

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No.31

The Second Sunday after Trinity

June 25, 2017

## UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

### ◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

**Monday to Friday**

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

*Morning and Evening Prayer*

**In addition, on Wednesday**

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*

**In addition, on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

**SS PETER AND PAUL THE APOSTLES**

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

*Morning and Evening Prayer with*

*Holy Communion*

## MEN'S FUNDRAISER REPORT

The Ascension Day Fundraiser at the Green Meldrim House hosted by the Men of St. John's was supported by almost 90 persons, and has resulted in a \$5000 donation to the restoration of the historic Green Family Furniture. It is designated for the restoration of the rosewood sofa now on display in the Green Meldrim House, upon which Charles and Edward Green were wont to nap.

## BUILDING THE CHURCH

(FIRST OF TWO PARTS)

In the Bible, it is God who is called *the rock of our salvation* (Ps. 95:1, KJV), and Christ who is the *chief cornerstone, elect and precious* (1 Peter 2:6): yet when his disciple Simon tells Jesus, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*, what does Jesus say in response? *Thou art Peter* – meaning, “Rock” – *and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* (Matt.

16:15-19). Jesus was not just giving Simon a new name, Peter – he was assigning him a unique role in the new community of salvation he was founding, the church.

Jesus' play on words only works if he means that “faithful Peter” is the rock on which he is building his church. Nonetheless, many over the centuries have argued that what he meant is “Peter's faith”: as we join with Peter in his confession of faith in Christ, so are we incorporated into the community of salvation. Theologically this reading is orthodox, but it requires we read into the text of Matthew 16 something that is not there. (Some propose another theologically-orthodox but exegetically-problematic reading, that Jesus pointed to himself as he said “this rock”). “Thou art the Rock and upon this rock I will build my church” points to faithful Peter, not Peter's faith, in this particular text.

In the Roman Catholic tradition of course, this reading of “faithful Peter” as the foundation of the church has long been claimed as a mandate for a permanent “Petrine office” with universal jurisdiction over all Christians, occupied by successors to Peter, the bishops of Rome, the city where Peter died a martyr and was buried. So does the reading of “faithful Peter” commit us to the Roman Catholic position? I don't

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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 Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Martin R. Sullivan, Jr

**ACOLYTES**

8:00 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Daniel Sills William Sills

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Moody Culver by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Brian Culver and Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Bryan Jones, Jr.;

And in thanksgiving for our 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. George Fawcett;  
And in honor of the Ladies of the Chancel Society.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,  
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,  
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III,  
Mrs. Martin B. Sullivan  
Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr,  
Mrs. Warren L. Traver, Mrs. David R. Eggleston,  
Miss Madison A. Alva

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs Jack C. Wray

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

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
READING ROOM: *II Samuel*- Father Dunbar

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**  
Thursday- *St. Luke* with Father Dunbar  
7:00 a.m., Reading Room, CH3

**CHILDREN'S SUMMER SCHEDULE**  
Childcare (Nursery through Kindergarten) is available during the 10:30 service. First grade and up may remain in church with their parents.

**JANE'S CANNERS**

Canning begins at 9:30 a.m. on May 31!  
All are welcome!

**TEACHERS WANTED**

**FOR YOUTH CLASSES IN THE FALL**  
We are looking for teachers/assistant teachers for Sunday 9:30 a.m. youth Sunday School next fall (both middle and Upper School). Please speak to Fr. Dunbar.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

think so. Though Jesus affirms faithful Peter rather than Peter's faith as the foundation of the church, nowhere does he suggest that Peter will have *successors* in his distinctive ministry – there is no promise here of a Petrine office beyond Peter himself. Any link between Peter and the papacy is a later development. What Jesus had in mind is surely what St. Luke reports at length in the first fifteen chapters of the Acts of the Apostles – Peter's pre-eminent leadership in the founding of the church in Jerusalem after Pentecost (about which more will be said). But by chapter 15, it is evident that Peter had relinquished oversight of the church in Jerusalem to James, the Lord's brother, who presided over the council of Jerusalem in which Peter himself spoke, and not as James' hierarchical superior! There are later allusions to Peter's prominent role in the Christian mission outside Jerusalem, but there is no evidence of a universal primacy, much less as Vicar of Christ. He plays a key role in leading the early church in Jerusalem, but there is no suggestion of a permanent Petrine office, even for Peter.

To return, however, to Peter's commission from Christ: Jesus' assignment of leadership to Peter in the founding of the church in Jerusalem is surprising, given Peter's chequered record as a disciple, and especially given his shameful denial of Jesus when the latter was on trial for his life. On the occasion, Peter's faith was anything but "rock-like". It is notable, moreover, that far from softening or hushing up Peter's denial, all four gospels are open and

explicit about the magnitude of this failure. Despite earlier signs of weakness of faith (Matt. 14:22-33), at the last supper Peter had confidently declared that he would never abandon Jesus, much less disown him. In the crisis, however, Peter denied him not once, not twice, but a definitive three times, and swore oaths invoking God's name as witness to the truth of his lies. Peter's self-confidence was shattered by this failure; yet Jesus did not disown or demote him. After his resurrection he freely restored Peter to fellowship with himself. St. John tells how Jesus dispelled the shadow of Peter's three-fold denial, by eliciting from Peter a three-fold confession of love for him, and renewing his apostleship with a three-fold charge to *feed my sheep* (21:15-19). By this experience of spiritual failure and freely-bestowed restoration, Peter learned that it was not in himself to follow Christ, it was the gift of Christ. Peter is the rock on which Jesus will build his church, not because of any natural rock-like strength of his own, but because he learned to trust in the rock-like steadfast love of Jesus. Moreover, as one who had failed Jesus so nakedly, and yet been freely restored by him, Peter is uniquely qualified as leader of the church to confront the world with its responsibility for the cross, and yet offer it the reconciliation that Jesus won for us on it, within the fellowship of the church. It is this aspect of his leadership in the early church which we will examine in next week's Parish Paper. It has important lessons for us at St. John's Church. GGD

**8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel .....Prayer Book, page 191  
*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, BAPTISM, & SERMON**

HYMN #367 *When Morning Gilds the Skies* ..... Laudes Domini  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer .....Prayer Book, pages 3-7  
 Versicles and Responses .....7-8  
 VENITE: #608 ..... 9  
 Psalm #12, 13 ..... 355  
 First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-12.....*Insert*  
 BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE #626 ..... 11  
 Second Lesson: 1 John 3:13 & St. Luke 14:16 ..... 191, 192

**THE MINISTRATION OF HOLY BAPTISM to Pearce Reeve Peluso**  
 Prayer Book, p. 273

BENEDICTUS #638 ..... 14  
 Apostles' Creed ..... 15  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 16  
 Collect of the Day .....191  
 Other Collects, Remembrance of Faithful Departed .....17-20  
 HYMN [Insert] *Come and Dine*.. ..... Charles B. Widmeyer  
 Sermon..... Father Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences  
 Anthem: *O Love of God, How Strong and True* ....Music: C. Hampton; Words: H. Bonar  
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and National Hymn #141 (verse 4)  
 General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing..... 19  
 HYMN #479 *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*..... Hyfrydol  
 VOLUNTARY: *Rondeau (from Abdelazar)*.....Henry Purcell

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*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.*

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**12:00 P.M. (NOON)-HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel)** as at 8:00 a.m.