

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 38

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

August 19, 2018

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

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. *Holy Eucharist*

In addition, on Thursday

5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer & Holy Eucharist*

Friday, August 24th

ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE

Morning and Evening Prayer
With Holy Communion
8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, August 26th

TRINITY 13

10:30 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

COMFORT (PART 2)

The loss of a child, no matter of what age, is a particularly cruel grief, and in my ministry we have known it more than once at St. John's. There can be few who are not themselves touched by the pain such a loss brings parents and families. In whatever form it may take, we acknowledge that this is *evil*.

Very naturally, we want to know how and why such deaths may happen, though explanations do not bring any one back, or allay grief: they may indeed be a coping response, a form of denial ("That could never happen to me"), or a form of anger ("why does God let this happen to me?") within which there may lurk a sense of unmerited entitlement ("God owes me a life free from pain"). These are all inadequate responses to evil. It is in the gospel that we find a wiser way of thinking about and responding to it, more realistic, and more hopeful.

"Why did this happen?" It did not happen because people are basically good. We are all by nature inclined to sin, and as if that was not enough, the devil will insert the claw of his malice and envy in any chink or crack he can find. His vengeful malice is particularly directed against the faithful and their families, that he may demoralize them, and cause them to fall from faith. This should not ever surprise us. The Bible tells us to expect as much. There is no room for complacency, or false confidence. We are not immune to attack. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:8, 9).

When people ask, "why does God let this happen?", I think they are asking the wrong question. Given the frailty of our nature, and the malice of our adversary, the real question is why it does not happen more often - and the answer is no secret to those who know the gospel. "Why boastest thou thyself, thou tyrant, that thou canst do mischief; Whereas the goodness of God endureth yet daily?" (Ps 52:1, 2). The goodness of God protects and delivers us from Satan's mischief, far beyond what any one of us deserves. We are not *entitled* to his protection - it is of his free grace that we enjoy it. So when the devil's malice strikes, it should make us more deeply appreciative, grateful, and gladly dependent on, God's fatherly goodness. And that gratitude will find expression not in pride, anger, and self-pity, but in humility, patience, and self-denying, loving service of one another.

And yet the Lord, the Almighty, does permit these evils to take place. That's a difficult matter to think about, and

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To receive the Parish Paper by email (on Fridays), send name and email address to information@stjohnssav.org

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The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt.....Assisting Priest
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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 or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

- 8:00 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mrs. Christian M. Arden-Joly

USHER CHAIRMAN

Dr. Lee M. Alderman and Mr. Thomas C. McCay

ACOLYTES

- 8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Jack McClellan Edwin Shepherd
Daniel Sills William Sills William Taylor

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 19th anniversary of Father O'Brien's ordination on August 14, 1999.

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

And in loving memory of Sanford G. Simmons, John Pindar Bradshaw Schaller, Julia Floyd Smith and loved ones by Marie Simmons.

And in loving memory of their father, George Oelschig, and in honor of their mother, Shirley Oelschig, on what would have been their 69th wedding anniversary, by their loving children George Oelschig, Jr., Joan Oelschig Dyer and Kurt Oelschig.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

- Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry, Miss Amara DeRienzo, Mrs. McDonald A. Fawcett, Mrs. Adolphus J. Carter III, Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. B. Ray Summerell

ROAMING GREETER

Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH:

CRANMER HALL-3RD FLOOR

Upper & Middle School - D. Svihel

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:

Collects Study With Father O'Brien and Will & Mary Helen Burdell. CH3-Reading Room

Father Dunbar's Class on 2 Kings - Chapel

WILL NOT MEET THIS SUNDAY

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- Jeremiah with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m. Third Floor Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday Book Study: T. H. White's "The Once and Future King" with Father O'Brien 9:15 a.m., CH3-Reading Room

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

Bazaar Kick-Off Events:

Introducing chairpersons, announcing our exciting changes and additions. Wednesday, September 5, 10:30 AM Come celebrate with a mimosa toast to a wonderful Bazaar ahead. On Thursday, September 6, 6 pm Cranmer Hall fellowship time over pot-luck appetizers and wine. Please bring an appetizer or bottle of wine to share.

For complete bazaar details visit our website:

http://dev.stjohnssav.org.gowpsite.com/serve/holly-days-bazaar/

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

ultimately beyond our comprehension, but that does not mean there is not something of it to be truly known. In his almighty providence he orders all things wisely according to his good and perfect will, to bring good out of evil, and life out of death. He permitted the greatest of all evils, the death of his Son, for the greatest of all goods, even our salvation, so we can be confident that he is at work even in the worst evils that we may suffer. In the darkness of our pain we may not be able to see his work, we may not be able to discern his purpose, but we don't have to know what he is doing, to know that he is doing it, and to cling to this knowledge, and put ourselves in his hands.

When we think of the greatest good that God can achieve, let us not impose on him the limits of our own experience. "With God, nothing shall be impossible". "Death itself will work backwards" (C. S. Lewis) in a new creation where "God shall be all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28). "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4). There is no wrong that will not be set right in the end, and this knowledge changes our perspective on all good that we may do. It is not in vain, if it is done "in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). It is never wasted effort, if we put ourselves in his hands.

Putting ourselves in his hands is not just the vague hope that God will somehow let us muddle through. If we put our trust in him for our life now, and the life to come, we will obey him - and if we are not obeying him, then we are not trusting him. Obedience is the evidence of faith. We can't speak of trust and obedience without also speaking of repentance - humbling ourselves under God's judgment and mercy. We are of course adept at hiding the truth about ourselves from ourselves, and so we need the Spirit's help if we are to repent truly. But the Holy Spirit can speak through many mouths, and sometimes it is our harshest critics who can be our best

friends, when he speaks through their lips. *They* may not be fair or kind - but *he* is both just and merciful - and listening to criticisms without self-justification or counter-attack may be one of the most neglected means of grace that we have been given. "Let the righteous rather smite me friendly, and reprove me; yea, let not my head refuse their precious balms" (Psalm 141:5). GGD

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCIENCE & TRUTH

Is there room for God in our understanding of reality?

Five Talks by Jon Sprague
Thursdays Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11
at 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

"Jon Sprague's passionate interest in science and his commitment to the Christian faith is evident in these intelligent, informed, and illuminating explorations of questions so many struggle with today"

– Fr Gavin Dunbar

- **Childcare is Available by Prior Registration Only:** Contact the Church Office 912-232-1251.
- **Interested but not sure you can come to all?** The first four talks can stand alone the fifth is where the themes are pulled together. Come to all, or come to one.
- **Free Admission**

PRAYER REQUEST BOXES

To encourage praying with and for one another, parishioners are invited to submit Prayer Requests (supplication or thanksgiving) to the Prayer Boxes set up in the narthex and at the Chapel entrance. These will be collected and prayed for during the monthly meeting of the St. John's Prayer Circle (to which all are welcome).

St. John's Prayer Circle meets, Wednesday, September 12th at 6:30 in Cranmer Hall following the Evening Prayer service.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:22

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8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL Prayer Book, page 200, 202
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

Summer Children’s Nursery for birth - age 3 (Cranmer Hall, 1st floor),
is available from 9:15a.m. till 12:15 p.m.

9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

HYMN: #158 *O Splendor of God’s Glory* Puer Nobis
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses 7-8
VENITE: #609 9
Psalm #103 466
First Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35 *The glory reflected in the face of Moses* *Insert*
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615 10
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:4 & St. Mark 7:31 206
BENEDICTUS#634 14
Apostles' Creed 15
Responses 16
Collect of the Day 206
Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers 17-20
Welcome and Announcements
HYMN: (Insert) *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly* Pleading Saviour
Sermon Father O’Brien

OFFERING

Sentences
Solo: *Laudamus te (K, 427)* W.A. Mozart
(From Grand Mass in C Minor – Soloist: Helaine Liebam)
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing 19
HYMN: #599 *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* Vigiles Et Sancti
VOLUNTARY: *Tuba Tune in D Major* Craig Sellars Lang

*Everyone is invited to attend the 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 (Chapel - as at 8:00 a.m.)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

CHILDREN’S CHURCH OPENING DAY Join us to celebrate at 10:00 a.m. in Cranmer Hall. Registration and Volunteer Sign up links are available in the weekly email and Facebook. Please contact Melanie Finnegan (912-856-6210) with questions.

YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL BARBEQUE All youth 6th – 12th grades and parents are invited to join us after the 10:30 service as we start our new year together. Please contact David Svihel (912-232-1251) with questions.