

**THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S**

*The nursery (newborns to four-year-olds) is available from 10:15 a.m. to noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Cranmer Hall.*

**8 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION, Church**

*A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following 8 a.m. service.*

Introit: Psalm 27, BCP pp. 371–372; The Collect, BCP p. 195

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 195–196

**9:30 A.M. FR. DUNBAR'S CLASS, Cranmer Hall**

*During the summer, Fr. Dunbar's Sunday School class will meet in the Ralston Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Cranmer Hall.*

**10:30 A.M. SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON, Church & Online****Music for This Sunday:**

#149 *Awake, My Heart*, SELNECKER

#566 *Jesus Calls Us*, GALILEE

God be in my head, and in my understanding, Henry Davies

Hail, true body, Edward Elgar

#203 *My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread*, ROCKINGHAM

#257 *Hasten the Time Appointed*, LANCASHIRE

***New!* Small Group Fellowship:****Parish Provisions**

**Tuesday, August 5, from 5–7 p.m.  
Cranmer Hall Kitchen**

Parish Provisions is a new small group that will meet monthly to prepare goodies to be sold during the Holly Days Bazaar. Parishioners of all ages are invited to the first gathering on August 5 to help prepare soup mix, oatmeal, and herb mix. Let us know you are coming by calling the Church office at 912-232-1251. If you have any questions, call Meredith Peluso at 310-560-6843.

**Save These Upcoming Dates!**

- Sept. 2: cookie dough, tea mixes, hot sauce
- Oct. 7: granola, hot cocoa, candles
- Nov. 4: spice mix/rub

**MUSIC IN THE MALL:****The Midtown Pickers**

**Wednesday, July 23, from 6–8 p.m.  
St. John's Garden Mall**

Enjoy the toe-tapping, heartwarming sounds of The Midtown Pickers, a group of local musicians known for their spontaneous, acoustic jam sessions. St. John's Church is hosting this concert to connect the local community with our faith community. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy! **(Free & open to the public)**

**FLOWER 101 WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, August 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Cranmer Hall**

Demonstrations and hands-on participation. Lunch provided. Bring your own flower clippers. RSVP to the Church office at 912-232-1251.

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**CONSUMERS OR COMMUNITY**

Since the 1960's, we have been caught up in a far-reaching cultural revolution. One aspect of this revolution has been retreat from participation in the institutions of community life – notably marriage and church – but also from civic engagement in general. Screens have allowed us to substitute contact-free virtual relationships for in-person community, and the Covid lockdowns accelerated self-isolating “work from home” lifestyles. It's ironic that one of the social media giants seized on the language of “friendship” for its product: ironic, because social media cannibalizes more real and embodied forms of community to produce merely virtual forms of community – relationships that are contact-free, and fundamentally transactional, segmenting the population into self-selecting and warring tribes. Recent statistic samplings indicate the long decline in church affiliation has paused, or even reversed, but it is too soon to celebrate. For one thing, it is young men who are coming back to church, not young women: the polarizing dynamic is still at work.

Underlying this dissolution of community, and its replacement by disembodied virtual communities, is the emergence of the autonomous self, godlike in its self-determining freedom, bound by no constraint of tradition, reason, or nature, under obligation only to the imperatives of self-expression. As a result of this

shift, we understand what we are no longer in terms obligations to community but in terms of consumption.

The decline of marriage and of the church mean an erosion also of the goods that we can have only by commitment to community, and not by transactional consumerism. Genuine

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

8:15 a.m. Monday-Friday

**Monday, July 21:**

*No in-person services today*

**Tuesday, July 22:****Feast of Mary Magdalene**

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

**Wednesday, July 23:**

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel  
9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church

**Thursday, July 24:**

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

**Friday, July 25:**

**Feast of St. James, the Apostle**  
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Sunday, July 27: Trinity VI  
SUMMER SCHEDULE**

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church  
9:30 a.m. *Fr. Dunbar's Class*,  
Ralston Room, Cranmer Hall  
10:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*,  
Church/Online  
11:45 a.m. *Coffee Hour*,  
Green-Meldrim House

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 Wednesdays), send name and email address to [information@stjohnssav.org](mailto:information@stjohnssav.org)

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly with a bonus edition for Christmas by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

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The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar ..... Rector  
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The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired] ..... (931) 327-5489  
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Rev. David Thurlow ..... Honorary Assisting Priest  
Mr. William Douglas ..... Organist and Choirmaster  
Mrs. Janice W. Woods ..... Business Manager  
Ms. Doreen L. Karls ..... Parish Administrator  
Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfiet ..... Financial Administrator  
Mrs. Jeremy J. Harvey (Heather) ..... Communications  
Mrs. Joseph Ross, Jr. (Sarah) ... Children's Ministry Director  
Mr. Sinisa Domazet ..... Buildings Manager  
Master of Ceremonies ..... Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.  
Verger ..... Mr. B. Ray Summerell  
Verger ..... Mr. James E. Morris

Senior Warden ..... Mr. Graham P. Sadler  
Junior Warden ..... Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry)  
Treasurer ..... Mr. Floyd Whittington, Jr.  
Assistant Treasurer ..... Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)  
Clerk of Vestry ..... Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert  
Chancellor ..... Dolly Chisholm

The Vestry: Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara),  
Mrs. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr. (Beverley), Mr. Douglas P.  
McManamy, Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary), Mrs.  
Patrick Worsham (Jane), Mr. Charles J. Ezelle, Mr.  
Stephen D. Ezelle, Mr. R. Scott Howard, Mr. Richard  
Wright (Rick), and Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry)

Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus: M. Tyus  
Butler, Jr., Esq. (Ty)

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

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  
10:30 a.m. Mr. Douglas P. McManamy

**USHERS**

Mr. Frank Somoskey  
Mr. John G. Bradshaw

**CHOIR**

Choir of Adults

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)  
Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings (Stacy)  
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)  
Mrs. Neil H. Victor (Patti)  
Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan  
Mrs. Patrick Worsham (Jane)  
Mrs. P. Wesley Perkins (Jennifer)  
Mrs. Gary Schubert (Elizabeth)

**FLOWERS**

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Howell III and Kathyne Howell Koritz by Jeanne, Caroline and Claire.

And in loving memory of  
Mr. and Mrs. Lorton S. Livingston  
by their family.

And in celebration of the 103<sup>rd</sup>  
birthday of Jane's mother,  
Elizabeth C. Wilbanks  
by Paul and Jane Pressly.

And in honor of the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary  
of the Reverend Gavin G. Dunbar's  
ordination on July 18, 1992.

And in honor of the consecration  
of Bishop Paul Lambert  
to the Episcopate, July 12, 2008.

And to the glory of God and on the  
occasion of the baptism of Henry  
David Helton by his parents Dr's  
Matthew and Sally Helton.

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

community requires more of us – but it also provides benefits you can't get any other way. For example, there are real and measurable benefits that children receive when they grow up with parents who are married to each other: those benefits are less commonly found in children who grow up in other circumstances. But it is not just children who benefit from community – it's also the parents, in the great unspoken covenant of mutual care between the generations. The retreat from family and church and civic engagement has marched with a decline in procreation rates well below replacement levels. An aging society will have to depend on ever smaller numbers of working adults for its well being. It's not just social security benefits, either, whose funds are on track to run out in 2032. The decline of the workforce will affect the economy, national security, public health, social services, and much more. It will put ever more pressure on those who are most in need of care. It is not impossible that pressure should mount for euthanasia on economic grounds.

The question is, whether we have reached a point where we are ready to rediscover ourselves as individuals in community rather than as consumers driven by self-expression. I do not have an answer to that question. What I do know is that the Christian religion has a deep and rich teaching and practice of community; for the Christian religion is about the establishment of genuine community at the very deepest levels of reality, a community that is grounded on the action of God himself, drawing us into communion and fellowship with himself in body and soul, for time and eternity, so that we share in the very life of God, the relation of the Father

to the Son in the Holy Spirit. Just think of the images for community that we find in Scripture – the Creator's chosen people, God's household and family, the Shepherd and the sheep, the Vine and the branches, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Spirit. Think also of the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, the outward means by which we are united to Christ in his Body and sustained in that union as "very members incorporate". The inner spiritual virtues of mind and will that unite us to God in Christ through the sacraments – faith, hope, and charity – are also virtues that unite us to one another: shared faith, shared hope, shared love that is also love for one another. Through these virtues, by means of the Spirit's working through these sacraments, we are growing into the community that Christ has established for us in his own person.

For us to live in this community requires that we not approach it as consumers, making choices based on convenience, taste, opinion, or self-interest. That's hard, because everything else in our culture teaches us to do just that. (That's why merely transactional approaches to boosting the birth rate by financial benefits have had little success.) As the gospel itself proclaims, there is only one way to establish and maintain community, and that is sacrifice. That's why the Prayer Book service makes clear that in the very act of receiving the benefits of Christ's sacrifice for us, we are offering ourselves to him, "ourselves, our souls and bodies", "not only with our lips but in our lives". It is in dying to self, that we live unto God, in the Body of Christ, in the Temple of the Spirit.