

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 41 No. 37

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

August 8, 2010

## PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Monday to Friday** – *Morning Prayer* 8:15 a.m.

*Evening Prayer* 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday** – *Litany and Sung Eucharist* 10 a.m.

### PRUDENCE AND PRESUMPTION

The parables of Jesus unfailingly raise controversy, and this is I think exactly what they were designed to do. They are not neatly obvious pieties of the kind you find in “uplifting” devotional works. Rather, they get under your skin. One of these is the Parable of the Unrighteous Steward (Luke 16:1-9), anciently the gospel lesson for Trinity 9, which provoked questions from a number of you this past Sunday.

Like many of Christ’s parables, it makes its point by shocking the reader: for the good example Jesus puts before us is in all probability a wicked man. Scholars debate about the precise interpretation of details in the story, but the overall drift of the story is not in dispute: faced with losing his job for abusing his position, a steward or manager calls in his master’s debtors, discounts the debts they owed his master, and thereby secures a comfortable retirement for himself courtesy of his master’s grateful creditors. Surprisingly, the master “commends” the unrighteous steward, “because he had done *wisely*” – that is, he admires the shrewdness with which the steward has played his cards to meet the crisis of imminent

dismissal.

What, however, is it that *Jesus* finds to commend in this story? It is not cheating which Jesus commends: what he singles out as worthy of our imitation is the wisdom by which the steward, faced with a day of reckoning, used his present opportunities to secure his future welfare: “for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light”. In their generation, that is, within the limited horizon of their worldly expectation, the worldly minded act wisely, with realistic foresight as to the ends to be sought and practical shrewdness concerning the means necessary to attain those ends. The same wisdom is necessary for the children of light. What Jesus is commending to us in this surprising way is the cardinal virtue of *prudence*. The parable shows that prudence is not (as popularly supposed) a kind of cautious, even timid, calculation of a worldly kind, but a bold realism as to spiritual ends and means.

“The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light”. If the “children of light” were as prudent as the children of this world, they would also recognize that a day of reckoning is at hand (and is ever at

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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.

Those who have been baptized and confirmed, or are ready and desirous to be confirmed, are admitted to the Holy Communion. In case of doubt, please consult the clergy.

**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:** [www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org)

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Mr. W. Barron Crawford III

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Ross Haire

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Julie Backus Smith by Bill Cathcart.

And in thanksgiving for St. John's Church, family, and friends by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. McDonald A. Fawcett, Mrs. Wynton J. Ezelle  
Mrs. Edwin H. Culver, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard  
Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff, Mrs. George Fawcett  
Mrs. John Reiter, Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00**  
**10:30** Oliver Maloney, John DeBacker  
Peter Stein, Lindsay Pindar  
Chris Dixon, Rion Hilliard

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. Joseph P. Sinclair III

**ADULT CLASS THIS SUNDAY—(CHAPEL)**

➤ David Noble's class does **not** meet in July and August. Class will resume September 12th.  
➤ Fr. Dunbar– Robert Crouse, "*Hope which does not disappoint*" – copies available from Church office)

**TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING**

**Men's Study and Discussion Groups**

**Tuesday** 6:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Study—  
(Parish House Dining Room, enter by Kitchen)  
**Thursday** 7 a.m. Bible Study (Reading Room)

**BAZAAR HAPPENINGS**

- **JANE'S CANNERS** meet Wednesdays in the Cranmer Hall kitchen immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion service. Call Jane Pressly 233-6551.
- Please remember as you are cleaning your closets to keep in mind the **White Elephant, Treasure Room, Books, etc. Storage is available.** Contact Leah Brunson 231-8911 or 398-1620. Written instructions for use of storage facility are available in the church office.
- We are also looking for contributions to the **Silent Auction.** (Parties, Vacation Destinations, Trips, Oriental Rugs, China, Gift Certificates, etc.).

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Thursday**

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Friday** 9 a.m.—12 noon

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

hand, nearer than you think): and they would lose no time in taking advantage of the means of grace now granted them by Christ in order to secure their future share in glory. Specifically, they would make use of the means of grace, the ministry of Word and Sacrament, to secure deliverance from sin and advance into righteousness and holiness of life. Here, the ancient epistle lesson for Trinity 9 (1 Corinthians 10:6-13, extended by Cranmer with the first five verses of the chapter), supplies a counter-example: the presumption, or reckless and unfounded confidence, of the children of Israel in the wilderness, who forfeited the grace of God (known by them in forms analogous to the Sacraments of the New Testament) by their reckless disobedience. "Murmuring" at the condition of obedience imposed on them by God, they "tempted Christ", putting his love for them to the test, by the allied sins of idolatry (spiritual adultery) and fornication (adultery in a literal form). "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" warns the Apostle.

Not this reckless presumption, but a prudent use of the means of grace, that must be the way through this world's wilderness towards the land of promise. The application of the principle which Jesus himself supplies is to the use of money: "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations". In crude terms, he is saying, Use the money you have on earth, to make yourselves friends in heaven. It is a wise steward who realizes that the right use of money secures not only worldly ends, but, in the service of faith, hope, and charity

toward God and neighbor, it also secures "everlasting habitations".

The details of the story itself suggest, however, another application: those who must know they must give account of themselves before the judgment seat of God would be wise to make friends now with their debtors by forgiving them their debts. Forgiveness may be costly: but anger though nurtured and cherished pays no dividends.

Be generous in the alms you give to relieve the needy, in the oblations you give for the work of the Gospel and the Church, and in the forgiveness whereby you put away the anger that devours.

GGD

#### **SAVANNAH TECH STUDENTS AT WORK IN THE GREEN MELDRIM HOUSE**

From late July to mid September nineteen Savannah Technical College students enrolled in its Historic Preservation program will be working with their instructor Stephen Hartley on weekday afternoons at the Green Meldrim House on plaster repair, paint analysis, and brick repair. This hands-on experience is part of their classwork this summer. This cooperative effort was arranged by the Property Committee Chairman, Gilbert Wells, and Property Manager Sinisa Domazet.

#### **This Sunday 9:30 Adult Class (Chapel):**

**ROBERT CROUSE –**

#### **"HOPE WHICH DOES NOT DISAPPOINT"**

The response to Fr Crouse's "Images of Pilgrimage" was so positive, we are going to look at another essay of his: "Hope Which Does Not Disappoint: the Path to Genuine Renewal". Copies will be available in the class, and from the church office during the week.

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity (The Transfiguration of Our Lord) August 8, 2010

**8:00—HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel ..... 247, 203, 248  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**9:30-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (Cranmer Hall)**

**9:30-10:15— ADULT & Confirmed YOUTH CLASSES (Chapel)**

**9:30-10:15—Pre-School through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Program (Cranmer Hall)**

**10:30—Activities for Pre-School & Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)**

**Jr. Choir—grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 4th**

**10:30 — SUNG EUCHARIST and SERMON**

HYMN # 287 *Give Praise and Glory unto God*.....Elbing

**ANTE-COMMUNION**

Collect for Purity .....67

Decalogue .....68

KYRIE ELEISON: #710 ..... Healey Willan

Collect and Epistle..... 247, 204, 248

HYMN #119 *O Wondrous Type* ..... Wareham

The Holy Gospel .....248

The Nicene Creed.....71

HYMN #346 *Fairest Lord Jesus*..... St. Elizabeth

Children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.

SERMON ..... Fr. Dunbar

**OFFERTORY**

Sentences

ANTHEM:*Then Shall the Righteous Shine, fr. Elijah*..... Felix Mendelssohn

Matthew Jones, tenor

Presentation of Alms #139

Prayer for the State of the Church.....74

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation, Confession and Absolution.....75

Sursum Corda #734, Proper Preface .....76, 77

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711 ..... Healey Willan

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 # 207 *Here, O My Lord*..... Langran (#433)

MOTET: *O How Sweet*..... Healey Willan

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) .....83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713..... Healey Willan

The Blessing (*Kneeling*).....84

HYMN #396 *The Church's One Foundation*.....Aurelia

ORGAN: *Psalm XIX*..... Benedetto Marcello

*Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 service.*

*If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

**12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel) same as 8:00**