

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 46

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

October 11, 2026

POWER, WISDOM, AND VIRTUE

The reports of the attack aboard flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv last week were riveting. Two hours into the flight, the Omani-Syrian co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami attacked Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian national, with the emergency crash axe kept in the cockpit, with a likely intention to crash the plane in the desert or in Israel. In the struggle, the aircraft plunged into a near vertical descent. Amazingly, it did not disintegrate, despite the terrific strains imposed on its structure. Equally amazing, though bleeding profusely from multiple wounds, Captain Machchhar managed to unlock the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew to overpower his attacker. Additional pilots travelling aboard helped bring the aircraft under control and it landed safely. All one hundred and seventy passengers survived.

The attack is being treated as a terrorist act, and the co-pilot was known to browse radical Islamist websites. Worryingly, this information was not shared or sought by security services of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and even Israel. Individual malice and institutional weakness almost led to disaster. There is a parable here about technology, institutional safeguards, and individual virtue. Technology places extraordinary powers at our disposal. An airplane carries large numbers people across great distances – yet, as we know from 9/11, it can be turned into a weapon of mass destruction. Even the emergency axe, provided to save lives, became an instrument of attack. That is why technology requires sound institutions. Recruitment, training, security checks, maintenance, and the sharing of information are all ways of making powerful machines safe to use.

But the failure to vet the co-pilot is a warning. Rules protect us only when people conscientiously carry them out. Institutions require individual virtue:

honesty in reporting danger, diligence in investigating it, prudence in entrusting responsibility, and courage when an emergency comes. The wounded captain's determination, the passengers' readiness to intervene, and the other pilots' professional competence worked together to avert disaster. Their actions also depended upon the aircraft remaining flyable under such extreme conditions. Its survival testifies to the work of engineers, technicians, instructors, and standards of safety set for them under law. Behind the extraordinary courage of a few stands the ordinary conscientiousness of many.

Populists tilt against institutions, and elitists dismiss individual virtue, but we need both, and even more so now, given the perils of emerging technology. Artificial intelligence has grabbed the headlines, but it is not the only technology that could be harnessed to murderous malice or sheer recklessness. Advances in quantum computing could break much of the encryption on which confidential communications and digital security depend. Experiments in mirror biology might produce self-replicating mirror organisms that could evade natural immune defences. Increasing our technological power does not necessarily improve our judgment or discipline our ambitions. Even without deliberate malice, competitive pressure and institutional complacency can put others at risk. We need institutions capable of testing claims, sharing warnings, enforcing standards, and assigning responsibility without ideological bias. We also need individuals in those institutions with the honesty to acknowledge limitations and the courage to hold back when necessary rather than plunge ahead.

What I have written here is just common sense – though common sense can be overlooked when the intoxications of power, fear of losing out, or partisan animosity are warping judgment. How can Christians

Church Office: 1 West Macon St, 31401(912) 232-1251
 Bishop of GA..... The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue
 Rector The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar
 Associate Rector..... The Rev. Jonathan Jameson
 The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired] (931) 327-5489
 Hon. Assisting Priest.....Rev. J. Patrick Hunt
 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 CeremoniesMr. 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. Lo-
 gan (Meta), Chancel Society: Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan
 and Mrs. Linda H. Pounds; President, Men of St. John's:
 Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

HOPE HAVEN EVENTS

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2:30–3:15 p.m.

Dementia-Friendly Evening Prayer, Chapel

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 4–5:30 p.m.

Serving Hope – Meal Preparation

1st Floor, Cranmer Hall, Kitchen

Friday, Oct. 16, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.



**Volunteer Training, Sign up by
 Oct. 11th at SavannahRespite.com
 or QR Code, 3rd Floor, Cranmer Hall**

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 10:45–11:45 a.m.

Dementia Caregiver Support Group

3rd Floor, Cranmer Hall

Thursday, Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Caregiver Education Program, Cranmer Hall

SavannahRespite.com

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Week of Trinity 19

Online Morning Prayer

8:15 a.m. Monday to Friday

Monday, October 12: Columbus Day

The church office is closed today.

Tuesday, October 13

9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

2:30 p.m. *Dementia-Friendly*

Evening Prayer, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, October 14

9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

9 p.m. *Compline*, Church

Thursday, October 15

9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion, Chapel

Friday, October 16

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Saturday, October 17

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, October 18: Trinity 20

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

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

9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church

10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*, Cranmer & Chapel

11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church/Online

4 p.m. *Music on Madison Square – The Charlotte*

Master Chorale, Church

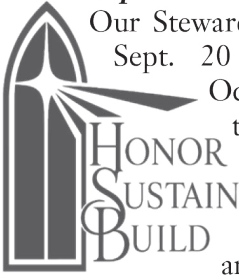
VESTRY NOMINATIONS OPEN

Members of St. John's Church are encouraged to submit nominations in a sealed envelope to the Rector or to any member of this year's Vestry Nominating Committee: Beverley Reynolds, Janet Morris, Doug McManamy and Wiley Wasden III. Nominees must be communicants in good standing (for at least 3 years).

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

September 20th – October 31st

Our Stewardship Campaign launched Sept. 20 and will run through 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 were mailed and will also be available at the Church door.



Scan to Donate Online. →



The Anglican Relief
and Development Fund®

ARDF Collection: Sunday, Oct. 11th

This Sunday we will have a special collection for the Anglican Relief & Development Fund during our services. Our donations help empower local Anglican leaders in the Global South.

Two New Women's Small Group Studies Beginning in October

Starting Monday, Oct. 12th

Skidaway Island Women's Small Group Study

Mondays from 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Gospel of Mark lead by Mary Sprague
in her home on Skidaway Island.

Starting Tuesday, Oct. 13th

Ardsley Park Women's Small Group Study

Tuesdays from 5:30–7:00 p.m.

6-Week Study of the *Thankful Living Series* at
Patti Victor's home in Ardsley Park.

Social gathering 5:30–6 p.m. & study 6–7 p.m.

Please contact the Church Office to receive
more details and register for either study.



MUSIC ON MADISON SQUARE

The Charlotte Master Chorale

Enjoy this spare and luminous performance of
Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang's poor
hymnal. Purchase tickets at StJohnsSav.org/mms.

October 18, 2026 | 4PM

325 Bull St. Savannah, Georgia



Anglicanism faces real challenges.

Yet possesses remarkable resources for the future.

The Anglican Future

A Three-Part Forum on Memory,
Identity, and Mission

Sunday, Oct. 25 & Nov. 15

5–7 p.m. | Green-Meldrim House

No RSVP Required | Childcare available

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers this Sunday are given to the
glory of God, and in honor of, and in loving
memory of Jane Hass Philbrick,
by Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Harlander and family.
And in loving memory of Thomas C. McCay, Sr.,
Lillian Helms McCay and Dr. Leslie Wilkes,
by Mick and Connie McCay.

And on the occasion of the baptisms of
Elliot Gonzales Morris on
Saturday, October 10th, 2026.

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

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 78 (1–17), BCP pp. 434–435

The Collects, BCP p. 215

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 216–217

9 a.m. Family Holy Communion, Church

10 a.m. All Ages Sunday School,
Cranmer Hall & St. Mary's Chapel

11 a.m. Morning Prayer, Church/Online

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Green-Meldrim House

MICHAELMAS BRASS WAS GIVEN

by Mrs. Robert P. Helms,

Dr. Christopher & Mrs. Laurie Osteen,

and Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. Timothy F. Corley

11 a.m. Mr. Patrick Worsham

Ushers

Mr. Frank Somoskey

Mr. Mark D. Stevens

Choir

11 a.m. Schola

Coffee Hour

Mrs. William S. Burdell (Mary)

Chancel Society

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

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

Dolly Chisholm

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan

Ms. Linda Pounds

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Culver and Family

help to make sure it prevails? In issues of public policy, the church is a small voice – and too often wastes its breath in absurdly grandiose pronouncements (here's looking at you, General Convention). Where we do *not* waste our breath is in prayer for the civil authorities. When we ask God to “fill them with the love of truth and righteousness”, and to “make them ever mindful of thy calling to serve this people in thy fear”, we are bearing witness to the individual virtues upon which sound institutions and our common life depend. We are bearing witness that authority is a trust and that those who bear it are accountable for its exercise. That's not wasted breath. Yet what we are asking of God for the civil authorities, we must also be asking of him for ourselves. Our witness to moral responsibility is inadequate if we do not subject ourselves to the moral law ourselves. We must learn not only to tell the truth, but to hear it; to accept correction, restrain selfish desire, keep promises, and seek our neighbour's good. In these pages I have recently criticized the moralism of our culture – but there is an equal and opposite error, one arising in populist reaction against progressive moralism, and that is the error of antinomian (lawless) moral indifference. The pendulum swings from one destructive extreme to the other, and I think we are a long way from finding the middle way of wisdom. From the legalism *and* license, from moral blindness and degraded institutions, Good Lord, deliver us.

– GGD

St. John's Outreach Partnership

The Outreach Ministries Committee is pleased to announce Melanie Shepherd and Winslett Watson as their co-chairs for our 3-year partnership with Hope Haven. They will work under the guidance of Cathy Baxter, Director, to create new volunteer opportunities and programs in which our parishioners can participate. The first opportunity is the new “Serving Hope” food prep afternoon offered once a month to prepare food for Hope Haven members and volunteers. Please reach out to Melanie or Winslett to join this and other Hope Haven events or contact the Church office.