

**Grace Episcopal Church, Georgetown**  
**Adult Forum; December '09 through January '10**  
*"The Restless Human Heart: Augustine of Hippo"*

Augustine

354-430 A.D. (C.E.); born in Hippo (present-day Algeria) and Bishop of Hippo, 395-430; author of *Confessions*; *On the Trinity*; *City of God*; many other works

- When Monica, Augustine's mother, came to Milan she insisted he send his concubine back to Carthage and take a suitable wife. Augustine recalled his companion's departure in these words, from the *Confessions*: "When they took from my side her with whom I had slept for so long, my heart was torn at the place where it stuck to her, and the wound was bleeding.....My heart, which clung to her, was broken and wounded and dropping blood."
- His son, Adeodatus ("gift from God") traveled with Augustine to Milan, and was baptized with him there in 387. Augustine records that he witnessed the death of his grandmother, Monica, and wept. He returned to Carthage with Augustine and was a member of the lay Christian community Augustine founded there. He died, at 17, in 390. Augustine openly writes about Adeodatus, and his own tender love for his son, in the *Confessions*

Conversion:

Sexual adventures, philosophical flirtations, commitment phobia:

**"Who will seize the heart and hold it still?"**

- "You are great, Lord, and intensely to be praised. Great is your strength; there is no limit to your wisdom (Ps. 147:5). And human beings want to praise you, human beings who are but a part of your creation and who carry with them their mortality, carry with them the evidence of their sin and the evidence that you oppose the proud (James 4:6). Yet human beings, a part of your creation, want to praise you. And you encourage us to delight in praising you, because you made us for yourself. Our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you."  
*Confessions 1:1*
- "I directed myself to myself and to myself I said, 'You, who are you?' And I responded, 'A human being'.  
*Confessions 10:6*
- "*What* am I, then, my God? What nature am I? My life is many and various and violently without measure."  
*Confessions 10:17*
- "I have flown apart into moments whose order I know not; and my thoughts, the deepest workings of my soul, are shredded by the havoc of change."  
*Confessions 11:29*

- "Human being is a great bottomless depth. And yet, Lord, you keep count of every human hair, not one of which is slighted. And yet it is easier to count the hairs of the head than to count the movements and stirrings of the heart."  
*Confessions 4:14*
- "Who will seize the heart and hold it fast so that for a while it might stand still and for a moment grasp at the splendor of eternity which stands still always? In comparison with time which is never still, the heart would see that eternity is incomparable...Who will hold the human heart so that it might stand still and see how eternity...commands the future and the past. Does my hand have this kind of power, or can the manipulations of speech perform so great a feat?"  
*Confessions 11:11*
- "How sweet it suddenly became for me to be without the sweetness of (my) vanities. Where there had been fear of their loss there was now joy in sending them away. For you dismissed them from me...Finally my soul was free from the gnawing cares of aspiring and acquiring, of wallowing in filth and picking at the scab of lust."  
*Confessions 9:1*

**From the Book of Common Prayer:**

"O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,  
to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom:  
Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies;  
that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries;  
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord."

"We thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the  
truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast  
obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying,  
through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life  
again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom."