

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 10

The Third Sunday Before Lent (Septuagesima)

February 1, 2026

VISITORS THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday we are very pleased to welcome Fr. Andrew Mead, Rector of St. John's, and Fr. Thomas, Fifth Avenue, and his wife, who is a canon. Fr. Mead is one of the best and most distinguished clergy of his generation in the Anglican Church: he will preach on Sunday. Fr. Mead, who serves as President of the Anglican Pilgrimage Centre, will speak at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday School hour in the Ralston Chapel. Fr. Mead is also a member of the Anglican Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, known as the "Camino".

Cancelled due to pending weather.

THE PRAYER BOOK TRADITION

For five days this January (19th-23rd), St. John's hosted a for-credit seminar offered by Nashotah House, the historic high-church seminary in Wisconsin, but taught by the clergy of St John's with the assistance of parishioner Drew Keane. The dozen or so students were a mix of clergy and laity, men and women, from inside and outside the Episcopal Church, and the topic was the Prayer Book Tradition, involving close readings of historic and modern liturgies and lectionaries from a historical and theological perspective, as well as secondary literature about them, but also with reference to modern-day applications in a variety of pastoral settings. The students were thoughtful, intelligent, and remarkably responsive to the merits of the Prayer Book tradition, even though they came largely from backgrounds in which the 1928 Prayer Book played no role.

This is now the second year we have offered this seminar on behalf of Nashotah House, and it fulfills a long-standing commitment of this parish, not only to be guardians of this tradition, but to share it with the wider church. Speaking for myself, it's deeply satisfying to share some of the decades' worth of study and reflection I have made of this tradition, and, as always, to find in the teaching of it my own thoughts refined and clarified. I also think that a shorter and less academic but still intensive version of this seminar

might be of great value to thoughtful parishioners of St John's, and we shall have to consider when and how best to present such an offering. — GGD

CANDLEMAS

Forty days after his birth Jesus was presented in the Temple and recognized as the Messiah by aged Simeon, who acclaimed him "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel". Since ancient times this day (February 2nd) has been observed as the feast of Candlemas, ~~and we shall mark the Eve of the feast on Sunday at 5 p.m. with Choral Evensong and the traditional procession with lighted candles.~~ In a dark and chilly world, we look to Christ "lighten our darkness" and to "defend us from all perils and angers of this night".

PREPARING FOR LENT

This Sunday is the first of three Sundays with old Latin names: Septuagesima ("seventieth"), Sexagesima ("sixtieth"), and Quinquagesima ("fiftieth"). As the numbers suggest, with them the church begins a countdown that will take it through the forty days of

Continued on back page



Cancelled due to pending weather.

Candlemas
Evensong

Sunday, February 1, 2026
5:00 p.m.

in worship, by candlelight,
presentation of Christ in the temple.
open to the public



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
Hon. Assisting Priest.....Rev. J. Patrick Hunt
Hon. Assisting Priest.....Rev. David Thurlow
Organist and Choirmaster.....Mr. William Douglas
Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell
VergerMr. James E. Morris
Acolyte Director/Master of Ceremonies....Mr. Carter C. Hubbard

Sr. Warden: Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry); Jr. Warden: Mr. Douglas P. McManamy; 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. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip), Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary), Mr. Patrick Worsham, Dr. Janet S. Morris, Mr. R. Scott Howard, Mr. Wiley A. Wasden III, Mr. Charles J. Ezelle, Mr. Graham P. Sadler, and Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry); 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: Mrs. Clarkson C. Logan (Meta), Chancel Society: Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan and Mrs. Linda H. Pounds; President, Men of St. John's: Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

11 a.m. Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary)

USHERS

Mr. Frank Somoskey

Mr. Robert L. Sparks

CHOIR

11 a.m. Choir of Adults

5 p.m. Schola Choir

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie)

Mrs. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)

Mrs. Rhett N. Willis (Wayne)

Mrs. Morgan W. Murray (Anne)

Ms. Linda H. Pounds

Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan

Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan Glen (Jon & Marilyn)

UPCOMING WORSHIP

WEEK OF SEPTUAGESIMA

Monday to Friday:

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

Monday, February 2:

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Tuesday, February 3

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, February 4

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church

Thursday, February 5

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion, Chapel

Friday, February 6

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, February 8: Sexagesima

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

12:30 p.m. *Coffee Hour*, Green-Meldrim House

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Feb. 4 & 18, 4:30 p.m.:** PACK, 4 Mall Terrace
- **Feb. 8 & 22, 12:30 p.m.:** Coffee Hour, GMH
- **Feb. 17, 10:45 a.m.:** Hope Haven's Dementia Caregiver Support Group, Cranmer Hall
- **Feb. 17, 5:30-7 p.m.:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Fellowship Hall, Cranmer Hall
- **Feb. 18:** Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion at 7 a.m. in the Chapel and Noon and 5:30 p.m. in the Church
- **Feb. 22, 5-7 p.m.:** Youth Group at Bowl & Brew on Broughton, Savannah



FAITH & Fiction

4 FEB	WISE BLOOD <i>Flannery O'Connor</i>
4 MAR	LYING AWAKE <i>Mark Salzman</i>
8 APRIL	FOUR QUARTETS <i>T. S. Eliot</i>
6 MAY	A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ <i>Walter Miller, Jr.</i>
3 JUNE	THE LAST BATTLE <i>C. S. Lewis</i>

Led by novelist and parishioner Heather Cross, Faith & Fiction engages the ethical and theological themes of good literature, seeking to enable deep conversation about what it means to be human in God's world.



Early bird discount ends February 1st!



Men of St. John's Annual Oyster Roast & BBQ

SATURDAY, FEB. 7 • 11AM – 3PM

Oysters served at 11:30AM
Camp Villa Marie, Savannah



Adults: \$40; Guests: \$30
Youth: \$10; 5 & Under: Free
All prices \$5 higher after Feb. 1

MUSIC ON MADISON SQUARE

Presents

The St. James Compline Choir

The Infant upheld the Ancient

performing works by Thomas Tallis, Caroline Shaw,
Sarah Rimekus, and others!



Sunday, February 15th at 5PM!

St. John's Church, Savannah • 325 Bull Street • 31401

Purchase your tickets here:



TIMOTHY KELLER

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THE REASON FOR GOD

JESUS THE KING

UNDERSTANDING THE LIFE AND DEATH OF
THE SON OF GOD

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED AS KING'S CROSS

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP STUDY Feb 2nd – March 30th

Journey through the Gospel of Mark with Tim Keller's *Jesus the King*. This small group will meet Mondays at Mary Sprague's house on Skidaway Island. All women welcome! Call 912-232-1251 to sign up.



POTABLE GOLD: MADEIRA WINE

Fridays & Saturdays in
February, at 5:30 p.m.

Experience this unique and flavorful fortified wine and how it intertwines with the history of Savannah. For this after-hours, exclusive program, see areas of the house not normally accessible. Space is limited. Admission is \$36.50 per person (21 years+) and purchased online only. For more information, visit GreenMeldrimHouse.org

THE
ANGLICAN
WAY

2026 Conference | February 12 & 13 | St. John's Church

The Mystical Washing Away of Sin *The Anglican Doctrine of Baptism*

Registration \$145 | AnglicanWay.org/2026-conference

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

*Breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following
the 8 & 9 a.m. services this Sunday.*

Introit: Psalm 92, BCP pp. 455–456

The Collect, BCP p. 118

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 119–120

9 A.M. FAMILY MORNING PRAYER, Church

10 A.M. "CAMINO" PRESENTATION, CANCELLED DUE TO PENDING WEATHER

10 A.M. CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL, Cranmer Hall

11 A.M. SUNG EUCHARIST, Church & Online

5 P.M. CANDLEMAS EVENSONG: CANCELLED DUE TO PENDING WEATHER

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Susie Miller Arden on her birthday by her children and grandchildren.

And in loving memory of William Perry Thompson, Robert Mather Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mather and Mrs. William P. Thompson by William and Jane Thompson

And in memory of John H. Calais and Mr. and Mrs. John S. Calais by the Chancel Society.

And in loving memory of Sara Jane Kuszak by Cheshire Nash McIntosh, Christopher Wood Dixon McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Walker, Jr., and James Andrew Walker.

And in honor of the seventh anniversary of the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America by the Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar.

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

Continued from page 1

Lent (in Latin, Quadragesima) all the way to Easter, the feast of Christ's resurrection. (Lent begins this year on February 18th and Easter is April 5th). In these Sundays the church is prepared for this new direction of the Church's year – and the necessity for this preparation is not to be dismissed. The Orthodox theologian Alexander Schmemmann wrote: "Long before the actual beginning of Lent, the Church announces its approach and invites us to enter into a period of pre-Lenten preparation.... the Church knows our inability to change rapidly, to go abruptly from one spiritual or mental state into another. Thus, long before the actual effort of Lent is to begin, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and invites us to meditate on its significance. Before we can *practice* Lent we are given it *meaning*."

Recall first the meaning of the season just past. In Epiphany the church celebrates the manifestation of God's glory in Christ - manifested *to* us, that it may be manifested *in* us, as we are transformed by him. But now we move on to the next stage, to the necessity of disciplined effort in our ongoing transformation. That's why on Septuagesima we hear of the labourers in the vineyard, and the athlete's training; on Sexagesima the labours of the apostle and the patience that receives and keeps the seed of God's word; on Quinquagesima of the journey up to Jerusalem, from blindness to vision; and of growing up into the maturity in faith, hope, and charity. The images vary, but the theme is one: the transformation of our lives requires effort, training, labour, discipline. They prepare us to undertake the Lenten spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, and the giving of alms.

Wherever works are involved, there is a risk of Pelagian works-righteousness, in which we think to put God under obligation by our good works. But beginning with this Sunday's gospel lesson (Matthew 20:1-16), the lessons of these Sundays before Lent teach that all our labor is at all points dependent upon the unmerited grace of God, who calls us to labor and rewards us beyond all deserving. Even our will to work, and the strength and skill we bring to it, are themselves the gifts of his grace. Lent is not a season of self-improvement nor self-justification. It's about deepening our reliance on God's grace, and our

Condolences

We extend condolences to the family of Martha "Martie" Thomas, formerly Martha Campbell, of this parish who died Friday, January 24.