

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 42 No. 39

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

August 28, 2011

FATHERING

In a summer of calamity – the tsunami in Japan, the high-speed train wreck in China, the debt crisis and stagnation of American and European economies, and the inability of the political classes in these countries constructively to address any of these problems – there came also the massacre in Norway and the riots in London: manifestations of horrific criminality in countries that one thinks of as bastions of law-abiding stability. As a panicked stock market stampeded from one extreme to another, the economic, political, and social order suddenly looked fragile.

Although triggered by a (peaceful) demonstration over a police shooting, the U. K. riots were not political protests, but feral outbursts of criminal greed by (mainly) young thuggish males: opportunistic looting pure and simple, consumerism by other means. Many blamed the outbreaks on a dependency culture with a strong sense of entitlement and no sense of gratitude, commitment, or responsibility to the social order. I think this is true but needs to go further. The long crumbling of the family acknowledged even by *the Economist* (no friend of social conservatism) cannot be overlooked (though many are quite determined to do so). And when we talk about the crumbling of the family, the single most important feature we are talking about is the absence of responsible fathering. Where the ideology of personal autonomy (and erotic liberation) has dissolved the bonds of marriage (the poison gift of the middle class to the under class), men have disappeared from responsible involvement

in family life. Without responsible fathering, the proper authority of women in the family is undermined (a fact that feminists do not wish to acknowledge), and the proper formation of children and youth is inhibited. Where no other influence intervenes, the offspring grow up with a tenuous formation in the moral order, and a tenuous investment in the social and economic order: on the one hand, insecure and hopeless; on the other, uninhibited by shame or fear. Though some, miraculously, break free from backgrounds, far too many are set up for a lifetime of failure on every front.

This is not just the U. K. It is already the U. S. A. and Canada. It is Philadelphia (which experienced the same “flash mob” phenomenon of feral youth summoned by smartphone to looting targets). It is also Savannah. It is a depressing reality and a worrying prospect.

Yet perhaps it is also a moment when the fogs of wishful thinking begin to lift and the mind begins to clear. If we can discern that the social order depends upon moral order, and moral order upon the health of institutions like the family, in which moral formation takes place, and the good order of the family as an institution of moral formation depends upon the involvement of fathers in responsible leadership – then we have made some progress against the fashionable fiddle-faddle of the last few decades. We have discovered something *true*.

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OF
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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. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ross Haire

The flowers at the altar 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 memory of William G. McKinnon, Jr., Ethelyn N. McKinnon, and Lynn Glendinning by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Simpson.

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. Gary Schubert

ACOLYTES

8:00 John DeBacker
10:30 Cameron Sallee
Peter Stein, John Osborne
Chris Dixon, Mikel Kelly

COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

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 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.

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Office closes at Noon on Fridays.
Monday through Thursday 9—4:30 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

For flip over the bad news of predatory or absent fathers and their part in family dysfunction, and it turns into good news: that where men are ready to be fathers, women are able to exercise their proper authority, and the transmission of responsible freedom to children – their moral and social formation - is set forward.

Take this one step further. When we talk about “fathering” we are not talking about biological fathering only, or the rearing of children in the household only. Fathering has to do with the involvement of men in the responsible leadership of all kinds of institutions – not just the family. The coach of a sports team, the teacher in a school, the employer of adolescents and young adults, the catechist in Sunday School - these are obvious extensions of the fatherly role in relation to youth (and we need more of them). But the same fatherly role appears wherever men exercise responsible authority in public institutions of all kinds, the Church, the State, and all the mediating institutions of civil society, both private and public. To grasp their nature as moral formative and spiritual institutions necessary to the social order of civil society – this is key to recognizing the fatherly roles that men are called to play in them.

Men (and women) have much to learn and relearn about fathering (in the broadest sense), and the Christian religion has much to teach them. More of that next week.

GGD

ACOLYTE TRAINING

For all confirmed males in Middle or High School (new and returning). **9:30 A.M.** in the Chancel. Sunday August 28th **AND** September 4th. For information: Mr. Carter Hubbard:
chubb44850@aol.com

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

On the Epistle of James, led by Mike Chastain, at the home of Betsy and Scott Howard at 7:30 pm at 216 Grimboll Point Rd, Isle of Hope. Please call Betsy 353-3396.
Sitter available with 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*

Thursday Noon *Men's Forum*

“Hero, Champion, Warrior, Lover”

(Fr Dunbar)

PICTORIAL PARISH DIRECTORY

APPOINTMENTS

New photographs are needed.

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.

MILITARY SECTION OF DIRECTORY

Pictures must be in before Sept. 10th to Leroy Suddath or the Church Office.

THE PARISH CHOIR

Is now seeking new members in all sections. We encourage those with some musical experience to give of their time and talent to this important ministry and enjoy the fellowship of this group.

ECW MEETINGS

ECW Board: Monday, August, 29th at 10 a.m. in the Green-Meldrim Dining Room.

ECW General Meeting and Bazaar Kick-Off Wednesday, September 7th, in the Green Meldrim-House after 10 a.m. service.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL203
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30-10:15—Classes for Adults & Confirmed Youth (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30-10:15—Pre-School through 6th Grade Summer Program (*Cranmer Hall*)

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

10:30 a.m.— MORNING PRAYER and SERMON

HYMN #370 *Spirit divine, attend our prayers* Graefenberg
 Sentences, Exhortation, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s PrayerPrayer Book pgs. 3-7
 Versicles and Responses 7

VENITE #609 (Hymnal) 9
 Psalm #145520
 First Lesson: I Corinthians 12:1203

JUBILATE DEO #642 (Hymnal)14
 Second Lesson: St. Luke 19:41204

BENEDICTUS #634 (Hymnal)15
 Apostles’ Creed15
 Versicles and Responses16
 Collect for the Day and Fixed Collects203, 17
 Other Prayers..... 17-20
 The Grace

HYMN #462 *Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee* Sawley
 Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.

SERMON Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

ANTHEM: *O Lord God*..... Percy C. Buck
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
 Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #597 *Jerusalem the Golden* Ewing

ORGAN: Prelude and Fugue in G minor (BWV 558).....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.*
