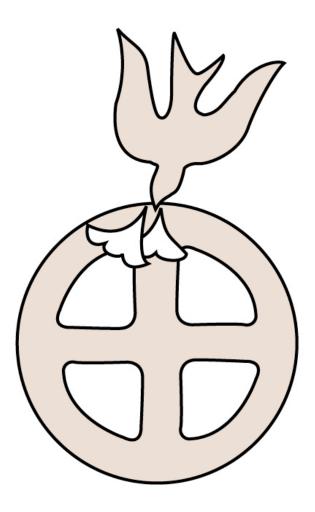
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



October 31, 2021 Premiered on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 26

# 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)

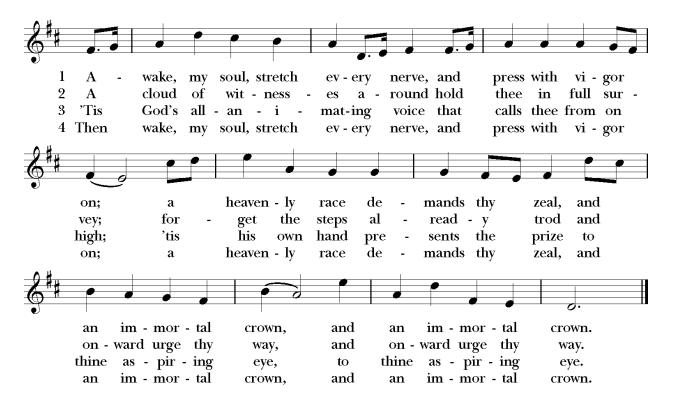
OR

"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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Opening Hymn 546** 



#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

Celebrant:Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy SpiritPeople:And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP 355

**BCP 355** 



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE FIRST READING

read by Roger Schwenke

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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

PSALM 146 (spoken)

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! \*

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \* for there is no help in them.

- 3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \* and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \* whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \* who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \* and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \*

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \*

he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

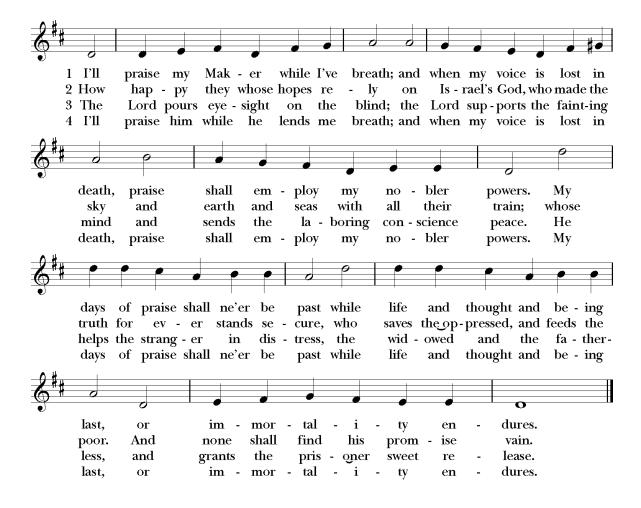
9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \* your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

#### THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 9:11-14

When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

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



#### THE GOSPEL

Mark 12:28-34

**BCP 358** 

Celebrant:The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Mark.People:Glory to you, O Christ.

One of the scribes came near and heard the Saducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

#### THE NICENE CREED

(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 III

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

## That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, especially Michael, Rob, Paul, and Don, (...) and all priests and deacons, especially Nikki & Christina;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; we pray for our President, Joseph, our Governor, Brian, and our Mayor, Kelly.

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

# Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  $\ldots$ 

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Celebrant*: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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 Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

#### THE PEACE

Celebrant:The peace of Christ be always with you.People:And also with you.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory Anthem** 

O come, ye servants of the Lord

Christopher Tye

O come, ye servants of the Lord, and praise his holy name; From early morn to setting sun, his might on earth proclaim. His laws are just, and glad the heart; He makes his mercies known: Ye princes come, ye people too, and bow before his throne, and bow before his throne. BCP 387

BCP 360

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A 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.

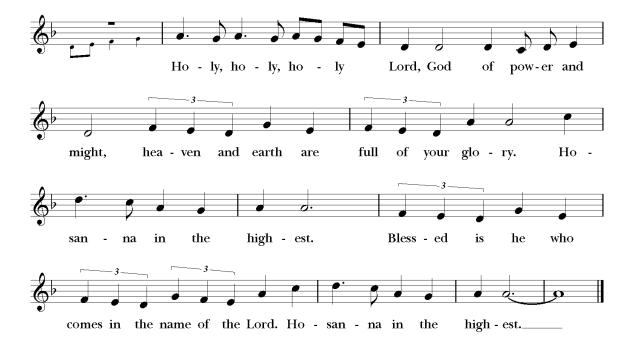
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *(here a Proper preface is said)* 

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

#### \* Sanctus S-129

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Robert Powell



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

# Celebrant and People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**.

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

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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-164

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

**BCP 364** 



#### 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

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### THE BLESSING



THE DISMISSALDeacon:Let us go forth in the name of Christ.People:Thanks be to God.

## **Fellowship Music**

Celtic Canticle for Organ

annonymous

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# Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for John Gay, The Rev. Judy Gay, Ed Spivey, Rick Berry, Hannah Bennett, Anna Thornton, Ellen Peck, Bill Alworth, Charles Thornton, James Morris, Tom Hiers, Jane Bowen, Marge Massey, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Stephen Morris, George Watson, Tina Carlson, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Cindy Beagle, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Brooke, Peter, Jason, Cecil, Brooke, Lynn, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, and Buddy.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Allison Weaver, Ellen Gibson, David Lowe, Peggy Herrman, Diane Barret, and Julia Swagler; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Britt & Adrianne Freeman.

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**

# PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2022 | INGATHERING SUNDAY

You should have received your pledge letter and pledge card in the mail last week. If not, you can pick them up in the narthex or on the dresser in Parish Hall. **Today is Ingathering Day** for our pledges! We will joyfully and thankfully give to our church to do God's work with the gifts He has provided. If you can't make it to church, you can mail in your pledge card or pledge online here: <a href="https://onrealm.org/stgregoryathens/AddPledge/generalpledges">https://onrealm.org/stgregoryathens/AddPledge/generalpledges</a>

# THIS WEEK

## ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE & MEMORIAL GARDEN | OCT. 31 - NOV. 7

Rest eternal, grant unto them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

All Saint's Day is the time in the liturgical year when we pause to celebrate the lives of those saints who have gone before us; loved ones who made us who we are today. All parish families are invited to place the names their departed loved ones, small photos, and other mementos on this altar, which will be in Parish Hall. Candles will be available for prayerful lighting.

Lane Norton will also place votive candles in our Memorial Garden, They will be there 10/31-11/7 for anyone who may like to come and light a candle in memory of someone. There are matches provided in a ziplock bag for you to use. Please remember to extinguish the candle(s) before you leave.

## LABYRINTH | OCT. 31 - NOV. 7

You are invited to walk St. Gregory's Labyrinth in the parish hall Sunday, October 31 through Sunday, November 7 in honor and remembrance of All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day. The labyrinth offers you the opportunity to "put feet on your prayers." Experience a walking meditation that connects your mind, body and spirit.

# NEXT WEEK

## YOUTH PROGRAM! | SUNDAY, NOV. 7 @ 1PM

After almost two full years of quiet due to the pandemic, our youth program has found a new leader and is preparing to spring back to life! All students in the 5th-12th grades are invited, along with their parents/guardians, to attend a meeting on **November 7th at 1pm** in the Parish Hall to meet our new Youth Minister, Wade McGlamery, hear about his plans for the program, and ask any questions they may have. Parents and students who are remaining cautious around gathering with others may attend the meeting via live stream. Masks will be required for all who attend in person. Students and parents who are not yet members of St. Gregory the Great are encouraged to attend the 10:30 service and then stay for the meeting to learn more as well! If you have any questions leading up to the meeting please reach out to Wade McGlamery at <u>wwmcglamery@gmail.com</u>

# COMING UP ...

# RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | MONDAY, NOV. 22

The Rite of Christian Burial for Conoly Hester will be held outside in our parking lot (under a tent) on Monday, November 22 @ 1PM. Please let Mother Nikki or Kendall know if you are available to usher or acolyte.

## **NOTES**

## NEEDED: CHILDREN'S CLOTHES - LAST DAY

Our Outreach Committee is sponsoring a parish-wide clothes drive to support our neighbor Barnett Shoals Elementary School. Although the Barnett Shoals children do not wear uniforms, the school does have a clothes closet that is in dire need of replenishment of some items. The school counselor there has indicated a need for the following clothing items.

## <u>Boys</u>

- Underwear in all sizes (XS, S, M, and L) especially in XS and S (or sizes 4-8)
- Pants/sweatpants/shorts in sizes (XS, M, and L)
- Shirts in sizes M and L (already set for everything smaller)
- Note that the school is well stocked with socks.

# <u>Girls</u>

- Underwear in all sizes (XS, S, M, and L) especially in XS and S (or sizes 4-8)
- Pants/shorts/leggings in all sizes (XS, S, M, L)
- Tops in sizes S, M, and L
- Note that the school is well stocked with socks.

This year you can contribute to the Clothes Closet in three ways:

- Make an **online** donation through REALM by Sunday, October 31. Select the *Outreach* option when making your contribution. Include *Barnett Shoals Clothes Closet* in the memo line.
- Write a **check** to St. Gregory the Great and bring/mail to the Parish so it is received by Sunday, October 31. Include *Barnett Shoals Clothes Closet* in the memo line.
- **Bring clothing** to the Parish anytime Monday-Friday (10am-5pm) or on Sunday when you are here for church. We will be collecting these items in bins located in the lobby of the Parish Hall building from now through Sunday, October 31.

Thank you for your support, St. Gregory Outreach Committee

#### 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

**Terri Tillman and Dallas Bono** Audiovisual Technicians *ttillman@gmail.com*; *dallasbono@gmail.com* 

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

**Catherine Drewry** Director of Children's Ministries *cbdrewry@gmail.com* | 706-201-7241

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

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

Allena Armour Sexton allenaarmour57@yahoo.com | 706-614-3704

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Megan Reuter, Allison Weaver

Vestry Members: Jane Hudson, Sr. Warden; Kelly Black, Jr. Warden; Julie Worley; LeeAnne Krause; John Bray; Anna Hiers; Blaine Everson; Eddie Bennett; Caley Ross; Chrissy Moffett, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Eddie Bennett ilason@charter.net