

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 43 No. 45

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

October 14, 2012

SPECIAL COLLECTION – ANGLICAN RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Please give generously to support our Anglican partners in the Global South.

PREDESTINED

The topic of predestination and election is one that some people find unsettling, and even offensive. There is no question that it is difficult. Yet we cannot ignore it either, since it plays a very definite role in the Bible, in the Prayer Book, and in the tradition of the church ancient, catholic, and reformed. "Predestination to life," says Article XVII, "is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he hath constantly decreed by his counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation, those whom he hath chosen in Christ out of mankind. and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honour". The journey that ends with the attainment of God's people to God's eternal glory begins with the eternal decision of God. If we choose to respond to God, it is because he has first chosen us.

Too often, predestination and election is approached as a zero-sum game. If God is in complete control, I am not (determinism); or I am in control and

God is not (voluntarism). Both are problematic. The fatalism of the latter is obvious: who will trust a God who is powerless to save me – most especially, from my own perverse will? Moreover, scripture testifies to God's sovereign power to shape all history, including my history – he is not called the Lord for nothing! Yet Scripture also testifies that human beings make real and

consequential choices. Both sides are affirmed in the Bible – sometimes in the same passage.

Sometimes, it is said that predestination and election make human effort in faith and prayer irrelevant; and some predestinarian Christians act as if this were true - that a Christian

will be saved, no matter what he does. It is a false inference. As the same Article explains, "they which be endued with so excellent a benefit of God, be called according to God's purpose by his Spirit working in due season: they through grace obey the calling: they be justified freely: they be made sons of God by adoption: they be made like the image of his only begotten Son Jesus Christ: they walk religiously in good works, and at length



STEWARDSHIP

being built together in the Lord
for an habitation of God
through the Spirit
Ephesians 2:21, 22

THE PARISH PAPER
OF

St. John's Church

1 WEST MACON STREET

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, 1 W. Macon St., Savannah, GA 31401.

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. 49th Street Upper flat (912) 308-4441
Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom (574) 398-7108
..... Mail: 1 West Macon Street, Savannah, GA 31401
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
Mrs. Holden T. Hayes Christian Education Coordinator
Mr. Rich Mays Associate Organist
Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

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, *Mesrs.* David C. Barrow III, Charles B. Compton, Jr., W. Barron Crawford, Edwin H. Culver, Lawrence L. Hearn 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

President, ECW..... *Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr.*
President, Chancel Society..... *Mrs. Roland S. Summers*
President, Men of St. John's..... *Mr. Richard L. Wright*
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. W. Barron Crawford III

ECW—ARDF—second offering

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory and honor of loved ones by the John Helmken family.

And in loving memory of Mr. Frank Purdue Lee by his family.

The flowers in the Chapel this Sunday are given to the glory of God on the occasion of the Solemnization of the Marriage of Allison Camille Breaux and Walter Kay Hagan III.

The flowers in the chapel on Wednesday are given to the glory of God an in thanksgiving for St. Teresa of Avila and in witness of her life of prayer by Mr. and Mrs. T. Herbert Guery III.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Mrs. Thomas E. Johnson, Mrs. Nicholas Farley
Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. Leroy N. Suddath
Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Mrs. Roland S. Summers
Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr., Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 Cord Helmken
10:30 Kameron Sallee
Lindsay Pindar, Charles Perrie
Mikel Kelly, Patrick Perrie
Hunt Wasden, Hawkins Pindar

COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. Michael E. Donahue

SUNDAY MORNING 9:30 A.M. ADULT CLASSES

Caffeine & Christianity – Dr. Bergstrom,
Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.

Sin & Expiation in Shakespeare's History Plays
–David Noble – Conference Room, above Chapel.
"Are you really The One?" – Jack Wray, Classroom, 3rd
floor Cranmer Hall.

The Thirty-Nine Articles – Fr. Dunbar, Chapel.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS
(READING ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CRANMER HALL)

Tuesdays 7-8 a.m. – *Colossians* Fr. O' Brien

Thursdays 7-8 a.m. – *Acts* Fr. Dunbar

WOMEN'S BIBLE/BOOK STUDY & DISCUSSION

New—Mondays Noon -1 p.m. beginning October
22nd, led by Dr. Bergstrom, on *Romans*.

Thursdays 9:15 -10:30 a.m.– *Mind of the Maker* Fr. O' Brien

BAZAAR BUSINESS

A third Storage unit is available for **White Elephant and Treasure Room**, contact Betsy Howard at betsyd6@aol.com or 398-1326.

SOUP OR CHILI Both are easy to freeze in ziplock bags. Space is available in the Cranmer Hall kitchen freezer. Christiana Turner 308-0102 or Sherry Holtzclaw 897-3889.

WAITRESSES needed for both days. Please email Jessica Osborne osbornejes@mac.com.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

by God's mercy, they attain to everlasting felicity". God's eternal purpose encompasses not only our final destiny in glory, but also the road of grace that leads us there. To those who are on that road of grace, therefore, "the godly consideration of predestination, and our election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons, and such as feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, mortifying the works of the flesh and their earthly members, and drawing up their mind to high and heavenly things". To them it "doth greatly establish and confirm their faith of eternal Salvation to be enjoyed through Christ" and, also, "it doth fervently kindle their love towards God". Given the instability of all human willing, it is deeply comforting to know that our salvation does not depend upon our decision, but upon God's. If he has decided to save us, then he most certainly will – and that knowledge allows me to take heart amidst the ambiguities of Christian life. It assures me that my labours "are not in vain in the Lord".

We do not know who is among the elect, and I suspect we shall be rather surprised when we find out. And what of those who are not elect? We know this: that every human being in the end gets what he wills – to be with God, or to be separated from him. We also know this: that God is good, and in the day of the Lord the glory of his justice and his mercy will be revealed. GGD

Chicken Choppers Needed Oct. 30th
Cranmer Hall @ 10:00a.m.
Contact Leah Brunson,
ldbrunson@yahoo.com or 398-1620

TODAY – TEEN LUNCH FORUM

*Youth Suite, Cranmer Hall, 2nd Floor
After 10:30 Church till 12: 45 p.m.
All Upper School Parishioners Welcome.*

THURSDAY MEN'S FORUM

*Good Food for Body and Soul
Righteous? Sanctified? (Fr Dunbar)*

*Donation suggested - Guests Welcome
Please reserve your place by Tuesday
mensclub@stjohnssav.org
or call the Church Office 232-1251.*

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

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

Morning or Evening Prayer

Wednesday

9:45 a.m.—*Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*

Thursday – ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

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

Morning or Evening Prayer

With Holy Communion

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Nominations for four five-year terms should be submitted in writing the Nominating Committee or in a sealed envelope to the Church Office. Nominations will close Wednesday, November 14, 2012.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is on Sunday, November 25, 2012.

Nominees must: (1) be members of St. John's for at least 5 years; (2) support St. John's financially; and (3) worship regularly at St. John's.

MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

– THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER

Cranmer Hall at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:45 and a short program will follow. Annual Meeting, Election of officers, and a presentation by Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom. Cost is \$30. Tickets sold in advance at coffee hour Oct 7th & 14th. The attire is coat and tie.

8:00 A. M. –HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel Prayer Book, page 215
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30-10:15 A.M.—ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
(Cranmer Hall, Conference Room and Chapel)

9:30-10:15 a.m.—Pre-School & Kindergarten activities(Cranmer Hall)

10:30 a.m.— Pre-School & Kindergarten Sunday School (Cranmer Hall)

Jr. Choir—grades 1—4 (exit church at hymn before sermon)

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 pages 5-7

Versicles and Responses..... 7-8

VENITE (Hymnal #609)..... 9

Psalm #143 518

First Lesson: Ephesians 4:17 216

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS (Hymnal #615, 619) 10

Second Lesson: St. Matthew 9:1 216

BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638) 14

Apostles’ Creed..... 15

Versicles and Responses..... 16

Collect for the Day 215

Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace 17-20

HYMN #304 *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy* Beechet

Jr. Choir children will exit following the crucifer.

THE SERMON Fr. O’Brien

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Brother James’ Air*..... Gordon Jacob

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

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN # 567 *Lead Us, Heav’nly Father*..... Dulce Carmen

ORGAN: *Voluntary in A*..... William Selby

*Everyone is invited to attend THE GREEN MELDRIM HOUSE 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.)