

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol 46. No.31

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

July 12, 2015

THIS MORNING'S ORGANIST

Mrs. Paul (Angela) Fisher is substituting this morning for Mr. Branyon.

THIS SUNDAY'S 9:30 A.M.

CLERGY CLASS:

Theological Poetry of St. Gregory Nazianzus - *Fr. Bergstrom. Reading Room, 3rd Floor.*

NO RAINBOWS

In a fast-changing culture, the recent decisions of the Supreme Court and the General Convention in favour of same-sex marriage did not come as a big surprise. For many, both inside and outside the Church, the result was received with elation; for others, however, the same problems remain. The decision of the General Convention (and, I suspect, that of the Supreme Court) was driven by social and cultural change alone. The deposit of the Christian Faith remains the same, the testimony of Scripture is unchanged, and the arguments adduced in favour of same-sex marriage are no more illuminating or persuasive now than they were a dozen years ago. The objections of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the bishops of the Global South, and ecumenical partners were ignored. Once again, American progressive elite opinion counts far more to the Episcopal Church than does the testimony of Scripture, the Christian tradition, and

its fellowship in the Church Catholic. Once again, as the Global South and Communion Partner Bishops noted, the Episcopal Church has chosen the easy way of unilateralism over the more difficult path of interdependence within the Body of Christ. None of this should surprise conservatives. If anything, it only shows the futility of the political devices in which social conservatives have invested so much energy for so long. In the end, culture trumped both politics and religion.

So where does that leave social conservatives inside and outside the church? Assessment of that will take time, but here are some initial thoughts. Both the Supreme Court decision and the General Convention resolutions allow legal protection for dissent, at least within the privacy of one's mind, and within the walls of the churches and other religious institutions (at least some of them). Outside those legal protections, however, they must face the incomprehension and sometimes hostility of a new "moral majority", and strong pressure will be brought to confine dissent within very narrow parameters. Though we may hope that moderate tendencies will triumph over the more radical, triumphalist, and vindictive voices,

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
1 West Macon Street 31401(912) 429-3384
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate
423 E. Gaston Street 31401(912) 308-4441
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy W. Bergstrom Priest Assistant
5 Autumn Leaves Court 31410(912) 656-3807
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr..... Parish Secretary
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President, ECWMrs. Christian Arden-Joly
President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Randolph H. Kulp II
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.

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 Dr. James S. McClellan, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. John D. Riley

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert V. Martin, Jr. by his family;

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman by Mr. and Mrs. E. Brian Culver and Mrs. and Mrs. Randolph Bryan Jones;

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Miller, Sr. and Mrs. Louise Duskin Dillard by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Dillard III.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Ms. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Mark Alleaier, Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.
Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Sr., Mrs. John K. Ross
Mrs. Richard W. Adams

ACOLYTES

8:00 *volunteer requested*
10:30 Jamie McClellan, Hunt Wasden
Turner Stevens, Finn Repella
Edwin Shepherd, Jackson McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

Mallory's Mort D'Arthur:- Will resume Sept. 20th.

Clergy Class: Theological Poetry of St.

Gregory Nazianzus - *Fr. Bergstrom.*
Reading Room, 3rd Floor, continues.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Tuesday Men's Breakfast - *Will resume at later date..*

Thursday 7 a.m. *Resumes July 30.*

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUP

Classes will resume in the fall.

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. *Holy Eucharist*

Saturday, July 18th

ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS
10:30 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.
Friday 9:00a.m. to 12:00 (noon)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

this is not to be taken for granted. "Prayers and supplications" will be in order "for kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Tim. 2:1, 2).

Our concerns, however, cannot be merely legal and political. The culture itself must be addressed: and though this may seem deeply unpromising territory, it is not without points of access. Somewhat paradoxically, it is to be found in the moralism of the new Moral Majority. Despite their relativistic talk, they exhibit a strong sense of moral obligation. Relativism would say that moral values are simply the product of culture, but that's not what social progressives think. If they did, they would have no problem with societies that do not accept same-sex marriage. To the contrary, they believe consenting adults have a *right* to sexual fulfillment - and all other adults have a moral *duty* to respect their choices - *regardless* of culture. Moral order trumps relativism: such is the position of social progressives as well as conservatives, and not just in same-sex marriage.

Yet this sense of universal moral obligation needs explanation. Where does it come from? What is its authority? If not culture or society, then what? It is fashionable now to assume that evolutionary biology explains all: but if moral obligation is just an evolutionary adaptation, then there is no moral obligation, just the illusion of one. Tim Keller has put this problem

this way: "We all live as if it is better to seek peace instead of war, to tell the truth instead of lying, to care and nurture rather than destroy. We believe that those choices are not pointless, that it matters which way we choose to live. Yet if the Cosmic Bench is truly empty" - if there is no Judge to rule on the rightness or wrongness of actions - "then 'who sez' that one choice is better than the others?" It is hard to give a *rational* account of moral obligation without a God who calls all men to account for their deeds. And thus the God that has been excluded or ignored in what they affirm reappears as its presupposition of all their affirmations. GGD

VOICE FESTIVAL AT ST. JOHN'S

Amy Shoremount Obra, soprano

Tuesday, August 4th

6:30pm – 8:00pm

\$45 advance sale - \$50 at the door

This beloved Festival alumna returns after her successful Met debut to offer an accessible, exciting and beautifully sung concert.

To order: call 855.76.OPERA or
info@savannahvoicefestival.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

(RISING KG TO GR 5) :

July 27th - July 31st 9:30am - noon

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP

(12 MOS – 5 YEARS OLD)

July 27th - July 31st

9:00am until 1:00pm

Offered by The Children's School

For more information: contact Caroline

Hayes: chayes@stjohnssav.org

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, p. 197
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 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. – SUNG EUCHARIST & ADDRESS

HYMN #155 *New Every Morning is the Love* Melcombe

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity Prayer Book, page 67
 The Decalogue..... 68
 KYRIE ELEISON: #710 Healey Willan
 Collect and Epistle..... 197
 HYMN #414 *O For A Heart To Praise My God* Caithness (#416)
 The Holy Gospel 197
 The Nicene Creed..... 71
 HYMN #570 *O Jesus I Have Promised*..... Llanfyllin
 Address Fr. O' Brien

OFFERTORY

Sentences
 Anthem: *O Brother Man, Fold To Thy Heart Thy Brother*..... C. Hubert H. Parry
Congregation may be seated. Words and Music at #493.
 Presentation of Alms #139..... Old Hundredth
 Prayer for the State of the Church..... 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution..... 75
 Sursum Corda #734..... 76
 SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711 Healey Willan
 Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation 80
 The Lord's Prayer & Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*)..... 82
 AGNUS DEI # 712 Healey Willan
 HYMN: *Prière à Notre-Dame, Op. 25* L. Boëllmann
 Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83
 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #739..... Old Scottish Chant
 The Blessing (*Kneeling*)..... 84
 HYMN [Insert] *And Can it Be*..... Sagina
 VOLUNTARY: *Prelude and Fugue in A (BWV 559)*..... J. S. Bach

*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.*