

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 24

The Third Sunday after Easter

May 15, 2011

## CATECHESIS

To celebrate the Confirmation last Sunday, I read again one of my favourite short stories, Flannery O' Connor's "The enduring chill". It is a very funny story about the journey to self-knowledge of Asbury, a pompous, self-pitying, and angry young man with literary pretensions who has come home (as he thinks) to die. You have to read it yourself to enjoy its humour, but it is humour with a serious point.

At the center of the story is an interview with a Roman priest, whom Asbury has made his materialistic and *bourgeoise* mother call to his sickbed, in order to embarrass her. The one-eyed priest who arrives, however, has no interest in Asbury's pretentious chit-chat. With single-minded (one-eyed?) determination he proceeds to examine Asbury about the state of his soul – especially his practice of prayer and his knowledge of the Church's catechism, in both of which Asbury is woefully and willfully deficient. The interview ends in Asbury's complete rout: "How can the Holy Ghost fill your soul when it's full of trash?" the priest roared. "The Holy Ghost will not come until you see yourself as you are - a lazy ignorant conceited youth!". Nor does his mother escape unscathed: "the poor lad doesn't even know his catechism .... I should think you would have taught him to say his daily prayers. You have neglected your duty as his mother".

Asbury has fled from the middle-class materialism of his mother into barren intellectual pretention and self-loathing, but he has not addressed or acknowledged his own ignorance, laziness, and pride. The story celebrates the work of the Holy Ghost in bringing him to this knowledge, as the precondition of his conversion, and the beginning of spiritual life. But it also celebrates the Church's work of catechesis – the instruction of the mind in the truths of the Christian Faith, the training of the will in the disciplines of prayer. "If you don't apply yourself to the catechism how do you expect to know how to save your immortal soul?"

"Christianity is caught not taught": with such slogans was the teaching of the Catechism and of the disciplines of prayer retired in too many church decades ago, and the results are all around us. What was "caught" was only sometimes the Christian Faith, and more often the spiritual diseases of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil. What was "not taught" was the Christian Faith, and biblical and theological illiteracy that resulted are with us still, a doctrine deficit whose overcoming is one of the chief challenges of Christians today. We cannot leave unchallenged the notion that genuine spiritual life results from complacent ignorance, dilettante dabbling, and emotional vapouring. When the Lord gave his apostles the great commission to "make disciples of all nations" he told them to do so in two ways: "baptizing

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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** [www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org)  
**ON FACEBOOK:** St. John's Church in Savannah

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. J. Pride Sheahan

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. P. Drew Troxler

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the Resurrection, by the Chancel Society.

The flowers at the altar in the Chapel on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of The Rev'd William H. Ralston, Jr. by the Compton family.

The flowers at the altar in the Chapel on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Merrill Summers Griffis and Doreen Bailey Summers by Dr. and Mrs. Roland S. Summers.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Philip F. Kirk, Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff  
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. Nicolas Farley  
Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. W. Lee Belford  
Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Mrs. Mrs. J. Pride Sheahan

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** Andrew Smith  
**10:30** Will Sadler  
Cord Helmken, Clayton Compton  
Lindsay Pindar, John Osborne  
Mikel Kelly, Charles Perrie

**COFFEE HOUR**

Ms. Holly Montford

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES**

- Clergy – The Books of Moses (Chapel)
- Jack Wray (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)—*David, Hezekiah, Josiah: Israel's Three Good Kings.*
- David Noble—*The Canterbury Tales*—Reading Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

**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

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**WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUP**

*Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.*  
**Thursday:** 9:15 a.m.—*War in Heaven*

**PARISH KALENDAR**

**Monday- Friday 8:15am & 5:30pm**  
*Morning & Evening Prayer (Chapel)*  
**Wednesday: 9:45 a.m. Litany & 10am Sung Eucharist (Chapel)**  
**5:30 p.m. Evensong** (see opposite "High School Graduates Evensong" – all parishioners welcome)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”, and “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”. The sacramental means of grace are to go hand in hand with thorough and ongoing catechesis, the training of the mind and will. The Church itself, its families and fellowships, must re-discover itself as a community of teaching (catechesis) *and* of the sacraments. If we despise and neglect the means of grace, we should not expect to receive grace.

Now that these members have been confirmed, it will be important to maintain the momentum of their preparation for this rite, with continuing engagement after Confirmation in education and service, as well as worship. But right now we owe a debt of thanks to the teachers of our youth confirmation class this year, Mrs. Edward Derst, and Mr. and Mrs. Carter Hubbard. Theirs are critical labours in the ministry of Mother Church, as she raises up her children to new life in the Spirit of Christ. GGD

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCULPTURE SHOW**

Monday, May 16, 2011

5—8 p.m. in the Green Meldrim House

Appetizers, wine and fabulous sculptures

*A portion of the proceeds will go to the Green Meldrim Restoration Fund.*

#### **OWN A PIECE OF THE PAST**

George Fawcett has made small wooden crosses from the wood of the bell-tower. These come with ribbons and may be worn around the neck. Cost is \$20, with all proceeds to the Choir’s England trip.

#### **CONFIRMATION**

On Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>, a non-resident parishioner, Alexander David Peter Simcox, was confirmed at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, where he is a Chorister.

#### **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Forty players and some rain showed up for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ralston Cup, which was won by Vincent Martin, Rusty Ross, Andy Sheils, and Rob Sparks. Dr. Robert Jarman won the Dunbar Cup for Longest Drive. Sandy Shepherd made the first Hole In One in the history of the tournament, and Dr. Shepherd covered himself with glory on the final putt of the 18<sup>th</sup> hole.

#### **NEXT SUNDAY MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Church School Awards will *not* be presented on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, but on **May 29<sup>th</sup>** during 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer. Regular service schedule Sunday **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, including 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer; but note that access to and parking on Madison Square may be restricted, due to picketing. Parishioners are requested to avoid any actions that would give picketers the publicity they seek.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES’**

**EVENSONG & SUPPER**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

5:30 p.m. *Evensong* (Church) and 6:00 p.m. *Supper* (Cranmer Hall) in thanksgiving and prayer for St. John’s parishioners who are graduating from High School this year. All Parishioners welcome – please call to reserve a place. \$12/family, \$8/person, Nursery Available.

**8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel ..... Prayer Book, 173  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

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

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

**10:30 –Pre-school—3 year olds through Kindergarten** (Cranmer Hall)

**Jr. Choir—1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Grades** (Cranmer Hall)

**10:30 A.M.— MORNING PRAYER and SERMON**

**CARILLON**

HYMN #89 <i>At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing</i> .....	Salzburg
Sentences, Confession, Absolution, and Lord’s Prayer .....	Prayer Book, pages 6-7
Versicles and Responses .....	7-8
VENITE (with Easter Antiphon) #606.....	9
Psalm #113, 114.....	484-485
First Lesson: 1 St. Peter 2:11 .....	173
TE DEUM #615, 619 .....	11
Second Lesson: St. John 16:16 .....	173
BENEDICTUS #638 .....	14
Apostles' Creed .....	15
Versicles and Responses .....	16
Collect for the Day.....	173
Other Collects, Prayers and The Grace.....	17-20

**THE WHITENING OF A CHORISTER**

Emma Retzer & Brianna Scott

HYMN #88 *Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now* ..... St. Albinus  
*1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.*

THE SERMON .....Fr. Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Praise the Lord, Ye Servants*..... John Blow

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

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #472 *Hark, hark, my soul* .....Pilgrims

ORGAN: *Verse* ..... John Blow

*Everyone is invited to attend 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 in the Chapel. (same as 8 a.m.)**