



The Chimes

MARCH 2017

Our Vestry Retreat was a beautiful day in February in the cabin in the woods at Wesleyan College. We felt like we were camping far away but were only minutes from home. We were grateful for this unique opportunity right in our backyard and for Wesleyan's gracious hospitality in hosting us. We even had time for a walk in the woods led by Barbara Jenkins who is a professor there so knew well the lay of the land. After beginning our day with a Bible study on our role as disciples of Christ and leaders in the Church, we reviewed the role and responsibilities of the vestry, and worked on strategic planning and visioning for the parish using a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) and answering the following four questions:

- What have we accomplish in the last year?
- Where are we now?
- Where is God calling us to go in the future?
- What goals do we want to set for next year?

(Our responses to these questions are posted later in this newsletter.) It was a time of self-assessment, listening to the Lord's leading, and seeking to discern the way forward as a parish. It was a time of thinking about the way we minister to one another and to the community. The goals we set are not restricting us from doing other things but intended to help us be intentional about accomplishing those things that we have identified as important to us.

Just as our Vestry Retreat was a time of self-assessment and listening to the Lord's leading for us as a parish, Lent is a time for us to do that in our own lives and especially in our walk with the Lord. It is a time of personal reflection, of being intentional about taking on spiritual disciplines that we hope to continue to carry out in our lives, to deepen our relationship with the Lord, and to practice listening to His voice. If we choose to do some form of fasting it is an opportunity to loosen our need to indulge ourselves and to loosen the hold of the world on us as we commit our way to the Lord. Even though this is a very personal practice, it is also something we do corporately as a parish to support one another in this time of committing our lives to God. The strengthening of the individuals in the parish during this time directly strengthens the parish. I encourage you to take these 40 days to walk very intentionally with the Lord so that your walk going forward out of that time of testing will be strengthened and ready for anything that may come your way. While it may be challenging to enter into this discipline we will reap the rewards for having done so!

Blessings for a holy Lent!

-the Rev. Cynthia Knapp



“It [Vestry Retreat] was a time of self-assessment, listening to the Lord’s leading, and seeking to discern the way forward as a parish.”

*Photo:
Christ Church
on Ash
Wednesday
(2017).*

Strategic Planning Discussion

Vestry Retreat February 11, 2017

What have we accomplished in the last year?

- Removed bats from the belfry
- Search committee and new rector
- New administration of finances (incl. best practices)
- New office administrator
- Office volunteer program
- New bible studies (working women, teens)
- Cherub choir
- New welcoming/nurturing committee
- Changes to worship, incl. more regular healing services
- 2/3 yr old Sunday School class curriculum
- Shift in discretionary fund funding and management
- Increased hours of music director to half time



Where are we now?

- Planning for new hires
- Developing new ministries
- Developed an 8:00 usher and greeter ministry
- Developing new leadership
- Rethinking adult Sunday School program to be less clergy-directed and attractive to diverse audiences
- Developing ministries for youth and young adult (downtown)
- Improving communication

What are goals for next year (2017)?

- Systematize ministry procedures, keep better records and templates for services etc.
- Require each ministry has a vice-chair
- Hire new youth/young adult minister and develop youth program
- Hire associate rector
- Develop paired clergy/church relations (pulpit exchange, combined service, shared ministry project)
- Be more intentional in recruiting and welcoming new members
- Expand parish participation in outreach
- Establish prayer ministry for weekend lunch
- Undertake a one-day parish outreach project
- Explore options for international outreach ministry
- Identify an Overseas Mission trip for 2018
- Increase choir membership (volunteers)
- Establish Young Family Fellowship program
- Control AC more effectively

Where is God calling us to go in the future?

- Develop a strategic plan
- Address racial and economic diversity, be a more welcoming presence
- Minister to young adults in downtown area
- Strengthen ministry to youth
- Increase participation in ministry, programs, worship
- Reinvigorate, expand outreach
- Minister to young families
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of all our ministries and programs

SAFEGUARDING God's people



DIOCESE OF ATLANTA
The Episcopal Church in Middle and North Georgia



Saturday, March 18
10am-1pm | Great Hall

What is Safeguarding God's People and who needs training?

Safeguarding God's People (SGP) is a training program for the prevention of sexual exploitation in communities of faith. Training is designed to help participants understand the overt and the subtle, the intentional and unintentional, ways in which exploitation and harassment occur in church, school and institutional settings. The aim of the training is to prevent exploitation and harassment by making everyone more aware of her/his words, actions, and intentions as we engage together in ministry.

Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Exploitation in Communities of Faith addresses the development or attempted development of a sexual relationship between a person in any ministerial position and an individual with whom he or she has a pastoral relationship; this is commonly called adult sexual exploitation.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO TAKE SAFEGUARDING GOD'S PEOPLE TRAINING?

All clergy, church employees, vestry members, lay pastoral care ministers (including Stephen Ministers), spiritual directors, Eucharistic visitors, hospital visitors authorized by the church, leaders and facilitators of all adult programs and small group ministries, seminarians, interns and lay chaplains.

There is no charge for this training program

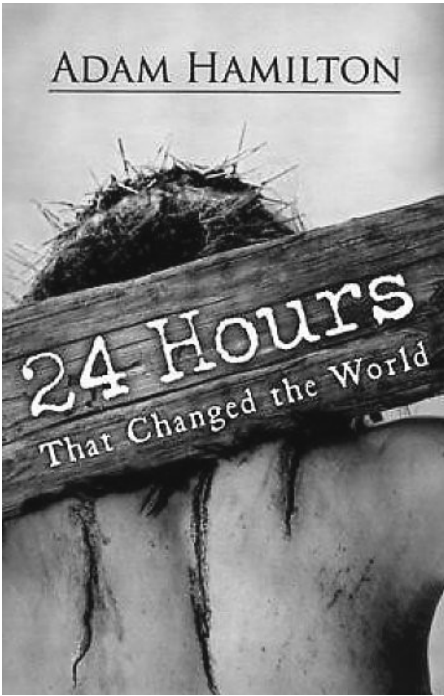
Please email Deborah Silver at dsilver@episcopalatlanta.org to sign up!

ADAM HAMILTON

LENTEN STUDY

Sundays @ 10a | Cloister Room

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am in the Cloister Room for our Lenten study on Adam Hamilton's *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Each week this series is led by Cynthia and Joseph and includes a 10 minute video excerpt. No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this Lenten journey, Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. Whether readers are long-time Christians or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, they are invited to join the author in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday

10am: Lenten Series | Cloister Room

10am: Youth Confirmation | Youth Suite

10am: Senior High Sunday School | Youth Suite (*Monthly*)

Tuesday

7pm: Theology on Tap | Just Tap'd on First Street

Wednesday

7am: Men's Bible Study | Cloister Room

9am: Early Women's Bible Study | The Rectory

10:45am: Wise Women's Bible Study | Davis Room

6pm: Alpha Course | Home of Hal & Jenny Greer

Thursdays

5:30pm: The Gift of Gab | Home of Erin Bickley (*March 9*)

5:30pm: The Gift of Gab | Lizzie Clark (*March 23*)

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 12. Don't forget to move your clocks forward one (1) hour before going to bed on Saturday. We look forward to seeing you at church.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

8am | Holy Eucharist: Rite One | *Church*

9am | Holy Eucharist: Rite Two-Family Service | *Jones' Chapel*

11am | Choral Holy Eucharist: Rite One | *Church*

Wednesday

12pm | A Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist: Rite Two | *Church*

PRAYER LIST

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for those on our parish prayer list:

Alice, Andrew, Ann, Anna, Bailey, Ben, Beverly, Bill, Bill, Bill, Bonnie, Broadus, Cason, Carmen, Carolyn, Charlie, Chuck, Crawford, David, Deitz, Eddie, George, George, Hannah, Helen, Jack, Jeffery, Kelly, Lynn, Malinda, Margaret, Margarete, Mary, Millie, Molly, Nina, Patton, Peter, Randy, Scott, Sparky, Susan. Alan, Angela, Bailee, Beth, Brady, Bobby, Cole, Colin, Deborah, Ed, Felecia, Gail, Gene, Henry, Jim, Joann, Julie, Justin, Larry, Larry, Lilla, Lucille, Lynn, Maddox, Maggie, Matthew, Richard, Ruby, Saville, Suzanne, Tommy, and The Talbert Family.

For those serving in the military:

Allen, Austin, Brian, Caylee, Charlie, George, Regis, and Terry.

For our Bishops:

Rob Wright and Don Wimberly.

For our Priests:

Cynthia and Joseph.

EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY
John Mark Parker, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Youth-led Service

Sunday, March 19th @ 5pm | Jones' Chapel

Come and join us for a service led by the youth ministry of Christ Church.

EYC @ New Beginnings

Our youth had a wonderful time at Camp Mikell. New Beginnings is a unique weekend designed to address concerns and needs of youth in grades 6–8th. It was created in the Diocese of Central Florida by adults and young people to help youth grow in love of themselves, others, and Christ. In 1998, the Diocese of Atlanta hosted 20 youth for the first New Beginnings in Georgia. Over the years, New Beginnings has grown and now hosts no less than 100 youth every October and February at Camp Mikell.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Jonathan A. Poe, Organist & Choirmaster



JOSEPH O'BERRY, ORGANIST

Joseph will be back in Macon to play and organ concert at Mulberry United Methodist Church. The concert will be part of the Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. He will play on Friday, March 31, 2017 at 12pm. The concert is free and open to the public.

While Joseph is here in Macon, he will serve as our guest organist for worship on April 2 for the 11am Choral Holy Eucharist. Joseph studied organ performance at Mercer University with Dr. Robert Parris. Some of you will undoubtedly remember him and his remarkable talents. We welcome him back with joyful hearts!

THE CHOIR OF NEW COLLEGE OXFORD Robert Quinney, director

Tuesday, April 4, 2017
Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
7:30 pm in the Nave

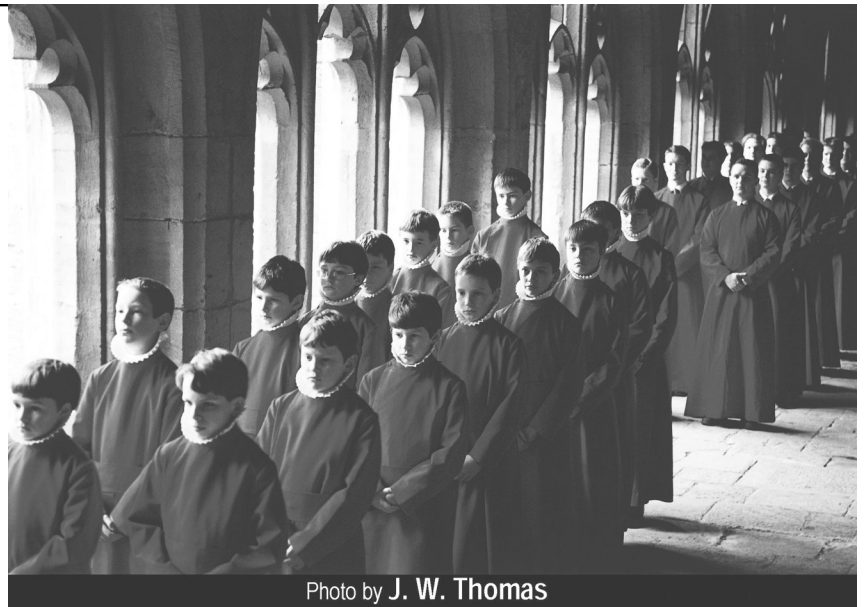


Photo by J. W. Thomas

Presented by the Moore-Wilkerson Fund of the Cathedral of St. Philip, Friends of Cathedral Music, and the British Consulate-General Atlanta

Patron tickets: \$100 in advance
(includes 2 tickets & unreserved seats in the preferred seating section of the Cathedral nave, held until 10 minutes prior to the concert)

General Admission: \$15 in advance / \$20 day of concert

Seniors & Students: \$10 in advance / \$15 day of concert

Patron tickets and discounted advance-purchase tickets are available online and from the Cathedral Book Store at (404) 237-7582.

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Priest on Call: (478) 420-0738
ChristChurchMacon.com

The Chimes

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THE FIRST CHURCH OF MACON, GEORGIA. ESTABLISHED IN 1825

"Growing by God's Grace into a Family of Faith and Ministry."



"O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to us the help of your power, that our sickness may be turned into health, our fear into courage, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior." Amen.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

All are invited to this service of healing. The liturgy used is drawn from the Book of Occasional Services. The Litany of Healing, the celebration of Holy Communion, Anointing and the Laying on of Hands are all included in the context of this service. The music reflected in this service consists of familiar hymns for congregation use.

A PUBLIC SERVICE OF HEALING
SUNDAY, MARCH 12 @ 5PM