



WHAT'S HAPPENING *at* GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ?

Your 2017-2018 Guide to Formation & Fellowship Opportunities

From Our Rector	1
LITURGY & CREATIVE EXPRESSION	
Worship	1
Music	1
Visual Arts	4
PARTICIPATION	
Parish Life	4
Newcomers	5
FORMATION	
Children	6
Children of Grace Preschool	6
Youth	7
Adults	7
COMPASSION.....	9
ADMINISTRATION	11

FROM OUR RECTOR

Back in July, we celebrated the baptism for two amazing little Christians. During that Baptismal liturgy, we shared the same prayers that we have used for every Baptism—specifically regarding the charge to the entire congregation: “Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?” For some reason, this prayer hit me between the eyes this time. How many times must I have said this or replied to it? How many hundreds of Baptisms have I shared in now? (And to be honest) how many times have I not caught the deep significance of this pledge that I have made?

Churches are mysterious things. Ordinary people, warts and sparkles, enormous gifts pouring forth and persistent egos pulling back. It’s messy. It’s confusing. It’s oh, so human and oh, so divine all at the same time.

Have you stopped recently and given thought to what we are invited to share together as a community of faith? The privilege we have to support one another as we grow in our faith, as we seek to serve Christ, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to share in prayer and song, to support one another? Honestly, it’s enough to make you catch your breath a bit, isn’t it?

I am looking at beginning my fifth year with you at the start of January. Four years of shared wondering. As I read through the glimpses of God’s grace in these ministry opportunities, my heart smiles. I think of all that we have seen grow, and I think of all the potential starting to push through the ground. It’s enough to make me catch my breath.

Always,

Stuart+

LITURGY & CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Worship

Worship is the foundation of our commitment to Jesus Christ and the center of life at Grace Church. We celebrate Eucharist (Communion) twice on Sundays and once on Wednesday afternoon.

Sunday Services

Our Rite I service at 8:15 AM each Sunday morning includes Scripture readings, a sermon, prayer and Holy Communion. The Rite II service at 10:45 AM is a traditional service using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the 1982 Hymnal. From September until May, music is led by the Parish Choir and occasionally the Choristers.

Wednesday Services

After taking a brief hiatus over the summer, our Wednesday afternoon service has recently returned to the calendar, with a fresh format of healing prayer, Gospel lesson, silence, and shared communion. The chapel has undergone a transformation as well, to foster a more contemplative and inviting space for worship. Please join us in the chapel for our new Contemplative Eucharist on Wednesdays at 12:10 PM.

Communion is also held in the chapel at Lanier Village Estates at 4:15 PM on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month.

Music

Parish Choir

Adults and high-school youth are welcome to participate in the Parish Choir. This group learns a variety of choral literature and is dedicated to excellent leadership of our worship at Grace. In addition to singing for the 10:45 AM service each Sunday, our Parish Choir participates in special liturgies and programs throughout the year such as Choral Evensongs, Lessons and Carols, Compline, Holy Week and Easter services. Membership is open to all; previous musical experience is helpful but is not required. Time commitment to both rehearsals and services is important. Please contact Will Gotmer at wgotmer@gracechurchgainesville.org for more information.

Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 PM beginning August 30, 2017; Sunday warm up 9:45-10:30 AM.



year and will rehearse weekly on Wednesdays from 5:00–5:45 PM beginning September 6. Jr. Choristers will use the introductory RSCM *VOICE for LIFE* curriculum to help build their vocal skills and musical understanding.

Chorister Parent Involvement Parents are essential to the success of the Chorister program at Grace. All parents of choristers are invited to take an active role in the program, helping with vesting of choristers for services, vestment care, social events, trips and many other non-musical necessities. Information about needs will be shared via email with all chorister parents.

Friends of Music

The music ministry at Grace Church often requires funding over and above what is provided in the church operating budget. To meet this need, *Friends of Music* was organized and consists of those who support the music ministry through a contribution to the *Friends of Music* Fund. A general appeal for the fund is made each February, but contributions can be made at any time. Many thanks to all those who support our church's music ministry through the *Friends of Music*! We are very excited about our special concerts and services for the 2017-2018 program year; please see below for more details.

Concerts & Worship Services

Ken Cowan - Concert Organist: Saturday, September 9

Grace is partnering with the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists to present this amazing concert. Regarded as one of North America's finest concert organists and praised for his dazzling artistry, impeccable technique, and imaginative programming by audiences and critics alike, Ken Cowan maintains a rigorous performing schedule that takes him to major concert venues in America, Canada, Europe, and Asia. You won't want to miss this event! The concert begins at 7:00 PM and will be followed by a reception.

Feast of the Holy Cross: Sunday, September 17

On September 17, we will continue our annual celebration of the Feast of the Holy Cross as a way to celebrate our life as a parish community, keeping in mind our connection with the rich history of Christianity itself. This celebration will give us an opportunity each year to come together in worship and prayer, baptizing those who are seeking to join the Body of Christ in our particular parish, and remembering our common life as part of, as we say in the Nicene Creed, the "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church." This year, we are grateful to have the Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly, the Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta, with us!

Bell Choir

After a successful trial period, the Creation Ringers will continue to rehearse and provide offerings in worship on a regular basis throughout the program year. Adults and youth (6th grade and up) are welcome to join. Membership is open to all; previous musical experience is helpful but is not required. Time commitment to both rehearsals and services is important. Contact Will Gotmer at wgotmer@gracechurchgainesville.org.

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays 6:30-8:00 PM beginning August 31, 2017.

Choirs for Children and Youth

Our choirs follow a training curriculum developed by the *Royal School of Church Music (RSCM)*. Benefits of participation:

- Learn to sing while having fun together
- Develop strong sense of community and giving to the church
- Receive a fine music education, learn to read music
- Discover the value of teamwork, acquire leadership skills

Choristers All 3rd-8th grade children are welcome to join the Grace Church Choristers program. Choristers will sing in worship 1-2 times per month and will rehearse weekly on Wednesdays from 5:00–6:00 PM beginning September 6. The Choristers will use the RSCM *VOICE for LIFE* curriculum, an acclaimed structured choral training guide that provides a framework for young choral singers to develop their vocal skills, musical understanding, and knowledge of the repertoire. Choristers will have an opportunity to attend RSCM Summer Camps.

St. Cecilia Choir Reading kindergarteners-2nd grade are welcome to join this choir. This program is designed to teach our younger children the foundational skills of choral singing in worship to prepare them for the Choristers program. They will sing in worship 6-8 times per

September 17 will also be Homecoming Sunday, a great time for folks to come back to Grace and celebrate our history and our Bicentennial plans. We will recognize people during the service who were baptized and married at Grace, and folks who have experienced other key moments in the parish's history through themselves or their families. Join us for our Homecoming reception beginning at 9:15 AM!

Annual Blessing of Animals: Sunday, October 1

Each year on a Sunday near St. Francis Day, we gather outside for a pet blessing service. The service begins at 4:00 PM and is a time to celebrate all God's creatures.



Evensong for the Feast of Teresa of Avila: Sunday, October 15

The choir will offer a service of sung Evensong to honor the feast of Teresa of Avila. The service begins at 6:00 PM with a pre-service recital beginning at 5:30 PM.

Diocesan Evensong for the Feast of William Temple: Thursday, November 9

The choir will offer a service of sung Evensong to honor the feast of William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942-1944. The service will begin at 7:00 PM with a reception in the parish hall following the service. Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster at St. Philips Cathedral, will play a pre-service recital beginning at 6:30 PM.

Blue Christmas Worship: Sunday, December 10

Blue? Yes, blue as in "the blues". As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people. Come join us in the chapel at 6:00 PM for a service that remembers that, and offers time for reflection and acceptance, and offers healing and hope in times of darkness.

Lessons & Carols: Sunday, December 17

This beautiful service, an Anglican tradition, is meant to help us prepare for Christmas. Scripture will be read and Advent carols will be sung by the choir and the congregation. A lite supper will be served at 5:00 PM and the service will begin at 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve Services: Sunday, December 24

We will have three services on Sunday, December 24. A 10:00 AM service to observe the fourth Sunday of Advent. The 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service will be a family friendly service with Eucharist and a Pageant. Our traditional Midnight Mass remains a highlight of the year, with special music beginning at 10:30 PM and a choral Holy Eucharist with incense at 11:00 PM.

Kinnara Ensemble: Saturday, January 20

Kinnara Ensemble is a professional choir based in the Princeton, NJ area that seeks to engage the public in exemplary choral experiences that speak to the modern soul. The concert will begin at 7:00 PM with a light reception to follow.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 14

Both services will be held in the Nave; 12:10 PM (spoken service) and 7:00 PM (with choir).

Lenten Compline: Sunday, February 25

The choir will offer a sung service of Compline at 7:00 PM. This short contemplative candle-lit service will be the perfect way to close your day.

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 25

Services will be held at 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM with Liturgy of the Palms and procession.

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 29

Join us at First Baptist Church for our interdenominational service at 7:00 PM and the stripping of the altar at Grace at 8:30 PM.

Good Friday: Friday, March 30

Good Friday liturgy at 12 noon in the Nave followed by a station of the cross procession down Green Street.

Easter Vigil: Saturday, March 31

Join us for the Great Vigil of Easter at 8:30 PM. This service is the highlight of our Christian liturgical year and will include the lighting of the Paschal candle, important readings from scripture, chanting and song from the choir, and baptisms.

Easter: Sunday, April 1

Identical festal services with brass, organ, and choir will be held at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM with a continental breakfast between the services.

Evensong for the Feast of Gregory of Nazianzus: Sunday, May 6

The choir will offer a service of sung Evensong to honor the feast of Gregory of Nazianzus, fourth-century Bishop of Constantinople and framer of the Doctrine of the Trinity. A light supper will be served at 5:00 PM and the service will begin at 6:00 PM. A pre-service organ recital will begin at 5:30 PM.

Visual Arts

Icon Writing

As the Grace family starts the fall season exploring contemplative prayer and discernment, the Visual Arts team will offer two classes in icon writing. These day-long classes, taught by Gordon Bienvenue, from Athens, Georgia will be offered in October. Watch for details and registration in early September. Number of participants for each class will be limited.

Art Show

Based on the positive feedback received last spring for the Grace Member Art Show, the Visual Arts team will once again host this show beginning in March, 2018. Building on the 2017 show, the 2018 show will expand to include 3-D art and music offerings. Start putting your artistic thoughts together. Registration will open in late October.

Visual Arts Team

If you wish to be part of the Visual Arts team, please consider joining us for our monthly meeting, traditionally the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room. All are encouraged and welcome. For additional information contact Stan Lewis at stan.lewis@hallco.org.

PARTICIPATION

The Participation cluster focuses on ways to welcome new members to the Grace Community and encourages involvement by all in membership, evangelism, and parish life. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with many of the activities and groups available at Grace and see where you fit. We have a place for you!



Parish Life

Great Wednesdays at Grace

Most Wednesdays during the church school year, beginning September 6, our Grace Church family will gather for food, fellowship, fun & learning. On September 6 we will paint bowls in support of the Georgia Mountain Food Bank's Empty Bowl Luncheon on September 26 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM (drop-in) at First Baptist Church.

- 5:00 - 6:00 PM Chorister rehearsal
- 5:30 - 6:30 PM Dinner
- 6:30 - 9:00 PM Meeting time for groups/committees
(coordinate space with Jennifer)
- 7:00 - 9:00 PM Choir rehearsal

Make a meal reservation no later than 12:00 PM each Monday by [signing up online](#), at the information station, or by calling the church office. No shows will be expected to pay. Cost is free for kids up to 5th grade, \$5 youth (6th-12th grade), and \$10 adults.

Children A nursery (children up to four years of age) and childcare (PreK–5th grade) will be offered from 5:00–9:00 PM. Reservations are necessary and can be made on the same form as meal reservations.

Movie Night

Grace adults gather monthly to watch and discuss movies addressing a wide variety of subjects. A very casual occasion, participants often bring a little food and drink to share, and the popcorn is always plentiful. Informal discussion before and after the movie often adds to both the enjoyment and understanding of the films viewed. Movie Night is a welcoming place for newcomers, neighbors of parishioners, and visiting family members.

Movie Night happens in the Youth Room of The Grace Center at 7:00 PM, typically on the 2nd Friday each month. All are welcome!

Hike Group

The Grace Church Hike Group provides an opportunity for the enjoyment of numerous outdoor events and activities. While our primary activity is hiking, you may also enjoy participation in camping, backpacking, water and paddling excursions, training in outdoor activities such as overnight backpacking, touring outdoor historical sites, and visiting festivals and conferences related to outdoor education. Annual events such as the spring Outdoor Adventure Trip, summer picnic at Vogel State Park, and fall trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are group favorites. A calendar of planned events is available for distribution within the parish body annually.

We offer several events each year that do not require any hiking and are suitable for those who can't take part in our regular hikes. Many of our camping trips also offer nearby accommodations in cabins, lodges, motels, etc. The mission of the Hike Group is to appreciate, value, and respect the relationship of our outdoors with our faith for a positive impact in our lives.

For more information, please visit the hike group website: www.LandersStudios.com/gechike (for policies and guidelines) and contact the planners directly: Marsha Conner at marshaconner@live.com and Jeremy Landers at jlanders@gracechurchgainesville.org.

SAGES (Socially Active Grace Episcopal Seniors)

The acronym SAGES represents any and all Grace Seniors (60 to forever) who are looking to be socially active in the company of other Grace seniors, creating a community to include luncheons at the church, occasional outings, educational programs of interest and whatever else we want to do. Please watch the bulletin board at the information station, or [sign up for the SAGES email list](#), to learn about offerings for SAGES at Grace Church!

Foyer Groups

Twice a year, all Grace Church members are invited to participate in a Foyer Group. Foyer Groups consist of six to eight adults who meet in one another's homes for a meal and fellowship over the course of approximately six months. The groups gather at the convenience of the members, with the first meeting being held at the home of the group's captain. A sign-up period is held after which the names of those interested are assigned to groups. Not only is participation in Foyers fun, but it also facilitates deeper relationships among Grace Church members. Fall groups have been formed, look for information about signing up for spring groups in January. For more information, contact Judy Carpenter at judyinthedyes@gmail.com or Bobbie Ingenito at bob-eee8@gmail.com.

Special Events

Open House: Sunday, August 27

On Sunday, August 27, we will have an a-MAZE-ing Open House between our two worship services. Even long time members of Grace Church have described our campus as a maze, especially when trying to navigate to areas that may be unfamiliar. So come have fun exploring refurbished formation, worship, and music spaces and learning about our key ministry clusters: Administration, Compassion, Formation, Participation, and Liturgy & Creative Expression. Meet in the Greeting Area at 9:15 AM to pick up your map and take it with you to have it stamped at various locations along the way. Completed maps can be turned back in for a prize drawing!

During the 10:45 service, we will bless the backpacks and bags for students and teachers of all ages, so bring yours that day! Also, after the service, families and kids (and everyone!) are invited to participate in a family outing at 1:45 PM at Get Air!, Gainesville's new trampoline park on Browns Bridge Road.

Parish Picnic: Sunday, May 20

Every May we come together for a Parish Picnic to enjoy good food, fellowship, and celebrate another wonderful year of Life at Grace. We typically hold one combined service of worship at 10:00 AM and the picnic follows. Chicken and drinks are provided, sides are pot-luck. Make plans to join us!

Newcomers

The Participation Cluster of Grace Episcopal not only welcomes newcomers to our church but also wishes to integrate them into our community.

Grace 101: September 24 & October 1

To learn more about Grace church the clergy is offering a Grace 101 class on Sunday mornings during the Adult Formation hour, 9:30-10:30 AM, on September 24 and October 1.

Episcopal 101: October 8–November 5

Do you want to know more about the Episcopal Church? Episcopal 101 will be a 5-week Adult Formation class beginning on October 8 through November 5.

Newcomer Luncheon: October 8

A luncheon will be held in your honor on October 8 after the 10:45 AM service. Wear your name tag and let us get to know you.

FORMATION

The term “spiritual formation” refers to the overarching hope that all adults, youth, and children explore the richness of their faith and grow in a greater awareness of God’s presence in their lives.

Kick Off Sunday: Sunday, September 10

Christian Formation classes for all ages begin on Kick Off Sunday, September 10. Join us from 9:30–10:30 AM.

Children

Sunday School: PreK - 3rd grade

Children Pre-k - 3rd grade “wonder” about our Christian identity, the stories of our faith, our community and our worship practices using the Godly Play model. Godly Play is a Montessori style approach in which children are invited to imaginatively enter into Parables, Sacred Stories, Silence, and Liturgical Actions in order to discover the depths of God, themselves, one another, and the world around us.

Godly Play will meet Sunday mornings from 9:30–10:30 AM in room 111 of the Grace Center.

Sunday School: 4th & 5th grade

4th and 5th graders will join together to study the Bible according to the lectionary schedule using the Whirl! curriculum. There will be videos, hands-on activities and take home materials for further discussion at home.

Whirl will meet Sunday mornings from 9:30–10:30 AM in room 126 of the Grace Center.

Children’s Chapel

Children, ages 3 (by September 1) to 6, are invited to participate in Children’s Chapel each Sunday during the 10:45 AM service. In Children’s Chapel, they will get a taste of Godly Play, and will learn about worship with stories and prayers just for them. Children begin the service in the Nave with their families, and are blessed and released for Children’s Chapel. They return to the service at the Presentation. Parents will be asked periodically to assist in Children’s Chapel.

Children’s Chapel will meet Sunday mornings in room 109 of the Grace Center.

Children’s Formation Committee

The Children’s Formation Committee, chaired by Jessica Voyles, meets monthly during the school year to plan and implement educational, social, and service events

for children and families at Grace. Meetings are brief and include food and child care. Come join us!

Children of Grace Preschool

Children of Grace Preschool, more commonly known as COG, serves children from age 6 months to five years of age. Our academic year typically begins mid-August and ends around the second week in May, and the school day runs from 9 AM until 1 PM, Monday through Friday. COG’s mission is to provide a loving, nurturing environment that will enhance each child’s self-esteem, independence, and individuality.

Each student’s academic success is based on the previous year’s knowledge which is grown in a loving environment. We strive to meet each child’s individual emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual needs. COG is an outreach ministry to the community, providing early childhood education for around 100 children, thirteen of whom are Episcopalian.

COG is governed by the church’s leadership board, the vestry. The vestry provides for the physical needs of COG and oversees its annual budget. The staff consists of the director, administrative assistant, and fourteen teachers. The vestry delegates day-to-day operations to the rector of Grace Church and to the director. The director determines all policies and procedures in consultation with the rector and vestry.

Please feel free to join us on the following events:

Christmas Program: December 12

Our annual Christmas program will be on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 PM in the Nave. Children that perform in the program are the 2 year olds through Pre-K.



Spring Fling: March 9

Children of Grace holds one fund raiser per year. Our Spring Fling fundraiser will be on Friday, March 9 from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM in the Parish Hall. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Youth

We are anticipating a very rich year together in Youth Ministries at Grace! Dr. Park and Fr. Stuart have worked with a dynamic team of adults to focus on both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening opportunities for Christian education and fellowship.

Sunday morning classes will feature a rotation through key components, including a basic Christian education piece using the book *My Faith, My Life*; a coffee-house-style conversation called Holy Grounds that will explore key aspects of our tradition and build communication skills; and a “Master Class” component that will invite elders from the parish to share their experiences of faith and life, fostering greater awareness and connection between all generations; and an ever-present focus on the relationships within the community.

The youth ministry at Grace brings together 6th-12th graders, with times for larger group conversation and break-out sessions. The Wednesday evening opportunities (scheduled, roughly, every other week) will focus solely on games and relationship building opportunities. Fr. Stuart is giving the youth a budget they can use to explore games, etc. (and build budgeting skills in the process).



We will also focus heavily this year on participating in the wider opportunities within the Diocese such as the Happening event at Camp Mikell in November. These are very important opportunities for spiritual growth and relationships.

A key piece of this year’s opportunities is a parish-wide pilgrimage to London and Oxford, tentatively scheduled for June 22 - 30, 2018. This trip, A Glimpse of Anglicanism, will bring together many generations for a week-long exploration of key sites in both London and Oxford. The youth are invited to help lead the pilgrimage itself, focusing on a particular area throughout the year and then teaching that area to the rest of the pilgrims. High school students are invited to go, with chap-

erones provided, and middle school students can go with one or more parents. Key fundraiser opportunities will seek to offset 50% of the cost for high school students with the remainder of the raised funds dispersed among all participants—hence encouraging more to attend. More details are forthcoming.

Adults

The Adult Formation Committee organizes the Sunday morning offerings for adults, adult weekday programs, plus other special and occasional programs that facilitate education and formation for the adults of our church. Below is an overview of formation opportunities this fall and beyond.

Sunday Mornings

Seekers

The Seekers is an adult Sunday school class in which the members of the class choose a topic, usually a video-based resource, to study for the semester or year. This fall, we have selected *Living the Questions*. *Living the Questions* creates an environment in which we can learn about the best of today’s theological thought and explore what is next for Christianity. Each Sunday, we will watch a 20 minute video which includes conversations with leading voices of faith, sermons, lecture clips, and digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith and concrete spiritual practices, followed by a discussion facilitated by Chaudron Gille. Our goal is not to find the answers, but to explore the questions together. The structure of the class is such that it is not essential to be present for all the sessions; you can come when you are able, and all are welcome!

Topics for the fall include:

An Invitation to Journey, Taking the Bible Seriously, Thinking Theologically, Stories of Creation, Lives of Jesus, A Passion for Christ: Paul, Out into the World, Restoring Relationships, The Prophetic Jesus, Evil, Suffering & the God of Love, The Myth of Redemptive Violence, and Practicing Resurrection

The Seekers will meet Sunday mornings from 9:30–10:30 AM in the Conference Room of the Grace Center.

Grace 101/Episcopal 101

We will offer a series of classes this fall for those who want to learn more about Grace Church and the wider Episcopal/Anglican Tradition. This will be a very useful class for those who have recently transferred to or joined Grace. Others may want to take a “refresher course” to re-familiarize yourself with Episcopal Church

history, polity, theology, liturgy, and life. On September 24 and October 1, Jeremy Landers, our Facilities Manager, will offer classes on the history of Grace Church. He will share a remarkable collection of stories and photos that will help you learn more about our shared 190 years of worship of this great community.

From October 8 to November 5, Fr. Stuart will lead a special forum that will cover many facets of Episcopal life and worship. If you'd like, there are two very useful books that you may want to purchase. Fr. Stuart will make reference to these throughout the classes: *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer* by Rowan Williams (Former Archbishop of Canterbury) and *My Faith, My Life* by Jenifer Gamber. These are wonderful resources to have on hand as we share these conversations.

Bible Study

A few years ago I was sitting in the audience at a conference and my hero, Sister Carol Perry, said to us "Text without context is pretext." With that phrase she began to tell us the story of the calling of the disciples. Our worlds were that rocked. I remember bending over to a friend and saying to her "How could I have missed this?" Later in my room I wondered "Why was I never told this?" "This changes everything." "Could you imagine if this happened TODAY?" This and many more thoughts set off a chain reaction of thoughts that I still ponder to this day.

While I am no Sister Carol Perry it is my hope that, as we explore the Bible, we will find the context together. Starting September 10 we will begin to study the New Testament chronologically. This will help us to see how "The Way" formed. See what mattered to them. See how their daily lives, the politics of the day, their relationships were shaped by this Way. How their teachers and leaders tried to answer their questions and calm their fears and lead them through to a whole life with God and each other. What do you need to bring? Your Bible, a journal, your favorite writing pen/pencil, and a willingness to dig in.

Jenny Massey

The Bible Study will meet Sunday mornings in the parlor from 9:30–10:30 AM.

Additional Opportunities

Education for Ministry E/M

Education for Ministry, called E/M for short, is a wonderful program for adults and older teens developed by the School of Theology of the University of the South. The

program provides an overview of Christian faith and life through a small group experience. There is a fee, and participants are asked to make a commitment for one academic year. During that time the group will meet weekly for several hours. The entire program lasts four years and topics for each year are Old Testament, New Testament, Church history, and theology. Contact Jenny Massey at pricemassey@gmail.com with questions.

Prayer Yoga

Come join us for the fall offering of Prayer Yoga beginning Monday, September 18! Please note the earlier times - chair yoga will meet from 2:45 - 3:30 PM and flow yoga (bring your own mat) from 3:45 - 4:45 PM. We will meet in the parish hall, back right area of the room. For more information please contact Karen Murphy, karend@windstream.net

The Circle

On Sunday, September 17 will begin our initial four-week session of The Circle: A Space for Contemplative Prayer and Study. This Sunday evening series is a place for shared silence and discussion around contemplative spirituality, reflecting on key articles and conversations Fr. Stuart will bring back from his work with The New Contemplatives Exchange. The Circle will meet 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the chapel on Washington Street, and all are welcome.

Women's Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays, September 20, October 4, 11, 18 from 6:30-7:30 PM to study the second book in the Sensible Shoes series, *Two Steps Forward*, by Sharon Garlough Brown. All women 18 and older are invited to join us. Childcare is provided. A morning group is also being planned. Contact Cheryl Kelley at ckelley@gracechurchgainesville.org more information.

A Widow's Tale Retreat

Over 700,000 women are widowed in the US every year and the average age of an American widow is 57. Grace is privileged to host this one-day event on Friday, September 29 in the Parish Hall from 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM for widows featuring Donna Marie Todd, a widow and a Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, as facilitator. Ms. Todd is well-known to many in the congregation as the retreat facilitator for the Annual Women's Retreats in 2016 and 2017 in Montreat, N.C.

This event costs \$25 and is open to widows of any age and of any length of widowhood here at Grace, however, all spaces are currently filled. Contact Dr. Park (cynthia@gracechurchgainesville.org; 770-536-0126) if you are interested in adding your name to the wait list.

Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars now! All women of Grace are invited to a weekend retreat at Montreat Retreat and Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC (just outside of Asheville) January 12-14, 2018. We will gather for fellowship, renewal and inspiration as we explore the courage and joy we share as women of faith. We will be led by psychotherapist, spiritual director, and retreat leader CeCe Balboni. For information or to sign up, email Cheryl Kelley at ckelley@gracechurchgainesville.org.

COMPASSION

COMPASSION ("participation in another's suffering, inclining one to show mercy or give aid" Oxford English Dictionary)

We believe that an aspect of Christian discipleship is to respond compassionately to suffering outside of our congregation - Outreach -- as well as among our own parishioners in the Grace worshipping community - Inreach. Some of the compassionate ministries are on-going and others episodic. We recognize that schedules and commitments affect the level of one's participation from season to season in life. Contact Dr. Park, or the contact person(s) in each ministry, with questions you have about joining one or more of these groups.

If you would like to receive weekly Compassion updates, including opportunities for immediate response, call Dr. Park at 770-536-0126 or email cynthia@gracechurchgainesville.org to be added to the distribution list.

The committee that coordinates our Compassionate Outreach to the community and the wider world meets on the second Monday of the month from 12:00-1:00 PM in the Grace Center Conference Room. For additional information on participating in this steering committee please contact Kathy Futrell: kfutrell@wicinvest.com.

Community Food Pantry

Grace Church has been serving the Community Food Pantry for over 38 years, making this the longest running outreach program of our parish. Rotating with other local churches, Grace serves the pantry with food drives and by providing volunteers four times a year. Volunteers typically work in

groups of four on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday from 12:00 - 1:30 PM during our rotation dates. The pantry, which is located in the Community Foundation Building on Oak Street, is in need of additional volunteers because of a substantial increase in the number of families needing assistance. To join the team, or for more information, contact Mary Lynn Coyle: mlmcoyle@gmail.com or Daphne David: dc david1@bellsouth.net. You can access more information online at the Food Pantry's website: www.communityfoodpantry.net.

Family Promise

Family Promise is a ministry in our community with the goal to help homeless families achieve lasting independence. Grace provides overnight lodging and meals for one to four families (parents and children, up to a total of 14 individuals) for one week every two or three months on a rotating basis with other area churches. Many volunteers are needed to make it all possible, and there is now an online form available through the parish website to sign up to volunteer. You may also contact Tricia McDuff: triciamcduff@aol.com or Sue DeLong: slde long9@gmail.com directly if you can help.

Good News at Noon

For almost thirty years, men and women from Grace have volunteered to provide and serve the noon meal at Good News at Noon mission every Tuesday. If you would like to join in either preparing or servicing this meal, along with a dedicated group, contact Craig Carpenter: seecarp@charter.net.

Angel Tree

Grace Church, in partnership with the Salvation Army, helps fulfill the Christmas hopes and dreams of over 50 children in our community through our Angel Tree.

Please look for the tree in the Greeting Area in mid-November to find out how you can help.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

This ministry consists of teams who take Communion from the Sunday Eucharist to those who are unable to attend that day, and thereby provide them the opportunity to share in our corporate worship. There is some training involved and LEVs are licensed by the Diocese to carry out this important ministry. If you are interested in becoming a lay Eucharistic visitor, contact Brenda Morgan: bmorgan@gracechurchgainesville.org 770-536-0126.



Healing Prayer

Volunteers serving in this ministry offer prayers for healing to parishioners during communion at the 10:45 AM service every Sunday during Advent and Lent. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Nancy Richardson: nrichardson@smf-law.com.

Funeral Reception Committee

This group assists in setting up, serving, and cleaning up after funeral receptions in the parish hall. If you can assist with this ministry, please contact Linden Gaspar: lindenhg@charter.net.

Meals

Volunteers work in teams of 5-6 people for two non-consecutive months to provide fresh meals for parishioners after the birth of a child, as a result of hospitalization, or death in the family. If you can help with this ministry, contact Tina Chopin: tinawestc@comcast.net.

Cards and Notes

Volunteers send cards and personal notes on a monthly or occasional basis to homebound parishioners or those experiencing a crisis of some sort. If you would like to assist with this ministry, please contact Kathy Futrell: kathiefutrell@gmail.com.

Community of Hope (A Benedictine Community)

The mission of The Community of Hope International is to help create and sustain Christian communities of volunteer lay pastoral caregivers united in prayer; shaped by Benedictine spirituality; and equipped for and serving in pastoral care ministries. These ministries, whether inside or outside the church doors, are discerned by each chaplain personally, as St. Benedict reminds all faithful people to “listen with the ear of your heart.” Chaplains in The Community of Hope (CoHI) are accountable to each other and pray, study, and worship together during monthly Circle of Care meetings.

At Grace, we meet on the fourth Saturday of each month. This community life invites further study of The Rule of St. Benedict and opportunities for debriefing, self-care, and growth. Prior to being commissioned, participants enter into a discernment period which includes a 14 week training time of prayer, community building, and pastoral and Benedictine study through expert presenters and study modules. CoHI finds fulfillment in assisting with Compassionate Inreach here at Grace as well as Compassionate Outreach in our wider community. It is our charge to work in conjunction with the par-

ish and the larger church, not to be separate. There is an extensive period of discernment that is necessary for interested individuals to take vows for this Rule of Life.

At present, no new discernment classes are scheduled. But, within the next year, we will explore the possibilities of another class. If you are interested in learning more about this Community and its Rule of Life, as well as Benedictine Spirituality, contact one of the CoH Chaplains, Sarah Roberts at sarah14roberts@gmail.com or Nancy Richardson nrichardson@smf-law.com.



The Order of Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King (DOK) is a spiritual order for lay women in the Episcopal Church. This group of women is faithfully committed to living the rule of life of the DoK - “to pray, work and give for the spread of Christ’s Kingdom.”

Presently, we have only a morning group, but if there is sufficient interest, we can explore a second group to meet in the evening. Each “daughter” serves in a different ministry within Grace and also works with other “daughters” on projects from time to time. If you are interested in entering a period of discernment around a possible call to this group, please contact one of the following officers: Donna Murray: djmurray@hotmail.com; Anita Smith: anitasmith@gmail.com; Kimmey Boyd: kimmeyboyd@yahoo.com; Alice Ann Mundy: wine2335@aol.com; Ann Measom: AM2147@att.net.

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship

Stewardship is a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the many blessings we have received and continue to receive. Stewardship is the means by which we can give back to the parish as well as the community at large, not only with monetary gifts, but with our gifts of time and talent. Grace is blessed with so many wonderful members who contribute countless hours to the many outreach projects in which we are actively involved.

This year's theme, "A Community of Prayer, Compassion, and Belonging" reflects the continuously growing cohesiveness and inclusion of our parish as a whole and particularly the accomplishments made when we collectively pool our resources, including monetary as well as time involvement. These three critical focus points help us to see the ways the Holy Spirit is calling us into a deeper relationship with God and with one another.

We will begin the Stewardship program mid to late September and would like to have all pledge cards submitted by Sunday, November 5. Timely submission is in-

credibly important to our budgeting process, so your reply by November would be greatly appreciated. The vestry will follow up with phone calls beginning the week of November 5.

Also, again this year, we would like to ask for your consideration for participation in the electronic payment process. This saves an incredible amount of time and money in administrative costs...the savings gained being available for other needs. Contact Reba at rpage@gracechurchgainesville.org if you want to know more.

Thank you for making 2017 a tremendous year for the parish and together, we can make 2018 even better.

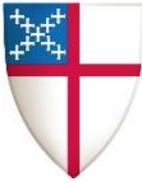
Annual Meeting

Plan to attend our Annual Meeting beginning with fellowship at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, January 31, 2018. The meal will be served at 6:00 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Election of new vestry members, special reports and good food will be on the agenda.

MORE INFORMATION

Here's where to learn more about Grace Church:

- our **website**: www.gracechurchgainesville.org
- our **blog**: www.gracechurchgainesville.org/blog
- our **newsletter**: emailed weekly, to subscribe go to www.gracechurchgainesville.org/email
- our **Facebook page**: www.facebook.com/gecgainesville
- our **Instagram feed**: www.instagram.com/gecgainesville
- our **calendar**: view and/or subscribe to our online Google calendar at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/happening/calendar.html
- our **information station**: located in the connector corridor just around the corner from the greeting area
- our **email list**: sign-up link is located on our website at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/email



Grace Episcopal Church

422 Brenau Avenue
Gainesville, GA 30501

The Rev. Stuart Higginbotham, *Rector*
stuart@gracechurchgainesville.org

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park, *Associate Rector,*
Ministries of Compassion
cynthia@gracechurchgainesville.org

Will Gotmer, *Director of Music/Organist*
wgotmer@gracechurchgainesville.org

Cheryl Kelley, *Director of Formation*
ckelley@gracechurchgainesville.org

Reba Page, *Parish Administrator*
rpape@gracechurchgainesville.org

Brenda Morgan, *Executive Assistant to the Clergy*
bmorgan@gracechurchgainesville.org

Jeremy Landers, *Facility Manager*
jlanders@gracechurchgainesville.org

Jennifer Williams, *Director of Communication*
jwilliams@gracechurchgainesville.org

Liz Howington, *Parish Secretary*
office@gracechurchgainesville.org



Fellowship & Continental Breakfast
Bicentennial Update
Feast of the Holy Cross
Baptisms & Confirmations
Bishop's Visit: The Rt. Rev. Wimberly

Sunday, September 17



Location: corner of Washington Street & Boulevard
Address: 422 Brenau Avenue, Gainesville, GA 30501
Phone: 770-536-0126
Parish Office Hours: Monday–Thursday | 9 AM-5 PM
Website: www.gracechurchgainesville.org