

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 9

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2012

ELLIOTT HOUSE VISITORS THIS WEEK

This year we welcome clergy and theological students to the Eleventh Annual Elliott House Clergy Seminar, on texts of Erasmus, Luther, and Hooker, conducted by Neil Robertson, Professor of Humanities at King's College, Halifax, and adjunct professor in the Classics and in Political Science at Dalhousie University.

ONE BODY?

In Epiphany we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, the conversion to Christ of all sorts and conditions of men, and their incorporation into the fellowship of his Body the Church. That there is "one Mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:5, 6), implies that "that he should gather together *into one* the children of God that are scattered abroad" (John 11:52).

As to unity, however, the Church Catholic does not present an impressive picture. The ancient churches of the East remain divided from the ancient churches of the West; the Western church is divided between Roman Catholics and Protestants (who are divided among themselves), and in the Global South large and growing Pentecostal churches regard older traditions without sympathy. When we turn to Anglicanism, we find a notorious (or boasted or merely puzzling) medley of evangelical, catholic, charismatic, liberal, and conservative. In the wake of 19th century party warfare between evangelical and catholic, liberal ideas gained ascendancy, but since the

1970's this liberal tendency has itself become divisive, pursuing its own agendas - in liturgy, ordained ministry, the language of revelation, and marriage - at the cost of the church's unity. An exodus of exasperated conservatives has not slowed the pursuit of this agenda.

I know the previous paragraph was depressing to read - I made it as short as possible - but the rehearsal of this history does have this salutary effect, that we not take for granted such unity as we do have. Differences of churchmanship, personality, mission, theology, practice, and so on, are inevitable, and even enriching - but only if they are held within commonly-accepted parameters. Accepting the limits upon what we would like to do, expressing our differences with self-restraint, is necessary to living as a church. The question is, where do we find these parameters?

At its organization after the Revolution the Episcopal Church took a high view of the "liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free" (Galatians 5:1): "in [God's] worship different forms and usages may

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Mr. Sinisa Domazet..... Buildings Manager

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Junior Warden..... *Mr. R. Gilbert Wells*
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Treasurer.....*Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford*
Chancellor.....*M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.*

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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. Wm. Howard Helmken

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert A. Vinyard
and Mr. William S. Willingham

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. William J. Deal and Mr. and Mrs. David Boston Morgan by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Derst III and family.

And in loving memory of Leonard Trosten on his birthday by Mrs. Ali Trosten and Jay Overstreet.

And in loving memory of Dr. Robert A. Burnett by Mary, Wendy, and Decie.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk,
Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff, Mrs. F. Debele Maner
Mrs. Michael F.P. Maloney, Dr. Linda Ann McCall

ACOLYTES

8:00 John Debacker
10:30 Cord Helmken
Chris Dixon, John Osborne
Peter Stein, Hunt Wasden
Charles Perrie, Patrick Perrie

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Walter C. Murray, Jr.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES

- Clergy: *Epistle to the Galatians* – (Chapel)
- David Noble—*Canterbury Tales*—Reading Rm

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. **NO MEETING**

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Wednesday: 10:45 a.m.-Noon Study on
Philippians. IN PARISH HOUSE
Thursday 9:15 a.m. –**NO MEETING**

THE ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday February 4th

If you are cleaning out your closets, please keep this Sale in mind! Donations received Monday January 30th to Friday February 3rd.

ECW'S SENIORS LUNCHEON

All Ladies 70 and older are invited to join the ECW on, **Wednesday, February 15th**, (NOT January 18th) at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon in their honor. Call the Church Office to make your reservation or if you need transportation.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

without offence be allowed, provided the substance of the Faith be kept entire” (*Preface* of 1789, Prayer Book, p. v). Nonetheless, though the American church departed somewhat from the 1662 Prayer Book and 39 Articles of Religion in its revisions of 1789, 1893, and 1928, it did not depart very far. Notably, after protests from minorities and from partner churches at its omission, the Nicene Creed was retained.

In practice, therefore, the Episcopal Church’s use of liberty was governed by self-restraint, with special regard not only to “the substance of the Faith” but also in regard to shared inheritance of “forms and usages”. Such self-restraint is not a restriction on Christian freedom: “for, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13). Liberty without love is merely license “to bite and devour one another” (5:15). The historic autonomy of the Episcopal Church is not absolute but (as the Windsor Report called it), “autonomy-in-relation”, an interdependent autonomy self-limited and responsive to its partner churches in matters affecting the common inheritance.

This understanding of liberty appears in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Episcopal Church, which though brief nonetheless commits the Episcopal Church to being “a constituent member of the Anglican Communion” defined as “a Fellowship ... of churches in communion with the See [i.e. the Archbishop] of Canterbury, upholding and propagating the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer”. Though no edition is

specified, the only edition for which this claim could be made (at least in a historical sense) is that of 1662, and (by derivation) its local adaptations (such as 1928). As preamble to the Constitution, this commitment governs (and overrides) the authority of the General Convention and its canons. Both in the larger church, and in the parish, to live at unity within those parameters is both our privilege and our vocation. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

MONDAY – FRIDAY (CHAPEL)

8:15AM - *Morning Prayer*

5:30PM - *Evening Prayer*

Except WEDNESDAY 25TH

CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

8:00AM – *Morning Prayer*

NOTE SPECIAL TIME

8:15AM – *Holy Communion*

9:45am *Litany*

10AM – *Sung Eucharist*

5:30 PM *Evensong (Girls Choir)*

No Supper or Class

THURSDAY

Noon – Men’s Forum

The Rt. Rev. Michael Hawkins,

Bishop of Saskatchewan, will

speak about Christian Marriage:

“They have no Wine”.

ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST

Saturday, January, 28th

1:00—4:00 p.m.

at Derst Park

Tickets are on sale after 8 a.m. service, during Coffee Hour and in the Church Office. **Advance tickets \$20 Adults, \$5 children 6-12.** 5 and under free. Tickets at the gate are \$25.

8:00—HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel 112, 114
A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 — 12 Noon NURSERY (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30 —ADULT, YOUTH and CHILDREN’S CLASSES (*Chapel & Cranmer Hall*)

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

Jr. Choir—1st through 4th grade children (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:30—MORNING PRAYER and SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #153 <i>Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies</i>	Ratisbon
Sentences, Confession, Absolution, and Lord’s Prayer	Prayer Book 3-7
Versicles, Responses and Gloria Patri	7-8
VENITE (Hymnal #610)	9
Psalm #97 & 98	460
First Lesson: Romans 12:16	112
JUBILATE DEO (Hymnal #645).....	15
Second Lesson: St. Matthew 8:1 <i>Note this is found on the next page over</i>	114
BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638).....	14
Apostles' Creed	15
Versicles and Responses	16
Collect for the Day.....	112
Other Collects, The Grace	17-20
HYMN: #517 <i>Thine Arm, O Lord, in Days of Old</i>	St. Matthew
<i>Children 1st through 4th Grade enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross</i>	

THE SERMONFr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences	
Anthem: <i>The Three Kings</i>	Peter Cornelius, arr. Ivor Atkins
Mr. Matthew Jones, tenor; Ms. Lucy Sheils, soprano	
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)	
Prayer and Blessing	
HYMN #49 <i>From the Eastern Mountains</i>	Valour
ORGAN: <i>Prelude in C minor</i>	Antonio Soler

*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 BCP pp 111, 113.)