

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 47

The Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

October 16, 2016

## VISITING PRIEST

Father Doug Dupree, sometime priest associate at St. John's, is celebrating at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, and officiating and preaching at 10:30 a.m. today.

## THE PARADOX OF GENEROSITY (II)

In last week's Parish Paper, I looked at a recent work of social science, *The Paradox of Generosity*, by Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson, whose thesis is summed up in the subtitle: "Giving we receive, grasping we lose". With the aid of social science, they demonstrate a strong correlation and causal connection between habits of generosity (giving money, giving time, giving attention, hospitality, and help) and well-being (happiness, bodily health, sense of purpose, avoidance of depression, and interest in personal growth). The practice of generosity leads to great well-being, because "*it is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).

Yet despite the correlation of generosity and happiness, the authors demonstrate that in this country, **the vast majority of people do not practice even modest levels of generosity.** This includes its religious people.

The numbers are astonishing. Only 2.7% of the population give the tithe - 10% or more of income. Another 3.1% give 5-10% of income. A slightly larger group, 9%, give 2-4.99% of their income. The top 20% of givers are giving 86% of charitable giving - and 80% of Americans are giving 14%. As the authors note, that

is much worse than the old 80/20 rule.

Nor does charitable giving increase with greater income - in fact, the tendency is slightly the other way. Those making less than \$13,000 give an average of 2.2% of their income - but those making more than \$30,000 give an average of 1.3% of their income; those making more than \$40,000 give 1.2% and those making more than \$60,000 give 1.1%.

Similar figures pertain to other aspects of generous practice, such as volunteering time. About 27% of Americans volunteer at least one hour a month - and a whopping 73% do not. Even on the score of *willingness* to give (rather than actual giving), 67% reported themselves "reluctant" to give money *even when it is an issue that is of personal concern to them.* The authors give other examples, but the conclusion is the same: only a minority of Americans are living generous lives, and enjoying the benefits of doing so.

Trying to understand **how ungenerous people think**, the authors find patterns of "apathy riddled with anxiety". "Our interviews with Americans who do not practice generosity reveal that they are deeply unsettled by individual and social problems. Yet they do not think they have any obligation to respond, and even if they do, they feel inadequate to make a difference without sacrificing their ability to care for their own needs.

*THE PARISH PAPER*  
OF  
**St. John's Church**  
1 WEST MACON STREET  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401  
[www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org)

*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 West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar .....Rector  
1 West Macon Street, 31401 .....(912) 429-3384  
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate  
423 E. Gaston Street 31401 .....(912) 308-4441  
Mr. R. Steven Branyon ..... Organist/Choirmaster  
Mrs. Janice W. Woods ..... Business Manager  
Mrs. Thomas R. Corbin, Jr.....Parish Administrator  
Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet ..... Financial Administrator  
Mrs. Holden T. Hayes..... Christian Education Director  
Mr. Sinisa Domazet ..... Buildings Manager

Senior Warden.....Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings  
Junior Warden.....Mr. Richard L. Wright  
Clerk of Vestry.....Mr. E. Brian Culver  
Treasurer.....Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq.  
Chancellor.....M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

The Vestry: *Esqs.*, M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Joseph R. Ross, Jonathan D. Sprague; *Drs.* James S. McClellan, Jr., Roland S. Summers; Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings, Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Mark D. Stevens; *Messrs.* David C. Barrow III, E. Brian Culver, John C. Helmken II, R. Scott Howard, Joseph O. Mercer, Peter A. Pollak, Jr., L. Allan Reynolds, Jr., William C. Rodgers, R. Gilbert Wells, Richard L. Wright.

*Vestry Emeriti:* Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

*President, ECW.....Mrs. R. Scott Howard*  
*President, Chancel Society.....Mrs. Roland S. Summers*  
*President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. R. Scott Howard*

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

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. David C. Barrow III

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Randolph H. Kulp II

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Hass Philbrick by Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Harlander and family;

And in honor of Mrs. Jack E. Altman's birthday and Sarah Elizabeth Brigdon's birthday by Mr. and Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr. and family;

And in loving memory of Thomas Charlie McCay and Lillian Helms McCay by Mick and Connie McCay;

And on the occasion of Bob Merritt's birthday today by Grace and Robert Merritt.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff,  
Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. William E. Dillard III,  
Dr. Linda A. McCall

**ACOLYTES**

8:00 a.m. Turner Stevens  
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Patrick Perrie  
Jackson McClellan Finn Repella  
Henry Osborne William Taylor

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Jane's Canners

**SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

**ADULT & YOUTH CLASSES**

*Cranmer Hall – Third Floor*

CONFIRMATION CLASS–GRADE 6- *Catechism*

MIDDLE SCHOOL–GRADES 7,8-

*Twenty-Five Bible Saints*

UPPER SCHOOL–GRADES 9, 10,11,12

*Apologetics for Teenagers*

**FOR ADULTS:**

READING ROOM: *I Samuel* with Fr. Dunbar  
will resume **Sunday, October 23.**

CH3: *Joshua: Man of Faith, Man of Courage,*  
*Man of War-* Jack Wray

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast  
6:45 a.m., Parish House  
Thursday- *Romans* with Fr. Dunbar  
7:00 a.m., CH Reading Room  
Thursday- Men's Small Group with lunch  
Noon- Fellowship Hall CH1

**WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship  
11:00 a.m. Reading Room  
The next meeting is October 26.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

Feeling vulnerable to broader social problems, the instability of the marketplace, material scarcity, and the challenges that come with relational intimacy, they respond by hunkering down, either alone or with immediate family members, to simply try to weather the storm. They imagine other people as restrictions on their autonomy. Self-preservation and financial security are the main standards by which ungenerous Americans assess their lives.” The authors acknowledge that real factors may have contributed to this mindset. “Fear is a powerful motivator and the fear of having too little, sometimes rooted in reality and sometimes fabricated or expanded, powerfully motivates them to protect their resources.” “At the same time, ungenerous Americans recoil from impositions of all kinds, not only those of needy people. They prefer to live without authoritative moral codes, religious traditions, or even close, non-familial friendships that might ask them to act in ways that cut against their self-interest. They do not see and cannot accept that it actually is in their own best interest to reach beyond a materialistic ... concept of self-interest. Fear of not having enough and a desire for greater security loom large in their thinking, and ultimately prevent them from acting on whatever generous impulses they may have.” “In the end... the fear of not having enough, coupled with an autonomously individualistic lifestyle, nearly always proves to be deeply unfulfilling. Attaining the sort of happiness found in material well-being and security ...without regard for others, comes at great personal cost.”

None of this can be a surprise to any reader of the Bible, and its searching critiques of covetousness. The question is, is it possible to move beyond such crippling insecurity and out of such happiness-blighting fear? GGD

### PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

#### Monday to Friday

*Morning and Evening Prayer*

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

#### Tuesday, October 18

#### ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

*Holy Communion with*

*Morning or Evening Prayer*

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

#### In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Eucharist*

### HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR NOTICES

**Waitresses-** If you would like to serve lunch at the Parish House, please call Grace Merritt (658-3010) or Richie Reid (703-409-2266).

**Desserts-** We need delicious, homemade desserts for the luncheon! Call Shannon Alva (665-5321) to offer your sweet specialty!

**Treasure Room-** Collectibles, Silver, China, Rugs, Lamps, etc. Call Holly- 897-6202 or Robin-843-706-3558 for pick up!

**Books-** Clear your shelves and donate the books to the Bazaar! Call for pick up! Kathryn- 667-4894 or Karen- 398-8006

**Arts and Crafts-** If you sew, knit, or craft, please donate your handmade treasures to the Bazaar! Martha Sullivan- 663-6221

**Jane's Canners** are finished! Thank you to all who helped by cooking or donating supplies!

**White Elephant** needs donations! No clothes/shoes/toys/puzzles/electronics/ pillows(decorative-ok)/luggage/plastic containers. Caroline Warner- 713-1116

### St. John's Directory App

Interested in having St. John's Directory on your Smart Phone? Call Wendy Corbin in the Church Office for set up. It is quick and easy!

**8:00 A.M.–HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL .....Prayer Book, page 218

*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** (*Cranmer Hall*)

*Supervised Fellowship and Fun is available for children from Preschool to Grade Five whose parents are attending class.*

**10:30 A.M. - MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & SUNDAY SCHOOL**

HYMN: #153 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* ..... Ratisbon  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer ..... Prayer Book, pages 3-7  
 Versicles and Responses..... 7-8  
 VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO: #609..... 9  
 Psalm #35 ..... 381  
 First Lesson: Job 1 *The testing and patience of Job* ..... Insert  
 BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE #626 ..... 11  
 Second Lesson: Ephesians 6:10 & St. John 4:46 ..... 218-219  
 BENEDICTUS #634..... 14  
*Children may exit following the cross for SUNDAY SCHOOL (Kindergarten – Grade 5).*  
 Apostles' Creed..... 15  
 Versicles and Responses..... 16  
 Collect for the Day ..... 218  
 Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace ..... 17-20  
 HYMN: #550 *Am I a Soldier of the Cross* ..... Marlow  
 THE SERMON ..... Father Dupree

**OFFERING**

Sentences  
 Anthem: *Say to them that are of a Fearful Heart* ..... Everett Titcomb  
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141, Stanza 4  
 General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing ..... 19  
 HYMN: #551 *A Mighty Fortress is our God* ..... Ein’ Feste Burg  
 VOLUNTARY: *Allegro Maestoso e vivace Sonata II (Op 65)*..... Felix Mendelssohn

---

*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.)