

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No. 6

The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## THIS SUNDAY – THE ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

**5:30 P. M. – LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Reception to follow in the Parish House.*

*We close out the Twelve Days of Christmas with an offering of word and music.*

### PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

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

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Communion

**Monday to Friday:**

*Daily Prayer* 8:15am & 5:30pm

**In addition, on Wednesday**

*Litany* 9:45 a.m.

*Sung Eucharist* 10:00 a.m.

### HONOURING SAINT JOHN

There are two men named John in the New Testament - John the Baptist, the prophet of Christ's Advent, the "voice crying the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord"; and John the Apostle and Evangelist, in whose honour this church is dedicated, who bore witness to the glory of "the Word was made flesh". Fittingly his feast-day falls on the third day of Christmas, December 27<sup>th</sup>. (A secondary feast falls on May 6<sup>th</sup>, "St John at the Latin Gate"— the eve of this church's consecration in 1853.)

Tradition records that John eventually settled in the city of Ephesus, where the ruins of a great 6<sup>th</sup> century basilica built in his honour by the emperor Justinian may be seen. The only apostle not to die a martyr, John suffered as a "confessor", for his witness to Christ, being exiled, under Domitian, to the isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Revelation.

Afterward he returned to Ephesus where he wrote the Gospel and Epistles, and lived to a great age, dying around 100 A. D. In later centuries a tale was told of his drinking a poisoned cup without harm, and so one of the symbols of St. John is the chalice with a serpent emerging from it. (You can see this image in the glass over the Charlton Street door of the church.) The imagination that produced the story is scriptural, for it is a story about one of the signs promised to the apostles to confirm their witness to Christ: "if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them" (Mark 16:18).

Tradition identifies John as the nameless "beloved disciple" (13:23). The Lord's love for John was the basis for John's special vocation of witness (John 20:31; 21:24; 1 John 1:1-4). Along with Andrew, John was first of the twelve to know Jesus (John 1:35-40). He was there at the beginning, when John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus as the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (1:29). He was there at the end, when a soldier pierced the side of the dead Jesus, and blood and water flowed forth, though no bone was broken, signs that Jesus was indeed the true Passover Lamb, just

# THE PARISH PAPER

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## St. John's Church

1 WEST MACON STREET

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

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Junior Warden.....Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings  
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Treasurer.....Mr. Richard L. Wright  
Chancellor.....M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.

The Vestry: Esqs., John M. Hewson III, Joseph R. Ross, Jonathan D. Sprague; Drs. James S. McClellan, Roland S. Summers; Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Mark D. Stevens, Mrs. R. Bartley Turner, Messrs Charles B. Compton, Jr., E. Brian Culver, John C. Helmken II, Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr., R. Scott Howard, J. Alex Jarman, L. Allan Reynolds, Jr. William C. Rodgers, R. Gilbert Wells, Richard L. Wright.

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

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President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers

President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Randolph H. Kulp II

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

### VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed

10:30 Mr. William C. Rodgers

### USHER CHAIRMAN

Robert Austin Vinyard, Esq.  
and Mr. James White

The flowers at the altar are retained from Christmas. *Continued from last week...*

### A Poinsettia was given to the glory of God and in loving memory of

Mr. Edward Martin Christensen, by Elizabeth Wasden.  
Jack E. Altman, Jack E. Altman III, and Nancy Desbouillons Altman, by Mrs. Jack E. Altman.

### in honor of or in thanksgiving for

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley A. Wasden, Jr., by Elizabeth Wasden.

Fr. Dunbar, Fr. O'Brien, Fr. Bergstrom and Carter Hubbard, by Carole and Jack Wilson.

### Wreath or Garland in loving memory of

George Anderson Mercer III and George Anderson Mercer IV and Col and Mrs. William A. Willis, by the Rhett Willis family.

### in Honor of or in Celebration of

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Brannen, Jr. by Carole and Jack Wilson.

Chambliss Stevens for her birthday, by her parents, Col. and Mrs. P. Drew Troxler.

### CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Ms. Anne H. Minglehoff  
Ms Jayne Holland, Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.  
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. T. Herbert Guery  
Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague  
Mrs. Wm. Howard Helmken, II, Mrs. Roland S. Summers  
Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.  
Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Mrs. Leroy N. Suddeth  
Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr., Mrs. David Futrell, Jr.

### ACOLYTES

8:00 need volunteer

10:30 John Osborne, Jamie McClellan  
Hunt Wasden, Patrick Perrie  
Finn Repella, Jackson McClellan

5:30 Evensong

Mikel Kelly

### COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David A. Young

### 9:30 A.M. SUNDAY YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

**Men's Discussion Group** Third Floor, Cranmer Hall. Led by Rick Wright, Walter Strong, and Charles Ezelle.

**Women's Discussion Group Reading Room,** Cranmer Hall. Led by Carol Hewson, Susan Donahue, Linda Sheahan, and Laura Wimbish

**Harlotry, Compassion, Shepherding, and Jesus - 3rd Floor East.** Led by Jack Wray.

**Sin and Judgment in Shakespeare's History Plays 3rd Floor East.** Led by David Noble—NOT MEETING Jan. 7th.

**Middle and High School Youth.** Third Floor. Led by Mrs. Skip Jennings and Fr. Bergstrom.

**St. John's Gospel Chapel.** NOT MEETING Jan. 7th.

### MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

**Tuesday** 6:45 a.m. Breakfast and Discussion.

**Thursday** 7 a.m., Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.

**NO Thursday Men's Forum** until January 15th, 2015.

### WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

**Monday** Noon, led by Fr. Bergstrom

**Thursday** 9:15 a.m., led by Fr. O'Brien.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

as the Baptist had foretold (19:31-37). At the Last Supper, his place is significant – “leaning on Jesus’ bosom”, which is to say, reclining (as the custom was) next to Jesus, and in a position to ask Jesus a delicate question (13:23-26). He was present at the trial of Jesus before Annas (18:15-16). He was the only male disciple to venture forth at the cross, to him Jesus entrusted his mother (19:26-27), and he seems to have been the first to grasp the significance of the empty tomb: “he saw and believed” (20:8).

Because of his insight St. John is called *the Divine*, which means, the Theologian, and his symbol is the eagle, the bird which, in ancient lore, can fly highest, see furthest, and gaze at the sun without blinking – an image of the one who beheld the glory of Christ, “as of the only-begotten of the Father” (1:14). His insight is not mere curiosity: it is born of love. Thomas à Kempis supplies an apt comment on St. John’s teaching and example: “the love of Jesus ... spurs us on to do great things, and excites us to desire always that which is most perfect. Love will tend upwards” - like the eagle! - “and is not to be detained by things beneath. Love will be at liberty and free from all worldly affections ... for love proceeds from God and cannot rest but in God above all things created. The lover flies, runs, and rejoices, he is free and not held. He gives all for all and has all in all, because he rests in one sovereign good above all, from whom all good flows and proceeds” (*The Imitation of Christ* III. v.3-4).

The old custom on Saint John’s Day was to drink the *poculum charitatis*, the loving-cup, in the saint’s honour. It is a image of the fellowship of the church united in this love of the “one sovereign

good above all, from all good flows”: “truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). How striking then (and plausible) the story recounted by St. Jerome, that when age made it impossible for John to preach, John would only say, “My little children, love one another”. When they asked why he always said the same thing, he answered, “Because it is the word of the Lord, and if you keep it, you do enough”. The love of Christ received in faith, the truth of Christ shared in charity: that’s how we honour Saint John. GGD

#### WOMEN OF SAINT JOHN’S

The ECW **Board** will meet in the Parish House Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The **General Meeting** is on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion. Father Dunbar will speak on *Abigail, an unsung heroine of the Bible*.

#### ECW’S SENIORS LUNCHEON

All ladies 70 and older are invited to join the Women of Saint John’s on Wednesday, January 21st, at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon in their honor. Call the Church Office to make your reservation or if you need transportation.

SAVE THE DATE

#### MEN’S CLUB ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST AND BARBEQUE

**Saturday, January, 24<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00—4:00 p.m.**

Tickets on Sale at Coffee Hour next Sunday

#### WHITE GOODS

#### CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Join in to make it a WHITE Christmas at the Old Savannah City Mission. This Sunday and next, the Women and Sunday School of Saint John's are collecting white twin sheets, white towels, and bleach, in a bin at the entrance to Cranmer Hall.

#### THANKS

*The clergy and staff thank parishioners  
for greetings and gifts of the season.*

**8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... 106

*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.***9:30a.m.-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (Cranmer Hall)****9:30-10:15 A.M.: ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)****10:30 A.M.-END OF SERVICE: PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN***(Activities in Cranmer Hall for children during the 9:30 education and/or 10:30 service times)***10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON**

## CARILLON

HYMN #20 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*..... Divinum Mysterium

Sentences, Confession, Absolution and The Lord's Prayer .....3-7

Versicles and Responses .....7-8

VENITE #606 (*with Christmas antiphon*)..... 9

Psalm #93, 97 ..... 457, 460

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3; 62:11-12 ..... *insert*

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615, 619..... 10

Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7; St. Matthew 2:19-23..... *insert*

BENEDICTUS #638..... 14

*Children may leave following the cross for JOYFUL NOISE (5's and 6's) or PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 2-5)*

Apostles' Creed..... 15

Versicles and Responses ..... 16

Collect for the day ..... 106

Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace ..... 17-20

HYMN #21 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*..... Forest Green

THE SERMON .....Fr. Bergstrom

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Love Came Down At Christmas*..... Malcolm Archer

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

## PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN #31 *Good Christian Men Rejoice*..... In Dulci JubiloORGAN: *Vom Himmel Hoch (from "Christmas Oratorio")* ..... J. S. Bach*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 (Church as 8 a.m.)****5:30 P.M.—CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS—RECEPTION FOLLOWS**