

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 40

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

August 28, 2016

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*

APOLOGETIC

Proclaiming *what* God has done, and how that changes everything – that is evangelism. Declaring *why* belief in Christ is rational – that is called apologetic. Though they share a common root in the Greek language, *apologetic* is not *apologizing*. The term comes from the law court, and it means mounting a persuasive *defense* of the faith and a persuasive *offense* against unbelief. In the New Testament, it is what St. Paul does before the philosophers of Athens on the Areopagus (Acts 17), and it is what St. Peter urges all Christians to do in a world that is uncomprehending, skeptical or hostile to Christian faith: “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

Measured against this mandate to give a reason for the hope that is in us, how do we fare? There is a long tradition of Christian apologetic, and especially Anglican apologetic - best known to many inside and

outside the Anglican world in the writings of C. S. Lewis. My recent predecessors as rector at St. John’s were certainly capable of effective apologetic. Yet it seems to me that as congregations we are too often not ready to answer the apologetic challenge of our deeply skeptical world. What sometimes passes for apologetic - pat answers that reassure those who already believe but do little to overcome the objections of the skeptic – fails the test.

The weakness of the churches in this regard shows up, notoriously, when youngsters raised in Christian families and churches go to college, and encounter the secularism and skepticism of our culture both intellectually and socially. If they remain believers, it is often by compartmentalizing faith and life, separating religion from reason, which is tragic. If they don’t, they can quickly and uncritically absorb even the most preposterous elements of contemporary skepticism, which they have no intellectual training to withstand. And so the time in college, which should be a time of deep spiritual and intellectual formation, and the discerning of vocations in the light of the gospel, too often becomes a time of spiritual blight.

It’s not just college students, however: many Christians, in my observation, respond to the skeptical

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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 Mrs. Mark D. Stevens

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 Alexander Robert Fawcett by his wife, Mrs. Alexander Robert Fawcett, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Fawcett;

And in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Carson, Jr. who were married at St. John's by the Reverend Ernest Risle;

And in honor of Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr. by the Chancel Society.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. McDonald A. Fawcett,
Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.,
Mrs. Adolphus J. Carter III, Mrs. George Fawcett,
Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Turner Stevens Jamie McClellan
Jackson McClellan Finn Repella
Patrick Perrie Phillip Inglesby
Edwin Shephard

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. William S. Burdell, Jr.
Mrs. Frank Somoskey

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. ADULT CLASSES

READING ROOM: The Book of Samuel with
Father Dunbar

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast with Fr. O'Brien
Why the Church?
6:45 a.m., Parish House
Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m., CH Reading Room
No Meeting Sept 1st, Next meeting Sept. 8th

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship
11:00 a.m. CH Reading Room
Next meeting is September 14.

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, and apples. Call Jane Pressly at 233-6551.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

challenge by quietly abandoning its dogmatic claims (creation, Christ's divinity, miracles, resurrection, and so on). If they are retained it as metaphors for the works of men rather than the works of God; symbols not for that which is beyond and above nature, in which nature is redeemed and perfected, but for that which is merely natural. And so the gospel that we are to celebrate ritually and live out morally is turned into mere ritualism and mere moralism, a religion of man and not of God. This diminished version of the Christian religion is not confined to one quarter or another: it appears in forms conservative and liberal, protestant and catholic.

A recovery of apologetic in the preaching, teaching, and believing of Christians is key to the rebuilding of the church and its mission. The Presbyterian Tim Keller (who makes much use of C. S. Lewis and other Anglicans) has shown what well-communicated apologetic can do in even the most unpromising big-city setting. (The website of his church in Manhattan has the heading *Skeptics Welcome*.) It's not a program or a technique one can easily transfer from one setting to another: but thinking about how we can incorporate apologetic more fully and effectively in everything that we do at St. John's, has been one of the key questions in discussion by the St. John's 2030 Committee. And apologetic for youth has to be one of our priorities.

When it comes to Christian education, youth, and their parents, are often focused on the practical questions about living out of

Christian faith, and rightly so. We need to think about the practical implications and applications of the faith we believe. Yet a truly practical approach to the Christian life depends on deep roots in Christ. Faith without works is dead, to be sure – but works without faith are also dead. If we do not cultivate the roots, we cannot expect the fruits; or we cannot expect them to continue in an unfriendly skeptical climate.

So any ministry with youth – and that starts of course with their parents, the most influential ministers a teenager knows – needs to address issues of faith as much as it does of works. That means evangelism – knowing what God has done in Christ, and how it changes everything. And it means apologetic – knowing why the Christian religion is rational. “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”. GGD

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THIS FALL SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR GRADES 1-5

This fall, children in Grades 1-5 are invited to worship with their parents in church for the first part of the 10:30 a.m. service, then follow the cross to Cranmer Hall for Sunday School lessons.

Grades Six (Confirmation) and above will continue to meet at 9:30 a.m., as will Adult Classes.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 7 - Women of St. John's General Meeting After 10 a.m. service.
September 22- Men's of St. John's Annual Dinner. Details TBA.

OUTREACH SURVEY

Please take time to share your thoughts at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJCoutreach>
Print copies are available in the Church Office.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 209
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. - MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

HYMN: # 287 *Give Praise and Glory unto God*..... Elbing
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses 7-8
 VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO: #609 9
 Psalm #84 445
 First Lesson: 2 Kings 5:1-19 *The cleansing of Naaman the Syrian* Insert
 BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE #626..... 11
 Second Lesson: Galatians 5:16 & St. Luke 17:11..... 209
 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..... 209
 Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace 17-20
 HYMN: #276 *Now Thank We All Our God* Nun Danket
 THE SERMON Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences
 Anthem: *Ye Servants of God*..... Henry Coleman
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141 Stanza 4
 General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing..... 19
 HYMN: #302 *O That I Had a Thousand Voices* Mentzer
 VOLUNTARY: *Trumpet Tune in D*..... Georg Philipp Telemann

*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.)