

GREGORIAN CHANT

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church | Athens, GA

Dear Family in Christ,

I am absolutely honored, thrilled and overwhelmed with the welcome I have received from my new church family! A pounding (the good kind), birthday yummy cakes, lovely roses, glorious receptions, a special and magnificent concert, and so much love, I can't contain it! I have well and truly been welcomed back home.

God has given me you (because a church is the people, not the building) as my brothers and sisters, the most beautiful church home I could ever imagine. God has given us a phenomenal Vestry, an excellent staff, and lovely buildings and grounds that show God's glory. God has given my family a wonderful new home near my son's school, near the church office, and nearer our relatives.

I feel so much joy and thankfulness, I can't contain it! And for that reason, I don't think I can ever stop saying thank you. Not to you, and certainly not to God. And I thank you by praying for you (each by name) and giving you my best self and work each day.

And I thank God, through prayer and worship, and walking the way of discipleship, which includes making my own pledge in the stewardship season, my own giving back to God a portion of what's given to me, right here in my new church home. I hope all of you will join me in great thanksgiving for all that God has done, in and for you and me, and in and for St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church.

The pledge card helps us not just wish, but really plan to be the people God is now calling St. Gregory the Great to be in the wider Church, the community, and the world. To paraphrase our Disney friend, Jiminy Cricket, a wish is a dream your heart makes, but joyfully crazy Christian disciples know that a plan becomes the steps our feet take. What is Jesus calling you to do in the writing of checks and the choice of ministry in which to serve, for the sake of the gospel? Even when time and money are tight, God honors what you are able to choose to give and do. Baby steps are still steps, and any step forward sends you straight into God's arms. Together, with God and one another, we can follow wherever Christ leads. And oh, what an adventure we'll have!!

Joy and peace to you,
Mo. Nikki+

Halloween-ie Roast & All Hallows' Eve Service!

Saturday, November 3

Come roast a hotdog or veggie dog over the campfire, starting at 5PM! The dogs, fixins', s'mores, and drinks will be provided. Wear your costume if you'd like! Bring your stories, joyful voices or musical instruments, and your playful spirit! At 6PM, we'll move to the sanctuary for an All Hallows' Eve Eucharist, followed by more merriment around the fire bowl. We will also offer a guided labyrinth walk (*see sidebar*).



The Feast of All Saints

We will celebrate the Feast of all Saints on Sunday, November 4. Incense will be used at the 10:30AM service (not at the 8AM).



Ingathering Sunday

"O let us be joyful, O let us be grateful to the Lord for His blessing. The promise of living, the promise of growing, the promise of ending is labor and sharing and loving."

— H. Everett

Ingathering Sunday is November 4, 2018! Bring your pledge cards for basket on the altar as we give thanks together.

Labyrinth

You are invited to walk St. Gregory's Labyrinth Thursday, November 1 through Sunday November 4 in honor and remembrance of All Saint's Day. Also in the Parish hall, an All Soul's Altar will be available. Please light a candle for a loved one.

On Saturday evening, November 3, a guided labyrinth walk is planned following the All Hallows' Service which begins at 6:00 pm. Meditative selections will be played by our own, Grace Huang.

Parish Library

The featured author of the month is Julian(a) of Norwich (c. 1342-after 1413), about whom we know little. Even her name has not survived the ravages of time. The anchoress, mystic, and author of the Revelations (or Showings) of Divine Love, lived at St. Julian's Church, Norwich, England, where she provided spiritual guidance to those who sought it. Her wisdom has remained helpful to members of many generations of Christians. Our parish library contains translations of the Revelations/Showings in the "Mysticism" category.

Nursery Worker Needed!

St. Gregory's is looking for a part-time nursery worker for Sunday mornings. Nursery staff are responsible for age-appropriate care which includes: bottle feeding, changing diapers, maintaining a safe, clean environment, holding, sitting with, and cheerfully interacting with children through games, stories, and play. Hours include Sunday mornings 9AM - 12PM. Additional hours may be added for special services and events. We are looking for someone who is experienced in the care of children 0-5 years of age with the ability to adapt and interact with a variety of personalities, must be 18 years of age or older, and have a satisfactory completion of background check.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets on Saturday mornings at 9AM to have coffee, study, and build relationships with each other. Let this be an open invitation for all to join our group!

Calling Their Names: Remembering Georgia's Lynched

November 2, 9:30AM-2PM

The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta and the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing will be honored to have you join us for the final phase of the three year initiative of remembering our six-hundred plus sisters and brothers who were lynched in Georgia.

Registration is \$10.00. Please carpool when possible as parking is limited. The Rev. Nikki Mathis will be celebrating the eucharist, and lunch will follow.

Click [here](#) to register.

Where:

Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing
807 Atlanta Student Movement Blvd.
Atlanta, GA



Altar Guild Seeking Members

The altar guild is currently seeking new members. Altar guild is responsible for setting up the altar for all services, including Rhythms of Grace, funerals, and weddings. Two or three members are assigned to cover each month as a team. Most everyone is scheduled to serve three or four months during the year. Altar guild is also responsible for upkeep of altar appointments and linens (cleaning & polishing). Barbara Dean and Julia Marlowe serve as co-chairs of the committee. New members receive training and are always assigned with someone who has much experience. Altar guild is not difficult or time-consuming, and serving on altar guild provides flexibility. For the most part, setting up the altar can be done at a time that fits your schedule, and we have few required meetings. Some find the time spent setting up for a service to be a time of spiritual awareness and solitude – a time to be in God's house alone. The total time involved is not very much. Once you have done it a few times, then working alone, the altar can be set up in about 30 minutes or less. If there are two or three people involved in setting up (for example, during Holy Week), serving on altar guild is a way to get to know other volunteers as you work together in setting up for a service. Before Easter and Christmas, the altar guild schedules a "polishing day" to polish the silver, brass, and wood to prepare for the holidays. We have a social gathering once in a while, especially when we have new members. Please contact Barbara (706-354-4269) or Julia (706-549-4942) if you would like more information or if you are interested in serving on the altar guild.



Thanks to IHN Volunteers!

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Athens is a coalition of Athens Area Churches whose mission is help homeless families in crisis situations achieve sustainable independence. St. Gregory and Oconee Street UMC hosted three families at the IHN Day Center during the week of September 9-16. Volunteers provided an evening meal, hosted families from 6-8 in the evening, drove the IHN van to take/pick up children from daycare/school, and stayed overnight with guest families at the IHN Day Center located on Hancock Avenue. St. Gregory volunteers Anthony Barkdoll, Annette Bates, Ruth Elizabeth Conine-Nakano, Barbara Crowley, Ann Darby, David Floyd, Pat Irby, Rhonda Packer, Maggie Reinberger, Bonny Thomas, and Marilyn Walsh contributed a total of 131 hands-on hours with families. Thanks to these Gregorians for generously giving their time and talents to support IHN families.

Vestry Nominations

At our annual parish meeting on January 13, we will elect 4 new vestry members to fill the terms of the 4 who are at the end of their terms. Members are elected to a 3-year term. The vestry typically meets one evening a month with the exception of the month of July. Each vestry member also serves as a liaison to one of our parish committees. If you are interested in serving or finding out more information about being a vestry member, contact one of the members of the vestry nominating committee: Julie Dingus, Peter Rice, or Mark Tavernier.

October Vestry Meeting Summary

Your Vestry held its first meeting with our new rector on October 16th. Reports from the buildings and grounds, outreach, finance, parish life, inreach, and christian education committees were received and reviewed. The group heard from and discussed updates from both the stewardship and outreach committees including a discussion of Ingathering Sunday (November 4). The Vestry is beginning work on developing the 2019 parish budget. The Senior Warden is working with liaisons and committee chairs on budget needs, and will bring a draft of budget requests to the November meeting for full Vestry discussion before being passed on to the finance committee for further discussion. Peter Rice provided an update on wireless access in the Christian Education Building and Sanctuary. Richard Cooper, Parish Treasurer, provided a quarterly financial update.

Confirmation Class

The Rev. Nikki Mathis will begin a confirmation class mid-November, in preparation for the Bishop's visit at the end of January. All are welcome; 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. Class will begin mid-November during the Sunday school hour (9:15-10:15AM) and meet for 8 weeks. Contact rector@stgregoryathens.org for questions and/or to sign up!



LOOKING AHEAD



Advent Wreaths

Make an Advent wreath to take home after the 10:30 service on Dec. 2. Lunch provided. For all ages.

Community Christmas

Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County, Inc. is a local children's charity that helps families in crisis with necessities, and also provides Christmas gifts of warm clothing and fun items for children. All forms of help are appreciated- adopt a child, donate money, donate gifts, or donate your time! See our website www.CommunityChristmasOglethorpe.org for more info, or contact Catherine Bowen Drewry at 706-201-7241 cbdrewry@gmail.com

Meditation Group

Wednesdays 4:00-5:30pm

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.

Sending love

Many of you remember Kim Rider, a St. Gregory's member who moved to the state of Washington a few years ago. Kim is ill, and would love to hear from you! If you'd like to send her a card, please send it to:

Kim Rider
212 NW 111th Loop
Vancouver, WA 98685

Movie Night

The Spiritual Life Film Series will resume at the end of January. May everyone have a safe and blessed November and December.

10:30AM Coffee Hour

Please consider volunteering for the 10:30 coffee hour. The sign up sheet for November and December is in the education building. If you haven't done this before, help is always available until you are comfortable with the process. Please consider this rewarding ministry to welcome newcomers and enjoy the company of fellow parishioners. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 631-681-6368.

Many thanks to all our volunteers,
Barbara Crowley

CHRISTIANFORMATION

Adults

Adult Discussion Group (Parish Hall)

Nov. 4 Adult Forum- Play Together, Pray Together

What's happening at Forum? Think *The King and I* ... "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you 🎵" No worries, y'all; I'm not singing, praise God! I am sharing my story with you, by way of playful questions on a 'Talking Ball', (you'll see it when you join us) and I'm hoping you'll do the same with me. After that, we'll pray together by walking the labyrinth (or you can just sit in there with us and pray, if labyrinth walking isn't your thing). ALL are welcome!

Nov. 11: St. G's Youth will present on their experience/trip to the SW this summer.

Nov. 18 or 25: Presentation by advocates for children in foster care. Come see if this is something you'd like to be trained for!

Lectionary (Library)

One activity in which one can never participate too much is Bible study. The difference between a sermon and a Bible study is a matter of genres. A fine sermon does its job well, but a good Bible study on the same lectionary texts covers more topics. I recommend both a fine sermon and a good Bible study. — *Kenneth Taylor*

Parenting Fellowship (Office #1 in Parish Hall):

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 News

Our Halloween party is joining forces with the Halloween Roast at St. G's! We will meet at South Milledge Baptist Church at 3PM on Saturday, November 3. We can pick out pumpkins and then ride back to the church. There, we plan to help set up tables and prepare the bonfire for the roast beforehand, and attend the All Hallows' Eve service at 6PM. Afterwards, we will have our pumpkin carving contest and enjoy the bonfire! We would love for people to bring instruments or have stories to tell around the fire! Also, anyone who could stay after to help clean up would be great! Please let Gavin know if you can make it, so we can get a headcount. gavin.e.stuart@gmail.com

Children's Sunday School

Kids! Be sure to come to church on Nov. 4! We'll be sharing our All Saints song, banners, and prayer with the congregation, and your help is needed! We're working on all this during Sunday School, from 9:15-10:15.

Rhythms of Grace

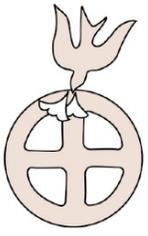


Your help is needed to get the word out about our Rhythms of Grace monthly service to those who might find it fits their worship needs. We have been hosting Rhythms of Grace, a family worship service where all forms of physical and vocal responses are embraced, since early in 2015. Rhythms of Grace is an adaptive church service for those for whom conventional worship may be difficult or uncomfortable, including those sensitive to loud music or crowds, those on the Autism Spectrum, people with Alzheimer's,

ADHD, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and wiggly children who just want to move! This service features scripture and storytelling that includes spoken and visual cues, therapeutic play for the response, and a simplified prayer for Holy Communion. Gathering and dismissal rituals help with transitioning. The Reverend Gordon Bienvenue, a retired Methodist minister, officiates at this inter-denominational service for the whole family that meets on 2nd Sundays at 3PM.

Happy Birthday!

November 1	Ellen Gibson Allison Weaver
November 2	David Lowe
November 4	Peggy Herrman
November 5	Diane Barret Grace Huang
November 6	Julia Marlowe
November 7	John Curtis Fred Denson
November 8	Joan Curtis Elise Camoston Charlie Ingle
November 10	Mark Hein
November 11	Cole Byers
November 12	Mariel Sanford
November 13	Vicky Tavernier Clare Boyle
November 15	Mary Laing
November 16	Lydia Peck
November 17	Jeff Welch Max Tavernier
November 18	Sue Alford Isaiah Camoston
November 19	Jordan Vail
November 20	Kathy Hale
November 22	Hank Hodges Brady Knowlton
November 26	Ethan Mathis
November 27	Laura Ruffin Rebecca Baggett
November 28	Annette Bates
November 30	Conoly Hester



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

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