

AUGUST 2018

# GREGORIAN CHANT

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church | Athens, GA

## St. Gregory Welcomes Its New Rector!

The Vestry of St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church is pleased to announce the call of the next rector of our parish, the Rev. Nikki Mathis. The Rev. Mathis is currently serving as the Associate Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rome, Georgia. At St. Peter's her responsibilities included preaching, teaching, pastoral care and counseling, and oversight of the children's and youth ministry programs. Prior to her five years at St. Peter's, she was the Associate Dean for Student Life at the School of Theology, University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. She has also served as Associate Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Atlanta.



In addition to her parish experience, Nikki has served as a teacher / professor in the Preaching Excellence Program in Richmond, Virginia during the past 7 years. And prior to entering the ministry, she worked as a professional social worker for the Department of Family and Children Services.

Nikki received her call to the ministry while she was attending St. Gregory the Great. The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor, Rector at that time, encouraged her to attend seminary.

She is married to Vincent Mathis, and they have a 5-year old son named Ethan. She holds a BA degree from Emory University, a Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia, and a Master of Divinity from the University of the South.

The vestry is very excited to have The Rev. Mathis join us as we continue to grow in living our mission to "love like Jesus and share the presence of God in Christ."

Her first Sunday with us will be September 30. Stay tuned for more details about several welcoming events that will happen in early October.

Welcome, The Rev. Nikki Mathis!

*\*\*see page 2 for our schedule of supply priests through Sept. 23\*\**

## 3rd Annual 5K for Parkinson's - St. Gregory's TEAM info!

To all runners, walkers, pram pushers, and dogs: Join us on August 18, 2018, for the Third Annual 5K run/walk to support Parkinson's research. Sandy Creek Nature Center. Start time 7:30AM (walkers at 8:30AM). Donations and further information at [teamfox.org/outpaceparkinsons](http://teamfox.org/outpaceparkinsons) or ask Jane or Jack Armistead. All proceeds to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Joe and Ann Woodyard have formed a **team** for the Outpace Parkinsons race and would love more people to join them! Email them for more information ([woodyardj11@gmail.com](mailto:woodyardj11@gmail.com)). It's always more fun to be a part of a team effort!

## Choir Practice Resumes!

St. Gregory's choir will resume their regular Wednesday rehearsals on August 1 at 7:15PM. Come join the choir!

## Blessing of the Backpacks

A new school year begins in August for youth, college students, and adults! To mark this new beginning, we invite everyone to bring his/her backpack/briefcase to worship on Sunday, August 12, for special blessings and prayers.

## Movie Night!

The parish movie for August will be *The Magnificent Seven* (1960), starring, among others, Yul Brynner, Eli Wallach, and Steve McQueen. This classic, a remake of another classic, *The Seven Samurai* (1954), probably needs little in the way of introduction. One can probably hum the famous theme by Elmer Bernstein, for example. This is a story about using necessary violence to defend an innocent population without glorifying that violence. The movie is also a story about laying down one's life for others. Come join us on Friday, August 31 at 6:30PM! Admission, popcorn, and drinks will be free!

Please request childcare, if you need it, by calling the church office by Weds., August 29.



## Save the Date

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, will speak at a benefit dinner for the Day1 media ministry on Thursday, Sept. 6, at 6:30PM (Cocktail hour begins at 6PM). The theme of Curry's message is "We Need Some Witnesses to the Way of Jesus."

The event supports the Day1 ecumenical radio and internet ministry (formerly known as The Protestant Hour), which has broadcast sermons by outstanding preachers from the mainline denominations each week for 73 years.

The event will take place at Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta. Seating for the dinner event is limited. For more information or to order tickets, please contact Patricia Reagan at (404) 418-6772 or preagan@day1.org.

## Parish Library

Our parish is blessed to have such a fine library, to which many people have contributed. This month's featured author is Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910), the great Russian novelist and moral philosopher. We are fortunate to have volumes by him in two categories--Mysticism and Literature and Drama.

## Until our new Rector arrives...

We are happy to welcome several priests to St. Gregory the Great while we await the coming of our new rector, The Rev. Nikki Mathis, on September 30. Please extend a warm welcome to the following:

Sunday, August 5 The Rev. Mike Freeman  
Sunday, August 12 The Rev. Mike Freeman  
Sunday, August 19 The Rev. Canon C. John Thompson Quartey  
Sunday, August 26 **Morning Prayer** with Gene Ruffin (*see article below*)  
Sunday, September 2 The Rev. Claiborne Jones  
Sunday, September 9 The Rev. Claiborne Jones  
Sunday, September 16 The Rev. Claiborne Jones  
Sunday, September 23 The Rev. Claiborne Jones

\*\*Please note: The Rev. Mike Freeman will conduct our Wednesday night services on August 8 and 15. Others will be announced as they are confirmed.

## Morning Prayer Service for Sunday 8/26 8AM and 10:30AM!

Many parishioners have never experienced Morning Prayer, while some of us grew up on that service. It used to be the regular Sunday worship fare. Many churches back in the day performed Eucharist only once a month.

But things changed one day when I wasn't paying attention. The Episcopal Church started conducting Eucharist every Sunday, and Morning Prayer disappeared from our regular Sunday experience.

Here's a bit of history about this beautiful service: Morning Prayer is one of the two main daily offices in the Anglican tradition; the other one being Evening Prayer. Unlike the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the daily offices may be led by the laity. Many Anglicans say the daily offices every day as part of their spiritual discipline. The 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the current BCP, has both Rite I and Rite II of the Morning and Evening Prayers. As with the Holy Eucharist, Rite I has an Elizabethan feel while Rite II has a more modern feel.

The Morning Prayer tradition goes back to Thomas Cranmer's second BCP in 1552. Cranmer selected elements from the first three daily series of prayers said by monks, Matins, Lauds, and Prime in developing Morning Prayer. Morning Prayer includes readings from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Psalms. Morning Prayer is especially known for the beautiful canticles that are chanted throughout the service. Of course, at our 8AM service, we will say the canticles.

As noted above, before the introduction of the 1979 BCP, most Episcopal parishes used Morning Prayer as their primary service on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month (the most common practice). Eucharist was typically celebrated only on the first Sunday of the month. The 1979 BCP makes it clear that if a priest is available, then Holy Eucharist is to be the primary service on Sundays. Morning Prayer may be used as a service within itself or as the "liturgy of the word" (the portion of the service before the offertory) in the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

Our own Gene Ruffin agreed to deliver a short homily during the services. Recently retired from Georgia Gwinnett College as Dean of the Library and Professor of Philosophy, Gene has taught numerous courses in Philosophy and Religion with a particular emphasis on the Old Testament and Buddhist-Christian Dialogue.

After the 10:30AM service we will kick off the fall season with a fancy coffee reception.

Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this beautiful service that will take us back to our roots.

Joan Curtis with help from David Stooksbury

## Fall Foyers Groups

Fall Foyers groups will be starting up in August! Sign up through August 12. Foyers groups are informal groups of parishioners who meet outside of church to get to know one another better. The ONLY requirement is a desire to meet with other parishioners monthly for 4 or 5 months! You do not need to be in a particular life stage, have a “big enough” home, be a gourmet chef, or enjoy entertaining people in your own home.

Groups of 4-5 households (up to 12 people) will be somewhat randomly selected from each category, with an effort to mix up the groups so everyone can get to know new people in a new group. Some people choose to co-host with a friend, and that’s fine too. Just indicate that this is your preference when you sign up. Select whether you have a preference for a group that is adults only or family friendly. Each household will host once between August and December. Each host chooses the location (usually home or a reasonably priced restaurant) and the date/time. If you choose to host in your home, you may ask others to bring dishes or not. Some restaurant hosts will order an appetizer to share, but that’s certainly not a requirement, and everyone pays for their own meal. That’s it! If you have questions, feel free to catch Jen Ingle after church or by email ([ingle.jen@gmail.com](mailto:ingle.jen@gmail.com)).

Everyone who wants to participate must sign up, even if you participated in the past. Sign up from July 29-August 12 on the bulletin board in the Christian Education building or by email.

## Soul Shop

You may know that suicide rates in our country have risen in recent years, and you and others in your congregation may have even been personally touched by suicides in Athens.

Soul Shop is a workshop on suicide desperation that travels the country. There are two distinct workshops: a two hour session for the general public, and an all day session for congregation leaders (clergy and lay leaders). IHNA (Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens) will host both workshops in Athens at Milledge Ave. Baptist Church. The general public session is Sunday, September 16, 3-5pm and the faith leaders session is Monday, September 17, 9am-5pm. Both workshops are taught from a Christian perspective, but the topic is of course, universal. All are welcome to attend.

## Parish Life “Thanks and Thoughts”

Recently, the two “ancient” coffee makers in the Christian Ed kitchen stopped working so Parish Life replaced them with identical commercial, two-burner models. Money was taken from the committee’s designated gifts account to make the purchase. These funds represent donations from parishioners or families, often given in appreciation after funeral or baptism receptions.

Parish Life also received a generous donation of 12 matching turquoise tablecloths. Several other kitchen items have also been graciously donated. All gifts are appreciated; however, some cannot effectively be used because of space limitations or the item does not fit into our new dinnerware storage system. Please contact Ann Somerville (706-850-4692) before dropping items off at the church. Donations of paper napkins, boxes of mini-moos, assorted tea bags, coffee and cash (there is a donation jar by the coffee pots) are always welcomed. (Parish Life spends over \$500 a year on coffee alone!!)

Parish Life coordinates over 100 coffee hours a year. Our committee is so grateful to the people who host both the 8AM and 10:30AM coffee hours. Your contributions of food, hospitality, and cleanup are so vitally important to creating a welcoming atmosphere for our church family. If you and your family enjoy the coffee, juice, and delicious baked goods, then please consider helping by volunteering to be a host. You will be trained! Call Barbara Crowley (706-850-5557) to learn how you can help at the 10:30 coffee hour.

Your consideration is needed! There have been Sunday mornings when the 8AM coffee host arrives to find dirty dishes in the kitchen sink. The kitchen belongs to everyone in the parish – and the responsibility to wash the dishes is equally shared by everyone. Therefore, please be mindful if washing any dish, glass or silverware that you use and restore it in its proper area. Thank you!! — Ann Somerville



Life-Saving Culture. Life-Saving Conversations.

### SOUL SHOP FOR THE PUBLIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16  
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens

Suicide awareness training for the entire community to address:

- how we think and talk about suicide
- suicide as a community health problem
- steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of suicide

Register at [milledge.org/soulshop](http://milledge.org/soulshop) or by calling 706-354-0090 by September 13

No charge

### SOUL SHOP FOR FAITH LEADERS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens

Suicide awareness training for lay and professional leaders in faith communities to:

- respond to persons impacted by suicidal desperation, including family & friends
- develop soul-safe communities to decrease the risk of suicide
- change congregational culture around suicide

Register at [milledge.org/soulshop](http://milledge.org/soulshop) or by calling 706-354-0090 by September 13

\$10 includes boxed lunch

# CHRISTIANFORMATION

## Adults

### Adult Discussion Group (Parish Hall)

Beginning on July 15 and continuing into August, the adult class will watch a DVD series by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson, Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Emory University School of Theology, on Jesus and the Gospels. We will concentrate on Dr. Johnson's lectures on the gospel of John.

### Lectionary (Library)

Part of the awe and wonder of the Bible is that, regardless of how long one has been a serious student of it, one can always learn something about that sacred anthology. The more who attend, the better.

### Parenting Fellowship (Office #1 in Parish Hall):

Returning in August!

The parenting group meets in the little room left of the office. We enjoy building community through listening and sharing parenting experiences with one another; we share tools, tactics and encouragement while working towards less reactive and more intentional parenting.

## Youth Sunday School

Middle and High School Youth will start Sunday school upstairs in the Parish hall, starting Sunday, August 12!

## Children's Sunday School

We gather in All Saints Chapel in the Christian Ed building at 9:15, or at our vegetable garden by the patio and playground. This summer, we'll work with our Godly Play story sets in the Tent room.

## Meditation Group

### Wednesdays 4:00-5:30pm

The meditation group meets in the 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. Come join us!

## Rhythms of Grace



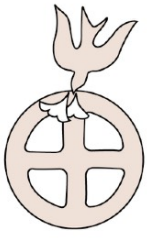
Families looking for a different worship experience are invited to Rhythms of Grace, on **Sunday, August 12 at 3PM** at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. This adaptive service is designed to be welcoming to those for whom conventional worship may be difficult, including those sensitive to loud music or 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!

## Happy Birthday!

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| August 2  | Sandra House  |
| August 3  | Jeff Sanford<br>Bradley Koch  |
| August 5  | Sam Thornton<br>Patrick Risler  |
| August 6  | Janet Wright<br>Carol Cason   |
| August 7  | Stacie Court<br>Jen Ingle   |
| August 8  | Carolyn Abney<br>Stephen Marquardt                                      |
| August 10 | Sophia Coppins  |
| August 11 | Ellen Thurmond  |
| August 12 | Eddie Bennett<br>Janice Rusk  |
| August 13 | Luther Rogers<br>Will Drosos  |
| August 14 | Rachel Temple-<br>Roberts   |
| August 16 | Julia Adang   |
| August 17 | Martha DeHart<br>Emma Scott<br>Marilyn Vickers                          |
| August 18 | Bobbie Gaissert   |
| August 20 | Hank Fowler   |
| August 22 | Mandi Murph   |
| August 23 | Margarette Fowler   |
| August 24 | Nancy Carter<br>Carrrie Kretzer<br>Kristen Reinberger                   |
| August 25 | Kathryn Musholt<br>Michelle Weinmeister<br>Patricia Titus<br>Nate Ingle |
| August 27 | Jane Gabriel<br>Rowan Poister   |





St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church  
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>>Return Service Requested<<  
706-546-7553