

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 6

The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2011

THIS SUNDAY – THE NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

5:10 P.M.—PRE-SERVICE MUSIC FOR ORGAN & VOICE

5:30 P. M. – LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

Reception to follow in the Parish House. Nursery available.

THURSDAY, 6TH JANUARY - THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion

5:30 p.m. Sung Eucharist (Church)

TAKEN UP INTO GOD

Since ancient times, the Church has kept three holy days on the second, third, and fourth days of Christmas: the feasts of Saint Stephen the First Martyr, of Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist, and of the Holy Innocents. The exact reason for this conjunction of holy days with Christmas is lost in the mists of time: yet the conjunction is powerful nonetheless, not least because it corrects a merely sentimental devotion to the “baby Jesus”.

The juxtaposition of the martyr’s death by stoning with the child’s birth in a manger is a bit startling. Yet the testimony of Stephen (which enrages his auditory, including Saul, soon to become the Church’s zealous persecutor) goes to the core of the Christmas gospel. “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God” (7:56). Stephen dies for his witness that Jesus is (as Jesus designated himself) the “Son of man” spoken of by the prophets (Psalm 8, Daniel 7) – the representative man, humbled for a time, sharing our mortal

frailty, yet faithful and obedient to God, and destined to be gloriously vindicated and exalted. In his vision of Christ, Stephens sees Manhood taken up into God, partaking in the divine glory, and exercising the authority of God’s Kingdom.

Stephen’s witness to Manhood taken up into God is made three ways. He prays “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” – an implicit confession of *faith* in Christ’s divine Lordship, and an expression of *hope* in his power to answer Stephen’s prayer. In his prayer for his persecutors, he expresses *love and charity*: for in imitation of Christ’s own prayer at the cross (Luke 23:34) Stephen prays for his persecutors: “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge”.

What we see and hear in the witness of St. Stephen, is testimony to *manhood taken up into God*. To understand it, we may turn – following the lead of Fulgentius, ascetic and bishop of Ruspe in North Africa in the early 5th century - to the teaching of St. John, the witness of *God revealed in the manhood of Christ*. For St. John is

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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

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. R. Gilbert Wells

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert A. Vinyard

The flowers at the altar are retained from Christmas. Poinsettias and wreaths continued from last week...

Poinsettias given in loving memory of

Robert Fawcett by Mr. and Mrs. John Simmons and Ely Simpson.

Julia Floyd Smith by Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons.

Wreaths given in loving memory of

Mr. Sanford G. Simmons, by Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons.

John Pindar Bradshaw Schaller, by Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons.

Wreaths in honor of or thanksgiving for

Dr. Albert Roberts Howard and in memory of Joyce Parrish Howard, by their children and grandchildren.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell
Mrs. Nicholas Farley, Mrs. George Grady
Mrs. Philip F. Kirk, Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff
Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray
Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. John R. Reiter
Mrs. Rhett N. Willis, Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 William Sadler
10:30 Austin Nichols
Andrew Smith, Kameron Sallee
Peter Stein, John Osborne
Chris Dixon, Mikel Kelly
5:30 Evensong

Oliver Maloney, Kelley Compton
John Osborne, Charles Perrie
Peter Stein, Mikel Kelly

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Graham P. Sadler

ADULT CLASSES THIS SUNDAY – 3RD FLOOR, CRANMER HALL

- *Christian Foundations IV (Old Testament)* – Frs. O' Brien and Dunbar – in the Chapel
- Adult classes resume.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

Men's Bible Study & Discussion Groups

Tuesday *Breakfast* 6:45 Study 7:15 – Parish House Dining Room (enter by Kitchen)- Mike Chastain on the Lord's Prayer

Thursday *Bible Study* 7:00 a.m (Reading Room, 3rd Floor in Cranmer Hall.) Fr. Dunbar on St. Mark's Gospel.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

the witness of the “Word made flesh”, and the great teacher of charity. According to Fulgentius, by his birth Christ the king brought his ‘soldiers’ a gift, which ‘gave them strength to fight and conquer’. This is “the gift of love ... which brings men into fellowship with the Godhead”.

“The love that brought Christ down from heaven to earth, lifted Stephen from earth to heaven. The love that showed itself first in the king, shone forth next in the soldier.” Love of God explains his fearless rebukes of theological error, love of neighbour his prayer for those who were stoning him: “Trusting in the strength of love he overcame the cruel raging of Saul, and so won for himself as a companion in heaven, the man who had been his persecutor on earth. ... Love, therefore, is the origin and source of all good things; it is a most excellent defence, the road that leads to heaven. ... Christ our Lord, brethren, set up for us this ladder of love, and by it every Christian can climb to heaven. You must, therefore, keep a firm hold on love, you must show it to one another, and by progress in it climb up to heaven”.

For the third feast, that of Holy Innocents, the Church also turns to the teaching of St. John. For the history commemorated in the gospel is dark: the murderous paranoia of Herod, the flight of the holy family as refugees into Egypt, the slaughter of little children in Bethlehem – no wonder that the feast is sometimes kept in violet vestments and hangings. It exposes to us the world into which Christ was born, the world which he came to redeem. Those who suffer and die for Christ, though it be little children, are claimed by him as his martyrs. The

innocence of the Child of Bethlehem is redemptive: the Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world. We celebrate Christ, the Son of God “made very man, of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin”. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday – Friday

8:15 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. *Daily Prayer*

Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

Supper & Class resumes

NEXT WEEK

Thursday - Epiphany

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

5:30 p.m. *Sung Eucharist (Church)*

APPLES OF GOLD

Orientation-Kickoff

Wednesday January 5th 6-8 p.m.

Saturdays - 10am-1pm

January 15, 22, 29

February 12, 19, 26

Contact: Coren Ross

mom4travel@aol.com

MEN’S CLUB ANNUAL

OYSTER ROAST AND BARBEQUE

Saturday, January, 15th

1:00—4:00 p.m. at Derst Park

Tickets on sale in Cranmer Hall after the 8 a.m. service, during Coffee Hour and in the Church Office. **Advance tickets \$20 Adults, \$7 children 6-12.** 5 and under free. At the gate \$22 Adults and \$10 Children \$6-12.

The Clergy and Staff wish to thank parishioners for the gifts and cards received in this holy season.

8:00—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... 106

*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.***9:30 — 12 Noon NURSERY** (*Cranmer Hall*)**9:30 —ADULT, YOUTH, and CHILDREN CLASSES** (*Chapel and Cranmer Hall*)**10:30—Pre-school Program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten** (*Cranmer Hall*)**Jr. Choir—1st through 4th Grade children** (*Cranmer Hall*)*****10:20 – Congregational Hymn Practice*******10:30—MORNING PRAYER and SERMON**

HYMN #16 <i>Christians Awake</i>	Yorkshire
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and The Lord's Prayer	3-7
Versicles and responses	7-8
VENITE #606 (<i>with Christmas antiphon</i>).....	9
Psalm #132	508
First Lesson: Titus 3:4-7.	
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615, 619.....	10
Second Lesson: St. Matthew 2:19-23	106
BENEDICTUS#638.....	14
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Versicles and Responses.....	16
Collect for the day	106
Other Collects and Prayers	17-20
The Grace	20
HYMN #21 <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	Forest Green
THE SERMON	Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *The Blessed Son of God fr Hodie*Ralph Vaughan Williams

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN #40 *God rest you merry gentlemen* God rest you merryORGAN: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (*Opus 122, No. 8*) Johannes Brahms*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.***12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Church as 8 a.m.)****5:30 P.M.—CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS—SITTERS AVAILABLE**