

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No.11

Sexagesima

February 8, 2015

## ADULT CATECHISM

Confirmation and Reception of new members takes place Sunday May 3rd. Adult Catechism classes are on THURSDAYS 6—7:15 p.m. beginning **Thursday February 12th**. Light supper provided. (Donation requested). Please email Fr Dunbar if you are planning to attend: [gdunbar@stjohnssav.org](mailto:gdunbar@stjohnssav.org)

All preparing for Confirmation or Reception should make plans to attend; those already confirmed or received but seeking a "refresher" course are also welcome. If you cannot meet on Thursdays, please speak with Fr Bergstrom [jbergstrom@stjohnssav.org](mailto:jbergstrom@stjohnssav.org) who will be available at an alternative time.

## BELONGING TO CHRIST (I)

"With whom am I speaking?" That's a phrase from old-school manuals of telephone etiquette. Now we say to the unidentified text messenger, "who is this?" Names are the prerequisite of knowledge, of relationship: they represent the person. That's why it is so significant that Adam names the beasts: it is a sign of his shepherd-steward role in creation. God's naming himself to Moses is the sign of God's self-revelation; the apostles declaring the Name by which they preach declares the power of Christ at work through them; the Lord's renaming Abram as Abraham, or Simon as Peter, is a sign of their new calling and relationship to him. The name stands for the person, not in abstraction but in relationship. It is in the relationship that the person is revealed.

The first question of the Prayer Book Catechism therefore is not routine: "What is your name?" The second question opens up the depths that lie beneath it: "Who gave you this name?" *Answer.* My Sponsors in Baptism; wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven." The giving of a name at baptism - a *given* name, a *Christian* name, as we say - calls us into relationship with God, with Christ, with his Church. Who you are is not found in splendid isolation, it is not something you decide for yourself from some place in outer space (for what would be the criteria by which you make those choices?), it is something you receive, in and through the community which God has established in relationship with himself. "My Sponsors in Baptism", your godparents, represent and speak for the spiritual family of the Church into which you are reborn by Baptism; but Baptism not only brings you into relationship with a human community, but with the God who acts through it: "wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven".

I am a member of Christ, and that means first and foremost that I belong to Christ and Christ belongs to me. "My beloved is mine, and I am his". All that I bring to baptism - sin, and death, and hell, the legacy of Adam - he takes upon himself, and deals with;

THE PARISH PAPER

OF

St. John's Church

1 WEST MACON STREET

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

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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. William C. Rodgers

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert F. Brannen

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God, for the adornment of his altar.

If you would like to donate flowers at the altar for a memorial or thanksgiving, please call Mary Burnett (351-9622) or Penny Futrell at the Church Office (232-1251). The cost is \$75.00, paid to St. John's Chancel Society.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. Nicholas K. Farley
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Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
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Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter

ACOLYTES

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

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Thomas C. Horne

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

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast and Discussion, led by Fr. O'Brien.
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
Thursday 9:15 a.m., Phaedo, ( Fr. O'Brien)
NO Men's Forum this week.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

all that he is - righteousness, and life, and heaven, and justification - he freely gives to me. My belonging to Christ and of Christ to me is a belonging that takes place as a member of his Body, the church. The personal relationship with Jesus is not a private one but public, and commits me to an interdependent relationship with all other members under his headship. If I start thinking and acting like a religious consumer, the "cafeteria Christian" path of self-expressive individualism, I am false to Christ and also to myself as I really am in this community.

As a member of Christ, I share in his divine Sonship; what he is by nature, he makes me by adoption and grace, and so I am also "the child of God". God receives me as his beloved child - and I devote myself to him who is my beloved Father. Sonship is both loving and being loved; it is the assurance of God's undivided favour, it is the dedication of total commitment to him.

As "the child of God" I am also therefore his heir, not just in the future but also in the present, "an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven", inheriting a kingdom of grace now and a kingdom of glory yet to come - and this can be nothing less now than the Holy Spirit, "the earnest" and "first fruits" of our redemption. As a member of Christ and the child of God, I am not my own, but he possesses me; but precisely as such, I possess him. All that he has is mine - and all that is mine is his, in the covenant of grace in which we enter by Baptism. Here is the assurance of total security - here is the demand of total surrender. "My beloved is mine and I am his".

Similar ideas are spelled out a little more fully in another 16th century catechism much used in the church of

England, that of Heidelberg (parallel ideas in the Prayer Book Catechism are in square brackets): "What is your only comfort in life and death? *Answer.* That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ, who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from the power of the devil ["member of Christ"]; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must work together for my salvation ["the child of God"]. Wherefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready henceforth to live unto him ["inheritor of the kingdom of heaven"].

The second question considers what God brings to the Covenant of Baptism: next we shall consider what God requires of us. GGD

#### **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.

#### **COFFEE HOUR HOSTESS NEEDED!**

To book your Sunday to exercise this ministry of hospitality, please call Joyce McClellan at 201-3895.

#### **SAVE THE DATE - PANCAKE SUPPER**

Join us for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 17th from 5:30 until 7:30.

**8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel ..... p. 121  
*A continental breakfast is available in the 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. – MORNING PRAYER & SERMON**

HYMN #567 <i>Lead us Heavenly Father</i> .....	Dulce Carmen
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer .....	3-7
Versicles and Responses .....	7-8
VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO #608 .....	9
Psalm #44 .....	394
First Lesson: Genesis 6:5-end. <i>God warns Noah of a flood and promises to save him in the Ark.</i>	
BENEDICITE .....	<i>insert</i>
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 11:19 and St. Luke 8:4 .....	<i>insert and</i> 121
BENEDICTUS #638 .....	14
<i>Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 1-5)</i>	
Apostles' Creed .....	15
Versicles and Responses .....	16
Collect for the Day.....	120
Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace .....	17-20
HYMN #564 <i>How Firm a Foundation</i> .....	Lyons
THE SERMON .....	Fr. O'Brien

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Almighty and Everlasting God*.....Orlando Gibbons

Presentation of Alms: All things are thine #732, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #415 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*.....Aberystwyth

VOLUNTARY: *Mosso Moderato In D*.....Heinrich Oberhoffen

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*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.*

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**12 NOON—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel as 8 a.m.)**