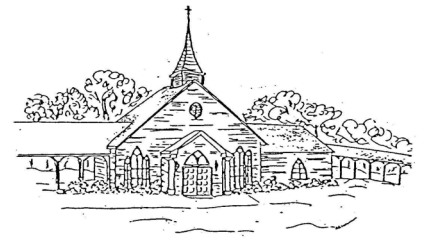


Our Parish Life

Volume XVI, Issue 3

March 2017



The Episcopal Church of the Annunciation



“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.” Luke 1:31

1512 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA 30474
(Cheney Dr. at Meadows Lane)
Mail to: P.O. Box 1311, Vidalia, GA 30475

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Office Phone: 912-537-3776
Office Fax: 912-537-0608

Email: theannunciation@bellsouth.net
Web site: www.annunciationvidalia.org
Facebook Fan Page—Click LIKE
<http://www.facebook.com/Annunciation-Episcopal-Church-Vidalia-GA>

The Most Rev. Michael Curry
Presiding Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Scott A. Benhase
Bishop, The Diocese of Georgia

The Rev. Denise Vaughn
Rector, Annunciation

The Rev. Dcn. Burt Derrick
Deacon

Anne Roller, Treasurer

Morgan Martin, ECW President

Alice Claxton, Church Secretary

Beverly Thompson, Clerk to the Vestry, 2017

2017 Vestry Members

Sherron Threlkeld, Senior Warden 537-2400

Donnie Alderman, Junior Warden 293-0754

Jen Martinez 537-8255

Zack Fowler 538-8058

Patti Williams 406-493-2616

Hugh Jordan 293-4157

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH LIFE

Ash Wednesday

Ashes & Holy Eucharist, 12 Noon and 6:00 pm.
Wednesday, March 1.

Cursillo Weekend #122 at Honey Creek
March 2, 3, 4, and 5.

VBS Planning Meeting, Wednesday, March 8, 4:00 pm.

**Lenten Study “Living Into God’s Dream:
Dismantling Racism in America”**
Wednesday, March 8, 15, 22, and 29.
5:30 pm Soup; 6:00 pm Study.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12.
Spring Forward One Hour

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Meeting with Dinner,
Monday, March 13, 6:00 pm,

ECW Coffee Hour, Sunday, March 19, after 10:30 service.

**Daughters of the King (DOK), Quiet Day
The Foolishness of God**
All are invited to attend. Brown Bag Lunch
Saturday, March 25, 9:00 am—12:30 pm,

Vestry Meeting, Monday, March 27, 6:00 pm.

Check out our Web site
to find latest newsletter, calendar, sermons and more.
Thank you to Scott Clements for his help in keeping website
information updated.

Dear People of the Annunciation,

Did you know that personal invitations to church are the most effective way to grow a church? In a recent study, more than 50,000 people over a 10 year period were asked why they came to church, and between 79 and 90 % said, "I began attending because someone invited me." Only 2% came by advertisement, 6% by the pastoral, or clergy invitation, 6% by an organized evangelism campaign, BUT 86% by friends or relatives! By far, the largest number of people who join a church come through contacts by members with their friends and family. This research clearly shows that growing a church involves not only the clergy, but all its members willing, capable, and actually engaging in recruiting. If we are inviting, they will walk in our doors. And inviting is sometimes as simple as telling others what God has done for us in Christ, or why we love this church and the Episcopal way of worshiping.

So, if personal invitations by existing church members are the most effective way to grow the church, what stands in the way of that happening? The first reason is really at the heart of each of us, because each of us makes a decision about whether our church experience is worth an invitation to a friend. We decide about giving an invitation and if the benefits we receive are worth sharing with others. Hopefully, the benefits we receive are worth sharing because when we invite, we invite people not only into a relationship with us but into a relationship with Jesus Christ. In my opinion, these benefits alone are worth sharing with others.

Yet, we are more willing to share with others when we feel a sense of pride for our church; when we feel a sense of ownership in its ministry and feel confident that the sermons will be understood by those we invite; when we feel confident that the Sunday morning experience will not be embarrassing, and newcomers will be warmly welcomed; when we feel joy that we are actively involved in blessing our community, and have a deep sense of personal satisfaction in service, as well as giving and receiving; when we experience joy and have an emotional connection, we are more willing to invite our friends and family to church. Research shows that people are looking for warmth, welcome, and a caring community; meaningful worship and sermons; and a family place for their children. It really is a matter of our hearts.

Jesus tells us in the gospel of Matthew that we are to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Inviting, welcoming, and connecting people into our congregation, is vital toward building a healthy and vibrant church. We may not always be successful in our recruiting but that is not really our task. Our task is to be faithful, which means that we stay true to the call of Christ, to make disciples of all people.

With the Love of Christ,

Denise+

Deacons Corner

THE THREE TOOLBOXES

Jesus once told a story called the Parable of the Talents. In Jesus' story, a man was going away on a trip so he called his servants together and gave each some of his money to use while he was gone. You will find that story in chapter twenty-five of the Gospel of Matthew. I don't think Jesus will mind if I change the parable a little bit and tell you a story that I call, "The Parable of the Three Tool Boxes." Once upon a time there was a man who had a construction business. The man had to go away on a long trip and so he called his three employees together and said "I have to go on a long trip and so I am leaving you three in charge. I have put together a tool box for each of you to use to keep the business going while I am gone"

The man then gave each of his employees a tool box. The tool boxes contained all the tools the employees needed to do what the man expected of them, but since the three employees didn't all have the same abilities, each tool box was different. To the first employee, he gave a very large box filled with every tool you can imagine. To the second employee, he gave a smaller tool box, but one that still had a very good assortment of tools. To the third employee, he gave a very small tool box with just a few tools, but enough tools for the employee to do what was expected of him

The man left to go on his trip. When he returned, he called his employees together to see what they had done while he was gone. The first employee said "I knew that you had a great love for the homeless people of the world, so I used the tool box that you gave me to build homes for the homeless. That is great said the employer. "You have done so well that I am going to put you in charge of all new construction for the entire company."

The second employee said, "I knew that you had a great love for the elderly, so I used the tool box you gave me to fix up the homes of the elderly people who can no longer do the work themselves "That is wonderful", said the employer. You have done such a good job, that I am putting you in charge of all repair and maintenance work for the entire company."

Then he turned to the third employee and asked "What did you do with the tools that I left you?" "I knew that you are a very demanding boss and that you expect a lot from your employees. I was afraid that if I used the tools you gave me that one of them might get broken or that I might lose one of them and make you angry. I put the tools in a safe place. They were there all the time you were gone. Look, here they are, just like new,"

"What a worthless employee you are! I didn't give you the tools for safekeeping, I gave them to you to use in my business. You are fired!" Since they had proven that they would make good use of them, he took the man's tool box and divided the tools between the other two employees.

I think this story is a good picture of what God has done in us. He has given each of us tools to use in building His kingdom. We don't all have the same tools, but God expects us to use whatever tools He has given to us, if we do, He will give us even more, but if we don't, He may take them away and give them to someone who will use them. Listen to the words of Jesus. "For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

This certainly is a great simplification of what Christ wants us to do, however the meaning is very obvious and strong, regardless of our age. Sometimes children's stories can have just as powerful a message.

Rev Dcn Burt

The Season of Lent

Millions of people all over the world are getting ready to take part in Lent. This year Lent begins on March 1 which is also Ash Wednesday and the day after Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day occurs the day before Lent begins, symbolizing when Christians would eat up foods such as milk and eggs before fasting. Lent is a 40-day period, set aside as a time of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Lenten period reflects when Jesus fasted and suffered in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights before he started his ministry. According to the Bible, he was tempted by Satan during this time, but each time he managed to refuse his temptations. People follow Jesus' example and give up vices in a bid to grow closer to God as Easter approaches.

Lent offers a wonderful opportunity to discover the mystery of Christ within us. Unlike the hectic pace of other seasons of the church year, lent suggests quiet, solitude, and meditation. There are many activities that will aid you as you seek to draw closer to God during this season of Lent. The Ash Wednesday Services, the Lenten Study, the Meditation Books located on the table in the narthex and regular Sunday Worship are a few suggestions. When we take stock of our spiritual life during Lent and seek to draw closer to God, our Easter remembrance of Jesus' resurrection can truly become a time of rejoicing with the Risen Christ. So, please take this time to discover how meaningful this season can be.

Ash Wednesday Services

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, March 1, 12:00 noon & 6:00 pm

Lenten Study

Wednesday, March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5

Sign up sheet for book & for providing soup on table in Narthex

Living into God's Dream



Bishop Benhase encourages the people and churches of the Diocese of Georgia to join together during Lent in reading *Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America*. "This important book offers an invitation for us in the Church to have a serious conversation about race," said the Bishop. "It's high time we stopped talking at one another or passed one another by, and sat down and talked to and with one another. *Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America* is an excellent study guide to help us have those deep conversations. I strongly urge all our parishes to use this resource for your Lenten study."

Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America addresses issues such as reasons why past efforts to achieve genuine racial reconciliation failed, the necessity to honor rage and grief in the process of moving to forgiveness and racial healing, and what whites with privilege and blacks without similar privilege must do to move the work of dismantling racism forward.

Vestry Meeting Minutes – Annunciation – January 23, 2017 at 5:30 pm

Members Present: Zack Fowler, Donnie Alderman, Latrelle Stockton, Beverly Thompson, Sherron Threlkeld, Bobby Hamilton, Jennifer Martinez, Reverend Denise Vaughn

Deacon Present: Reverend Deacon Burt Derrick; Clerk Present: Della Richards; Treasurer Present: Anne Roller

Meeting called to order with Prayer and Meditation led by Rev. Denise Vaughn.

January 2017 Vestry Meeting Minutes were reviewed; Donnie moved to approve minutes, 2nd by Sherron, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: (Anne) End of year (December 2016) financial report indicates a surplus of \$19888 which is a positive position in which to be. Anne suggests that around \$100,000 be moved from the checking account and be placed in a savings or investment account where it is accessible. Denise will research possible accounts. Zack moved to approve the December 2016 report, 2nd by Beverly, motion passed.

Business:

1. 2017 Mission and Ministry Budget (prepared by Anne Roller, Hugh Jordan, and Reverend Denise) was presented by Anne Roller and reviewed by Vestry. Donnie moved to approve the 2017 budget, 2nd by Latrelle, motion passed.
2. A memorial gift has been made to the Church in the amount of \$5000 in memory of Neil Baylor by his family. Sherron moved that \$1000 be placed in the Flower Guild Fund (at family request), \$1000 be placed in the Music Fund, and \$3000 be placed in the Memorial Fund, 2nd by Donnie, motion passed.
3. VIC sign-up for February was completed.
4. Rev. Denise presented information on the Backpack Buddies Program, which provides weekend food for 80 children in Toombs County. Funding is needed to purchase the food which is provided by Bi-Lo at a discount. Zack moved to donate \$100 per month through May to help fund the Backpack Buddies Program, 2nd by Donnie, motion passed.
5. Sherron moved to approve the placement of the cross, which was presented to Annunciation when its founders first met at Vidalia Women's Club building many years ago, behind the altar on a credence table (a parishioner is donating credence table), 2nd by Beverly, motion passed.

Senior Warden's Report: (Beverly) Spaghetti dinner is planned for 2/14/2017, with proceeds going to the Diocesan Capital Campaign Fund. Vestry has decided that in lieu of tickets, donations to the Diocesan Capital Campaign Fund will be encouraged. Donnie Alderman will make the sauce. Patti Williams will prepare the bread. Jen will make pies. ECW will decorate. Other needed items will be requested from parishioners. Mutual ministry review will be completed in the next couple of months. Communication is being initiated with Rev. Reed and Nancy Freeman concerning the possibility of cellist visit. Sincere appreciation expressed by Beverly to each vestry member, our junior warden, our treasurer, our clerk and our rector for his and her dedicated service to the life of our church.

Junior Warden's Report: (Bobby) Glass windows in parish hall still to be completed. It is suggested that the lower glass in nursery room might need to be plexiglass or some other unbreakable material.

Deacon's Report: (Rev. Denise for Dcn. Burt) – Rev. Dcn. Burt will serve with the Bishop on 2/19/2017 in Hawkinsville at St. Luke's. Three medical house calls have been made so far. Orientation has been held for DOK study sessions, which will continue on the next Sunday after the annual meeting.

Rector's Report: (Rev. Denise) - Rev. Denise has attended the Toombs County Family Connections Meeting, where she learned about the Backpack Buddies Program. Volunteers are needed to help pack the backpacks. She will find out more about the need for volunteers. The brass cross which was given to the first gathering of Episcopalians at the Vidalia Women's Club is now behind the altar. It was a gift to Peter Fleming, our first priest. A credence table will be donated by a parishioner for placement of the cross in the center behind the altar. Denise will attend a workshop in Statesboro at Trinity on 1/28/17 from 10-2 on Project Resource, which is a stewardship program. Parochial report is due 3/1/17 and will be presented at the next meeting for approval. She encourages all vestry members to look at the calendar of events and activities on the website. Each week an email is sent to all parishioners regarding current opportunities to participate in church activities. One upcoming opportunity will be an Evensong service with Jonathan Murphy which will be held Sunday, February 26. A Lenten study on forgiveness will be led by Rev. Denise.

Ministry Area Reports: **Fellowship** (Latrelle) – A reception was enjoyed after the Baptism of Dominic Martin on January 1st. Rev. Denise hosted a lovely and delicious Epiphany Drop-In at her home on January 6th. A light lunch is planned following the Annual Meeting on 1/29/17. We will have a Valentine's Day Dinner on 2/14/2017 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. **Pastoral Care** (Latrelle) – Prayers and assistance continue for parishioners. **Grounds/Buildings** (Bobby) – already covered. **Worship** (Zack) – Latrelle suggested an instructed Eucharist might be helpful to the congregation; Rev. Denise will plan one. Baskets with activities for children during worship service are in place in narthex. **Outreach/Mission** (Donnie/Sherron) – Meets tomorrow 1/24/2017 at 5:30 p.m. **Newcomers/Visitors** (Sherron) – Met and finalized plans for Newcomers Social on 2/2/17. Nametags will be printed soon. List of duties for "Welcomers" is being developed. Mugs are here and will be given to visitors; mugs can also be purchased for \$10. It is suggested that sturdy bags be provided for visitors' items. **Christian Formation** (Denise/Beverly) – Lenten study on forgiveness will be led by Rev. Denise. Jane Hall Williams continues to lead the Children's Sunday School class at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday; Denise or Beverly sub for her as needed which is seldom. Nursery is taken care of by Karen Hidalgo during church, with others subbing as needed. Adult class continues with lay leaders at 9:30 am on Sunday. **Administration** (Denise/Beverly) – already covered. **Stewardship** (Donnie) – Church finances in good shape due to responsible stewardship of congregation. Info on Project Resource will be forthcoming. **Young Adults and Families** – No report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm with prayer.

Della Richards, Clerk

Daughters of the King Lenten Quiet Day: The Foolishness of God All are Invited

Saturday, March 25 9:00 am—12:30 pm Brown Bag Lunch

'**Quiet Day**' is a term commonly used for a day set apart to listen to God. If Jesus, the Son of God, the closest person to God's heart, needed to set aside time for prayer and renewal from God so he could face the tasks ahead, how much more do we need to spend time apart in God's healing presence, so we can be refreshed and enabled for what lies ahead in our life. If we commit ourselves to spending time listening to God, we are more likely to 'hear' God's word to us. Attending a Quiet Day is one way of ensuring that we make space in our busy lives for God.

Annunciation Coffee Mugs

The Welcoming Committee is saying "Welcome" to newcomers with the gift of an Annunciation coffee mug. If you wish to have one, they can be purchased for \$10 each. See one of the Committee members, or check with the Church office.

March Birthdays: Sue Ladson 3rd; KayLeigh Chapman 3rd; Susan Threlkeld 8th;
Mary Lawson Bring 12th; Hamp Threlkeld 12th; Ella Bankes Threlkeld 15th; Charles Gillis 17th;
Alexis Mann 18th; Hugh Jordan 20th; Anne Roller 21st; Layne Smith 22nd; Bettina Linden 23rd.

March Anniversaries: Harry & Jackie Moses 1st; Erle & Betsy Norton 18th;
Frank & Kristen Champion 28th.

If your name is not listed, please call the church office.

Our Parish Prayer List

We pray for the safety and security of

The United States of America and especially those serving our country:

Sarah Rosser cousin of the Jenkins and Yates families, now serving in the military.

Cpt. Bryce Markiewicz, grandson-in-law of Phyllis & Jerry Roan, deployed to Afghanistan.

Jake Giannini, deployed to south China sea, 1/5/17.

We add to the Prayer List this week

Nancy Zeigler, for healing.

Vanessa Greene, for healing.

Nikki Hodo, for healing.

We continue Prayers for.

Johnny Ladson, for healing.

Della Richards, healing following surgery.

Janie Moxley, high school friend of Johanna Derrick, recovering from surgery.

Max Manry, for comfort and healing.

Angelica Scoggin, relative of Ann Bowman and Karen Hildago, for healing.

Joseph Fazio, brother of Ann Bowman, for healing from a heart attack

Cory Williams, needs a kidney transplant, pray for a kidney.

Sue Nickl, friend of the Yates, for healing and comfort.

Bev Nichols, for healing.

Jimmy Gillis, for healing

Roy Stewart, for successful back surgery.

Phyllis Bowen, sister-in-law of Beverly Thompson, for healing.

Luke Smith, for healing..

Webb Gillis, 2-yr old grandson of Charles & Shirley Gillis.

Fran Williams, friend of Della Richards, for successful treatments and renewed health.

Prayers for those who suffer with long-term illness

Blanche Reaves, mother of Glenn Reaves, for comfort and healing.

Rob Bowen, nephew of Beverly Thompson, for healing.

Christopher Bowen, Beverly Thompson's nephew, for healing.

Abby Wilson, 18 years old, for healing.

Johanna Derrick, for healing.

Lorraine Light, sister-in-law of Della Richards, for good results.

Prayers for those who suffer from age related illnesses, and for the care-givers

Jeanne Greene Day, for comfort.

Carolyn and Jan Sodergren, Margaret Fullam's parents, adjusting to assisted living and dealing with their illnesses.

Patton Gillis, and for care-giver, Karen Gillis.

Carl Benhase, father of Bishop Benhase, as he deals with health issues; in hospice.

Patricia Gillis, mother of Patrice Jordan, for comfort and healing.

Please take a moment to look over our parish prayer list.

If you have requested someone be put on this list and they can now be removed, please let the office know .

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ash Wed. 12 Noon & 6 pm Ashes & Holy Eucharist	2 10 am Ecumenical Women's Study on Ezekiel & Daniel at Annunciation. Cursillo Weekend at HoneyCreek 3/2—3/5	3 Office Closed	4
5 The First Sunday in Lent 8:00am Holy Eucharist I 9:30am Adult Education 9:45am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Nursery Available 10:30am Holy Eucharist I	6	7	8 VBS Planning Meeting 4 pm. Lenten Study Soup 5:30, Study 6:00.	9 10 am Ecumenical Women's Study on Ezekiel & Daniel at Annunciation	10 Office Closed	11
12 The Second Sunday in Lent 8:00am Holy Eucharist I 9:30am Adult Education 9:45am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Nursery Available 10:30am Holy Eucharist I Daylight Savings Time Begins	13 6:00 pm ECW meeting with dinner	14	15 Lenten Study Soup 5:30, Study 6:00.	16 10 am Ecumenical Women's Study on Ezekiel & Daniel at Annunciation	17 Office Closed	18
19 The Third Sunday in Lent 8:00am Healing & Holy Eucharist I 9:30am Adult Education 9:45am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Nursery Available 10:30am Healing & Holy Eucharist I ECW Coffee Hour	20	21	22 Lenten Study Soup 5:30, Study 6:00.	23 10 am Clericus 10 am Ecumenical Women's Study on Ezekiel & Daniel at Annunciation	24 Office Closed	25 Daughters of the King — 9am-1230pm Lenten Quiet Day : The Foolishness of God Brown Bag Lunch
26 The Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:00am Holy Eucharist I 9:30am Adult Education 9:45am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Nursery Available 10:30am Holy Eucharist I	27 6:00 pm Vestry	28	29 Lenten Study Soup 5:30, Study 6:00.	30 10 am Ecumenical Women's Study on Ezekiel & Daniel at Annunciation	31 Office closed	



The Episcopal Church of the Annunciation
 1512 Meadows Lane (Corner of Cheney Dr. & Meadow Ln)
 PO Box 1311
 Vidalia, GA 30475

Rector: The Rev. Denise Vaughn, Phone: (660) 973-9330; Email: rev.denisevaughn@gmail.com
 Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Burt Derrick, Phone: (912) 293-3308; Email: jburtd@outlook.com
 Church Office Phone (912) 537-3776
 Church Office Fax (912) 537-0608
 Church Office Email: theannunciation@bellsouth.net
 Web Site: <http://www.annunciationvidalia.org>
 Facebook Fan Page LIKE: <http://www.facebook.com/Annunciation-Episcopal-Church-Vidalia-GA>

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
 9:30 am—10:15 am Adult Christian Education
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
 9:45 am -10:15 am Children Aged 2-9 Christian Education (Sunday School Room, Office Bldg)
Nursery offered to small children during 10:30 a.m. service (Nursery room, Office Bldg)

Mission Statement

Mindful of God's call to be His people, we, the parishioners of The Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, accept as our mission the growth and nurture of relationships with God, each other, and the community.

Vision Statement

Through our faith in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, we hope, pray, and work to share Christ's love and to make a positive difference in the lives of each other, our community, and the world.

MARCH 2017 SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

	8:00 am Lector	8:00 Euch. Min.	10:30 a.m. Lector	10: 30 a.m. Eucharistic Minister
March 5	Zack Fowler	Rebecca Miller	Bill Martinez	Jack Dell
March 12	Donnie Alderman	Rebecca Miller	Patti Williams	Cory Williams
March 19	Wes Chapman	Rebecca Miller	Kathy Underwood	Beverly Thompson
March 26	Zack Fowler	Rebecca Miller	Hugh Jordan	Harry Moses

	Altar Guild	Greeters/ Bread/Wine	Cross Bearer/Acolyte	Vestryman in Charge
March 5	Christie Roller	Bobby & Jennie Hamilton	Matt Norton/Eleanor Martinez	
March 12	Therisa Ingley	Seth & Morgan Martin	Matt Norton/Eleanor Martinez	
March 19	Phyllis Roan	Larry & Susan Threlkeld	Matt Norton/Eleanor Martinez	
March 26	Jackie Moses	Jack & Lynette Dell	Matt Norton/Eleanor Martinez	

	Special Reception Coffee or LUNCH	Alms
March 5		Jack Dell
March 12		Jerry Yates
March 19	ECW Coffee Hour	Chuck Thompson
March 26		Larry Threlkeld