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# The Parish Paper

OF  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

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## OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER

This year we begin a new study schedule full of promise and possibility. Church school will be held from 9:30 am to 10:15 am and will include three new adult classes.

We should be very excited about this promise and possibility. Our Lord promised that when two or three are gathered in his name, he is there in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20). And the possibility flows from this. We have the opportunity to grow, really and truly, through our study on Sunday mornings. It all depends on whether we make the possibility an actuality, whether we seize the opportunity. The Lord will keep his promise, he will be here. If you come and participate you will find yourself more encouraged, with greater strength, and joyful in your daily life.

We begin the church school year on September 11th. Our morning will begin as usual with the celebration of Holy Communion at 8:00am. Following this, breakfast will be offered for all families who desire it in Cranmer Hall. We are offering breakfast as a way to assist young families with the sometimes daunting task of making their way to church on Sunday mornings.

From 9:30am to 10:15am there will be classes for all ages from pre-kindergarten to adults. You will be getting more information on these classes but I want to introduce you briefly to what will be offered for adults.

We are holding these classes so that, while the children learn, their parents and grand-parents (and all other interested persons) can learn at the same time. Three courses will be held from 9:30 to 10:15. They are on The Prayer Book, Marriage, and The Holy Sonnets of John Donne.

Fr. Dunbar will teach a comprehensive course on the history and tradition of The Prayer Book. I recommend this class to all of you, especially those who are new to St. John's. (Some of the old members would benefit from this too!) The Prayer Book provides the way we worship and articulates our religion most beautifully. It embodies therefore a compendium of basic Christian doctrine and the administration of the sacraments, as well as the structure and substance of the Church Year. Of the many things that Fr. Dunbar

studies and understands, the Prayer Book and its history rank at the top. You will find no better understanding anywhere in the Episcopal Church.

We are very privileged to have the Rev'd Dr. Walt Warneck teach a six week course on Marriage. This class will focus on marriage itself, leaving the majority of teaching on how to be effective parents to another course offering. Dr. Warneck is familiar to a number of you as a professional counselor. He is also an ordained Lutheran minister. A number of years ago Dr. Warneck taught a similar class that was well attended and very well received. This is a must for young married couples in particular.

Our third class which brings our cup to overflowing is a course on The Holy Sonnets of John Donne. We are blessed to have a number of knowledgeable and

talented people in our congregation, many of whom I hope will share their knowledge and talents by offering a course on subjects they know and love. Mr. Roland Williams is doing this for us on these splendid poems of John Donne. Mr. Williams has a Master's degree in English and is an ardent reader and one of the most thoughtful members of our parish family. This course will be an absolute joy to take. The spiritual dimensions will be very rewarding.

I cannot imagine any other parish in the whole of Christendom that will be offering three courses better than these. I heartily recommend them to all our adult members.

In addition to the adult offerings will be the excellent curriculum that we have used for the past several years, designed and appropriate for each age, as well as the junior and senior high classes. More information on the details of that curriculum will be forthcoming to parents and is always available for your perusal in the church office.

When we have our main worship service at 10:30am, which is the main event for St. John's and the principal reason for our existence, we have two exciting new offerings for our young people. For those children, ages three through five, Mrs. Neil Victor will conduct a program of music and free play-time. This will not be simply a baby-sitting hour, but a time when the children will have fun with singing and playing under a structured program conceived just for them.

For the children in grades one through four, families will have two options to choose from. The first is something we hope will become a constant reality at St. John's, namely, that families will worship together and experience together both the nobility of Anglican liturgy with the Prayer Book and the beauty of the church's great hymnody. With patience and practice, children can indeed learn to worship and enjoy this reality. The second option for families who do not choose to have their children in church is a music program under the direction of our organist and choirmaster Mr. Brian Taylor, and taught by Ms. Diane Stallings of the Savannah Arts Academy. This program will teach the elements of music and singing with an emphasis on the music of the church. I am very excited about this. There will be no better program of music for our young people anywhere in Savannah. And so in addition to our worship in church, which is the main event, our 10:30

programs will be a pleasure as well as instructive. Afterwards, we will of course have the coffee hour in the Parish House, which is by all objective standards the best coffee hour in town!

We end Sunday morning with our usual celebration of Holy Communion at 12pm. Well that is a very full and happy Sunday morning at St. John's. And I've said nothing about the Choral Evensongs throughout the year sung by the adult choir, as well as others sung by our Men, Boys, and Girls choirs. More on these later.

Our cup runneth over. I hope that you will keep all those who teach and those who learn in your prayers. We have our Lord's most sure promise of his presence, and the possibility of our growth set before us. Let us seize the opportunity, and most of all, let us be thankful and grateful to our heavenly Father for the many and marvelous blessings we enjoy.

**The Rev'd Dr. Michael L. Carreker**



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