:

Daily Prayer 8:15am & 5:30pm

In addition, on Wednesday

Litany 9:45 a.m.

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

THE ONLY SAVIOUR?

The story of the wise men and their star-led quest represents the religious and spiritual quest of the entire human race. Reason's star led them to Jerusalem, in quest of a new born King of the Jews; the Scriptures' revelation sent them to Bethlehem, where the star confirmed the scripture and stood over the place where the young child lay: the only begotten son of the Father, the full and final revelation of God's glory, incarnate of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, now manifested to the Gentiles as the only mediator of God and men, the Saviour of the world.

Let us be clear: at the heart of the Magi's journey is a claim offensive to many: not just Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus; but even, or especially, to many Christians and post-Christians, atheists, and skeptics. Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus expect to disagree with Christians, as they do with one another. It is the Christians and post-Christians who are embarrassed and offended by the claim that Jesus is the *only* Mediator of God and men (1 Timothy 2:5), the Saviour of the world. The objection runs like this: 'are not such exclusive claims for Christ an invitation to self-righteous arrogance, intolerance and contempt for others? have we not moved beyond these to a more enlightened position? Surely there are many roads to God; surely all

religions worship the same God; what matters is not doctrine, what we believe, but the sincerity with which we hold our beliefs and act on them: that is what brings us close to God.' This, or something very like it, is taken to be the enlightened view of such religious claims, and in the current cultural climate, even sincere believers may concede much to it.

I think there is something *true* about this objection (about which more in due course); but let us begin with its *flaws*. First, if this were true, that all religions lead to God, that all that matters is sincerity of belief, what would we say about the Charlie Hebdo killings two weeks ago? The killers were undoubtedly acting on the basis of sincerely held beliefs. When they held the gun against the head of the wounded and weaponless Muslim policeman who was lying on the ground, and shot him dead, were they coming closer to God? And just to broaden the question a little, what do we say of the Khmers Rouges, who in the late 1970's slaughtered a quarter of their fellow countrymen in the "killing fields" of Cambodia? Once again, they were acting upon their sincerely held beliefs for the betterment of humanity, although in this case they were the beliefs of militant atheists. (Appalling as are the atrocities committed in the past century in the name of religion, they are far surpassed by the record of the atheists.) Sincerely held convictions, either religious or atheist, do not stop men from acting with heartless cruelty - but it is rather doubtful that sincerity alone is what brings us close to God.

It is common to criticize "fundamentalists", but everyone has fundamental convictions that he may not be able to prove but he

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1 WEST MACON STREET

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Junior Warden.....Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings
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Cancellor.....M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.

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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 and recordings of Services and Sermons are to be found on our web site:

www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Robert Austin Vinyard, Esq.
and Mr. James Ivy

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;

and a memorial to Robert Edward Lee, Gen. CSA, Col. USA, President, Washington College, devoted Churchman, from Robert Austin Vinyard, W&L '70 and Christopher Evans Vinyard, W&L '93.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard
Ms. Jayne G. Holland, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf
Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
Mrs. F. Debele Maner, Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas
Dr. Lucinda Schultz

ACOLYTES

8:00 need volunteer
10:30 John Osborne, Mikel Kelly
Jamie McClellan, Turner Stevens
Finn Repella, Jackson McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. William C. Rodgers

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

Men's Discussion Group Third Floor, Cranmer Hall. Led by Rick Wright, Walter Strong, and Charles Ezelle.

Women's Discussion Group Reading Room, Cranmer Hall. Led by Carol Hewson, Susan Donahue, Linda Sheahan, and Laura Wimbish
Harlotry, Compassion, Shepherding, and Jesus - 3rd Floor East. Led by Jack Wray.

Sin and Judgment in Shakespeare's History Plays 3rd Floor East. Led by David Noble..

Middle and High School Youth. Third Floor Resource Room. (Mrs. Jennings and Fr. Bergstrom).
St. John's Gospel Chapel. Led by Fr. Dunbar.

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast and Discussion, led by Fr. O'Brien.

Thursday 7 a.m., 2 Samuel, Reading Room, Cranmer Hall, led by Fr. Dunbar

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Monday Noon, Epistle to the Hebrews, led by Fr. Bergstrom

Thursday 9:15 a.m., Phaedo, (Fr. O'Brien)

Thursday at Noon:

MEN'S FORUM

No Apologies for Anglicanism:
John Jewel's Defence
(Fr. Bergstrom).

Good food for body and soul.
Donation requested, visitors welcome.
Food served 11:50, Talk runs 12:10 to 12:50.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

believes are superior to anyone else's - and this goes for the atheist, the skeptic, and the relativist as much as for the religious devotee. That is why those who are most resolute in their condemnation of intolerance can be just as self-righteous and intolerant as the bigots they abhor. For the skeptical, atheistic, or relativistic denial of religious claims is just another religious position, asserted dogmatically as a universal truth - and as such has no inherent superiority to any other religious position. Indeed it suffers from a fatal flaw - the person who claims there is no absolute truth for all men everywhere is making a claim of absolute truth for all men everywhere, and as he makes the case for it he refutes himself.

We cannot dismiss the claims made for Christ as the only Saviour of the world simply because of their exclusivity and universality, because the only grounds on which we can do so are equally exclusive and universal. The claims for Christ require a serious investigation, without the usual prejudice that the 'enlightened' bring to them. Liar, lunatic, legend, or Lord: it is a lot harder than it looks to build a serious case for the first three options. Yet those who confess Jesus as Lord have no room for complacency. They must still address the legitimate fear that lurks beneath the surface of this enlightened prejudice, that sincerely held convictions about Christ as the only Saviour can make Christians arrogant, intolerant, and contemptuous of others. For the objection is a deeply Christian one - and perhaps possible only in a Christian or post-Christian culture. GGD
(To be continued).

ECW'S SENIORS LUNCHEON

All ladies 70 and older are invited to join the Women of Saint John's on Wednesday, January 21st, at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon in their honor. Call the Church Office to make your reservation or if you need transportation.

2014 STATEMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS
were mailed on January 15th.

MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST AND BARBEQUE

Saturday, January 24th

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

at Villa Marie, Isle of Hope

(Take LaRoche Avenue to Grimbal Point Road, follow to 6 Dolan Drive)

Tickets 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.

Invite your friends, and remember that the proceeds will be donated to the **Ranger Assistance Fund** (similar to Wounded Warriors) and **special needs of families of the 1st Ranger Battalion**, stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, who have been on constant deployment since 9/11.

NEXT SUNDAY: Mr. Vonté Abrams, who has anchored the bass section of the choir since October 2002, will be taking up a new job in Los Angeles. January 25th will be his last Sunday, and the Coffee Hour will be held in his honor. Father George Westhaver, former Rector of St. George's Halifax, and now Warden of Pusey House, Oxford, will preach.

THE ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday February 7th

If you are cleaning out your closets, please keep this Sale in mind! Storage units available, call Nita Ann Klein 927-4270. Rummage received at Cranmer Hall 10 a.m. -3 p.m. Tuesday February 3rd to Friday February 6th.

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

REGISTRATION FOR 2015-2016

Returning Students: Wednesday, January 21st - Tuesday, January 27th.

New Students from St. John's

Families: Wednesday, January 28th -Tuesday, February 3rd.

All new families interested in enrolling are to contact Director Cathy King at childrenschool@stjohnssav.org or 232-1225.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... 106

*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*)**10:30 A.M.: JOYFUL NOISE, JOYFUL HEARTS***Music, Teaching, and Fun for Pre-School through Kindergarten:***10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON**

CARILLON

HYMN #46 *Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning*..... Morning Star

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..... *insert*

JUBILATE DEO (Hymnal #645)..... 15

Second Lesson: Romans 12:6..... 111

John 2:1 (*Note this is found on the next page over*)..... 113

BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638)..... 14

Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 1-5)

Apostles' Creed..... 15

Versicles and Responses..... 16

Collect for the Day..... 111

Other Collects, The Grace..... 17-20

HYMN: #50 *Saw You Never in the Twilight*..... Chartres

THE SERMON..... Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Vidi Aquam*..... Michael McCarthy

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #52 *As With Gladness Men of Old*..... DixORGAN: *Herr Christ, der einig Gott's Sohn*..... Jan Pieter Sweelinck*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 as 8 a.m.)