

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 12

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 13, 2011

PARISH KALENDAR

Monday to Friday

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

Morning (or Evening) Prayer

Except Wednesday:

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:45 a.m. Litany

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist

5:30pm Evensong, Supper, and Class:

Understanding our Worship (the Holy Communion –second of four).

INTELLECTUAL VIRTUE

Last month's Elliott House Clergy Seminar was spent in the ancient monastic communities of the Egyptian desert, with the ascetic "soldiers of Christ", who withdrew into the desert to do battle with the devil. Under the clear, learned, patient tutelage of our conductor, Fr David Ousley, we studied two works seminal for Christian spirituality – the *Praktikos* of Evagrius Ponticus, and the *Institutes* of John Cassian – in which the experience of the desert fathers is brought together with Scripture and the high philosophical theology of the ancient church. These books are, one might say, manuals of "desert warfare" against what these writers call the "evil thoughts" (temptations), which, if not repelled, undermine the life of the Christian.

In the account of Evagrius and Cassian, these "thoughts" are eight in number: gluttony, fornication (lust), avarice (love of money), sadness

(dejection, self-pity), anger, accidie (listlessness or restlessness), vainglory (desire for recognition), and pride. Somewhat revised by Gregory the Great, they became the "seven deadly sins" of the western tradition: pride, envy, anger, avarice, lust, gluttony, sloth (or accidie). Nonetheless, it is the language not of Gregory but of Evagrius and Cassian that appears explicitly at least twice in the Prayer Book: we pray for deliverance from "thoughts which assault and hurt the mind" in the Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent; and in the Collect for Purity we ask God to "cleanse the thoughts of our hearts". I suspect you will be hearing more about the "thoughts" of the heart this coming Lent, when the Church goes into the desert to do battle with the demons.

Among the general remedies for evil thoughts which Evagrius prescribes (*Praktikos* 15) is "reading,

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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 Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. William S. Willingham

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in honour of Mrs. Frederick Debele Maner on her birthday by her family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Thomas Johnson, Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings
Mrs. Edwin H. Culver, Mrs. J. Wynton Ezelle
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Anne H. Mingledorff
Mrs. F. Debele Maner, Mrs. Michael Maloney
Mrs. Gary Schubert

ACOLYTES

8:00 Austin Nichols
10:30 Oliver Maloney
John DeBacker Clayton Compton
John Osborne, Chris Dixon
Lawson Turner, Mikel Kelly

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. William W. Chisholm, 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 bigynmeth the Somonour his Tale.*
- Mike Chastain—**Married Life Forum**—2nd floor (Sr. High Room), Cranmer Hall.
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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 Bible Study
Thursday—9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. *War in Heaven* (with Fr O' Brien)

RECORDINGS OF PAST SERVICES

Recording will be made available in the Parish House during coffee hour.

**MARRIED LIFE FORUM –
ON MONDAYS**

through February 28th, from 7:30 -8:45 p.m., in the Ralston Room in Cranmer Hall. Nursery care available. Please call to register.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

vigils, and prayer – these are the things that lend stability to the wandering mind”. He is speaking of the daily and Sunday office of the monks, which (like ours) comprises Morning and Evening Prayer, but also an all-night vigil leading to the Sunday morning eucharist. The long readings from Scripture characteristic of the Prayer Book office have their origin in the practice of the Egyptian monks of the 4th and 5th centuries.

Evagrius teaches us that not only does the doctrinal *content* of Scripture benefit us, but that the very *activity* of reading Scripture (or listening to the reading of Scripture, as at the daily office of Morning and Evening Prayer) is a spiritual exercise, closely related to prayer. The wandering mind errs and strays into temptation; but the mind trained by this discipline to attend to the Word of God is stabilized. It is this stability of mind and heart which the activity of reading cultivates. Thus the reading of the Word of God is an exercise not only for the intellect, but also for the will. It requires the acquisition and exercise of virtue.

Naturally we think of the reading of Scripture in terms of the virtue of *faith*, for it is the activity of faith to hear and receive the Word of God. But in the reading and hearing of the Word of God - or sermons, or any other text that seeks to bear witness to the truth - faith is supported by other virtues. It is accompanied by *humility*: the willingness to submit my mind to the mind of the text, to set aside my own opinions and pre-occupations in order to attend to those of the writer. It is supported by *patience*: the willingness to persevere through boredom and perplexity, in hope and expectancy of

illumination. It is assisted by *charity*: the willingness to “think no evil” of the writer (rash judgment) but to put the best construction possible on what he says.

That is not perhaps how we naturally approach Scripture and sermons. Blame it on modern media, but we are ready to be entertained; we are ready for instant comprehension; we are ready to hear our own opinions and pre-occupations echoed back to us; we are ready for the service to conform to our schedules; we are ready to make judgment and criticism - and we are quick to abandon any word or discourse which does not meet our criteria. These are precisely the attitudes and expectations that will prevent us from actually hearing the Word that brings life to our dying souls. So recognize these attitudes for what they are, and know these thoughts to be your enemies. And when the sermon or the lessons seem longer than you would like, then seize the opportunity to mortify your will, to practice humility, patience, perseverance, and charity. Think kind thoughts of the preacher who so tries your patience, and your reward will be a kind and patient spirit. Not a bad use of twenty minutes. GGD

BEGINNING IN MARCH

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Betsy and Scott Howard will host a six-week overview of Ephesians led by Mike Chastain. The study begins Tuesday, March 8th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Howard's home (216 Grimal Point Road on Isle of Hope). A sitter will be provided as needed. Please contact Betsy Howard 353-3396 for more details or to RSVP.

8:00 – HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel p. 117
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 #347 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* Hyfrydol

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

Versicles, Responses and Gloria Patri 7-8

VENITE (Hymnal #609) 9

Psalm #75,76 431-432

First Lesson: St. John 3:1 117

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

Second Lesson: St. Matthew 24:23..... 118

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

Apostles’ Creed 15

Versicles and Responses 16

Collect for the Day..... 117

Other Collects, The Grace 17-20

HYMN: #53 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* Salzburg

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

THE SERMON Fr. O’Brien

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *O How Amiable*.....Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #54 *Alleluia, Song of Gladness* Dulce Carmen

ORGAN: Hymn Prelude on *Hyfrydol* Ralph Vaughan Williams

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.)