

Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
established 1828



Second Sunday in Lent: March 16, 2025

Our Mission

Grace Episcopal Church is a congregation in communion with all that is in God, seen and unseen. We are led by the example of Jesus Christ and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to support each other through prayer, formation, worship, and service.

Our Vision

We will welcome all with kindness, acceptance, and love, with God's help.
We are Grace, grounded in faith and relentless in compassion.

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:15AM

Helpful notes: The 8:15 early service is a simple, contemplative service that offers you a time and space for prayer. It uses the more traditional language that can be found within the Anglican Tradition and primarily comes from the earlier 1928 Book of Common Prayer. Please feel free to take advantage of the quiet space before the service begins for your personal devotions.

Community Minute

Tolling of the Bells

Silent Procession

A Penitential Order

BCP 319

Kyrie Eleison

BCP 324

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

Leaflet, page 4

Psalms 27

Leaflet, page 4

The Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Leaflet, page 5

The Gospel Reading: Luke 13:31-35

Leaflet, page 5

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

Leaflet, page 6

The Prayers of the People

Leaflet, page 6

The Peace

The Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP 333

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

BCP 339

The Blessing

The Dismissal

BCP 339

Prelude *Freu Dich Sehr, O Meine Seele*

Johann Pachelbel (1659-1695)

Community Minute

Helpful notes: The word "liturgy" means "the public work of the people that has a personal cost." We invest our energy and resources into our common prayer. The opening portion of the liturgy invites us to gather in this space at this time, bringing all of ourselves into this shared worship as we focus our attention on God's love for us. We are made more aware of our union with God and with one another as we remember that our worship of God is the core element of our lives as Christians.

Tolling of the Bells

At the Entrance: Hymn 401

Leoni

A Penitential Order

BCP 351

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Song of Praise: Hymn 560 Antiphon sung by Cantor; Antiphon sung by all, verse 3, verse 4, Antiphon

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Children and Dismissal to Children's Chapel

Children ages three through second grade are invited to come forward.

People God of all, we thank you for the joy and wonder these children bring into our lives. May they learn about you and your Word, may they grow in loving-kindness, and may they know your presence is always with them. Amen.

Helpful notes: Our attention now turns to the assigned texts for the day, as we listen for the Spirit's guidance through ancient texts that connect with our present circumstances. We remember that it is not so much that "we read the texts," as it is that "the Spirit reads us through the texts." Following the readings, the preacher will offer a sermon that seeks to help nurture our personal and communal reflection.

The First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

Reader: 8:15/Steven Hatch; 10:45/Helen Scovill

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27

Reader: 8:15/Steven Hatch; 10:45/chanted by the choir BCP 617

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.

- 12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!
- 18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

The Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Reader: 8:15/Ray Schuetze, 10:45/Daniel Grizzle

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At the Sequence: Hymn 150 verses 1, 2, & 5

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Form III

Leader: 8:15/Ray Schuetze, 10:45/Susan Carlson BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on Brent Webb, family member of Jill and John Mansfield; and all those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Remembering especially Dick Freeman; give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Grace Episcopal Church is a congregation in communion with all that is in God, seen and unseen. We are led by the example of Jesus Christ and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to support each other through prayer, formation, worship, and service.

We will welcome all with kindness, acceptance, and love, with God's help. We are Grace, grounded in faith and relentless in compassion.

The Peace

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please be seated.

The Offertory Anthem *Pie Jesu* from *Requiem*

Gabriel Faure (1845-1924), edited John Rutter

Caroline Brent-Chessum, soprano

Pie Jesu, pie Jesu, pie Jesu, pie Jesu

Qui tollis peccata mundi

Dona eis requiem, dona eis requiem

Pie Jesu, pie Jesu, pie Jesu, pie Jesu

Qui tollis peccata mundi

Dona eis requiem, dona eis requiem

Agnus Dei, Agnus Dei, Agnus Dei, Agnus Dei

Qui tollis peccata mundi

Dona eis requiem, dona eis requiem

Sempiternam

Sempiternam Requiem

Merciful Jesus, merciful Jesus, merciful Jesus, merciful Jesus

Father, who takes away the sins of the world

Grant them rest, grant them rest

Merciful Jesus, merciful Jesus, merciful Jesus, merciful Jesus

Father, who takes away the sins of the world

Grant them rest, grant them rest

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, Lamb of God, Lamb of God

Father, who takes away the sins of the world

Grant them rest, grant them rest

everlasting

everlasting rest.

At the Presentation: Hymn 149 verses 1 & 3

Old 124th

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand as you are able.*

BCP 372

Eucharistic Prayer D (adapted from the Eastern Orthodox Prayer of Saint Basil)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Sanctus: Hymn S114 *Hymns beginning with an S are found in the service music section at the front of the hymnal.*

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

*We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with _____) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Fraction Anthem: S161

Helpful notes: To receive, please proceed up the center aisle and fill around the altar from the back to the front. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated bread and wine, simply cross your arms over your chest. We will offer a blessing for you as we share in Holy Communion. You may stand or kneel at the altar rail. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.

Communion Music

Offertory from Requiem, Opus 48 sung in Latin

Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)
Benjamin Schoening, baritone

O Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae, libera animas defunctorum deliver the souls of the departed de poenis inferni from the punishment of hell et de profundo lacu, de ore leonis, ne absorbeat tartarus ne cadant in obscurum. Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus tu suscipe pro animabus illis, receive for those souls quarum hodie memoriam facimus. Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam, quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, and from the deep pit, nor may they be absorbed by hell from the mouth of the lion, nor may they fall into darkness. Allow them, Lord, whom today we commemorate, Sacrifice and prayer to You, Lord, in praise we offer: to pass from death to life, which once to Abraham You promised and to his seed. Amen.

Prayer after Communion *Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

BCP 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

*Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious **Body and Blood**
of your **Son our Savior Jesus Christ**;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the **Body of your Son**,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, **Father**, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of **Christ our Lord**.
To him, to you, and to the **Holy Spirit**,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Helpful notes: We remember now that we have not left the world; rather, we have brought our entire selves into this time and space to be transformed by the Spirit's presence in our hearts. Now, we give thanks for this time of shared prayer, and we look toward the ways we can embody the Light of Christ in the world.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 495

In Babilone

The Dismissal

Postlude *Fantasia*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

LENT IS A TIME FOR REFRESHING OUR VISION

The Season of Lent offers us a time to be intentional about our practice of prayer and engage all our senses to practice our faith. From the sound of music and prayers, to the smell of incense, to the taste of bread and wine, to the feel of ash on our foreheads, to what we see in nature and in one another's faces—these forty days call us to pay closer attention to how we notice the Spirit's presence in our lives. In this intentional time, we remember again that our life is our practice.

You will notice that we have added photographs to the bulletin covers during Lent. We invite you to take the bulletins home and cut out the images if they speak to you. Perhaps this is a time when you can create an altar in your home, gathering images and objects from your life that help you stay grounded. You will also notice that we are using an incredible hymn as a focus point throughout the entire season, taking time to reflect on the words of the Beatitude. The hymn has a setting from a Russian Orthodox chant, and we hope it helps ground us in these days.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- The next meeting of the **Soul Work Book Club** will be on Sunday, March 23 at 7 PM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 897 7425 9670, Passcode: 254002
- The Grace Parish Choir in collaboration with the University of North Georgia Chorale and Cumberland Chamber Orchestra will present **FAURE Requiem** on Sunday, March 30 at 4 PM.
- On Saturday, April 5 from 9 AM - 3 PM, Brian Sellers-Petersen will lead a Lenten retreat, **Living an Embodied Life**, at the Linwood Nature Preserve in Gainesville. Learn more at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/lentretreat

THINGS TO NOTE

- The vestry invites you to share your **hopes for being involved** in our church community so they can identify areas where we can grow together in faith and service. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/participation-survey/
- The **chalice and paten** we use during Lent were gifted to Grace by The Rev. Becca Stevens, who helped lead the January Women's Retreat.
- **Christian Education** (CE/Sunday School) classes will not meet April 6, 13, or 20. Last day for CE is May 4.
- Explore the **Glimpses of Grace podcast** on your podcast app of choice or at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/podcast.
- Prayer is at the heart of our life as a faith community. Grace Church invites members of the parish to **request prayer** at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/prayer.
- We invite **visitors and newcomers** to fill out a Welcome Card, online at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/welcome or in the pew (and dropped in the offering plate), so we can share information about Grace and answer any questions.
- The **nursery** is located in the children's education wing and is available to all children age 4 and under on Sunday mornings from 8:00 AM until noon.
- Services at Grace Church are **live-streamed/recorded** so that we may include those who cannot be with us physically. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/photo-video-policy.

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Prelude: *Freu Dich Sehr, O Meine Seele*, Johann Pachelbel (1659-1695) | H401 Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt.; Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt. | H560 Words: Russian Orthodox liturgy, Matthew 5:3-12; Music: *Beatitudes*, Russian Orthodox hymn, arr Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications. | H150 Words: George Hunt Smytten, 1822-1870 alt.; Music: *Aus Der Tiefe Rufe Ich*, melody, attr. Martin Herbst, 1654-1681 alt., harm. William Henry Monk, 1823-1889 | *Pie Jesu* from *Requiem*, Gabriel Faure (1845-1924), edited John Rutter | H149 Words: Thomas H. Cain (b.1931) Music: *Old 12th*, melody *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Words: ©1982, Thomas H Cain | Sanctus S114 Setting from *Missa de Santa Maria Magdalena*, Healy Willan (1880-1968) By permission of Oxford University Press | S161 Setting: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (h.1950) | *Offertory* from *Requiem*, Opus 48, Gabriel Faure (1845-1924), Hinshaw Music Inc. 1984 P.O. Box 470, Chapel Hill, N.C.27514 | H495 Words: John Bakewell (1721-1819) and Martin Madan (1726-1790), alt.; Music: *In Babilone*, melody from *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlitiese en Contradanseu*, 1710 | Postlude: *Fantasia* Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

GRACE CHURCH

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop
Website: www.episcopalatlanta.org

Main entrance on Boulevard
Office address: 422 Brenau Avenue, Gainesville, GA 30501
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Phone: 770-536-0126
Website: www.gracechurchgainesville.org

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Stuart Higginbotham, DMin, Rector, stuart@gracechurchgainesville.org
The Rev. Brandon Nonnemaker, EdD, Associate Rector for Children, Youth & Families
brandon@gracechurchgainesville.org
Lynn Swanson, Music Director/Organist, lswanson@gracechurchgainesville.org
Sr. Genevieve Lynn, Pastoral Assistant, sistergl@gracechurchgainesville.org
Reba Page, Parish Administrator/Finance, rpage@gracechurchgainesville.org
Jennifer Williams, Director of Communication, jwilliams@gracechurchgainesville.org
Jeremy Landers, Facility Manager, jlanders@gracechurchgainesville.org
Jessica Voyles, Ministry Coordinator, office@gracechurchgainesville.org
Mike McPeek, Worship Technology Assistant

PRIEST ASSOCIATES, RETIRED

The Rev. David B. Powell
The Rev. Betsy Jennings Powell, MD
The Rev. Cynthia Park, PhD

VESTRY & OFFICERS *Emails found at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/about/vestry*

Term ends 2026 Jim Brim
Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith
Term ends 2027 Sue Bowron
Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden
Steve Carlson
Cheryl Kelley
Term ends 2028 Jim Bradley
Jo Brewer
Darlene Hauserman
Jason Voyles

Amy Munn, Treasurer
Doug McDuff, Assistant Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry
Jason Voyles, Chancellor

**CHILDREN OF GRACE
PRESCHOOL**

Office Hours: 9 AM - 1PM
Phone: 770-536-9088
Website: www.gracechurchgainesville.org/cog
Meg McPeek, Director, mmcpeek@gracechurchgainesville.org
Liz Katz, Assistant Director, lkatz@gracechurchgainesville.org