

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No. 30

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

July 26, 2015

THIS WEEK--**Vacation Bible School**

(Rising Kindergarten to Grade 5)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP

(2 years- 6 years old)

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY: 9:30 A.M. -NOON

VBS Collection: Children of VBS will be collecting school supplies for Shelter From the Rain Inc., a Christian organization that helps single mothers. Please help the children by bringing your donations to Cranmer Hall by Friday, July 31st at noon. Supplies needed are pencils, pens, markers, crayons, scissors, sanitizer, colored pencils, glue sticks, paper, rulers, and clear or mesh backpacks.

PREACHING

I have been told that parishioners like a sermon that is "short and sweet". Well, so do I! Yet something "short and sweet" takes a long time to prepare. Good sermons do not come out of the tap; "short and sweet" preaching does not arrive "on demand". A "short and sweet" sermon is akin to a culinary reduction - it is the result of much reading, hard thinking, conversations, prayer, pastoral imagination, brutally severe self-criticism (lots of that), a willingness to discard the most beautiful thoughts and phrases if they do not belong to a coherent and unified idea, and at least one

night's good sleep before rewriting. (The mind refreshed makes connections missed before.) And if time is short for preparation, sermons easily get long....

Though not wedded to long sermons, I think it a shame if there is no serious reflection on the lessons of the day (at least one of them and preferably both). It has been an encouragement to me that some of you who have sighed at sermon length nonetheless perceive that there is an objective purpose to it. We have a *duty* to reflect on the Scripture, to attempt to grasp its meaning, and to ponder its meaning for our lives. Only as we hear the Word of God not just with our outward ears, but with our minds and hearts, shall we live.

There are various approaches to preaching, and all require extensive preparation. The mainstay of the classical evangelical tradition is the expository or topical sermon: the preaching of an entire book of the Bible, the preaching of an entire topic like justification or marriage. It has to be grounded in sound

THE PARISH PAPER
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St. John's Church
1 WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, 1 W. Macon St., Savannah, GA 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 may be read on our web site: www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mrs. R. Bartley Turner (Christiana)

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. J. Matthew Solana, III

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Williams, Jr. and Mr. Mike Lowrance and Mr. Dean Lowrance by Mr. and Mrs. Roland B. Williams;

And in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Lorton S. Livingston by their family;

And on the occasion of the marriage of Sydney Nicole Thomas and Jacob Warren Stubbs.

The flowers in the chapel on Wednesday are given to the glory of God and in honor of Fr. Gavin Dunbar on the anniversary of his ordination as a priest on July 18, 1992.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Ms. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Mark Alleaier, Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.
Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 *volunteer requested*
10:30 Charles Perrie, Patrick Perrie
Turner Stevens Edwin Shepherd
Philip Inglesby, *volunteer*

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr.
Cake will be served at coffee hour honoring Fr. Dunbar's ordination anniversary.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

Mallory's Mort D'Arthur:-will resume on Sept. 20th.

T. S. Eliot: Four Quartets - Fr. O'Brien
Reading Room, 3rd Floor

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Tuesday Men's Breakfast - *Will resume at later date.*
Thursday 7 a.m. 1 Kings, led by Fr Dunbar, in Reading Room. *Resumes July 30th.*

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUP

Classes will resume in the fall.

JANE'S CANNERS - in the Cranmer Hall kitchen on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. Donations of sugar, figs, pears, apples, onions, 8 oz. jars, green peppers, etc. gratefully received. Please call Jane Pressly 233-6551.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.
Friday 9:00a.m. to 12:00 (noon)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

Biblical scholarship, and requires intelligent listeners, but at its best, it is very good indeed.

Liturgical preaching, based on the liturgical epistles and gospels as they appear in the context of the Church's year, is more common among Episcopalians. The success of this kind of preaching depends upon a lectionary that presents a coherent teaching for each Sunday (something which the new lectionaries devised in recent decades often intentionally refuse to do), and an ability to discern the subtle ways in which they speak to and complement each other. That is why so many of the lessons appointed for each Sunday and holy day in the ancient lectionary preserved in the Prayer Book can be analyzed in terms of justifying faith (usually the gospel lesson) and sanctifying works (usually the epistle lesson). In a certain way, just as each Sunday is a little Easter, so each sermon is a little proclamation of the whole gospel, in one aspect or another.

Entertaining stories, humour, fine oratorical flights may have their place; but they are no substitute for a unified idea accessibly set forth with coherence and clarity. Nor may the Scripture be used merely as a hook upon which the preacher hangs his own opinions. This is to preach one's opinions, (among Episcopalians, too often little more than a kind of vaguely Christian humanitarianism) and not the Word of God.

Two of the best liturgical preachers I knew were Fr. Robert Crouse (his sermons can be read

on www.lectionarycentral.com), and Fr. William Ralston (whose sermons we are transcribing with a view to eventual publication.) Sparing in anecdote, though not without wit, or the telling quotation, there was little or nothing *entertaining* about their sermons, just a deep engagement with the Word of God, and in their mouths it was "as honey for sweetness" (Ezekiel 3:3). Sound preaching matters – and a Christian congregation needs to be as deeply engaged in it as the preacher. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

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

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany* 10 a.m. *Eucharist*

VOICE FESTIVAL AT ST. JOHN'S

Amy Shoremount Obra, soprano

Tuesday, August 4th

6:30pm – 8:00pm

\$45 advance sale

\$50 at the door

This beloved Festival alumna returns after her successful Met debut to offer an accessible, exciting and beautifully sung concert.

To order: call 855.76.OPERA or
info@savannahvoicefestival.org

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS

Of Giving were mailed July 9th. Please call the Church office if you did not receive yours.

We recently converted the financial database to a new (and we trust more efficient) software system. Please bear with us as we work out the inevitable "bugs".

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel Prayer Book, p. 199
Coffee is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 A.M. —ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:15 a.m. — 12 Noon NURSERY (*Cranmer Hall*)
 10:30 a.m. —Pre-school/Three-year-olds through Kindergarten (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:30 A.M.—SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON

HYMN #300 *Before the Lord Jehovah’s Throne*..... Winchester New

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity..... Prayer Book, page 67
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 KYRIE ELEISON: #710 Healey Willan
 Collect and Epistle..... 199
 HYMN #383 *Blessed City Heavenly Salem*..... Oriel
 The Holy Gospel..... 200
 The Nicene Creed71
 HYMN #376 *Come Down O Love Divine* Down Ampney
Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 1-5)
 SERMON.....Fr. Dunbar

OFFERTORY

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 Anthem: *A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester*..... L. J. White
 Presentation of Alms #139
 Prayer for the State of the Church.....74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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 HYMN #204 *Humbly I Adore Thee* Adoro Devote
 MOTET: *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* J.S. Bach
 Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*).....83
 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #739 Old Scottish Chant
 The Blessing (*Kneeling*).....84
 HYMN #567 *Lead Us Heavenly Father, Lead Us*Dulce Carmen
 VOLUNTARY: *Prelude and Fugue in C (BWV 553)* J. S. Bach

Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Green Meldrim 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.