

## **The First Sunday of Advent**

**November 30, 2008**

**Happy Birthday today** to Jeff Rapp and Conoly Hester, and in the coming week to Robert Ethier, John Phillips, Madeline Wheeler, and Jenifer Borg.

### ***Today***

Today is our **Stewardship Ingathering**. Please place your pledge cards in the offering plate.

A booklet of **Advent Meditations** is available in the narthex. Meditations on the day's reading for all the days of Advent were written by fellow parishioners.

Today is the first day of a new church year in the Episcopal Lectionary. We are now in Year B.

Stay after church today and make an **Advent wreath** in the parish hall with Catherine Drewry. Material costs are \$10. (Preregistration was requested, but Catherine may have some extra supplies.)

**Adult Sunday School:** Today is session 2 of the six-week "**Death and Dying**" series. This study and discussion covers both the spiritual and physical needs we all must eventually face.

**Sunday School: children from pre-k to 5<sup>th</sup> grade gather in the church for song-time at 9:15 a.m.** and then they are led to their classrooms upstairs in the Christian Education Building. Kids and teachers love our rotation workshops – they are fun, and they challenge us to learn in different ways. **The children are studying "The Lord's Prayer"**.

**Youth** 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up meet in the classrooms above the offices. Grades 6 and 7 will meet with Maggie Reinberger and Sam Preston in the room to the left, and grades 8\_12 will meet on the right with Gina Peek and George Drewry.

**Child care is available during the Christian Education hour, 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and during the 10:30 service.** If you would like your child to join you for Communion, please let the nursery staff know and pick him or her up anytime during the service.

Contribution envelopes for 2009 are already available in the parish hall. Please remember to write down your name and the number of the set you are taking.

Please visit [www.StGregoryAthens.org](http://www.StGregoryAthens.org) if you haven't recently. It's not a static site with the same information all the time. It's now adynamic, constantly updated with all the current events happening at church and around town. Some of the new features include: - weekly podcasts of the most current sermon - videos - calender with all the daily events - photo albums - interesting articles - announcements and lots of other hidden goodies The site is meant to be a resource for all parishioners to use for information and communication. We welcome any feedback you have on the site, be it positive or negative.

### ***This Week***

Remember to go back and vote again in the **run-off elections** for U.S. Senator, Public Service Commissioner, and Judge of the Court of Appeals on Tuesday, December 2.

**Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** our Choir Director Dallas Bono is available in the parish hall for private voice coaching for all interested singers and would be singers.

Make-up day for **pictures for the directory is Saturday, December 6.** Please check with Beverly Chalk (706-548-7107) if you don't have an appointment yet.

It is time to order **Christmas Flowers** to be placed on the altar during the Holiday Season. Poinsettias may be ordered in honor or in memory of a loved on or special person you want to remember. Each dedication will be at a donation \$10 for the Christmas holiday decorating fund. Please leave your order at the church office. The last date to order is December 10.

Shop for a good cause at the **Holiday Charity Festival**, 1040 Millers Lake Drive (in Jennings Mill). Holiday crafts and food, gently used appliances and household goods, toys, and artworks. Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds to Benefit Camp Summer Spree and Georgia Tourette Syndrome Association Youth Camp Fund.

### ***Next Sunday***

**St. Nicolas** will visit St. Gregory's next Sunday at the 10:30 service.

Visit the **Holiday Benevolence Market**, and shop for that hard to please relative or the friend who has everything. Twelve area churches (including St. Gregory the Great) sponsor the Holiday Benevolence Market to raise funds for 30 local charitable agencies. Representatives of the agencies will be available to explain their programs. Live music (including a performance by Meridien) and refreshments, too -- all in the fellowship hall at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, **Sunday, December 7, noon to 3 p.m.**

### **Coming Up**

**Community Christmas** of Oglethorpe County is working on providing a Christmas for needy children in Oglethorpe County. These children have been referred to the organization by social service agencies and schools.

You can help in many ways: "adopt" a child, donate an educational toy, donate money, go shopping for gifts with donated money, help sort gifts, help with the distribution, and finally with the clean-up. Brighten the holidays for those who need it most! To get involved call Catherine Drewry at 706-743-3592 or [drewrys@hm\\_e.net](mailto:drewrys@hm_e.net)

Mary Louise Platter and her mother, Alice Kinman, are the producers for this year's **Christmas pageant**. The children of the church will perform the pageant at the early service on Christmas Eve. Please call Alice at 706-63-6668 if your child would like to participate, or if you want to assist in any way.

The Pollocks will have their Fifth Annual Calendar Giveaway on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall.

The Good Women of St. Gregory will gather for the last monthly brown bag lunch of the year at 11:30 on Thursday, December 18, in the parish hall.

Tired of Google as your homepage? Then make **[www.StGregoryAthens.org](http://www.StGregoryAthens.org)** your new homepage. If you haven't seen the site in a while, you'll be surprised to see how it's changed. It is

now being updated constantly with news of ongoing and upcoming events, as well as weekly announcements. The home page is a great place to visit once a day to see what is going on at YOUR church.

### **Servers**

#### **8:00 a.m. service:**

OT Reading – Dolores Holt

NT Reading – Sarah Gordon

Intercessor – Sarah Gordon

EM – Dolores Holt

#### **10:30 a.m. service:**

EM – Barbara Kuhn

EM – Brad Hankins

OT Reading – Katie Ulrich

NT Reading – Katie Hein

Intercessor – David Lowe

1<sup>st</sup> Server – Susanna Conine-Nakano

Torch – Aneesha Conine-Nakano

Torch – Hannah Scarbrough

2<sup>nd</sup> Server – Rae Marie Kretzer

Usher –Kathy Hale

Usher –Sam Preston

Usher –Ed Risler

Usher – George Drewry

Counter – Lois Alworth

Counter – Mark Hein

Altar Guild – B. Dean, R. Jones, K. Allen

Flower Guild – TBA

6:00 p.m. service:

EM – Steve Morris

### **Calendar**

#### **Sunday, November 30, 2008**

The First Sunday of Advent and Stewardship Ingathering

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

noon Advent wreath workshop (parish hall)

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

#### **Monday, December 1, 2008**

St. Andrew the Apostle

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (parish hall)

7:00 p.m. EFM (library)

7:00 p.m. AA (upstairs)

#### **Tuesday, December 2, 2008**

Channing Moore Williams, Missionary Bishop in China and Japan, 1910

9:30 a.m. AMC

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

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

6:30 p.m. Voice coaching with Dallas Bono (parish hall)

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

7:00 p.m. Choir

**Thursday, December 4, 2008**

John of Damascus, Priest, c. 760

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

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. OA (upstairs)

7:00 p.m. AMC Nursery Cleaning

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

Clement of Alexandria, Priest, c. 760

9:30 a.m. AMC

5:45 p.m. Al-Anon (library)

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

**Saturday, December 6, 2008**

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342

Picture Directory Make-up Day

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer