

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 20, 2026

MEMORY AND THE ANGLICAN FUTURE

This reflection is based on the first of three Forums on the Anglican Future, concerning Memory. The next Forum is Sunday, October 25th, on Identity.

When we are talking about the Anglican future, why begin by thinking about the past? Why does memory matter? The late Canadian theologian Robert Crouse often drew attention to St. Augustine's account of the soul in terms of three interrelated powers: memory, understanding, and will. The will is our power of choosing and loving; but we cannot choose well without understanding what we choose. And understanding itself depends upon memory. Without memory we lose the context in which things have meaning, the accumulated judgments by which we recognize what is true and good, and some sense of what our choices may entail. When people suffer from amnesia, or dementia, they don't just lose their memories of the past: they lose their ability to make good judgments in the present.

Memory, in other words, is not the enemy of freedom. *It is one of the conditions of rational freedom.* This is not merely a philosophical insight. It is deeply biblical. Again and again Israel is called to remember—and when Israel forgets what God has done, Israel goes astray. The memory of God's acts in the past is the basis for knowing and trusting him in the present and therefore for moving faithfully into the future. What is true in the Old Testament becomes still more concentrated in the New: "Do this in remembrance of me." Christian faith begins with remembering what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Because we remember him, we can know him; because we know him, we can trust him; and because we trust,

we can hope in him. Christian hope for the future is inseparable from Christian memory of the past.

Thus what is true of persons is also true of communities. Tradition is the Church's corporate memory: the accumulated experience, reflection, argument, judgment, and wisdom of generations of Christians who sought to understand what the Scriptures teach and their implications for our lives. That does not make church tradition infallible. Tradition must be distinguished from traditionalism. "We have always done it this way" is not sufficient reason for continuing to do it. The Christian tradition is based on the Word of God and must itself be tested by the Word of God. But neither can we imagine that we approach Scripture without predecessors. We would not even know what Scriptures to approach, apart from church tradition! Thus to dismiss two thousand years of Christian reflection is to ignore the work of the Holy Spirit among generations who prayed over the Scriptures, argued about their meaning, corrected errors, made distinctions, and handed on what they learned. Tradition does not relieve us of the responsibility to think. *It gives us more with which to think.*

And that brings us to a peculiar problem of our own age. The Enlightenment sought to liberate reason from the constraints of tradition; late modernity has increasingly sought to liberate the will from the constraints of reason itself. Once both tradition and reason have been pushed aside, however, what remains is not greater rational freedom but the increasingly arbitrary will: choices made, without the larger perspective by which their meaning and consequences can be judged. The arbitrary will may be merely

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Hon. Assisting Priest Rev. David Thurlow
Organist and Choirmaster Mr. William Douglas
Youth/Young Adult Ministry Mr. Tyler D. Lonaker
Children's Ministry Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Jr. (Sarah)
Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell
Verger Mr. James E. Morris
Acolyte Dir./Master of Ceremonies Mr. Carter C. Hubbard

Sr. Warden: Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry); Jr. Warden:
Mr. Douglas P. McManamy; Treasurer: Mr. Floyd
Whittington, Jr; Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Stuart C.
Clifford (Susan); Clerk of Vestry: Mrs. Elizabeth H.
Schubert; Chancellor: Dolly Chisholm

The Vestry: Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara),
Mrs. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr. (Beverley), Mr. Charles B.
Compton, Jr. (Chip), Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary),
Mr. Patrick Worsham, Dr. Janet S. Morris, Mr. R. Scott
Howard, Mr. Wiley A. Wasden III, Mr. Charles J. Ezelle,
Mr. Graham P. Sadler, and Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry);
Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus: M. Tyus
Butler, Jr., Esq.; Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett,
Mr. Edwin H. Culver, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

President, Women of St. John's: Mrs. Clarkson C. Logan
(Meta), Chancel Society: Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan and
Mrs. Linda H. Pounds; President, Men of St. John's:
Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers this Sunday are given to the
glory of God, and in loving memory of
Peter Meldrim Coy and Sally McAdoo Coy
at their wedding anniversary,
by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Coy.

And in memory of
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Helmken
and loved ones, and in thanksgiving
for St. John's Church,
by Mr. and Mrs. W. Howard Helmken, Jr.
and Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert.

*To offer flowers for the altar, please call the Church office.
After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick,
sorrowing, and shut-ins.*

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Week of Trinity 16

Online Morning Prayer

*No Online Morning Prayer Monday to Thursday
8:15 a.m. Friday*

Monday, September 21: Feast of St. Matthew

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Tuesday, September 22

9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, September 23

9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

No Compline Today

Thursday, September 24

9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion, Chapel

Friday, September 25

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Saturday, September 26

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, September 27: Trinity 17

8 a.m. *Said Holy Communion*, Church

8:45 a.m. *Nursery*, 1st Floor, Cranmer Hall

9 a.m. *Family Holy Communion*, Church

10 a.m. *Children & Youth Sunday School*,
Cranmer Hall

10 a.m. *Coffee Hour & Outreach Fair*,
1st Floor, Cranmer Hall

11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Church/Online

Save These Additional Upcoming Dates!

- **Oct. 2:** 7 p.m. Guitar Concert, St. John's Church
- **Oct. 7:** 4–6 p.m. St. John's volunteers at P.A.C.K.
- **Oct. 18:** 4 p.m. Music on Madison Square –
The Charlotte Master Chorale, St. John's
Church. Purchase tickets at StJohnsSav.org/mms

COFFEE HOUR & OUTREACH FAIR

Sept. 27 | 10 a.m. Cranmer Hall

During a special coffee hour at 10 a.m. on the 1st Floor of Cranmer Hall, meet the hands and hearts behind our parish outreach efforts who are making a difference every day in our Savannah community.

- **ChurchLife**, get help setting up this church directory & calendar app on your phone
- **Church Tour Docents**, learn more about sharing our church's rich history
- **Holly Days Bazaar**, discover the many facets of this long running community fundraiser
- **Hope Haven**, learn about St. John's new outreach partner and its respite ministry for those living with dementia and their caregivers
- **Men of St. John's**, nourish parish life through events, worship, leadership, and outreach
- **P.A.C.K.**, help feed local children in need
- **P.A.C.K. Fancy Nancy**, support St. John's girls size-6 closet at P.A.C.K.'s Boutique
- **Stephen Ministry**, learn how, with training, you can care for someone during a crisis
- **Women of St. John's**, propel the mission of St. John's through numerous opportunities

The Feast of St. Michael & All Angels
Noon Tuesday, Sept. 29, Chapel
Plan to join us for Holy Communion.

Michaelmas Sunday, Oct. 4
11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Brass

Would you like to hear special brass music during our 11 a.m. service? Please consider contributing to our brass fund! Make checks payable to St. John's Church with "brass" in the memo, and add a note of thanksgiving or memorial for Sunday's Parish Paper.

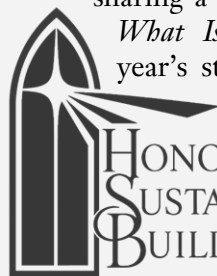
4 p.m. Choral Evensong for Michaelmas

The Choir of Girls and Schola will sing Choral Evensong for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, with a remembrance for first responders. Following the liturgy, there will be a reception with games in the Mall for youth and the opportunity to greet first responders of our community who work to keep us safe. Plan to attend and enjoy the beauty of this historic Anglican tradition.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

September 20th – October 31st

Our Stewardship Campaign kicks off this Sunday, Sept. 20, and runs through Saturday, Oct. 31. This is a time for us to reflect on the use of our own gifts in the service of Christ and his Church. Pledge cards are being mailed and will also be available at the Church door. Additionally, we will be



sharing a series of videos highlighting *What Is Stewardship?* and on this year's stewardship theme of *Honor, Sustain, and Build.*

*"For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also."*
— Matthew 6:21

Men of St. John's

Annual Meeting

Featuring a presentation by Chuck Watson,
geophysicist and Director of Research
Development at Enki Research.



September 23, 2026
5:30 pm
Green-Meldrim House

HOPE HAVEN

VOLUNTEER TRAINING



Friday, Oct. 16, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Cranmer Hall, 3rd Floor

Learn how you can make a difference for people living with dementia. **Sign-up by Oct. 11th.**

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

The nursery (infants to three-year-olds) is available on the 1st floor of Cranmer Hall from 8:45 a.m. until after the 11 a.m. service.

8 a.m. Said Holy Communion, Church
breakfast in Cranmer Hall after 8 a.m. service

Introit: Psalm 71, BCP pp. 425–426

The Collect, BCP p. 212

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP p. 212–213

9 a.m. Family Morning Prayer, Church

10 a.m. All Ages Sunday School, Cranmer Hall

Note: Fr. Dunbar's class will not meet this Sunday.

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist, Church/Online

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. Austin O. Kennedy

11 a.m. Mr. Edwin H. Culver

Ushers

Mr. Mark D. Stevens

Mr. Joseph R. Ross (Rusty)

Choir

9 a.m. Choir of Girls

11 a.m. Schola Choir

Chancel Society

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)

Mrs. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan

Mrs. John C. Wylly (Margaret)

FAITH + FICTION | OCT. 7

5:30 p.m., Green-Meldrim House

Join us next month to discuss selections from
Gimpel the Fool, by Isaac Bashevis Singer.

reactive or opportunistic, but it may also be transgressive and destructive—reveling in its defiance of any objective order of good. *Ours* is the age of *amnesia*. Yet people without historical memory do not become free of inherited assumptions. They simply become more captive to the assumptions of the present, because they have lost the perspective from which those assumptions might be questioned.

That is particularly dangerous for the Church. A Church without memory may retain its Scriptures, creeds, liturgies, buildings and institutions, while gradually forgetting what they mean and why they matter. And once their rationale has been forgotten, they begin to seem arbitrary—and can easily be discarded. That is why thinking about the Anglican Future begins with Anglican Memory. We do not look backward because we want to live in the past. We look backward because we want to move intelligently into the future. Deep memory gives us perspective on the present and enlarges our imagination of what the future might be.

St. John's has a particular part to play in this work. In many respects, this parish has become a reservoir of Anglican memory: in its Prayer Book worship, its theological inheritance, its music and architecture, and its habits of parish life. But a reservoir is not meant merely to store water. It exists so that what it receives can give life. If we have been entrusted with a rich memory, therefore, the question is not simply how we preserve it. The question is what that memory enables us to see, to choose, and to do now. That is where memory becomes identity—and identity becomes mission. —GGD

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP STUDY

Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Mary Sprague's Home

Starting on Monday, Oct. 12, women of the parish and their friends are invited to a Bible study on the Gospel of Mark in Mary Sprague's home. Study questions will be distributed on the first day. Prepare for the first session by reading Mark 1:1-34.