

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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Trinity XIII

August 21, 2016

PREACHING THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday we welcome Fr Douglas Dupree, sometime Priest Assistant at St. John's Church; Chaplain of Balliol College, Oxford; and currently Rector of the Bishop's Institute for Ministry & Leadership in the Diocese of Florida.

ST. JOHN'S 2030 OUTREACH SURVEY

As part of our long-range planning, we are looking at outreach at St. John's. You can help this discussion along by answering this (short) survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJ>

Coutreach

If you would like a print copy to fill out, please call the Church Office.

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

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

Morning and Evening Prayer

In addition,

on Wednesday, August 24th

ST. BARTHOLOMEW APOSTLE

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

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

Morning and Evening Prayer

With Holy Communion

PARISH WORSHIP SURVEY

How do we plan for the health and growth of St. John's in the year 2030? That's the long-range planning question before the *St. John's 2030* Committee. As a starting point for our discussions, we asked parishioners to take part in a survey about Sunday morning worship at

St. John's. It was an opportunity for all who wished to have their say, and 225 parishioners did (with much lively commentary.) Most were older and longer-term parishioners, but 16% (33) were younger than 40, and 21% (45) had attended for 5 years or less. What a survey like this does *not* tell us, naturally, are the views of persons who no longer worship with us, or might worship with us – the people we should like to attract and hold, if we are to grow. Their views are a gap we will have to fill in some other way.

Some parishioners were doubtful about the survey, while others appreciated it. But by and large our parishioners, young and old, long-term and recent, are enthusiastic and committed about all that is distinctive about worship at St. John's – the 1928 Prayer Book, the 1940 Hymnal, the prayerful atmosphere of reverence, the dignity, truth, and beauty of the liturgy. As we plan for St. John's in 2030 this is the strength we may build upon – but we need to think about how to share this tradition with those who are *not* now parishioners.

Since most were strongly affirmative of existing practices about which we asked questions, this report looks only at areas where there were significant differences of opinion: the welcome we provide to worshippers, service length, and sermons.

Though most found St. John's welcoming or somewhat welcoming (81%), a good 19% thought it could use some improvement – and this came largely from *established* parishioners. The

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Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

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Junior Warden *Mr. Richard L. Wright*
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Chancellor *M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.*

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. Hungerpiller, 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. Joseph O. Mercer

Usher Chairman
Mr. Ross M. Haire

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Patty C. Gaillard and Trish Snyder by Sally Fiveash and George Gaillard;
And in loving memory of Sanford G. Simmons, John Pindar Bradshaw Schaller, Julia Floyd Smith and loved ones by Marie Simmons.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. McDonald A. Fawcett, Mrs. B. Ray Summerell, Mrs. Adolphus J. Carter III, Mrs. George Fawcett, Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. Thomas C. McCay

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Turner Stevens
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Edwin Shepherd
Jackson McClellan Henry Osborne
Hawkins Pindar William Taylor

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Shannon Davis Alva

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. ADULT CLASS

READING ROOM: The Books of *Samuel*
with Father Dunbar

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast with Fr O'Brien
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
11:00 a.m. Reading Room
The next meeting is August 24.

MEN OF ST. JOHN'S

Please mark your calendars for the Men's Club Annual Dinner at the Parish House on Thursday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m.
More details coming soon!

JANE'S CANNERS

...are at work 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday. All are welcome to join them! Donations needed: half-pint jars, sugar, bell peppers, pears, apples, pecans, onions, etc. Call Jane Pressly at 912-233-6551.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

percentage of those at the periphery who do not find St. John's welcoming is likely be higher. (Related to this were favorable comments from new parishioners about the "How to Follow the Service" cards.)

Another significant minority think the service "too long" (41%), though the majority (57%) found its length "about right". The total length of Sunday morning (Sunday School and service) was specifically mentioned by some families with young children as a big challenge for them. (In response we have moved Sunday School up to Grade Five back to the 10:30 hour.)

Because sermons are so important an element in the liturgy (89% "very important") we asked a number of detailed questions – if they are audible, faithful to Scripture, understandable, helpful in understanding the Faith, lead to practical applications, and help make sense of current questions. We also asked about sermon length. Negative responses ("rarely") were low (3% to 7%) except in "practical application" (15%) and "makes sense of current questions" (25%) – but the middling response "sometimes" approached or vied with "usually" on the categories of "understandable" (61% "usually" and 33% "sometimes"), "helpful in understanding the Faith" (74% and 23%), "practical" (44% and 40%), and "makes sense of current questions" (33% and 42%). On sermon length, 63% thought they were "about right" and 34% thought they were "too long". Among parishioners under 40 these numbers tended to shift a few percentage points in a negative direction.

On this as on other questions, the comments had both criticism and praise. Pleas for sermons that are shorter, easily understandable, practical, and

illuminating of current questions came cheek by jowl with affirmations of the preaching as it is and pleas not to "dumb down". In principle there is no reason why a sermon cannot be intelligent and readily intelligible, doctrinal but also practical. It is something to work towards. On the question of "making sense of current events," however, preachers need to proceed with caution. A preoccupation with "relevance" runs the risk of rootlessness. I think we already get enough ungrounded opinions about current questions on social media.

There is another way of thinking about the response on welcome, service length and sermons, one that addresses the desire for worship that is "family-friendly" and accessible to newcomers to traditional Anglican worship. Though the questions we asked in this area were not as extensive or specific as they might have been, the answers we did receive hint there are grounds for further study. In addition to our present worship schedule, perhaps there is also room for a service that is somewhat simpler and shorter, a bit more "low church" than the 10:30 service, but still grounded in sound teaching, the 1928 Prayer Book, and traditional hymnody. This might have substantial appeal for families with young children and teenagers, young adults, and Christians from non-liturgical churches who are drawn to the historic truth and beauty of the Prayer Book (a well-attested trend that has been dubbed the "Canterbury Trail"). This might prove a fruitful avenue for growth that is also true to St. John's core distinctives.

If you would like a copy of this survey's results (numbers only, no comments) please call or email the church office and we will have them available for pick-up this Sunday or next. GGD

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 207
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery (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.—SUNG EUCHARIST & ADDRESS

HYMN: #498 *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*..... Gardiner

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity..... Prayer Book, p. 67

The Summary of the Law..... 69

KYRIE ELEISON: #710..... Healey Willan

Collect and Epistle: Galatians 3:16..... 207

HYMN: #455 *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*..... St. Peter

The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 10:23..... 208

The Nicene Creed..... 71

HYMN: #459 *Hark my soul! It is the Lord*..... Campian

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

SERMON..... Father Douglas Dupree

OFFERTORY

Sentences

Anthem: *Forever Blest is He* (from *Jephtha*)..... G. F. Handel

Presentation of Alms #139

Prayer for the State of the Church..... 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution..... 75

Sursum Corda #734..... 76

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711..... Healey Willan

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation..... 80

The Lord's Prayer and Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*)..... 82

AGNUS DEI #712..... Healey Willan

HYMN: #196 *Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken*..... Rendez a Dieu

Motet: *Dear Lord and Father* [words of Hymn #435]..... C. Hubert H. Parry

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*)..... 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #739..... Old Scottish Chant

The Blessing (*kneeling*)..... 84

HYMN: [Insert] *And Can It Be That I Should Gain*..... Sagina

VOLUNTARY: *Postlude*..... Andrew Fletcher

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.

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