

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 38

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 21, 2011

ANOTHER MUSIC

Fr O'Brien and I both observed anniversaries of ordinations this summer (his August 15, mine July 18) and as it happens, this year neither of us has been at St. John's for the occasion. Some reflection, however, befits this anniversary, and no one better to guide those reflections than George Herbert, priest and poet (d. 1633). The poem is called "Aaron", after the first high priest of Israel, and is based on the elaborate robes prescribed in Exodus 28:4-39.

Herbert mentions just three elements of his vesture. First: the mitre, ornamented with a golden plate engraved with the words "Holiness to the Lord" (28:36-38) – "for no thing unholy may appear before him" (so the marginal comment in the Geneva Bible, the most widely used Bible for most of Herbert's life). Second: the breastplate of judgment, in which were set the Urim and Thummim, "Lights and Perfections" (28:30), denoting (the Geneva Bible says) "knowledge" and "holiness", "showing what virtues are required in priests". Third are the bells which lined the hem of his garment, "that he die not" (28:33-35) – an opaque comment which the Geneva Bible (understandably!) does not venture to explain: but Herbert provides his own exegesis in the poem. For it is not the mitre or breastplate that matters most in the poem, but the music of the bells, an emphasis underlined by the "bell-like chiming of the repeated rhyme-words which are unchanged from stanza to stanza" (as Anna Pasternak Slater notes in her edition of Herbert).

Holiness on the head,

Light and perfections on the breast,
Harmonious bells below, raising the
dead

To lead them unto life and rest.

Thus are true Aarons drest.

The vestments of Aaron, thus set forth in the Law, "whereby his office may be known to be glorious and excellent" (Geneva Bible), serve, however, to expose a critical insufficiency of the poet to his priestly office:

Profaneness in my head,

Defects and darkness in my breast,
A noise of passions ringing me for dead

Unto a place where is no rest,

Poor priest thus am I drest.

Yet the poet is not disconcerted, for he does not act as a priest in his own right, but as the representative of another, whose "alien" or "external" righteousness supplies the deficiency of his own:

Only another head

I have, another heart and breast,
Another music, making live not dead,

Without whom I could have no rest:

In him I am well drest.

This "other" is Christ, "our great high priest" (Hebrews 4:14) and head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23), who not only justifies us before God (his merits covering all our sins) but also sanctifies us (makes us holy). This sanctification is a process of continual death ("rest") and resurrection – dying to sin and rising again to righteousness, putting

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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 Mr. Mr. Roland B. Williams

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ross Haire

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones by Mrs. Howard Walker, Jr. and Mrs. William A. Baker.

And in loving memory of Peter Joseph Smyth by his wife and children.

And in memory of Mrs. Patty C. Gaillard and Trish Snyder by Sally Fiveash and George Gaillard.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. McDonald A. Fawcett, Mrs. Wynton J. Ezelle
Mrs. Edwin H. Culver, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard
Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff, Mrs. George Fawcett
Mrs. John Reiter, Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague

ACOLYTES

8:00 Cord Helmken
10:30 Clayton Compton, Lawson Turner
John Osborn, Peter Stein
Mikel Kelly, Chris Dixon

COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells

ALL-AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

... CONTINUES ALL SUMMER!

9:30 AM--NOON Nursery

9:30 A.M.-- Child Care for ages 3—5.

9:30 A.M. ADULT CLASSES

➤ CHRISTIAN POETRY OF GEORGE
HERBERT (The Rector, Chapel)

➤ BIBLE BASICS - taught by Mike Chastain
(South Classroom, 3rd Floor, Cranmer Hall) -

10:30 A.M. CHILDREN'S IN SUMMER

➤ For *Preschool--Kindergarten* ages 3 to 5.
(Teen Helpers and Adult volunteers needed)

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

Men's Bible Study & Discussion Groups
Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast & Study (Mike Chastain), Parish House).

Thursday Bible Study 7:00 a.m.—*Class with Fr. Dunbar.*

Thursday Men's Forum—12:00 -1pm
Led by Fr. Dunbar. Lunch.

BAZAAR CANNING

The canners need fresh veggies and fruits (figs, peppers, pears, peaches, apples, mangos, etc) sugar, mint, pecans and half-pint jars. Jane Pressly 233-6551.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

off what defiles and putting on (“drest”) what is holy (cf. Colossians 3:9-10):

Christ is my only head,
My alone only heart and breast,
My only music, striking me ev’n dead;
That to the old man I may rest,
And be in him new drest.

In consequence, as Paul says, “I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me” (Galatians 2:20). Clothed in the righteousness of Christ, and in process of being made righteous by Christ, the poet can now present himself to the Church as its true priest:

So holy in my head,
Perfect in light in my dear breast,
My doctrine tun’d by Christ (who is not dead,
But lives in me while I do rest)
Come people; Aaron’s drest.

“Such trust have we through Christ to Godward: not that we are sufficient of ourselves ... but our sufficiency is of God, who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). GGD

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

at the home of Betsy and Scott Howard is continuing through the fall. Mike Chastain is leading a study of the Epistle of James. Meets Tuesdays at 7:30 pm at 216 Grimboll Point Rd, Isle of Hope. Please call Betsy 353-3396.
Sitter available with advance notice.

PARISH KALENDAR

Monday- Friday (Chapel)

8:15am & 5:30pm

Morning or Evening Prayer

Wednesday (Chapel) 9:45 a.m. Litany

10:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*

St. Bartholomew Apostle & Martyr

Thursday Noon Men’s Forum

PICTORIAL PARISH DIRECTORY

APPOINTMENTS

New photographs are needed for this Directory.

You may sign up for photographs taken in two ways:

1. Sundays in Cranmer Hall or the Green Meldrim House—sign-up tables will be set up in their foyers.

2. Sign up on-line and choose a sitting time. The web link is:

<https://signup.olanmills.com/familyinfo.aspx?chcontract=60979>

The shooting dates are:

✚ Wednesday, September 14th through Saturday, September 17th;

✚ Thursday, September 22nd through September 24th.

Please do not call the church office to sign up.

MILITARY SECTION OF DIRECTORY

Please send in your favorite picture, in uniform, (no larger than 5x7. On the back of the picture list your name; Component of Armed Forces; Rank; Dates of Service; Specialty; and main Location of service Europe, Pacific, Conus, etc. Pictures must be in before Sept. 10th to Leroy Suddath or the Church Office.

BAZAAR NOTICE

As you are cleaning your closets this summer, please remember the Holly Days Bazaar—White Elephant, Treasure Room, Books, etc... Storage is available. Instructions for use of the storage facility are available in the church office.

CHAPEL FEAST OF DEDICATION

– This Sunday at Noon.

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Office closes at Noon on Fridays.

Monday through Thursday 9—4:30 p.m.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL200

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 & YOUTH CLASSES

Pre-School through 6th Grade Summer Program (Cranmer Hall)

10:30—11:30 Activities for Pre-School & Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)

Jr. Choir—1st through 4th Grade (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. — MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #378 *Come Gracious Spirit* Mendon

Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer..... Prayer Book, pages 3-7

Versicles and Responses 7-8

VENITE #609 9

Psalm #59.....411

First Lesson: I Corinthians 10:1201

BENEDICTUS ES DOMINE #626.....11

Second Lesson: St. Luke 15:11201

BENEDICTUS #63414

Apostles' Creed15

Versicles and Responses16

Collect for the Day200

Collects, Prayers, and Grace..... 17-20

HYMN #411 *O Thou to Whose All-searching Sight*..... Grace Church

Children attending Jr. Choir (grades 1—4) exit following the cross

THE SERMON..... Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

HYMN: *God My Shepherd Walks Beside Me*.....Johann Sebastian Bach

Miss Ashley Whittington, soprano

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141

PRAYER AND BLESSING

HYMN #567 *Lead Us, Heav’nly Father*Dulce Carmen

ORGAN: *Prelude and Fugue in G (BWV 557)*attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

Everyone is invited to attend the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 service.

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

12 Noon SUNG EUCHARIST to mark the Chapel’s FEAST OF DEDICATION