

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 54 No. 8

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jan. 22, 2023

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## THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

### 8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

Introit: Psalm 97, BCP p. 460-461; The Collect: BCP p. 112

The Epistle: Roman 12:16, BCP p. 112-113

Gospel: St. Matthew 8:1, BCP p. 114-115

*A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

### 9 A.M. – FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION, Chapel

*The nursery will be available for this service.*

*A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

### 10 A.M. – ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

*A full list of Sunday classes and room assignments*

*is available online at [StJohnsSav.org/grow/adults/](http://StJohnsSav.org/grow/adults/)*

### 11 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER, Church & Online

*The nursery will be available for this service.*

#### Music for this Sunday:

#545 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*, Munich (#114)

#53 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*, Salzburg

Offertory Anthem: *Almighty and Everlasting God*, Orlando Gibbons

#46 *Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning*, Morning Star

Final Voluntary: "Sing with Joy, Glad Voices Lift", Hermann Schroeder

### 12:15 P.M. – COFFEE HOUR, Green-Meldrim House

*All are welcome to join for a time of fellowship. New members are encouraged to attend.*

### 5 P.M. – YOUTH GROUP & PARENTS' NIGHT OUT, Cranmer Hall

*If you plan to attend, please signup at [StJohnsSav.org/Youth](http://StJohnsSav.org/Youth)*

### SOLEMN CHORAL EVENSONG FOR CANDLEMAS, FEB. 5<sup>TH</sup>

If you've never been to Evensong, discover the beauty of this ancient tradition of worship at our next Solemn Choral Evensong for Candlemas with prelude music beginning at 5:05 p.m. and the service beginning at 5:30 p.m.

### CONVERSION OF PAUL

"Right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints". On the feasts of the saints, the Church celebrates the witness to Christ that they completed by their death, and their entrance into supernal glory. There are three exceptions to this rule: the Nativity of John the Baptist, the Annunciation of Saint Mary the Virgin, and the Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle (which falls this week on Wednesday). Each of the first two in its own way marks a turning point in salvation history: but what of the Conversion of St Paul? How can the conversion of one individual be a turning point in salvation history?

In revivalistic Christianity, conversion is often understood as an intense emotional experience. An experience it is, and one that often involves the emotions, though "high emotional temperature" as Robert Crouse drily remarks, "is no clear symptom of conversion". (Fr Ralston would recall hearing an excited radio preacher exclaim, "Oh, Oh, I don't know what I am feeling, but Oh, how I feel it!") Sometimes, as in Paul's case, it involves special effects; but (as Crouse also said), 'Conversion is not fundamentally a matter of blinding lights and secret voices, but a matter of a new integration of personality around a new centre, a new focus of insight and energies. "I live, yet not I, but Christ in me" (Gal. 2:10)'.

That's why conversion, turning to Christ, recentring the energies of the mind and will on him, entails our ongoing transformation by the renewal of our

minds, transformation "from the inside out", no longer conformed to the world, but reformed in the likeness of Christ by the working of his Spirit.

What Saint Paul's conversion also shows us is that the conversion that begins in the inner life of the individual does not stop there: for conversion is not only recentring insight but also refocusing vocation. Jesus appears to Paul on the way to Damascus, because he is a "chosen vessel" to bear the name of Jesus among the Gentiles, "to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness

### UPCOMING WORSHIP

**Monday–Friday, Jan. 23–27<sup>th</sup>**

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Online

**Monday:** 5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

**Tuesday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

**Wednesday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*  
12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Church  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*  
9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church

**Thursday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Friday:** 5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

**Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> Epiphany IV**

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church

10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*,  
Cranmer Hall/Chapel/Zoom

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church/Online

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To receive the Parish Paper by email (on Fridays), send name and email address to [information@stjohnssav.org](mailto:information@stjohnssav.org)

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The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired] ..... (931) 327-5489  
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Mr. R. Steven Branyon ..... Organist/Choirmaster  
Mr. Wesley Perkins ..... Assistant Conductor  
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Mr. Sinisa Domazet ..... Buildings Manager  
Master of Ceremonies ..... Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.  
Vergar ..... Mr. B. Ray Summerell  
Senior Warden ..... Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.  
Junior Warden ..... Mr. Mark D. Stevens  
Clerk of Vestry ..... Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth)  
Treasurer ..... Mr. Robert L. Sparks  
Assistant Treasurer ..... Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)  
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The Vestry: Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter (Cathy), Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Dr. J. Davidson Carson (David), Mr. E. Brian Culver, Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry), Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings (Stacy), Mrs. Thomas C. McCay (Connie), Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane), Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth), Mr. Robert L. Sparks, Mr. Mark D. Stevens, and Mr. Richard Wright (Rick)

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. Edwin H. Culver, and Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus: Mr. M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

President, Women of St. John's ..... Mrs. Paula W. Walker  
Co-President, Chancel Society .. Mrs. Jeanne H. MacMillan  
..... Mrs. Linda H. Pounds  
Pres. Emeritus, Chancel Society... Mrs. Roland S. Summers  
President, Men of St. John's ..... Mr. Sean F. Finnegan

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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. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

11 a.m. Mrs. Richard Jennings (Stacy)

USHER CHAIR

Mr. John G. Bradshaw

Please remember St. John's in your will.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mr. & Mrs.  
Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs.  
Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea), Mrs. B.  
Ray Summerell (Melanie), Mrs. John G.  
Bradshaw (Sally), Mrs. David A. Young  
(Pam), Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr. (Penny),  
and Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells (Jane)

COFFEE HOUR CHAIR

Mrs. Daniel Gilfillan (Marilyn)

MUSICIANS

Angela Fisher, Assistant Organist  
Wes Perkins, Assistant Conductor

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Fulenwider, Jr. by their family.

And in loving memory of Dr. Robert A. Burnett by Mary, Wendy, and Decie.

And in loving memory of Leonard Trosten on his birthday by Mrs. Ali Trosten and son, Jay Overstreet.

And in honor of the first anniversary of Reverend Jonathan Jameson's ordination on January 21, 2022.

The flowers in the chapel on Epiphany were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of J. Robert Logan Jr. by Dr. and Mrs. J. Robert Logan.

To offer flowers for the Altar, call the Church office at 912-232-1251. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-in.

SAVE THESE ADDITIONAL DATES!

- 1/25: Urban Hope Talent Show & Dinner, Cranmer Hall
- 1/26: Word at Work, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 12:15-1:15 p.m., Cranmer Hall
- 2/1: PACK, 4:30-6p.m., 4 Mall Ter
- 2/2: Holy Communion for Candlemas, Noon, Church
- 2/4: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ Starland Yard, 4:30 p.m., Note new time!

of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me" (26:18). The zeal Paul poured into ferocious persecution of the church must now be invested in the fervent preaching of the gospel.

Paul was not the first to take the gospel to the Gentiles. Peter's ministry in Caesarea (Acts 10), and Barnabas' ministry in Antioch (Acts 11) show us that it is the Spirit who leads the way, and the Church plays catchup as best it can. Though Paul then takes a leading role in the first intentional mission to the Gentiles, he does so only in a team that includes others like Barnabas and Silas, Aquila and Prisca, Timothy and Titus; and long before he arrives in Rome there was a mixed congregation of Jews and Gentiles, and this must have been true in many other parts of the Mediterranean world as well. In addition, before Paul's conversion, the conversion of Cornelius had already taught Peter that you don't need to be Jewish in order to be Christian, and that salvation is by the grace of Jesus Christ, and not by doing the works of the law (Acts 15:7-11). So Paul is far from a one-man show – the besetting temptation of too many charismatic religious personalities. Yet Paul holds more tenaciously to the principles than anyone else, when even stalwarts like Peter and Barnabas were temporizing on the exemption of Gentile converts from legal observance of the law (Galatians 2:11ff). And no one articulated as clearly and extensively, and in writing, the rationale and implications of the gospel for the doctrines of Christ and of the Spirit, of justification, moral life, the church, its ministry and sacraments, of Christian hope in the face of death. It took centuries for the Church to absorb Paul's teaching, and it is still absorbing it, for there is a lot to absorb, and it must always be overcoming our native inclinations to Pelagian self-help; yet somehow, from the beginning,

enough Christians recognized the importance of these writings to preserve and honor them as scripture. Without them our grasp of the gospel would be sadly impoverished.

By conversion, Paul receives a vocation of conversion, and so it is with our conversions also; in them we are caught up in the conversion of the whole human community, indeed, the whole creation, the return of the creature to the Creator, and its being refashioned in glory. This is not the work of man, but the work of God in bringing us to himself. So our prayer must be: "Turn thou us, O good Lord, and so shall we be turned" (Cf Lamentations 5:21). "Turn us again, O God, show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole" (Ps. 80).

– GGD

JANUARY'S FAITH + FICTION

All are welcome to this theologically focused book discussion led by Heather Cross and Fr. Jameson. This month's book is *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka. This group will meet **Wednesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>**, at 5:30 p.m. after Evening Prayer in the Green-Meldrim House. The only requirement is that you've read the book.

SECOND SUNDAY SUPPERS

We are excited to share that St. John's very popular Second Sunday Suppers are returning. The next dates are **Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** and **March 12<sup>th</sup>**. These suppers are designed for parishioners to get together and build deeper relationships with one another and to encourage and support one another in the faith and service of Christ. If you are new to the parish, this is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others.

If you are interested in attending one of the suppers, call the Church Office at (912) 232-1251.