

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S*The nursery is available from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.***8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION**, Church

(Enter by south doors on Charlton Street)

Introit: Psalm 33, BCP pp. 378-379

The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel: BCP pp. 213-214

*A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.***9:00 A.M. FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION**, Chapel

(Enter by north door under arches)

10:00 A.M. – SUNDAY SCHOOL (all ages), Chapel & Cranmer Hall**11:00 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER & SERMON**, Church & Online

(Enter by south doors on Charlton Street)

MUSIC FOR THIS SUNDAY:

Voluntary: Sonata No. 4 in B-flat Major (“Allegretto”), Felix Mendelssohn

#300 *Before the Lord Jehovah's Throne* (WINCHESTER NEW)#418 *Blest are the Pure in Heart* (ST FLAVIAN)Anthem: *Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts*, Henry Purcell#396 *The Church's One Foundation* (AURELIA)

Voluntary: Sonata No. 4 in B-flat Major (“Allegro maestoso e vivace”),

Felix Mendelssohn

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

Hostess, Mrs. David A. Reid (Richie)

Youth Group + Childcare + Nursery, Mark your calendars and plan to join us on **Sunday, Sept. 29, in Cranmer Hall from 5-7 p.m.** for an activity, dinner, and a Bible study. The youth group is open to all youth in 4th grade and above; friends are invited too! Childcare and Nursery are offered for younger children so parents may have a parents' night out.

If you plan to have your child/children attend, email Mr. Steven Vanderlip, at svanderlip@stjohnssav.org.

Upcoming Green-Meldrim Lectures**Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m.**

The Useful and the Beautiful: A Summer Adventure (with Victorian Society in America, Savannah Chapter) Friends of the GMH: Free; General Public: \$10. Call 912-233-3845 to reserve space.

Thursday, Sept. 26 at 6 p.m.

Earthquakes, Cranes and Parapets: How a Local Architect Led the Team that Saved John Norris's Gothic Revival Roof of her Family Home! Anna Habersham Wright Smith, Architect. General Public: Free. Call 912-233-3845 to reserve space.

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

MATTHEW'S CONVERSION

The feast of Saint Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist will be observed with Holy Communion in the chapel at 11 a.m.

Before he was an Apostle and Evangelist, Matthew was a publican, a tax collector, despised by all right-thinking patriotic Jews for squeezing the poor and collaborating with the Romans. Yet it was this most unsuitable person, “sitting at the receipt of custom”, whom Jesus saw and called with the words, “follow me”. Matthew did not choose Jesus: it is Jesus who chose him. Surprising as we may find Jesus' choice of Matthew as a disciple, let alone an apostle, Matthew's ready response is even more surprising: “he rose, and followed him” – leaving behind his old way of life to embrace a new, as a disciple of Jesus. His rising to follow Jesus is the spiritual resurrection of one dead in sins, and just as the dead do not cause themselves to rise, both call and response are the act of God's unmerited good will toward us by Jesus Christ.

The example of Matthew makes clear that conversion is not a response to material inducements, or the prospect of personal gain. We are not promised earthly riches, nor worldly glory. It is the glory of God, revealed in his incarnate Son, which arrests Matthew's attention and changes his life. As the Apostle Paul explains says in the epistle lesson for this feast (2 Cor. 4:1-6) “God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in

the face of Jesus Christ”. For this light, shining forth in the person, the words, and the works of Christ, proclaimed in the gospel, that penetrates into the very heart of man. What causes our

**UPCOMING WORSHIP:
WEEK OF TRINITY 17****Online Morning Prayer:**

8:15 a.m. Monday-Friday

Monday:5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel**Tuesday:**8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel**Wednesday:**8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church**Thursday:**8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel**Friday:**5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel**Sunday, September 29: (Trinity 18)
Michaelmas****8 a.m.** *Holy Communion*, Church**9 a.m.** *Family Morning Prayer*, Chapel**10 a.m.** *Sunday School*,

Chapel & Cranmer Hall

10:40 a.m. *Brass Prelude for Michaelmas*, Church/Online**11 a.m.** *Solemn Eucharist & Sermon*, Church/Online

THE PARISH PAPER

of

St. John's Church

ONE WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

www.stjohnssav.org

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

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Mr. Wesley Perkins Assistant Conductor
Mrs. Angela Fisher Assistant Organist
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
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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. Simisa Domazet Buildings Manager
Master of Ceremonies Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.
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Senior Warden Mr. Robert L. Sparks
Junior Warden Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.
Clerk of Vestry Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert
Treasurer Mr. Floyd Whittington, Jr.
Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)
Chancellor Dolly Chisholm

The Vestry: Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mr. E. Brian Culver, Mr. Charles J. Ezelle, Mr. Stephen Ezelle, Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry), Mr. R. Scott Howard, Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings (Stacy), Mrs. Thomas C. McCay (Connie), Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry), Mr. Graham P. Sadler, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert, Mr. Robert L. Sparks, 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 Melanie Finnegan
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
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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 a.m. Mr. Charles J. Ezelle

USHER CHAIRS

Mr. Robert L. Sparks

COFFEE HOUR CHAIR

Mrs. David A. Reid (Richie)

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)
Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr. (Sally)
Mrs. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)
Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr. (Laura)
Mrs. Clarkson C. Logan (Meta)
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert
Dr. Linda Ann McCall

JUNIOR CHANCEL

Mrs. Joseph R. Ross (Coren)
Mrs. Derrick E. Futrell (Amanda)
Miss Stella Futrell

FLOWERS

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney T. Nutting, Sr. and Mr. Sidney T. Nutting, Jr. by their families.

And in loving memory of Virginia L. Brower by her family.

And in celebration the 80th birthday of their father, Edwin Haupt Culver, by E. Brian Culver and his family and Kristin C. Jones and her family.

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

Brass for Michaelmas Sunday

Would you like to hear special brass music during our 11 a.m. service on Sunday, Sept. 29 (with a 10:40 a.m. prelude) for Michaelmas? Please consider contributing to our brass fund! Make checks payable to St. John's Church with "brass" in the memo line, and add (if desired) a note of thanksgiving or memorial. Memorial or celebratory donations will be published in the Parish Paper and Sunday Booklets.

conversion, our turning away from an old life, our embrace of the new, is something not we have invented, imagined, or devised but what has been revealed, for us to received. It is the light of "the truth that is in Jesus".

Therefore the apostolic and evangelistic mission of the Church, supremely in its worship, its ministry of word and sacrament, is to show forth in the world "the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God". Preachers are tempted to offer something else to scratch us where we itch – emotional catharsis or psychological wellbeing, material prosperity, marital happiness, social justice, political ambition, motivational training, even entertainment. Such approaches to preaching can have wide appeal – but they are not preaching the gospel. At the core of the church's proclamation must always be the person and work of Jesus Christ: "we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord: and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake". And in that preaching, Paul says, we "have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God". The gospel's appeal is to the conscience – the place in us where the conviction takes hold about truth and falsehood, not by human judgment alone, but "in the sight of God".

Despite the fact that the gospel of Christ is not "hid" (for the light shines on all) not all believe, not all are converted. "Many are called but few chosen". Like the carping Pharisees who grumble about Jesus' willingness to keep table fellowship with publicans and sinners like Matthew, it seems that we can shut our eyes to the light of glory. Paul offers this

explanation: "if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost, in whom the god of this world" – the lying spirit of the world, whom the Scripture calls the Devil or Satan – "hath blinded the minds of them that believe not". It is entirely possible for us to be so distracted, deluded, demoralized, deceived, that we fail to respond to the call of Jesus. We can be so intent on some vain worldly ambition – the gratifying of some grudge or greed – that we close our minds to the light that shines in Christ. Like the Pharisees, in self-justifying pride, we may find such fault with Christ's kindness to sinners, heedless of how much we may need it ourselves. Not in pride but in humility do we hear and receive the grace declared by the Word of God.

The words of this familiar Charles Wesley hymn are a prayer for deliverance from blindness to vision, from ignorance and delusion to truth:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near,
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till Thou inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.