

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 38

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

August 16, 2026

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – I The Spirit upon Christ and in Us

Last Sunday, the Tenth Sunday after Trinity, we heard St Paul's teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit: "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). It's remarkable that the Prayer Book gives such an established place to this teaching of Saint Paul, and indeed to the other passages of his teaching on the subject: Ephesians 4 on St Mark's Day, and Romans 12 over the first three Sundays after Epiphany. Nor is this merely a residue of ancient tradition – in the 16th century Cranmer composed a new collect on the theme of the spiritual gifts for the feast of Saint Barnabas.

The prominent place of this teaching is remarkable because this teaching about spiritual gifts is associated with revivalistic and charismatic enthusiasm since the 18th century, especially the Pentecost revival of the 20th century. In their more radical forms, these movements taught that supernatural manifestations such as speaking in tongues should be a normal feature of Christian life, and sometimes treated their absence as evidence of spiritual deficiency. ("Ain't got the tongues, ain't got the Spirit"). Milder forms emphasized an intense emotional experience of the Spirit in worship. Anglicans by a large have been suspicious of such pious excitements. Joseph Butler, the great 18th century Bishop of Bristol, spoke for many when in 1739 he told John Wesley: "Sir, the pretending to extraordinary revelations and gifts of the Holy Ghost is a horrid thing, a very horrid thing". Nonetheless, the Prayer Book does not allow us simply to dismiss the gifts of the Spirit. It has been making Anglicans listen to St Paul's teaching about them for centuries. How, then, should we understand them?

We need to begin with another biblical passage about the gifts of the Spirit. Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah: "The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of

knowledge and of the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:2). These are not miraculous abilities, such as those named by St. Paul. They are qualities of character—dispositions by which the Messiah is equipped to exercise his authority in God's kingdom, in fulfilment of God's righteous will: "And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD" (11:3). The prophecy is fulfilled first in Jesus Christ. Upon him the Spirit rests "without measure" (John 3:34). Yet the Spirit rests upon Christ in order that Christ may give him to his Body the church - and Christians receive the Spirit in order that they may be conformed to the likeness of their Head.

Already in the fourth century St. Ambrose connects Isaiah's gifts with Christian initiation. He reminds the new Christian: "Remember that thou hast received the spiritual seal, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and godliness, the Spirit of holy fear." The connection is important. The sevenfold gifts belong first to Christ; but the Spirit who rests upon Christ communicates them to Christ's members. Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, godliness, and holy fear therefore came to be understood as *sanctifying gifts*: not special talents possessed by a few Christians, but dispositions by which every Christian grows into the likeness of Christ.

The history by which this understanding entered the rite of Confirmation is not entirely clear. But by the early Middle Ages, the bishop's prayer over the baptized, on whom he lays his hands, asks for the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit. From there it passes through the Sarum rite used in medieval England to the English Prayer Book. Before laying hands upon those presented for Confirmation, the bishop speaks of them as already baptized—those whom God has "regenerated...by Water and the Holy Ghost" and given "forgiveness of all their sins." He now prays: "Strengthen them...with the

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
Youth/Young Adult Ministry Mr. Tyler D. Lonaker
Children’s Ministry Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Jr. (Sarah)
Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell
Verger Mr. James E. Morris
Acolyte Dir./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

UPCOMING HOLY DAYS

Monday, August 24
St. Bartholomew, The Apostle
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Saturday, August 29
The Beheading of St. John’ The Baptist
11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Tuesday, September 8
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Monday, September 14
Holy Cross Day
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

UPCOMING WORSHIP

WEEK OF TRINITY 11

Online Morning Prayer

8:15 a.m. Monday to Friday

Monday, August 17

No services today

Tuesday, August 18

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, August 19

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Thursday, August 20

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Friday, August 21

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, August 23:

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

8 a.m. *Said Holy Communion*, Church

9:15 a.m. *Nursery*, 1st Floor, Cranmer Hall

9:30 a.m. *Fr. Dunbar’s Class*, Chapel

10:30 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church/Online

with a children’s activity in the chapel during the sermon

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, August 18

Save These Additional Upcoming Dates!

- **Sept. 1:** 5:30 p.m. Parish Provisions, Cranmer
- **Sept. 2:** 5:30 p.m. Faith + Fiction, GMH
- **Sept. 13:** Regular Sunday worship and Faith Formation class schedule resume
 - ◇ 4 p.m. Choral Evensong with a remembrance for First Responders
Followed by a gathering in the Mall with first responders and a fire truck!
 - ◇ 5 p.m. Sunday Night Session (GMH) and Youth Group
- **Sept. 18:** Hope Haven Volunteer Training
- **Sept. 20:** Stewardship Sunday
- **Sept. 23:** 5:30 p.m. Men of St. John's Annual Meeting, Green-Meldrim House
- **Sept. 27:** Fellowship & Outreach Sunday

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. Douglas P. McManamy
10:30 a.m. Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr.

Ushers

Mr. Patrick Worsham
Mr. Joseph R. Ross (Rusty)

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. Susie H. Fawcett
Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr. (Cathy)
Mrs. William L. Belford, Jr. (Emily)
Mrs. Stephen Ezelle (Sarah Catherine)



COME AND FIND YOUR VOICE!

Music • Community • Worship • Friendship

As summer comes to a close, our choirs are preparing to begin a new season—and we'd love for you to be part of it. Whether you're an experienced singer or simply enjoy making music with others, there's a place for you.

Choir of Adults

Rehearsals are **Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**, beginning this month. This choir sings roughly every other week at one of our Sunday liturgies and joins a professional orchestra for our annual Christmas concert. Previous musical experience is preferred.

Chorister Program

- ◆ **Choir of Girls:** Rising 4th–12th grade
- ◆ **Choir of Boys:** Rising 3rd grade through changed voice

Rehearsals are **Tuesdays, 6:00-7:15 p.m.** Choristers sing every other week at one of our Sunday liturgies, perform annually with a professional orchestra, and participate in regional and international tours. Upcoming opportunities include the Duke Chapel RSCM Course in 2027, and an East Coast Tour in 2028 to include singing at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

No previous musical experience is necessary. We provide a complete musical education, including voice training, music reading, and ensemble singing, in a supportive environment.

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 breakfast in Cranmer Hall after 8 a.m. service
Introit: Psalm 68 (1-6, 32-35), BCP pp. 419, 421
The Collect, BCP p. 204
The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 204–205

9:30 a.m. Fr. Dunbar's Class, Chapel
The Book of Common Prayer and Holy Communion

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

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God, in loving memory of my mother, Mrs. Patty C. Gaillard, my sister, Trish Snyder, and my brother George Gaillard, by Sally Fiveash.

And in loving memory of their father, George Oelschig, and their mother, Shirley Oelschig, on what would have been their 75th wedding anniversary, by their loving children George Oelschig, Jr., Joan Oelschig Dyer and Kurt Oelschig.

And in loving memory of Betty Mercer Gilbert, by Wayne and Rhett Willis, Rhett and George.

And in loving memory of Miss Cecelia Bostick Williams upon her 3rd anniversary of passing, by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lawton Williams and Miss. Margaret Lawton Williams.

And in loving memory of my father William Breckenridge "Bud" Long, by his daughter Winslett Long Watson and her family.

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

Holy Ghost, the Comforter, and daily increase in them thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill them...with the spirit of thy holy fear." The Prayer Book is therefore not inventing a doctrine of Confirmation. It is receiving and reforming an ancient Western tradition whose roots reach back at least to Ambrose: the Spirit who rests in fullness upon Christ is invoked upon the baptized so that Christ's wisdom, understanding, strength, godliness, and holy fear may increasingly characterize their lives.

Here, then, is one meaning of the "gifts of the Holy Spirit." God gives us his Spirit not merely so that we may *do* remarkable things, but so that we may *become* a new kind of people. The Spirit rests upon Christ; the same Spirit dwells in Christ's members, forming in them the character of their Head. But why do those already baptized need to be "strengthened" by the Spirit? The answer takes us to another ancient understanding of Confirmation: the Christian life as spiritual combat.

GGD

(First of Three Parts)



New Start Date!
Wednesday, August 26, 4–6 p.m.,
4 Mall Terrace, Savannah

St. John's volunteers will begin their packing sessions on Wednesday, August 26, followed by their next packing day of Sept. 16. They will then resume their regular schedule, meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 4–6 p.m. There are volunteer roles for all ages and abilities!

Contact Stuart Clifford: stuart@comcast.net.