

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 32

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

July 5, 2026

PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH (3)

How Christ Builds the Church

The Prayer for the Church asks first for the church as a whole, its unity in truth and love, and then for the rulers of society. But then in the third petition it turns to the outward means by which the church's work is done: "Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments." This is not just a prayer for the clergy but a prayer for Christ's own ministry in his Church. The focus falls not on the ministers themselves but on the two gifts through which the risen Lord continues to gather and sustain his people: his Word and his Sacraments.

The Prayer Book calls the gospel God's "true and lively Word." It is not fictive, not imagined, not deceptive or delusionary, but *true*, and therefore worthy of trust in all that it teaches of God and his purpose in the world. Moreover, this word is "lively", which means, about "living" and "life-giving". By it, Christ, who is our Life, truly offers eternal life to as many as put their trust in his true word. To put our trust in his word of promise is not to believe in vain, because his Word accomplishes what it proclaims. That's why the apostles repeatedly warn against "another gospel," a message clothed in Christian language but emptied of Christian substance – not a true word, but a ruinous deceit. Every generation is tempted to reshape the faith according to its own tastes or anxieties. The Church's calling is not to invent a message but to receive it faithfully and hand it on.

The ministry of the Sacraments belongs alongside the ministry of the Word. Together they give the Church its distinctive, Christ-centered identity. The Word makes the gospel audible; the Sacraments

make it visible and tangible. In both, Christ himself is the giver. The Sacraments are therefore not merely object lessons or symbolic ceremonies. They are effectual signs through which the promises of the gospel are personally communicated and corporately enacted. In Baptism, individuals are united to Christ and made living members of his Body. In Holy Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as individuals, and in so doing are knit more deeply into the fellowship of that same Body which is the Church. Thus, the grace of Christ comes to each believer personally, yet never privately. We are not simply forgiven as isolated individuals but incorporated into a communion. It is no accident that the Reformers identified the faithful preaching of the Word and the right administration of the Sacraments as the principal marks by which the Church is known. Wherever Christ's gospel is proclaimed and his Sacraments administered according to his institution, there Christ is present, creating and sustaining his people.

Along with the word and sacraments, the prayer invites us to pray for those through whom these gifts are ordinarily given: "all Bishops and other Ministers.", those whom have received authority as shepherds of God's flock. The ministry exists for the sake of the Word and Sacraments, not the other way round. Ministers possess no authority independent of the message they proclaim or the mysteries they administer. The Prayer asks that they may set forth God's Word "both by their life and doctrine." The pairing is indispensable. A holy life cannot compensate for false teaching, nor can sound teaching excuse an unholy life. Yet the Church's confidence does not finally rest on the personal qualities of its ministers. The preacher remains a sinner who proclaims a gospel greater than himself. The priest administers Sacraments that belong not to him but

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 PriestRev. David Thurlow
Organist and Choirmaster..... Mr. William Douglas
Youth/Young Adult Ministry.....Mr. Tyler D. Lonaker
Children’s Ministry..... Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Jr. (Sarah)
VergerMr. B. Ray Summerell
VergerMr. James E. Morris
Acolyte Dir./Master of CeremoniesMr. 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. Schu-
bert; 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

UPCOMING HOLY DAYS

Wednesday, July 22

Feast of St. Mary Magdalene

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

Saturday, July 25

Feast of St. James, the Apostle

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Nursery Update

The church nursery is now located on the first floor of Cranmer Hall on Sundays. Plan to drop of your children (babies to five-year-olds) in the new classroom space. Note that the check-in process remains the same.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Week of Trinity 5

Online Morning Prayer

No online Moring Prayer Monday to Wednesday.
Will Resume on Thursday, July 9.

Monday, July 6

No services today

Tuesday, July 7

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

Wednesday, July 8

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

Thursday, July 9

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

Friday, July 10

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, July 12:

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8 a.m. *Said Holy Communion*, Church
9:15 a.m. *Nursery*, Cranmer Hall
9:30 a.m. *Fr. Dunbar’s Class*, Chapel
10:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Online/Church
With a short children’s talk during Morning Prayer
11:30 a.m. *Coffee Hour*, Green-Meldrim House

NOTE: The Church office will be closed at noon on Fridays during the summer.

DEMENTIA
CAREGIVER
SUPPORT GROUP
AT
HOPE HAVEN
SAVANNAH RESPITE

Just show up!
Cranmer Hall of St. John's Church:
27 West Charlton Street, 3rd Floor
Facilitated by Jill Costello of the
Edel Caregiver Institute



10:45 a.m. Tuesday, July 21



HOPE HAVEN
Dementia Support with Heart

DEMYSTIFYING DEMENTIA

A SPECIALIST'S ROADMAP FOR THE
DEMENTIA CAREGIVER



Jill Costello, MA
DEMENTIA CARE NAVIGATOR
EDEL CAREGIVER INSTITUTE



TUESDAY 28TH
JULY 2026



10:30 - DOORS OPEN
11:00 - PRESENTATION



HOPE HAVEN
CRANMER HALL - 3RD FLOOR
27 WEST CHARLTON ST.
FREE PARKING

Local community organizations
will be on hand with valuable caregiver resources.

WWW.SAVANNAHRESPITE.COM
savannahrespite@gmail.com | (912) 231-7310



SCAN TO
RSVP

MUSIC ON MADISON SQUARE



Category V Brass: Patriotic Extravaganza

Sunday, July 5, at 5 p.m., St. John's Church

Join us for a concert inside historic St. John's church to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with this powerhouse brass ensemble performing uplifting and patriotic works.

Recognition of Service Members

As we gather to give thanks for the freedoms we hold dear, we want to remember the service members who have protected and defended the rights and liberties of our citizens. If you would like to give an honorarium or memorial to be included in the concert program, you may scan this QR code to fill out the form and submit your names along with your \$10 donation per name. **Please submit names by Thursday, July 2nd.**

**For Tickets, Scan QR Code,
Visit stjohnssav.org/mms,
or Purchase at the Door.**



Celebrating the Impact of EYCS Scholarships



We give thanks for the wonderful response to this year's EYCS collection! Through this ministry, \$104,500 in scholarships has been awarded to 48 students across the Diocese of Georgia, including three students from St. John's Church. Your generosity is making a meaningful difference in the lives of young people in our diocese. We hope you will join us in giving during our upcoming fall collection!

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

Summer schedule runs until Sept. 6th.

The nursery (infants to five-year-olds) is available on the 1st floor of Cranmer Hall from 9:15 a.m. until after the 10:30 a.m. service.

8 a.m. Said Holy Communion, Church
No breakfast in Cranmer Hall after 8 a.m. service.

Introit (see insert)

The Collects (see insert)

The Epistle and Gospel (see insert)

9:30 a.m. Fr. Dunbar's Class (*Next class July 12th*)

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist, Church/Online
with a children's activity in the chapel during the sermon

5 p.m. Music on Madison Square, Church
Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with Category V Brass: Patriotic Extravaganza. Purchase tickets online or at the door. StJohnsSav.org/mms

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. B. Ray Summerell

10:30 a.m. Mr. Wiley Wasden III

Ushers

Mr. Joseph R. Ross (Rusty)

Mr. Frank Somoskey

Choir

Choir of Adults

Chancel Society

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

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

Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie)

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

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. Joseph R. Ross (Coren)

Mrs. Jonathan C. Glen (Marilyn)

Mrs. Gary Schubert (Elizabeth)

to Christ. Their office is fundamentally one of stewardship. They receive what they did not invent and hand on what they cannot improve.

For that reason, the ordained ministry is both exalted and humbled. It is exalted because Christ has chosen to use human voices and human hands in communicating divine life. It is humbled because those voices and hands are only instruments. The minister disappears into the ministry. Like John the Baptist, he must say, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

The Prayer for the Church, therefore, offers a profoundly Christ-centered vision of ecclesial life. It does not define the Church by its buildings, programmes, budgets, influence, or even its ministers. It defines the Church by the presence and action of Christ himself. He speaks through his true and lively Word. He gives himself in his holy Sacraments. In praying for bishops and ministers, then, we are really praying that nothing may obscure the living ministry of Christ in his Church, and that through Word and Sacrament he may continue to gather the nations into his Body until all things are brought to their perfection in him.

— GGD

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Mary Vinyard Sapp on the occasion of her 111th birthday.

They are also given in tribute for the service of John Vinyard, Cpl, Delaware Militia and Jacob Hummell, Pvt, Pennsylvania Militia, our fifth great grandfathers who fought with General Washington from 1775 to 1783, by Robert and Frances Vinyard.

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.