

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 50

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

November 11, 2018

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY — EYCS

Episcopal Youth and Children's Services is an organization of Savannah-area churches that provides needs-based bursaries for summer camp and college to Episcopalian children and youth. Please donate using the special collection envelope provided in this Sunday's Parish Paper and Service Program or online at www.eycs.georgiaepiscopal.org.

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 Monday

Veterans' Day (Observed)

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

In addition, on Thursday, November 15th

Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

5:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, November 18th—Trinity 25

10:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*

After 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Annual Congregational General Meeting

◆ PRAYER CIRCLE ◆

Wednesday, November 14th

6:15 p.m. *Cranmer Hall, First Floor*

KEEPING THE FAITH

"Why was it virtually impossible not to believe in God in, say 1500, in our Western society, while in 2000 many of us find this not only easy, but even inescapable?" To put it another way – it used to be easy to believe in God 500 years ago. Why has it become more difficult to believe today? Philosopher Charles Taylor raises this question in his book *A Secular Age*, but this question is not just for philosophers. The question of belief in God, and more specifically the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, touches families, pastors, and churches like St. John's.

The Problem

The problem is we live in "the age of authenticity" now. According to Andrew Root, author of *Faith Formation in a Secular Age*, "The age of authenticity asserts that we should be directed by nothing outside us, but only by what we find meaningful within us." Anyone who has seen the Disney film *Moana* has experienced the age of authenticity. "You may hear a voice inside/ And if the voice starts to whisper/ To follow the farthest star/ *Moana*, that voice inside is/ Who you are." Authenticity is following your heart. This raises the question: who is the *most* authentic?

Youth are the most authentic group in the age of authenticity. "Youth became the priests of cool ... to lead us *all* into authenticity," says Root. If the church wants to be authentic, and it should want to be authentic according to culture, the church must become youthful. This is how the obsession with youthfulness has become the solution to the problem of faith formation, but are authentic youth-focused programs really what is going to save the church?

Churches have long recognized that something is wrong with faith formation. The Christian faith is not being passed on to the next generation. The offered solution is more authentic programs geared toward youth. If only we can get the program right, it is often thought, then the young people will want to come to church. But as Root shows, the problem is much deeper than nailing down the right program. The problem is society has functionally made God obsolete. To take it a step further, if the age

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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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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. Mr. Benjamin Baxter

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Randolph (Randy) Kulp II

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Philip Inglesby
10:30 a.m. Jacob Perkins, Edwin Shepard,
Daniel Sills, William Sills, William Taylor,
Haddon Watson, and Whit Watson

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the Veterans for their service to our country.

And in loving memory of Lisa and King Simkins, and Mary and Dick Stone by Marshall, Lynah and Wesley Stone

And in loving memory of G. Philip Morgan, Jr. by his family

And in honor of Eddie and Robbie Culver for their kindness by Monica McGoldrick

And happy birthday, today, to Frank Somoskey from his loving wife and family.

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,
Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings, Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas Jr.,
Mrs. Michael N. Thompson, Mrs. Roland S. Summers, and Mrs. Thomas C. McCay

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. J. Pride Sheahan

ROAMING GREETER

Mrs. Owen H. Page

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH:

Cranmer Hall – 3rd Floor

Middle School – David & Kalista Svihel
High School – Rick Wright & Martin Sullivan

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:

Collects Study with Fr. O'Brien, Will & Mary Helen Burdell – CH3-Reading Room

New class begins this Sunday with Fr. Dunbar on *God's Promise to David* – Chapel

The Gospel According to John with
Jack Wray – CH3-Room 309

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Reconvenes Nov. 13th

Tuesday Breakfast and *Colossians* with
Fr. O'Brien, 6:45 a.m., Parish House

Reconvenes Nov. 15th

Thursday *Jeremiah* with Fr. Dunbar,
7:00 a.m., CH3-Reading Room

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Reconvenes Nov. 15th

Thursday *A Glastonbury Romance* with
Fr. O'Brien, 9:15 a.m., CH3-Reading Room

of authenticity teaches us that the individual is the measure of meaning in life, then what need is there for God let alone the church?

Defining Faith

Another issue related to faith formation is the question: what exactly *is* faith? Youth programs typically define faith as investment and involvement in church. While this is certainly part of faith, it is not the entirety. Basing his argument especially on St. Paul, Root asserts that faith is trusting Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is a true and saving message *for me*. Faith also serves as a lens for how I see my life. How is such faith created? St. Paul tells us in Romans that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. You need a preacher of the good news in word and sacrament in order to have faith.

New Narrative – New Community

The faith is passed on to the next generation by telling the story of Jesus. Since we are all partial unbelievers until we die, we must continually hear the story to renew the faith we were given in baptism in order to persevere until the end. This takes a whole community. Parents must tell the story to their children. Parents must hear the story from their pastors. Children must hear the story from their Sunday school teachers. Youth must hear the story from their pastors. Families must tell the story to each other.

The gospel is the true story of reality. Far better than any authentic narrative we create about ourselves, Jesus gives us his narrative as a gift. The story of Jesus' death and resurrection becomes our story in baptism, and we enter his new life every time we eat his flesh and drink his blood in Holy Communion. The sacraments give us Christ. The same is true when a preacher gives us Christ in the preached word. *We need the church, because it is the only place that can give us Christ.*

In order to tell the story, the Youth of St. John's, as well as a group of adult volunteers will spend the weekend of November 16th-18th hearing and telling the true story of Jesus, the gospel. They will play games, and sing like other youth groups, but the goal is not just program

participation. Only the gospel of Jesus Christ can create a faith that lasts, so the Youth of St. John's will tell the story. We are like Simon Peter crying out to Jesus, "Where else can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

DMS

NEW WEB SITE DEMONSTRATION

This Sunday, November 11th our new web site will be on display, following both 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services (Cranmer Hall and Green-Meldrim House, respectively). Stop by and let us show you how the new site supports visitors and prospective members while serving as a gateway to important content for parishioners.

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Please join us Wednesday, November 14th at 6:15 p.m. in Cranmer Hall, First Floor following Evening Prayer. All are welcome!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held next Sunday, November 18th, after 10:30 a.m. service. Vestry elections and reports will be discussed. The meeting should end by 11:45 a.m.

VERGER APPOINTMENT

Mr. Ray Summerell has been admitted as a Fellow of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church, and has been appointed a non-stipendiary Verger of St. John's Church. Mr. Summerell will be providing much-needed administrative assistance to the Rector in non-pastoral matters. He may be reached at rsummerell@stjohnssav.org.

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

Thank you to all our volunteers and staff who came together in fellowship and service at last week's Holly Days Bazaar. Thank you as well to those who attended the event. We appreciate your support.

SCIENCE & TRUTH VIDEOS

If you missed one of the five talks or were unable to attend the recent series *Science & Truth: Is There Room for God in our Understanding of Reality?* by John Sprague, videos of each of the five weeks are available at St. John's web site at www.stjohnssav.org/resources/

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE & GOSPEL Prayer Book, p. 223

A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

NURSERY for birth - age 3 (Cranmer Hall, 1st floor) from 9:15 a.m. till 12:15 p.m.

9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)**10:30 A.M.—SUNG EUCHARIST, SERMON & CHILDREN’S CHURCH**HYMN #289 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* Saint Anne**ANTE-COMMUNION**

Collect for Purity Prayer Book, p. 67

The Summary of Law 69

KYRIE ELEISON: #710 Healey Willan

Collect and Epistle: Colossians 1:3 223

HYMN #463 *O Thou Who Camest from Above* Hereford

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:18 224

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN #453 *Jesus, All My Gladness* Jesus, All My Gladness*Children up to Grade 5 may exit following the cross for CHILDREN’S CHURCH*

Sermon Father O’Brien

OFFERTORY

Sentence

ANTHEM: *O For A Closer Walk With God* (Text in Hymn #416) C. V. StanfordPresentation of Alms: *Doxology* #139 Old Hundredth

Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution 75-76

Sursum Corda #734 76

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711 Healey Willan

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation 80

The Lord’s Prayer and Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*) 82

AGNUS DEI #712 Healey Willan

HYMN #585 *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* Land of RestMotet: *O Taste And See* (Psalm 34) R. Vaughan WilliamsThanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 Healey Willan

The Blessing (*kneeling*) 84HYMN #130 *Who Are These Like Stars Appearing* All SaintsVOLUNTARY: *Praeludium und Fuga in C dur* J. K. F. Fischer*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.)**