

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No.9

The Conversion of St. Paul (The Third Sunday after Epiphany)

January 25, 2015

THIS SUNDAY: Mr. Vonté Abrams, who has anchored the bass section of the choir since October 2002, will be taking a job in Los Angeles. Though February 1st will be his last Sunday with us, today's Coffee Hour will be held in his honor.

GUEST PREACHER & MEN'S FORUM SPEAKER

This Sunday we welcome to the pulpit Father George Westhaver, formerly Rector of St. George's Church, Halifax, an historic, inner-city, Prayer Book parish; and now Warden of Pusey House, Oxford. Fr. Westhaver will speak about the state of the Church of England, at the Thursday noon **MEN'S FORUM**.

ELLIOTT HOUSE THIS WEEK

This week St. John's welcomes participants to the Fourteenth Annual Elliott House Clergy Seminar, to be conducted Tuesday to Thursday by Father Gary Thorne, Chaplain of King's College, Halifax, on the works of the 5th century Syrian theologian known as Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite.

THE ONLY SAVIOUR? (PART II OF II)

As I concluded last week, we cannot dismiss the claims made for Christ as the only Saviour of the world simply because of their exclusivity and universality, because the only grounds on which we can do so are equally exclusive and universal. We are left with a choice: either Jesus was a liar, a lunatic, a legend - or he was the Son of God. Yet those who confess Jesus as Lord must still address the legitimate fear that convictions about Christ as the only Saviour can make Christians arrogant, intolerant, and contemptuous of others. We have to take this objection seriously, for it is a deeply Christian one -

possible I think only in a culture still deeply shaped by Christianity.

As Christians, we should have no qualms about admitting freely that this is a danger, for it is just what the Christian religion itself teaches - that is, that by nature we are inclined to sin, and especially to pride and self-righteousness, that we are capable of making the truth of God a matter for smug superiority and contempt. (Today's feast, the Conversion of Saint Paul, commemorates a case in point!) That Christians sadly sometimes succumb to that temptation only proves the truth of the Christian teaching. For, as Saint Paul wrote (and he should know!), we are saved "not by the works of righteousness that we have done", but by God's unmerited mercy, "by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which is shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ."

I would argue, therefore, that when Christians think and act in self-righteous pride and contempt, it is not because they are taking their convictions too seriously ("fundamentalism") - *but because they have not taken them seriously enough*. It is not hence, by retreating from the fundamental claim that Christ is the only Savior, but by living into it more deeply and fully, that we can move beyond the familiar perversities of pride.

The historic lessons for the First Sunday after the Epiphany bolster this argument. There in the gospel lesson of Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:41-52), we hear his extraordinary consciousness of himself as the Son of God - "wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Yet there is not a trace of arrogance in this self-consciousness - just a zeal to know the

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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 Joseph R. Ross, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Robert Austin Vinyard, Esq.
and Mr. James Ivy

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Robert A. Burnett by Mary, Wendy and Decie;

and in loving memory of Julia Floyd Smith, Sanford G. Simmons, John Pindar Bradshaw Schaller, and loved ones by Marie Simmons; and in loving memory of Leonard Trosten, on his birthday, by Mrs. Ali Trosten and Jay Overstreet.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

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ACOLYTES

8:00 need volunteer
10:30 Charles Perrie, Hunt Wasden
Patrick Perrie, Edwin Shepherd
Phillip Inglesby, Henry Osborne

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings

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..

Middle and High School Youth. Third Floor Resource Room. (Mrs. Jennings and Fr. Bergstrom).

St. John's Gospel Chapel. Led by Fr. Dunbar.

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

NO Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast and Discussion, led by Fr. O' Brien.

NO Thursday 7 a.m., 2 Samuel, Reading Room, Cranmer Hall, led by Fr. Dunbar

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Monday Noon, Epistle to the Hebrews, led by Fr. Bergstrom

NO Thursday 9:15 a.m., Phaedo, (Fr. O'Brien)

NEXT SUNDAY--CANDLEMAS

5:30 p.m.--Choral Evensong for Candlemas. Reception to follow

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

Father's will for the salvation of all men - and a readiness for the Father's sake, in all humility, to subject himself to the authority of his human parents.

If we truly belong to this Jesus, then - as St. Paul urges in Romans 12:1-5, the historic epistle lesson for the same day - we will present to him the life we live in our bodies as 'living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God'. As living sacrifices, we will stop conforming ourselves to a proud and strife-torn world but rather 'be transformed by the renewing of our minds', that we may discern God's will. As those living sacrifices who have been transformed in our minds, we will begin to think in accord with his will - specifically, we will not 'think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think', in self-righteous pride, but will think 'soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith', recognizing that each has been graced in some measure for the sake of the common good of all, because 'we, being many', all sorts and conditions of men, 'are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another'. We are to live out our individual Christian vocations in mutual service within the unity and harmonized diversity of his Body, the Church. In the Epistle for the next two Sundays, a continuation of Romans 12, we are instructed that humility and charity are not confined within the church, but embrace even its oppressors: "bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ... if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink...."

Every belief system - religious or non-religious, theist or atheist - has the potential to foster arrogance, self-righteousness, and contempt for others. Yet we correct that tendency, not by retreating from the claim that Jesus is the Christ, the only Son of God, the Saviour of the world, but rather by embracing it more fully. Isaiah's call has a very specific application: "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee". If the light of the only

Son of God, the only Saviour of the world, which is manifest to us, were to be manifested in us, and *through* us, we would be humble and charitable toward those who are Christians, and toward those who are not.

GGD

THE ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday February 7th

If you are cleaning out your closets, please keep this sale in mind! Storage units available, call Nita Ann Klein 927-4270. Rummage received at Cranmer Hall 10 a.m. -3 p.m. Tuesday February 3rd to Friday February 6th.

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

REGISTRATION FOR 2015-2016

New Students from St. John's Families:

Wed. January 28th -Tues. February 3rd.

Please contact Director Cathy King at 232-1225 or childrean.school@stjohnssav.org

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday:

Daily Prayer 8:15am & 5:30pm

In addition, on Wednesday

Litany 9:45 a.m.

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

ADULT CATECHISM

Confirmation and Reception of new members takes place Sunday May 3rd. Adult Catechism class on THURSDAYS 6-7 p.m. beginning **Thursday February 12th**. Light supper provided. (Donation requested). All preparing for Confirmation or Reception should attend; others welcome. Please email Fr Dunbar if you are planning to attend: g.dunbar@stjohnssav.org

WOMEN OF SAINT JOHN:

Board Meeting Monday, February 2nd, 10 a.m.

General Meeting Wednesday February 4th after the 10 a.m. chapel service. Speaker: Mr. Jack Wray, "Who Saved Savannah?", concerning the events of 1864. *All welcome.*

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, pp. 229, 112
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: JOYFUL NOISE, JOYFUL HEARTS

Music, Teaching, and Active Fun for Pre-School through Kindergarten:

10:30 a.m. —SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON

HYMN #49 *From the Eastern Mountains*..... Valour

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity Prayer Book page 67

Ten Commandments 68-69

KYRIE ELEISON: (Hymnal #710)..... Healey Willan

Collects 229, 244 (Commem. St. Peter), 112

Epistle *Acts 9:1* 229

HYMN #114 *We Sing the Glorious Conquest*..... Munich

The Holy Gospel *St. Matthew 19:27* 230

The Nicene Creed..... 71

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

Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 1-5)

SERMON Fr. Westhaver

OFFERTORY

Sentences

Anthem: *Arise, Shine, For Thy Light is Come*..... Healey Willan

Presentation of Alms #139

Prayer for the State of the Church..... 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution 75

Sursum Corda #734 & Preface of the Holy Ghost 76, 78

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #711)..... Healey Willan

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation 80

The Lord's Prayer and Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*) 82

AGNUS DEI (Hymnal # 712)..... Healey Willan

HYMN #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*..... Frankfort

Solo: *Lord, To Whom Our Prayers Ascend* Franz Schubert

Vonté Abrams, Soloist.

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Hymnal #713)..... Willan

The Blessing (*Kneeling*)..... 84

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: *The Light That Shines In Darkness*..... Gerald Peterson

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 as 8 a.m.)