

GREGORIAN CHANT

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church | Athens, GA

From Our New Rector ...

Hi there, you wonderful women and men of God at St. Gregory the Great!!

I feel so blessed that God has called us to walk together on this spiritual adventure as rector and parish. Family is one of the most basic units of love and care that we as human beings have, and I'm thrilled to be welcomed as part of your parish family in the larger family of God.

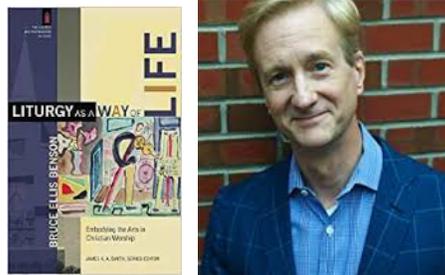
And we've got work to do as that family—as beloved, divine family. And just like any family, we are imperfect, and yet with Jesus, will still be able to come together to accomplish the work of love in ways that others say is impossible. We have had and will experience hurt, but in Jesus, can find and also offer others healing. We will in many instances (when we are brave) be feeling our way, but with Jesus, we can move forward in the faith that even mistakes can be part of the Way.

There is no greater honor and joy than to grow together and go together in that kind of family. So I thank you and thank God for the opportunity. I can't wait!!

Deep love in Christ,
Nikki+

Liturgy, Art, and Life

Dr. Bruce E. Benson, Senior Research Fellow at the Logos Institute at the University of St. Andrews, author, and former professor (philosophy) of our own Elizabeth Dubberly and Robert Scott will be giving a talk on "Liturgy, Art, and Life" on Friday, October 12 at 7PM in the Parish Hall. Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!



Welcoming Concert & Reception



The St. Gregory Choir will present a welcoming concert for Rev. Nikki Mathis Sunday afternoon, October 21, at 3PM. Music to be performed will be seven anthems sung during worship services since January 2017, and Bach Cantata #78, *Jesu, der du meine Seele* (Jesus, Thou my Wearied Spirit), with soloists and small orchestra. This concert is free and open to all. Please

make your plans to attend and invite others. A reception will follow the concert.

Feast of St. Francis & Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 7

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis at both the 8AM and 10:30AM services on Sunday, October 7. Then at 2PM, come back with your pets to St. G's outdoor altar for the Blessing of the Animals!

Pledge Drive Kick-off!

LUNCH IS SERVED!

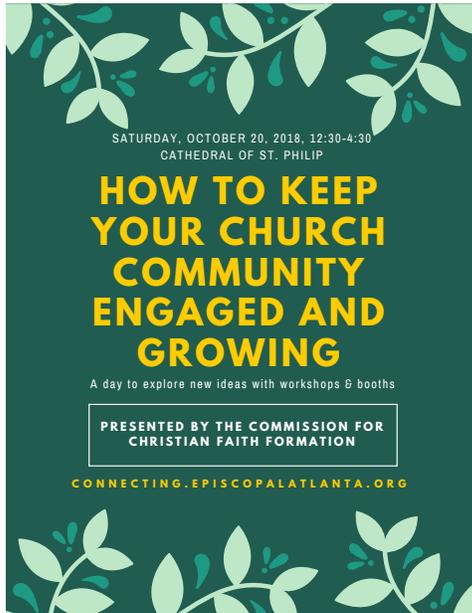
The Stewardship Committee will host the Pledge Drive Kickoff on Sunday, October 14, immediately following the 10:30AM service. Our theme is taken from a song by Aaron Copland and Horace Everett, "The Promise of Living." What can you expect at this pledge drive kickoff? Inspirational Speakers (brief); Entertainment (also brief); fried chicken with sides and dessert (PLENTIFUL). Bring a friend! Bring your appetite! Let's break bread and celebrate together "The Promise of Living!"

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!

Diocesan Ministry Fair

On Saturday, October 20, from 12:30-4:30PM, at the Cathedral of St. Philip: [How To Keep Your Church Community Engaged and Growing](#), presented by the Commission for Christian Faith Formation. If you would like to carpool, please contact Catherine Drewry via [email](#) or 706-201-7241. Click [here](#) to register.



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.

Coffee, Chocolate, and Tea Lovers Unite!

We've been ordering delicious Fair Trade coffee and more from Equal Exchange for a few years now – for church coffee hour, and several of us for our enjoyment at home. If you'd like to join our St. G's group that orders together, in bulk, about once a quarter, please contact Catherine Bowen Drewry with your order by October 7th by emailing cbdrewry@gmail.com, or calling 706-201-7241. You can see all the products [here](#), or in the catalog on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Most of us order coffee in cases of 6, 10-12 ounce bags for about \$38 each. Shipping to the church is free!



Nursery Worker Needed!

St. G's currently has an immediate job opening for a part-time childcare worker. The position is Sunday mornings from 9AM-12PM to work with ages birth to 5 years old. Applicants (18 years and older) would ideally have experience working with young children, at least 3 references, and complete a background check and Safeguarding God's Children training. Please pass this on to anyone you know who might be qualified!

Great Results for Outpace Parkinson's!

Many thanks to everyone at St. Gregory's who supported the 5K for Parkinson's on August 18. A special thanks to Ann and Joe Woodyard for forming a team of Gregorians whose enthusiasm and commitment were contagious that Saturday morning. This year's event netted over \$11,000 for Parkinson's research through the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

— Jane and Jack Armistead

Movie Night!

The final parish Spiritual Life Film of 2018 will be *Driving Miss Daisy* (PG, 1989), starring Jessica Tandy, Morgan Freeman, and Dan Aykroyd. This, of course, is a period piece and a story of the friendship and sometimes difficult relationship between an elderly Southern Jewish woman and her African-American chauffeur. The screening will occur at 6:30 on Friday, October 26, in the chapel. Admission, drinks, and popcorn will be free. Please call the church office by Wednesday, October 24, if you need childcare.

Being Good Neighbors

Our next-door neighbor, Athens Montessori, had a pipe burst in their middle school, causing the building to flood. St. Gregory's and AMS have signed an agreement allowing the middle schoolers to meet in the Christian Education Building for the next couple of months, as their space is cleaned and made habitable again. Please be mindful of this as we move forward this fall. The school hours are Mon-Friday, 8AM-3:15PM. They will begin meeting here on Monday, Sept. 17. This will not affect the use of the library.

Dear Generous Gregorians,

We appreciate your willingness to donate all sorts of items to the church. Games, art supplies, books, furniture, linens, cutlery—the list is endless. We must, however, ask that you check with us before you bring said items to the parish. Although grateful for your generosity, sometimes our closets overflow with items we may not need and other charities might find more useful.

Before making a donation, please contact Kendall. She will check with the appropriate ministries to determine if your item(s) is(are) something they would appreciate.

Again, we appreciate your generosity and hope you'll keep St. Greg's in mind when you find items you may no longer need.

Society of St. Andrew

To everyone who participated in VBS: Thank you for choosing to help others through your Vacation Bible School mission offerings this summer. The Society of St. Andrew will use the money you gave to provide fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables to children and grown-ups who are hungry, right here in the United States. Many, many people will be healthier and happier because you helped make sure they had good food to eat through the money you gave to the Society of St. Andrew.

I hope that you had a wonderful time at Vacation Bible School this summer, and I hope that you will remember the Bible stories you heard at VBS and share them with your friends and your family. I especially hope you remember that each story had the very same message: God cares for everyone, and God cares for you. Abundance or “more than enough” is God's plan for each person in the world.

Thanks again for making the Society of St. Andrew your Vacation Bible School mission project and raising money to help feed our hungry neighbors in Christ's name.

May God's abundant love be with you every day.

*Every blessing,
Betty Easter, Director of Church Relations*

Parish Library

"The confidence proper to a Christian is not the confidence of one who claims possession of a demonstrable and indubitable knowledge. It is the confidence of one who has heard and answered the call that comes from the God through whom and for whom all things were made: 'Follow me.'" **(James Edward) Lesslie Newbigin (1909-1998)** wrote those words in *Proper Confidence* (1995). Newbigin, the featured author of the month, was an English Presbyterian minister and missionary who spent much of his adult life in India, first for The Church of Scotland, then, starting in 1947, as a bishop of the Church of South India. Later in life, when back in England, he was a minister of The United Reformed Church. Newbigin, a Neo-orthodox theologian, argued that (1) certainty cannot exist apart from faith, (2) the truth of the Gospel depends on Jesus alone, not on any outside standard, (3) to present the truth of the Gospel as depending on an outside standard is to make that standard more important than the Gospel, and (4) religious toleration is part and parcel of the Gospel. Newbigin's theology contained influences from major figures such as Soren Kierkegaard, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Augustine of Hippo. Newbigin was, in one word, orthodox.

Meditation Group

Wednesdays 4:00-5:30pm

Join us Wednesdays at 4pm to share in the benefits of meditation as we reduce chronic stress and anxiety, insomnia, hypertension, and other stress-related disorders. Evidence-Based Wellness; Over 380 published, peer-reviewed research studies on this technique have documented its effectiveness for stress-related conditions, brain function, and more.

Meditation with us is a simple, natural technique... This form of meditation allows your body to settle into a state of profound rest and relaxation and your mind to achieve a state of inner peace, without needing to use concentration or effort.

What value does meditation have in daily life?

- greater inner calm throughout the day
- reduced cortisol (the “stress hormone”)
- normalized blood pressure
- reduced insomnia
- lower risk of heart attack and stroke
- reduced anxiety and depression
- improved brain function and memory

CHRISTIANFORMATION

Adults

Adult Discussion Group (Parish Hall)

Title: The Buddhist Eightfold Path and Christianity

Dates: October 14, 21, & 28

In his first sermon at Deer Park in India, The Buddha taught the Four Noble Truths of suffering and the end of suffering. The fourth noble truth, known as the Eightfold Path, provides a guide to the end of suffering encompassing ethical conduct, mental discipline, and wisdom - right understanding, thought, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration. In this study Gene Ruffin will lead a discussion of the Eightfold Path, exploring possible affinities with Judeo-Christian teachings so that we may gain new perspective regarding our own tradition and our daily spiritual practices. Suggested reading: The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching by Thich Nhat Hanh, esp. Pt. 2.

Lectionary (Library)

The primacy of scripture is one of the foundations of Anglican theology. Almost every Sunday I lead a discussion of the weekly lectionary readings and, when necessary and proper, what is (often conveniently) absent from them. Engaging in conversation about these matters is a spiritually beneficial exercise, for nobody can ever know enough about the Bible, a sacred anthology replete with a multitude of subtleties. The class meets in the library at 9:15. The "textbook" is the bulletin.

Parenting Fellowship (Office #1 in Parish Hall):

Our Parenting Fellowship is excited to embrace the structure school time brings us! There can be stressful and challenging mornings and even evenings around this transitional time. Join us while we take a lighter look at these happenings, sharing some helpful tools and tactics along with some laughs!

Youth News

- We have a new youth instagram page run by our very own Dakota Hamlin! Make sure you [follow](#) to stay in the loop!
- New Beginnings, the middle school retreat at Camp Mikell will be Oct. 12-14th, and registration ends Oct. 1st! Make sure you sign up [here!](#)

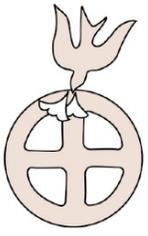


Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School meets weekly from 9:15-10:15. We begin in All Saints Chapel, downstairs in the Christian Ed building. Right now, we're working on a unit on Jacob, Esau, Rachel, and Leah, a story that is sure to resonate with us all. We're learning that God meets us where we are, even in the lonely, desolate places, and uses the gifts he's given each of us to show the world that God desires for us all to know we are loved, valued, and need to take care of one another. This story reaches the deep places in which we often find ourselves – low places like sibling rivalry, the unfairness of the world, rivalry, deceit, and loneliness; wondering spots like dreams, love, work for others, worry, doubts, and wrestling with faith; and those joyful times of comfort, connection, reconciliation, and knowing we are a part of God's family. The next couple of weeks we'll be exploring the story through making beaded ladder bracelets with Lydia Peck, wool felting with Jenifer Borg, and Godly Play with Catherine Drewry. Our next unit will focus on All Saints, including special music time with Connor Byers and creative work with his sister and mother, Riley and Tyra Byers, among other great workshops!

Happy Birthday!

October 1	Brad Hankins
October 2	Mark Tavernier Cleo Weinmeister
October 3	Sarah Gordon
October 5	Pace Barkdoll
October 6	Joe Woodyard Zoe Corn
October 7	Jeff Scarbrough Kendall Kookogey
October 9	Lief Carter
October 10	Mack Thurmond
October 11	Gordon Bienvenue
October 12	Lois Alworth Judy Colgin
October 13	Bob Bretscher Terra Hodges
October 14	Peter Rice Eva Daniel
October 15	Nathan Weinmeister
October 17	Lucy Gregory Katie Coyne Kelly Black
October 18	Elizabeth Deneke
October 19	Deirdre Murray Adrienne Freeman
October 22	Katie Hein Hannah Scarbrough
October 24	Jewel John
October 25	Carl Hoveland Dolores Holt
October 27	Raymond Hoover Barbara Dean Sherryl Fern
October 28	Dona Conway Deborah Miller
October 30	Marie Boyle



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