

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 10

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 2011

PARISH KALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY – FRIDAY: 8:15AM - *Morning Prayer* & 5:30PM - *Evening Prayer*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND – **THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**
(**CANDLEMAS**) 9:45 A.M.—*Litany* 10:00AM *Sung Eucharist*

WEDNESDAY 5:30PM— *Evensong, (NO Supper or Class)*

SATURDAY, February 5th—*Rummage Sale 10am -1pm*

HOSPITALITY & HOLINESS

Reprinted from 2008.

One of the simple and splendid things we do rather well at St. John's is the Coffee Hour that follows the 10:30 service. Unknown to prior ages of the Church, Coffee Hour provides, in the fragmented communities of the modern world, a useful opportunity for ties of friendship and acquaintance within the congregation to be renewed – and made. And there can be few churches that do Coffee Hour with such style. No styro-foam coffee cups here! It helps, of course, that we have the Parish House's architectural splendour in which to gather, whose drawing rooms were designed for just such events, and it more than helps that the 'excellent women' of the parish take their turns to provide a picnic as lavish as the architecture. Theirs is a gift of generous hospitality vital to the fellowship of this parish.

Hospitality: I always feel a little sorry for the visiting tourists who come to St. John's on Sunday morning in vacation garb. You can see them coming to the painful realization that their polo shirts and casual shoes (normal in many

churches nowadays) are a little out of place in St. John's well-dressed Sunday best congregation. I would not have our congregation dress otherwise – God *is*, after all, more important than our own comfort; he *deserves* the fuss – yet I would have all our visitors feel welcomed nonetheless, with grace and tact.

Hospitality is a Biblical imperative. "Receive ye one another, as Christ also received us" (Romans 15:7). "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2). The point is not to pick and choose whom you will welcome, but to welcome all those whom God has chosen to send you. In *coffee hour*, and in the church, I think we rise to the challenge of hospitality *some* of the time. Perhaps our most common failure is understandable – we are so glad to see our own friends, so intent on our own concerns, that we leave the strangers standing by themselves. But in such circumstances something more is required than a perfunctory "glad to meet you". The Church is

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OF
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Mrs. Peter J. Smyth..... Financial Secretary
Mrs. William D. Harrell..... Parish Activities Director
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Mr. Rich Mays..... Associate Organist
Mr. Sinisa Domazet..... Buildings Manager

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Junior Warden..... Mr. David C. Barrow III
Clerk of Vestry..... Mr. J. Wesley Krulic
Treasurer..... Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford
Chancellor..... M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.

The Vestry: The Vestry: Esqs., John M. Hewson III, R. Kran Riddle, Joseph R. Ross, Roland B. Williams, Dr. J. Davidson Carson, Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. R. Bartley Turner, Mrs. Neil H. Victor, Messrs. David C. Barrow III, Charles B. Compton, Jr., W. Barron Crawford, Edwin H. Culver, Lawrence L. Heam III, Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr., J. Wesley Krulic, J. Pride Sheahan, Paul D. Troxler, R. Gilbert Wells, Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.
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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 Joseph R. Ross, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert A. Vinyard

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Julia Floyd Smith, Sanford G. Simmons and John Pindar Bradshaw Schaller and loved ones by Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons.
The flowers at the baptismal font are given to the Glory of God on the occasion of the baptism of Master John Hayes Culver, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Brian Culver, by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Culver.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell
Mrs. Nicholas Farley, Mrs. George Grady
Mrs. Philip F. Kirk, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. F. Debele Maner
Mrs. Michael F.P. Maloney, Mrs. Max M. Cooper

ACOLYTES

8:00 Kelley Compton
10:30 Oliver Maloney
Clayton Compton, Cord Helmken
John Osborne, Chris Dixon
Peter Stein, Mikel Kelly

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David A. Young

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; The bigynmeth 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)

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 1st. For more information contact Nita Ann Klein 927-4270.
(All items need to be clean and in good condition.)

ECW MEETING

ECW Board will meet Monday, January 31st at 10 a.m. in the Parish House.
The ECW Meeting will be Wednesday, February 2nd, immediately following 10 a.m. Holy Communion.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

not a club, but catholic body, in principle open to all who believe. One of our parishioners, who had recently died, Maria Willcox, was a wonderful friend to the friendless in such situations. She not only greeted visitors, she also chatted with them and introduced them to other people in the parish, including the clergy. She understood that she could talk to the clergy and her friends at some other time: but *now* was the critical moment for those visitors to know and feel that they were welcome. Her example is one for us all to follow.

Our other failure, I think, is when we find strangers in the next pew, or (horrors) our own, but fail to help them take their part in the service. It is easy enough to do: keep a tactful eye out for signs of their being lost, then lean over and with a smile point to the page number (or even hand them your own book). After the service that becomes an occasion for a few warm words of welcome, and an invitation to Coffee Hour. And please, don't say anything about what they are wearing!

The trick in such matters is to find the balance between (on the one hand) a generous *hospitality*, which can find room for some very odd birds, and (on the other hand) standards of decorum and dignity and beauty and righteousness and truth – *holiness*.

In the contemporary church, the imperative of hospitality (inclusion) is often set against the imperative of holiness (with its exclusions), with the former usually trumping the latter. (We find this, for instance, in the move to “open communion”, in which neither faith nor baptism is required of communicants. It is also found where the ethos of ‘compassion’ dissolves all other moral commandments.) Yet the tension is a

necessary one. For what is hospitality, if there is no holiness to share with the stranger? And what is holiness, if it does not make a home for the homeless? This tension is reconciled, not abolished, in Christ, who is both purity without spot of sin, and friend of sinners. The reconciliation of holiness and hospitality is beautifully caught in the words of a 17th century hymn we sing in Holy Week, *My Song is Love Unknown*: “Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be”. Without the beauty of holiness – both outward and inward – our hospitality has no point. Without the warmth of hospitality, the beauty of holiness has no heart.

The Word of God is proclaimed to all, without restriction on age, sex, race, or prosperity, and so the solemn assembly is open to all. But the Sacraments are reserved to those who believe, those in whom the preaching of the Word has awakened faith. And in the Sacraments, there is a certain order: baptism first, then confirmation, then Holy Communion. Moreover the clergy have the right (though rarely exercised) to exclude “open and notorious evil livers” from Communion, lest the holy things be defiled. Hospitality leads into Holiness, and does not abolish it.

The courtesies of Coffee Hour, the politeness of the pew: such little things, yet they are of a piece with the great things of our religion also, the ministry of the Word and Sacraments. By God's grace, we dress our bodies and souls in Christ; we worship him in the beauty of holiness; and serve him in the warmth of hospitality; in little things, and in great.

GGD

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel 114 & insert
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, BAPTISM and SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #153 *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies* Ratisbon

Sentences, Confession, Absolution..... Prayer Book 3-7

Versicles, Responses and Gloria Patri 7-8

VENITE (Hymnal #609) 9

Psalm #72 426

First Lesson: Romans 13:1-10 *see insert*

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

Second Lesson: St. Matthew 8:23-34 *see insert*

HYMN: #450 *As Pants the Hart* Martyrdom

THE MINISTRATION OF HOLY BAPTISM—BCP P. 273

JOHN HAYES CULVER

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

Apostles' Creed 15

Versicles and Responses 16

Collect for the Day..... 112

Other Collects, The Grace 17-20

HYMN: #542 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*..... Duke Street

Children 1st through 4th Grade enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross

THE SERMON Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Let the Peoples Praise Thee, O God* William Mathias

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

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #545 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*..... Woodbird

ORGAN: *Offertorium, fr. Mass for the Parishes* Louis Couperin

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.)