

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 45 No. 39

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 17, 2014

SPECIAL DOUBLE COFFEE HOUR

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

THE ARTICLES OF RELIGION X

Original Sin & Free Will

One hundred years ago this summer, a "great war" began whose impact was nothing short of catastrophic. The carnage was horrific: millions died, four empires collapsed, and in its wake, brutal dictatorships seized power, two of which, the Communists in Russia, and the Nazis in Germany, must count as among the worst nightmares of human history. Moreover, the outcome of the Great War set the world up for an even more devastating global conflict two decades later.

The Great War was the work not of barbarous peoples but of the most advanced and enlightened societies in the world. Despite unprecedented progress in science, technology, medicine, and education; despite impressive achievements in political economy, the arts, philosophy, and religion; evil, far from diminishing, became even more demonic. The great achievements of these societies did not cause evil to retreat, but, made their evil greater.

In this history of colossal failure is manifest a deep perversity in human nature, a perversity upon which all

optimistic schemes must founder. We habitually categorize our enemies as uniquely depraved - and sometimes they are - but the history of the last century testifies to a *universal* "fault and corruption" of human nature. As has been said, there are many "nice" people, but very few who are truly *good*. The power of sin is manifested not only in gross vices, but also in feeble virtues. In the aftermath of the Great War, W. B. Yeats described the moral frailty it exposed: "The best lack all conviction, while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity". And its dehumanizing power to pervert the will, darken the mind, and inflame (or deaden) the emotions - what the theologians call concupiscence, the lust of the flesh - is seen even (and sometimes especially) in Christians: *this infection of nature doth remain, yea in them that are regenerated; whereby the lust of the flesh ... is not subject to the Law of God*. The old Adam dies hard. As the Baptism service indicates, the Christian's life in the world is that of a soldier engaged in a life-long counter-insurgency.

A biblical basis for the doctrine is found not just in the story of Adam's fall in Genesis chapter 3 and Romans chapter 5, but also in the entire history of the chosen people as recounted in the Old Testament, wherein the corruption of the entire human race is

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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 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mrs. Morgan W. Murray

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ross M. Haire

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Patty C. Gaillard and Trish Snyder by Sally Fiveash and George Gaillard;

And in honor of Fr. O'Brien's Ordination Anniversary to the Priesthood on August 14, 1999.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland
Mrs. Robert A. Burnett, Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. David A. Young
Mrs. George Fawcett, Mrs. Adolphus J. Carter III
Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

ACOLYTES

8:00
10:30 Mikel Kelly
Hunt Wasden, Turner Stevens,
Jamie McClellan, Charles Perrie
Philip Inglesby, Jackson McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Ms. Patti Cooper

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).

Holly Days Bazaar is seeking a **Check-Out Chairman** to schedule and guide the check-out process for both days of Bazaar. Training will be provided by previous chairman. Please call Erica Jarman 398-0138 or Patti Victor at 713-4312.

The Holly Days Bazaar **Kick Off Meeting** takes place Wednesday September 3rd at 5:30 pm in Cranmer Hall. Bazaar updates will be discussed. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided.

Book Sale—Gathering up those books you read - or didn't read - over the summer? The Holly Days Book Shop 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

reflected, as in a mirror. Over and over again, God's gifts are spurned or perverted by ungrateful and rebellious men, who bring down judgment and ruin upon themselves. That history is of course summed up in the rejection of the incarnate Son of God. At the cross the worldly optimism of our age and every age is crucified. This a wound that good intentions and enlightened opinions cannot address. The flaw in our nature goes too deep: "In sin hath my mother conceived me" (Ps. 51:5).

"Nobody's perfect," people say, evading the knowledge of their failures, clutching at a fig leaf of sophistry to cover their shame: but if there is no fault and corruption of nature, then why *aren't* we perfect? Surely all that should be required is a little effort, and our shortcomings would be overcome. This is the Pelagian perspective of "works-righteousness", which puts the whole responsibility for moral achievement on man's shoulders, and in so doing, consigns him to failure and inevitable ruin. The doctrine of original sin cuts off at the knees such false hopes and wasted efforts, precisely so that we may turn our gaze to the true hope set before us in the gospel, the revelation that God has taken responsibility for us, and has done so definitively and fully upon the cross, in order that we might live a radically new life of righteousness before him. A new Adam has appeared, a new representative head of the human race, and in his obedience unto death, the disobedience of Adam is overcome.

The doctrine of original sin belongs to the good news of the gospel, because it sets us free from the

dangerous illusion that we can overcome sin just by "trying harder". We are set free from the despair that follows on our failure, or the yet more ruinous pride that follows upon the Pharisee's simulation of moral achievement. We are free to acknowledge that "there is no health in us", and we are free to ask for help. We are free to ask for *grace* - and not just the grace of a good example to follow, or the encouragement of a good teacher (as Pelagius allowed might be needed for most Christians) but the grace of Christ himself effecting for us what we are powerless to achieve on our own. To the working of this grace the Articles will turn next.

GGD

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Food service in Cranmer Hall runs from 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. After 9:15 a.m. all food will be put away, in order to allow the kitchen staff to begin preparing for Coffee Hour in the Green Meldrim House. Coffee, however, is available after 9:15 a.m.

If you are eating at the Sunday breakfast, please contribute a few dollars to the collection box to help defray its expense.

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*

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

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 200
A continental breakfast is available in 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*)

10:30 A.M. — MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

HYMN #370 *Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers* Graefenberg
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer..... Prayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses 7-8

VENITE #610.....9
 Psalm #78:1-40434
 First Lesson: Numbers 14:22-35 *The penalty of Israel's rebellions declared*insert

BENEDICTUS ES DOMINE #626..... 11
 Second Lesson: I Corinthians 10:1 and St. Luke 16:-19201, insert

BENEDICTUS #634 14
 Apostles' Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collect for the Day200
 Collects, Prayers, and Grace 17-20

HYMN #567 *Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us*..... Dulce Carmen
 Children from Kindergarten to Grade Four may exit following the cross for Sunday Morning Music.

THE SERMON..... Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

HYMN: *Turn Thy Face From Thy Sins*..... Thomas Attwood
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141 (4th Stanza)
 Prayer and Blessing.

HYMN *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*.....Cwm Rhondda

VOLUNTARY: *Cwm Rhondda* Paul Manz

Everyone is invited to attend a Special Coffee Hour honouring Mrs. William Harrel and Fr Craig O'Brien in the Green Meldrim House immediately after the 10:30 service.

If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.

12 Noon —HOLY COMMUNION (Church) - as 8 a.m.