

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 45

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 24, 2017

PARISH KALENDAR

◆ THIS SUNDAY ◆

9:30 A.M.

MIDDLE SCHOOL and UPPER SCHOOL are invited and urged to meet in the Ralston Room at 9:30 a.m. – to discuss proposals for growth in the faith. Parents also invited!

No Rector's Class this Sunday.

CONFIRMATION CLASS – 3rd Floor Classroom

10:00 a.m. MEET AND GREET OUR NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

– Fellowship Room, Cranmer Hall 1

Parishioners (and not just parents!) are invited to meet our new Christian Education Director, Susanne Evangelista, and to hear about our new approach to 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, "Children's Church".

10:30 a.m. CHILDREN'S CHURCH

(Grade One to Grade Five)

Grades 1-5 come to church with their parents for the first part of the service, then follow the cross to Cranmer Hall for Children's Church. *Preschool through Kindergarten* in 2nd Floor of Cranmer Hall from 10:30 to service end.

9:15 a.m. – Service end:

INFANT & TODDLER – 1st floor

◆ MEN OF SAINT JOHN'S ◆

MEN'S ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday Sept 28 at 6pm

Green Meldrim House. Tickets \$20.

Speaker – parishioner Jake Ross will speak about his time in the United States Navy, working with President George H. W. Bush and as First Commander of the USS John McCain. Cigars on the porch to follow. Tickets on sale at Coffee Hour. For info, call Martin Sullivan 547-4608

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday - Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

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

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

In addition, on Thursday

5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*

Friday, September 29th

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Morning and Evening Prayer

With Holy Communion

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

◆ NEXT SUNDAY ◆

SUNDAY AFTER MICHAELMAS

5:30 p.m. *Choral Evensong & Reception*

MICHAELMAS BRASS: If you would like to contribute to the Brass ensemble at 10:30 a.m. service, please send a cheque marked "brass" in the memo line, and include a note of your intention (memorial, thank-offering, anonymous, etc.).

INTERNALIZING THE GOSPEL

This Sunday we begin a new cycle of faith-forming ministries with children, youth, and adults. What are we trying to accomplish? Seventy per cent of Americans - and no doubt a slightly higher percentage of Episcopalians - say they believe in God. The real question however, is what god do they believe in? As the Bible testifies, there are many gods, but there is only one worthy of our trust. Do we know him?

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To receive the Parish Paper by email (on Fridays), send name and email address to information@stjohnssav.org

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The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
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423 E. Gaston Street 31401(912) 308-4441
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Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. Thomas R. Corbin, Jr.....Parish Administrator
Mr. Emmanuel Diaz Michel..... Office Support
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Mrs. Holden T. Hayes Christian Education Director
Mrs. Robert Evangelista..... Christian Education Director
Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

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Clerk of Vestry *Mr. E. Brian Culver*
Treasurer *Mr. David C. Barrow III*
Assistant Treasurer *Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford*
Chancellor *M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.*

The Vestry: Esqs., Joseph R. Ross, Jonathan D. Sprague; Drs. J. Davidson Carson, James S. McClellan, Jr., Roland S. Summers; Mrs. Christian M. Arden-Joly, Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy, Mrs. Gary M. Schubert; Messrs. David C. Barrow III, E. Brian Culver, Edwin H. Culver, L. Allan Reynolds, Jr., R. Gilbert Wells, Richard L. Wright.

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

President, Women of St. John's.....Ms. Laura Reid
President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. R. Scott Howard

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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 or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Frank Somokey

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Jacob Perkins Hawkins Pindar
 Daniel Sils Jamie McClellan
 William Sils Jackson McClellan
 William Taylor

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edna and Jack Fitzpatrick and loved ones by their family;

And In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney T. Nutting, Sr. and Mr. Sidney T. Nutting, Jr. by their families;

And In loving memory of Virginia L. Brower by her family;

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,
Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. William E. Dillard III,
Miss Katherine E. Wasden, Mrs. Wiley A. Wasden III,
Mrs. William T Moore, Jr

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Michael W. Rhinehart

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rector's Class – 1 Kings – resumes next Sunday

Jack Wray's Class – 5 Unknown Old Testament Prophets

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

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

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday-September 27- *C. S. Lewis Group*
11:00 a.m. Reading Room, CH3
Thursday-September 28- *Reading Group* with Father O'Brien

JANE'S CANNERS

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Cranmer Hall.
Needed: Hard pears picked straight from the trees and shelled or unshelled pecans.

THE WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Board Meeting: Monday, October 2nd, at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room of the Green-Meldrim House – all officers and chairmen are asked to attend.

General Meeting: Wednesday, October 4th, in the Green-Meldrim House immediately following the 10 a.m. Chapel Service – ALL women of St. John's are invited to attend – Father O'Brien will be enlightening us on Francis of Assisi.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

In the relativism and skepticism of this post-modern world we have made it hard for ourselves to think clearly about any questions of truth. We muddle along pragmatically in the cultural fog, not really sure where the path is, hoping that we will not fall into a ditch.

Vagueness induced by skepticism is killing us. It would be sheer hubris to claim that we understand all mysteries. There is much that we do not know, and will not understand, until we see God face to face, and "know even as also we are known". But honesty and humility about the limits of our knowledge does not mean that nothing can be known. "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God". It is not beyond the power of God to reveal himself to us, as much as we need to know. This is the God who has spoken to us definitively in the gospel, the good news declared in Jesus Christ. That's what we need to get ahold of, so far as in us lies. It's not enough for us to recognize it when someone else says it - we need to be able to say what it is, first and foremost, to our own selves! There is no benefit to our religion, if that passive knowledge does not become active in us. We can't just let it wash over us, and hope that something sticks. We can't be childish about this, but grownups, facing up to reality. The word proclaimed externally must be grafted inwardly in our own minds and hearts. It must be internalized. (As the Saint John's 2030 Plan acknowledges, it is the key to growth in faith, and growth as a congregation.)

First, we need to grasp what the gospel is, in its specific character.

It's not a ball of wax. It has its own integrity. Our instinct is to jam it into a pre-existing mental box - but this won't do. To give an example: all human beings approach religion with a mental box which may be labelled Pelagianism, legalism, or works-righteousness, whose shape is something like this: by leading a good life, or at least trying to, we win God's favor. Many professed Christians assume that this is the Christian teaching - although the gospel itself contradicts this assumption at every point. We do *not* in fact gain God's favor by leading good lives, or trying hard to do so; and if that is news to us, if we do not know how it is that we *do* gain his favor, then we are operating in a fog. We need to stop trying to jam the gospel into Pelagian boxes and start listening and learning. If you cannot tell yourself what the gospel is, then your first step is to learn it.

Of course, the gospel evokes objections, and we make one of two responses to these: first, that if you can raise a question, there cannot be an answer (that's the skeptical response); and second, that in order to have answers, we must ignore the questions (that's the conservative response). Both are inadequate. Taking seriously the questions the gospel raises, and then looking for answers - honestly, hopefully, and humbly - is the work of apologetics (a key component of the 2030 Plan). Skeptics claim to be honest but are rarely humble; conservatives claim to be humble but are rarely hopeful; one's afraid of answers, the other of questions. Fear not! "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God". GGD

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL.....Prayer Book, page 210
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery** (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

HYMN: HYMN #158 <i>O Splendor of God's Glory Bright</i>	Puer Nobis
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer.....	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses.....	7-8
VENITE: #609.....	9
Psalm #92.....	455
First Lesson: Deuteronomy 8.....	<i>insert</i>
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615.....	10
Second Lesson: Galatians 6:11 & Matthew 6:24.....	210-211
BENEDICTUS#634.....	14
<i>Children may exit for Children's Church, following the Cross.</i>	
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Responses.....	16
Collect of the Day.....	210
Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers.....	17-20
Welcome and Announcements.....	The Rector
HYMN: #337 <i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	Rockingham
Sermon.....	Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences	
Anthem: <i>O For A Closer Walk with God</i>	C.V. Stanford
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)	
General Thanksgiving (<i>said by all</i>) and Aaronic Blessing.....	19
HYMN: #279 <i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation</i>	Praise to the Lord
VOLUNTARY: <i>Toccata in Seven</i>	John Rutter

*Everyone is invited to attend the 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 (Chapel - as at 8:00 a.m.)