

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 9

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 23, 2011

## ELLIOTT HOUSE VISITORS THIS WEEK

*This year we welcome a record number of participants to the Tenth Annual Elliott House Clergy Seminar, to be conducted by the Rev'd Dr. David Ousley. His topic is the "seven deadly sins" as reflected in the works of two ancient theologians, Evagrius Ponticus and John Cassian. He will speak about this topic at the Adult Class in the Chapel (9:30)*

### **IN MEMORIAM ROBERT CROUSE**

Parishioners of St. John's will remember Fr. Robert Crouse as a visiting preacher and conductor of the Elliott House clergy seminar. Just last year, he agreed to become its Founding Patron. His was a profound learning lightly worn, theological insight presented with deceptive simplicity and clarity, in a spirit both humble and independent. When I learned of his death last weekend, at his home in Crousetown, Nova Scotia, full of years, I felt orphaned, I and many others. It goes almost without saying that we shall never know his like again: it is a cause for thanksgiving that we knew him at all. Serendipitously, next week is the Elliott House clergy seminar, attended by many who learned from him, and we shall celebrate a Solemn Requiem Eucharist in his memory Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. A sermon of his is printed below. GGD

### **THE TRUE MIRACLE**

"This beginning of signs did Jesus in Cana of Galilee" (John 2:11). The first of the miracles of Jesus involved a wedding feast. Do you suppose that that was accidental? I think not. It was, of course, a perfectly homely and ordinary occasion – just a domestic celebration in the little village of Cana – and a somewhat embarrassing one, too, when the supply of wine ran out. Jesus saved the day, apparently, by turning plain water into wine. But was that all there was to it? Certainly, any embarrassed host would be grateful for such a resourceful guest; but I don't think that's

entirely the point of the story.

In both the Old and the New Testaments, the scriptures frequently employ the symbolism of marriage. In the Prophets as well as the Gospels, it symbolizes the union between God and his people, between God and the human soul. And when Jesus comes to affect that union, the first of his signs is to manifest himself as Lord of the marriage feast, providing the good wine of spiritual joy.

When Mary his mother addresses him, she speaks for humanity, she speaks for thirsting souls. "They have no wine", she says. But the good wine of God's kingdom is not simply ours to claim; it is not ours by right, and therefore he answers her: "Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come". In God's own time, when he wills and as he wills, his grace is given. Ours is the tasteless water of spiritual emptiness: "they have no wine". His is the free gift, and it is a gift which exceeds all hopes and expectations. Not as the world gives: "Every man doth at the beginning set forth good wine, and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse, but thou hast kept the good wine until now".

The marriage feast is the beginning of signs – the *arché*, or principle, of signs – and it is a beginning which includes all the rest, because what it signifies is the spiritual union of man with God, or, as Saint Paul says, the mystery of Christ and his Church. The true miracle, you see, is God's coming to share our

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar .....Rector  
1 West Macon Street.....(912) 234-2209  
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate  
201 E. 49<sup>th</sup> Street Upper flat.....(912) 308-4441  
Mr. Michael Chastain, MRE,M.Div ..... Family Life and  
College Outreach Ministries .....(912) 450-0000  
Brian J. Taylor, DSM..... Organist/Choirmaster  
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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.

**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](http://www.stjohnssav.org)

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. P. Drew Troxler

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Robert A. Vinyard

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. William J. Deal and Mr. and Mrs. David Boston Morgan by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Derst III and family;

And in loving memory of Leonard Trosten on his birthday by Mrs. Ali Trosten and Jay Overstreet;

And in loving memory of Dr. Robert A. Burnett by Mary, Wendy and Decie.

The flowers at the Baptism font are given to the glory of God on the occasion of the baptism of Miss Charlotte Calhoun Ezelle, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Ezelle, by Mr. and Mrs. Wynton J. Ezelle.

**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. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. F. Debele Maner  
Mrs. Michael F.P. Maloney, Mrs. Sam P. Inglesby

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** John DeBacker  
**10:30** Andrew Smith  
Cord Helmken, Lawson Turner  
Peter Stein, Lindsay Pindar  
Charles Perrie, Mikel Kelly

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. McDonald A. Fawcett

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES**

- Frs. Dunbar & O' Brien – **Old Testament** (Chapel)
- Jack Wray (3<sup>rd</sup> 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**—2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

**BUSINESS WOMEN'S RUMMAGE SALE**

**Saturday, February 5, 2011**

**10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Bring gifts of clothing, linens, and small white elephant items to the Church School building beginning Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information contact Nita Ann Klein 927-4270. *(All items need to be clean and in good condition.)*

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

humanity, that we might become partakers of his divine life. The miracle of Cana is a sign of that.

Marriage is, of course, a natural institution ordained of God, as old as human society, and not specifically Christian in its origins. Most of the ceremonies we associate with it derive in fact from the domestic religion of ancient Greece and Rome, and from the customs of the old Germanic tribes of Europe. And even among Christians, it was only very late, well on in the Middle Ages, that marriage came to Church, and came to be understood as a sacrament, and was provided with a liturgy. But come to the Church it must, for it is indeed a sacrament – a natural sign, that is to say, of God’s supernatural Kingdom, signifying the bond of love which unites man with God in Jesus Christ. And, like other sacraments, it is, for those who use it rightly, a means of the grace ‘it signifies’.

Marriage signifies the bond of love; the self-giving love of Christ for the Church. It is a matter of love: God’s love for us, and our consequent love for one another. It is not fundamentally a matter of feelings, though of course they enter into it. Fundamentally, it is a matter of actively willing the eternal good of one another. That’s what love means. It’s not a question of effervescent feelings: it’s a question of steadfast will, and therefore it takes the form of a vow. It is a matter of learning and knowing what the good is, and disciplining our inclinations and intentions according to that knowledge.

Thus Jeremy Taylor remarks: “Marriage is a school and exercise of virtue; and though it hath cares, they are but instances of duty and exercises of piety. Here is the proper scene of piety and patience, of the duty of parents and the charity of relatives; here kindness is spread abroad, and love is united and made firm as a centre: marriage is the nursery of heaven. It fills up the numbers of the elect, and hath in it the labour of love, and the delicacies of friendship, the blessing of society, and the union of hands and hearts.”

Rightly do we celebrate marriage the altar, in the context of the Mass: for the Blessed Sacrament is the sign of God’s self-giving

love towards us, in the body broken and the blood shed. As he has loved us, so are we to love one another. No doubt that is a difficult vocation for all of us, whatever our state of life, and no doubt we continually fail. That is, as we say, “only natural”. Ah, but it is the work of grace to perfect nature, to bring nature and nature’s institutions, to a higher spiritual fulfillment.

We bring only the plain water of our humanity. We bring good intentions, but the fulfillment is beyond us: we have no wine. But the Lord of the marriage feast is here, and he it is who changes water into wine. RDC

**MARRIED LIFE FORUM –  
ON MONDAYS**

**January 24<sup>th</sup>** through February 28<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 -8:45 p.m., in the Ralston Room in Cranmer Hall. Nursery care available. Space limited – please call to register.

**PARISH KALENDAR**

***Monday to Friday***

*8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.*

Morning (or Evening) Prayer

***Except Tuesday: Feast of the  
Conversion of Saint Paul***

*8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.*

Holy Eucharist with Morning (or  
Evening) Prayer

***And Wednesday:***

*8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer*

*9:45 a.m. Litany*

*10 a.m. Sung Eucharist*

*5:30pm Solemn Requiem Eucharist*

*For Robert Darwin Crouse, Priest.*

*NO Supper or Class.*

**CHORAL VESPERS**

The Boys and Girls Choir will be singing Choral Vespers at First Presbyterian Church of Savannah, 520 Washington Ave., Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this service.

**8:00—HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel ..... 112, 114  
*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—1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**10:30—MORNING PRAYER and SERMON**

## CARILLON

HYMN #50 *Saw You Never in the Twilight* .....Chartres

Sentences, Confession, Absolution, and Lord’s Prayer ..... Prayer Book 3-7

Versicles, Responses and Gloria Patri .....7-8

VENITE (Hymnal #609) ..... 9

Psalm #97 & 98 ..... 460

First Lesson: Romans 12:16 ..... 112

JUBILATE DEO (Hymnal #645)..... 15

Second Lesson: St. Matthew 8:1 *Note this is found on the next page over*..... 114

BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638)..... 14

Apostles' Creed ..... 15

Versicles and Responses ..... 16

Collect for the Day..... 112

Other Collects, The Grace ..... 17-20

HYMN: 517 *Thine arm, O Lord, in Days of Old* .....St. Matthew

*Children 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross*

THE SERMON .....Fr. Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion, fr. Messiah*.....George Fredric Handel

Dan Flaherty, countertenor

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

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #257 *Hasten the Time Appointed* .....Lancashire #54

ORGAN: *Toccata in F* ..... Dietrich Buxtehude

*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; same as 8 a.m.)**