

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No. 38

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

August 30th, 2015

PARISH SECRETARY RETIREMENT

Mrs. David (Penny) Futrell has retired after more than twenty years at St. John's, first as Parish Activities /Sunday School Director and subsequently as Parish Secretary. We owe her a debt of thanks for years of loving and loyal service. A special Coffee Hour will be held in her honor at a later date.

ORGANIST THIS SUNDAY

In Mr. Branyon's absence, Mrs. Paul (Angela) Fisher is at the bench today.

THE HIDDEN CHRIST

This Sunday's gospel lesson (Luke 10:23-37) contains the famous parable of the Good Samaritan. On the surface it is an ethical reflection on the scope of the moral Law – an illustration of what it means to “love thy neighbor”. Yet since ancient times, Christians readers also have found a deeper meaning in the text. Reading it as if it were a continuous stream of metaphors or figures of speech – the method called “allegory” (after St. Paul's use of the term in Galatians 4:24) - they they also found in it a compelling portrait of the person and work of Christ himself. In this allegorical or figurative reading, the man who fell among thieves stands for Adam, the representative head of the human race, who left the heavenly Jerusalem for Jericho, the earthly city, the city under a curse (Josh. 6:26), and fell under the power of him who is a robber and a murderer (John 8:44), and

by him and the fallen angels was stripped of the robe of original righteousness; and grievously wounded, every sin a gash from which his soul's life-blood flows. Priest and Levite pass him by, for the law and its sacrifices cannot save him (Galatians 3:21), and they are themselves wounded in that wounded man. Only that true Samaritan, who is Jesus Christ, the despised and rejected savior (John 8:48), is moved with compassion, and pours on the wounds the oil of his Spirit and the wine of his blood, to purify and heal our sin-wounded souls. The beast of burden on which he bears him is the body of Christ; the inn where he lodges him, the Church; the two coins he provides for his care are the two chief sacraments; the innkeeper, the bishop or pastor of the flock; and the promise of the Samaritan to return, the second coming of Christ.

This allegorical reading is found in the church fathers Origen, Chrysostom, Ambrose, Augustine, and Bernard; it underlies the juxtaposition of Luke 10:23-37 with Galatians 3:16-22 in the ancient lectionary of the Prayer Book; and it persists as late as Martin Luther. Yet the allegorical method was not without its critics, even in ancient times, and in response Augustine and Aquinas warned against the abuse of allegory to justify teaching that 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 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mrs. Mark D. Stevens

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ross M. Haire

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God

and in loving memory of Alexander Robert Fawcett by his wife, Mrs. Alexander Robert Fawcett, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Fawcett

and in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Carson, Jr., married at St. John's Church by the Rev. Ernest Risley

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland
Mrs. Mark Allgaier, Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.
Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. John Reiter
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. George Fawcett,
Mrs. Donald Fawcett, Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 *Volunteer Requested*
10:30 Mikel Kelly, Jamie McClellan
Hunt Wasden, Hawkins Pindar
Finn Repella, Jackson McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Graham P. Sadler

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

St. John's Gospel Fr. Dunbar, Reading Room
Dr. Noble's Class will resume September 20th.

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesdays 7 a.m. Breakfast and Discussion with Fr. O'Brien in Green Meldrim House. \$5 donation.
Thursday 7 a.m., *1 Kings* Fr. Dunbar, Reading Rm

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

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

The ECW Board will meet Monday, August 31st, at 10 a.m. in the Green Meldrim House .

The Installation of the new Officers and Board will take place during the 10:00 a.m. chapel service on September 2nd.

The General meeting will follow in the Green Meldrim House. All are welcome, including men, for a first peak at the 1850 journal of the house's architect, John Norris. This meeting will also kick off the 2015 Holly Days Bazaar.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

nowhere apparent in the Scripture's literal sense. With Calvin, however, biblical scholarship turns away from allegory altogether. No doubt he was anxious to purge the reading of Scripture of arbitrary, fanciful, *eiseigesis*, the 'reading into' Scripture of things that are not there. Moreover the deliberate narrowing of scope to the literal or historical sense has permitted a very close reading of the text, which has borne much fruit, not least in the hands of a faithful theologian, humanist, and scholar of Calvin's gifts, and others like him. Their interpretations are worlds away from the simplistic crudities sometimes associated with biblical literalism – or the skeptical speculations of the higher criticism.

Yet it is a constriction, and its weakness appears when the parable of the Good Samaritan is read merely as an illustration of the second great commandment. The weakness appears in the comment of one biblical scholar, that "Jesus' exhortation to go and do likewise shows that the point is not christological. Jesus is not telling the lawyer to look for him in the parable, but to be this kind of caring person" (Bock *ad loc.*, emphasis added.) *Not Christological?* We are *not* to look for Christ in the parable? By that denial he opens the interpretation of the parable to a Pelagian moralism divorced from Christ and the gospel – as if the fulfillment of the commandments were possible apart from Christ!

Another recent commentator has a more sure instinct: "when one is at ground zero and if one hopes to survive, one cannot be choosy about

one's rescuers. ... 'Grace comes to those who have no other alternative than to accept it'". And so "it becomes a parable of divine mercy expressed through a stranger. Will one accept mercy from one like Jesus who dies on a cross?" (Garland, p. 448). As the allegorists saw, the parable itself points us towards the despised and rejected savior – the one of whom the murderous mobs of Jerusalem could say nothing worse than that he had a devil and was a Samaritan (John 8:48 - as Augustine points out, Christ denies having a devil, but allows himself to be called a Samaritan!). 'Grace comes to those who have no other alternative than to accept it'. Only when this Samaritan has had compassion on us, and has ministered to us of his saving and healing gifts, are we able to "go and do likewise". GGD

**THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL
AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

Places Available for Fall Registration!

*Toddlers, Twos, Threes, Pre-
Kindergarten*

2, 3 or 5 day program

For information, call Cathy King 232-
1225

www.stjohnspreschool.org
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[www.facebook.com/
stjohnspreschoolsavannah](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnspreschoolsavannah)

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. *Said Eucharist*

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL Prayer Book, p. 207
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service from 8:45 to 9:15.

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

CARILLON

HYMN #300 *Before the Lord Jehovah's Throne* Winchester New
 Opening Sentences Prayer Book, page 3
 Confession, Absolution, Lord's Prayer 6-7
 Versicles and Responses..... 7-8
 VENITE #610 9
 Psalm #74 430
 First Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-18, 33-37 *The Law of Neighbourly Love*..... *insert*
 TE DEUM #615, 619 10
 Second Lesson: Galatians 3:16 and St. Luke 10:23..... 207, 208
 BENEDICTUS #634..... 14
Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 1-5)
 Apostles' Creed..... 15
 Versicles and Responses..... 16
 Collect for the Day 207
 Other Collects, Prayers, and the Grace 17-20
 HYMN #498 *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*..... Gardiner
 THE SERMON Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Ye Servants of God* Henry Coleman

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #344 *O Love How Deep* Deus Tuorum Militum

VOLUNTARY: *Trumpet Tune from the "Voluntaries"* William Boyce

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.

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