

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 55 No. 2

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

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THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

Introit: Psalm 80, BCP p. 441-441 ;
The Collects, BCP p. 92, 90 ; The Epistle, Romans 15:4, BCP pp. 92-93
The Gospel : St. Luke 21:25, BCP pp. 93
A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9 A.M. – FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION, Chapel

10 A.M. – SUNDAY SCHOOL

See list of classes and locations online at StJohnsSav.org/grow

11:00 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER & BAPTISM, Church & Online

The nursery will be available for this service.

Music for this Sunday:

- #6 *Creator of the Stars of Night* (Conditor Alme Siderum)
Canticle: *The Advent Prose*
- #1 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (Stuttgart)
- #8 *O Word, That Goest Forth on High* (Rex Glorioso)
Lo, In the Time Appointed, Healey Willan
- #5 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* (Helmsley)
Final Voluntary: *Rhapsody on 'Helmsley'*,
William Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)

MEETINGS & EVENTS UPCOMING

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| FRI. DEC. 8 : | 6 p.m. | Coelorum Gaudia: Ralston College Seasonal Choral Concert,
Free admission. Church. |
| SAT. DEC. 9 : | 9:30 - 11 a.m. | Breakfast with Santa. Cranmer Hall First Floor |
| SUN. DEC. 10 : | 3:30 p.m. | Pageant Rehearsal. Church. |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Tree Trimming. All ages welcome. Music & refreshments. Mall. |
| MON. DEC. 11 : | END OF DAY | Deadline for gifts for PACK. Bring to Cranmer Hall or send to
Melanie Finnegan (912-777-2376) (https://tinyurl.com/PackChristmas) |
| WED. DEC. 13 : | 5:30 p.m. | Faith + Fiction Book Group. <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> , Green-Meldrim House |
| FRI. DEC. 15 : | END OF DAY | Deadline for gifts for Angel Tree. Bring wrapped gifts to church
office, or send to Holly McClellan (912-247-2040) |
| SUN. DEC. 17 : | 12:15 p.m. | Special Coffee Hour with Egg Nog, Green-Meldrim House. |
| | 5-7 p.m. | Sunday Night Sessions #8: Tara Isabella Burton
<i>"Creating our Identities from Da Vinci to the Kardashians"</i> |
| | 5-7 p.m. | Youth Group: The Royal Priesthood, Cranmer Hall |

THE PARISH HOUSE AT EIGHTY

Last Friday there was an octogesimal celebration in our Parish House, commemorating its purchase by St. John's eighty years ago. In the middle of the Second World War, and on the heels of the Great Depression, the purchase of Savannah's premier antebellum mansion qualifies as a visionary act. The rector in 1943, Ernest Risley (*Mr. Risley*, as everyone called him), was the man to make it happen - he also acquired for St. John's the garden mall, the parking lot, and the first form of Cranmer Hall. In response to his pulpit challenge the money was raised in six weeks, a little over forty-one thousand dollars, much of it in small contributions (one of \$2500, four of \$1000, the rest \$500 or much less). A list of the five hundred and forty six contributors (from inside and outside the parish) survives, and it includes names of persons (Sam and Lilla Varnedoe, Mrs Malcolm Maclean, Charles Ellis, Raymond Demere) and businesses (Globe Shoes, Smith Brothers, Fine's Department Store, the Leopold Adler Company, Derst Baking Company, the DeSoto Hotel) still known today, as well as a donor identified as "Little French Woman" and the "Choir Boys" (\$1.60).

Right from the beginning, this purchase of the Green-Meldrim House by St. John's Church was regarded as an civic act of historic preservation. "With fire in his eyes", according to the newspaper account, Mr. Risley said that it "had to be saved". A public appeal was published in support of the purchase, written by Walter Hartridge

UPCOMING WORSHIP WEEK OF ADVENT II

Mon.-Fri., Dec. 11th – Dec. 15th
8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Online

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

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:

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

Friday:

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

Saturday:

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, December 17th (Advent 3)

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church

10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church/Online

12:15 p.m. Special Coffee Hour w/
Eggnog, Green-Meldrim House

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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

Mr. Wesley Perkins Assistant Conductor
Mrs. Angela Fisher Assistant Organist

Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. Doreen L. Karls Adm. Assistant

Mrs. Robert J. Terry (Abbey) Comm. Coordinator and
Adm. Asst. to the Organist & Choirmaster

Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet Financial Administrator
Mrs. Joseph Ross, Jr. (Sarah) .. Children's Ministry Director

Mr. Steven D. Vanderlip, Jr. Minister w/Youth/Pastoral Intern
Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

Master of Ceremonies Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.
Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell

Senior Warden Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.
Junior Warden Mr. E. Brian Culver

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. Mrs. Thomas C. McCay
(Connie)

USHER CHAIRS

Dr. Clifford J. Berger

Mr. Charles Ezelle

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. I. David

Futrell, Jr. (Penny), Ms. Linda H.

Pounds, and Ms. Lydia Wright.

JUNIOR CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Stephen D. Ezelle (Catherine)

Miss Cate Ezelle

FLOWERS

The flowers in church this Sunday

are given to the glory of God

and in loving memory of

Marshall F. Campbell, Jr.

and her grandson,

Alexander Mueller Archie

by Dr. and Mrs.

H. Emerson Thomas, Jr.;

In memory of loved ones by

Mrs. William E. Hutchinson, Jr. ;

In joyful celebration of
the birthday of Rencie Schmidt
by her loving husband, Peter Schmidt.

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

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to
the family and friends of Joan
Christensen, mother of Anna Wasden,
of this parish. The burial office will
be at 11 a.m. this Friday,
December 8, 2023, in church.
Interment will follow at a later date.

at the behest of the Society for the Preservation of Savannah Landmarks. Historic preservation in Savannah is conventionally dated to 1955, when the Davenport House was rescued from demolition, but the preservation of the Green-Meldrim House preceded it by twelve years.

The result of that purchase in 1943 is that the House has now been longer in the stewardship of St. John's than either its previous owners, and has long been a much-loved focus of congregational life. In the 1950's and 60's, when it housed the Sunday School, it was furnished in "early attic" and endured heavy usage; latterly, in the rectorship of Fr. Ralston, it was furnished with period antiques by Mrs. Effie Denney and Mrs. Susan Patterson, to become a gracious setting for bridal dressing, wedding and funeral receptions, Sunday coffee hour, and public tours.

We want it to continue as a Parish House, and we also want to share its historic heritage more fully with the world; and to that end this year we also set up a new charitable entity, the Keepers of the Historic Green-Meldrim House, to manage the house on behalf of St. John's, which retains ownership and has a majority voice on the Board. This year we also had the opportunity to appoint Jamie Credle, a much-respected former director of the Davenport House, as the first Director of the Green-Meldrim House. Under the direction of Mrs. Credle and the new board (ably chaired by Sherry Holtzclaw), the last six months have been a whirlwind of activity, with the expansion of the docent team (including a program for high school students), and an overdue reconfiguration of the historic furnishings on the second floor.

Unlike many historic houses, the Green-Meldrim House has an amazingly large collection of original furnishings, from both families. At

last Friday's celebration, two further acquisitions were unveiled, a pair of rosewood side chairs in Rococo revival style, known to have been in the House during the Meldrim years, the gift of a Meldrim descendant, Mr. Andrew Jones, whose refurbishment was made possible in part by the gift of another Meldrim descendant and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Coy. Also with us last Friday was Mrs. Anna Habersham Smith, whose contributions to the Green-Meldrim House over the years have been invaluable. More than a decade ago, she wrote the application for the grant that covered the lion's share of the million-dollar restoration cost of the roof and parapets. More recently, she and Mrs. Beth Reiter (sometime Preservation officer of the Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission), both transcribed the manuscript ledger kept by the House's architect, John Norris, during the construction of the House – an unusual and important resource for ongoing historical research. This continuing support of the Meldrim family for St. John's stewardship of the House began (as Jamie Credle told us last Friday) with Frances Casey Meldrim, the widow of Judge Meldrim, and the last private owner of the House, who in her ninth decade sought to ensure its survival by selling it to a sympathetic purchaser.

For St. John's, the Green-Meldrim House will remain an important venue for in-parish functions, but also a partner in our engagement with the wider community. Here's to another eighty years! **GGD**

Parishioners of all ages are invited to join us this Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4:30p.m. on the Garden Mall for our annual **Tree Trimming Party**. Music and refreshments are provided.