

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2017 Annual Meeting
January 21, 2018

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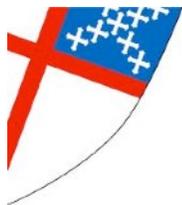
NEW BUSINESS

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

**Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting
Saint Gregory the Great
January 22, 2017**

No minutes on file.





SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

At this month's vestry meeting, Laura prompted vestry members to consider the myriad ways that the Good News is made manifest in the St. Gregory community. In the past year, God's presence was known among us in manifold forms. Our welcoming committee made conscious efforts to greet visitors, new members and families with the warmth that attends our love for one another; our lovely church campus and the care with which our members tended our grounds and buildings reminds us of God's provision; the work of those on the parish life committee reminds us of our call to hospitality; we find God's Word illuminated in the preaching of Rev. Laura Bryant to the congregation and in her ministry to many of us individually; the work of spiritual formation enables us to love God with our minds; the worship committee and our music ministry (this year staging a splendid nativity drama!) draw our attention to the beauty of God; as we are joined by a new youth coordinator, and as we minister to children and the poor, we are mindful of the special favor with which Jesus regards them . .

These are but a few ways that the Good News was known among us this year. I am grateful that, even as we continue to experience change, our parish is alert to God's presence and embraces the call to God's work in all the ways it may be apprehended. This year, that work involved much introspection. Our search committee worked tirelessly to administer a survey to parishioners and to hear our thoughts and concerns at focus group meetings as we considered who we are and where we may be called to go as a parish. That endeavor continues as we seek God's guidance in finding a permanent rector who will help us realize more fully God's purposes for our community.

As we continue the journey that has been ours for the past few years, we are confident that the Good News travels with us, that Christ attends our every step, and that God's love will again and always dwell among us in the coming year.

Yours, with sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve,

Rob McNiff

Sr. Warden

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

It has been another great year for music at St. Gregory's. Our church choir has continued serve and sing beyond expectation this last liturgical year and we are grateful for the dedication and faithfulness of our volunteer singers. We still averaging well over 20 choir members who bring a variety of musical experiences, ages, and backgrounds to the group each week. In addition to singing for the 12-months of Sundays services and 11- months of Wednesdays rehearsals, the choir put on a production of the musical drama "The Nativity According to St. Luke" by Randall Thompson last month.

The seven scene, staged musical drama was performed on the Friday & Saturday evenings of December 15 and 16. This wonderful production not only featured the choir, but featured beautiful orchestral playing, professional soloists from around the southeast, staging by Terry Powell of Athens Creative Theater, costumes, members from the parish, and lots of action. Special thanks to all who attended and supported this production concert of the Nativity!

Further, a special thank you to all the parishioners who have made financial contributions to the music program at St. Gregory's in 2017. Throughout the year your donations both big and small have made it possible to purchase many of the anthems and books we use as a group here at the church and invite special musical guests for worship. Your contributions make attaining these things a reality for a program of our modest size. Additionally, a huge thanks as well to Vicky and Mark Tavernier and Cynthia Hoover for their volunteer time with the youth of St. Gregory's during this year's 5 PM Christmas eve service. Their expertise and passion for bringing music to the young people of this church is truly invaluable on that scared eve (thanks as well to all the players in the "Band of Believers" group — you all rock!).

We look forward to all the worship, fellowship, and music this upcoming year. We are excited be growing our music ministry through weekly worship and singing and will continue to feature guest instrumentalist throughout the year that include a brass quartet for Easter! If you've ever thought about singing please consider joining the choir here at St. Gregory's. Everyone is welcome to join us in the fun, work, and fellowship of serving God and his people through music.

music

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Jonathan Klein & Joseph Napoli*

acolytes

Acolytes make a big difference to the worship experience. Everyone has had difficulty leaving everyday worries behind in order to feel closer to God. Hopefully seeing the robes, the crosses, the torches, and the contemplative attitude of the acolytes at St. Gregory's has helped some of you make the transition to a meaningful church service. We currently have 20 acolytes active in our parish; girls, boys, women, and men are all in the mix. Brad Hankins and Kelly Black manage the scheduling and, with help from David Stooksbury and Karen Hankins, also manage the training. We always need acolytes. Remember, acolytes get to scarf down any leftover communion bread, so please talk to Brad or Kelly about joining the acolyte roster.

altar guild

There are 11 volunteers serving on Altar Guild. Altar Guild is responsible for setting up the altar for all services, including Rhythms of Grace, funeral and weddings. Generally 3 members are assigned to cover each month. Most everyone is scheduled to serve 3 or 4 months during the year in addition to Holy Week and Christmas. One member now takes care of washing and ironing linens and all Wednesday services in lieu of covering Sunday services. Altar Guild also is responsible for upkeep on appointments (cleaning & polishing). Barbara Dean and Julia Marlowe serve as co-chairs of the committee with Julia handling the scheduling and Barbara ordering supplies. The co-chairs meet with the Priest from time to time to discuss specifics of set up. We have a social gathering once in a while especially when we have new members. We would like to have more volunteers to share the duties. New members receive training from the co-chairs and are always assigned with someone who has much experience.

Submitted by Julia Marlowe

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN

In Children's Church, the children lead prayers, scripture readings, songs, and participate in an interactive homily. Attendance is excellent, with 50+ children participating, with an average of 18 each Sunday. Catrina Cook and Pam Nolen have joined Jenifer Borg and Catherine Drewry in facilitating this service that gives kids an opportunity to fully engage and be leaders in the Liturgy of the Word. We are all enriched whenever The Reverend Gordan Bienvenue visits to present the homily in character. This year, Rev. Gordon has been regularly offering his gifts church-wide during the 10:30 service, rather than just in Children's Church. Jamaica Miller, Evan Bradford, and Diane Miller also serve frequently as assistants and song leaders.

Our nursery is a happy, nurturing space for our youngest members. Nursery director Jude Red Bear, assisted by regular staff members Allison Weaver and Danielle Lyle, presents programs each week that include circle time and stories, art, playing, music, and snacks. Melissa Hamlin generously serves as a nursery volunteer, preparing programs and the nursery space. Attendance varies widely – from as few as 4 infants and little ones to as many as 15. The nursery is open from 9:15 – 12:15 each Sunday, and on other occasions as requested. Paula Weaver and Isabella Van Giesen serve as substitute nursery caregivers.

Children's Sunday School uses the Workshop Rotation method, with Godly Play added. We covered the following units this year: Epiphany, The Sermon on the Mount, Mary and Martha, The Last Supper to the Eucharist, The Good Shepherd, The Heavens (emphasis on Psalm 8 and the Creation story), Noah and the Ark, David, All Saints, Fruits of the Spirit, and the Nativity story. We are currently working on Jesus, the boy in the Temple. Over the summer, we covered Pentecost, How to be a Bucket Filler (based on Carol McCloud's book), and enjoyed parish-wide breakfasts. The children assisted with preparing lunches for the Homeless Shelter several times throughout the year.

Including guests, about 40 children participated in Sunday School over the course of the year. Of these, 26 were "regular" in attendance (up from last year!), which ranged from 5- 20 each week, plus an average of 5 adult leaders.

Shepherds serving over the past year include Cecilia Reynolds, Paula Weaver, Tyra Byers, Jeb Byers, Joanna Carabello, Walker McNiff, Kate Avinger, Wayne Coppins, and Sean and Marie Boyle. Activity leaders have been Jenifer Marquardt, Madeline Darnell, Jane Armistead, Jenifer Borg, Missy Hamlin, Viviane Van Giesen, Lane Norton, Diane Barret, and Catherine Drewry. Vicky and Mark Tavernier led the lunch making for the Homeless Day Center. Ingie Hovland shepherds for this.

Music leaders over the year have included Anna Hiers, Julie Worley, Stacie Court, and Brenda Browning.

Rhythms of Grace, a worship service that is designed to be welcoming to those for whom traditional worship is difficult, including those on the Autism Spectrum, is now into it's third year at St. Gregory's! The service meets at 3 pm on 2nd Sundays, and worship has included 36+ people from 18 or more families. Our average attendance is 14. (One of our regular families moved out of the area this year.) Parishioner and retired Methodist minister The Rev. Gordon Bienvenue volunteers as celebrant for these services. Other serving include Katie Bienvenue, Leigh Hodges, Jenifer Borg, and Catherine Drewry. I can't say enough good things about what is happening with Rhythms of Grace – it is truly filling a need, and is something we should keep expanding, growing, and sharing. A goal is to create and distribute a flyer (both paper and electronic versions) to help get the word out in the community.

An article I wrote about Rhythms of Grace appeared this summer in Building Faith, a national Episcopal Church daily blog administered by Virginia Theological Seminary. As a result of that and the workshop we led at Kanuga in 2016, another church in Greenville, SC was inspired to begin offering this service. Leaders from that church attended two of our services.

Additionally, next week I will serve as one of three facilitators of an afternoon-long working group on Special Needs Ministry at the Forma Conference in Charleston, SC. The Forma Conference is the national Episcopal yearly gathering of Christian formation leaders.

Dare to Be Different, based on Madeleine L'Engle's book *A Wrinkle in Time*, was the theme for this summer's Vacation Bible School. Intentionally completely intergenerational (the 89 participants ranged in age from infants to 90+ years old!), VBS helps us get to know one another, nurturing and growing in love as we spend time together playing as a parish and with our neighbors. Thanks to many talented volunteers, we served a delicious and healthy meal each night, sang and enjoyed musical accompaniment, watched clips from the movie, made creative crafts, played great games, and worshiped. We are especially thankful for all of Alice Mohor's leadership with VBS each year.

continued on next page...

Missy Hamlin and Vicky Tavernier accompanied me to the Christian Formation Conference at Kanuga this past summer. We presented two workshops on the World Peace Village that were very popular! Vicky also served as the conference musician for the week. Missy was able to take a two day intensive training in Godly Play. We learned much about using the world wide web for evangelizing from keynoter John Roberto. Plus, we were all able to take many other classes, worship, and enjoy fellowship and recreation with Christian formation leaders from all over the country. I serve on the planning team for this conference, and, as a presenter, my costs for attending were covered by Kanuga. Vicky's were as well, since she served as conference musician. Missy's fees were covered by a generous parishioner.

This summer, I will serve my final year of a three year assignment on the Kanuga conference planning team. In addition to those duties, I have been asked to present a program on "feeding the masses" – how to serve healthy, easy, inexpensive, AND delicious meals for church events. I am hopeful more of Christian formation leaders from St. Gregory's will also attend the conference.

I continue to serve on the Commission for Christian Faith Formation for the Diocese of Atlanta, and was appointed co-chair of this commission by Bishop Wright this summer. We have an exciting workshop "Bringing Faith Home" featuring national speaker David Anderson planned for March 3rd at Grace Episcopal in Gainesville, and I hope EVERYONE will attend!

Missy Hamlin has created several inspiring bulletin boards for our Christian Education building coffee hour space.

Seven parishioners participated in two Safeguarding God's Children trainings.

An educational Mardi Gras potluck breakfast was held.

Lenten devotional materials included "Holy Week in a Box", which was distributed to about 50 households, and the Cross of Prayer Tears.

At Easter, children were invited to flower the cross. We also had a huge Easter egg hunt.

A special program was offered for Pentecost.

High school graduates were recognized and given personalized embroidered blankets as gifts from the church.

We participated in the parish-wide ministry fair, and had several activities for children.

Teachers were commissioned in August, coinciding with our annual Blessing of the Backpacks, including a collection for area homeless children. Backpack blessing tags were distributed to all.

A Godly Play St. Francis story was presented for all ages, along with a special breakfast and other activities. The children presented a special song during the 10:30 service. St. Francis medals and blessing cards were provided for the afternoon service.

The children offered a song in church to help with the stewardship campaign.

For All Saints Day, the children offered a prayer during the 10:30 service focused on the saints depicted in the mural in our parish hall (painted by Nancy Carter.) They also presented "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God."

On first Advent, people of all ages enjoyed lunch and fellowship making wreaths. The Children's Chapel was transformed into a living Advent wreath. Chocolate advent calendars were sent home with all children and youth.

St. Nicholas (a.k.a. Alice Mohor) visited during the 10:30 service, much to the delight of all.

Thanks to Vicky and Mark Tavernier for once again bringing together the awesome Believers Band for the Christmas pageant, which included musicians of all ages. 28 children narrated or acted in the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.

Pastoral care was given to several families in crises over the course of the year.

Diane Barret led us in creating "Kindness Rocks" for the community.

The children participated in "A Hurricane of Love Notes" for those hit hardest by the hurricanes, sponsored by Grow Christians through Forward Movement.

The families in Rhythms of Grace filled stockings for children in poverty for Community Christmas.

We are very grateful to Katie Reinberger for serving as our vestry liaison!

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Drewry, director of Children's Ministries.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH

2017 started with the formation of the youth advisory committee, consisting of Kate Long, Laura Bryant, Marge Massey, Katie Reinberger, Julie Worley, Maggie Reinberger, and Gina DeFalco. This group is currently meeting monthly. Kate Long resigned as youth coordinator in May. Gavin Stuart was hired as Youth coordinator in December 2017. William Drosos, a UGA intern has also been assisting.

Confirmation class was taught by Rev. Laura Bryant, Maggie Reinberger and Julie Worley, 5 youth were confirmed on April 2, 2017, at the Atlanta Cathedral.

J2A/Rite 13 curriculum was revived for Sunday school in fall 2017, with the intention of completing a youth pilgrimage in 2018.

Will Drosos and Maggie Reinberger attended training for the Diocese's Youth Curriculum for Dismantling Racism. This is scheduled to be completed over the week of Jan. 8-13, 2018.

Youth group activities have included picnic at the Somerville's farm, swim party at the Lockman's, bowling.

Youth have participated as readers in the service two times a month, and also played in the Christmas Eve "Band of Believers".

Submitted by Maggie Reinberger

SEARCH COMMITTEE

In 2017, the Search Committee laid the groundwork for finding a new priest under the leadership of Jeff Welch and Pat Merchant, our consultant assigned by the Diocese. The Parish Profile was created using data from the Holy Cow Survey, which had 177 respondents, and Focus Groups, which had nearly 100 participants. We also completed the Office of Transitional Ministry form, which is a required document that allows potential priests to see the "nuts and bolts" of the Parish. The Parish also had an audit performed in preparation for this transition. These documents were approved by the Vestry and the Diocese and are now posted as part of the job listing.

Our committee was restructured as we moved from Chapter 1 to Chapter 2 of the process. We are now working with Claiborne Jones as our consultant, and Karen Kassinger and Jen Ingle are now serving as co-chairs. The position has been posted in multiple locations online, and we will be accepting applications through February 15. All applications must be submitted through the Diocesan website, and the Bishop will perform an initial screening before forwarding any names to us. All information about all candidates must be kept in strict confidentiality by the Search Committee.

Once we receive the candidates' information from the Diocese, we will go through the following steps, making a cut after each one: initial review of applications and associated documents, Skype interviews, sub-groups from the Search Committee visit the candidates at their parishes, clergy and families visit St Gregory and meet Bishop Wright. By the end of this process, we will have narrowed the list to 2-3 candidates to nominate to the Vestry at a called meeting of the Search Committee and the Vestry. At this point, the Search Committee is dismissed and the Vestry selects a Rector from the nominations. We are hoping that our new Rector will become a part of our community this summer.

Submitted by Jen Ingle and Karen Kassinger

COMMUNICATIONS

This year brought a reboot to the communications ministry at St. Gregory's, with a renewed focus on social media, web presence, and evaluation of our communication needs. We paid special attention to the welcoming aspects of our communication: How do people find us? What do they learn about us from the information we choose to communicate? And, once they come to St. Gregory's, how easy is it for them to find their way around the campus, to follow the service, and to learn more about us?

We made some major improvements in our social media presence. Our Facebook page was difficult to find, and there was confusion between the functions of the public page and the internal page. We changed the name of the public page to reflect what most people search for: St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church and renamed the internal page to Gregorian Bulletin Board. Joe Woodyard updates the page regularly with help from Missy Hamlin, Catherine Drewry, and Kendall Kookogey. We've posted many pictures and kept the page current. At this point we have 182 page followers and 179 page likes.

We also made some major changes in our website. We cleaned up and reorganized the site, removing excess words. We also improved the navigation to enable visitors to more readily find current information. We are in the process of moving the domain hosting from Weebly to Squarespace for a more sophisticated design and greater flexibility. Terri Tillman regularly updates the website photos and works on the design changes, while Kendall continues to keep the site current on a day-to-day basis with upcoming events and the latest news.

Meantime, we updated the Welcome brochure in order to give new people and visitors up-to-date and accurate information about our parish and our ministries.

A list of all the current ministries was compiled and that list will be used to help new members determine where they'd like to share their gifts and talents.

As a small part of the work of the Communication Committee, we spearheaded the upgrade to expand our use ASC software system. St. Gregory's previously used ACS for recording contributions and keeping the directory up to date. The new Realm system is a major upgrade that offers integrated management of church functions, including

- Financials: contributions, accounting, direct online giving, reporting
- Facilities scheduling and maintenance tracking
- Small group and volunteer coordination:
 - Committee chairmen and group leaders can communicate directly with members via email or text
 - Makes sign-up and tracking responsibilities easier
- Parish-wide communications
- Profiles and directory: parishioners can maintain their own profile with contact information, privacy level, and communication preferences
- Event setup and promotion
- Calendar maintenance
- Mobile app included
- Pricing model is subscription based on features and number of users

Current goals:

Upgrade and improve signage both inside the buildings and outside.

Launch a redesigned website, with clearer navigation and an updated user interface.

Work in conjunction with the Stewardship Committee to create a strong program to enable parishioners to discern their gifts and learn how they might share those gifts with the work of the parish.

Leverage the ACS Realm features to improve and expand internal communication.

Examine opportunities for more involvement with parishioners through special communication apps and expansion to other social media outlets, such as Instagram.

Next year we hope initiate an Apps Sunday—a day when parishioners (especially youth and young adults) might share their knowledge about how to use phones, tablets, etc. with the less technical among us. Armed with this knowledge, we will participate in the annual Social Media Sunday, an initiative among churches around the world in which people use social media to check in from their services, post pictures of parish life, or share their thoughts regarding what their church means to them.

Submitted by: Joan Curtis, Terri Tillman, & Joe Woodyard

PARISH LIFE

What fun we have in our Parish Life committee! Our mission, which is to provide hospitality and encourage community within the parish of St. Gregory the Great, is joyously accomplished by hosting a series of events throughout the year. We embrace our responsibility with endurance, good humor and creativity.

In 2017, Parish Life hosted 12 different events, plus we coordinated over 100 Sunday morning coffee hours. Our events included:

- 3 baptism receptions
- 2 funeral receptions
- Feast of the Epiphany potluck dinner– the serving of wassail and the King’s cake amidst a setting of gold and purple, the crowning of three kings and a lively songfest
 - Annual meeting and Vestry’s soup luncheon – a variety of soups, breads, spicy crackers and cookies
 - Maundy Thursday potluck dinner (replaced the Seder dinner) – Middle Eastern fare with an atmosphere of burlap, twigs, rocks and candles
 - Easter potluck breakfast (new) – breakfast foods and Easter-themed cakes served on pastel table cloths with “Happy Easter” table top decorations
 - Festive Easter coffee hour – a rearrangement of the breakfast with additional decorated goodies
 - Pentecost picnic – an outdoor celebration featuring over 100 symbolic, origami doves for decoration, a tower of flames, and typical picnic food
 - Feast of St. Francis potluck breakfast (new) – an outdoor atmosphere of craft paper, twigs, brown napkins, origami birds and bird seed, and featuring honey almond cakes (St. Francis’ one indulgence in his austere life)
 - 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. coffee hours – serving thousands of cups of coffee annually on Sunday mornings

Considering we averaged one event per month, what an amazingly dedicated and loyal committee of 17 members this is! It is our goal to make our events festive and fun-filled through fellowship, decorations, special foods and “little surprises.” For families grieving the loss of a loved one, we assist in creating a memorable celebration of life.

Sunday morning coffee hours are also coordinated by Parish Life, and who doesn’t enjoy this social time! Eight volunteers host the 8 a.m. coffee hour on an annual rotation; however, the 10:30 coffee hour is on a quarterly host schedule. Through a generous donation from Karen and Brad Hankins, Parish Life was able to buy approximately 100 much needed, matching coffee cups. Thank you, thank you to the wonderful coffee hour volunteers who brought goodies, made coffee and oversaw kitchen cleanup afterwards. However, more hosts are needed for the 10:30 coffee hours. If you love sipping your Sunday morning coffee, then please consider doing your part to provide it. We encourage you to consider hosting a coffee hour as part of your St. Gregory’s mission. Training is provided!

We committee members had such a good time gathering to create over 100, origami, Pentecost doves from paper dollies! For some of the events, we congregated to cook food, while at other times we shopped together for decorations. (Thank you, Carol Cason, for singularly folding 40 pieces of paisley paper into beautiful table top birds.) What pleasure we felt in sharing our time for the good of God and St. Gregory!

Parish Life extends warm hugs to the parishioners who attend our events and so willingly provide delicious food for our popular potlucks. Afterwards, some people are always available to lend a hand with cleaning up and this is so appreciated. These events cannot be successful without your participation.

My sincere thanks to all you wonderful Parish Life members for the hours and hours you have contributed to providing food, planning, setting up, decorating and cleaning up for these events: Barbara Crowley (10:30 coffee hour coordinator), Annette Bates, Carol Cason, Dona Conway, Fran Covert, Lois Alworth, Marilyn Walsh, Pat Irby, Shelby Welch, Karen Radde, Rhonda Packer, Stacie Court, Evan Powell, James Jude, Jane Armistead and Sandy Hudson. And, to our understanding spouses who so willingly help us out: Bill Alworth, Jeff Welsh, David Court, Jack Armistead, Ron Bates and Mason Somerville. Thanks to Lois Alworth, who also serves as our Vestry liaison, for keeping us informed and the church leadership aware of our committee’s needs and activities.

Finally, Parish Life extends a most sincere “we appreciate you” to Kendall Kookogey for helping us promote our events (and keeping us on schedule), and to our dedicated sexton Allena Armour who so willingly assists us with our events.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Somerville, Chairperson

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

2017 was a fairly busy time for the folks that maintain the buildings at St. Gregory. Special thanks go to Mark Hein, Mason Somerville, and Paul Davis for work this past year.

The beginning of the year saw the completion of the new dishwasher installation in the Christian Education kitchen, a project that also involved: 1. the installation of a new on-demand gas hot water heater for the Christian Ed building, which will save much energy over the large tank heater that had been in place (which was getting old anyway); and 2. the upgrade of the gas service to allow a higher flow of gas needed for the immediate demands of the hot water heater and dishwasher. The new dishwasher has been working now for almost a year and has performed very well.

The other large project completed in 2017 was the replacement or repair of approximately half the rafter tails on the Sanctuary Building. These rotted much too soon, primarily because they were made of substandard wood and were not primed well enough. The replacements were made of rot-resistant cedar and were well-primed. Since then, the church's own Paul Davis has finish painted all the trim on the Sanctuary exterior and will soon paint the outside walls as well.

Smaller maintenance projects included the following: HVAC maintenance in the Sanctuary; plumbing repairs in the Christian Ed building; conversion of the Parish Hall/Office bathrooms to unisex status and the installation of baby-changing station; repair/replacement of lights and light fixtures in various places; painting of the western youth room.

This coming year we look forward to the painting of the Sanctuary outside (mentioned above) and the proposed replacement of deteriorated concrete on the patio, a large and potentially messy job. Very soon we will have to replace the roof on the Parish Hall/Office building, and it would also be good to replace the carpet in the Christian Ed building (what's there now is the original from the 1980s). We may also finally have fabricated and installed the cross always intended for the roof of the Sanctuary building.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Reinberger, Chair of Buildings

GROUNDS

Grounds is fully equipped to handle almost anything that arises at this time. The following are some of the year round grounds jobs:

- Several small trees were removed due to storm damage last year.
- Fire ants were eradicated and kept at bay throughout the year.
- Several invasive plant species were removed throughout the grounds.
- The grass was mowed once a week throughout the summer.
- New plants, bushes, and trees in the memorial garden were watered regularly to help establish them.
- The patios, walkways, and parking lots were blown off on a regular basis.
- The memorial and front gardens are neatly bordered with pine straw.
- Picking up limbs and pine cones is also a yearlong activity.
- New plants are added (or moved) each year.
- The gutters and drains are cleaned regularly, once a week in the fall and before all storms.

Mark Hein

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee had three areas of focus during 2017: cash contributions, contributions of food and goods, as well as several community-based, hands-on activities.

The committee provided \$12,000 in cash contributions to 13 community organizations and made a significant donation to Episcopal Relief and Development to support the hurricane relief effort last fall. The community organizations that the parish supported financially during 2017 included: ULEAD Athens, Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, Community Christmas/Oglethorpe County energy assistance, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Empty Stocking Fund, Aids Athens, Jubilee Partners, Athens-Clarke County Council on Aging (Meals on Wheels), Oasis, Casa de Amistad, The Cottage, ARK, and the FEAST program.

In addition to cash contributions, the parish collected food each week for the Athens Food Bank (??) through the little red wagon. The parish collected infant and hygiene items for both the ARK and the Athens Area Homeless Day Center. Children's art supplies were collected for the Pinewoods Library afterschool program.

The Outreach Committee held a hands-on workshop in November to further develop parish-wide outreach ministry efforts. The workshop groups focused on support to the Interfaith Hospitality Network, identifying and supporting the needs of families and children in the Barnett Shoals Elementary attendance zone, and identifying and supporting the Hispanic community's needs in the greater Athens area. Each group plans a specific parish-wide follow up event in early 2018.

Members of the St. Gregory parish, both individually and collectively, participated in a wide-variety of community outreach efforts. Some of these efforts included the bi-monthly FEAST program at Covenant Presbyterian, cooking meals and distributing food for the Athens Area Food Bank, providing meals for the homeless day shelter, providing tutoring services in partnership with Jubilee Partners at Lavender Lakes.

Moving forward into 2018, we hope to engage more of the parish in hand-on activities beginning with training for participation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) in January and February, service projects at Barnett Shoals Elementary School, and outreach to the Hispanic and migrant populations in our community.

Susanne Burton, Outreach Committee Chairperson

Mark Tavernier, Vestry Liaison to Outreach Committee

Life of our Parish

Baptisms in 2017:

Salley Dingus, Charles Ingle, Calum Cook, Claudia Cook, Isla McDuffie, and Mack Sawyer

Confirmations in 2017:

Scott Fern, Dakota Hamlin, Klara Lankford, Tristan Lankford, Pace Barkdoll, Benjamin Barkdoll

Marriages in 2017:

David Zerkel and Kristin Davidson

Deaths in 2017:

Helen Hale, Ray Campbell, Felix Parker

INREACH/PASTORAL CARE

Building Community in Service to Others

- Hospital Visits when needed (count uncertain)
- Home Visits 3+ per week
- Phone Calls/Texts 3+ per week
- Meal Sharing 9 families / 60 Meals Delivered
- Communion Delivered
- Networking Services (mental health, child development, support groups, housing, etc)

Pastoral Care Accessories

Meditation Group: Missy Hamlin

Started: Wednesday February 27, 2013
Meets weekly on Wednesdays from 4-5:30
Attendees vary from 4-10 weekly.

Parenting Support Group: Missy Hamlin

Started: Sunday August 25, 2013
Meets weekly Sundays 9:15-10:15
Attendees vary 6-12

Men's Book Group: Peter Rice

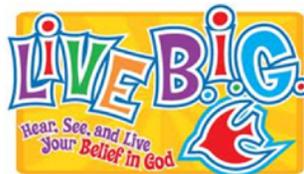
Started: February 2016
Meets weekly Saturdays 9am
Attendees vary 2-4

Virtual Medical Equipment Library

Various/multiple DME available to be shared

Gregorian Voices of Blessing: Jonathan Klein

Started: Fall of 2017
3 visits
Attendees: 18



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

This year, with the help of many members of the St. Gregory's congregation, the Spiritual Formation Committee sponsored a range of lessons and programs. We offer special thanks to Ken Taylor for conducting a class each Sunday, between the 8:00 and 10:30 AM services, on the lectionary readings for that Sunday; Ken also presents a "Movie Night" each month which features classic movies, often with a religious message, from his extensive collection. A Lenten Program, *The 5 Marks of Love*, made available by the Society of St. John the Evangelist, was used as the basis of the St. Gregory Lenten program in 2017. In the spring of 2017 the Spiritual Formation Committee presented a series of three classes based on the book edited by Catherine Meeks, entitled "Living into God's Dream", as part of the total Diocesan effort on Dismantling Racism. As part of this same Diocesan effort, the Committee thanks Rich Rusk for presenting classes in the fall on past efforts to combat racism in the Athens area.

In July, Laura Bryant and Karen Kassinger ran a successful Wednesday morning program where about 18 men and women read and discussed "Let Your Life Speak" by Parker Palmer. Also in the summer Ron Balthazar presented a three session course between the 8:00 and 10:30 services dealing with Spirituality and Nature entitled, "Creation, Literature, and Faith."

In the fall, Gene Ruffin presented a series of three classes between the 8:00 and 10:30 services on the Book of Job, and Wayne Coppins presented three classes on the historical context, economic, social, and religious, of first century Palestine. Wayne's series of classes included insights gained from the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus. On three Sundays during Advent, Sara Gordon used the 9:15 to 10:15 time period to present and analyze a selection of Advent poems, ranging from Annunciation by John Donne to Fourth Advent by Anya Silver.

During Advent, the Committee also sponsored the production of a booklet of Daily Devotionals that was distributed to the members of the Congregation. This booklet was coordinated by Lisa Hunt and edited by Lee Ann Pingel. During 2017 Lane Norton arranged for the display of St. Gregory's Labyrinth in the Parish Hall and directed Labyrinth "Spiritual Walks". Lane Norton also facilitates a weekly "Dream Group".

In 2017, for the first time in several years, the Spiritual Formation Committee sponsored special retreats. The first retreat was organized by Tina Carlson and lead by Miriam Dunson. The theme of this retreat at St. Gregory's, attended by about 15 individuals, was Spirituality and Aging. The second retreat, held at the home of David and Becky Lockman, was organized by a committee headed by Karen Kassinger, and was led by Ryan Kuratko. The theme of this retreat, attended by over forty participants, was Sympathetic Joy to the World. We give special thanks to Tina and Karen for organizing these retreats, for David and Becky Lockman for donating their house and grounds so that the retreat could be held in a setting ideal for contemplation and reflection, and finally to the Vestry for agreeing to help fund these retreats from funds left over from a grant to St. Gregory's from the Trinity Foundation.

The Committee thanks all of the individuals mentioned above for their volunteer efforts that made it possible to present the wide range of "Spiritual" offerings available to the St. Gregory congregation in 2017.

The Committee also offers special thanks to Pete Nicholls for his invaluable help in setting up the projector for all of the Friday Movie Nights and for the Lenten program, for helping display and then store St. Gregory's Labyrinth, and for donating his time (and truck and trailer) to move and then return the chairs and tables used at the Lockman's house for the retreat lead by Ryan Kuratko. Literally, several of the Spiritual Formation activities in 2017 could not have taken place without Pete's special contribution.

Submitted by Bill Alworth, Chair, Spiritual Formation Committee

STEWARDSHIP

In 2017, St. Gregory's continued our commitment to a year-round stewardship program. Instead of relying on the traditional "Three Ts—Time, Talent, and Treasure," we reframed our focus this year to "The Life and Work of the St. Gregory's Community." Within this framework, we presented the financial commitment (i.e. pledging) as an investment that allows us to continue and expand this work, and the personal commitment (participation in ministry) as an opportunity to take part in the life of the church and serve the community around us. For our theme, we chose the words attributed to St. Teresa of Avila:

*Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

Our annual call for pledges kicked off with a Stewardship Luncheon on September 24. Response was very positive with 111 pledgers as of January 15 for a total amount of \$314,149.00. This represents a year-over-year increase of eight pledges and \$28,054 from the same date last year. Some 13 people who pledged last year have not yet pledged for 2018; Stewardship Committee members are calling to remind them and address any concerns or questions. Vestry members are also reaching out to new and existing church members who are active in the parish but have never pledged. As always, there are parishioners who prefer to give without pledging; their contributions are greatly valued and appreciated.

In August, the Stewardship Committee sponsored "Life at St. Gregory's: A Celebration of Community and Service." This was a revamping of what used to be known as the "Ministry Fair," which had been on hiatus for several years. The celebration took place between the 8:30 and 10:30 services on Sunday morning and continued after the 10:30 service so that the maximum number of parishioners would have the opportunity to attend and participate. Almost all aspects of parish and community life were represented, and the Parish Hall was packed for the occasion. Sign-up sheets were provided for anyone who wanted to join a group or receive more information. The event was deemed a success and planning is already in the works for this year's event. We are looking for ways to provide guidance for parishioners who want to serve, but are struggling to identify their own gifts as well as the opportunities to offer them.

Many thanks to all who have served on the Stewardship Committee in the past year: Jo Benton, Kelly Black, Evan Bradford, Susanne Burton, Fran Covert, Scott Fern, Mary Alice Isele, Julia Marlowe, Marge Massey, and Jamaica Miller. Mike Peck has gone above and beyond the call of duty as our Vestry liaison, doing routine committee work in addition to serving as the face and voice of stewardship in announcements and presentations, and Rev. Laura Bryant continues to provide excellent support and mentorship. However, the highest accolades and greatest appreciation must go to Conoly Hester, who retired this year after a long and faithful tenure as committee chair. Conoly set the standard for committee activity and kept the banner flying through sometimes difficult circumstances. Her dedication has enabled the mission of St. Gregory's to continue and move forward, and we are forever grateful.

Submitted by Terri Tillman

WELCOMING/NEWCOMERS

Committee: Welcoming / Newcomer Incorporation

Contact: Sam Preston

Purpose: To experience and share the presence of God in Christ by welcoming people and incorporating them into the life of the church.

Goals:

1. Our church will welcome and be enriched by persons from many walks of life.
2. Being part of our church community will give new meaning to parishioner's lives.
3. A friendly atmosphere will be evident among the members of our church.
4. Newcomers will sense an atmosphere of genuine care and concern among the church members.
5. Members of our church will be prepared to personally welcome guests to church activities.

Vestry Liaison: Facilitate communication between vestry and committee.

Committee Chair:

1. Facilitate identification of committee's purpose and goals.
2. Oversee development and implementation of strategies to achieve committee's goals.
3. Prepare annual budget requests.
4. Approve expenditures in support of the committee's work.

Greeting Team:

Team Captain:

1. Maintain Schedule and share with Kendall
2. Invite potential greeters to join the team
3. Help teach new recruits
4. Remind greeters of their scheduled times

Greeters:

1. Start Sundays at 10:15 or earlier
2. Say "Good Morning" and "Welcome" a lot.
3. Introduce yourself to new faces and let them know that we're glad they're here. Give out Welcoming Brochures. Also, ask visitors to sign our Guest Book or fill out a pew card.
4. After the service, direct people to coffee time.

Correspondence Team:

1. Send notes to families who sign guest book or fill in pew cards
2. Restock pew card and pencils
3. Work with Chair/Liaison to recruit help as needed

Social Events Team

Team Captain:

1. Maintain Schedule and share with Kendall
2. Invite identified parishioners to join the team
3. Oversee planning of at least one social event a quarter geared toward newcomers.
4. Delegate tasks to other team members.

Team Members: Work as a team to put on social events geared toward newcomers

Gift Discernment Team: Converse with members to help match talents, interests and needs with opportunities for involvement at St. Gregory's.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please reference and read the financial statements that follow my remarks. A copy of the monthly financial statements is posted each month on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Parish Administrator's office.

I would first point out that there are many interpretations as to what a given set of financial statements say. In as much as there are different views of a given historical event, the story financial statements reveal can differ quite widely. The following remarks represent my view of what our financial statements say about fiscal year 2017 operations and the overall financial condition of the parish as of December 31, 2017. You should feel free to read the financial statements and reach your own conclusions. It is okay if you reach a different conclusion than the one I present. Of course I am always happy to schedule a meeting to discuss these matters in more detail with you. I would add that the parish Finance Committee meets monthly, and you are always welcome to attend one or all of those meetings. You can contact Roger Swagler (Finance Committee chair) or me about the meeting times, which are invariably held immediately after the second Holy Eucharist one Sunday each month, usually (hopefully) the Sunday preceding the monthly Vestry meeting.

Calendar year 2017 was a good year for the parish in that we exceeded our budgeted revenues (by \$1,415) and spent less than our budgeted expenses (by \$5,329). The overall total by which we positively varied from the 2017 budget was \$6,744. I encourage you to look closely at the budget to see what we spent on and to determine if you are satisfied with those goals. The 2018 Budget is also being presented and you should also feel free to express any thoughts you have to a Vestry member.

Overall, the parish's financial condition seems okay, perhaps comfortable. Maybe. Here is where informed readers may diverge in opinion as to what the facts say. I think we are fine. We ended 2017 with a little over \$34,000 (more than in most years) in operating cash and we have reserves of another \$67,000. We are scheduled to pay off the mortgage in August 2020, which will free up \$593 in monthly mortgage payments. We are however not growing any cash reserves. In the six years I have been your treasurer, we have spent what we have collected. One could argue this is a good thing in that we are able to cover our expenses each year. I guess I feel that at some point we should, we need, to begin to build our cash balances. That is my view. But you could make a compelling counter argument. These are just views. The Vestry approves the Budget. And this point reveals one of the strengths of our governance. We have an outstanding Vestry and have had every one of the six years I have been involved. Get to know the Vestry members if you don't already. While I am not trying to come across as a union organizer, I am trying to encourage you to get involved, get to know the Vestry.

While we are on governance, now is perhaps a good time to mention a couple of matters. First, as I have stated before I am not an authorized signer on any asset account of the parish. I neither handle nor move any parish money. Second, we had a parish audit this year with no material findings.

Submitted by Richard Cooper, Treasurer

31-Dec-17					
Analysis of Revenues & Expenditures - Operating Fund					
Calendar Year 2017					
			Actual	Budget	Positive/(Negative) variance
Revenues					
Loose plate offerings			\$ 5,587.16	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 87.16
General Pledge payments			\$ 307,059.00	\$ 298,000.00	\$ 9,059.00
Non-pledge Trend			\$ 37,069.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ (7,931.00)
Investment income			\$ 537.21	\$ 150.00	\$ 387.21
Other			\$ 8.68	\$ 50.00	\$ (41.32)
Earmarked Church Program Gifts			\$ 564.00	\$ -	\$ 564.00
Previous Year Rollover			\$ 8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ -
Building Use			\$ 3,290.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (710.00)
		Total Revenues	\$ 362,615.05	\$361,200.00	\$ 1,415.05
Expenditures					
Outreach					
Diocesan Pledge			\$ 33,202.19	\$ 32,704.00	\$ (498.19)
Local outreach			\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
Rector's Discretionary			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
		Total Outreach Expenses	\$ 45,702.19	\$ 45,204.00	\$ (498.19)
Parish programs					
Christian Education			\$ 4,036.25	\$ 4,340.00	\$ 303.75
Stewardship			\$ 452.05	\$ 300.00	\$ (152.05)
Welcoming			\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Worship			\$ 356.38	\$ 100.00	\$ (256.38)
Music			\$ 2,692.89	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 307.11
Acolytes			\$ 10.80	\$ 125.00	\$ 114.20
Altar Guild			\$ 1,266.14	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 233.86
Parish Life			\$ 1,884.02	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 115.98
Inreach			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Vestry Retreats/Diocesanoan Mtg			\$ 166.40	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 833.60
Youth Groups			\$ 1,928.53	\$ 800.00	\$ (1,128.53)
Chris. Ed. Dir. Continuing Educa.			\$ 498.98	\$ 500.00	\$ 1.02
Organist Continuing Education			\$ 1,015.00	\$ 900.00	\$ (115.00)
Communications			\$ 168.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 832.00
		Total Parish Programs Expenses	\$ 14,575.44	\$ 15,690.00	\$ 1,114.56
Clergy					
Clergy Salary			\$ 31,070.00	\$ 31,070.00	\$ -
Housing Allowance			\$ 43,498.00	\$ 43,498.00	\$ -
Pension - clergy			\$ 15,472.86	\$ 13,422.00	\$ (2,050.86)
Clergy Continuing Education			\$ 100.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 900.00

Supply Clergy		\$ 2,424.84	\$ 1,800.00	\$ (624.84)
Sabbatical Expenses		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Clergy Travel & Profess. Fees		\$ 2,274.67	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 125.33
	Total Clergy Expenses	94,840.37	93,690.00	(1,150.37)
Administrative				
Salary - Lay employees		\$ 99,827.68	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 172.32
FICA Employer		\$ 7,636.89	\$ 7,650.00	\$ 13.11
Parish Administrator pension		\$ 3,433.20	\$ 3,350.00	\$ (83.20)
Service contracts		\$ 9,508.12	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 991.88
Office supplies		\$ 2,063.59	\$ 1,800.00	\$ (263.59)
Postage		\$ 501.15	\$ 600.00	\$ 98.85
Telephone		\$ 2,731.05	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (31.05)
Miscellaneous Admin/Audit		\$ 3,311.79	\$ 9,331.00	\$ 6,019.21
Search Committee expenses		\$ 10,415.22	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 3,584.78
Supply organist		\$ 575.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 325.00
Workers Comp Insurance		\$ 1,716.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 284.00
Commercial Insurance		\$ 6,847.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ (347.00)
Parish Admin Retreat/Dues		\$ 25.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 225.00
Parish Admin health Insurance		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Christian Ed. Director's Pension		\$ 1,741.80	\$ 1,700.00	\$ (41.80)
	Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 150,933.49	\$ 161,881.00	\$ 10,947.51
Buildings & Grounds				
Utilities		\$ 15,564.64	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 1,435.36
Debt Service (Mortgage)		\$ 7,117.20	\$ 7,117.00	\$ (0.20)
Building maintenance		\$ 9,928.65	\$ 6,000.00	\$ (3,928.65)
Grounds maintenance		\$ 795.40	\$ 800.00	\$ 4.60
Capital replacement		\$ 10,595.54	\$ 8,000.00	\$ (2,595.54)
	Total Buildings & Grounds	\$ 44,001.43	\$ 38,917.00	\$ (5,084.43)
	Total Expenses	\$350,052.92	\$355,382.00	5,329.08
	Net Total	12,562.13	5,818.00	6,744.13
Balance Sheet				
12/31/17				
Cash in Bank				
Operating Fund		\$ 34,303.24		
J2A Fund		\$ 10,041.61		
Building Fund		\$ (11.00)		
Designated Gifts Fund		\$ 21,901.67		
Endowment Fund		\$ 370.00		
Memorial Fund		\$ 9,771.22		
Brotherhood Fund		\$ 874.79		
Memorial Wall Fund		\$ 12,801.49		

Ctr for Spiritual Foundation Fund	\$	(1,281.61)		
Trinity Church Grant Funds	\$	213.99		
		Total Cash	88,985.40	
Cash Equivalent Funds	\$	67,083.64		
Endowment investments	\$	27,043.65		
Ctr for Spirit. Found. Investments	\$	7,142.48		
		Total Investments	\$ 101,269.77	
Furniture & Equipment	\$	20,004.04		
Piano	\$	26,492.92		
Furn & Equip - New Sanctuary	\$	64,432.71		
		Total Other Assets	\$ 110,929.67	
Land	\$	27,500.00		
2001/2002 Sanctuary	\$	922,737.29		
Other Buildings	\$	389,777.29		
Property improvements	\$	56,152.50		
memorial Wall	\$	5,653.22		
		Total real property	\$1,401,820.30	
		Total Assets	\$1,703,005.14	
Payroll related liabilities	\$	1,783.85		
Mortgage - new Sanctuary	\$	23,315.97		
		Total liabilities	\$ 25,099.82	
Fund Principal & Fund Balances				
Investment in equipment	\$	110,929.67		
Operating Fund Contingency Reserve	\$	40,000.00		
Consolidated Fund Balance		\$1,526,975.65		
		Total Fund Principal & Balances	\$1,677,905.32	
		Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$1,703,005.14	

