

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 28

The Second Sunday after Trinity

June 5, 2016

WORSHIP SURVEY

Parishioners are invited and encouraged to fill out the Parish Worship Survey. This will be an important tool in our Long Range Planning, to identify and assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in sharing 1928 Prayer Book worship more effectively. We need to hear from all!

The easiest way of doing so is online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StJohnsLRPC>. This link is also included on the weekly email, "This Week at St. John's". To receive this, please send your email address to the Parish Administrator, Wendy Corbin, at wcorbin@stjohnssav.org.

BELONGING & BELIEVING (PART II)

If we are going to share effectively a tradition of faith and worship, it will be on the basis of love: and so the intentional building of relationships - with one another, and with those outside the congregation - is a key element in fulfilling our mission as a church. Yet what is this faith we wish to share?

Here I think we must acknowledge the cultural dominance of a skeptical, relativistic outlook, a dominance rarely challenged by an effective apologetic defense of the rationality and plausibility of the historic faith. Instead many Christians have long retreated into the liberal protestantism whose tenets were summed up in 1937 by H. Richard Niebuhr: "A God without wrath brought

human beings without sin into a kingdom without judgment through ministrations of a Christ without a cross." The god of liberal protestantism does not inspire guilt or fear - but neither does he inspire great gratitude, hope, or love. Though culturally dominant, liberal protestantism does not motivate people to the worship of God.

Acute contemporary observers also speak of "moral therapeutic deism" as the *de facto* creed of many mainline Protestants, Evangelicals, Catholics, Jews, and non-religious folk. The purpose of religion is therapeutic - feeling good about one's self - and this is achieved through a vague moralism, uninformed by ideas of sin or grace; and a vague belief in a remote god, uninformed by doctrinal specifics, a god who is not involved in one's life unless he is needed to solve a problem. As with the liberal protestantism there is little about moral therapeutic deism that is going to motivate people to worship or serve such a god.

Both accounts are strongly moralistic in their emphasis on right behaviour (however this may be defined). Both accounts are also doctrinally minimalist: as definite teaching about God is thought to be impossible, irrelevant, or even dangerous to freedom of the individual to define reality as he wishes. What matters is not right believing, but good living. Such moralism is rampant in the secular world, but it is also found in the religious world, both liberal and conservative.

What moralism overlooks are the motives for right behavior. Under the tests

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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. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Joseph R. Ross, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert J. Merritt, Jr.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God on the occasion of the marriage of Meredith Mason Stevens and Jonathan Michael Hester on June 4, 2016;

And in loving memory of Coke S. and Helen S. Blume; C. Redmond and Lorraine B. Gill; and the Reverend Jeffrey Gill; by their family;

And in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Jules Victor, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Neil H. Victor;

And in honor of the 35th anniversary of the ordination of Father John Patrick Hunt on June 6.

The flowers at the Baptismal Font are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Miss Sarah Alexander Patterson Summers by her family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. B. Ray Summerell,
Mrs. Rhett N. Willis, Mrs. John R. Reiter,
Mrs. Warren L. Traver, Mrs. Roland S. Summers,
Mrs. Marie H. Simmons

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Jamie McClellan
10:30 a.m. Patrick Perrie Hawkins Pindar
 Jackson McClellan Henry Osborne
 Phillip Inglesby William Taylor

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells

THIS SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.

Barnabas and the Ministry of Encouragement
Join Father Dunbar in the Reading Room to look at selected texts from John's Gospel and Acts of the Apostles to study the special charism of Barnabas.

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Breakfast with Father O'Brien
Is Faith Reasonable?
6:45 a.m., Parish House
Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m., CH Reading Room

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship
2nd & 4th Wednesdays (June 8)
11:00 a.m., CH Reading Room
Thursday- Michael D. O'Brien's novel,
Island of the World with Fr. O'Brien
9:15 a.m., CH Reading Room

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

of experience or thought, morality based on social compliance or subjective well-being breaks down. Knowing *what* is right and wrong (or said to be right and wrong) does not tell you *why* it matters what you do. In the absence of convincing doctrinal reasons, moral codes can shift with amazing speed. Sound and lasting moral education is going to attend to underlying motivations (doctrine) as much as the outward and visible aspect of behaviour (morals).

The familiar answers of protestant liberalism, moral therapeutic deism, and religious moralism, do not provide a compelling reason to believe in God, to worship him, and obey him. In order to succeed in its mission, it is crucial that the church be able to articulate a compelling doctrinal reason why. That means a robust apologetic; and, instead of liberal Protestantism, conservative moralism, or moral therapeutic deism, a bold proclamation of what God has done for us in Christ, that is, the gospel, which stands at the very heart of the tradition of faith and worship we have received in the Bible and Prayer Book.

In short there is an order to the church's mission, and it is the triad of *belonging*, *believing*, and *behaving*. There is no fruit of good behavior without the root of compelling faith in Christ; and such faith germinates most readily in soil of relationships cultivated by the labours of Christian love and charity.

Perhaps not coincidentally, this is the order of the Church Catechism. It begins with Baptism (belonging to Christ), moves on to the Creed (Christian believing) and the Ten Commandments (Christian behaviour). Of course there is a fourth part, on the Lord's Prayer (and an appendix, on the Sacraments) - the Christian means of grace. "My good

Child, know this; that thou art not able to do these things of thyself, nor to walk in the Commandments of God, and to serve him, without his special grace; which thou must learn at all times to call for by diligent prayer." If we want the church to fulfill its mission, we have to ask God for the grace to know and do his will. Mission is not a set of techniques – it is the work of faith carried out in prayer. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

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

Morning and Evening Prayer

In addition, on Monday, June 6

**ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY
OF FATHER PATRICK HUNT**

5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer
and Holy Communion*

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *The Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

In addition, on Saturday, June 11

SAINT BARNABAS THE APOSTLE

10:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*

JANE'S CANNERS

The Canning Ladies will be cooking in the kitchen beginning at 10:15 a.m. each Wednesday throughout the summer. All are welcome to join them! Donations needed: sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, raisins, figs, pears, apples, squash, onions, etc. Please call Jane Pressly at 912-233-6551 for more information.

ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Thursday, June 9 at 6:00 p.m.

The Savannah Golf Club

If interested, please contact Scott Howard at 598-3811 or robert_s_howard@ml.com.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

June 8 - 6:00 p.m. - Cranmer Hall

Contact Karen Wray (398-8006) for info.

8:00 A.M.–HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 191
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 A.M.-10:15 A.M. - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ADULTS (Cranmer Hall)

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery (Cranmer Hall)**

10:30 A.M. - JOYFUL NOISE, JOYFUL HEARTS (Cranmer Hall)

Music, Teaching, and Active Fun for Pre-School through Kindergarten.

10:30 A.M.—SUNG EUCHARIST & ADDRESS

HYMN: #271 *Come, Thou Almighty King*..... Moscow

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity..... Prayer Book, p. 67

Decalogue..... 68

KYRIE ELEISON: #710 Healey Willan

Collect and Epistle: St. John 3:13..... 191

HYMN: #379 *Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost* Capetown

The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 14:16..... 192

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN: [Insert] *Come and Dine*.....

Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).

SERMON..... Father Dunbar

OFFERTORY

Sentences

Anthem: *I Give You a New Commandment* Peter Aston

Presentation of Alms #139

Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution..... 75

Sursum Corda #734 76

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

Solo: *Mein Gläubiges Herze (BWV68)*..... J. S. Bach

Ashley Roper, Soprano

HYMN: #203 *My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread*..... Rockingham

Motet: *O, Lord, Support Us All the Day Long* Carl Schalk

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*)..... 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 Healey Willan

The Blessing (*kneeling*)..... 84

HYMN: #479 *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*..... Hyfyrdol

VOLUNTARY: *Voluntary in D*..... John Stanley

Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.

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

12:00 p.m. (Noon) HOLY COMMUNION in the Chapel (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as at 8:00 a.m.)