

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 56 No. 52

The Sunday next before Advent

November 23, 2025

EYCS SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

We'll have a special collection for the Episcopal Youth and Children's Services (EYCS), an organization providing need-based Honey Creek and college scholarships to deserving children within our diocese. You may place cash or checks in the collection plate (made out to EYCS; with "St. John's" in the memo line) or mail them to the church. You may also visit StJohnsSav.org/give (select "special collection" and add "EYCS" in memo box).

THE STATE OF THE PARISH (I)

One of our more agreeable habits at St John's is an Annual Meeting that accomplishes necessary business in a businesslike fashion. This year was no exception. With Graham Sadler, the Senior Warden, in the chair, concise yet pithy reports were received concerning finances, property, and stewardship; a slate of new Vestrymen was elected; the clergy had their say. I thought Fr Jameson spoke better than I did. Though the naming of individuals is invidious, we owe a debt of gratitude not only to Mr. Sadler, but also to Floyd Whittington, the treasurer; Doug McManamy, chairman of the Stewardship Committee; and Charles Ezelle, chairman of the Property committee. To summarize their reports: our finances are sound, even though certain expenses – notably insurance premiums – keep growing; pledges of giving for 2026 are on track for a modest increase; the challenges of property maintenance and repair never end, but are being met. The refurbishment of the Mall has been a great success, and plans are well advanced for the long-overdue renovation of the Choir Room in the new year.

There is a great deal going on at St. John's, and here is a roundup of some of those activities. Next week I will turn to the thoughts of the clergy on our mission as a parish.

Music: since William Douglas came on board in August 2024 as Organist-Chormaster, the Organ and Carillon have been repaired after serious lightning damage in August 2024; the adult Schola choir has almost attained a full complement (short just two tenors); a core of young choristers has been recruited and have begun singing twice a month at the family service; a concert series (Music on Madison Square) of outstanding quality has begun; a fundraising arm to support the music programming has been established (the Aquila Music Foundation).

Youth Ministry: this year saw the departure of Steven Vanderlip, whose large shoes we sought to fill. To bridge the gap while the search for a new Youth Minister moves forward, parishioner Pete Pollak took on the Sunday morning youth catechesis, and a band of parents took on monthly Youth Group events.

Online Ministry: To make St John's more visible in the online space, we have overhauled our Website, making it more beautiful and easy to navigate; and we have elevated our Social Media presence with short, beautifully crafted videos on faith and doctrine, as well as clips from sermons. Online Morning Prayer is offered with brief comments on the scriptures that are read.

Continued on back page

THREE CHOIRS EVENSONG

A new annual tradition not to be missed. Roughly 50 singers will join together to sing works by Herbert Howells, Katherine Webb, and others.

23 NOV 2025

5PM | St. John's Church
325 Bull Street Savannah, GA



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

Bishop of GA.....The Rt. 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 PriestRev. David Thurlow
Organist and Choirmaster.....Mr. William Douglas
VergerMr. B. Ray Summerell
VergerMr. James E. Morris
Acolyte Director/Master of Ceremonies...Mr. Carter C. Hubbard

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; President, Men of St. John's: Mr. Benjamin Baxter

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
11 a.m. Mr. Edwin H. Culver

USHERS

Mr. Robert B. Turner (Bart)
Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip)

CHOIR

11 a.m. Schola Choir

Coffee Hour

The Men 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)
Mr. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan
Mrs. Linda H. Pounds

Mrs. Robert Turner (Christiana)

UPCOMING WORSHIP

WEEK OF THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

Monday to Friday:

8:15 a.m. *Online Morning Prayer*

Monday, November 24

No in-person services.

Tuesday, November 25

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

Wednesday, November 26

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

Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving Day

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
No other services today.
Church office is closed

Friday, November 28

No services today.
Church office is closed

Sunday, November 30

The First Sunday in Advent

No breakfast after the 8 & 9 a.m. services

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

9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church
10 a.m. *Adult Sunday School*,
Cranmer Hall & Chapel

10 a.m. *Family Wreath Making*, Cranmer Hall
11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church/Online
5p.m. *Come and Sing!*, Green-Meldrim House

P.A.C.K., Dec. 3 & 17

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Volunteers meet at P.A.C.K., 4 Mall Terrace.

Women of St. John's Membership Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 4, at 5:30 p.m., Green-Meldrim

Join the Women of St. John's for the next WSJ membership meeting. Let's celebrate a successful bazaar, what we've accomplished over the year, and look ahead together!

THE ADVENT SEASON AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOV. 30: ADVENT I

- **Angel Tree Kickoff** – Take a tag from the tree in Cranmer Hall and purchase gifts for the moms and babies at The Living Vine Maternity Home.
- **Advent Wreath Making** – At 10 a.m., all ages are invited to make wreaths in Fellowship Hall.
- **Christmas Decorating & Cookie Making** – Youth are invited to our annual Christmas decorating and cookie making at the Living Vine Maternity Home. Email sross@stjohnssav.org for details.
- **Come and Sing!** – Join us in the Green-Meldrim House at 5 p.m. to sing some of the great hymns of our faith. RSVP at StJohnsSav.org/music.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

- **Faith + Fiction** – At 5:30p.m. in the Green-Meldrim participate in a discussion of “Christmas at Thompson Hall,” by Anthony Trollope. All welcome!

SUNDAY, DEC. 7: ADVENT II

- **Tree Trimming in the Mall** – Parishioners of all ages are invited to decorate the tree at 4 p.m. in the Garden Mall. Plan to stay for festive music at 5 p.m.
- **The Sunday Night Sessions** – At 5 p.m. on the Green-Meldrim House steps, Andy Squyres performs a special Advent music concert (free & open to public). Plan to come early and help decorate the Christmas tree in the Garden Mall at 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

- **Breakfast with Santa** – The Children’s School at St. John’s holds their annual fundraiser, 9:30 a.m. in the Green-Meldrim Mall. Visit StJohnsPreschool.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14: ADVENT III

- **Angel Tree Collection Concludes** – Plan to drop off gifts in the box in Cranmer Hall by this Sunday.
- **Music on Madison Square** – At 5 p.m., The Choirs of St. John’s perform *Christmas Oratorio*. Tickets at StJohnsSav.org/mms or at the door.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21: ADVENT IV

- **Lessons & Carols and Eggnog Coffee Hour** – At 11 a.m., join us in the church for a beautiful liturgy followed by a special reception in the Green-Meldrim House featuring eggnog.
- **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal** – At 12:15 p.m., the youth and children meet in Cranmer Hall to dress and practice for the Christmas Eve pageant.

New Vestry Members

The following parishioners were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Nov. 16 to serve a three-year term on the Vestry beginning January 2026:

- Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip)
- Dr. Janet S. Morris
- Wiley A. Wasden III
- Mr. Patrick Worsham

Outgoing Vestry Members

We wish to thank our outgoing Vestry Members for their dedicated service on St. John’s Vestry during their past three-year terms.

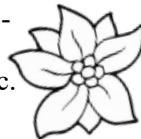
- Mr. Stephen D. Ezelle
- Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry)
- Mr. Richard Wright (Rick)
- Mrs. Patrick Worsham (Jane)

Offering Envelopes for 2026

For parishioners who use offering envelopes, they are available for pick-up in the Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to grab your box, which is arranged in alphabetical order, from the table.

Christmas Decorations

If you’d like to contribute to the decoration of the Church during Christmas, forms are available in the back of the Church. Please mail forms/ checks (payable: *St. John’s Chancel Society*) to the church office for the giving of a poinsettia (\$45), wreath (\$80), or garland (\$80) for the Church. Donations and dedications received by Dec. 14 will be published in the Dec. 28 Parish Paper. After Dec. 14, donations and dedications will be published in the Jan. 4 Parish Paper.



COME AND SING!

Sunday, Nov. 30, at 5 p.m. Green-Meldrim

Join us to sing some of the great hymns of our faith. Everything you need to participate will be provided. Bring friends and family to enjoy this opportunity to sing together.

This event is free and open to the public. Register and submit your hymn requests by scanning the QR code or by calling the Church office.



THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

The nursery (infants to four-year-olds) is available from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on the 2nd 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 85, BCP pp. 446

The Collect, BCP p. 225

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 225-226

9 A.M. FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION, Church

10 A.M. ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

Cranmer Hall & St. Mary's Chapel

11 A.M. CHORAL MATTINS, Church & Online

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

5 P.M. THREE CHOIRS EVENSONG FOR THE

FEAST OF ST. CECILIA, Church & Online

*with a reception following the liturgy
in the Green-Meldrim House*

5 P.M. YOUTH GROUP: COOKING WITH CHEF MEREDITH, Cranmer Hall Kitchen

FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of their parents, by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Johnston.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry King McCormick and Mr. and Mrs. L. Rodgers Wells, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells.

And in loving memory of Louis Woodbury (Ray) Schmidt on the 108th anniversary of his birth, by his daughter, Susan; and his son, Peter.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Belford, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee Belford.

And in loving memory of Kippy Adams on her birthday from Dicky, Caroline, Ted, Reid, Katharine, Dee, Ellie and Mary-Porcher.

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

Outreach: Volunteer service continues in partnership with the Living Vine (the local Christian maternity home) and with PACK, a local charity supplying food and clothing to children at risk.

Hope Haven: this year we launched a ministry to people experiencing brain changes like dementia and to their caregivers. It offers twice a week programming with art, music, exercise, lunch and daily devotions. It also offers free monthly caregiver support groups as well as quarterly dementia education events. Funding for this ministry comes from membership fees as well as generous donors, whose gifts are critical in this start-up period. The Critz family has offered a matching-grant opportunity of \$15,000.00 through December 31st, so please think of Hope Haven in your year-end gifts.

Stephen Ministries: this year also saw the inauguration of Stephen Ministries at St. John's, under the leadership of Bishop Lambert, Sally Lambert, and Rick Wright. A dedicated team of Stephen Ministers received extensive in-depth training, and have begun the quiet, confidential work of supporting and encouraging individuals going through grief, illness, or other rough patches. Another training program is being planned for early 2026 (dates to be announced). Because care-giver must be of the same sex as the care-receiver, there is a need for volunteers of both sexes, but especially men, where demand exceeds supply!

The Keepers of the Green Meldrim House: Just two and half years ago, the Vestry of St John's entered into an agreement with a new charitable entity, the Keepers, to manage the house on the behalf of the church, which remains the owner. This relationship, carefully planned, and provided with a generous start-up funds by the Vestry and Women of St John's, has flourished under the chairmanship of Sherry Holtzclaw, and its executive director, the experienced and enthusiastic Jamie Credle. Enhanced programming, reconfigured displays, longer hours, more docents, have all supported growing revenues, and this National Historic Landmark still remains available for its Parish House functions, such as coffee hour, bridal dressing, receptions after funerals, and new events like Faith and Fiction, and the Sunday Night Sessions.

Finally, my own thanks to the Women of St John's who once again brought good will and energy to the **Holly Days Bazaar**, a venerable institution that raises money for good works, engages the community, and brings women parishioners together in partnership.

- GGD