

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 26

Trinity Sunday (Octave of Pentecost)

May 22, 2016

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

**This Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the
Ralston Room (3rd Floor Cranmer Hall)**

The Long Range Planning Committee will be introducing themselves, the topics they have identified as priorities for study, and the process they will be following to develop proposals for St. John's future health and growth. Parishioners are invited to join us for this "conversation starter". We need to hear from you!

**Next Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Congregational Forum on Worship**

CHORAL MATTINS

Today we keep Trinity Sunday with a service of Choral Mattins – a service of Morning Prayer, in which the work of the congregation is in large part sung by the choir (as indicated in the Insert). Once very common, but now rare, it has a rich musical tradition, enhanced this morning by a brass ensemble in the gallery. We welcome musicians, Chris Heldt, Trumpet; Ben Otieno, Trumpet; Stephen Williams, Horn; Wilson Wong, Trombone; and Clare Brennan, Tuba.

NOT RELIGIOUS CONSUMERS

Recently a couple of parishioners separately let me know that they were going to be absent from church on Sunday. Although not universal, and certainly not required, it is not uncommon for parishioners to let me know about absences, and such considerateness is always appreciated. Under the grace of God we operate by trust and not by guilt, and I do my best to do so in my

relationships with you all – but part of a trusting relationship is sharing information that affects our common service of Christ. And that's to say, that Christians are not religious consumers, opting in and out according to taste or opinion, shopping in the religious supermarket. We are, to the contrary, interdependent, mutually supportive and mutually accountable members of Christ's Body. That's the very first Biblical truth the Catechism teaches us, and everything else in the Christian life follows from it.

Yet our culture is so deeply imbued with consumerist hyper-individualism that we are not even aware of it. It's just the air we breathe – and it is killing us. In the end it leads to an indifference to questions of truth, to the certainty that truth is entirely self-determined – and that attitude closes us off from the very possibility of entering into the truth of God. It cuts us off from the possibility of knowing God, loving God, or having communion with him. Part of being a Christian in this day and age involves awareness of how consumerism shapes our outlook, and making an attempt to challenge and correct it.

A consumer views the world, and his religion, as a thing for his own use and pleasure. But Christians are not called into God's grace and love to please themselves, but to please him (Hebrews 13:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:1). His love and grace has been freely given to us, at his own cost, on the sole condition that we freely share what we have freely received (Matthew 10:8).

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The Vestry: *Esqs.*, M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Joseph R. Ross, Jonathan D. Sprague; *Drs.* James S. McClellan, Jr., Roland S. Summers; Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings; Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Mark D. Stevens; *Messrs.* David C. Barrow III, E. Brian Culver, John C. Helmken II, R. Scott Howard, J. Alex Jarman, Joseph O. Mercer, Peter A. Pollak, Jr., L. Allan Reynolds, Jr., William C. Rodgers, R. Gilbert Wells, Richard L. Wright.

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, 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. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. Peter A. Pollak, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

John M. Hewson III, Esq.

ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Turner Steven
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Hawkins Pindar
Phillip Inglesby Jackson McClellan
Finn Repella Patrick Perrie Edwin Shepherd

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Samuel P. Inglesby and Edith Inglesby Walker by their children;

And in loving memory of George Anderson Mercer III and George Anderson Mercer IV by Elizabeth Mercer Gilbert, Wayne Mercer Willis, Bessie Mercer Halsey, and their families;

And in loving memory of Jane Philbrick by Dr. Thomas Philbrick and Hunter Philbrick;

And in loving memory of Jane Philbrick by Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Harlander;

And to the glory of God on the occasion of Father Craig O'Brien's birthday on May 24.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Audrey Allgaier,
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan,
Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr., Ms. Laura Reid,
Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. David C. Barrow III

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. John M. Hewson III
Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- No Breakfast on May 24
Thursday- Mens' Bible Study 7 a.m. *Romans*

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship
May 25, 11:00 a.m. CH Library
Thursday- No Meeting on May 26

TRINITY BRASS

Gifts for the music on Trinity Sunday are given to the glory of God by Mr. B. Franklin Williams, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Roland B. Williams; Mrs. G. Philip Morgan, Jr.; Mr. Richard L. Wright; Lt. Col. and Mrs. Paul D. Troxler; Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.;

And in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Helmken by Gary and Elizabeth Schubert;

And in honor of our devoted Choirmaster and Choir by Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.;

And in thanksgiving for the life of Marjorie Schofield by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. McCay;

And in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Jules Victor, Jr. by their family;

And in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Coy and Mr. William F. Summerell by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Coy;

And in memory of William Finn Summerell by Martha Littlefield Summerell;

And in memory of Sarah Alexander Patterson Summers by Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee Belford.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

That's why the Church has, indeed, *is* a mission, to those that are far away and those near at hand. A parish church is the mission of Christ in a particular place. It exists not only to sustain its members in this grace, but also to draw its neighbours into this fellowship. (It may just be coincidence but the word *parish* comes from the Greek word *paroikia*, which derives from *paroikos*, 'neighbor'.) Sharing this grace with our *paroikoi* is an ongoing work of a parish, and a challenging one: but it starts by accepting the mission as given. "Should you choose to accept it" is not part of the gospel.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle to accepting the mission is fear. The world has taught us to clutch anxiously at the things that we have received, but in Christ God has richly provided for all our needs. If we have truly received his grace, then there is no place for such fear – and part of our faithfulness will consist in challenging our fear.

Knowing and trusting in the grace that has been so richly given us – this is the foundation. The next step is to get to know neighbours with whom we hope to share this grace. There is no other way to share faith than in relationships of trust. (That's why families and friendships are often the most effective means of Christian mission.) If our neighbours sense indifference, or we make them nervous, they won't stick around to find out what we have to share. If we simply wait for our neighbours to come to us, some will do so, but not nearly as many as if we had put our minds to it. Let's not forget - there are rewards for those who put to profitable work the talents (spiritual riches) they have been given – and punishments for those who don't (Matthew 25:14-30).

And what is the best way to build a relationship of trust with neighbors? By

serving them in love. In my observation and experience, the parishioners of St. John's have courteous and deeply welcoming instincts. (Is it a southern thing?) Those are instincts for us to build on and develop, as we discern together how to share effectively what we have received with those whom God has set near to us. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

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

Morning and Evening Prayer

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *The Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

In addition, on Thursday

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRIST

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

Morning and Evening Prayer

With Holy Communion

THIS SEASON'S OUTREACH

Sunday, May 22 is the final day to collect paper towels, napkins, bath tissue, and Kleenex for *The Living Vine* (a Christian ministry for women in crisis pregnancies). New or gently-used car seats, strollers and bassinets also are greatly needed.

EYCS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION DEADLINE - MAY 31

Apply at eycs.georgiaepiscopal.org.

College scholarships available from the Episcopal Youth and Children's Services (a locally-run organization based on Savannah-area churches). Awards are based on financial need and are for undergraduate education only. A Rector's letter of recommendation is required.

ARDF – SYRIA APPEAL

Since Ascension Sunday (Mothers' Day), the congregation has given \$3393 for the ARDF's Syria refugee appeal. Thanks to all who contributed so generously.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 186
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30 A.M.-10:15 A.M. - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:30 A.M. - JOYFUL NOISE, JOYFUL HEARTS (*Cranmer Hall*)
Music, Teaching, and Active Fun for Pre-School through Kindergarten.

**10:30 A.M. – CHORAL MATTINS, PROCESSION, ADDRESS
& SUNDAY SCHOOL AWARDS**
(Order of Service in Insert)

*Everyone is invited to attend **Coffee Hour in Cranmer Hall*** immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.
If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.
Please note today's Coffee Hour will be held in Cranmer Hall.

12:00 P.M. (Noon) HOLY COMMUNION in the Chapel (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as at 8:00 a.m.)