

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 27

The First Sunday after Trinity

May 29, 2016

## CONGREGATIONAL FORUM ON WORSHIP

9:30 a.m. Ralston Room

### BELONGING & BELIEVING (PART I)

Ten years ago, on my first Sunday as Rector, I announced in a matter-of-fact tone of voice that we would be adding electric guitars and a Jumbotron screen. There was an almost audible intake of breath followed by laughter - but I think the congregation got the point: if I had been looking for worship of that kind I would have gone somewhere else. St. John's vocation is to cherish the Prayer Book tradition of faith and worship. That is what brought me to St. John's in the first place, and that has not changed. What we have received is precious and compelling. But we do need to think about how to share it effectively.

I think there are two basic aspects to the effective sharing of this tradition. It is in the context of *belonging* that we can share believing - and it is in shared *believing*, that our belonging has meaning. Next week I will say something about the aspect of believing, but first let us consider belonging.

By belonging I mean the building of relationships in community. It is the fragmenting individualism of our time that makes intentional relationship-building necessary. In the objectivity of older social structures, everyone had a recognized place. Now we regard those older orders as oppressive, and perhaps they were - but their dissolution in the

acid of individualism means that no one's place is there as a "given". And so churches that want to live out their mission have to take relationship-building seriously. For it is in relationship, in the sense of belonging to a community, that a tradition of faith and worship can be shared effectively.

In a fragmented, task-oriented world, in which everything and everyone is just an instrumental means to an end, people find community in various ways, and not without ambiguity (think the ferocious diatribes between social media "friends"). Instant intimacy is what every hip bar and coffee shop aims to provide. (My own protest is to use an ironic coffee shop alias, "Mack"). The business world has its own networking dynamic. But the church has its own logic of community, its own dynamic of relationship, and that is charity.

In charity, how do Christians build relationships with people we don't know? Many of you are far better at this than the clergy are, so forgive me if I tell you what you already know and do better than I - but we need to talk about this as a congregation. If we are Christians, we will be sincere about getting to know strangers. There is no more effective way of putting someone at ease, and making them feel welcome and wanted - and willing to take the next step in, than people who sincerely want to get to know you, without agendas. It should *pain* us, to see someone at Coffee Hour to whom

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Chancellor ..... *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. 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. William C. Rodgers

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

John M. Hewson, Esq.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and on the occasion of Jack and Karen Wray's 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;  
And one year later, in thanksgiving for Walter C. Carson, Jr., because he loved us, by Beverly S. Carson, Paige Carson Cook, Walter C. Carson III, and children.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

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. Shannon D. Alva, Miss Madison Anne Alva

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. Paul M. Pressly

**ACOLYTES**

8:00 a.m. Jamie McClellan  
10:30 a.m. Hawkins Pindar Turner Stevens  
Finn Repella Henry Osborne  
Jackson McClellan Phillip Inglesby

**9:30 A.M. CONGREGATIONAL FORUM**  
On Worship - Ralston Room

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Tuesday- Breakfast and discussion  
*Is Faith Reasonable?*  
6:45 a.m., Parish House  
Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar  
7:00 a.m., CH Reading Room

**WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship  
June 8, 11:00 a.m. CH Library  
Thursday- Michael O'Brien's novel,  
*Island of the World* with Fr. O'Brien  
9:15 a.m., CH Reading Room

**TRINITY BRASS**

Gifts for the music on Trinity Sunday are given to the glory of God by Miss Margaret O. Hardy;  
And in memory of our father and grandfather, G. Warren Gregory, with great love from his daughter, Catherine Gregory Cooper and his grandsons, Robert Warren Cooper and Patrick Malachi Cooper, Jr.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

no one is talking. It should *pain* us, that there are parishioners we see but to whom we have never spoken. And we should be at pains, to provide the kind of settings - a barbecue, a small group fellowship, a cocktail party - in which getting to know people we don't know is our *priority*. Even the doing of church chores can be an opportunity to build relationships.

Charity teaches that getting to know a stranger is more a matter of listening than of talking, of asking rather than telling. No one wants to be talked at - but everyone appreciates a sympathetic hearing. Charity means that getting to know a stranger is emphatically *not* a matter of identifying people we like or dislike, or with whom we share or do not share opinions or tastes. If you want to know someone, you have to expect diversity of opinion and taste, without feeling you *have* to 'set them straight'. Remember, we are not looking for "best friends forever", "people like us" - or even "people I like", but churchmen, fellow citizens with the saints. The bond we are seeking to build is deeper than merely personal likes. (If you listened to the preaching at St. John's in the last four decades, under both my predecessors, you know this already.) It's *charity*, loving others as God has loved us, despite our warts. "Receive ye one another, as Christ also received you." And that means our charity will be neither chilly and distant nor effusively invasive of privacy (as in the group hug of the exchange of peace), but warm, sympathetic and discreet.

The parishioners of St. John's have strong southern traditions of courtesy and hospitality which I have long admired - but that hospitable spirit should drive us to identify the ways in which individuals may feel out of place. 'Everyone else seems to be on the right page, but I

haven't the faintest idea where we are in the service.' 'Every other man is in jacket and tie - but the only time I wear a jacket and tie is at a funeral.' 'Everyone is polite but no one has ever invited us over for supper.' 'I have been coming and giving for a year but no one has asked me to be an usher or take up collection.' 'I love the worship, but how do I get to know people here?' 'It all seems so intimidating!' These may or may not be accurate descriptions of newcomer experiences (and the list may be longer) - but we should be asking what those barriers to appreciation and participation in our faith and worship may be - and thinking about how we can address them. Southern traditions of hospitality - and charity - demand it! (*To be continued*). 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*

### CHURCH SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.: No Sunday School or Nursery for Children or Youth

**Check Parish Paper for adult class offerings.**

10:15 a.m. through end of 10:30 a.m. service:  
Nursery is available (1<sup>st</sup> floor/CH)

10:30 a.m.: **Joyful Noise**-Music, Lesson & Fellowship  
Preschool - Kindergarten (2<sup>nd</sup> floor/CH)

**Psalm Psingers** (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grades)-

Follow the cross over for Music until conclusion of the service (2<sup>nd</sup> floor/CH)

*Church School resumes Sunday, September 11.*

### EYCS SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE APPLICATION DEADLINE - MAY 31

College scholarships available through the Episcopal Youth and Children's Services. Awards are based on financial need and are for undergraduate education only. Please include Rector's letter of recommendation.

**Apply at [eys.georgiaepiscopal.org](http://eys.georgiaepiscopal.org).**

**8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 189  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

9:15 a.m. through the 10:30 a.m. service - **Nursery** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**9:30 A.M.-10:15 A.M. - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ADULTS** (*Cranmer Hall*)  
*(No Sunday School or Nursery during this hour in the summer.)*

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

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

HYMN: #370 *Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers*..... Graefenberg  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer ..... Prayer Book, pages 3-7  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8  
 VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO: #609 ..... 9  
 Psalm #12, 13 ..... 355  
 First Lesson: Deuteronomy 15:1-11 *Open thine hand wide unto thy poor.* ..... *Insert*  
 BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE #626..... 11  
 Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21 & Luke 16:19-31..... 189, 190  
 BENEDICTUS #634..... 14  
*Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).*  
 Apostles' Creed ..... 15  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 16  
 Collect for the Day..... 189  
 Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace ..... 17-20  
 Prayer for Memorial Day & for Departed..... 42  
 HYMN: #344 *O Love How Deep* ..... Deus Tuorum Militum  
 THE SERMON ..... Father Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences  
 Anthem: *All Praise to God Who Reigns Above* ..... Vulpus arr. Ludwig Lenel  
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139  
 #142 **NATIONAL ANTHEM** (both stanzas).....  
 General Thanksgiving and Aaronic Blessing ..... 19  
 HYMN: *And Can It Be, That I Should Gain (Insert)* ..... Sagina  
 VOLUNTARY: *Toccata in Seven*..... John Rutter

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*Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.  
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

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