

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 43 No. 3

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2011

THE WILLIAM RALSTON

LISTENING LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

Last weekend I travelled (for the first time) to the University of the South at Sewanee – an historic Episcopalian and quintessentially Southern institution of which our first rector, Bishop Stephen Elliott, was a founder. High in the ancient wooded mountains of southeastern Tennessee, its fabled campus of stone-built Gothic revival buildings – “the mountain” or “the domain” – glowed golden in the winter sunlight.

What brought me to Sewanee was the pleasure and honour of representing St. John's Church at the formal opening and dedication of the William Ralston Listening Room and Archive - a project supported by this church and a number of individual parishioners, as well as former students of Fr Ralston's at Sewanee, where he was successively Professor of Ethics, Moral and Philosophical Theology, an editor of the important literary journal, *The Sewanee Review*, and a popular Professor of English.

During his lifetime, Fr Ralston systematically assembled one of the nation's most comprehensive and private collections of classical music – about 10,000 recordings in all, analogue and digital. (His frequent shipments of CDs would be greeted with the words “yum, yum!”) This collection is now housed in a state-of-the art facility at the university Library next to the university's collection of musical scores (a collection named in honour of Fr Ralston's good friend and mentor, Charles Harrison). At the heart of the library is a cherry-panelled listening room designed by a leading acoustic

engineer and equipped with audio and video equipment of astonishing high quality. The University's circulating collection of 5000 audio recordings is located next door in the elegant “Savannah Room”, given by the Hungerpiller family. The Listening Room was to have been named in honour of Jim and Page Hungerpiller, but they preferred it to be named in honour of Fr Ralston's good friend, and the driving force behind this project, Tam Carlson, who with his dear wife Chris, is a longstanding friend of this parish.

Tam Carlson and the donors who supported this project have accomplished a memorial worthy of Fr Ralston's life and teaching - precisely because it is not a “monument” to something now past and gone, but the means of transmitting to future generations a living tradition of Christian humanism of which he was so great a teacher. It exemplifies what was perhaps the first and abiding principle of almost everything he did: that the best and highest achievements of culture – like the highest accomplishments of thought and faith – deserve the best and highest from us. Not to take seriously these things - the best intimations we have in this world of the good, the beautiful, the true – is not to be serious about being human. Cranmer's collect for the Second Sunday in Advent guides us in the proper approach. He is speaking of the Scriptures, but the principle is more generally applicable: “grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark,

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OF
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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 and recordings of Services and Sermons are to be found 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. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.
Mr. Joseph P. Sinclair

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. Charles G. Williamson by the Pollak family.

And in loving memory of Josephine Kennedy Osborne by her family.

And in loving memory of her husband, Marshall F. Campbell, Jr. and her grandson, Alexander Mueller Archie by Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr.

The flowers at the baptismal font are given to the glory of God on the occasion of the Holy Baptism of Tyler William Bowden, infant son of Dr. and Mrs. Walter B. Bowden, Jr.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. David A. Young
Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr., Mrs. Morgan W. Murray
Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells

DAILY EUCHARIST IN ADVENT

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. Timothy E. Coy

ACOLYTES

8:00 Clayton Compton
10:30 Cord Helmken
Chris Dixon, John Osborne
Charles Perrie, Louis Palla
Patrick Perrie, Hunt Wasden

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David C. Schultz

MEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast & Study (with Mike Chastain), *Parish House.*

Thursday Rector's Bible Study 7:00 a.m.
Acts of the Apostles. *Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.*

Thursday Men's Forum—12:00 -1 p.m.
As announced weekly.

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.

Wednesday Bible Study will have their Christmas luncheon on
December 21st.

Thursday Reading and Discussion:
9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
(with Father O'Brien)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ”.

Here at St. John's we have been working on the preservation and transmission our own part of Fr Ralston's legacy. A complete set of his Parish Papers has been collected; and under the supervision of Earl Gilbreath we have made substantial progress in transcribing Fr Ralston's handwritten sermon notes. If anyone would like to help complete this project, please speak to me or to Earl. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR

Monday to Friday

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

Morning (or Evening) Prayer and Holy Communion

Except December 14th:

EMBER WEDNESDAY

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

5:30pm *Evensong* & 6 p.m. *Supper*

Adults \$9; Couples \$15; Families \$16

Children under six Free.

6:30 p.m. *Class: Galatians*

Thursday 15th:

Noon: Men's Forum –

“Shepherds and Wise Men, the Angel and the Star”:

Christmas For Grown-ups
(the Rector)

EMBER SATURDAY 17th:

9:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*

[special time
due to Pageant Rehearsal]

MORE ADVENT COLLECTS

O LORD, we beseech thee, give ear to our prayers; and by the grace of thy visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts; by Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

PURIFY our consciences, we beseech thee, O Lord, by thy daily visitation; that when thy Son our Lord cometh, he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

NEW CHOIR CD FOR GIFT-GIVING

The St. John's Choirs will have a NEW CD available in time for Christmas. It will feature selections of favorite anthems and services recorded live. As this is a limited run, pre-orders are being taken at Coffee Hour.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS

The Tuesday Evening Bible Class held at Scott and Betsey Howard's home at (Grimbal Point Rd.) has **moved to Thursday** evening. Call Betsey for details 353-3396. All are welcome.

WREATHS, GARLANDS AND POINSETTIAS

If you would like to give a Poinsettia, Wreath or Garland for the decoration of the Church, please send a check to the Church Office, made out to **St. John's Chancel Society**. Please include with the check a note of how the memorial should read and by whom it is given. **Poinsettia-\$30, Wreath or Garland \$80.**

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Ice Skating and Trim the Tree **Sunday, Dec. 18th**

All Confirmed Youth of St. John's are invited to meet in the Parking lot at 3:15 to walk to the Civic Center for Ice Skating (please bring \$15.00). Supper, Tree-Trimming and Carol-singing around the piano follows in Green-Meldrim House. Pick up will be 8:30 p.m. RSVP to Mrs. William Osborne at osbornejes@mac.com

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel..... Prayer Book, page 93 (90)
A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30 A.M. —ADULT, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN’S CLASSES (*Chapel and Cranmer Hall*)

10:30 A.M.—Pre-School continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (*Cranmer Hall*)
 Jr. Choir—1st through 4th grades

10:30 A.M. —MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

HYMN #9 *Rejoice, Rejoice, believers* Greenland
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses 7-8
 VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (*with antiphon*) #606 9
 Psalm #85446
 First Lesson: Isaiah 35 *The flourishing of Christ’s kingdom foretold by Isaiah.*
 ADVENT PROSE: (*Choir - the congregation may remain seated*)
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 4:1 and St. Matthew 11:294
 BENEDICTUS #63814
 Apostles' Creed15
 Collect for the Day 93 (90)
 Fixed Collects17
 HYMN #7 *Hark the Glad Sound*Bristol
1st through 4th grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir exit after the cross.
 THE SERMON Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences
 Anthem: *Rejoice in the Lord*Anonymus, 16th cent.
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139
 Prayer and Blessing.
 HYMN #440 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* Aberystwyth
 ORGAN: *Variation on Aberystwyth* Paul Lindsley Thomas

Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately following 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 p. 93