

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 25

The Fourth Sunday after Easter

May 14, 2017

ARDF COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY

*The Anglican Relief and Development Fund supports Anglican churches and people in the global south.
Please give generously.*

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday to 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*

◆ MEN'S CLUB BENEFIT DINNER ◆

To benefit Green Furniture Restoration

Thursday May 25 (Ascension Day)

6:15 p.m. (after Evening Service)

Green-Meldrim House

Tickets \$75. Cocktail attire.

Ladies and Guests Welcome!

BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION (FIRST OF TWO PARTS)

Where there is resurrection, there is also doubt – and that's been the case from the first Easter morning. The New Testament is remarkably frank about it, and paradoxically, this candor about doubt underscores the historicity of the resurrection, and its importance to Christian faith as a whole.

As they are to this day, these doubts were conditioned by existing culture and religion. Christianity first took root among Jews and then spread to Greek-speaking Gentiles throughout the Mediterranean, and so the books of the New Testament record how faith in the resurrection emerged from Jewish roots into a Greek and Gentile world.

Some Jews (such as the Pharisees, but not the old-school Sadducees) looked for resurrection of the body – but at the end of the world, and affecting all human beings (what we call the general resurrection). What Jews found absurd was the idea of a single person's resurrection at a time when the world had not yet come to an end! That outlook explains the disciples' reaction to Christ's death and resurrection that we find in the gospels (e.g. Luke 24:1-12). They were not expecting Jesus to rise from the dead. Even the discovery of the empty tomb only produced distress and perplexity, not a hypothesis of resurrection. It took a word of God brought by an angel to convince the women at the empty tomb – but when they told this news to the apostles, it was dismissed as "idle tales".

(The fact that the gospels report that women were first witnesses of the resurrection is another indicator of their historicity, since the legal status of women's testimony in the ancient world was severely discounted. If you were inventing a plausible tale in the first century, you would not make it depend upon women's witness. The only good reason for the gospel writers doing so is that that's what actually happened.)

In the end, it was only Jesus himself, visible, audible, tangible, appearing to them not once but many times over the course of forty days, that turned their doubts into settled conviction. Which is

THE PARISH PAPER
OF
St. John's Church
1 WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401
www.stjohnssav.org

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, 1 West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
1 West Macon Street, 31401(912) 429-3384
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate
423 E. Gaston Street 31401(912) 308-4441
The Rev. J. Patrick HuntAssisting Priest
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. Thomas R. Corbin, Jr.Parish Administrator
Mrs. Daniel J. MahfetFinancial Administrator
Mrs. Holden T. Hayes Christian Education Director
Mr. Sinisa DomazetBuildings Manager

Senior Warden*Mr. Richard L. Wright*
Junior Warden.....*Joseph R. Ross, Esq.*
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..... *Mrs. R. Scott Howard*
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 or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Sean F. Finnegan

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Phillip Inglesby Jack McClellan
Hawkins Pindar Turner Stevens
Haddon Watson Whit Watson

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Richard White Miller by Mrs. John M. Saylor;

And in loving memory of Dr. Mary Neal Sanders, Professor of Music at Davidson College by Roland Steven Summers, Jr.;

And in loving memory of Julie Backus Smith by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Greer and sons, Miles Greer and Owen Greer;

And on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the institution of Father Gavin Dunbar as Rector of St. John's Church.

Continued from Easter Lily dedications

With grateful hearts for the gift that is Father Gavin Dunbar by Dr. and Mrs. Sidney J. Bolch III;

For the blessing of Father Craig O'Brien's service by Dr. and Mrs. Sidney J. Bolch III.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff, Mrs. Michael W. Rhinehart, Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr.; Mrs. Michael N. Thompson, Dr. Lucinda I. Schultz

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Men of St. John's

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FOR YOUTH:

CRANMER HALL-3RD FLOOR
GRADE 6- *No class today, resumes in fall.*
JR. HIGH -GRADES 7,8,9- *25 Lights of the World*
SR. HIGH -GRADES 10,11,12- *Reasons to Believe*

FOR ADULTS:

READING ROOM: *II Samuel*- Father Dunbar
No Class today. Class resumes May 28.
CH2: Women's Small Group Faith Fellowship

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast with Fr. O'Brien
6:45 a.m., Parish House
Thursday- **NEXT MEETING May 25**
7:00 a.m., Reading Room, CH3
Thursday- Men's Small Group with lunch
Noon- Fellowship Hall, CH1

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- Book Study with Father O'Brien
Will not meet this week.
Wednesday- May 24, 11:00 a.m., Reading Room

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

to say, that resurrection is not an idea that the early church invented or produced, but rather accepted *despite* prejudices against it. And that makes sense. Faith is always a step beyond the limits of what worldly wisdom and common sense deem possible, whereby we embrace the reality of an infinite power, wisdom, and goodness at work in the world through Jesus Christ. And it is only Jesus Christ himself who can lead us to this faith. “Lord I believe: help thou mine unbelief!”

Among the Greeks and other Gentiles, resistance to the idea of bodily resurrection was even stronger than among the Jews. For those who believed in life after death, this meant the soul’s *escape* from the prison of the body – not its return. In the *Aeneid* of Virgil, when Aeneas meets the spirit of his father in Elysium, his father points out to him the souls preparing to return to earth, to embodiment, and Aeneas cries out in protest:

But, O my father, is it thinkable /
that souls would leave this blessedness,
be willing

A second time to bear the sluggish body,
Trade paradise for earth?
Alas poor wretches,
Why such a mad desire for light? (VI, 719).

His father explains that only after drinking the waters of Lethe, where memory is washed away, are they willing once more to enter into mortal bodies. Only in forgetfulness can embodiment be borne. Such was the deeply-embedded outlook of pagan culture. It’s no surprise therefore that this prejudice against bodily resurrection appeared among Greek Christians, such as Paul’s congregation in Corinth (1 Corinthians 15).

But before we get to his rebuttal (in next week’s *Parish Paper*), we may note first that both Jewish and Gentile attitudes to the resurrection demonstrate that the early Christian conviction that Jesus had risen from the dead cannot be

explained by reference to pre-existing cultural or religious beliefs. If early Christians held with such tenacity to a belief that both the Jewish and Greek worlds found absurd, they must have had strong reasons to do so - and among all the available explanations, the only one that really works is that Christ did in fact rise from the dead. Paradoxically therefore the culturally-conditioned doubt and disbelief in the resurrection is a powerful confirmation of its historicity. GGD

To be continued.

DOCENTS NEEDED

St. John’s is building a team of docents to provide church tours for 2-hour shifts on 2-3 days per week. If you have a couple of days per month available and are interested in participating, please contact Jack Wray at 596-2950 or jcwrays12@gmail.com.

ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Thursday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m.

The Savannah Golf Club

Open to ALL.

For information, contact Scott Howard
598-3811 or robert_s_howard@ml.com

JANE’S CANNERS

The Canners will begin working on May 24 at 9:30 a.m. in Cranmer Hall’s kitchen and will meet every Wednesday morning unless otherwise announced. All are welcome! Donations are needed for Squash, Peppers, Onions, Mangoes, Sugar, etc. Call Jane Pressly at 667-1584 for more information.

EYCS SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATION DEADLINE- MAY 31

College scholarships are available through 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 eycs.georgiaepiscopal.org.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE & GOSPEL Prayer Book, pages 174
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

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

Supervised Fellowship and Fun is available for children from Preschool to Grade Five.

10:30 A.M. - MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRELUDE: *I Love All Graceful Things* (*Ashley Adams Roper, Soprano*).....Eric H. Thiman
 Dedicated to All Mothers

I love all things that move with grace, the shivering of the aspen trees,
 The bending grass before the wind, the leaves that sway in summer's breeze.

The swan that glides upon the lake, the ripple of the flowing stream,
 The circle of the swallow's flight, the clouds that almost move-less seem.

The rise and fall of silvery waves, the fluttering wings of butterflies,
 The curving scythe among the corn, the setting sun, when daylight dies.

The autumn dance of withered leaves, the snowflakes steady, gently fall.

The gleaming slant of April rain, I love them all, I love them all, I love them all.

HYMN: #95 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* Gwalchmai

Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7

Versicles and Responses..... 7-8

EASTER ANTHEMS: #682 733

Psalm #126,127,128 505

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-44:5 *The promise of the Spirit* Insert

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #613, 617 10

Second Lesson: St. James 1:17-21 & St. John 16:5-15 174, 175

BENEDICTUS #638..... 14

Children may exit following the cross for SUNDAY SCHOOL (Kindergarten – Grade 5).

Apostles' Creed..... 15

Versicles and Responses..... 16

Collect of the Day..... 174

Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace 17-20

HYMN: *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*..... Pleading Saviour

Sermon..... Father O' Brien

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* David H. Williams

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing 19

HYMN: *Come Down, O Love Divine* (Insert)..... Down Ampney

VOLUNTARY: *Postlude in G*..... Luigi Bottazzo

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.)