

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Second Sunday in Epiphany

January 16, 2011

WISDOM, POWER, AND WORSHIP

The story of the wise men and their star-inspired journey to seek the new-born King of the Jews has a deep appeal. If the narrative is compelling, so also is its teaching about faith, hope, and charity, the three virtues which relate directly to God, and which fit us for participation in his life.

Faith: The journey of the wise men in quest of the new-born King of the Jews, is inspired by a star: for the wise men of ancient Mesopotamia studied the stars, and both modern astronomy and astrology originate from them. The star, however, does not guide the wise men to the Child. Their common sense, or natural reason, brings them to Jerusalem – the obvious place to find a new-born Jewish king. But the only king of the Jews they find is the aging tyrant, Herod. Yet Herod (for malign reasons of his own) summons the priests and scribes, the guardians of the Old Testament scriptures, who refer the wise men to the prophecy of Micah 5:2, that the Messiah should be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. It is only when they set out in obedience to the teaching of the Scriptures, that the star now guides them to the Child – a sign confirming the testimony of the Scriptures.

If you want to find Christ, your own wisdom is not enough. Your own common sense and natural reason will not lead you to him: only a faithful knowledge of and obedience to the

Scriptures will lead you there; and to acquire that wisdom, there is no substitute for actually reading the Bible and learning from the Church and its teachers how to understand it. That means bringing a sense of expectation to sermons, and to other means of learning about the Faith; hearing and receiving them with an inquiring mind and heart; seeking to hear and receive the Word of God that speaks through the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church.

Hope: Herod plots to kill Messiah, and the chief priests and scribes who are the guardians of the Scriptures (whether through complicity or intimidation is not specified) do not seem to heed them. Herod's response is outrageous and the priests' depressing; but St. Matthew does not waste time in outrage or despair. He does not gloss over their failures, but what he shows us is the triumph of God's redeeming purpose despite the failures of the institutions of church and state. Herod's cunning is no match for the wisdom of God; though Herod seeks to use the wise men to find the Messiah and kill him, God is using Herod to bring the wise men to Messiah to worship him. Though the scribes and priests do not heed the Scriptures they profess to revere, God calls Gentiles (pagans) out of the east who do.

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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.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE

Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site: www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. J. Pride Sheahan

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert A. Vinyard

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bo Schirm by her family.

A permanent memorial in memory of Mrs. Louise Strong Falligant by the Chancel Society.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell
Mrs. Nicholas Farley, Mrs. George Grady
Mrs. Philip F. Kirk, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf
Mrs. F. Debele Maner, Mrs. Michael F.P. Maloney
Mrs. R. E. Thorpe, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 Austin Nichols
10:30 William Sadler
John DeBacker, Clayton Compton
Cord Helmken, Kameron Sallee
John Osborne, Chris Dixon

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Walter C. Murray , Jr.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES

- Frs. Dunbar & O' Brien – **Old Testament** (Chapel)
- Jack Wray (3rd Floor Classroom)—*David, Hezekiah, Josiah: Israel's Three Good Kings.*
- David Noble – *The prologue of the Somonours Tale; Tho bigynneth the Somonour his Tale.*
- Mike Chastain—**Married Life Forum**—2nd floor (Sr. High Room), Cranmer Hall.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Study— (Parish House Dining Room, enter by Kitchen)
Thursday 7 a.m. Bible Study (Reading Rm)

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.
Wednesday—10:45 a.m.-Noon
Thursday—9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. *War in Heaven* (with Fr O' Brien)

PRIESTLY HOURS

Fr. O'Brien is out of the office **Mondays**, **Fr. Dunbar** **Fridays**, and (except for urgent matters) they are not normally available on those days. Penny will be happy to relay any messages regarding routine or non-urgent matters.

OFFICE CLOSED Monday, January 17th.

No Services Monday. Daily services resume Tuesday.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

Complacency and worldly optimism are ruled out, but so is despair and bitterness of spirit. Railing against the tawdry compromises of the world rarely does much to change them – ‘better to light a candle than curse the darkness’. Yes, there are disappointments, but disappointments have this salutary effect: that subjecting ourselves to the will of God, we might learn to put our trust and hope in his power to bring his purposes to fruition. Prayer is the exercise of this hope.

Charity: The journey of the wise men ends in worship: “they ... fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh”. Only what is offered to Christ is transformed by him, and fulfilled with his grace and benediction. In the offering of our own and ourselves in love we make ourselves over to God, that he may have his way with us.

We may offer ourselves to God in every act of worship (and whenever we make the sign of the cross); but there are two moments of the liturgy which express this very explicitly. One is the General Thanksgiving (page 19 or 33) at Morning or Evening Prayer: “giving up ourselves to thy service, and walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days”. The other is in the Holy Communion. As we receive the tokens of Christ’s body and blood offered for us upon the cross, so we are taught in the Prayer of Consecration to offer ourselves, “our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living

sacrifice” unto God. That’s an offering of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

MONDAY – *Church office closed for Public Holiday – No Services*

TUESDAY – FRIDAY IN THE CHAPEL

8:15AM - *Morning Prayer*

5:30PM - *Evening Prayer*

Except **WEDNESDAY 19TH**

8:15AM - *Morning Prayer*

10AM – *Holy Communion*

& **Seniors Luncheon** to follow
Immediately after service.

5:30 PM *Evensong (Girls Choir)*

6pm *Supper* & 6:30pm *Class*

“Why we do the things we do”

Fr Dunbar & O’ Brien on the meaning of the ceremonial of the Eucharist.

MARRIED LIFE FORUM – ON MONDAYS

Mondays starting **January 24th** through to February 28th, from 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. in the Ralston Room in Cranmer Hall. Nursery care is available for toddlers and infants *as requested*. Space is limited – please call office to reserve a place.

ECW SENIORS LUNCHEON

All Ladies 70 and older are invited to join the ECW on Wednesday, January 19th, immediately following 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion service, for a luncheon in their honor. Please call the Church Office to make your reservation and if you need transportation.

8:00—HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel 111, 113
A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 — 12 Noon NURSERY (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30 —ADULT, YOUTH and CHILDREN’S CLASSES (*Chapel & Cranmer Hall*)

10:30—Pre-School Program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (*Cranmer Hall*)

Jr. Choir—1st through 4th grade children (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:30—MORNING PRAYER and SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #46 *Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning* Morning Star
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution, and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book 3-7
 Versicles, Responses and Gloria Patri 7-8
 VENITE (Hymnal #610) 9
 Psalm #66 417
 First Lesson: Romans 12:6 111
 JUBILATE DEO (Hymnal #645)..... 15
 Second Lesson: John 2:1 *Note this is found on the next page over*..... 113
 BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638)..... 14
 Apostles' Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collect for the Day..... 111
 Other Collects, The Grace 17-20
 HYMN: #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*..... Frankfort
Children 1st through 4th Grade enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross
 THE SERMON Fr. O’Brien

OFFERING

Sentences
 Anthem: *Let all the World* Geoffrey Shaw
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
 Prayer and Blessing
 HYMN #261 *O Sion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling* Tidings
 ORGAN: *O Morning Star* Johann Walther

*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 service.
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel - Collect, Epistle, Gospel BCP p111, 113.)