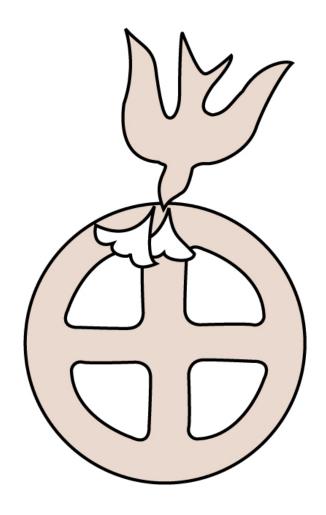
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



March 5, 2023 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Second Sunday in Lent

THE WORD OF GOD

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't? Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.

A nation-wide shut down due to a pandemic fits, I'm sure we'll agree, with the words "by any other impediment" listed in the first Prayer Book. Our Lord will not cut us off from his grace. If we truly desire him, he will come to us, even if we cannot receive the Sacraments he has instituted so that we may receive his grace. This is not a new idea. St Thomas Aquinas, writing nearly 800 years ago, said:

before receiving a sacrament, the reality of the sacrament can be had through the very desire of receiving the sacrament. Accordingly, before actual reception of this sacrament, a man can obtain salvation through the desire of receiving it, just as he can before Baptism through the desire of Baptism, as stated above (Summa, III.73.iii)

Desiring to receive the spiritual grace of the Most Holy Eucharist (and being prevented from receiving it sacramentally) is known as Spiritual Communion. It is so very important to note that this gift is given to us when we cannot, for very good reason, be present at mass.

When you are watching a live-stream or recording of our liturgies, any of the following prayers may be said at the moment of communion when you would normally leave your pew and make your journey to the altar:

In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from You. Let me live and die in Your love. Amen.

OR

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from Enriching Our Worship 2)

OR

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already in my heart and unite myself to you completely. Please do not let me ever by separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)

*Except where otherwise indicated, the whole of this article (with only very little amendment) is taken from the website of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where it was posted on April 5, 2020. No author was specified.

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Second Sunday in Lent

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Silent processional

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

OPENING SENTENCES BCP 351

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. Celebrant:

His mercy endures for ever. People:

THE DECALOGUE (please kneel if you are able)

BCP 350

Celebrant: Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy. People:

Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy. People:

Celebrant: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy. People: Celebrant: You shall not commit murder. People: Amen. Lord have mercy. Celebrant: You shall not commit adultery. People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy. People: Celebrant: You shall not be a false witness. People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

The Celebrant continues

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 352

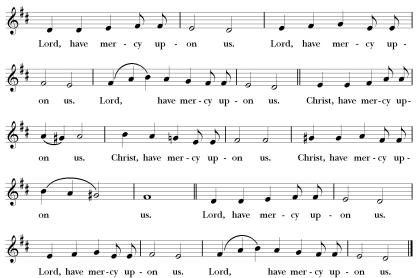
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spiritt keep you in eternal life. Amen.

* Kyrie S-91 Healey Willan



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the / hills; *

from where is my help to / come?

2 My help comes from the / Lord, *

the maker of heaven and / earth.

3 He will not let your foot be / moved *

and he who watches over you will not fall a-/sleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over / Israel *

shall neither slumber nor / sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches / over you; *

the Lord is your shade at your right / hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by / day, *

nor the moon by / night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all / evil; *

it is he who shall keep you / safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming / in, *

from this time forth for ever-/more.



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 401

The God of Abraham praise





THE GOSPEL John 3:1-17

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

THE NICENE CREED BCP 358

(said by all)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form I

BCP 383

The people's response to "let us pray to the Lord" is "Lord, have mercy."

Final petition: In the communion of Mary, Gregory, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. To thee, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds a Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

He, Watching Over Israel from Elijah

Felix Mendelssohn

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee. He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

BCP 369

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

* Sanctus S-127

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Calvin Hampton



Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

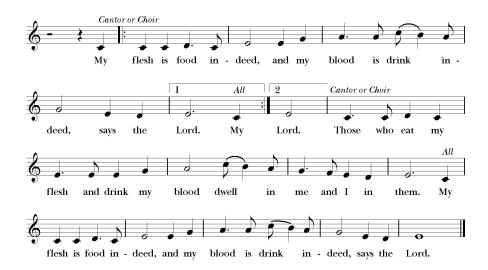
THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

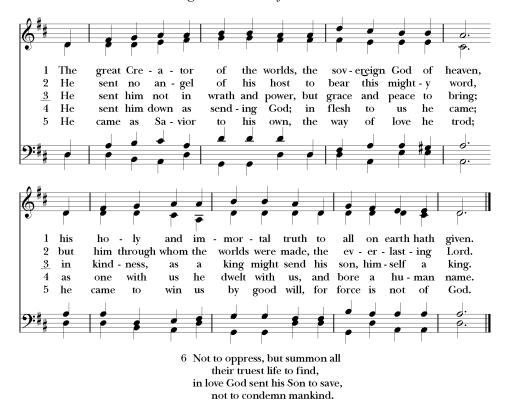
* Fraction Anthem S-169

My flesh is food indeed

Ray W. Urwin



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 2

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Donna Hall, Rosalyn Panton, Don Musholt, Harry Stooksbury, Billy Hale, Bill Alworth, Ray Hoover, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Mincy Moffett, Jack Armistead, Mark Reinberger, Marilyn Walsh, Sam Johnson, Janeanne Napoli, Sandy Gamble, Jennifer Johnson, and Bruce Zavitz.

The people listed here are prayed for by name at each Sunday service. To request prayer for yourself or someone else, please call the office (706-546-7553). If at the beginning of the next month the person needs to remain on the list, please call and give the office an update.

TODAY

CONFIRMATION CLASSES | BEGIN TODAY

Confirmation classes will begin today, immediately following the 10:30AM service. We will meet in the Parish Hall. If you're interested in being confirmed, reaffirmed, received, or an adult wishing to be baptized, please come! We'll meet for 6 weeks: March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 16, & 23.

THIS WEEK

SEVEN DEADLY SINS IN MEDIA | WEDS. in LENT

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

If you need childcare, you must let the office (Kendall) know by the Monday prior to the Wednesday you are attending the class, or just let her know by February 27 if you know you will need childcare for all 5 Wednesdays.

This Lent, LeeAnne Krause will be reprising the "Seven Deadly Sins in Media" class that was so rudely interrupted by COVID in 2020. Reflection and repentance are cornerstone disciplines during the holy season of Lent, but how do we accomplish this? How do we identify shortcomings in our own behavior? The ancient grouping of objectionable sins into the "Seven Deadly Sins" is a useful framework to begin this practice. We will be discussing the sins themselves, defining them and identifying common manifestations. Then we will watch video clips from feature films, TV, YouTube, and even cartoons, discussing the behaviors of the characters, identifying which, if any, sins they are committing. Examining the behaviors of fictitious characters is more objective and friendly than criticizing each other in the first or second person. Don't worry, we won't be watching anything very racy or violent! If you have any questions, contact LeeAnne Krause (leeanne.krause@verizon.net), Ellen Richardson (ellenrichardson52@gmail.com), or Ron Balthazor (ron.balthazor@gmail.com).

Choir will begin at 7:30 during Lent so that choir members can participate in the study.

5:30 Stations of the Cross

6:00 Healing Service w/ Holy Eucharist

6:00 Simple supper in the Education Building

6:30 Lenten Program

7:30 Choir practice

STATIONS OF THE CROSS | WEDNESDAYS @ 5:30PM

Wednesdays March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, & April 5 @ 5:30PM in the Sanctuary

The stations mark Jesus' journey through the streets of Jerusalem from his arrest and trial to his crucifixion and burial. At each station, we pause for a brief reading and prayer.

FAMILY PROMISE | MARCH 5-12

Our Family Promise week begins today! All the food preparation slots are filled, but we still need evening and overnight hosts and weekend hosts. Please sign up if you are able to help! You can sign up using this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-2022#/ Any questions, call Annette Bates at 706-255-5839 or email at bateskannette@gmail.com. Thank you for all you do in and for our Athens community.

WARRIOR WOMEN SPARK COMMUNITY CONVERSATION | SAT., MARCH 11

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies and the Jeannette Rankin Foundation will host a community conversation on Saturday, March 11 at the University of Georgia's Special Collections Library. This community conversation is sparked by artist Alice Woodruff's recent exhibition *Warrior Women: From Invisible to Formidable One Hundred Strong* depicting the stories and experiences of one hundred formidable women.

At the event, a selection of the sculptures from the Warrior Women exhibition will be on display starting at 1 p.m. After a brief lecture by Woodruff at 2 p.m., a panel featuring Patricia Richards, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies and director of UGA'S Institute for Women's; Joan Prittie, Executive Director of Project Safe Domestic Violence Center and Instructor in UGA's Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership and the Masters in Public Administration program; and Tracy Brown, the subject of one of Woodruff's Warrior Women sculptures and Shelter Coordinator for the Athens Area Homeless Shelter (AAHS), will explore themes from the exhibition.

The warrior women community conversation will be held Saturday, March 11 from 1-4 p.m. at the Richard B. Russell Building, Special Collections Libraries, University of Georgia 300 South Hull Street, Athens, GA. The artist and panelists will participate in a Q&A with the audience. A light reception will follow.

COMING UP ...

ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS | PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

The Right Rev. Porter Taylor (retired) will be here at the 9:15AM adult discussion group in the parish hall on Palm Sunday to do a reading and book signing for his new book, *Are You Persuaded? In and Out of Being a Bishop*.

NOTES

DISMANTLING RACISM TRAINING SCHEDULE

The 2023 Dismantling Racism Training schedule is available. This class is required for all parish clergy and all lay leaders, including vestry members. We also recommend taking the class every three years. Visit https://www.centerforracialhealing.org/training for the training schedule.

FROM THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

If you are a visitor or newcomer, welcome. Please help us get to know you. Please fill out a visitor card (found on a nave chair back or in the narthex track rack) and place it in the alms basin (collection plate).

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Shelby Welch

Readers: Lynn Hanna (8AM); George Krause (10:30AM)

EMs: Lin Kromhout & David Stooksbury Crucifers: Porter Welch, Grayson Krause Torches: Karlee Bethune, Rainsly Vogt

Counters: Mark Reinberger & Jane Hudson

Ushers: Anna Hiers & Bruce Zavitz

Altar Guild: Anna Thornton, David Lowe, Barbara Dean

Livestream: Anthony Barkdoll

Flowers: The Flower Guild

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector rector@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x2

The Rev. Christina Dondero Deacon christinadondero@gmail.com | 404-918-7248

Kendall M. Kookogey Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper office@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x1

Jonathan Klein Music Director/Organist jonathanfk@gmail.com | 706-296-8102

Joseph Napoli Choir Director awn1984@att.net | 706-546-6638

The Rev. Doug Adkins Director of Children's Ministries jdadkins@hotmail.com | 706-474-4784

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister wwmcglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

Jude Red-Bear Nursery Director juderedbear@icloud.com | 706-614-0008

Mark Hein Buildings/Grounds markehein@gmail.com | 706-549-3239

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Terri Tillman WebMaster ttillman@gmail.com

Danielle Vogt Coffee Host danielle1784@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

Vestry Members: Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Blaine Everson; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Shelby Welch <u>scwelch@windstream.net</u>

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