

GREGORIAN CHANT

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church | Athens, GA

Feast of the Epiphany | Sunday Jan. 7

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face.



Come celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and the visit of the Wise Ones during the 8 and 10:30AM services on Sunday, January 7.

Then join us for a fun-filled Feast of the Epiphany potluck brunch following the 10:30 service. Hosted by Parish Life, this brunch will feature a King cake with three hidden treasures inside. The lucky people who are served the treasures will be named “king”, and worthy gifts will be bestowed. And, of course, there will be the traditional drinking of wassail! Expect other forms of merriment as well. Since this is a brunch, you may bring either a breakfast or luncheon type dish to share. The brunch will be held in Parish Hall. Please join us for the first festive event of the New Year!

Annual Parish Meeting | January 21

Vestry Elections & Lunch

Join us for a celebration of the mission and ministries of St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church, elections of new vestry members, and lunch on Sunday, January 21 after the 10:30AM service. The meeting will also include reports from the vestry and a presentation of the 2018 budget. A variety of soups and sides will be provided by the vestry and parish life. Nursery and childcare will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

Vestry Nominations & Elections

Four new vestry members will be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting. Vestry members serve as the stewards of the parish, in partnership with the clergy, for the nurture and extension of Christ’s Church.

Nominations may be made by members of the congregation by submitting names in the “Vestry Nominations” box in the narthex or emailing our Sr. Warden, Rob McNiff (robmcniff@hotmail.com).

Vestry members serve a 3-year term. Any confirmed person who is regular in worship, is 18 years of age or older and has made and maintained a financial commitment to the parish in the previous year is eligible to serve on the vestry. Also, nominees should not be members of the same household as members of the search committee or the new vestry.

Living Faith:

Adult Inquirer’s Class

Where are you on your journey of faith? As adults our faith grows and develops over time in light of our life experiences. This class is an opportunity to explore and examine core beliefs and convictions in fellowship with others and in dialogue with scripture, tradition, spiritual practices, and the riches of our Episcopal heritage. We will also reflect on ways to integrate our faith more fully into our daily lives and relationships.

All are welcome, but the class is especially appropriate for newcomers and also serves as preparation for those seeking confirmation in the Episcopal Church, or desiring to renew their baptismal vows.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be ready to take home on Sunday, January 7. They will be in the entrance way of Parish Hall and some still in the sanctuary.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care will meet on Jan. 14, after the 10:30 service. Please bring concerns to the meeting, or [email](mailto:maggie@stgregaryathens.org) Maggie Reinberger.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Coffee Hour 10:30AM

A coffee host is needed for Sunday, January 14 after the 10:30AM service. Please consider signing up! Let Barbara Crowley know if you need help! (706.850.5557)

Also, please note the sign-up sheet for February and March as well and please sign up if you can!

Arrive approximately 10:15 to set out cups, etc. Supply baked goods, either homemade or store-bought. Make coffee, fill coffee carafes. Set out baked goods. Clean up coffee cups and run through dishwasher. Put cups away and clean up whatever is left at end of coffee hour. Clean up is usually complete by 1-1:30PM. There is always help available if needed. Also, asking someone to co-host with you is an option. Training provided for newcomers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 706-850-5557.

Thank you, *Barbara Crowley*

Altar Flowers for 2018

The 2018 flower dedication sign-up sheet is up in the Christian Education building. If you wish to dedicate flowers this year, please sign your name next to the date, and fill out one of the yellow-orange sheets hanging next to it and leave in Kendall's office. Suggested donation is \$35/ dedication.

One Last Time: Stewardship Reminder for 2018 Pledges

Our Vestry is ready to finalize the 2018 budget for St. Gregory's for presentation at the annual Parish Meeting on January 21. If you still haven't gotten around to making your pledge, now is the time! No amount is too large or too small; every bit is useful as we continue to grow and sustain our community. Either fill out a pledge card (available in the narthex or parish hall entrance) or email Kendall Kookogey, Parish Administrator, with your pledge information (office@stgregoryathens.org).

A pledge is an investment in the life and work of the St. Gregory's community. It allows us to know how much money will be available to:

- Pay our wonderful clergy and staff
- Sustain our educational programs for children, youth, and adults
- Provide outreach and support to the Athens area and the world at large
- Keep the utilities running & perform maintenance and upgrades on the buildings and grounds
- Keep up the work of the Great Commission
- Build our community of faith

We appreciate your support and commitment! If you have any questions, please contact Stewardship Committee chair Terri Tillman, ttillman@gmail.com.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens - Volunteers Needed

This year St. Gregory will coordinate with Oconee Street United Methodist Church and Princeton Methodist Church to provide support to IHN families at the IHN Day House during the weeks of March 11-18, 2018 and September 9-16, 2018. ***Volunteers are needed to prepare dinner meals; drive vans to school/daycare in the mornings and afternoons; set up/take down for family arrival and departure; serve as a dinner host; and serve as an onsite overnight hosts.***

Stacey Pardue, IHN Assistant Director, will conduct two volunteer trainings on Sunday, January 21, 2018 from 2:00-3:30 at the Day House (393 West Hancock) and Sunday, February 11, 2018 from 2:00-3:30 at St. Gregory's. Volunteers may select one training to attend. New volunteers must attend a training. Current volunteers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Rhonda Packer at packer.rhonda@gmail.com or 706-202-2825.

IHN Athens is a coalition of Athens Area Churches whose mission is to mobilize our community to help homeless families in crisis situations achieve sustainable independence. It is the goal of IHN Athens to give homeless families the opportunity to stay together as a family and the time and resources for up to 90 days to get back on their feet. Families must apply for and be accepted to receive IHN services and a maximum of 3 families participate during a 90-day cycle.

FEAST

The next FEAST (Food Distribution) is Saturday, **January 20**. Volunteer sheets will be in the Christian Education Building. Please consider donating a couple hours of your time for this worthwhile event ... you will not regret it.



Volunteers need to be at Covenant Presbyterian Church no later than 7AM with Registration Volunteers there by 6:45AM as we now open the doors to our neighbors at 7AM. Please park across the street from the church in the parking lot adjacent to Bank of America.

For any questions please call one of our liaisons: Barbara Crowley 706-850-5557, Pat Irby 706-850-3334, or Carol Cason 706-338-4789.

CHRISTIANFORMATION

Adult Sunday School

The Book of Amos (Parish Hall)

January 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11

Dr. Joel Hunt will be leading a class for 5 weeks on the book of Amos, beginning January 14. Please bring your Bible and a notebook to this class for discovery and discussion.

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 one studies the Bible, the more one realizes that it is a proverbial bottomless pit of meanings and nuances. Exploring those depths can be a rewarding experience. Ken Taylor leads a discussion of the assigned readings almost every Sunday (except for a parish breakfast and a visit by a bishop, mainly) in the library, starting at 9:15AM. This class will meet every Sunday in January.

Youth

Sunday school resumes January 7 from 9:15-10:15AM upstairs. High school students will begin to prepare for the pilgrimage, so please come!

Join us for Youth Group on Sunday evening, Jan. 7, from 5-8PM, with our new leader, Gavin Stuart. This will be a one-time workshop on the Beloved Community/Dismantling Racism, for all middle and high schoolers. We will have a meal (make-your-own tacos), and begin to tackle some of these challenging ideas. Please come and meet your peers, and have fun!

For people who are interested in continuing the discussion, we will have our own retreat at Camp Mikell on Jan. 12-13. We will leave St. Gregory's in the afternoon (time of departure TBA), then will return by 4:00 PM on Saturday. This gives you the rest of the long weekend to rest, recreate, attend the MLK Jr parade, whatever. If middle schoolers are interested, or for any other questions, please contact Maggie Reinberger, 706-338-1471 or mmreinberger@gmail.com.

Children's Sunday School

Kids! Join us for joyful singing each Sunday in the Children's Chapel at 9:15. Our Fun-Day School workshops meet after this each Sunday morning, concluding at 10:15. Come, play, learn, and explore with us!

Rhythms of Grace



Families looking for a different worship experience are invited to Rhythms of Grace, on **Sunday, January 14 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!

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| January 1 | Barbara Johnson Elijah Gabriel |
| January 2 | Scott Thornton |
| January 3 | Bill Alworth Katie Tavernier |
| January 4 | Melissa Hamlin |
| January 5 | Sybil Lott |
| January 6 | Emma Jones |
| January 10 | Anthony Barkdoll Melinda Jones Thomas Peck |
| January 11 | Martha Beach |
| January 15 | Florence Hix |
| January 18 | Paul Welch Carl Jones |
| January 19 | Laurie Hauss |
| January 20 | Alice Hunt |
| January 22 | David Stooksbury |
| January 25 | Annabelle Coyne Mayah Blackman |
| January 27 | Sheila Kelley |
| January 28 | Karen Kassinger Carolyn Howell Joe Napoli |
| January 30 | Laura Mosley |
| January 31 | McGowan Drewry |

Foyers Groups

It's time to sign up for Spring Foyers Groups! Foyers Groups are groups of parishioners who share a meal on a monthly basis to get to know one another better. Groups usually consist of 4-5 households, and there are both family-friendly and adults-only groups. Each household is assigned a month to host, either in their home or by choosing a restaurant. The group works together to coordinate dates that work for most of the members. The spring groups will run January-May. You can sign up through January 7 by emailing Jen Ingle or via the sign-up sheet on the Christian Education Building bulletin board.

Wednesday Transitions/Meditation Group

Wednesdays at 4PM in the library

Start the year with a calm, refreshed outlook and enhanced connection to the divine. Dive into our fun, interactive classes to truly integrate these transformative tools and techniques. Learn by doing to develop a more focused, relaxed and less reactive attitude. Let's come together on wednesdays to practice healing meditation to become the healthiest, happiest version of yourself.

Community Christmas

I'm pleased to report that Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County raised over \$70,000 in 2017, used to provide gifts of warm clothing, shoes, and fun items for 407 children from 168 families living in poverty in Oglethorpe County. The value of the gifts each child received was at least \$125. Additionally, a total of \$11,097 was supplied to 22 families for emergency grants for electricity, rent, and other essentials over the course of the year.

This project brings together hundreds of people representing many different churches, businesses, families, and organizations who all unite with the purpose of lifting up and restoring hope and dignity for impoverished local children.

Thank you so much to the congregation of St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church for donating and volunteering with this effort this year, as you have since Community Christmas was formed 21 years ago!

Thank You to Our Artists!

St. Gregory's extends a heartfelt "Thank You!" to the artists among us who created original works of art as Christmas cards for many in our parish who are home-bound or otherwise unable to attend services. Margaret Agner, June Ball, Diane Barret, Nancy Carter, Allison Grant, Dolores Holt, and Cecilia Reynolds all created cards, which were signed by many in our congregation and were received with joy and gratitude.

A special thank-you also to Missy Hamlin and Kathy Hale who baked cookies to go along with the cards, and to everyone who delivered cards to the recipients.

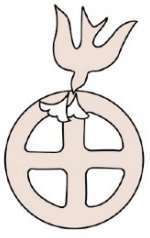
Movie Night Resumes!



The fourth year of the revived Spiritual Life Movie Series will begin with *Bicycle Thieves* (Ladri di Biciclette, 1948), one of the greatest movies, as film critics measure quality. The movie, set in economically depressed post-World War II Italy, is the outwardly the story of a poor man who walks in Rome with his young son in search of the his (the man's) bicycle, which he needs for his work, to feed his family, but which someone has stolen. Actually, *Bicycle Thieves* is, in the words of VideoHound's Golden Movie Retriever, "a simple story that seems to seem to contain the whole of human experience." The film, which is really about what happens during the search for the bicycle, is a haunting and profound work of art.

The screening will occur in the chapel on Friday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m. Free drinks and popcorn will be available. Childcare can be available if notice is given by Wednesday, January 24 by 12 noon by calling the church office (706-546-7553).

— Ken Taylor



St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
3195 Barnett Shoals Road
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>>Return Service Requested<<
706-546-7553