

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No. 34

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 2, 2015

## FAREWELL TO FR JEREMY BERGSTROM

*This Sunday we bid a fond farewell to Fr Jeremy Bergstrom, who has been called to be Vocations Director of the Diocese of Dallas. Fr Bergstrom will celebrate the Lord's Supper at 8 a.m., preach at Morning Prayer at 10:30 a.m., and, with his wife Jackie, will be honoured at Coffee Hour.*

### VOICE FESTIVAL AT ST. JOHN'S

Amy Shoremount Obra, soprano

Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

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.

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[info@savannahvoicefestival.org](mailto:info@savannahvoicefestival.org)

### FR. DUNBAR'S STUDY OF JOHN

Resumes this Sunday at 9:30 in the Reading Room, with chapter 20.

This Sunday, Fr. O' Brien is on his way to Saint Michael's Youth Conference near West Hartford Connecticut, with some of our young parishioners.

### MARTHA

Jesus had disciples, but among them he also had friends, and the siblings Martha, Mary, and Lazarus among them, at whose house in Bethany, some miles outside Jerusalem, he often stayed. Lazarus is famous as the one Jesus raised from the dead; Mary as the one who anointed him

on the eve of his passion (John 11, 12). In St. Luke's gospel (10:38-42), we hear of a time when Jesus came to Bethany, and "Martha received him into her house".

The ancient obligation of hospitality has a special significance in the New Testament's teaching. St. John testifies that Christ "came unto his own, and his own received him not, but as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11, 12). Where Christ is received, he brings salvation (Luke 10:9) - where he is rejected, judgment must follow: for to receive Christ is to receive the one who sent him – and this also applies to those who are sent by Christ: "he that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me" (Luke 10:1-16). This obligation to receive Christ in his emissaries lies behind the apostolic injunctions to "entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Heb. 13:1, perhaps referring to Abraham's hospitality to the three angels of God, in Genesis 18). In the

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar .....Rector  
1 West Macon Street 31401 .....(912) 429-3384  
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate  
423 E. Gaston Street 31401 .....(912) 308-4441  
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy W. Bergstrom ..... Priest Assistant  
5 Autumn Leaves Court 31410 .....(912) 656-3807  
Mr. R. Steven Branyon ..... Organist/Choirmaster  
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Church Office .....(912) 232-1251  
Fax.....(912) 232-5559  
Parish House .....(912) 233-3845  
Cranmer Hall .....(912) 232-8887  
E-mails ..... (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

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

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. L. Allan Reynolds

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. J. Matthew Solana, III

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for her beloved husband, Peter Schmidt, on the occasion of his birthday, by Rencie Schmidt.

And on the occasion of the marriage of Leary Marie Dixon and Paul Ruffin Scarborough, Jr.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Ms. Jayne G. Holland,  
Mrs. Mark Allgaier, Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.  
Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III  
Mrs. John Reiter, Mrs. George Fawcett  
Ms. Linda H. Pounds

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** *volunteer requested*  
**10:30** Mikel Kelly, Hawkins Pindar,  
Hunt Wasden, Finn Repella,

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. David A. Reid

*A special coffee hour is planned for Fr. and Mrs. Jeremy Bergstrom*

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS**

**Mally's Mort D'Arthur:**-will resume on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.  
**John's Gospel:** - Fr. Dunbar Reading Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**MEN'S STUDY AND DISCUSSION GROUPS**

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

**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

final analysis, the obligation of hospitality extends to all who come in Christ's name: "receive ye one another, as Christ also received you" (Romans 15:7). The same idea lies behind the teaching of St. Matthew 25:31-46, that to serve the needy is to serve Christ: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me".

Martha was eager to fulfill this obligation towards Jesus; yet on this occasion something was amiss. Her sister Mary sat among the disciples "at Jesus' feet, and heard his word" – for Jesus, unlike other rabbis, accepted women as well as men among those he taught. Martha, however, "was cumbered with much serving", and reproached Jesus in words that expressed a touch of self-righteous irritation: "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me". Jesus however refused to do so, and instead commended Mary: "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part [or 'portion'], which shall not be taken away from her".

Martha, preoccupied with "much serving" and anxious about "many things", had lost sight of the "one thing" that is needful – and that is to sit at Jesus feet and hear his teaching. Martha wanted to feed her guest many dishes – but she was missing the importance of herself being fed by him – the one portion, the one dish, that was necessary. As the psalmist testifies (119:57), "Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have

promised to keep thy law". "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

It's not that learning is superior to serving – both are necessary to the Christian life. It is rather, that serving and receiving the Lord aright begins with hearing and receiving his Word. We are indeed to serve the Lord in all good works – but to serve him, we must first receive him. The only service acceptable to him is the "labour that proceedeth of love, which love ye have showed for his name's sake" (Hebrews 6:10), the love that springs from the faith grounded in the word of the gospel (Galatians 5:5). "Hearing and receiving thy holy Word" is the basis for "truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life". Where the doing of works supplants the hearing of faith, there is a danger of futile and destructive works-righteousness, which manifests itself in the anxiety and self-righteous anger manifest in Martha's reproach. Be active in service, but let it be grounded in a faith that hears and receives his Word. 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*

#### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

**FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**

*Morning and Evening Prayer*

*With Holy Communion*

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

**8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel ..... Prayer Book, p. 200  
*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. — MORNING PRAYER & SERMON**

HYMN #370 *Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers* ..... Graefenberg  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer ..... Prayer Book, pages 3-7  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8  
 VENITE #610 ..... 9  
 Psalm #78:1-12 [*omit 13-40*] 41-73 ..... 434  
 First Lesson: Numbers 14:26-35 *The penalty of Israel's rebellions in the desert* ..insert  
 BENEDICTUS ES DOMINE #626..... 11  
 Second Lesson: I Corinthians 10:1 and St. Luke 16:1-9 ..... 201, insert  
 BENEDICTUS #634 ..... 14  
*Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 1-5)*  
 Apostles' Creed ..... 15  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 16  
 Collect for the Day ..... 200  
 Collects, Prayers, and Grace ..... 17-20  
 HYMN #564 *How Firm a Foundation*..... Lyons  
 THE SERMON ..... Fr. Bergstrom

**OFFERING**

Sentences

HYMN: *Seek Ye The Lord*..... J. V. Roberts  
 (James Wright, soloist)

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141 (4th Stanza)  
 Prayer and Blessing.

HYMN [Insert] *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*..... Cwm Rhondda  
 VOLUNTARY: *God of Glory*..... D. Paxton

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*Immediately after the 10:30 service all are invited to follow the clergy into the Mall for the Special Coffee Hour at the Green Meldrim House in honour of Fr. Jeremy Bergstrom  
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

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