

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 40

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

August 30, 2026

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – III

For the Edifying of the Body

The Prayer Book of 1552 explains that Confirmation should be administered “to the more edifying” of those who receive it, appealing explicitly to St Paul’s doctrine that everything in the Church should be done for its edification (1 Corinthians 10:26). That word provides a bridge from the sevenfold gifts of Isaiah to another kind of spiritual gift described by St Paul. In Isaiah 11 the gifts are qualities of the Messiah himself: wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, godliness, and holy fear. Given to those who belong to Christ, they become dispositions by which the Holy Spirit conforms Christians to the likeness of Christ.

St Paul’s lists have a different emphasis. In 1 Corinthians 12 he writes: “To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith... to another the gifts of healing...to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy...to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.” Romans 12 adds ministry or service, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leadership, and mercy. Ephesians 4 moves from activities to functions or offices: Christ “gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers,” all “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

These gifts are not principally qualities of character. They are capacities for *service*. Nor does every Christian receive the same ones. That is precisely St Paul’s point. “Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers?” Every member receives gifts; no member possesses every gift; and every

gift is given for the good of the whole Body. “The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal” (1 Corinthians 12:7) - that is, for the good of all.

The early Church gradually learned to distinguish these gifts from those of Isaiah. St Augustine supplied an essential principle. Spectacular spiritual powers are no proof of holiness. As St. Paul had noted, a person may prophesy, speak in tongues, or perform wonders, and yet lack charity. Gifts may astonish; charity alone perfects. The medieval theologians gave the distinction conceptual clarity. Thomas Aquinas distinguished the gifts which perfect the Christian himself from the graces bestowed principally for the benefit of others. Prophecy, teaching, miracles, tongues, and similar gifts belong to this second category. Their purpose is not the sanctification of the person who possesses them, but the service of the Church. The Reformers substantially retained the distinction. Calvin reads Isaiah 11 first of Christ, whose fullness is communicated to his people. But commenting on St Paul, he emphasizes the common good: Christ does not enrich individuals with gifts for their private enjoyment, but so that they may employ them for the edification of the Church. He also distinguishes extraordinary gifts associated especially with the apostolic age from ordinary gifts and ministries which continue in the Church.

All these strands are held together in the classical Prayer Book. At Confirmation it teaches us to pray for the Isaianic gifts. Every Christian needs wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength, knowledge and godliness, and holy fear. In its Eucharistic lectionary it repeatedly makes us hear the Pauline teaching about diverse gifts and

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

Tuesday, September 8

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

Monday, September 14

Holy Cross Day
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

September 16, 18 & 19

Ember Days

Wednesday: Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

Friday: Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Saturday: 11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Week of Trinity 13

Online Morning Prayer

8:15 a.m. Monday to Friday

Monday, August 31

No services scheduled for today

Tuesday, September 1

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, September 2

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Thursday, September 3

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion, Chapel

Friday, September 4

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, September 6:

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

(Last Sunday of Summer Schedule)

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

Note New
Date!

Parish
Provisions

This small group fellowship
opportunity meets once a month
in the kitchen of Cranmer Hall to
prepare goodies to be sold during
the Holly Days Bazaar.

Tuesday
Sept. 15
5:30 p.m.

Cranmer
Hall
Kitchen

The Anglican Future: Memory, Identity, Mission

(Three-part series—beginning September 13)

We live in a time when old religious patterns are breaking down—and new possibilities for Christian renewal are opening up. Anglicanism faces real challenges, yet possesses remarkable resources for the future. Whether you are just discovering the Anglican tradition or have inhabited it all your life, this **three-part series explores its memory, identity, and mission:** where we have come from, who we are, and what we are for.

Each session will take the form of a lively panel discussion with clergy and special guests, **from 5 - 7 pm in the Green-Meldrim House**, beginning with refreshments. Youth Group meets at the same time and childcare will be provided for younger children.

Join us for the first session with guest Dr. Bradford Littlejohn on **September 13th**.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. Douglas P. McManamy

10:30 a.m. Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary)

Ushers

Mr. Frank Somoskey

Mr. John Bradshaw

Choir

Choir of Adults

Chancel Society

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

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

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

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. Susie H. Fawcett

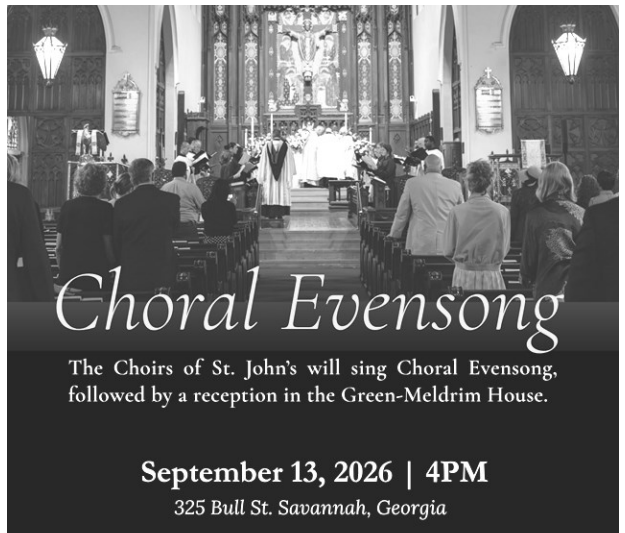
Ms. Linda H. Pounds

Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr. (Penny)

Laura C. Wimbish

Mrs. Morgan W. Murray (Anne)

Mrs. Mark Stevens (Chambliss)



Choral Evensong

The Choirs of St. John's will sing Choral Evensong, followed by a reception in the Green-Meldrim House.

September 13, 2026 | 4PM
325 Bull St. Savannah, Georgia

KICKOFF SUNDAY | September 13

Join us as we launch a new program year with a full day of worship, faith formation, and music!

We return to our regular Sunday schedule, including the resumption of Faith Formation classes for all ages, the first meeting of our Youth Group, the return of Choral Evensong, and the opening Sunday Night Session at the historic Green-Meldrim House.

Schedule for the Day:

8 a.m. Holy Communion

9 a.m. Family Holy Communion

10 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

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

4 p.m. Choral Evensong

5 p.m. Reception— Parish House

5 p.m. Youth Group, 2nd Fl, Cranmer Hall

5:30 p.m. *The Anglican Future*, Panel Talk

Whether you are returning after the summer or visiting for the first time, Kickoff Sunday is the perfect opportunity to reconnect and grow in faith. Join us to celebrate the beginning of a new season in the life of our parish.

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 74, BCP pp. 430–431

The Collect, BCP p. 207

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 207–209

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, and in memory of
Edgar Pomeroy Williams
and the celebration of their marriage
August 31, 2019, by his loving wife
Victoria Diane Fulmer.

And in loving memory of
Alexander Robert Fawcett, by his parents,
Mr. and Mrs. George Fawcett.

And in loving memory of
Elizabeth Miller Saylor,
by her family Betty, Charles
and Shelby Youles.

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

Men of St. John's Annual Meeting

Save the Date! Wednesday, Sept. 23,

5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Green-Meldrim House

Speaker: Chuck Watson, Enki

ministries: 1 Corinthians 12 on Trinity 10; Romans 12 during the Sundays after Epiphany; Ephesians 4 on St Mark's Day, and on the feast of St. Barnabas (shortly after Pentecost) the collect teaches us to pray for the grace to use these gifts of the Spirit to God's glory.

The Prayer Book therefore teaches us both *what kind of people* the Spirit is making us and *what kind of work* the Spirit gives us to do. And the two cannot safely be separated. Teaching without wisdom becomes mere opinion. Leadership without godliness becomes domination. Knowledge without humility becomes pride. Zeal without discernment becomes fanaticism. Even spectacular spiritual gifts are nothing without charity. Yet holiness cannot mean withdrawal into private spiritual perfection. The Spirit does not make isolated saints. He makes members of a Body. Wisdom, courage, knowledge, and godliness must issue in teaching, serving, giving, governing, encouraging, and showing mercy. The Spirit sanctifies us as members of Christ who have work to do for one another.

The classical Prayer Book thus gives us a richer doctrine of spiritual gifts than either enthusiasm or skepticism allows. We need not seek extraordinary experiences as proof that we possess the Spirit; neither may we suppose that the gifts of the Spirit belong to some other kind of Christianity. The Spirit who rests upon Christ is at work within us and also through us. He rests in fullness upon Christ; he is given to us to conform us to Christ; and through us he builds up the Body of Christ. His sanctifying gifts make us fit for his service; his ministerial gifts give each of us some part in that service.

The questions for us are therefore not merely, "Have I received the Spirit?" but: How is the Spirit making me like Christ? What strength is he giving me for the Christian fight? And what has he given me to contribute to the edification of Christ's Church?

– GGD

(Last of Three Parts)