

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 33

The Third Sunday after Trinity (Sunday before Independence Day)

July 2, 2017

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

**Monday July 3rd VISITATION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

(Transferred from July 2nd)

Morning and Evening Prayer

With Holy Communion

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

Tuesday July 4th INDEPENDENCE DAY

10:30 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

*Church office is closed in observance of
holiday. No Morning or Evening Prayer.*

Wednesday - 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 THE CHANCEL AT 10:30 A.M.:

Organist – Angela Fisher

Choir Conductor – Daniel Garrick

BUILDING THE CHURCH

(SECOND OF TWO PARTS)

Jesus told Simon, “thou art Peter” – the Rock – “and upon this rock I will build my church”, but Peter’s trust in his own strength was shattered when he denied Jesus three times. Yet Jesus does not reject him, or demote him. Peter’s apostasy does not change the purpose of God; but now he is called and sent as a forgiven man, as one who has learned to trust not in himself but in the rock of Jesus’ steadfast love and changeless purpose. *That* is what makes Peter the rock upon which Jesus builds his church,

and that is what shapes Peter’s entire approach to his vocation, as is apparent right from the day of Pentecost. When the Spirit descended upon the disciples in wind and fire, and they spoke the praises of God with inspired utterance, it is Peter who stands up to address the crowd attracted by the commotion, and to tell them the meaning of the things they see and hear – nothing else than the vindication of the one they had victimized just over fifty days before: *let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36)*. Peter does not mince words. His listeners are not innocent. Yet when they are *pricked in their hearts*, and ask *what shall we do?* he tells them: *Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call (2:38, 39)*. Nor was his appeal in vain: *the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (2:41)*.

The Jews in Jerusalem were complicit in the death of Jesus, a fact about which his disciples might well have been bitter, unwilling to forget or forgive. They might not even have *wanted* ‘those people’ to join them. Or the disciples might have been fearful in

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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.

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President, Chancel Society *Mrs. Roland S. Summers*
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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 Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. John E. Riley

ACOLYTES

10:30 a.m. Daniel Sills
William Sills
Finn Repella

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Paul Godfrey Hass by Dr. Thomas Philbrick.

And in thanksgiving for Fr Dunbar's ministry at St. John's Church that began twenty years ago on July 4th, 1997, by the Derst Family

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,
Ms. Anne H Mingleedorff
Mrs. Michael W. Rhinehart,
Mrs. William E. Dillard III,
Mrs. Jeanne W. McMillan,
Ms. Linda H. Pounds

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Nicholas K. Farley

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

READING ROOM: *II Samuel*- Father Dunbar

MEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday at 7:00 a.m. *St. Luke* with Father Dunbar, Reading Room, CH3
Thursday at Noon: Men's Small Group with lunch, Fellowship Hall, CH1

JANE'S CANNERS

Canning Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. has begun in Cranmer Hall Fellowship Room and Kitchen. All welcome. Donations too!

CHILDREN'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

Childcare (Nursery through Kindergarten) is available for the 10:30 a.m. service. First grade and up remain in church with parents

WANTED: SANTA CLAUS

St. John's is hosting a Girl Scouts 'Christmas in July' Toy Collection at the Green Meldrim House 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday, July 14 and 10-2 on Saturday, July 15. If you can be a Santa for some of this time, please call the Church office.

GREEN FURNITURE BOOK FOR SALE

The *Green Collection Inaugural Exhibition Gallery Guide* will be on sale at Coffee Hour Limited 1st Editions \$20 Each

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

confronting the Jews in Jerusalem with their responsibility for Jesus' death. Yet Peter was neither. He is bold in confronting them with their responsibility, and he is generous in offering them grace – forgiveness, reconciliation, fellowship with the disciples. He did so, because he knew himself to be called and sent by Jesus as a forgiven man. We are all too familiar with the vindictive victim – but the Jesus preached by Peter is the vindicator of those who victimized him – a source of forgiveness and reconciliation to the very people who forsook, denied, and rejected him. The division of victim and victimizer is transcended in a new humanity.

After healing a lame man in the temple in the name of Jesus Christ, Peter again confronts the Jewish crowd with their responsibility and offers them grace: *ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead.... Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord (3:11-26)*. When he is hauled before the Sanhedrin – the very body that had condemned Jesus - he gives them the same message: *be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (4:1-12)*.

...If Peter can call the guilty Jewish leaders to repentance and faith in Christ, then there can be no group that is outside the scope of the gospel. It is Peter who takes the initiative in welcoming the Samaritans into the church (8:14-25) – a group that pious Jews regarded as hateful half-breed heretics; and it is Peter who, in obedience to a vision on the rooftop, proclaims the gospel to the Gentile Cornelius and his household (10.1-48) – people whom pious Jews regarded as defiled and defiling. When the elders in Jerusalem hear Peter's report, they acknowledge what has happened: *Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life. (11:18)*.

In all four cases – Jews in Jerusalem, the Sanhedrin, the Samaritans, and the Gentiles – Peter and the other disciples could well have said – sharing the gospel with them is too risky, too dangerous. These are enemies, outsiders, 'not our kind of people', they have demonstrated their lack of appreciation for what is ours, they have disqualified themselves by their actions. Do we even really *want* people like that in the church? Yet that's not the approach of Peter or the church he led – because knowing themselves to be called and sent as forgiven men, they knew also that there is no one who is beyond the scope of the gospel.

This is instructive for us, as we think about sharing what we have with those on the edges or outside the present congregation. It may seem too risky, too dangerous, shouldn't we try to protect what we have, do they deserve this, maybe it won't work, do we really *want* outsiders at St. John's? But we too, like Peter, are called and sent as forgiven men. GGD

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL.....Prayer Book, page 192
 (Collect for Independence Day page 263)

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: #518 *Judge Eternal*.....St. Leonard
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses..... 7-8
 VENITE: #609.....9
 Psalm #18.1-20.....359
 First Lesson: Deuteronomy 8 *Insert*
 TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #626 10
 Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-8, St. John 8:31-36..... *Insert*
 BENEDICTUS#634..... 14
 Apostles' Creed..... 15
 Responses 16
 Collects of the Day 263, 192
 Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers 17-20
 Welcome and Announcements The Rector
 HYMN #521 *O God of Earth and Altar*. King’s Lynn
 Sermon Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences
 Anthem: *Lord, While For All Mankind We Pray*..... Eric H. Thiman
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
 HYMN #142 THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (*both stanzas*)
 For Our Country 36
 General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing 19
 HYMN #143 *God of our Fathers*..... National Hymn
 VOLUNTARY: *Finale from “A Patriotic Suite”* Charles Callahan

*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.)