

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 43 No. 39

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

August 26, 2012

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH (III)

After praying for the Church as a spiritual community of those "who do confess thy holy Name", and are united in truth and charity, we pray for her institutional structures, by means of which the spiritual community is realized: Christian governors and magistrates, Christian pastors, and the Christian people subject to them.

The priority of prayer for Christian rulers looks odd to modern Americans, accustomed to the doctrine of the separation of church and state. As I tried to explain in last week's Parish Paper (not very well) that separation of powers is far from unproblematic. The civil government of the U. S. A. forbids Mormons and Muslims the practice of polygamy (authorized by their religion); just as (in many jurisdictions) it forbids same-sex marriage to Episcopalians. It holds accountable the officers of the Roman Catholic hierarchy for failures to discipline abusive clergy (an intrusion on canonical privilege long resisted by Rome) - and in all these and many other moral matters, Christians must acknowledge that the state operates with the authority of the Word of God (Romans 13). "You can't legislate morality" is nonsense: the state does so all the time, and rightly so. What are the laws against murder, fraud, or defamation, if not moral laws?

It is therefore the business of the officers of the state "truly and impartially to administer justice to the punishment of wickedness and vice" and also "to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue" - for without true religion, the virtue

necessary to the citizens of a democratic Republic does not flourish. This was once understood in the U. S. A., even though the direct involvement of the civil authorities in religious matters was minimal, just as it was assumed by the Framers of the American constitution that rational men would recognize the truth of the moral law set forth in the Word of God. They knew that the work of the church is a good necessary to the welfare of society (as acknowledged in tax law), a good which the state cannot itself provide but has a rational interest to foster.

If the state has an interest in fostering the work of the church as public institution, the church is to bear witness to, instruct, and pray for the civil authorities, "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Timothy 2:2). For the authority of the Word of God runs both ways: when the state acts contrary to the Word of God (as for instance, in defining what constitutes a human person, or marriage), or when it intrudes on the freedom of church-run institutions to uphold Christian doctrine and discipline, the protests of the church are not to be regarded as gambits in a game of civil politics (though of course they are often treated that way, by people on both sides). The authority of the Word of God runs throughout human life; and the right of the Church to bear witness to that Word, and to order its life in conformity to it, must

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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. David C. Barrow III

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ross Haire

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and loving memory of Alexander Robert Fawcett by his wife, Mrs. Alexander Robert Fawcett, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Fawcett.

And to express our congregational appreciation for the dedication of our faithful member Myrtice James Lewis by the members of St. John's Church.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Ms. Anne Mingleдорff, Mrs. David A. Young
Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. George Fawcett
Mrs. Franklin Brunson

ACOLYTES

8:00 Kameron Sallee
10:30 Chris Dixon, John Osborne
Lindsay Pindar, Patrick Perrie
Turner Stevens, Charles Perrie

COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. Mark D. Stevens

SUNDAY MORNING 9:30 A.M.

ADULT CLASS (CHAPEL)

The Articles of Religion - IX-XVIII
Salvation in Christ (the Rector)

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

Men's Bible Study & Discussion Groups
(READING ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CRANMER HALL)

Tuesday 7:00 a.m. – Colossians with Fr. O'Brien.

Thursday 7:00 a. m. — Acts of the Apostles, with Fr. Dunbar

BAZAAR BUSINESS

The **canners** meet every Wednesday in the Cranmer Hall kitchen after 10a.m. Holy Communion. They need fresh veggies and fruits (figs, peppers, pears, peaches, apples, mangos, etc) sugar, mint, pecans and half-pint jars. Jane Pressly 232-6551.

There is now a second Storage unit available for **White Elephant** and **Treasurer Room**, contact Betsy Howard at betsyvd6@aol.com or 398-1326

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Office closes at Noon on Fridays.
Monday through Thursday 9—4:30 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

not be infringed.

It is this right to proclaim and bear witness to the Word of God which is vested chiefly in the ministry of word and sacrament entrusted to the "pastors and curates" of the flock. Both the content of this proclamation, and the means of making it – the ordained ministry, and its administration of Word and Sacrament - are given to the Church. That is why the Constitution of the Episcopal Church commits it to "upholding and propagating the historic Faith *and Order*" of the Anglican Communion and the Church Catholic. Ministry is not a construct of self-organizing voluntary associations (whatever civil law may think); and the vexing questions which surround it (such as women's ordination) are not merely cranky (however cranky some of the debate about it sometimes is). We do not create the Faith, and we do not create Order: these are gifts to be received, not remade.

We pray for the Christian pastor and curate, the shepherd (*pastor*), be he bishop or priest, with the care (*cura*) of souls in a particular place (a diocese or parish), assisted, in a subordinate role, by deacons. How much do they need this prayer! There are so many things that we should ask God to give the clergy, who are so desperately in need of much help from above. We pray that "both by their life and doctrine, they [may] set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments". "Life and doctrine": notice the order of the words, which is absolutely correct. The Church needs true doctrine, and too often the clergy are too badly educated and perverse to provide it. But important as doctrine is, there is a greater good to seek for the clergy, and that is the living of it: "But Cristes loore, and his Apostles twelve, / He taught, but first he followed

it himselfe" (Chaucer, *The Parson's Tale*). We pray also, that the clergy may administer his sacraments, both "rightly" (in obedience to the teaching of Christ), and "duly" (as need requires).

"Let us therefore beg large measures of grace for our bishops and pastors, that their preaching may convert us, their lives invite us to imitation, and their dispensing of the sacraments may comfort and strengthen us in all goodness: let the clergy pray heartily one for another, for they understand the weight of this charge; and let the people supplicate affectionately for their ministers, because the grace given to them is for their sakes, and the benefit hereof finally descends upon the congregation..." (Dean Comber). GGD

(To be continued)

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

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

Morning or Evening Prayer

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

ECW NEWS

The **ECW Board** will meet **Tuesday, August 25th**, in Cranmer Hall on the 1st floor at 10:00 a.m.

The **ECW General Meeting** on **Wednesday, September 5th**, will be the kick off for the Bazaar. The meeting will be held in the Green Meldrim immediately following the 10:00 Holy Communion in the Chapel.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland B. Williams
30 Houston Street
Savannah, GA 31401-2833

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity August 26, 2012

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel.....Prayer Book, p. 206
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (Cranmer Hall)

9:30-10:15—Classes for Adults & Confirmed Youth (Chapel)

9:30-10:15—Pre-School through 6th Grade Summer Program (Cranmer Hall)

10:30—Activities for Pre-School & Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)

Jr. Choir—grades 1—4

10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #272 *Thou Whose Almighty Word*..... Moscow
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer..... Prayer Book pp. 3-7
Versicles and Responses 7-8

VENITE (Hymnal #609) 9
Psalm #34.....380
First Lesson: II Corinthians 3:4.....206

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS (Hymnal #615, 619).....10
Second Lesson: St. Mark 7:31.....206

BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #634).....14
Apostles' Creed15
Versicles and Responses16
Collect for the Day206
Other Collects and Prayers 17-20
The Grace.....20

HYMN #218 *Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest*..... Mendon
Jr. Choir children will exit following the crucifer.

THE SERMON..... Mr. Samuel Martin

OFFERING

Sentences
Anthem: *God is working His purpose out* Martin Shaw
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
Prayer and Blessing
HYMN #776 [or: #325] *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*Azmon
ORGAN: *Prelude and Fugue in A minor (BWV 559)*..... attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

*Everyone is invited to attend the **Coffee Hour in Cranmer Hall** immediately following the 10:30 service.
If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

12 Noon HOLY COMMUNION in the Chapel. (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as 8 a.m.)