

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 41 No. 43

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 19, 2010

## OF MOSQUES AND KORANS

In the current controversies about the Ground Zero mosque and the burning of the Koran by the Florida pastor there are undoubtedly many crude generalizations being tossed about like so much furniture in a bar-room brawl. But there is also, I think, a substantial question being asked that deserves careful consideration.

As others have pointed out, the question of what is lawful does not answer the question of whether it is right to do these things. In both cases St. Paul's principle applies: not all things that are lawful are expedient (1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23). As Father Ralston would say, you can do everything right and still not attain the good. The morality of actions is not settled by acting within one's legal rights.

It is undoubtedly lawful to burn the Koran (or the Bible) in the U. S. A.: but is it right? A decent respect for the peace and order of civil society – a good the Apostle urges us to pray for (1 Timothy 2:2) – argues against it. Civility, self-restraint, a decent respect for the convictions of our neighbours, have a claim upon our action. Yet the proposal to burn the Koran is defective morally in another way. It is cheap bravado to do so in Florida: to do so in a Muslim-majority country would be a real act of courage. The

cost of burning the Koran is likely to be paid by others – by the lynching of Christians in a Muslim-majority country, by assaults on N. A. T. O. troops in Afghanistan (or at home), by the radicalization of aggrieved Muslims.

The same Pauline principle applies to the proposal to build a Ground Zero mosque. While the proposal is undoubtedly lawful – just as Koran-burning is lawful – more than law is at stake. The spirit of civility which militates against Koran-burning also militates against building a mosque at Ground Zero. If the Pope saw fit to remove the Carthusian nunnery from the neighborhood of Auschwitz out of respect for well-founded Jewish sensitivities, Muslim leaders respectful of American sensitivities might find some other location for their project. It is hardly surprising that many would take offence at the promotion of Islam at a site of a terrorist act made in the name of Islam. If the aim of the project is (as declared) the reconciliation of America to Islam, then in its choice of site it has already failed.

Are non-Muslim Americans over-reacting? Are we dealing with irrational prejudice? However excessive in expression the protests may be, there is a rational and well-founded anxiety at their core, a rational anxiety which the predictable sermons about tolerance have missed. The tolerance which

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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. R. Gilbert Wells

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Henry D. Stevens IV

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Captain Harry E. Jennings by Mr. and Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Nolan and Alex.

And in loving memory of Mr. Andrew Gay Labrot by Mrs. Andrew Gay Labrot and his children.

And in memory of loved ones by Mrs. William W. Chisholm.

And in memory of loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Warren L. Traver.

And in memory of her mother, Jo Francis Deal by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Derst III.

And in celebration of Mrs. Nancy Loraine Windler's 104<sup>th</sup> birthday by the Gilbreaths.

The flowers in the baptism font are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Miss Louise Daniel by E. William Thomson and C. Robert Thomson.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell  
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. Philip F. Kirk  
Ms. Anne H. Minglehoff, Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr.  
Ms. Jeanne H. McMillan, Mrs. William T. Moore

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** Andrew Smith  
**10:30** Oliver Maloney  
Lawson Turner, Clayton Compton  
Rion Hilliard, Peter Stein  
John Osborne, Chris Dixon

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. David C. Barrow III

**ADULT CLASS THIS SUNDAY—(CHAPEL)**

- Fr. O' Brien – **Foundations III: The Old Testament** (Chapel)
- Jack Wray **A New Message for Isaiah** (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- David Noble – **Canterbury Tales** (Reading Rm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**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** Jane Pressly 233-6551.
- **White Elephant, Treasure Room, Books,** etc. **Storage is available.** Contact Leah Brunson 231-8911 or 398-1620.
- **Silent Auction.** Sarah Ross 655-6966 or Gennie Leigh Sumner 657-6221.
- **Waitresses** contact Jessica Osborne 898-0202.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

western societies like that of the U. S. A. are able to extend to diverse cultural, religious, and racial groups, is granted on condition that the members of such groups respect the civil peace and order of the host society. Where that assurance is missing, the foundations of tolerance are undermined. Given the pattern of terrorist attacks by Muslims acting in the name of Islam, including Muslims who are citizens of western countries, it is not an irrational anxiety for non-Muslim Americans to ask what it is about Islam that makes some of its adherents susceptible to terrorist ideology. Bland assurances that Islam is inherently peace-loving—like highly spiritualized interpretations of *jihad* - do not go very far when there is plenty of evidence that significant numbers of Muslims—including American Muslims—take very different views. If moderate Muslims wish to reconcile America to Islam, they would do better to concentrate their efforts on delegitimizing terrorist violence in the name of Islam.

Still, there is another basis for anxiety which I do not know has been addressed, perhaps because it is even more worrisome: and it is precisely the fact that it is the experience of westernization and modernization that turns some Muslims (including citizens of western countries) to terrorism. One might well ask whether such terrorist ideologies arise where wounded Muslim pride is infected by western pathologies of nihilism, anarchism, fascism and Marxism. The recently-coined term “Islamofascism” may not be far off the mark. In that perspective, something more than sermons about tolerance – or for that matter, individual freedom – will be necessary. Society must be able

to articulate what higher good is served by tolerance and liberty. GGD

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH –  
STUDY AND DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study**, “Seeking him”. Wednesdays 11am (except first Sunday of each month) Cranmer Hall. Books are \$14.50 ea. and may be purchased from the Church office. For information, call Marsha Berger 598-0396 or Karen Perrie 897-5174.

**Thursday Morning Reading and Discussion**: on Barry Spurr’s “Anglo-Catholic in religion: T. S. Eliot and Christianity”. After Morning Prayer in the Reading Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Cranmer Hall). For information, call Fr O’ Brien.

**WELCOME TO ST. JOHN’S:**

Newcomers and inquirers at St. John’s are invited to learn more about St. John’s in an informal discussion.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**—*Faith: What We Believe*—Fr. Dunbar.  
9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room, above the Chapel.

**PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK**

**Monday—Friday**

**8:15 a.m.**—Morning Prayer

**5:30 p.m.**—Evening Prayer

**Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**St. Matthew, Apostle**

**8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

Holy Communion

**Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**8:15 a.m.**—Morning Prayer

**10:00 a.m.**—Holy Communion

**5:30 p.m.**—Evensong

**6:00p.m.**—Supper

**6:30—7:20 p.m.**—Class: The Old Testament for Adults—*The Promise of Redemption and The Fathers of Faith.*

**8:00—HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel ..... 212  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

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

**9:30-10:15—Classes for Adults & Confirmed Youth**  
*(Chapel, Cranmer Hall and Conference Room)*

**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—4**

**10:30—MORNING PRAYER and SERMON**

CARILLON

HYMN #518 *Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor* ..... St. Leonard

Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer ..... Prayer Book 3-7

Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8

VENITE (Hymnal #609) ..... 9

Psalm #86 ..... 447

First Lesson: Ephesians 3:13 ..... 212

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS (Hymnal #615, 619) ..... 10

Second Lesson: St. Luke 17:11 ..... 212

BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #638) ..... 14

Apostles' Creed ..... 15

Versicles and Responses ..... 16

Collect for the Day ..... 212

Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace ..... 17-20

HYMN #314 *We Sing of God* ..... Magdalen College

*Jr. Choir children will exit following the crucifer.*

THE SERMON ..... Fr. Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Thou Wilt Keep Him* ..... Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #282 *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven* ..... Lauda Anima

ORGAN: *Toccata in F# minor* ..... Dietrich Buxtehude

*Everyone is invited to attend a 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**