

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 56 No. 43

Feast of St. Matthew (The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity)

September 21, 2025

## “JOYFUL GIVING”

What comes to mind when you are asked to fill out a pledge card? For many of us, it feels like another bill to pay—a religious bill, perhaps, but still one more obligation to fit in alongside all the others. Naturally, we compare it with other ways that money could be used. Naturally, we want to minimize the cost and maximize the benefit. That is how consumers think, and it is easy to approach church giving in that same consumer spirit. But when that happens, joy quickly disappears. Yet Scripture tells us plainly: “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).

The question, then, is simple but searching: how do we move from grudging consumers to joyful givers? That is the spiritual challenge at the heart of stewardship. Of course, there are practical matters to consider. The church has a budget to meet, ministries to sustain, and new opportunities we would like to pursue. These financial realities matter. But beneath them lies a deeper concern: the state of our hearts. If we are stuck in the mindset of consumers of religious services, then our giving will always feel like duty without delight. But if we see ourselves as members of God’s family, then giving becomes an act of freedom, gratitude, and joy.

Our natural relationship with God is creature to Creator: finite to infinite, fleeting to everlasting. Yet, in Christ, God has brought us into something far more intimate. He has given himself to us as our Father. In him, we are not just isolated creatures but beloved children, united with one another in the family of God and heirs of his kingdom. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1). What we are in ourselves—weak, sinful—is not the last

word. What we are in Christ—beloved, forgiven, renewed—is what defines us.

The Bible’s picture of “children” holds together two truths. On the one hand, like the “little children” who are brought to Jesus, we are powerless and utterly dependent on our Father’s grace for daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance from evil. On the other hand, in Scripture the word “children” also designates grown sons and daughters who take responsibility for their parents’ work—Jonathan with Saul, Ruth with Naomi, Elisha with Elijah. In Christ, we too are called to maturity: “workers together with the Lord” (2 Cor. 6:1), gladly giving ourselves for the honor of his name, the growth of his kingdom, and the fulfillment of his will. Knowing ourselves loved with an everlasting love, we are freed from anxious self-concern to live as faithful sons and daughters who serve with joy.

And what is his will? That we should love one another as he has loved us, serving with the gifts entrusted to us “as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10). That is what stewardship is really about—not just the church’s financial needs but our identity as God’s family. That is why the offering of alms and oblations is an act of worship: it is not merely meeting a budget but expressing thanksgiving in action. It is love responding to Love.

In the weeks ahead, as St. John’s Stewardship campaign unfolds, you will be asked to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2026. The temptation will be to think of it as a transaction—like paying for religious services rendered. Resist that temptation. Instead, think of it as an opportunity to live into your true identity as children of God, growing to maturity in Christ. For when giving is rooted in faith, shaped by hope, and overflowing with love, then it is no longer grudging, but joyful.

– GGD

Church Office: 1 West Macon St, 31401 .....(912) 232-1251

Bishop of GA..... The Rev. Frank Logue  
Rector ..... The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar  
Associate Rector ..... The Rev. Jonathan Jameson  
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired].....(931) 327-5489  
Assisting Priest ..... Rev. J. Patrick Hunt  
Hon. Assisting Priest .....Rev. David Thurlow  
Organist and Choirmaster..... Mr. William Douglas  
Verger ..... Mr. B. Ray Summerell  
Verger .....Mr. James E. Morris

Sr. Warden: Mr. Graham P. Sadler; Jr. 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.; Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. Edwin H. Culver, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

President, Women of St. John's: Melanie Finnegan; Co-President, Chancel Society: Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan and Mrs. Linda H. Pounds; Pres. Emeritus, Chancel Society: Mrs. Roland S. Summers; President, Men of St. John's: Mr. Benjamin Baxter

## MUSIC ON MADISON SQUARE

### The North Carolina Baroque Orchestra

*Sunday, Oct 19, 5 p.m. at St. John's Church*

Come and hear the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra perform works by Vivaldi and Handel on period instruments. They will also perform with guest soprano, Kathryn Knauer. To purchase tickets, visit [StJohnsSav.org/MMS](http://StJohnsSav.org/MMS)

## WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S Parish Provisions Small Group

*Tuesday, Oct. 7, 5 p.m., Cranmer Hall Kitchen*

Parishioners of all ages are invited to prepare granola, hot cocoa, candles in preparation for the bazaar in November. Everyone will take home a sample while also helping stock the shelves!

## Membership Meeting & Holly Days Bazaar Kickoff

*Wednesday, Oct 8, 10 a.m., Cranmer Hall*

All the women of the parish are invited to join us in the Ralston Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) to help kick off the Holy Days Bazaar (Nov. 13 & 14) with fellowship and festive planning. Your individual contributions and hard work make the bazaar a success every year!

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

### WEEK OF TRINITY XIV

#### Online Morning Prayer:

*No online Morning Prayer this week*

#### Monday, September 22:

*No in person services today*

#### Tuesday, September 23:

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

#### Wednesday, September 24:

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel  
*No Sung Compline this week*

#### Thursday, September 25:

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

#### Friday, September 26:

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### Sunday, September 28: Trinity XV

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church  
8:45 a.m. *Nursery*, Cranmer Hall  
*open until 12:15 p.m.*

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

10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*,  
Cranmer Hall & Chapel

11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Church/Online  
12:15 p.m. *Coffee Hour*, Green-Meldrim House

#### Monday, Sept. 29:

#### Feast of St. Michael & All Angels

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

## MEN OF ST. JOHN'S

### Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker *Wednesday, Oct. 22, Green-Meldrim House*

Join the Men of St. John's Church for their annual meeting and presentation by John Ratcliff on the Thrill of the First Flight. Members of St. John's are asked to donate \$15 to offset expenses. Guests and friends are free. For more details and to RSVP, please visit [StJohnsSav.org/MSJ](http://StJohnsSav.org/MSJ).



## Faithful Family. Joyful Giving.

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*  
—Matthew 6:21

Our Stewardship Campaign kicked off last Sunday, Sept. 14, and runs through Sunday, October 26. 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 week and will also be available at the Church door.



**The Feast of St. Michael & All Angels**  
*Noon Monday, Sept. 29, Chapel*  
Plan to join us for Holy Communion.

### **Michaelmas Sunday, Oct. 5**

#### **11 a.m. Michaelmas Sunday with Brass**

Would you like to hear special brass music during our 11 a.m. service (with a 10:40 a.m. prelude)? Please consider contributing to our brass fund! Make checks payable to St. John's Church with "brass" in the memo, and add a note of thanksgiving or memorial for the Parish Paper.

#### **5p.m. Solemn Choral Evensong for Michaelmas**

The choirs of St. John's will sing Solemn Evensong in the church followed by a reception in the Green-Meldrim House. Plan to attend and enjoy the beauty of this historic Anglican tradition.

# THE SUNDAY NIGHT SESSIONS

Small Bites and Drinks | Authentic Conversations | Thought-Provoking Ideas

Heather Cross  
*Novelist*

## "Writing While Christian"

A conversation on the intersection of Faith + Fiction hosted by Amber Noel

*Including a launch party for Heather Cross' new novel "Amanda"*

**SEPT 21**  
**5 PM**

Green-Meldrim House  
14 W. Meun St. Savannah, GA 31401  
*Open To The Public*

**FREE**  
**RSVP**



## HOPE HAVEN VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Friday, September 26th | 8:30 - 12:30  
Cranmer Hall: 27 West Charlton Street

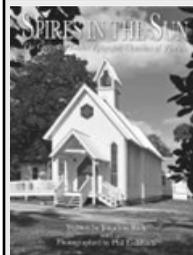
### Schedule

8:30 - Registration & Nibbles  
9:00 - Training led by director Cathy Baxter  
certified dementia care expert Jill Costello of  
Hopside Savannah's Edel Caregiver Institute

### RSVP

(912) 231-7310 or  
savannahrespite@gmail.com

*Free parking in St. John's Church lot.*



## **AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING** **Spires in the Sun:** **The Carpenter Gothic Episcopal Churches of Florida** **Thursday, Oct. 2, 5-7 p.m.,** **Green-Meldrim**

In honor of its publisher, the late Frederic C. Beil, discover Florida's sacred past and explore Gothic Episcopal church heritage. Visit StJohnsSav.org for details or scan the QR code to reserve your seat today!



## THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

*The nursery (newborns to four-year-olds)  
is available from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
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 the 8 & 9 a.m. services.*

Introit: Psalm 119 (Part 9), BCP p. 494  
The Collects, BCP pp. 250, 209  
The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 250–251

**9 A.M. FAMILY MORNING PRAYER**, Church

**10 A.M. ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Cranmer Hall & St. Mary's Chapel

**11 A.M. SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON**,  
Church & Online

**5 P.M. SUNDAY NIGHT SESSIONS:**  
**"Writing while Christian" & Launch Party  
for Heather Cross' new novel "Amanda"**,  
Green-Meldrim House. *Free & open to the  
public. RSVP at [StJohnsSav.org/SNS](http://StJohnsSav.org/SNS).*

## FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Peter Meldrim Coy and Sally McAdoo Coy at their wedding anniversary 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 Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert.

And to the glory of God and in honor of our grandson Robert Dooley Wasden's baptism by his grandparents.

And in honor of Fr. David Thurlow who was ordained into the priesthood in 1996

*To offer flowers for the altar, please call the Church office. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-ins. To volunteer for this ministry, call Margaret Wylly at 912-656-6235.*

## STEPHEN MINISTERS AT ST. JOHN'S *A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend*

Do you know someone going through a difficult time? Tell them about our Stephen Ministers, members of St John's who receive special training to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. If you know someone, reach out to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Paul Lambert, Sally Lambert, or Rick Wright.

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

### VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
11 a.m. Mr. Charles Ezelle

### USHERS

Mr. John G. Bradshaw  
Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip)

### CHOIR

Choir of St. John's

### CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)  
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)  
Mrs. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)  
Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie)  
Mrs. Neil H. Victor (Patti)  
Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)  
Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan  
Ms. Linda H. Pounds  
Mrs. John C Wylly, Jr (Margaret)