

# The Parish Paper

OF  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 4

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2016

## THE CULTIVATION OF CHRISTMAS TREES

There are several attitudes towards Christmas,  
Some of which we may disregard:  
The social, the torpid, the patently commercial,  
The rowdy (the pubs being open till midnight),  
And the childish — which is not that of the child  
For whom the candle is a star, and the gilded angel  
Spreading its wings at the summit of the tree  
Is not only a decoration, but an angel.

The child wonders at the Christmas Tree:  
Let him continue in the spirit of wonder  
At the Feast as an event not accepted as a pretext;  
So that the glittering rapture, the amazement  
Of the first-remembered Christmas Tree,  
So that the surprises, delight in new possessions  
(Each one with its peculiar and exciting smell),  
The expectation of the goose or turkey  
And the expected awe on its appearance,  
So that the reverence and the gaiety  
May not be forgotten in later experience,  
In the bored habituation, the fatigue, the tedium,  
The awareness of death, the consciousness of failure,  
Or in the piety of the convert  
Which may be tainted with a self-conceit  
Displeasing to God and disrespectful to children  
(And here I remember also with gratitude  
St. Lucy, her carol, and her crown of fire):

So that before the end, the eightieth Christmas  
(By “eightieth” meaning whichever is last)  
The accumulated memories of annual emotion  
May be concentrated into a great joy  
Which shall be also a great fear, as on the occasion  
When fear came upon every soul:  
Because the beginning shall remind us of the end  
And the first coming of the second coming.

-T. S. Eliot

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase ..... Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar ..... Rector  
1 West Macon Street, 31401 ..... (912) 429-3384  
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien ..... Priest Associate  
423 E. Gaston Street, 31401 ..... (912) 308-4441  
Mr. R. Steven Branyon ..... Organist/Choirmaster  
Mrs. Janice W. Woods ..... Business Manager  
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*President, Chancel Society* ..... *Mrs. Roland S. Summers*  
*President, Men of St. John's* ..... *Mr. R. Scott Howard*

Church Office ..... (912) 232-1251  
Fax ..... (912) 232-5559  
Parish House ..... (912) 233-3845  
Cranmer Hall ..... (912) 232-8887  
E-mails ..... (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

**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.

**HOSPITAL VISITATIONS**

Please call the Church Office to inform 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. Benjamin W. Baxter  
Mr. R. Leslie Johnson

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Sr., Mr. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Cook by Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.;

And in loving memory of Dr. Edwin Collier Shepherd and Betty McCuen Shepherd by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Shepherd, Jr. and family;

And in loving memory of Arthur and Mahla Wilson by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph K. Wilson;

And in loving memory of Susan Shirm by David, Mena, Parks, and Alex Gardiner.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,  
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. David A. Young,  
Mrs. William B. McNeal II,  
Mrs. W. Howard Helmken, Jr.,  
Mrs. Neil H. Victor, Mrs. Anne H. Mingleдорff,  
Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr.,  
Miss Sarah Elizabeth Inglesby

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** Henry Osborne  
**10:30** Philip Inglesby Turner Stevens  
Hawkins Pindar Patrick Perrie  
William Taylor Edwin Shepherd

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

The Women of St. John's  
featuring Mrs. Myrtice Lewis' Eggnog

**SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

**ADULT & YOUTH CLASSES** (*Cranmer Hall-3*)  
CONFIRMATION CLASS—GRADE 6- *Catechism*  
MIDDLE SCHOOL—GRADES 7,8- 25 *Bible Saints*  
UPPER SCHOOL—GRADES 9-12-*Apologetics for Teens*

**FOR ADULTS:**

READING ROOM: *I Samuel*- Father Dunbar  
CH3: *Joshua: Man of Faith, Man of Courage,*  
*Man of War*- Jack Wray

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast with Father O'Brien  
6:45 a.m., Parish House  
*Why Be Moral?*  
Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar  
7:00 a.m., Reading Room, CH3  
Thursday- Men's Small Group with lunch  
Noon- Fellowship Hall, CH1

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

**CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S**

**Saturday, December 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

8:15 A.M. *Morning Prayer and Holy Communion*

5:00 P.M. Pageant Service and Holy Communion

11:00 P.M. *Solemn Eucharist*

**Sunday, December 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:30 A.M. *Sung Eucharist*

**Monday, December 26**

**ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR**

8:15 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.

*Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**Tuesday, December 27**

**ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

8:15 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.

*Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*

**Wednesday, December 28**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

8:15 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.

*Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Holy Communion*

**Thursday, December 29**

**and Friday December 30**

NO SERVICES

**Sunday, January 1**

**THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST**

**(OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**

**& NEW YEAR'S DAY)**

8:00 A.M. & NOON *Holy Communion*

10:30 A.M. *Sung Eucharist*

**Monday, January 2**

Daily Services Resume

8:15 A.M. *Morning Prayer*

5:30 P.M. *Evening Prayer*

*The Feast of Christmas (and its Octave, ending January 1) is a time when baptized and communicant Christians should receive the Sacrament, unless for good cause prevented.*

**CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT**

**WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

This year's Pageant will take place during the first part of the Communion service (no sermon); pageant players (and anyone else who wishes) will depart during the hymn just before the Creed (and may return during the Offertory hymn). All children are welcome to stay throughout the service and to receive a blessing at the altar.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NEED**

Help create a blessed Christmas for the women and children of *The Living Vine* (a Christian maternity home) and *Shelter from the Rain* (outreach to single mothers). Christmas Eve through Epiphany Sunday, January 8, the Women and Sunday Schools of St. John's will collect these items: Paper Towels, Napkins, Tissues, Diapers, Baby Wipes, Baby Oil, Lotion, Bath Wash and New/Gently-Used Car Seats, Strollers and Bassinets. Collection baskets will be in the back of the Church on Christmas Eve and in Cranmer Hall until January 8. ***Ye who now shall bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.***

**WREATHS, GARLANDS AND POINSETTIAS**

Help decorate the Church at Christmas – and honor someone you love! Poinsettias are \$30 each. Wreaths and Garlands are \$80 each. Send checks (payable to **St. John's Chancel Society**) with wording for memorials/honorariums to the Church Office by December 23.

**YEAR-END DONATIONS**

Any gifts received after close of business on Friday, December 30 will appear on the 2017 Statements of Contributions. Any questions, please call the Church Office.

**8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel ..... Prayer Book, page 95 (90)

*The Order of Service begins on page 67 of the Prayer Book.*

*A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following service.*

9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**10:30 A.M.— A PROCESSION WITH ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS**

*Details of the service are found on a separate leaflet.*

*Everyone is invited to attend the **Special Advent Coffee Hour** in the Parish House immediately following 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 (Chapel)** *as at 8 a.m.*

**PREPARING FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

*Two short statements about preparing the heart and mind to receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood to our benefit. The first is from the historic 16<sup>th</sup> c. Catechism. The second is from a sermon by Austin Farrer, a mid-20th century Anglican priest and philosophical theologian.*

*Question.* What is required of those who come to the Lord's Supper?

*Answer.* To examine themselves, whether they repent truly of their former sins, steadfastly purposing to lead a new life; have a lively faith in God's mercy through Christ, with a thankful remembrance of his death; and be in charity with all men. (The Catechism, in the *Book of Common Prayer*)

It is hard to prepare for Communion, because it is hard to face the truth. But it is not at all complicated or puzzling. You have merely to accept what you know God demands of you, and to renounce what you know he forbids you, and to be sorry. Remember something to thank him for, and someone to pray for, and you have made your preparation. (Austin Farrer, *Fish out of water*, in *Said or Sung*)

*Further counsel on preparation for Communion is set forth in the Exhortations in the Prayer Book on pages 85-89.*