

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**

Introit: Psalm 103: BCP pp. 466-467

The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel: BCP pp. 251, 214, 252-253

*A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.***9:00 A.M. FAMILY MORNING PRAYER &
CHILDREN'S PROCESSION, Church****10:00 A.M. – SUNDAY SCHOOL** (all ages), Chapel & Cranmer Hall**10:40 A.M. – OFFERED BY THE SAVANNAH BRASS QUINTET,**
Church & Online**11:00 A.M. – PROCESSION, SOLEMN EUCHARIST & SERMON,**
Church & Online**MUSIC FOR THIS SUNDAY:***Come, Let us Join our Cheerful Songs, NATIVITY*#121 *Stars of the Morning, TRISAGION*#123 *Christ the Fair Glory, COELITES PLAUDANT**And I Saw Another Angel, Charles Stanford**Angels Holy, High and Lowly, William Douglas*#197 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, PICARDY*#599 *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones, VIGILI ET SANCTI*Voluntary: *Grand Chœur Dialogué, Eugène Gigout***BRASS FOR MICHAELMAS****Kindly supported by:**

- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. McCay
- Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert
- Mrs. Laura C. Wimbish
- Mr. & Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.
- And in honor of Roland Summers, MD for his fifty years in the profession of medicine.
- And in gratitude for the many talents of Dr. Jonathan Murphy and his dedication to St. John's and the choir as he served as Organist/Choirmaster from September 2023 through July 2024.
- And in loving memory of McDonald A. Fawcett by Mrs. Susannah H. Fawcett.

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Faithful Family. Joyful Giving.

Our Stewardship Campaign begins this Sunday, Sept. 29 and runs through Sunday, Nov. 10. This is a time for us to reflect on the use of our own gifts in the service of Christ and his Church. Pledge cards are being mailed this coming week and will be available next Sunday at the Church door.

“JOYFUL GIVING”

What happens in your mind when you are asked to fill out a pledge card? I suspect that at least part of your mind approaches it as a consumer would – a religious consumer, but still a consumer. It's a bill to be paid, and somehow it must be fitted in with all the other bills we pay for goods and services we need or want. Naturally we consider what other ways we could use that money – and naturally we want to minimize the cost (and maximize benefit). That's what consumers (and bill-payers) do! And there may be a somewhat grudging sense of obligation, but little joy. Yet the Scripture says, “Let every man do according as he is disposed in his heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). So what would it take for us to fill out that pledge card with cheerfulness? What will turn us into joyful givers instead of grudging consumers?

That is the spiritual question at the heart of the annual stewardship campaign. Yes there are practical matters of church budgets and finances, and these deserve careful consideration. Not only do we have to meet the cost of our current ministry commitments, but there are ministry investments (notably a third priest position)

which we know we should be making but have never been able to afford. Such practical questions deserve our attention – but the state of our souls is also a practical question of even greater importance. If we are grudging consumers of religious services rather than joyful givers in service of God then our whole approach needs to be rethought. And the basis for doing so is in the family of faith, which is the family of God.

Our natural relation to God is that of creature to Creator – of finite to infinite, transitory to everlasting, the barely existent to the inexhaustible plenitude of being. Yet, by a marvel of his grace, he has chosen to bring us into intimate relationship with himself. In Christ he has given himself to us as our Father, and in Christ, the faithful are united to one another as brothers and sisters, the children of God, and inheritors of his kingdom – “with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven”. In ourselves we are nothing; but in Christ we are everything to God. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1).

The word “children” has different connotations in Scripture. The “little children” of whom Jesus speaks in

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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
Rev. J. Patrick Hunt Assisting Priest
Mr. William Douglas Organist and Choirmaster
Mr. Wesley Perkins Assistant Conductor
Mrs. Angela Fisher Assistant Organist
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Ms. Doreen L. Karls Parish Administrator
Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfiet 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. 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
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 a.m. Mr. Robert L. Sparks

USHER CHAIRS

Mr. Robert L. Sparks
Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)
Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan
Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr. (Cathy)
Mrs. Thomas McCay (Connie)

FLOWERS

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Father Ralston by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Reed Welch and Ralston Kennedy Welch.

And in loving memory of
Dr. and Mrs. Jules Victor, Jr.
by Mr. and Mrs. Neil H. Victor.

And in loving memory of
Mrs. M. Tyus Butler, Jr. by
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Belford.

And in memory of
The Reverend Jack E. Altman,
The Reverend William H. Ralston, Jr.,
The Right Reverend G. Paul Reeves,
and The Reverend Jack E. Altman III
by Mr. and Mrs. G. Scott Stephens.

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

Special Collection for ARDF

Next Sunday, Oct. 6, we will have a special collection for the Anglican Relief & Development Fund. Please give generously to strengthen faith communities in the developing world.

Holly Days Bazaar, Nov. 14-15

Mark your calendars for this year's bazaar! We will share details about this year's event, including volunteer opportunities, in the weeks ahead. For updates visit their Facebook page at [@stjohnschurchbazaar](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchbazaar).

today's gospel lesson, are powerless and dependent on the good will of others for every need. Likewise, we are utterly dependent on the grace of our Father for every need – our daily bread, the forgiveness of our trespasses, our deliverance from evil. Yet “children” in Scripture are also full-grown adults working in responsible partnerships with their parents, as active agents of the parental purpose, ready to give and sacrifice much for their sake. Think of Jonathan to Saul, or Ruth to Naomi, or Elisha to Elijah. It is as his own children that we are “workers together with the Lord” (2 Cor 6:1), ready to give our all for the hallowing of his name, the coming of his kingdom, and the fulfilment of his will. The two sides of being a child are connected. We are loved beyond all deserving, beloved even when we sin against him, beloved when we turn to him in repentance and hope. Knowing ourselves loved in the very depths of our being, we are freed from anxious self-concern to serve and please him in all things, in fulfilment of his gracious will.

And his will is that we should love one another as he has loved us; and to serve one another with the gifts he has given us for that purpose, “as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10). When we talk about “stewardship”, therefore, we are talking not just about the church's financial needs, but our own status and identity in the family of God. That's why the offering of alms and oblations is an act of *worship*: it is a thankful response to fatherly love of God, not just in feeling but in action.

Over the next several weeks of St. John's Stewardship campaign, we will be asking you to thoughtfully

and prayerfully consider your call to stewardship, and gently prompting you to make a pledge of your giving for the next calendar year, 2025. It's easy to think of this as a mere financial transaction, as if we were religious consumers purchasing religious services. We ask that you will think about those very practical financial decisions the light of faith, not as religious consumers but as the family of God, growing to maturity as his own children forever.

— GGD

UPCOMING WORSHIP: WEEK OF TRINITY 18

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

Wednesday:

8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel
12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel
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, October 6 (Trinity 19)
Anglican Relief & Development Fund
8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church
10 a.m. *Sunday School*,
Chapel & Cranmer Hall
11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist & Sermon*,
Church/Online
12:15 p.m. *Coffee Hour*,
Green-Meldrim House