

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 45 No. 38

The Transfiguration of Our Lord (Trinity VIII)

August 10, 2014

THIS SUNDAY - 5:30 P.M. CHORAL EVENSONG WITH SINGERS FROM THE SAVANNAH VOICE FESTIVAL

GUEST PREACHER

We welcome to the pulpit today Father Frank Logue, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Georgia.

THE ARTICLES OF RELIGION IX

Original Sin & Free Will

With Articles 9 and 10 we make a major transition. The first eight articles dealt with "first things" - the *doctrine of God and Christ* (Articles 1-5), first in order of reality; and the *doctrine of revelation* (Articles 6-8), first in order of knowledge. On this foundation, in Articles 9-18, we turn to consider *salvation*, and here we consider matters that were hugely controversial in the 16th century reformation – the doctrines of *grace*, chiefly justification and predestination. The section begins in Articles 9 and 10 where it logically must, by considering "Original or Birth Sin" and "Free Will" (or rather, its unfreedom), the predicaments from which we must be saved by grace.

Article 9, on "Original or Birth-sin", includes a parenthetical comment that indicates the approach the Articles take to the questions of sin and grace: *Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, (as the Pelagians do vainly talk;)*.... The disparaging reference to "the Pelagians" indicates that the Articles are aligned with the teaching of Augustine of Hippo, in his controversy with the British monk Pelagius in the

early 5th century, and with others who took Pelagius' side. The Pelagian position is basically this: in the Law and the Gospels, in the teaching and example of Christ, God supplies us with the knowledge of what is right. He supplies the moral law; what is required from us is a moral effort. For in virtue of our God-given nature (say the Pelagians) we have the freedom to choose the good.

Certainly moral effort is required in the Christian life, and most Christians (including preachers) without reflection or instruction on the matter are instinctively Pelagian. Yet by and large the Church took Augustine's side in this controversy, and Pelagianism was officially defined as a heresy - that is to say, a distortion of Christianity. This was not just a 5th century problem; in the view of the 16th century reformers, a Pelagian tendency had revived in the late medieval western church, and their reform was a re-assertion of Augustine's anti-Pelagian teaching.

From the Augustinian and Reformed perspective of the Articles, "the Pelagians" fall into error by underestimating the gravity of human sin. *Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam* – in the imitation of his bad example – *but it is the fault and corruption of the Nature of every man,*

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
1 West Macon Street 31401(912) 234-2209
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate
423 E. Gaston Street 31401(912) 308-4441
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy W. Bergstrom Priest Assistant
5 Autumn Leaves Court 31410(912) 656-3807
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
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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 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mr. R. Scott Howard

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ross M. Haire

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ralph and Betsy Bowden by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.;
and in loving memory of Dr. Albert J. Kelley and Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Compton by the Compton family;

CHANCEL SOCIETY

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Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons

ACOLYTES

8:00
10:30 Charles Perrie, Hunt Wasden
Turner Stevens, Patrick Perrie
Edwin Shepherd, Finn Repella

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Dr. Lucinda Schultz

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

St. John's Gospel Fr. Dunbar, Reading Room

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday 7 a.m., Samuel, Fr. Dunbar, Reading Rm

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR (11/12 & 13).

Book Sale—Gathering up those books you read--or didn't read--over the summer? The Holly Days Book Store is asking that you put aside books for our sale. Storage is available, but we will be happy to take them the week of the Bazaar. If you have any "special" books, please separate them from the others.

BE HOSPITABLE TO ONE ANOTHER

1 Peter 4:9

Please support our mission of hospitality by signing up to help at one Coffee Hour this year. To offer your help you may make contact with Stacy Jennings at 224-1354 or stacy.jennings@savannahnow.com

NEXT SUNDAY: SPECIAL DOUBLE COFFEE

HOUR to honour Mrs. William Harrel's service to St. John's as Christian Education/Parish Activities Director; and to honour Fr O'Brien on the anniversary of his ordination.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam; whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil...; and therefore in every person born into this world, it deserveth God's wrath and damnation. Human beings do not start out where Adam started, in a state of "original righteousness", free to choose the good. They start out where Adam left off, in a state of original sin, inclined to evil rather than good, and under condemnation. In this perspective, sin is not just an isolated failure to obey the moral law, a failure to be rectified by "trying harder": it is something far deeper, more pervasive and crippling than that. It is alienation from God, the loss of a right relation to God, and in that loss, the loss of right relation to every creature, including man's relation to himself. It is a "fault and corruption" of the nature all men have from birth by inheritance from Adam, the representative head of the human race. This "fault and corruption" of human nature affects man's power to know and to choose the good, and rules out the possibility that he can do what's right simply by moral effort, by choosing to follow a good example. As Article 10 says: *The condition of Man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works, to faith, and calling upon God.* It is entitled "On Free Will" but the point of course is that under sin the will is not free.

Because of "the fault and corruption" of nature and the bondage of the will, "trying harder" only means pushing harder in the wrong direction, and digging oneself in deeper – either in rebellion or (as Saul the Pharisee discovered) covertly as self-

righteousness. Sin is a more serious problem than the Pelagians allow, and it can only be met by a grace greater than they teach. So as the Roman Catholic apologist G. K. Chesterton said, in answer to the question about 'What is Wrong with the World Today': "I am". So did Pogo: 'we have met the enemy and he is us'.

The doctrine of original sin is shocking to the Pelagian optimism of the late modern age, with its secular faith in human progress and perfectibility. But it is a more realistic assessment of the human condition, and paradoxically it holds the key to a true Christian hope. In its "bad news", as in a photographic negative, we trace the lineaments of the "good news" proclaimed in the gospel. More of that next week. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer
8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*
10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

Friday 15th August

FEAST OF THE DORMITION

Fr. O'Brien's Ordination Anniversary
8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Daily Prayer and Holy Communion

Summer office hours through Labor Day
Monday Through Thursday; 9:00 to 4:30
Friday 9:00 to 12 noon

SAVANNAH VOICE FESTIVAL AT THE GREEN MELDRIM HOUSE

Monday August 11th 6:30 p.m.
Opera Composers in Song

Open to Members of Savannah Voice Experience.
For membership and tickets
call 855-766-7372
or go to: www.savannahvoicefestival.org

8:00 A.M. —HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel Prayer Book pg. 199
A continental breakfast is available Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30-10:15 A.M.—ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30 a.m. – Noon— Preschool-Kindergarten Summer Program
 (*Cranmer Hall –activities for children during the 9:30 education and/or 10:30 service times*)

10:30A.M. — SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON

HYMN #153 *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies*Ratisbon

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity.....Prayer Book, page 67
 The Decalogue 68
 KYRIE ELEISON: #710..... Healey Willan
 Collects and Epistle..... 247, 199
 HYMN #402 *O Word of God Incarnate* Munich
 The Holy Gospel..... 248
 The Nicene Creed 71
 HYMN #119 *O Wondrous Type* Wareham
Children from Kindergarten to Grade Four may depart, following the cross, for Sunday Morning Music.
 SERMON..... The Rev'd Canon Frank Logue

OFFERTORY

Sentences
 ANTHEM: *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* T. Frederick H. Candlyn
 Presentation of Alms #139
 Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution..... 75
 Sursum Corda #734, Proper Preface 76, 77
 SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711..... Healey Willan
 Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation..... 80
 The Lord's Prayer and Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*)..... 82
 AGNUS DEI # 712..... Healey Willan
 HYMN # 204 *Humbly I Adore Thee* Adoro Devote
 Motet: *O Nata Lux de Lumine*..... Thomas Tallis
 Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*)..... 83
 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 Healey Willan
 The Blessing (*Kneeling*)..... 84
 HYMN #350 *Rejoice the Lord Is King!* Darwall (#600)
 ORGAN: *Fanfare*..... Kenneth Leighton

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