

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2021 Annual Meeting

January 23, 2022

via Zoom

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AGENDA

OPENING PRAYER & WELCOME

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in this Annual Meeting for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO ORDER

ELECTION OF NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
- INTRODUCTION OF VESTRY NOMINEES - see addendum
- ELECTION OF NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

REPORTS

- RECTOR'S REPORT
- FINANCIAL REPORT - Les House
- BUDGET PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION
- NEW STAFF
- STRATEGIC PLAN

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting
Saint Gregory the Great
January 24, 2021

The meeting took place via Zoom. Nikki explained the procedures to be used for voting (the poll feature) and opened with a prayer. The meeting was then called to order.

The proposed vestry slate of LeeAnne Krause, John Bray, Anna Hiers, and Blaine Everson, introduced themselves. Nikki noted that Julia Swagler had been appointed to complete the term of Beth Thornton. The outgoing vestry members, Kathryn Musholt, Jack Armistead, Rhonda Hefner-Packer, Marge Massey, and Beth Thornton were recognized and thanked for their service. Voting on the proposed slate was done by the polling feature on Zoom and Nikki confirmed that all who wanted to vote were able to do so. The proposed slate was approved by unanimous vote. Nikki welcomed LeeAnne, John, Anna, Blaine, and Julia as new vestry members.

Rhonda Hefner-Packer indicated that an up or down vote was being sought on adoption of the bylaws as presented. Any amendments will go to the vestry for consideration. Per canon law, the bylaws were presented at the last annual meeting and available to the congregation for a year prior to a vote. Nikki thanked Rhonda, Marge Massey, Lois Alworth, and Katie Reinberger for the work done on the bylaws. Nikki explained the amendment process and indicated that anyone with a potential amendment should contact her or a vestry member to set up an appointment to attend a vestry meeting to present the amendment. Nikki called for a vote on the bylaws. Voting was done via the polling feature in Zoom and the bylaws were adopted by unanimous approval.

Catherine Drewry reported on Christian Education and asked for suggestions and volunteers for future activities. Catherine was thanked for her work and it was noted that children's ministries have increased during the pandemic through weekly activity packets and an online video presence.

Nikki provided background on the strategic plan and encouraged all to read it. The Nourish, Grow, and Go committees have worked throughout the year. Ron Balthazor, Joan Curtis, and Mark Tavernier were thanked for their work as committee heads and Rhonda, Kelly Black and Beth Thornton were thanked for their work as co-chairs.

Nikki highlighted her written report and recognized individuals noted in the report. Nikki shared her pride in the congregation coming together as a church family during the pandemic. Although the building may have been closed, our church was open and hard at work.

Nikki addressed giving and noted that the current timing of giving does not allow us to reflect who we are in the budget. She reminded those present that the budget reflects the cost to run the church and our ministries. She indicated that we need to lay the foundation now to pledge to cover all our ministries in the budget. Going forward, Nikki will help by informing the congregation of outreach needs during stewardship season so that we can pledge what we give.

Les House highlighted the Treasurer's report and provided an overview of 2020 which resulted in a surplus of \$7,278.22. He noted that \$11,675 had been donated to the Rector's Discretionary fund during the year. Les reviewed assumptions made in the budgeting process for 2021. Discussion followed on the proposed budget for 2021. Receiving an estimated budget for the upcoming year before pledges are due was suggested.

Nikki closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:52.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Moffett

RECTOR'S REPORT

Hello Greatly Beloveds!

I am so thankful this year for you, St. Gregory the Great, for our diocese, and for God's goodness to us and through us this past year. There was much that was unexpected this year, Covid's continuing limitations on our lives, which includes our once again, meeting via Zoom for our Annual Meeting 2 years in a row. Still God gave us the wherewithal to meet the moment, and you, St. Gregory the Great, met it!

What we at first thought would be a month, turned into a little over a year of not meeting, and here we are a full 22 months later, still off again, on again as far as gathering for worship. But through it all, God has been the unchanging, loving and good God we've always known, and we are still together, sometimes in the same room, sometimes not, but always building Beloved Community with the help of the Holy Spirit. At St. Gregory the Great, we continued to NOURISH, GROW, and GO* with God, because whenever the buildings have closed, YOU, the CHURCH, remained not only open, but hard at work.

Nourish:

Our excellent **staff** has continued to do the work of God here as we nourish one another through our worship, in person beginning in the spring of the year, while never stopping our online worship on YouTube. Our Deacon, the Rev. Christina Dondero has continued to be a stellar preacher, teacher, and source of pastoral care. Joe Napoli and Jonathan Klein continue to contribute excellence in their ministries of music. Joe continued to share his musical gifts with us despite the nearly impossible circumstance of choir members having to remain isolated from one another in their homes and Jonathan, as always, joyfully performed extra and new duties so that online services contained music and song at the stellar level to which we have happily become accustomed. And when we were able to resume in person worship, our music staff did double duty, making sure there were online musical means of worship, as well as the excellent caliber of music for in-person worship. Catherine Drewry, tireless and endlessly creative in her directing of Children's ministries continued to show her true passion for families and children, grew the children's ministry to 80+ participants, and offered both online and in person ministry on those Sundays we gathered in person. At the end of December, she stepped away for discernment during a well-earned sabbatical after 20+ continuous years of service in this ministry, and we are hoping to welcome her back in 2023. In the meantime, we have hired a new and temporary Children's Minister, the Rev. Doug Adkins, who will begin his work with us in February for the 2022 church year. Jude Red-Bear, our nursery director, and Missy Hamlin, provided nursery care when our services were in person again, and the wonderful (and new) Adult Formation chairs, Ron Hudson and the Rev. Ellen Richardson, have been running the fabulous programs of Sacred Ground, and our beautiful in-person Advent offering, on Spirituals, Psalms, and the Book of Lamentations.

Mark Hein continues to extend excellent care with our grounds for which we are extremely grateful! His hard work allowed us to begin to hold the funerals that had been put off in 2020. Our miracle-working sexton, Allena Armour, who singlehandedly manages cleaning and set up for events in the buildings on our campus, worked tirelessly as always, and she also stepped down in 2021 of December. Please join with me in giving her our deep gratitude and love as she moves on to another chapter in her life and that of her family. Please feel free to offer her personal words of thanks and praise for all she has done for us in her many years of service, and know that our church is giving her a financial gift as well.

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Of course, Kendall Kookogey, who does double duty as Parish Administrator (including the newly continued assignment of video design for online worship for the last 22 months) and Bookkeeper, continues to be an amazing asset for me and for all of us who rely on her to keep things running so smoothly. And there is absolutely NO WAY we could have continued worship online without the level of professionalism and skill of Dallas Bono (as trained by Anthony Barkdoll!), who did our pre-recording, Terri Tillman who moderates the YouTube Chat, and maintains our website and Facebook page(s). Thank you also to Anthony Barkdoll, our official Live-stream Volunteer chair and Jonathan Klein who took on the herculean job getting our livestreaming equipment purchased, installed and programmed, as well as making sure there are volunteers to actually livestream our services. Thank you to Randall Abney, Peter Rice, and the Communications Committee for making the preparations and helping with the funding to bring live-streaming on board. The ministries of all these exceptional people form the firm foundation upon which the spiritual nourishment of our congregation rests. God is active in our church family through you all. Thank you all!

The **Vestry** has accomplished so much this year, (see the stellar Sr. Warden report) and I am loathe to say goodbye but delighted to say thank you to our two outgoing vestry members: Kelly Black, Junior Warden, and Julie Worley, for their excellent service in the ministry of leadership. A special thank you to Chrissy Moffett, who has graciously agreed to serve for another year in the capacity of Vestry secretary who now serves in this capacity.

Part of what nourishes us is this beautiful campus that is a reflection of God's glory in nature and we've been good stewards of that with

- New Livestreaming equipment
- New ADA walkway in the Memorial Garden
- Successful Fundraising for Livestreaming and Anniversary Celebration (thank you, St. Gregory the Great, for your speedy generosity, as the amount needed was raised in 4 days)
- In-person (and online) 50th Anniversary Celebration over two days on the weekend of our Feast Day, complete with food and 'Episcopal' beverages with Bishop Wright in attendance
- Folks continue to serve in their ministries with generosity and good will, up through March when we could meet. Those who have been able to continue via Zoom and other online means have done so, most notably: the Men's Group, the Book Group, Stewardship, Threads of Prayer, the Dream Group, a Let's Chat Group for the women of the parish, Bible Study/Lectionary Discussion, (which Ken Taylor continues from afar by Zoom) and Hebrew Reading. etc. Also continuing their work in maintaining sacred beauty and function for our services of worship, the Altar Guild and Flower Guild have served with bravery, muscle and grace. Margaret Agner, thank you for so beautifully making liturgical masks for our services that folks from other churches have inquired as to how they can receive the same!
- Support of Regathering Committee so that we could continue the best practices for meeting safely
 - ✦ Sunday Services were always held, either online, in-person or both.
 - ✦ Taize services were offered on Wednesdays once per month
 - ✦ Labyrinth and prayer days were offered on campus for the bulk of the year when we could not meet in person as a congregation.
 - ✦ Our church maintained its record of having no Covid outbreaks stemming from our gatherings.
 - ✦ Online Adult formation was offered during Lent and in person Evening
 - ✦ Prayer in times of Loss picnics were held in the spring.
 - ✦ The discernment process of Will Drosos was continued and he was ordained to the transitional diaconate in December of 2021.

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Thank you especially to David Stooksbury of the Regathering Committee; Lane Norton, organizer for the Labyrinth, and all of our visitors and members for your willingness to follow Diocesan and CDC guidelines in the last year.

Grow:

- Our Average Sunday Attendance (total, meaning counting in person AND online) for this year is 163, with a range of 112 -224 per Sunday. We gained approximately 10 new members/families this year. And also, we baptized 2 new members, and had 12 confirmations, 1 reaffirmation, and 1 reception!!! Whoo hoo!!

Bottom line, we are growing...in fits and starts, but we are growing, even in Covid-tide! Go Jesus!

Also, I include here our growth in our relationship with God through giving, as a church body. Budgets are holy documents that help determine how much and how well we can do the work God has given us to do here and in the world. Even in a time of financial uncertainty and, for some, financial difficulty, St. Gregory the Great has continued to give! And due to that financial difficulty that so many are experiencing, we did not receive enough in pledges this year to meet our ministry goals, or even quite enough to pay employees and our monthly utility and service bills. Thank you to those who have already given in terms of pledging; because of you we can do some of what God is calling us to do. Thank you to those who wish to pledge and cannot. God and your brothers and sisters at church understand. God loves us from the tops of our heads to the tips of our toes whether we give or don't give. For those who have the ability to give and are possibly deciding how to give and how much, please consider pledging so that we can increase our budget to at least meet our minimum costs. And in the end, please pray for the vestry as we make hard decisions about this year's budget, making cuts to programming and ministry costs so that we may pay our employees and pay our utility and service bills.

Go:

This is loving others through mission: giving in practical ways and sharing the good news out in the world:

- The Rector's Discretionary Fund has been used for aid with rent, food, heat, medicine, and camp scholarships. On the worldwide scale, this fund has also made donations, a world hunger organization, and the Episcopal Church in Ghana. Through the RDE, St. Gregory the Great gave upwards of \$6,700 for the above listed needs and causes.
- Through our diocesan assessment (roughly half of which goes to outreach...so, around 18,000) we assist with Emmaus House (serving the impoverished in inner city Atlanta), The Friendship Center at Holy Comforter (serving those with moderate to severe mental and physical disabilities in Atlanta), The Church of the Common Ground (church without walls serving the homeless in Atlanta), Chattahooche Valley Episcopal Ministry (household essentials, transportation, medical needs, etc to the impoverished in the Chattahooche Valley area), the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing.

We also lend our campus buildings at low or no cost to AA, Community parenting and family organizations, and the Chronic Illness Support group.

All of this is over and above the excellent work done by our Mission and Outreach Committee (please see their report), Pastoral Care (they don't just do inreach, but care for those who are not members or attendees here), and those done by other ministries in our body (please see the 2019 Ministries Booklet, done by Kathryn Musholt).

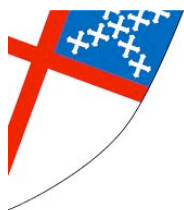
This means that more than 10% of our budget goes to outreach. And it is my intention that we keep growing in our monetary AND hands on commitment to GOING into the world, giving in love to the glory of God.

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I have not highlighted everything we have experienced and done in the past year, simply because I can't. Jesus has been busy in this place, through all of us, in the power of the Holy Spirit! And I am so blessed as a rector to be able to be say that! I love my church family here, so much more than you know! Thank you for an absolutely blessing-filled third full year (and some) in this church. I pray I'm blessed to experience many, many more!

*In abounding love and great joy,
Mo. Nikki+*

*What is Nourish, Grow, and Go? As you may remember, NOURISH, GROW, and GO is what we as a parish discerned God was calling us to do, as we came together in prayer, holy listening, and sharing with one another in 2019. We began with more than 70 parishioners participating in the visioning focus groups, more than 100 in the CAT, and then over 2019-2020 more than 20 on work committees, and more than 30 provided feedback on draft strategic plan. Thank you all for being so diligent in this call, with special thanks to Rhonda Packer, Beth Thornton, and Kelly Black for spearheading the work on our Nourish, Grow, and Go Strategic Plan. (Please see this plan as detailed on our [website](#) at your convenience.)



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Four new members were elected to the Vestry at the January 24, 2021, Annual Meeting of the Membership: John Bray, Blaine Everson, and Anna Hiers, and Julia Marlowe Swagler, who was elected to fill the remaining term of a member who resigned at the end of 2020 with one year left of her term. In February, Julia herself had to resign from the Vestry. In accordance with our ByLaws, a committee was formed to identify her replacement, and in April Julie Worley was elected to complete the remaining nine months of the vacant Vestry term.

Because of the COVID pandemic, in February the Vestry retreat was held virtually via Zoom, at which we participated in a team building exercise in a virtual escape room and agreed on norms and the implementation of Nourish, Grow, and Go, St. Gregory the Great's strategic plan.

Also in February the Vestry certified Will Drosos's fitness for admission to candidacy for ordination to the priesthood, affirming to the Diocese of Atlanta the parish's continuing support of Will's postulancy, submitted two and a half years earlier. In August, the Vestry certified Will's ordination to the diaconate of the Diocese, and in December, three members of Will's Discernment Committee at St. Gregory the Great and the Senior Warden attended Will's ordination to the diaconate at the Cathedral of St. Philip.

Because of a shortfall in revenues and an increase in expenses, in March the Vestry reduced the budgets of three Committees, Altar Guild, Library, and Worship, in order to maintain a zero-deficit budget. Church revenues increased May through November, enabling the Vestry to approve additional funds in November for the Outreach Committee and a one-time bonus for staff members, who hadn't been given a cost of living raise for two years.

The booklet, *A Time to Live, A Time to Die*, was updated and made available again to members of the parish after being out of print for many years. The booklet provides information about the Church's understanding of death and its message of hope. It provides guidelines for arranging funerals and for sorting out of the details of the funeral service at St. Gregory the Great. It contains helpful forms, so the wishes of the deceased might be honored by the family.

The concrete walkway in front of the Memorial Garden was poured and finished in April, providing a safer, handicap accessible path for visitors to the Garden.

Large expenditures were approved by the Vestry to resolve a payroll tax dispute with the IRS from 2017, to repair a broken heat exchanger in the Christian Education Building, and to service a malfunctioning septic system in the Parish Hall. Another, earlier dispute with the IRS was resolved without penalty.

Strategic budgeting was initiated this year for parish committees and programs. The leaders of the committees and programs were asked to submit two budget requests, one for basic/essential funding and one to meet St. Gregory the Great's strategic planning goals for their committee or program. Then they were asked to prioritize their line item requests, so that in the case of either budget shortfalls or surpluses, the Vestry would be guided about what to cut or what to support.

In November, a slate of five nominees to the 2022 Vestry along with their qualifications were presented to the congregation. They will be elected collectively at the Annual Meeting on January 23, 2022.

I want to give my thanks to and express my appreciation for two Vestry members, Kelly Black, our Junior Warden, and Julie Worley, who completed another's term. Both have served the Vestry and St. Gregory the Great dependably and committedly. They will rotate off the Vestry after the Annual Meeting.

2021 was another COVID year for our church, our Rector, and our Vestry. It has offered challenges and afforded much grace and growth. I am grateful for all of it and all of you.

Jane Hudson, Senior Warden
Senior Warde

STEWARDSHIP

For those who have already pledged this year, thank you for your generosity. For those who are intending to pledge, and for those who contribute regularly without pledging, please prayerfully consider making a pledge now to St. Gregory the Great. We have given up the idea of meeting our Strategic budget, which would fund the goals set by us in our Strategic Plan known as Nourish, Grow, and Go. Now we're trying simply to fund our **Basic budget, which includes our commitments to pay staff at last year's level, to pay for utilities and service contracts, and to fund Outreach and parish programs**, but our pledged amount is still \$ 45,565 short. Of course, for those who cannot pledge money at this time due to financial constraints, never forget that God loves us from the top of our head to the tips of our toes, whether we give or not.

We have made an adjustment to the Stewardship Update this week to make it simpler, per parishioners' requests:

We don't have enough to fund our Basic Budget, which means paying our bills and paying our staff this year.

Total required to fund the Basic Budget = \$429,899

Projected Funding minus Pledges = \$ 39,000
(Loose Plate, Non-Pledge Trend, Other, & Building Use)

Total pledge required to fund the Basic Budget \$390,899
Calculation: \$429,899 - \$39,000=\$390,899

2022 pledge (Updated on 1/19/2022) \$345,334

Total additional pledge required \$ 45,565
Calculation: \$390,899 - \$345,334 =\$45,565

The Basic Budget does **not** include the items listed below.

- A 5.9% cost of living increase for all employees (they have not received one in 2 years)
- Increase the Local Outreach budget from \$7,000 to \$12,240 as requested.
- Increase other parish program budgets (many of which were cut in 2020) to meet the Strategic Visioning Plan.

Additional **cuts will be** needed to make up the \$45,565 shortfall.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE - MUSIC

To: St. Gregorys Parish
From: Music area at St. Gregorys
Re: 2020 Annual Report for Music

The music program at St Gregory's is honored to have provided music each week for worship this past year regardless of format. In the last 12 months variety & flexibility were on the menu with online offerings, outdoor gatherings, more traditional worship in the Nave, memorial services for our beloved, and a back-to-roots celebration marking our first 50 years. In all facets, our church choir have continued to serve and sing beyond expectations these many months and we are very grateful for the dedication and faithfulness of our volunteer singers. As Bishop Wright so keenly observed about the church - the center continues to hold - and this is so true with our group of committed singers! It is our hope that this ministry has provided a soundtrack for fellow Gregorians to stay connected to their faith (and each other) through music and lyrics.

Special thanks to Stacie Court and Annette Bates who have continued to faithfully provide music for the online Taize services, to Cynthia Hoover for her music and leadership during the 5pm Christmas Eve service, and to all our guest soloists throughout the year including Lauren Covington, Deborah Stephenson, Michael Ball, Rayvon Love, Daniel Moody, Josh Klein, and Chuck Mushholt.

A special thank you to all the parishioners who have made financial contributions to the music program at St. Gregorys in 2021. Throughout the year your donations both big and small have made it possible to purchase many of the anthems, books, and equipment we use here at the church as well as invite special musical guests for worship. Your contributions make attaining these things a reality for a program of our modest size.

We look forward to making music in ALL of its forms this upcoming year. Regardless of the circumstances, it is always an exciting time in our music ministry to focus on faith through praise and song.

If you've ever thought about singing or making music at St. Gregory's please consider joining the choir and music ministry here at St. Gregory's. Everyone is welcome join in the fun, work, and fellowship of serving God and his people through music.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jonathan Klein & Joseph Napoli

LIVESTREAM MINISTRY

To: St. Gregorys Parish
From: Livestream Ministry
Re: 2021 Annual Report

This past year St. Gregory's initiated a new Livestream ministry dedicated to providing weekly online access to all for our Sunday worship services (via Youtube). The planning phase of this project began in spring of last year with a committee of Randall Abney, Anthony Barkdoll, Terri Tillman, Kelly Black, Peter Rice, Jeff Welch, and Jonathan Klein. The basic plan garnered from these preliminary meetings began their implementation in late July 2021. This included equipment research & purchasing, coordination with the TSAV camera installation company, internet upgrades to the Nave, equipment testing/calibrating, a cabinet commission, training sessions, and a graphic design effort. In all, this phase of the project took approximately 125 hours to complete and cost \$21,043.

In the midst of the process there was also a short-term capital campaign to raise funds for the costs of the project. **THANK YOU** to all who supported and gave to this Livestream fund that helped raise \$15,450 (We also raised \$5,593 in 2020 through donations and a grant from the Diocese). Over 50 pieces of necessary equipment were purchased for this project and your generous donations have helped St. Gregory's build a Livestream system that will serve well it for many years to come. Everyone should be proud!

Special thanks to **Anthony Barkdoll** for all your consultation and for coordinating the Livestream volunteer ministry; to **Pete Nicholls** for all your installation & engineering help; **Kevin Greene** for constructing such a nice commissioned cabinet to house it all in; and to **Terri Tillman** for her time and talents in moderating the online chat during worship and overall tech support. You all are awesome!

Respectfully submitted by Jonathan Klein

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN

Children's Ministries Annual Report for 2021 - January 16, 2022 **St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church, Athens, Georgia**

Children's Ministries at St. Gregory's includes year-round programming and worship events for both children and cross-generational events for the whole parish.

+The committee for implementing the church-wide strategic plan with regards to children's ministries met via Zoom and in person several times throughout the year. The committee includes Kate Avinger, Jenifer Borg, Rheena Campbell, Gabrielle Compton, Catherine Drewry, Terra Hodges, Jenifer Marquardt, and Alice Mohor.

+Weekly packets were mailed to children throughout this second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our numbers continued to grow, from 51 when the pandemic began to 63 at the end of 2020, and finishing with 78 at Christmas 2021. The packets included a letter or card from me with some sort of photo or illustration, and a children's bulletin focused on the Gospel lesson from the lectionary. Often included were seasonal special items (whatever would fit in an envelope!) especially for church holidays and special observances. The age range for these packets was mostly 4 -12 year olds, including some grandchildren and neighbors of parishioners. Many thanks to Annette Bates, Alice Mohor, and Jenifer Marquardt, Jenifer Borg for their assistance with this.

+We also continued to present stories on our Youtube channel, with 40 stories offered throughout the year, recorded by 21 different readers, who ranged in age from 8 to 80+years. It was wonderful to be welcomed into the homes of several of our "seniors" for recording their readings.

+We purchased two screen tents so we could hold Children's Church and other activities outdoors. Children's Church began to be offered during the 10:30 service each Sunday in the late summer. At least four new families with children began attending church regularly this summer. Children's bulletins and art supplies were provided for in-person worship as it resumed.

+The Avinger-Defalco family and I were glad to travel to Kanuga in NC for the Christian Formation Conference in June. We were inspired by great speakers including keynoters The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers and the Rev. Jay Sidebotham and enjoyed wonderful fellowship and worship with fellow Christian formation people from all over the country.

+A special "Welcome Back, Welcome Home" party for all ages was held just after school started back in the fall, with attendance of over 65 people. All enjoyed the fellowship, lunch, crafts, music, parade around the grounds, and prayer time.

+Worship bags and activities were provided for children at the parish's 50th anniversary celebration.

+A committee consisting of the Avinger-Defalco, Bray, Compton, Martin-Peck, and Campbell families, and Alice Mohor, Jenifer Borg, and Catherine Drewry came together to plan and create a "Godly Play" Theater Club for children and youth this fall. We met each Sunday from 9:30-10:15 during November and December. Approximately 30 children and youth participated, along with about 10 adults.

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+Special prayer cards with St. Francis medals and treats for pets and pet owners were provided for the Blessing of the Animals.

+Environmental educator and parishioner Berkeley Boone presented a very well-attended reptile and amphibian special offering during Children's Chapel one Sunday this fall.

+We were so happy to have our annual Advent wreath making event resume in person this year, and thankful for great weather to have it outdoors once again. I didn't get a firm count of participants, but we ate 9 pizzas and made at least 20 wreaths... at least 60 participants, and I think more...

+In addition to their mailed packets, children who came in person to church also received Advent calendars.

+To everyone's delight, St. Nicholas, aka Alice Mohor, appeared in person to tell "his" story at the 10:30 service in early December.

+We were so glad to be able to have our Christmas Eve pageant in person this year after a year off. 20 children brought the Gospel story of the nativity, assisted by patient and creative adults and youth. They had wonderful musical accompaniment by our ~10 member Band of Believers, led by Cynthia Hoover and music director Jonathan Klein. Jenifer Borg spent weeks with our children creating a new fabric and mixed-media backdrop for the set.

+On a personal note, I feel called to help more with caring for friends and family, and to take on more leadership of the farm where I've lived all my life. Mother Nikki has generously offered to allow me to take a year-long leave of absence/ sabbatical (unpaid) to discern what is best for the future. I won't be leaving St. Gregory's – you are my dearly beloved Church family. I am confident that Children's ministries will continue to thrive and grow in wonderful and new ways in the coming year.

+Thank you so much, Anna Hiers, for all your support as our vestry liaison this year!

*-Respectfully submitted by Catherine Bowen Drewry,
director of Children's Ministries at St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church 2000- 2021.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH

PARISH LIFE

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

January 17, 2022

Committee Members: John Bray (Vestry liaison, Chairperson, and as far as I know committee)

The Parish Life Committee has been “on retirement” since March 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. During my last communication with the committee, there were members that said they would be interested in helping but I do not have a full committee – not to my knowledge.

We are still operating without a chair.

Our scheduled event, The Bishop’s Visit and 50th Anniversary Celebration and baptisms on September 12, 2021, were handled by Mother Nikki and an ad hoc group.

Since March 2021 there have been no coffee hours; to my knowledge the Parish Life Committee has not been active in any way since the start of the pandemic.

Over the next year I look forward to reaching out to our church family to see who can commit to the Parish Life Committee, with the understanding it may be a while before we can begin serving our Church family once again.

Respectfully Submitted

John Bray

johnpatrickbray@gmail.com

337-781-2063

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

I am not able to speak in detail about all the efforts made by so many to contribute to learning and growing in community via Zoom ever since the in-person Lenten Program in 2020 was cut short. I can report on two series of discussion groups focused on Racial Justice: Two different Zoom book discussion groups based on *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Elizabeth Wilkerson met regularly from August through October of 2020. Two different learning and discussion Zoom groups met for the Sacred Ground program provided by the Episcopal Church from January 2021 through April 2021 and a third Sacred Ground group met from June 2021 through September 2021.

When I assumed the role of Adult Formation Coordinator in October, 2021, and in-person worship was normative for a while, the plan was to re-form a committee to do long range planning from Advent 2021 at least to Summer of 2022. A one-page survey asking for preferences as to preferable times for classes, topics and class formats was taken during both services on a Sunday in early November with 40 responses received. These results will be considered when planning future Adult Formation offerings.

During the in-person window during Advent 2021, Ron Balthazar and I led a three week class on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings using Psalms, Traditional Spiritual music and the Book of Lamentations to process the stress and grief that participants have faced during the pandemic both as individuals and as a church community.

Thank you to everyone who has participated as you were able in Zoom offerings and in person for these past two years, and to those who have offered to serve on the Adult Formation Committee in the future. The plan for 2022 for now is to wait patiently for a few more weeks for that window of safety to allow Lenten program visioning, and to plan for a gathering of all those who are ready to process past spiritual struggles and future challenges we might accept in the work of Racial Justice in our own community.

Ellen Richardson

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Report of the Buildings Committee, for 2021

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church

Athens, GA

Submitted by Mark Reinberger, Committee Chair

Two major projects were accomplished in 2021 with regard to the buildings and grounds. In the Spring, our own Andrew Majsztrik, of Vision Landscaping, installed a concrete walkway of his design to and along the Memorial Wall. In the Fall, we performed major repairs to the air conditioning system of the Christian Education Building. Otherwise, only minor repairs were made to plumbing, electrical fixtures, etc. As usual, Mark Hein, our staff member for Buildings and Grounds, deserves great credit for helping us keep the physical plant of St. Gregory in good condition in an economical fashion.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Reinberger, Chair of Buildings

GROUNDS

Maintenance of the grounds continued weekly this year including mowing, pruning, and weeding. Patios, driveways, drains, and building gutters were also blown off regularly.

In addition to the regular maintenance of the grounds, this year we:

- Added pine straw in the memorial garden several times
- Continued pruning along the fences and back gardens
- Removed tree limbs that reached over the roofs of the buildings



More attention to the many gardens is possible because of the time volunteered by David Lowe and Evan Powell. They come regularly to mow, haul limbs, and pick up pinecones.

The grounds are looking more attractive all the time.

Mark Hein
Grounds

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

St. Gregory the Great Outreach Programs are focused on striving for justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being.

The list of the organizations which have been submitted to the Vestry in prior years can be found on St. Gregory's website [here](#). These are the present and past organizations to which the Outreach Committee contributes both time and talents as volunteers and financial support in our Athens area community. The list is inclusive and is based on financial designated and information available to us as a committee. This list is reviewed prior to disbursements and is edited as the needs of an organization evolves. As our income has been reduced, this too is reflected in our choice of recipient and the amount disbursed. Our committee and church members also provide input as to status of need. Below is a partial report on funds disbursed during the year of 2021.

Beginning Budget 2021	\$7000.00
THE ARK	\$500.00
ACCA (Meals on Wheels)	\$500.00
Casa de armistad	\$500.00
Family Promise	\$600.00
FEAST	\$3600.00
Community Christmas of Oglethorpe Cty	\$300.00
Our Daily Bread	\$1000.00
	\$7000.00

Designated Funds 2021	\$2937.93
THE ARK	\$700.00
Community Christmas of Oglethorpe Cty	\$507.49
Rollover to 2022 due to Budget Shortfall	\$1750.93
	\$2958.42

The Outreach Committee continues to meet compliance with the Strategic Plan developed by the Church members and the Vestry.

We continue to nourish the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional lives of our parishioners by our continual assistance (financial and, as often, silent volunteers) to those in and outside the Church as has been stated of importance to St. Gregory's church members.

We contribute time and talents to help the growth of a multi-cultural, multi-generational church that is responsive to the needs of all. The organizations that we help serve the entire community without restrictions of any kind. We will need to add more youth to our outreach and will begin reaching out to our youth director for assistance in complying with the strategic plan directive.

Susanne Burton, Outreach Committee Chairperson

Eddie Bennett, Vestry Liaison to Outreach Committee

INREACH/PASTORAL CARE

End of Year Report for 2021

The Pastoral Care Committee and volunteers continued to try to meet the pastoral needs of members of the congregation, in coordination with the clergy. Volunteers made phone calls to check in on people, delivered meals on the meal train, helped drive to medical appointments, made multiple deliveries of random baked goodies, including at Christmas. Many of these gifts were “undocumented.” The committee meets once a month, mostly on Zoom, with a few in person meetings. Other volunteers are on a list for help as needed. The committee is also the umbrella for Welcoming, Card Ministry and the Men’s Group. We are always looking for more volunteers who might be interested in steering the committee at meetings, or to be on a “on call” list.

Building Community in Service to Others

- ✚ Hospital Visits (?)
- ✚ Home Visits of Sorts (18)
- ✚ Phone Calls (156)
- ✚ Messages / texts (18)
- ✚ Voices of Blessings (0)
- ✚ Meal Train (5) / Food Delivery / Grocery Shopping (27)
- ✚ Transport to Dr’s appointments / necessary errands (98)
- ✚ Transport to Church (?)
- ✚ Home Eucharist (?)
- ✚ Card Ministry (285)
- ✚ Cookie Delivery (24)
- ✚ Threads of Prayer (10)



MEN’S GROUP Peter Rice

Note: Continued to meet, masked, at an outside location Saturday Mornings 9-10am

** Holiday Note: Many people contributed (baked, bought, delivered) to the holiday goodies that went out to 23 friends!

COMMUNICATIONS

See Livestream Ministry this year

FINANCE COMMITTEE

see Budget Presentation

Life of our Parish

Baptisms in 2021: Ada Grey Poister, Wade McGlamery

Confirmations in 2021: Emma Scott, Grayson Krause, Danielle Vogt, Ali Elyaman, Anna Streeter, Paige Lowe, PJ Prescott, Anna Thornton (*reaffirmed*), Bernadine McCranie (*received*), Kate Avinger, Wade McGlamery, Tristen Webb, Christine Colbert

Deaths in 2021: John Curtis, Terrell Benton, Norman "Chip" Ansley, Carl Hoveland, Jack Beach, Conoly Hester, George Watson, The Rev. Judy Gay

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

Included in this report are the following items in listed order for the year ended December 31, 2021:

- Treasurer's comments
- Parish financial statements and information:
 - Calendar year 2021: **Analysis of Revenues & Expenditures – Budget- 2021.**
 - **Balance Sheet – ALL FUNDS 12/31/21** (this reflects the financial position of the parish and shows the cash balances for all the funds)

Treasurer's comments:

Background: Operating Fund

The **Operating Fund** is used to record the day-to-day operations of the parish. Parish revenues such as pledges and other non-specific contributions made to the parish are recorded in the Operating Fund. The Operating Fund also records operating expenses of the parish such as employee payroll, utility bills, program expenses such education and youth, music, local outreach, etc.

Two notes of importance to the reader:

- The **Revenue and Expenditure** report is a detailed analysis of the budgeted operations. When you review the **Revenue and Expenditure** report, you are reviewing the *Operating Fund* budget.
- Our financial statements are prepared on a "cash basis." This means they actually show what we collect and what we spend in a given month and year.

Comments on the 2021 results:

- 2021 Revised Budget called for revenues of \$380,655, and expenses of \$397,433. The expense side of the budget was amended up from \$380,653 to \$397,433. The revenue side of the budget was not amended.
 - The increased budgeted expenses included a \$400 per employee special bonus because employees did not receive a cost-of-living increase in 2021.
 - The Local Outreach also received an additional \$2,400 which increased the 2021 budget from \$7,000 to
 - The actual revenue was \$398,058, which is \$17,403 more than budgeted.
 - The actual expenses were \$386,956, which is \$10,477 less than the revised budget.
 - The surplus was \$11,102.
 - The total local outreach expenditures for 2021 was \$14,392 (budget=\$9,400 & designated=\$4,992).
 - A budget has not been developed for 2022 because the pledged income is 19% lower than the anticipated expenses and nondiscretionary expenses make up 82% of the anticipated expenses. Employee expenses are part of the nondiscretionary expenses and make up 64% of the total anticipated expenses.
 - Please read the financial statements for the details.
 - I am always happy to answer any questions you have.
-

2021 Revenue & Expenditure

2021
Actual2021
Budget

Difference

Revenue (+ Difference = Above Budget, - difference = Below Budget)

001751 - LOOSE PLATE OFFERINGS	\$546.00	\$3,800.00	-\$3,254.00
001752 - GENERAL PLEDGE PAYMENTS	\$349,012.66	\$351,950.00	-\$2,937.34
001753 - NON-PLEDGE TREND	\$46,247.68	\$22,255.00	\$23,992.68
001760 - Other	\$671.68	\$850.00	-\$178.32
02762A - Building Use	\$1,580.00	\$1,800.00	-\$220.00
Total INCOME	\$398,058.02	\$380,655.00	\$17,403.02

EXPENDITURES (- Differences = Above Budget, + Differences = Below Budget)

OUTREACH

001864 - DIOCESAN PROGRAM	\$39,150.00	\$39,150.00	\$0.00
001866 - LOCAL OUTREACH	\$9,400.00	\$9,400.00	\$0.00
001867 - RECTOR'S DISC. FUND	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
01865A - Deacon - Continuing Education	\$651.90	\$1,000.00	\$348.10
01865B - Deacon - Travel & Professional exp	\$336.71	\$1,000.00	\$663.29
Total OUTREACH	\$50,036.61	\$51,050.00	\$1,011.39

PARISH PROGRAMS

001868 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
001871 - STEWARDSHIP	\$290.00	\$550.00	\$260.00
001872 - WELCOMING	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
001873 - WORSHIP	\$1,442.89	\$1,385.00	-\$57.89
001874 - MUSIC	\$3,170.03	\$3,000.00	-\$170.03
001875 - ACOLYTES	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
001876 - ALTAR GUILD	\$1,149.12	\$1,200.00	\$50.88
001877 - PARISH LIFE	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
001878 - INREACH	\$66.06	\$200.00	\$133.94
001879 - VESTRY RETREATS/DIOCESAN	\$530.80	\$531.00	\$0.20
01868A - YOUTH GROUPS	\$132.08	\$133.00	\$0.92
01868E - Chr. Ed. Dir. Cont. Ed.	\$597.62	\$742.00	\$144.38
01873A - Flowers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01873B - SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
01874B - ORGANIST CONTINUING EDUC.	\$487.99	\$742.00	\$254.01
01878C - Library	\$85.87	\$86.00	\$0.13
01878D - COMMUNICATIONS/PUBS.	\$365.86	\$625.00	\$259.14
01878E - Nursery	\$15.58	\$125.00	\$109.42
01878G - Vision Oversight	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total PARISH PROGRAMS	\$11,333.90	\$13,429.00	\$2,095.10

2021 Revenue & Expenditure	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	Difference
CLERGY			
001881 - CLERGY SALARY	\$62,084.80	\$62,085.04	\$0.24
001882 - HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$20,000.04	\$20,000.04	\$0.00
001883 - PENSION/CLERGY	\$14,775.24	\$14,810.24	\$35.00
001884 - INSURANCE/CLERGY	\$33,944.00	\$33,798.00	-\$146.00
001885 - CLERGY CONTINUING EDUC	\$1,611.51	\$1,000.00	-\$611.51
001886 - SUPPLY CLERGY	\$2,300.00	\$2,500.00	\$200.00
008831 - Sabbatical Expenses	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
01885A - CLERGY TRAVEL & PROF EXP	\$3,531.68	\$3,000.00	-\$531.68
Total CLERGY	\$138,297.27	\$137,242.32	-\$1,053.95
ADMINISTRATIVE			
001887 - SALARY/ALL LAY EMPLOYEES	\$109,069.07	\$111,610.00	\$2,540.93
001888 - FICA EMPLOYER	\$9,137.23	\$9,042.00	-\$95.23
001889 - Parish Administrator Pension	\$2,055.84	\$2,432.00	\$376.16
001890 - SERVICE CONTRACTS	\$20,973.08	\$16,700.00	-\$4,273.08
001891 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,524.66	\$2,400.00	-\$124.66
001892 - POSTAGE	\$290.16	\$300.00	\$9.84
001893 - TELEPHONE	\$3,065.26	\$2,760.00	-\$305.26
001894 - MISCELLANEOUS ADMIN.	\$2,707.15	\$5,000.00	\$2,292.85
01887G - SUPPLY ORGANIST	\$850.00	\$750.00	-\$100.00
01888A - WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	\$2,310.00	\$2,243.00	-\$67.00
01888B - Commercial Insurance	\$7,781.00	\$8,000.00	\$219.00
01889A - PA RETREAT/DUES/WORKSHOP	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
01889B - Parish Admin. Health Insurance	\$624.00	\$624.00	\$0.00
01889D - CHRISTIAN ED DIR PENSION	\$1,721.06	\$1,933.52	\$212.46
01889E - Organist Pension	\$1,563.60	\$1,696.60	\$133.00
01889F - Staff Christmas Bonuses	\$1,899.71	\$2,063.00	\$163.29
01889G - Annual Council	\$675.00	\$1,000.00	\$325.00
Total ADMINISTRATIVE	\$167,246.82	\$168,604.12	\$1,357.30
BUILDING AND GROUNDS			
001895 - UTILITIES	\$14,570.56	\$18,000.00	\$3,429.44
001897 - DEBT SERVICE	\$2,007.36	\$2,007.36	\$0.00
001898 - BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$1,992.00	\$5,500.00	\$3,507.49
01898A - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$889.36	\$1,000.00	\$130.64
01899B - Capital replacement	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$20,039.79	\$27,107.36	\$7,067.57
Total EXPENDITURES	\$386,956.39	\$397,433.80	\$10,477.41
Net Total (+ Net Total = Surplus, - Net Total = Deficit)	\$11,101.63	-\$16,778.80	\$27,880.43

**St Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
(ACSDATA) Balance Sheet all funds
December 2021**

Headings and Account	Balance (12/31/2021)
Assets	
CASH IN BANKS	
001001 - CASH - OPERATING ACCOUNT	\$32,320.88
001003 - Cash - J2A trip fund	\$11,152.49
001006 - CASH - DESIGNATED FUND	\$16,566.38
001010 Cash – Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$3,598.46
001090 Endowment Fund Cash	\$435.00
002001 - CASH - MEMORIAL FUND	\$6,112.06
002002 - CASH - BROTHERHOOD	\$1,275.91
002003 - CASH MEMORIAL WALL FUND	\$19,842.94
Total CASH IN BANKS	\$91,304.33
INVESTMENTS	
001103 - CASH EQUIVALENT FUND (Vanguard)	\$70,337.89
002101 - Endowment Fund CD's (Charles Schwab)	\$35,550.92
Total INVESTMENTS	\$105,888.81
OTHER ASSETS	
001301 - FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT	\$20,004.04
001302 - Piano	\$26,492.92
001303 – Furn. & equip new sanctuary	\$64,432.71
Total OTHER ASSETS	\$110,929.67
REAL ESTATE	
004401 - LAND	\$27,500.00
004404 - 2001/2002 Sanctuary	\$922,737.29
004405 - BUILDINGS	\$389,777.36
004406 - PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS	\$56,152.50
004407 - MEMORIAL WALL	\$5,653.22
Total REAL ESTATE	\$1,401,820.37
Total Assets	\$1,709,943.18

2021 Proposed Budget

Revenue

001751 - LOOSE PLATE OFFERINGS	\$3,800
001752 - GENERAL PLEDGE PAYMENTS	\$356,700
001753 - NON PLEDGE TREND	\$22,255
001760 - Other	\$850
02762A - Building Use	\$1,800
Total INCOME	\$385,405

Expenditures

OUTREACH	
001864 - DIOCESAN PROGRAM	\$39,150
001866 - LOCAL OUTREACH	\$7,000
Priest Discernment	500
001867 - RECTOR'S DISC. FUND	\$1,000
01865A - Deacon - Outreach	\$1,000
01865B - Deacon - Travel & Professional exp	\$0
Total OUTREACH	\$48,650
PARISH PROGRAMS	
001868 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$3,450
001871 - STEWARDSHIP	\$550
001872 - WELCOMING	\$60
001873 - WORSHIP	\$550
001874 - MUSIC	\$3,150
001875 - ACOLYTES	\$100
001876 - ALTAR GUILD	\$450
001877 - PARISH LIFE	\$850
001878 - INREACH	\$300
001879 - VESTRY RETREATS/DIOCESAN	\$750
01868A - YOUTH GROUPS	\$975
01868E - Chr. Ed. Dir. Cont. Ed.	\$1,200
01873A - Flowers	\$60
01873B - SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE	\$60
01874B - ORGANIST CONTINUING EDUC.	\$1,200
01878C - Library	\$60
01878E - Nursery	\$125
01878D - COMMUNICATIONS/PUBS.	\$625
01878G - Vision Oversight	\$100
Total PARISH PROGRAMS	\$14,615

2021 Proposed Budget

CLERGY	
001881 - CLERGY SALARY	\$61,685
001882 - HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$20,000
001883 - PENSION/CLERGY	\$14,703
001884 - INSURANCE/CLERGY	\$33,798
001885 - CLERGY CONTINUING EDUC	\$1,000
001886 - SUPPLY CLERGY	\$1,800
008831 - Sabbatical Expenses	\$50
01885A - CLERGY TRAVEL & PROF EXP	\$3,000
Total CLERGY	\$136,036
ADMINISTRATIVE	
001887 - SALARY/ALL LAY EMPLOYEES	\$108,000
001888 - FICA EMPLOYER	\$8,262
001889 - Parish Administrator Pension	\$2,400
001890 - SERVICE CONTRACTS	\$12,700
001891 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,400
001892 - POSTAGE	\$300
001893 - TELEPHONE	\$2,760
001894 - MISCELLANEOUS ADMIN.	\$5,000
01887G - SUPPLY ORGANIST	\$750
01888A - WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	\$1,700
01888B - Commercial Insurance	\$8,000
01889A - PA RETREAT/DUES/WORKSHOP	\$50
01889B - Parish Admin. Health Insurance	\$624
01889D - CHRISTIAN ED DIR PENSION	\$1,878
01889E - Organist Pension	\$1,564
01889F - Staff Christmas Bonuses	\$1,250
01889G - Annual Council	\$1,000
Total ADMINISTRATIVE	\$158,637
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	
001895 - UTILITIES	\$18,000
001897 - DEBT SERVICE	\$2,007
001898 - BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$5,500
01898A - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$750
01899B - Capital Replacement	\$1,200
Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$27,457
Total EXPENDITURES	\$385,396

Net Total	\$9
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Vestry Bios

Gail Eilers: I am from Jacksonville, Florida, where I raised a family, worked in public education for 30 years, and was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. After my husband passed away in 2018, I moved to Watkinsville to be near my daughter and my three grandchildren.

Immediately after my move, I found St. Gregory the Great! I was immediately impressed by your informality, consistent emphasis on service and genuine welcome to all. Just two Sundays after I arrived, Mother Nikki became our new rector. Her relentless message of God's love for us reminds me over and over again that I am truly home here. During the last three years, I have served on the Outreach and Parish Life Committees and had begun volunteering as an usher when the pandemic hit.

This horrible pandemic has taught and re-taught me several important lessons. Primary among them is the realization – again and again – of how amazingly blessed and privileged my life is and has been. More importantly, I feel, more than ever, the calling to give back to those in need. I believe St. Gregory's is the perfect vehicle for me to do that.

I am a lousy cook, and I am not creative. However, I am a hard and willing worker, a fairly fast learner, and am honored by this opportunity to serve on your vestry.

Lane Norton: After a gypsy-like childhood of following my parents around the world and the country, I have called Athens my home for the past 50 years. I have been an active member of St. Gregory's for the past 11. Prior to my membership here, I attended Emmanuel Episcopal church for 30-plus years. My long association with the Episcopal church began with my four years at the University of the South, Sewanee TN. That experience fostered in me my life long love of liturgy, choral singing, and my husband of 45 years, Jim Norton.

When my father, a veteran of Korea and Viet Nam, retired from a 20 year career in the Army, my family settled in Athens to be near relatives in northeast Georgia. Both of my parents became active members at Emmanuel serving on the vestry and taking and mentoring EFM. I finished my last 2 years of high school at Clarke Central and headed for Sewanee.

My husband and I came to live in Athens after marrying. We opened "The Hobby Horse", a craft and hobby store in downtown Athens, for 5 years. Our only child, Sarah, was born in 1981. We bought Homeplace Gifts and Toys in Five Points in 1982 and ran it jointly for 33 years.

As our daughter grew up and moved on, I began a series of searchings that included graduating from Education for Ministry and co-mentoring a group for 2 years. In the past 10 years I have been certified as a facilitator of Christian Dreamwork, and as a labyrinth facilitator.

At St. Gregory's I have facilitated a weekly dream group for the past 10 years. I participate in the Flower Guild, the choir, the bread ministry, and have had custody and care of the church's canvas labyrinth.

My husband returned to UGA in 2004 to earn an MFA in jewelry and metal smithing. When he is not making jewelry he travels all over the East coast selling his wares at Craft Festivals. I joined him at several craft schools taking classes in needle arts and doll making while he pursued his metal arts. Occasionally, we exhibit together.

Our daughter earned her PhD in Depth Psychology in 2020. She is married and lives with her husband of 15 years, Ryan, in northern Virginia.

I am a 6 year survivor of breast cancer and spent a year of my life in rehabilitation from a brain aneurysm that left me comatose for 2 months in 2013.

I look forward to bringing what gifts I have been given to the church as a new vestry member.

continued on next page...

Vestry Bios Continued ...

Mark Richardson is a retired writing teacher. He was born in Rochester, New York and attended Colgate University and Emory University. He has taught in colleges in Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. He is married to Ellen Richardson, formerly a family practice and palliative care physician and latterly an Episcopal priest. They have two children, Will and Owen, and three grandchildren, Reese, Walker and Ford.

Maggie Reinberger: I was born into the Episcopal Church, starting my life in upstate New York, then moving through Maryland and Philadelphia, then to Athens, GA. I received my BA from Cornell University, where I studied history and dance, then I returned to Cornell when I married Mark Reinberger, who got his PhD there. At age 30 I went back to school to become a physical therapist. Being a physical therapist has allowed me to meet many people, from many backgrounds, and with different problems. Mark and I have two adult daughters, Kristen and Katie.

I consider myself lucky that I was involved in the Episcopal Church as a teenager in the 1970s, when there was an exploration of new ideas. I believe supporting young people in their growth is a vital role of the church. Since joining St. Gregory's 21 years ago, I have worked with the youth, served on vestry, and served as co-chair of the Pastoral Care committee. I have also acolyted, something I was not allowed as a girl. I have observed the church evolve in many ways over the years to be a much more inclusive community. The recently completed Sacred Ground course has given me even more to think about.

Stacie Court: I was raised by gypsies and wolves, as a secular Catholic; I think we went to church about eight times while I was growing up. As an adult, I became the white sheep of the family, becoming very active with the Catholic Church in Savannah. I was involved in music ministry at several churches, as well as children's and youth ministries. After becoming a professional musician, I began teaching private voice, directing church and community choirs, teaching K-8 music at multiple parochial schools, and I also worked in music ministry for other faiths as well, including the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches in the area.

David and I moved to Athens in 2007, and I converted and joined St. Gregory the Great over Christmas 2016. Since joining St. Gregory, besides my activities with the music ministry, I have served (not all at once!) in the music ministry; the card ministry; the counting ministry; the parish life committee; and the stewardship committee. I have also enjoyed being active with the movie nights, the food bank ministry, the lectionary group, and the book group when time allows. Communication is very important to me; I believe most of the world's problems stem from communication problems. During COVID I started a weekly online chat group open to all women of the parish where we talk about everything from topics of faith to how to get vaccinated and even about tv shows we're streaming.

In my free time, I am also involved with multiple singing groups around Athens and am an active member of the Athens Lions Club. I recently left my longtime day job as a nonprofit director and am now focusing on my private voice studio, which I have maintained for more than 25 years. I am married to my very best friend, David Court (aka The Free Range Minstrel), and have the best children and in-laws in the world, Joe and Sarah O'Connor of Arlington, Virginia; and Rachel O'Connor and Andy Quick of Bloomington, Indiana.

