

GREGORIAN CHANT

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church | Athens, GA

Vestry Updates

March Vestry Meeting:

At the March Vestry meeting, members received updates on several ongoing projects including exterior signage, exterior painting, and implementation of new accounting and management software. Alice Mohor was elected to a one-year term as clerk and Richard Cooper to a two-year term as treasurer. The vestry also received an extensive update from Karen Kassinger, co-chair of the nominating committee. The Vestry liaisons to several committees provided updates and facilitated discussions of their work with committee chairs regarding how each committee might further the work of our Vestry goals for this year. Adopted at our February retreat, our goals for the year are:

- To maintain a high level of pastoral care by clergy and laity.
- To strengthen our programs to attract more families with children and youth.
- To expand our outreach efforts to those who live on the margins.
- To assist parishioners in discerning their gifts.
- To implement strategies to welcome newcomers.
- To call a rector and facilitate the transition process.
- To refine our vision statement.

...”so that we love like Jesus and share the presence of God in Christ.”

Mark Averis

Sr. Warden

Thank you from the Hesters

Al and I can never express the gratitude we feel for St. Gregory’s – that we were called to move our membership there twenty years ago, and the love we have for this very real Christian community. But even more during the last eight months since Al broke his neck, we have felt wrapped in love. The cards and phone calls and prayers and flowers and visits and communions and wonderful meals.

Al gets up with the help of a lift into his wheelchair twice a day, for lunch and dinner, and maybe afterward for a little computer time or a ride out on the sidewalk. The meal train is always the high point of the day – something different, brought by a fresh face.

It has meant so much – it is the way we go out to dinner these days. The menu is full of surprises, and the quick visits that come with the dinner is like running into a friend in a restaurant. Others of you have unexpectedly rung the doorbell and handed in a container of chili or soup, or a bottle of wine and the makings of dinner.

I originally tried to write thank you notes, but I can’t keep up. Our days go by too fast – with doctors’ appointments, and struggling to schedule 24-7 care, and getting up in the lift, wound care and therapy – we don’t know where they go. But we know we are blessed beyond measure. We give thanks for you in our prayers. We can never repay you and we thank you all so much.

– Conoly and Al Hester

Nominating

Committee Update

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work this week conducting interviews with eight priests in discernment. The next step will be to send teams of three NomCom members to visit each priest still in discernment following the interview. These visits will last through April and early May. We are still hopeful that our new priest will join us this summer!

Athens Master

Gardener Plant Sale

Athens Area Master Gardener Association’s annual Spring plant sale will be Saturday, April 28 from 8AM-1PM at the ACC Extension Office, 2152 West Broad St. Rain or shine! You can also catch their sale at the Winterville Marigold Festival on Saturday, May 12 from 9AM-5PM!

IHN Training

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) has two training sessions planned for this month. If you have not been trained and would like to volunteer during the weeks that St. Gregory works with IHN, this announcement is for you---you may want to attend one of these. More training opportunities are also being planned for the near future.

- Sunday, April 15, 2pm at the IHNA Day Center Upstairs Space
- Sunday, April 22, 12:30pm at Athens Church of Christ, Watkinsville (3720 Mars Hill Rd)

Outreach Committee Meeting

The Outreach Committee will meet right after the 10:30AM service on Sunday, April 22.

Lenten Giving Calendars!

Please return your mite box collections for Episcopal Relief and Development, if you haven't already! This money will be used for purchasing mosquito netting in areas where Malaria is a health threat. Each mosquito net (with training for the recipient) costs \$12. You can see our mock mosquito net-covered bed in the Children's Chapel. Using the Lenten Giving Calendar is a fun way for kids and adults to count your many blessings, develop empathy for the struggles others face daily, and save coins for this cause.



Movie Night!

The parish movie for April will be *The Outlaw Josey Wales* (PG, 1976), starring Clint Eastwood, Sondra Locke, and Chief Dan George. It is a classic of the Western genre as well as of cinema in general. It is noteworthy for being an early example of a movie that portrays Native Americans positively. One might also easily detect themes of addressing bitterness and learning to end violence.

The screening will occur in the chapel at 6:30 p.m. on Friday April 27. Free drinks and popcorn will be available. Childcare can be available, if the request is made by Wednesday, April 25, by calling Kendall, Parish Administrator.

— Ken Taylor

St. Gregory Reaches out to the Community

This winter, St. Gregory Outreach volunteers were in the community supporting myriad projects. Thanks to all who contributed their time.

Blue Bags: A HUGE thank you to those who participated in our Blue Bag Drive. Over 60 "big blue bags" were collected during the winter months. Each bag contained a shopping list of nonperishable food items that were delivered to migrant, undocumented, and homeless families across Athens. In addition, a literal trunk-load of new and gently used blankets, towels, and sheets were donated by parishioners as well. Interfaith Hospitality Network: Thanks to Anthony Barkdoll, Annette Bates, Evan Bradford, George Braman, Kris Braman, Carolyn Clarke, Ann Darby, Madeline Darnell, David Floyd, Jamaica Miller, Deirdre Murray, Rhonda Packer, Bonny Thomas and Marilyn Walsh for supporting IHN families during our March 11-18 host week. During the week, St. Gregory and Oconee Street Methodist provided a total of 185 volunteer hours in service to IHN families. St. Gregory volunteered 96 of those hours through driving families to and from school and work, preparing evening meals, visiting with families during the late afternoon and early evening, and serving as overnight hosts.

The Feast: In January and March, St. Gregory parishioners supported The Feast, a collaborative of eastside churches, whose mission is to provide food to those in need. More than 175 individuals were served each month.

Karen Refugee Project: In January, St. Gregory volunteers began tutoring local refugees through the Karen Refugee Project. During tutoring sessions, volunteers assisted refugees with developing English language skills necessary to take the citizenship test.

Emergency Food Bank: St. Gregory parishioners volunteered monthly at the Emergency Food Bank.

St. Gregory's Library

Our parish library is a wonderful resource not one of us should take for granted. I think, for example, of a library I saw at another parish in another part of the state recently. I recall noticing no clear organization to the books, considerably fewer in number than here. I also remember seeing books arranged in front of other books. We have a fine library; we should rejoice in that fact.

In the mysticism category of that fine library one can find works by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), a Roman Catholic priest, scientist, and theologian. Teilhard de Chardin, steeped in geology, paleontology, and theology, represented the best of the Roman Catholic tradition, for he sought to reconcile faith and reason; he stood in line with Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Pope Sylvester II, St. Albertus Magnus, St. Thomas Aquinas, Nicolaus Copernicus, and Galileo Galilei, among many others. Unfortunately for Teilhard de Chardin, his acceptance of science (such as evolution) ran afoul of the Church between the papacy of Pius X and the Second Vatican Council. The Church therefore prevented him from publishing theological works for much of his life. After Teilhard de Chardin died, however, he became an influential theologian.

— Kenneth Taylor

Adult Sunday School

Adult Study (Parish Hall)

On April 8, Dr. Wayne Coppins will begin a 7- week course on the Gospel of Mark. The class will meet in the parish hall from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM Sunday mornings. The book to accompany the course (in addition to the Book of Mark itself) is “Reading Mark: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Second Gospel”, by Sharyn Dowd. The cost of this book new is about \$30, but used paperback copies are on sale at Amazon for about half the cost of a new book. In addition, for those who don’t want to buy the book, Wayne will print out copies of a shorter “summary” by Sharyn Dowd on the Gospel of Mark. This class will demonstrate why it is better to study an entire book of the Bible rather than only selecting a few verses.

Parenting Spirituality (Office #1)

Ongoing

Building community through listening and sharing parenting experiences with one another, we share strategies and encouragement while working towards less reactive and more intentional parenting.

Lectionary (Library): The more I study the Bible, the more I realize how much more there is to learn about it. That is one of the joys of studying that sacred anthology. Anglican theology affirms scripture not only as one-third of Richard Hooker's Three-Legged Stool, but as the primary leg of that metaphorical stool, with tradition and reason being the other two legs. Shall we meet in the library at 9:15 each Sunday morning and, true to the best of our heritage, ponder the lectionary readings in the light of tradition, reason, and other parts of the Bible?

Children

As we journey through the season of Easter, we will ponder their messages, and what it means to “be a neighbor.” Who are our neighbors, and how do we live out our Baptismal covenant to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves?” We’ll do this playfully and prayerfully through Sunday School workshops designed to engage all our senses, our hearts, and our brains, through outreach, cooking, gardening, creating art, watching videos, and engaging in Godly Play!

Wednesday Meditation Group

Wednesdays at 4PM in the library

The meditation group meets in the church's library, to share our stories, coping strategies, meditation and prayer to work through many of life's transitions. Practicing advanced meditation techniques, we embrace a mindfulness practice that enhances a deep inner peace, growth and change.

Rhythms of Grace



Families looking for a different worship experience are invited to Rhythms of Grace, on **Sunday, April 8 at 3PM** at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. This adaptive service is designed to be welcoming to those for whom conventional worship may be difficult, including those sensitive to loud music or crowds, those on the Autism spectrum, and wiggly children who just want to move! The service features scripture and storytelling, therapeutic play, and a simplified prayer for Holy

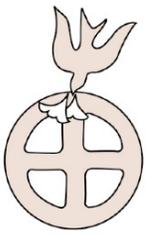
Communion. Gathering and dismissal rituals and visual and auditory cues help with transitioning. St. Gregory's hosts Rhythms of Grace on the second Sunday of each month in our sanctuary. All are welcome at every service at St. Gregory's. Please invite your friends!

Youth Pilgrimage

Mark and Maggie Reinberger are leading a pilgrimage with the high school youth, May 30-June 5 based at Episcopal Camp and Retreat Center at Bishop's Ridge, Stoney, near Santa Fe, NM, owned by the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

The camp, located picturesquely in the San Christabel Mountains, has chapel, trails, and other accommodations for group retreats and is perfectly sited for day trips to significant spiritual and cultural centers: Santa Fe's Spanish heritage sites, Taos Pueblo, Chimayo Spanish Mission, and Navaholand, a Native American community with which the diocese partners. Those who run the camp are offering advice on how to set up trips and can put us in touch with local congregations who have interactions with Native American groups. Christopher Jewell, who runs the camp, is extremely accommodating and eager to help in any way.

Another site, the Acoma Pueblo, the oldest inhabited place in North America and a place to experience multiple spiritualities and a community that lives in harmony with their environment, will be visited either at the beginning or end of the pilgrimage, either coming from or returning to the Albuquerque airport. Accommodation near there will be one night in a motel.



St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
3195 Barnett Shoals Road
Athens, GA 30605

>>Return Service Requested<<
706-546-7553

Happy Birthday!

April 1	Klara Lankford Tristan Lankford	April 16	Linda Barrett
April 2	Terrell Benton Lucy Tavernier	April 18	Gavin Avinger
April 5	Davis Gabriel	April 19	Paul Heald Clare Severens
April 6	Barbara Kuhn	April 20	Alex Buckley Del Hicks Walker McNiff
April 7	Berkeley Minor	April 21	Philip Walter Chere Peterson
April 11	Henri Johnson Glenn Knowlton	April 22	Madelyn Coyne
April 12	June Ball Gene Ruffin Roger Swagler Sarah Black	April 24	Riley Byers
April 13	Jonathan Klein Parker Yates	April 25	Jane Hudson Ian Van Giesen
April 14	Shelby Marquardt	April 28	Olivia Morris
April 15	Samuel Preston, IV Eddie Van Giesen	April 29	Geneva Preston
		April 30	Ron Balthazor Linda Morris