

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 43 No. 12

Sexagesima

February 12, 2012

ECW SENIORS LUNCHEON

THIS Wednesday, February 15th

All Ladies 70 and older are invited to join the ECW at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon in their honor. Call the Church Office to make your reservation or if you need transportation 232-1251.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

At the beginning of February, the clergy and delegates of St. John's – the Senior Warden, Mr. David Barrow; Skip Jennings, Esquire; Mr. Neil Victor; Mrs. Morgan Murray; and Mrs. Paul Pressly – took part in Diocesan Convention in Augusta. It opened Thursday in historic St. Paul's with a lovely Evensong according to the Prayer Book of 1662, which served as the American Prayer Book until 1789, and which is now in its 350th year. There was no comment on the significance of the anniversary.

Friday to Saturday morning were devoted to business; and it was evident that Bishop Benhase, himself a leader of great practical ability, has surrounded himself with a very capable team, who have been energetically and effectively overhauling the financial and administrative apparatus of the diocese.

The convention's theme was "a new era of mission", and its focus the presentation to the Convention of plans for an ambitious (perhaps \$25 million) "Campaign for Congregational Development." Designed to reverse a thirty-year trend of declining membership, this campaign is designed

to fund three areas of mission: missionaries to youth and young adults at colleges and technical schools; the development of clergy and lay leadership in skills necessary for congregational growth; and planting new congregations.

The practical energy, imagination, and expertise being brought to bear on the revitalization of the Church's mission is impressive. It is a proper challenge to Episcopalians, who too often have ignored the Great Commission to "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). There is much here from which to learn. Despite St. John's relative health, we cannot ignore the challenge to build the congregation, both in numbers and in faith. Purism alone will not build the church.

Impressive as this presentation was, however, I came away with reservations. What I missed was a clear theological vision of the ends, content, and means of the Church's mission. As one might properly expect, there were frequent references to "the gospel", "salvation", "making disciples", and so on. Yet precisely

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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 th Street Upper flat..... | (912) 308-4441 |
| Mr. Michael Chastain, MRE, M.Div..... | Family Life Ministries..... |
| | (912) 450-0000 |
| Brian J. Taylor, DSM..... | Organist/Choirmaster |
| Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr..... | Parish Secretary |
| Mrs. Peter W. Schmidt..... | Financial Secretary |
| Mrs. William D. Harrell..... | Parish Activities Director |
| Mr. Rich Mays..... | Associate Organist |
| Mr. Sinisa Domazet..... | Buildings Manager |

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| Senior Warden..... | Mr. David C. Barrow III. |
| Junior Warden..... | Mr. R. Gilbert Wells |
| Clerk of Vestry..... | Mr. J. Wesley Krulic |
| Treasurer..... | Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford |
| Chancellor..... | M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq. |

The Vestry: Esqs., M. Tyus Butler, Jr., John M. Hewson III, Dr. J. Davidson Carson, Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford, Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. R. Bartley Turner, Mrs. Neil H. Victor, Messrs. David C. Barrow III, Charles B. Compton, Jr., W. Barron Crawford, Edwin H. Culver, Lawrence L. Heam III, Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr., Mr. R. Scott Howard, J. Wesley Krulic, Mr. William C. Rodgers, Paul D. Troxler, R. Gilbert Wells, Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Dr. Edwin C. Shepherd

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| President, ECW..... | Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr. |
| President, Chancel Society..... | Mrs. Roland S. Summers |
| President, Business Women..... | Mrs. Myrtice A.J. Lewis |
| President, Men of St. John's..... | Mr. Richard L. Wright |

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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

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. Edwin H. Culver

USHER CHAIRMAN

Joseph R. Ross, Esq.
Mr. Robert F. Brannen, Jr.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God by Fr Dunbar in thanksgiving for the staff and volunteers who work with him at St. John's.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff, Mrs. Edwin H. Culver
Mrs. Wynton J. Ezelle, Mrs. Michael F.P. Maloney
Mrs F. Debele Manor, Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 Cord Helmken
10:30 Clayton Compton
Lawson Turner, Chris Dixon
Charles Perrie, Louis Palla
Hunt Wasden, Patrick Perrie

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. J. Earl Gilbreath, 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 Discussion*
(Parish House Dining Room, enter by Kitchen)

Thursday 7 a.m. *Acts of the Apostles*
(Reading Room, with the Rector).

Thursday: Noon - MEN'S FORUM

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Reading Rm, Cranmer Hall.
Wednesday: 10:45 a.m.-Noon *Philippians*.
Thursday: 9:15 -10:30 a.m. - *Athanasius On the Incarnation* (with Fr O' Brien)

CONFIRMATION

Is set for April 22nd. Adults wishing to be baptized and/or confirmed should give their names to Fr Dunbar, and makes plans to attend **Adult Catechism** 6:30-7:30 Wednesday nights. This includes adults who have been confirmed at another church, but not by a bishop in historic succession.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

what these meant was not spelled out. At best, their meaning – and consensus about their meaning - was assumed.

The limitations of this approach became evident during the presentation on youth and young adult ministry, whose speakers testified to the importance of warm personal relationships and worldly good works without much in between. Whether intentional or not, there was nothing to distinguish their testimony from the moral relativism and doctrinal indifference of the gospel of “inclusivity”. Can mission so vaguely defined really be effective?

Speaking of “inclusivity”: there was a brief and informal discussion of a proposal to authorize a rite for same-sex blessings, likely to be presented at this summer's General Convention in Indianapolis. The discussion was somewhat inconclusive, since the details of the proposal are unknown at this time. Nor was there any presentation of the theological and ecclesial framework in which such a proposal might be considered. Those wishing to share their views on this subject were invited to write directly to the Bishop and Georgia's deputies to the General Convention at:

deputies@georgiaepiscopal.org.

Finally, Bishop Stacy Sauls, formerly of Tennessee and now Chief Operating Officer of the national church office, presented a proposal (which was adopted) to initiate the structural reform of General Convention, with a view to shifting monies from governance into program ("mission"). If this resolution does pass General Convention, major structural reform will be in the works. Just what form it will take remains to be seen.

The same reservation applies: to this as to the capital campaign: without the articulation of a clear theological vision, structural and practical efficiency alone is not enough. To be truly practical, practicality must be informed by a vision of the truth – and that vision cannot be taken for granted. GGD

For more information on the Georgia Convention, go to:

<http://convention.georgiaepiscopal.org>

PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY

PUBLIC LECTURE

“The Word of God in Worship – Cranmer’s Common Prayer and Why the Church Needs it Today.”

Speaker: Fr Dunbar

Response: Fr Edward Rix.

Saturday, February 18th at 10 a.m.

Ralston Room of Cranmer Hall.

PARISH KALENDAR

Monday to Friday

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

Morning (or Evening) Prayer

Except Wednesday:

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:45 a.m. Litany

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist

5:30pm Evensong, *6:00 p.m.*

Supper, and 6:30 p.m.

ADULT CATECHISM

(Class for Newcomers, Inquirers,

Adult Confirmation.)

Nursery Available. Reservation

requested for Supper

(\$9/person, \$15/family).

Call Church office 232-1251 or email

Pfuttrell@stjohnssav.org

Thursday:

Noon - MEN'S FORUM

To be announced

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel (*No Gloria in Excelsis till Easter*) p. 120
A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30 a.m. — ADULT, YOUTH and CHILDREN'S CLASSES (*Chapel & Cranmer Hall*)

10:30 a.m.—Pre-School Program continues—3 year olds through Kindergarten (*Cranmer Hall*)
Jr. Choir—1st through 4th grade children (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| HYMN #415 <i>Jesus, Lover of My Soul</i> | Aberystwyth |
| Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer | 3-7 |
| Versicles and Responses | 7-8 |
| VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO #608 | 9 |
| Psalm #44 | 394 |
| First Lesson: Genesis 6:5-end. <i>God threatens a great flood and promises to save Noah in the Ark.</i> | |
| BENEDICITE | <i>insert</i> |
| Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 11:19 and St. Luke 8:4 | <i>insert and</i> 121 |
| BENEDICTUS #638 | 14 |
| Apostles' Creed | 15 |
| Versicles and Responses | 16 |
| Collect for the Day..... | 120 |
| Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace | 17-20 |
| HYMN #564 <i>How Firm a Foundation</i> | Lyons |
| <small>1st through 4th grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.</small> | |
| THE SERMON | Fr. O'Brien |

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Almighty and Everlasting God*.....Orlando Gibbins

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

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #562 *Stand Up for Jesus*.....Webb

ORGAN: Psalm 18.....Benedetto Marcello

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. 120)