

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 54 No. 42 The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Trinity 15) September 17, 2023

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THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

The Collect, Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 209-210

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

9 A.M. – FAMILY MORNING PRAYER, Church

10:00 A.M. – SUNDAY SCHOOL

A full list of Sunday Classes and room assignments is available online at StJohnsSav.org/grow

11:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church & Online

The nursery will be available for this service.

Music for this Sunday:

#300 *Before the Lord Jehovah's Throne* (Winchester New)

#138 *We Plow the Fields* (Claudius)

O Lord, Support Us All the Day Long, Carl Schalk

(This anthem was given to the St. John's Music Library in honor of

Charles & Ann Seyle on their 50th wedding anniversary by Steven Branyon.)

"Day by Day", from *Eight Orisons for SATB*, Harold W. Friedell

#196 *Bread of the World* (Eucharistic Hymn)

#357 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus* (In Babilone)

Festive Scherzo, Malcolm Archer

THE SUNDAY NIGHT SESSIONS

Wine. Small Bites. Big Ideas. Real Conversation.

Next Sunday evening, September 24th, at 5 p.m. will be the 3rd installment in our series of thought-provoking speakers at the Green-Meldrim House. This session will feature Harrison Scott Key, Thurber Prize winning author of the new book *How to Stay Married: The Most Insane Love Story Ever Told*. Well-known for his hilarious and confessional style, in this book Key engages honestly with faith, marriage, infidelity, and the strangeness of God's grace. The title for his talk is "Love is a Joke: on the death and rebirth of a marriage." Reserve your place early—this will be a very popular event and will likely reach capacity quickly.

RSVP and learn more at StJohnsSav.org/SNS

THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF STEWARDSHIP

I grew up in a house where tithing was taken very seriously. My parents seemed to take it as a divine command, and they were faithful in giving a tenth of their income back to God and to the work of the Church. There are certainly divine commands — not least the ten that we regularly rehearse — but what eventually moved my heart toward stewardship was not so much a sense of duty (though that's not to be despised) but a sense of the spiritual practice of sacrificial giving.

When Amy and I moved to New York City we ended up becoming parishioners at St Thomas Church Fifth Ave, a large gothic-revival church in Midtown, well known for its excellent choral tradition. But what drew us in was not the beautiful space or the transcendent music; it was instead the seriousness of the pastoral care and the commitment to proclaiming the saving gospel of Christ. One really had the sense that as grand as the externals were, the first things remained first.

It was in this context, newly married and settling into young adult life, that Amy and I began to grasp the importance of stewardship. Fr Mead, then rector, had a simple stewardship sermon and he probably gave some version of it every year. In it he didn't talk about all the wonderful things the church was doing (though they were). He also didn't chastise those who didn't give and call them to step up. Instead, he simply laid out his own

UPCOMING WORSHIP WEEK OF TRINITY XV

Monday-Friday, September 18th–22nd

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: Ember Day

8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel

12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church

Thursday: The Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel

12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel

Friday: Ember Day

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel

Saturday: Ember Day

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, September 24th, Trinity XVI

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

9 a.m. *Family Holy Communion*, Chapel

10 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*,
Church/Online

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour,
Green-Meldrim House

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

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The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue.....Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar.....Rector
1 West Macon Street, 31401.....(912) 429-3384
The Rev. Jonathan Jameson.....Associate Rector
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired].....(931) 327-5489
The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt.....Assisting Priest
Dr. Jonathan Murphy.....Interim Organist & Choirmaster
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Verger.....Mr. B. Ray Summerell
Senior Warden.....Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.
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Clerk of Vestry.....Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth)
Treasurer.....Mr. Robert L. Sparks
Assistant Treasurer.....Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)
Chancellor.....Dolly Chisholm

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. McMillan
.....Mrs. Linda H. Pounds
Pres. Emeritus, Chancel Society.....Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. Sean F. Finnegan
Church Office.....(912) 232-1251
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. 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
11:00 a.m. Mr. Robert L. Sparks

USHER CHAIRS

Mr. Frank Somoskey
Mr. Robert L. Sparks

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie), Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea), Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr. (Sally), Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan, Mrs. Clarkson C. Logan (Meta), and Ms. Linda H. Pounds.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Peter Meldrim Coy and Sally McAdoo Coy by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Coy.

And in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Helmken and loved ones, and in thanksgiving for St. John's Church by Mr. and Mrs. W. Howard Helmken, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Gary M. Schubert.

And in loving memory of Pauline T. Layman on her birthday by R. Leslie and Robin Johnson.

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

NOTICE OF BAPTISM

Mr. Clark Lamont Osteen, father-in-law of his sponsors Christopher Lamont Osteen and Laurie Hogan Osteen, was baptized from St. John's on September 6th, 2023. Mr. Osteen was born in Commerce, GA on April 19th, 1932.

CONDOLENCES

We extend condolences to the family of George Siday Gaillard III, late brother of Sally Fiveash, who will be buried at 11 a.m. this Friday September 15th, at Bonaventure Cemetery.

simple rule of life.

And his rule was thus: 1) weekly attendance at Sunday worship, 2) daily morning and evening prayer, 3) regular private confession, and 4) tithing to the Church.

First off, this is a wonderfully simple rule. There are no exotic and complicated aspects to it, just simple guideposts to a faithful Christian life. But what really struck me was the identification of stewardship as a spiritual practice, as something that was part of one's devotional life, not primarily either a financial decision or a fulfillment of duty.

As I began to think about it, I realized that giving to the church was not simply a matter of making a charitable contribution, it was instead an act of trust in God. It was a practical reminder that all we have has been given to us by the grace and mercy of God who continually sustains our very existence. As we present the bread and the wine, along with the collection, each Sunday at the offertory, we say, "All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee." When we say these words, we are admitting that we are not God — that we have not made ourselves. We are saying that all we have has been showered upon us by God's grace. And yet by God's grace he allows us a share of participating in this divine economy.

To work toward a full tithing (something Amy and I are still growing into) certainly has financial realities. God is not calling you to defer high-interest loans for the sake of the Kingdom. We must be good stewards of our finances for our own families. But the call to stewardship in the Church is not simply a matter of diversifying one's charitable giving. It is, first and foremost, a spiritual action. It is, as Fr.

Mead revealed to me, an essential part of our spiritual lives. It is part of how God reminds us of our own dependence upon him.

This is one of the great realities that being a Christian offers us in our late-modern age of atomistic disenchantment. Our society tells us that it's us against the world. That we must create a brand, an identity, an ethical system from the ground up; that we are only as valuable as we prove ourselves to be. To that, Jesus says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

To be a Christian is to be found in Jesus, and, in Jesus, to find that we are related to one another in his body. As we lay down the burden of control at the foot of the cross, Jesus gives us a new burden, a light burden: that of friendship in him.

It may seem odd, but every time we place our offering in the plate, we can see this action as a spiritual action of laying down the burden of control, of atomism, of trying to be God. And as we approach the altar in faith, we are not given what God "owes us" — there is no such thing — we are given the incorporative grace of fellowship in him; a grace that then beckons us to invite others in, so that they too might come to find the refreshment that their souls so desire. All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

JJJ