

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 3

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2010

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

“Depend upon it, Sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully”. (Samuel Johnson). I suppose the same could be said about the approach of exams, a wedding, guests, or tax day. What concentrates our minds in this holy season, however, is the coming of Christ. “Behold, thy king cometh unto thee”. It is no doubt comforting to think that God is there any time we might need him – a well-trained God who does not speak unless he is spoken to, a concierge God who stands ready to answer our call. But that it is not the comfort that we have in Christ. Christ does not remain at a polite and safe distance from us, somewhere up there in heaven, or in the past, or in Galilee. He does not hover politely in the background in case we want him, a celestial Jeeves offering a discreet cough to the earthly Bertie Wooster. He does not wait upon us to invite him in; no, *he* comes to *us*, he invades our space and time, and when he comes, he presents himself as Messiah, and with the authority of the Lord he marches into the Temple, takes charge, and starts cleaning house.

The question therefore is not *whether* or *if* he is going to come or not: he *is* coming. Nor is even the question *when* he is coming– for he is even now on his way. With every passing moment the hour of his advent draws ineluctably closer: “now our is our salvation nearer

than when we believed”. The only question is whether we are ready to receive him, and to hail him as the multitudes did: “Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: hosanna in the highest”.

Hear the 17<sup>th</sup> century preacher Archdeacon Mark Frank: “the days of holy Advent are to teach us to sing Hosannas to our Saviour, to bless God for his coming, to bless him for his coming, all his comings, all his ways of coming to us... to bless him in the highest... that he may also bless us in the highest”.

In Advent we prepare to bless God for the coming of Christ, and so Advent is a preparation for Christmas: but it is also a preparation for Epiphany, for Septuagesima, for Lent and Passiontide, for Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost, for the whole of the Church’s year, for every Church year, for the whole of our lives, for the whole of time. “Watch ye”, says the Lord - which means, stay awake, keep watch, be vigilant, keep your eyes peeled – “for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh: at even or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping” (Mark 13:35, 36). Advent teaches us to look for Christ’s coming and to be ready for it at any time, in every time, at all

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar .....Rector  
1 West Macon Street.....(912) 234-2209  
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate  
201 E. 49<sup>th</sup> Street Upper flat.....(912) 308-4441  
Mr. Michael Chastain, MRE.M.Div. Director of Family  
Life and College Outreach Ministries ....(912) 450-0000  
Brian J. Taylor, DSM..... Organist/Choirmaster  
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr..... Parish Secretary  
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Church Office ..... (912) 232-1251  
Fax..... (912) 232-5559  
Parish House ..... (912) 233-3845  
Cranmer Hall ..... (912) 232-8887  
E-mails .....(firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

**STANDING NOTICES**

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary.

**HOSPITAL VISITATIONS**

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

**ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE**

Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site:  
[www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org)

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. W. Barron Crawford III

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Mrs. William E. Hutchinson, Jr.;

And in memory of Mr. Charles G. Williamson by the Pollak family;

And in loving memory of Josephine Kennedy Osborne by her family;

And in loving memory of Mahla Kent Wilson by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph K. Wilson;

And in memory of her husband, Marshall F. Campbell, Jr., and her grandson, Alexander M. Archie, by Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. William Latimore, Jr.  
Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Philip F. Kirk  
Ms. Anne H. Minglehoff, Mrs. William B. McNeal II  
Mrs. Philip L. Perrie, Mrs. W. Howard Helmken, Jr.  
Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons, Mrs. John R. Reiter  
Mrs. L. Dale Hendrix, Jr., Mrs. J. Pride Sheahan

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** Andrew Smith  
**10:30** William Sadler  
John DeBacker, Lawson Turner  
Chris Dixon, Rion Hilliard  
Peter Stein, Lindsay Pindar

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES**

- Fts. Dunbar & O' Brien – **Old Testament** (Chapel)
- Jack Wray (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)—“*By Judgment and Salvation a New Heaven and Earth*” Isaiah 65.
- David Noble—Class will resume January 9, 2011.
- Mike Chastain—**Marrieds (& Singles) Forum**—2<sup>nd</sup> floor (St. High Room), Cranmer Hall.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Tuesday** 6:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Study—  
(Parish House Dining Room, enter by Kitchen)  
**Thursday** 7 a.m. Bible Study (Reading Room)

**WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Reading Rm, Cranmer Hall.  
**Wednesday**—10:45 a.m.—Noon  
**Thursday**—9:15 a.m.-10:30a.m. Charles Williams:  
*War in Heaven* (with Fr O' Brien)

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

To make Myrtice's Egg Nog on **Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** @ 6:30 in Cranmer Hall. Contact Caroline Warner 354-3242.

**WREATHS, GARLAND AND POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to give a Poinsettia, Wreath or Garland for the decoration of the Church send a check to the Church Office, made out to **St. John's Chancel Society**. Please include with the check a note of how the memorial should read and by whom it is given. **Poinsettia—\$30, Wreath or Garland \$80.**

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

times, in worship but also in work, in prayer but also in play, in the things we do, and things that happen to us, in things that go right – and things that go wrong. “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Nor is this hope of his coming open-ended: this Christ whom we wait for is not some unknown Christ, some new Messiah with a newly minted gospel: he is the same Christ who has already come once in the flesh, has shown forth his glory, has suffered death and risen again, who has ascended up on high and bestowed his Spirit on the church. As in the Church’s year we call to remembrance his first coming, so we learn to hope for and expect his coming again: the past is not merely past but is present and future in all its virtue and power. We go to meet him from whom we come: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and day, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8)

How shall we make ready for so great a guest – a guest who comes to claim his people as their Lord? In its essence, I think our readiness is a matter of *desire*: wanting him to come, as Christ and Lord, wanting him with everything that you have and everything you are, everything you do and everything that happens to you. “The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely. Even so, [quickly] come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:17, 20). Let this prayer be the desire of our hearts, and the design of our lives. GGD

**This Sunday:**The Choirs’ 2009 CD *Stars of the Morning* is on sale at Breakfast and Coffee Hour for \$15 – a great stocking stuffer! **Next Sunday:** Choir Bake sale and CD sale (to support England 2011)

## PARISH KALENDAR

### *Monday to Friday*

8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Morning (or Evening) Prayer and Holy Communion

### *Except Wednesday:*

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:45 a.m. Litany

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist

5:30pm Evensong & 6 p.m. Supper

*Adults \$9; Couples \$15; Families \$16*

*Children under six Free.*

6:30 p.m. Class ( *the Rector*):

Music of Advent and Christmas

**Saturday:** 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are the Advent **Ember Days**: days of self-denial and prayer, dedicating the first-fruits of the winter season to Christ.

## ST. JOHN’S YOUTH - TRIM THE TREE

*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 6-8pm*

*Parish House \* Friends welcome \**

*RSVP Stacy Jennings*

*rjennings@comcast.net*

## GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

*Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30-12:30*

*Limited spaces available. Call*

*Clayton Kennedy 272-6398*

## ANOTHER ADVENT COLLECT

O LORD, we beseech thee, give ear to our prayers; and by the grace of thy visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts; by our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

**2011 Estimate of Giving (Pledge):** If you have not made a pledge for 2011 but wish to do so, call or send a note to the Financial Secretary, Rence Smyth: [rsmyth@stjohnssav.org](mailto:rsmyth@stjohnssav.org) . 232-1251.

**8:00—HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel.....93 (90)  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**9:30 — 12 Noon NURSERY** (*Parish House*)

**9:30 —ADULT and YOUTH CLASSES** (*Chapel and Cranmer Hall*)

**10:30—Preschool Program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**10:30—MORNING PRAYER and SERMON**

HYMN #9 <i>Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding</i> .....	Merton
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer .....	3-7
Versicles and Responses .....	7-8
VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO ( <i>with antiphon</i> ) #606 .....	9
Psalm #85.....	446
First Lesson: Isaiah 35 The flourishing of Christ’s kingdom foretold by Isaiah.	
ADVENT PROSE: <i>The congregation may remain seated and join in the refrain:</i>	
“Drop down ye heavens, from above: and let the skies pour down righteousness”	
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 4:1 and St. Matthew 11:2 .....	94
BENEDICTUS #638.....	14
Apostles' Creed .....	15
Collect for the Day.....	93 (90)
Fixed Collects .....	17
HYMN #7 <i>Hark the Glad Sound</i> .....	Bristol
<i>1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir exit after the cross.</i>	
THE SERMON .....	Fr. Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences	
Anthem: <i>Lo, In the Time Appointed</i> .....	Healey Willan
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139	
Prayer and Blessing.	
HYMN #440 <i>Watchman, Tell Us of the Night</i> .....	Aberystwyth
ORGAN: <i>Variation on Aberystwyth</i> .....	Paul Lindsley Thomas

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*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 service.  
If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

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