

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 46

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

October 23, 2011

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING: OCTOBER 30TH

SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT

In an ecclesiastical outlook that has recently offered little comfort, the very serious charge of abandonment made against Bishop Mark Lawrence of South Carolina is chilling indeed. The charge is striking, because under his leadership the Diocese of South Carolina has *not* 'abandoned' the Episcopal Church (as did the dioceses of Fort Worth, Pittsburgh, San Joaquin, and Quincy). What it *has* done, openly and publicly, is to insulate itself as much as possible from what Lawrence has called the "false gospel" of "indiscriminate inclusivity" advocated by the national church, through a reform of its diocesan laws and constitution. It is precisely this achievement - to remain *within* the Episcopal Church but not *of* the Episcopal Church - that has enraged its enemies and spurred these charges.

It is no secret that the national church has been looking for grounds for a legal challenge against South Carolina; yet, we are assured, the information presented against Bishop Lawrence came not from the Presiding Bishop's office, but from communicants within the diocese - disaffected progressives presumably, following the familiar progressive strategy of using bureaucratic process to advance agendas which otherwise fail to gain support. The Presiding Bishop, however, is not off the hook. One must ask whether her aggressive policy of litigation to quell opposition to her

theological agenda has not created the climate and established the precedent for a resort to litigation by other militant progressives. Whether or not they are acting formally in concert, the effect is the same.

The charges will be the first major test of the newly reformed Title IV canons on Discipline. Though these have been criticized for removing due process protections, we have been given assurances that these fears are overblown. Perhaps so: but many eyes will be watching closely to see what justice the Bishop of South Carolina receives under them. A heavy responsibility lies with the Disciplinary Board and its president, Bishop Dorsey Henderson, retired of Upper South Carolina (and recent visitor to St. John's on behalf of Bishop Benhase), as they investigate these charges, to ensure that these new canons do not become another instrument of coercion. Bishop Henderson and the Board will need your prayers.

To his credit, Bishop Benhase has expressed hope that the charges will be dismissed. Even if they are, the process will be costly in terms of money and morale: a further and needless embitterment of a church already divided and demoralized by unilateral theological change and aggressive litigation. To put it bluntly:

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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 and recordings of Services and Sermons are to be found on our web site:
www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Dr. J. David Carson

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Austin O. Kennedy

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Barrow, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Thornton M. Deas by Mr. and Mrs. Craig Barrow III.

And in loving memory of Mr. Robert L. Brooks by Mrs. Robert L. Brooks.

The flowers at the altar on Wednesday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Fr. Ralston on his birthday (Oct. 25th).

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
Mrs. Thomas Johnson, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf,
Mrs. Nicholas Farley, Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.
Mrs. John M. Hewson III, Mrs. James Gregory

ACOLYTES

8:00 John DeBacker
10:30 Cord Helmken
Kameron Sallee, Peter Stein
Charles Perrie, Louis Palla
Patrick Perrie. Hunt Wasden

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David C. Barrow III.

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR—

NOVEMBER 9TH AND 10TH

- We have storage available for **White Elephant, Treasure Room** and **Books**. Please call the church office or Amy Wilson, chairman, (308-6471) for instructions.
- **Soup and Chili** - As you are cooking for your football parties, please consider doubling your soup or chili recipe and freezing for the bazaar. Please remember to mark your containers/ziploc bags with soup or chili. Christiana Turner (898-1810) or Sherry Holtzclaw (897-3889)
- **Desserts** - We would love to have your delicious homemade desserts. Call Marsha Berger (598-0396) or Kathie Johnston (303-9483).
- **Sandwiches - Chicken Choppers** are needed **Tuesday, November 1st at 9:00am** in Cranmer Hall. Leah Brunson (ldbrunson@yahoo.com) or Jentri Hand (352-8913)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

the message being sent by these charges (as by the evident hostility of the Presiding Bishop) is that conservative dissent will not be tolerated within the Episcopal Church, and that significant theological differences will be resolved by coercion. One could hardly devise a stronger incentive for conservatives to leave. Militant progressives longing for ideological purity may rejoice at the prospect of getting rid of so much "dead wood" - but those who cherish the Episcopal Church will know that such losses leave it diminished, and not just in numbers or dollars.

This case raises a question for us: given the ascendancy of the agenda of "indiscriminate inclusivity" in the Episcopal Church - will there be a secure place in the Episcopal Church for the conscientious dissent of those who hold to historic Anglican doctrine and worship? That security cannot be taken for granted. GGD

CONSECRATION SUNDAY R.S.V.P.

If you are **not** able to attend Church on Sunday, October 16th or 23rd, please let us know whether or not you **can** join us on October 30th, Consecration Sunday, for brunch or lunch. Call Elaine Barrow (598-9326) and indicate how many adults, how many children, and which service (8 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.). Please let us know also if you are not able to attend on Sunday October 30th.

PARISH HOUSE GUIDES AND DOCENTS

There are five or six openings for Docents at the Green-Meldrim House. If you are able to helping in keeping the House open to the public, please make contact with Martie Campbell (598-4299)

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Nominations for four five-year terms may be submitted in writing to the Nominating Committee or in a sealed envelope to the Church Office. Nominations will close Wednesday, November 9, 2011. The Annual Congregational Meeting is on Sunday, November 20, 2011.

Nominees must be:

1. Members of St. John's for at least 5 years;
2. Financial supporters of St. John's;
- 3 Regular worshippers at St. John's.

PARISH KALENDAR

Monday- Friday (Chapel)

8:15am & 5:30pm

Morning or Evening Prayer

Wednesday (Chapel)

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

Wednesday (Church)

EVENSONG, SUPPER, & CLASS

5:30 p.m. *Evensong* (Girls' Choir)

6 p.m. *Supper* (in Cranmer Hall)

6:35-7:20 *Adult Class*

(a reprise of the Clergy Sunday class

on Paul's Epistle to the Galatians)

Cost of Supper: \$9/person;

\$15/family. Nursery available.

Thursday

NOON MEN'S FORUM

Lunch and Talk: *How to Talk with your Atheist and Agnostic Friends.*

Friday, October 28th:

ST. SIMON & ST. JUDE

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

Holy Communion

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL Prayer Book page 214
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:00—12 Noon NURSERY (Cranmer Hall)

9:30 A.M.—ADULT, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN’S CLASSES (Chapel and Cranmer Hall)
10:30—Pre-school Program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)
Jr. Choir—grades 1 through 4 (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

HYMN #416 *O For a Closer Walk with God* Caithness
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book pages 5-7
 Versicles, Responses and Lord’s Prayer 7-8
 VENITE (Hymnal #609) 9
 Psalms #110, 112 482, 483
 First Lesson: I Corinthians 1:4 214
 JUBILATE DEO (Hymnal #645) 10
 Second Lesson: St. Matthew 22:34 215
 BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #634) 15
 Apostles’ Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collect for the Day 214
 Fixed Collects and the Grace 17-20
 HYMN #379 *Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost* Capetown
1st through 4th grade children enrolled in Junior Choir exit following the Cross
 THE SERMON Fr. O’Brien

OFFERING

Sentences
 Anthem: *Teach Me, O Lord* William Byrd
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
 Final Prayer and Blessing
 HYMN #542 *Jesus shall reign where'er the sun* Duke Street
 ORGAN: *Now Thank We All Our God (BWV 657)* Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 (Chapel) Collect, Epistle, Gospel p. 214