

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 51

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Trinity

November 13, 2016

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*This Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. Service (No Sermon)*

Elections and Reports. Barring business from the floor, the meeting should end about 11:40 a.m.

### MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

**November 17 at Noon**

From St. Petersburg, Russia:

*Ensemble Vocale ChoRuss*

Admission: Free

### NOT IN VAIN

The Christian hope can appear impossibly abstract: "pie in the sky / when you die / by and by" - an impossible dream that distracts us from the real challenges we face here and now, visions of angels sitting on clouds and playing harps when we should be feeding the hungry. And there are those who argue that a hope for the world to come (the "new heavens and new earth" promised in Scripture) precludes hope for this world.

The Bible takes a different view. For St. Paul, it is the Christian hope for the world to come that makes activity in the world meaningful. When he speaks of the resurrection of the body in the fifteenth chapter of the first epistle to the Corinthians, this is the practical conclusion he draws: *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.* It is resurrection that alone supplies an adequate motivation for doing the work of the Lord. It is resurrection - and

resurrection alone - that redeems our labours from futility.

Tim Keller puts it this way: "Each year at Easter I got to preach on the Resurrection. In my sermon, I always say to my skeptical, secular friends that, even if they can't believe in the resurrection, they should want it to be true. Most of them care deeply about justice for the poor, alleviating hunger and disease, and caring for the environment. Yet many of them believe that the material world was caused by accident and that the world and everything in it will eventually simply burn up in the death of the sun. They find it discouraging that so few people care about justice without realizing that their own worldview undermines any motivation to make the world a better place. Why sacrifice for the needs of others if in the end nothing we do will make any difference? If the resurrection happened, however, that means there is infinite hope and reason to pour ourselves out for the needs of the world."

Along similar lines, Pope Benedict summarizes the thinking of the Jewish philosopher Theodor Adorno: "In the passionate, messianic yearning

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*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, J. Alex Jarman, 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*

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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 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. E. Brian Culver

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Roland S. Summers, M.D.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lisa and King Simkins, and Mary and Dick Stone by Marshall, Lynah and Wesley Stone;  
And in honor of Eddie and Robbie Culver by Three grateful friends.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,  
Mrs. Herbert T. Guerry III, Mrs. Rebecca P. Rhinehart,  
Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Mrs. William L. Belford, Jr.,  
Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. Michael N. Thompson,  
Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr., Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter

**ACOLYTES**

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

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. Robert J. Merritt, Jr.

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

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast with Fr. O'Brien  
6:45 a.m., Parish House  
*Why be Moral?*

Thursday- *St. Luke's Gospel* with Fr. Dunbar  
7:00 a.m., Reading Room CH1

Thursday- Men's Small Group with lunch  
Noon- Fellowship Hall CH1

**WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship  
**Will meet again in January 2017**  
Thursday- Book Study with Fr. O'Brien  
9:15 a.m., CH Reading Room  
Shusaku Endo's *Silence*

**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

All are invited to meet following Evening Prayer in Fellowship Hall, CH1.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

of his people, he continually asked how a just world, how justice in the world, could be created. Ultimately he arrived at this insight: if there is to be real justice in the world, it must be for all and for all time, and that means justice for the dead as well. It would have to be a justice that retroactively heals all suffering. This would imply resurrection from the dead."

An Anglican voice completes this trio of testimony, that of Austin Farrer: "A Christian believer has two levels of hope. There's hope on the short view, hope within the world, hope that something can be made of it. But beyond that there's hope in the long view; hope that what we do in this world is not all going to leak out of the pipe of history into the sands of oblivion. So there are two levels of hope; and how stupid, how perverse it is to set them against one another: to say, 'Well, you must make up your mind; either fix your hope on this world, or fix it on a world to come. If you fix your hope on heaven, you'll not care a pin about the world's future; if you care about the world's future, you won't give a straw for heavenly bliss.' Nonsense: we are confronted with no such choice. Heaven alone gives final meaning to any earthly hopes; and to take it the other way around, we have no way to grasp at heavenly hope, than by pursuing hopeful tasks here below." ("The Ultimate Hope")

Farrer's point echoes last Sunday's epistle lesson, in which Paul writes to the Colossians of the "hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; which is come unto you ... and bringeth forth fruit" – especially "your love in the Spirit". It's in that

context that we should read Matthew 25:31ff, the judgment of the sheep and the goats. It is sometimes read (out of context) as teaching justification by works, salvation by the sacrament of the soup kitchen. What it teaches, however, is the absolute necessity of works of charity, not as the ground of our salvation, but as its expression. We are justified by God's grace alone, by Christ alone, by faith alone, not by works of the law; yet the faith that justifies is the faith that works by love (Gal. 5:6), and faith without such works is dead (James 2.20). It is in "our love in the Spirit", that we see the fruits of the heavenly hope which the gospel has brought us. And so we draw near to the end of the Church's year, submitting ourselves and our works to the judgment of Christ, and looking forward to the hope which he laid up for us in heaven. *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.* 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*

10:00 a.m. *Eucharist*

### STEWARDSHIP 2017

Thanks to all those who have made pledges of financial support for 2017. We are asking every parishioner household to do so. If you need a pledge card ('Estimate of Giving'), please notify the church office, or you can notify the Business Manager, Mrs. Janice Woods, or the Rector. Timely return of pledges enables the Vestry to budget responsibly.

**8:00 A.M.–HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL (Propers for Epiphany VI).....Prayer Book, page 117

*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 & SUNDAY SCHOOL**

HYMN: #370 <i>Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers</i> .....	Graefenberg
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer .....	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses.....	7-8
VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO: #609.....	9
Psalm #50 <i>God’s coming in judgment</i> .....	401
First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 12 <i>God will bring every work into judgment</i> .....	insert
BENEDICTUS ES #626 .....	11
Second Lesson: St. Matthew 25:31 <i>The Son of Man comes in judgment</i> .....	insert
BENEDICTUS #638.....	14
<i>Children may exit following the cross for SUNDAY SCHOOL (Grades K-5).</i>	
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Versicles and Responses.....	16
Collect for the Day (Collect for Epiphany VI) .....	117
Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace .....	17-20

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Lord, Sanctify Me Wholly*..... Jean Pasquet

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141, Stanza 4

General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing .....
 19 |
HYMN: #315 *We Gather Together*..... Kremser*Flowers are removed from altar during the hymn, and choir departs after the last stanza.***ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.**

1. Call to Order and Minutes
2. Vestry Nominations and Elections
3. Reports to the Congregation
4. New Business

HYMN: #562 *Stand up, Stand up, for Jesus* .....
 Webb |
VOLUNTARY: *Prelude and Fuque in E Minor* (BWV 533)..... J. S. Bach*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.)