PLEASE LET US TALK ABOUT POLITICS

By the Very Rev. Sam Candler
Dean of the Cathedral

Something is wrong with the way in which many of us are being forced to talk about politics these days. Or, I should say, something is wrong with the way in which many of us are being asked not to talk about politics.

It may be that faithful churchgoers have always been careful about how to talk about politics in church. But, recent attitudes seem more strident and combative. The tone of much recent political conversation appears to have been set by forces who want the public forever pitted against each other. Those forces are certain politicians, of course; but those forces are also certain media outlets, and certain pollsters, and even certain churches. Those forces are also social media algorithms, who show us on our devices mostly only that information with which they figure we already agree.

It is hard to venture any political opinion at all, without being branded a certain way, and then being ridiculed by those who are oppositely branded. Thus, many even-minded people have been asked, over and over again, simply to be quiet at family gatherings, or even at church gatherings. “Let’s not talk about politics,” our friends politely ask.

There is something wrong with this. For one, we are giving up our faithful responsibility, and our faithful desire, for education and informed opinion. Surely one of the unfortunate features of our present political landscape is lack of education. I mean this, of course, on both the right and the left, from both the so-called conservative and so-called liberal side of our political debates.

We have always had a political left and a political right in our culture, and in our church. And, for the most part, the Christian Church—certainly the established and seasoned and catholic (small “c”) denominations—have been places where conservative and liberal members alike have enjoyed the challenge and responsibility of relating faith and politics. But even those seasoned, “small-c catholic,” churches seem to be losing that comprehensive position.

I realize, and understand, that institutions are changing, if not collapsing. The traditional church is often named as one of those collapsing institutions, though I disagree with that assessment. But I worry about other “institutions,” too, which are not so easily named. In my opinion, traditional political parties sure look to be changing even more than the church. And what about the fine institutions of law enforcement and civic clubs? And what about our entertainment institutions – movies and television and internet and professional sports businesses? They are all types of institutions who are changing dramatically.

But the institution, or cultural assumption, which I particularly consider is education. Our institutions and expectations and assumptions of education—public and private—are changing. In particular, I wonder how much our citizens appreciate and desire a full, comprehensive, and challenging education.

The quickness and speed with which trivial “factoids” are delivered to our screens and devices works against the need that truth has for time. Yes, much truth—real truth—takes time. Truth takes time to receive fully, and it takes time to deliver fully. Fourth graders do not master American history, though they can appreciate elements of it. Educated citizens learn past the fourth grade level, and they actually learn to appreciate other points of view—even the uneducated points of view. Christians learn early the basics of our faith, but we take lifetimes to be fully formed by that faith. It takes a lifetime to be educated.

continued on back page ...
This SUNDAY
OCTOBER 22, 2017 · The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 24, Year A
Exodus 33:12-23 · Psalm 99 · 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 · Matthew 22:15-22

7:45 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, MIKELL CHAPEL
Celebrant and Preacher: Canon Cathy Zappa

8:45 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, CATHEDRAL
Celebrant: Dean Sam Candler
Preacher: Canon Wallace Marsh
Cathedral Staff Singers:
Craig Phillips, Jubilate Deo (Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta)
Christopher Tye, Give almes of thy goods

9 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, MIKELL CHAPEL
Celebrant and Preacher: Canon Cathy Zappa

11:15 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, CATHEDRAL
Celebrant: Dean Sam Candler
Preacher: Canon Wallace Marsh
Cathedral Choir:
Craig Phillips, Jubilate Deo (Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta)
Christopher Tye, Give almes of thy goods

11:15 A.M. LA SANTA EUCHARISTÍA, MIKELL CHAPEL
Celebrant: Canon Cathy Zappa
Preacher: Deacon Juan Sandoval

4 P.M. CHORAL EVENSONG, CATHEDRAL
THE FEAST OF ST. JAMES OF JERUSALEM, OBSERVED
Celebrant and Preacher: Canon Carolynne Williams
Cathedral Schola and Choristers:
Craig Phillips, Preces and Responses (St. David’s, Roswell)
Charles Wood in E flat, No. 1
Charles Wood, Expectans expectavi
John Ireland, Greater love hath no man

The CATHEDRAL of ST. PHILIP

The Very Rev. Samuel G. Candler, Dean
Dale Adelmann, Ph.D., Canon for Music
The Rev. C. Wallace Marsh IV, Canon for Pastoral Care and Worship
The Rev. George M. Maxwell, Jr., Vicar
The Rev. Catherine Zappa, Canon for Spirituality and Mission
The Rev. John William Harkins III, Ph.D., Priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon Juan Sandoval, Deacon for Hispanic Ministries
The Rev. Theophus “Thee” Smith, Ph.D., Priest Associate
The Rev. Carolynne G. Williams, Canon Associate for Pastoral Care and Elder Ministry
Mary Caroline Cravens, Senior Warden
Doug O’Bryan, Junior Warden

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PRESENTATION ON HAITI MISSION-PILGRIMAGE
Child Hall
Join us for a special, intergenerational presentation on our mission-pilgrimage to Haiti this past summer, led by Cathedral youth, Canon Cathy Zappa, and Maggie Paul, director of youth ministries.

LIVING FAITH
Room 120
Join Canons Wallace Marsh and Cathy Zappa most Sunday as we explore what it means to live out our faith through conversation with scripture and tradition, contemporary books, and, most important, one another. This class will not meet this Sunday, October 22 or next Sunday, October 29. Participants are invited to join the special speakers in Child Hall.

BIBLICAL GREEK
Room 356
Beginning Biblical Greek is offered on a drop-in basis most Sunday mornings at 10:10 a.m., but will not meet this Sunday, October 22. This morning class will resume next Sunday, October 29. Continuing Biblical Greek classes are offered on Sundays from 1:15–2:45 p.m., including this Sunday, for anyone who wants to learn the basics of translation using grammar aids, lexicons, and commentaries. For more information, contact the Rev. Dr. Thee Smith at thee.smith@emory.edu.

TRANSITIONS: NAVIGATING LIFE CHANGES WITH CONFIDENCE AND GRACE
Walthour Library
Change can be difficult and even frightening, but periods of transformation and transition in life also present opportunities for growth and reflection. Canon Carolynne Williams leads this six-week class geared toward anyone navigating life changes, regardless of age.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY
Room 122
Jim Bingham and Gordon Mathis lead an ongoing small group Bible Study focusing on a particular book of the Bible for several months at a time. This year, we are reading the book of Genesis. For more information, please contact Jim Bingham at 404-373-3273 or binghamjim@bellsouth.net.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONFIRMATION CLASS
Confirmation in the Episcopal Church is a “mature public affirmation of faith and commitment to the responsibilities of Baptism.”
If you are new to the Episcopal Church or simply have a desire to find out more about the Church and this Cathedral parish, come enjoy dinner and learn with us Wednesdays from 7–8:30 p.m. in Room 120. This class is taught by members of the clergy and Clayton Harrington. To sign up, contact Canon Wallace Marsh, wmarsh@stphilipscathedral.org or 404-365-1094.

October 18: Baptism and Confirmation (Canon Wallace Marsh)
October 25: Bible (Canon Cathy Zappa)
November 1: Homeless Requiem (Outreach Opportunity)
November 8: History (Canon George Maxwell)
November 15: Angles of Anglicanism (Dean Sam Candler)
November 22: Thanksgiving Break (No Class)
November 29: Worship and Prayer (Canon Cathy Zappa)
December 6: Church (Canon Wallace Marsh)
December 10: Confirmation Service (4 p.m. in the Cathedral)
PARENTING YOUTH SERIES
This fall, the Cathedral youth ministry is hosting a dinner-and-speaker series for parents. Please join us in the Gould Room from 5:30–7 p.m. for good food, fellowship, and informative presentations on raising youth.

While parents are meeting during each of the three sessions, Meg Jones will lead EYC, so you can bring your 6th–8th graders and make it a family night at church! Please RSVP to each session to Maggie Paul, mpaul@stphilips cathedral.org.

**Sunday, October 22**—“The things that matter most are often the things we focus on least: What should our priorities be as we parent today’s teen?” with Dr. Mark Crawford ($10/person)

Dr. Mark Crawford is a clinical psychologist who, in addition to his private practice, consults to the Westminster Schools and Pace Academy and is a well-known speaker on adolescents and their families.

**Sunday, October 29**—“Navigating the Empty Nest: Loss and Opportunity in the Family Cycle,” with Dr. Bill Harkins ($10/person)

In addition to his duties as priest associate at the Cathedral, the Rev. Bill Harkins is also Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA; and he is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. He is also a father, who recently has navigated the empty nest himself!

**Sunday, November 5**—“Raising Youth in the Christian Faith and Church,” with Canon Cathy Zappa, Maggie Paul, and Clayton Harrington (no charge)

Join us for an informative conversation about how the Cathedral approaches youth ministry and Sunday School, how you can nurture your children’s faith, and how you can respond to difficult questions that they raise.

MUSIC
ATLANTA CAMERATA TO PERFORM ON SUNDAY
This Sunday, October 22 at 3:15 p.m., we welcome the Atlanta Camerata to the Cathedral’s Sunday Afternoon Recital Series. Consisting of Olga McNeill on flute, Randy Cono on violin, Julie Rosseter on viola, and George Butler on cello, the quartet will perform original works or transcriptions by Vivaldi, Bach, Gluck, Franck, Debussy, and Mozart, among others. Don’t miss the opportunity to hear this wonderful local chamber ensemble in our marvelous acoustic.

Atlanta Camerata
*Olga McNeill, flute; Randy Cono, violin; Julie Rosseter, viola; George Butler, cello*

Jean-Joseph Mouret, *Rondo*
Antonio Vivaldi, “Largo” from *Winter Concerto*

Johann Sebastian Bach, first movement from *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*
Christoph Gluck, *Menuet*
J.S. Bach—Charles Gounod, *Ave Maria*
Antonio Corelli, *Adagio*
César Franck, *Panis angelicus*

Claude Debussy, *Syrinx*
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Alleluia*
George Frideric Handel, *La Refouissance*
We are excited to welcome the following agencies, who will be providing a foot care clinic, health clinic, and other support services in the Atrium before the service:

- Buckhead Christian Ministry
- Church of the Common Ground
- Crossroads Community Ministries
- First Step Staffing
- Georgia Justice Project
- Mercy Care
- Project Community Connections

THANK YOU TO THE EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MIDDLE AND NORTH GEORGIA FOR THE SMALL ACTS OF CHARITY GRANT THAT IS HELPING COVER TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES FOR OUR GUESTS.

CHILDREN’S BOOK DRIVE

For the third year the Cathedral Book Store is collecting new books for the children at the Homeless Requiem, the children at the Arrendale Prison Children's Center, and the young people at Covenant House. With a goal of 250 books, donated books will be distributed to children attending the Homeless Requiem on November 1, and in December to the other groups. Books are available to purchase at the Cathedral Book Store during regular business hours or in the Atrium from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Sundays throughout October. Please help each of these beautiful children receive a wonderful new book this year!

EMMA’S CLOSET

Children’s Ministries is collecting new or gently used coats and shoes for children in assorted sizes. They will be used at a store during the Homeless Requiem. There will be no charge to the children of homeless parents, but they can experience the fun of selecting the coat and shoes they like best for the cooler season approaching. For more information, contact Lisa McNamara, lmcnamara@stphilipscathedral.org

PAJAMA DAY!

Kids, bring a coat or shoes for Emma’s Closet this Sunday, October 22, and you can wear your pajamas to church!

SOCK DRIVE

The youth of the Cathedral are collecting socks to distribute to our guests at the Homeless Requiem. Bring new socks of all sizes to the Atrium on Sundays throughout October to help our guests keep warm this winter. For more information, contact Meg Jones, mjones@stphilipscathedral.org.
Dear Anna,

I would love to meet your chemistry professor. It is funny that he believes in God, while your religion professor does not. But, I’m not surprised. Judging by the story that he told you about the sense of awe he experienced on seeing the rainbow over the ocean, your chemistry professor sounds like he has a poet’s sense of wonder that has taken him on a long journey of discovery.

Scientists often become scientists, I think, because they are curious about how things work. Yet, it is not unusual for their explorations to lead them to ask larger questions about why those things even exist. These are questions about ultimate meaning that the scientific method can’t answer.

Your chemistry professor reminds me of Alister McGrath, a professor of science and religion at Oxford University who has written a number of books about the relationship between science and faith.

As McGrath tells his story, he realized that he needed a more expansive way of seeing things after reading about the history and philosophy of science. He began to realize how often theory is not completely determined by the data, how often universally accepted theories turn out to be wrong, and how difficult it really is to determine the best explanation of the observations made in even a well-devised study.

He found the “bigger picture” he was looking for when he came to believe in God. He describes his conversion by quoting C. S. Lewis: “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it, I see everything else.” In other words, his faith gave him the lens he needed to bring more things into focus.

I see the workings of a similar faith in your professor’s questions. I hadn’t thought, for example, about how mysterious it is that we know what we know. It really is amazing that mathematicians conceive of abstract formulas that chemists and physicists later find in the world around us, or that people come up with theories that predict things that haven’t yet been discovered.

Perhaps it’s true that we know these things because we are made in the image of the one who created them.

In the end, science allows us to exist, but as McGrath says (and I suspect your professor knows), it’s faith that gives us life.

Your affectionate uncle,
Ames

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United Thank OFFERING

GIVE THANKS WITH UTO

Every day we have so many blessings that come our way. Let us rejoice and give thanks this fall by participating in our Cathedral’s United Thank Offering (UTO). UTO has been a tradition since 1889 and supports the missions and ministries of the Episcopal Church. Every cent collected fulfills diocesan grant requests, and each year over $2.5 million is received through UTO offerings. Here are some ways you and your family can participate:

- Pick up a Blue Box this Sunday in the Atrium and place it in a prominent place in your home, like the kitchen counter or wherever you keep your keys and wallet.
- Every night during dinner, go around the table and share one thing for which you are truly grateful that day. Pass around the Blue Box and insert some coins or dollars to express your gratitude.
- When saying prayers in the morning or at night, make a ritual offering to thank God for being there to hear your prayers.
- Let the children put a coin in the box for every accomplishment they can share from their day at school.
- Ask every family member to make a donation in thanks for a person they love who has brought joy into their lives.

Ingathering is **Sunday, November 19**. Having spent several weeks adding daily offerings of thanks to your Blue Box, on Saturday, November 18, you can open it and count your offerings. Write a check for your total amount, payable to the Cathedral of St. Philip (with UTO in the memo line), or make a contribution at the Atrium kiosk or online at stphilips cathedral.org/contribution. Then, take your empty Blue Box and keep the tradition alive at home until the spring ingathering day!
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED
FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR RECOVERING:
LONG TERM PRAYERS
Virginia Bicksler • Cornelia Bird • George Bird • John Blair • David W. Boone • Josh Borden • Pat Brinson • Kaye Cairney • Catherine Carson • Heather Clark • Ginny Collins • Joan Couch • Lawrence Cowart • Terry Dornbush • Sarah duBignon • Kitty Dukehart • Susan Dunn • Angela Ellis • Randy Farmer • Amy Feuss • Patty Gifford • Jane Hannah • Caroline Hatcher • Shirley Heermann • Richard Hill • Elaine Lyon • Robert and Aggie Maddox • David McCarthy • Carol McDonald • Elaine McEacharn • Georgia Meagher • Dick Miller • Carrick Mollenkamp • Charlie Neal • Marian Palmore • Walter Perrin • Brenda Pruitt • Garry Pryor • Jennifer Rankin • Pamela Reid • Emily Richardson • Agnes Elizabeth Robertson • Martin Ruegsegger • Jim Segars • Jeanne M. Smith • Joe K. Steele • Julie Sutton • Tommy Truesdale • Cindy West • Chandra Westafer • Hollis Youngner

FAMILY AND FRIENDS
Brenda Alonso • Gayle Ball • Bettina Bass • Rodger Beatty • David Boyd • Darrell Boyette • Joan Brooks • Keith Brooks • Beverly Brownlee • Meredith, Adam, and Leo Bugenske • Jake Cantrell • Denise Carlson • Andrew Clark • Else Snoop Cobb • Leonard Cobb • Faye Comer • Timothy Paul Condrey • Floyd Childs Cooper III • Bea Cowan • Lonieze Cranshaw • Gabe Crieger • Jackson Culbreth • Ashley Debelbot and Brenda Jones • Brenda Dickerson • Joshua Felder • Ann Carol Followill • Carleton Fuller • Tom Gardner • Susan Gill • Peggy Govan • Eudelle Lanier Graham • Darrell and Gail Grimmett • D. Louis Gruver, Jr. • Doyle Gunter • Dottie Gwynn • William Ham • Helen Hammond • Chris Hardy • Bobby Hearn • Carol Hardin Henderson • Greg Hentz • Liz Grant Hilton • Annemarie and Anete Jazic • Sun Ja Kim • Kelly Kolak • Lisa Krysiak • Margaret Winders Kuhn • Betty C. Lyons • Michael Majeski family • Pat Martin • Janie Mathis • Michelle Maxwell • Michael McClelland • Bonnie Shields McCormack • Anne McMullan • Darel Moe • Lyn Moore • Meg Moye • Andy Nelson • Barrett Nichols • Jay Orr • Carol Peterson • Betty and Bill Poole • Libby Powell • Margaret Robinson • Al Rogers • James Sands • Donald Schooley • Patricia Schooley • Logan Shanap • Michelle Simmons • Lara Smith Sitton • Gwendolyn Slack • Lyda Sorgini • Tina Susco • Carla Sweetwood • Hubert Tate, Sr. • John Titus • Janiece Townshend • Christi Vasquez • Peter Veverka • Nina Vila • Frank Villa • Ed Vogel • Meredith Wallace • Ron M. Wallace • Jacqueline Watkins • Caroline and John Westerhoff • Marion Wilson • Althea Wolf • Whit A. Wright • Patricia Young

ST. MARK’S GOSPEL PERFORMANCE
Actor Tom Bair will present an exciting storytelling performance of the entirety of The Gospel of St. Mark on Thursday, November 2 in Child Hall. Jointly sponsored by the Cathedral and the Diocese of Atlanta, the show will start at 5 p.m. and a reception will follow. Admission is free, but please register at stphilipscathedral.org/stmarks. This compelling and remarkable story is said to have been written down by St. Mark, but is attributed to St. Peter. It tells of Jesus's conflict with the religious and secular authorities of the time, his important teachings, his somewhat stormy, often humorous relationships with his disciples, his miraculous acts and above all, his unique sense of mission. This is “a riveting journey” to quote a recent article in the Episcopal Journal. Bair’s voice is “crystal-clear and his articulation holds one's interest throughout.” It is performed in the simple, elegant English prose of the King James Bible.

Tom Bair has appeared in dramatic roles on some of New York’s most prominent stages and in feature films, including Philip Roth's Indignation.

PRAYER List

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
... continued from front page.

My point is that we require some common assumptions, and common education, and common hope, to talk fruitfully about politics. The Christian Church, and communities of good faith, have often been the most important places where that conversation can take place. In the Church, we have set our own standards of common conversation. Let us not fall prey to those forces beyond the Church which seek to divide us and define us in different ways.

The Church has an important and sensitive role to play in our ongoing conversations about politics and about education. Many of you have spoken to me recently about that very role. Some of you are meeting in smaller and quieter groups to explore Christian faith and politics together. I hope those groups continue, and I hope others join those groups. I hope we start new groups. Our country, and state, and city, will always need people of faith who are willing to be brave and hopeful, even when we have legitimate political disagreements. People of faith are willing to be graceful, and excellent, and hospitable, even when others want us to be quick and partisan. Please let us talk about politics without accommodating ourselves to the prevailing divisions of the day. We have centuries of tradition, and centuries of education, in doing just that.

2017 Spirituality Conference
Featuring the Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor

Holy Envy:
Learning to Live with Religious Difference

Saturday, October 28   9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Join us for this one-day conference when Barbara will explore with us how religious pluralism challenges and deepens Christian identity in a world of many (and no) faiths. She will also speak in the Dean’s Forum on Sunday, October 29 at 10:10 a.m.

Barbara Brown Taylor is a *New York Times* best-selling author, college professor, and Episcopal priest.

To register online or find out more:
STPHILIPSCATHEDRAL.ORG/SPIRITUALITYCONFERENCE

MEMBERSHIP TRANSITIONS
NEW MEMBERS
Denise Fisk, from Atlanta
Hubert Tate, from Jackson, Mississippi
Alex Hancock, from Tampa, Florida