

The Gregorian Chant

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church, Athens, GA

May 2011

Dearly Beloved,

Don Nelson from [The Athens Banner Herald](#) called me this morning for my comment on the death of Osama Bin Laden. I don't know what they will print but this is what I said.

Dear Mr. Nelson,

There are people in this world who, for many and varied reasons, torture, maim and kill other human beings and who are unwilling or unable to be rehabilitated from this behavior. It is necessary to protect innocent people from such destructive acts whenever possible, holding the perpetrators accountable for their actions and inhibiting their ability to do more harm, without perpetrating the violence they have done, albeit with the sanction of legitimate authorities.

As a Christian, a follower of Jesus, and having just celebrated his passion, death and resurrection, I believe it is very clear that his message to his followers was not one of vengeance for his wrongful death but forgiveness. The violence stopped with him.

Our human history is scarred by one retributive act of violence after another. It has never worked, yet we keep doing it. Even now we are afraid of acts of reprisals for the killing of Bin Laden. I am glad he is no longer able to do harm, and I am aware that others may do harm in his name. It is sobering to realize that we have lost more American lives by our response to the events of 9/11 than were lost in the actual attacks on that day, not to mention many thousands of civilians killed in those countries where we went to war. I was touched by the response of a man who suffered 3rd degree burns on 9/11 but survived the attack who said something like, "I am not comforted by one more death."

My hope for human beings everywhere is that we turn from fighting violence with violence, devoting our precious resources instead to what gives life to the world.

The Reverend Beth L. Long

Rector

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, concerns and sympathy cards for Debbie's brother, Darrell, who passed unexpectedly in March.

Ross and Debbie Perry

Thank you to all the musicians, altar and flower guild members, reception organizers, flower carrying children, readers, ushers, acolytes, and all the others who once again made our Easter celebration such beautiful and uplifting events!

Celebrate Life

with Verna West on the birth of her sixth grandchild, Lilian Grace VanNess, born on March 20, to her daughter Jenny in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. After complications and a week long stay in the neo-natal ICU at Iowa City Univ. Hospital, mom and baby are now home and doing well.

with Nathan Risler, who graduated from the U. S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, NJ at the end of April.

with Tristan Lankford, who placed fourth in the Play! Pokémon Trading Card Game State Tournament in Lawrenceville. He earned a top state ranking and a State Championships medal.

with Rae Kretzer, who was selected to participate in the annual Governor's Honors Program. She was honored because of her accomplishments in the visual arts;

with Amy Lasseter and her family on the birth of daughter Sarah Jeanette on April 29.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Celebrate with the newest members of our parish:

Gary Rollie, Zachary Hamlin, Dakota Hamlin, and Luke Leach, who were baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter; and

Melissa Hamlin, Julie Red Bear, Alan Leach, Christy Leach, Sally Lyons-Abbott, and Christopher Curtis who were confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church at the Cathedral of St. Philip on April 10.

In Sympathy

Our condolences

to June Ball and her family on the death of her husband Milner on April 6;

to Elizabeth and Jessica Affleck on the death of their mother Vicki Carter on April 13;

to Karen Radde and her family on the death of her mother Dorothy Neslar on April 15; and

to the family of Lamar Glenn who died on April 20.

May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

From the Office of the Bishop

We urge you to support Episcopal Relief and Development's USA Disaster Response Fund during this critical time in which so many of our neighbors are in need following the recent storms.. You may get more information on ERD's website <http://www.erd.org/DiocesesRespondSoutheastApr2011>.

You can make a donation directly on the website or mail a check to Episcopal Relief & Development, P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116_7058. To donate by phone, please call 1.800.334.7626, ext. 5129.

We are in communication with ERD and impacted dioceses. We ask your continued prayers for those who have been victims of these devastating storms and those who minister to them.

Outreach

Mother's Day Outreach:

In honor of all the mothers in our community, St. Gregory's will be collecting disposable diapers on Sunday, May 8th to benefit Prevent Child Abuse Athens and Almost Home Shelter. Please bring in one pack or five on Mother's Day and know that your gift is supporting a mother and child in need. Just imagine how much Mary would have appreciated a little thing like this!

Thanks and Happy Mother's Day!

The Outreach Committee

Sunday School

The children are currently studying the topic "the Church – One Body, Many Parts", which will look at the various parts of the church building, as well as the human and spiritual parts components of the church

There will be **no Sunday School** Memorial Day weekend, May 29, for youth, adults and children.

Sunday School will continue throughout the summer, in our "one-room-schoolhouse" mode. We will use the Episcopal Relief and Development's "Abundant Garden" program, which deals with all the various parts of creation, such as water, plants, and animals, etc.

Support your local poets

The Poet-CounterPoet group will present its second annual reading at St. Gregory on May 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Poets Rebecca Baggett, Lee Ann Pingel, and Sarah Gordon will read from their work for about an hour. Refreshments will be served.

You are cordially invited to this free event, whether poetry is your "thing" or not. You might be surprised!

Pilgrimage 2012

High School age youth interested in next year's youth pilgrimage need to come to Sunday School next Sunday, May 8. George Drewry have an information session for all prospective participants.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars! July 11_15 will be a fun, spirit_filled week of Vacation Bible School for adults, youth, and kids at St. Gregory's. We'll gather each evening at around 5:30 for a simple supper, watch a skit, then split into groups for fun and creative activities, and finish up with singing and Compline. We need planners, actors, decorators, cooks, clean_up crew, song leaders, program leaders, and participants! Our theme will be "Wizards and Wonders" and it is based on Harry Potter. If you like the Harry Potter books, this program will be especially appealing to you – both young and older.

Please contact Catherine Drewry and for more details and to volunteer, at 706_743_3592 or drewrys@hm_e.net.

Calling all Good Women!

The Good Women of St. Gregory's will have their last Brown Bag Luncheon before the summer break on Thursday, May 19. Water, coffee and conversation provided, just bring your sandwich!

They will resume their regular monthly meetings on September 15.

Heifer Project International

The children of the parish, with the help of generous adults in their lives, raised over \$200 for the Heifer Project during Lent. This is enough to purchase a sheep, chicks, and honeybees for needy families. Every family agrees to pass on the gift of animal offspring, training, or skills to another family in need. This will improve their quality of life and move them toward greater self_reliance and help build strong communities.

From The Vestry

At the February meeting of St. Gregory's Vestry passed the following resolution:

In order to receive payment, requests for reimbursement must be turned in within 90 days of the date on each receipt and not later than January 15th for receipts from the end of the previous year.

Please keep this in mind when you buy things for St. Gregory's. This will help greatly with the budgeting for the various committees and activities.

Thanks for your cooperation!

The Studio Group

invites all to the opening of their 30th year celebration show on Sunday, May 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Lyndon House. Gregorians Margaret Agner and Nancy Carter are members of this group of local artists.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Monnica, Mother of Augustine, 387

9:00 a.m. Library closed

NO Fitness Group

NO Discussion Group

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

7:00 p.m. AA (Christian Ed. Building)

7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, May 5, 2011

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

6:00 p.m. Tai Chi (parish hall)

7:00 p.m. OA (upstairs)

Friday, May 6, 2011

9:30 a.m. AMC

6:00 p.m. Al-Anon (library)

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Saturday, May 7, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Private function, parish hall

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. Poet-CounterPoet poetry reading

Sunday, May 8, 2011

The Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, May 9, 2011

Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, 389

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

6:30 p.m. MD Group (small mtg. room)

7:00 p.m. EfM (library)

7:00 p.m. Private Function (parish hall)

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

9:30 a.m. AMC

5:30 p.m. Yoga (parish hall)

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting (Christian Ed. Building)

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

9:00 a.m. Library closed
NO Fitness Group
5:30 p.m. Discussion Group (upstairs)
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
7:00 p.m. AA (Chr.Ed. Building)
7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, May 12, 2011

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
6:00 p.m. Tai Chi (parish hall)
7:00 p.m. OA (upstairs)

Friday, May 13, 2011

9:30 a.m. AMC
6:00 p.m. Al-Anon (library)
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Saturday, May 14, 2011

9:00 a.m. Private function, all buildings, all day
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sunday, May 15, 2011

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and baptism
noon Care network co-ordinators' meeting (parish hall)
4:30 p.m. Outreach Committee
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, May 16, 2011

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m. EfM (library)
7:00 p.m. Private Function (parish hall)

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

9:30 a.m. AMC
5:30 p.m. Yoga (parish hall)
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

9:00 a.m. Library closed
11:45 a.m. Fitness Group (parish hall)
5:30 p.m. Discussion Group (upstairs)
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
7:00 p.m. AA (Christian Ed. Bldg.)
7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988
noon Good Women's Brown Bag Lunch (parish hall)
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
6:00 p.m. Tai Chi (parish hall)
7:00 p.m. OA (upstairs)

Friday, May 20, 2011

Alcuin, Abbott of Tours, 804
9:30 a.m. AMC
6:00 p.m. Al-Anon (library)
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Saturday, May 21, 2011

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Private function, parish hall & sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sunday, May 22, 2011

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Private function, parish hall & sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, May 23, 2011

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
6:30 p.m. MD Group (small mtg. room)
7:00 p.m. EfM (library)
7:00 p.m. Private Function (parish hall)

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Jackson Kemper, First Missionary Bishop in the United States, 1870
9:30 a.m. AMC
5:30 p.m. Yoga (parish hall)
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Bede, the Venerable, Priest, 735
9:00 a.m. Library closed
11:45 a.m. Fitness Group (parish hall)
5:30 p.m. Discussion Group (upstairs)
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
7:00 p.m. AA (Christian Ed. Bldg.)
7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Augustine, Archbishop of Canterbury
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
6:00 p.m. Tai Chi (parish hall)
7:00 p.m. OA (upstairs)

Friday, May 27, 2011

9:30 a.m. AMC

6:00 p.m. Al-Anon (library)

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Saturday, May 28, 2011

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sunday, May 29, 2011

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

NO Christian Education for all ages

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, May 30, 2011

Memorial Day

Office Closed

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. EfM (library)

7:00 p.m. Private function (parish hall)

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:30 a.m. AMC

5:30 p.m. Yoga (parish hall)

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer