

# THE MESSENGER

ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MORROW, GEORGIA

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## Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. ZOOM
Eucharist Rite I
9:30 a.m. ZOOM Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. ZOOM
Eucharist Rite II
11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

## Wednesdays

6:00 p.m.

ZOOM Evening Prayer

## Office Hours

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
M-TH-F

Telephone: 770-961-9353

## Parish Mission Statement

To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ by providing a safe, loving and inclusive environment, celebrating community diversity, and sharing God's gifts with all people.

July 2021

## Homecoming!!

The Diocese has released new guidelines which essentially allow us to reopen the church to all vaccinated persons. There are still many "rules" that need to be followed with regard to returning to a normal church service, so we will be working on these as the weeks go by.

Our plans for now are to continue Zoom services on Sunday and Wednesday and to have outdoor services once a month in June, July and August.

We fully understand the reluctance of some folks to gather right now, so we are not rushing. Our thinking is to hold our first service in the church on or about the first week of September followed by a Homecoming BBQ outside. By then we will have a clearer picture of how effective the vaccine has been in controlling the spread of Covid and most every one will have been vaccinated.

So plan on "Coming Home on Home Coming Sunday". Our family needs to worship together and get on with the business of "being" the Church we are meant to be.

September promises to be an exciting month at St. Augustine. Be a part of it. More news on this as it unfolds.

What do y'all think about this? Give me a call and we can chat.

In faith,

JoAnn

## Our "AMAZING PLACE"

We have a few small projects going on right now to "spruce up" the Church and grounds. As you all know, we have beautiful "red doors", wonderful lighting on the steeple, and new carpet in the Narthex. We are repainting the cross outside the office, replacing the bench in that area and putting in some perennial potted plants making the area more conducive to sit and pray. We are looking into a grant to make our Church "green" by installing energy efficient lighting. All this is possible because you have continued to support St. A's even during this pandemic, so "thank you".

In walking the grounds, I noticed that we have several statues on the property. In fact, there are three St. Francis, one St. Joseph, one Mary with Child and one of St. Fiacre (that one is a story in itself so I'll let you google him!!!), but no St. Augustine of Canterbury, our Patron Saint. We think it appropriate to honor St. Augustine with a statute placed in a prominent area, something around 30 inches in height which will keep the cost viable (or perhaps a painting or icon). That being said, we are putting this out to you, the parish, for input and support. If you are of the same mind, and would like to contribute something towards this, just send your donation to the Church marked "statue".

We have been blessed with a beautiful sanctuary, lovely stained glass and organ, a spacious gathering area (Parish Hall) and acres of greenspace with two memorial gardens. Your Vestry is charged, among other things, with maintaining these tangible gifts and we know that you share in this task. Everything we do can only improve our "street appeal" making our Church more inviting to newcomers and enhancing the pride and joy we feel about our little Church. So, thanks in advance for all y'all do.

Looking forward to seeing all of you "in the parking lot" and soon INSIDE!!!

In faith,

JoAnn

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>  8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour				1	2	3
<b>04- 6th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Independence Day</b> 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II	5	6	7	8	9	10 10:00 a.m. ZOOM Vestry Meeting
<b>11- 7th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>All on ZOOM</b> 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour	12	13	14 6:00 p.m. ZOOM Evening Prayer	15	16	17
<b>18 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Parking Lot Service</b> 10:00a.m. Eucharist Rite II	19	20	21 6:00 p.m. ZOOM Evening Prayer	22	23	24
<b>25 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>All on ZOOM</b> 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour	26	27	28 6:00 p.m. ZOOM Evening Prayer	29	30	31

**Come and Worship...July 18, 2021, In the Parking Lot at St. A's**



# For Faith

April 23, 2021

Valley

Easter isn't the absence of valleys in life, it's the presence of hope despite the "shadow of death" in the valley. We get this reminder over and over again in the Bible because weariness and despair hunt us in the valleys of life. And because soul-strengthening faith is made in the valleys of life, not the mountain tops. Indeed, God does God's best work in the valleys. By definition, "Valleys are depressed areas of land—scoured and washed out by the conspiring forces of gravity, water, and ice." America feels like a valley with depressed areas and conspiring forces, especially if you're black, brown and poor. In my 57 years, I've lost count of the unarmed men and women killed by the police. I confess I am too afraid to look back and begin to count. That valley would be too deep and piled too high with black bodies. And, I don't know where in my heart I store the excuses given in exchange for their lives:

"He looked at a white woman."

"He was selling loose cigarettes."

"I thought his phone was a gun."

"I thought my gun was my taser."

I'm not sure what's worse, the lame excuses given, or the general lack of outrage. It's no exaggeration to say that the "shadow of death" is a constant companion for some of the American family more than it is for other parts of the family. Black and brown people are reminded by the barbarism that so often passes for policing, that despite our valor in every war since the Revolutionary war, our virtue in the face of violence and vitriol, and our value add to the culture at large since 1619, we are regarded as less than human and less than full Americans. Ask yourself, if Daunte Wright had been blond-haired, blue-eyed and unarmed, how likely would it have been for him to be shot to death during a routine traffic stop? The thing about God is you have to deal with the valleys before you get to the mountain tops.

Psalm 23 <<https://episcopalatlanta.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e8da37f40d2a147f50bd0f7fc&id=e80921f612&e=82bf51c7ce>

The above was published in April; and I read it then, and have gone back and re-read it several times. Some of you may have seen and read it also, but I just wanted to share, to remind those of us who live our lives in complacency, that **"WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN"** good or bad, black, brown or white. But sadly, many in our society do not have the same views.

I work in Atlanta hence I'm on the road every week day, and I do my best to obey all the laws, but I never know when I may be stopped for whatever infraction--driving too slow, incorrect lane change, changing lane without signaling. I have black/brown children and grandchildren, and so, I worry about them as well. They too, are at risk for becoming the next "Breaking News" story.

Now, I'm not a proponent of defunding the police—Lord knows we need them! But how can we ever get past the racial bias that pervades the system/society? I don't know or have the answers, but I know how to pray, and I wonder as Prophets of old have: "How long, O Lord,...How long?"

*The Editor*

Source: <https://mailchi.mp/episcopalatlanta.org/for-faith-valley?e=82bf51c7ce>>

# Adult Christian Formation

The are the saints whose lives we will commemorate in July are:

- ◆ PRISCILLA and AQUILA
- ◆ WILLIAM WHITE
- ◆ MARY MAGDALENA

Please join us on ZOOM at 10:30 on Sundays.

Peace be with you,

Mary Job,

Christian Formation Chair



Pictures: [www.images.google.com](http://www.images.google.com)

## Keep In Your Prayers

### Parishioners

Thomas Abbott  
J.B. Burke  
Mikki Jackson  
Judy Erhardt-Sinor  
Evelyn Fowlkes  
Glenda Frederick  
Mandy Gray  
Dalila Hunter  
Susana Kyle  
Lidia Lower  
Ronica Malvea  
Kim McDonald  
Jamie & Richard Rasche  
Claron Robinson  
Suzanne Ross &  
Judy Thompson  
Bill Sims  
Henry & Elsa Sisco  
Donna Smith  
Becky Weaver  
Maisie Williams  
Thelma Williams

### Those On Active Duty In The Military

Henry Olcoroafor  
Dylan Reynolds  
Paris Reynolds

### Those Beyond Our Parish

Julie Baima  
Ben Cash  
Jeffrey and Monica Caudle  
Rylee and Blayke Caudle  
Tim Condrey  
John Conti  
Judith Faith Crocker  
Rachel Daniel  
Dallas Ellis III  
Evelyn Fry  
Tim Gilbert & Family  
Brooklyn Gilbert  
David Harwood  
Jason Honea  
Paul Hull  
Alyssa Johnson  
Haylee Kane  
Laurie Lopez

Deanna Sims Marshall  
Jimmy Martin  
Luke and Heath Martin  
David McDonald  
Cathy McWilliams  
Brian Mesch  
Maureen & Joseph O'Brien  
Paula & Scott Payne  
Odette Pisanti  
Harriet Pope  
The Prock Family  
Christa Reynolds  
The Rev. Spencer Simrill and Family  
Bernice Sterling  
Mozelle Vample  
Belinda Watson  
Dorothy White  
Susan Windham

### Former Members and Parish Friends

The Rev. Terri Brice  
Catharine Groover  
Jessie Hardin  
Kathryn, Justin & Jason  
Jimmerson  
Graham & Sunshine Maddux  
Sidney and Ray Reynolds

### Happy Birthday

Chuck Dale	07/05
Orezime Uyeh	07/05
Lee Cash	07/06
Glenda Frederick	07/13
Samuel Obi	07/15
Robert Harrell	07/20
Claron Robinson	07/25
Matt Johnson	07/27

### Happy Anniversary

Bill and Grace Marshall	07/07
Vickie & Gary Owen	07/11
Lee and Sue Cash	07/15
Bobby & Carla McDaniel	07/15
Melanie & Pete Rivas	07/21
Leslie and Kathleen Hayles	07/24

### Sympathy To

Jean Marie Simon and family on the death of her father,  
William Henry Edwards, on  
May 11, 2021.

## “Laughter, the Best Medicine”

A priest buys a lawn mower at a yard sale. Back home, he pulls on the starter rope a few times with no results. He storms back to the yard sale and tells the previous owner, “I can’t get the mower to start!” “That’s because you have to curse to get it started,” says the man. “I’m a man of the cloth. I don’t even remember how to curse.” “You keep pulling on that rope, and it’ll come back to you.” —Submitted by Rose Mattix

Our fourth grader celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn’t carry the cupcakes into school without help. I asked our sixth-grader, Noah, to help his brother carry them in. “I could,” he said, “but I’d prefer not to.” Spotting a teaching moment, my husband asked Noah, “What would Jesus do?” Noah answered, “Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes.” —*Rachel Nichols*

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse’s owner said, “It’s easy to ride him. Just say ‘Praise the Lord!’ to make him go and ‘Amen!’ to make him stop.” Bill got on the horse and said, “Praise the Lord!” Sure enough, the horse started to walk. “Praise the Lord!” he said again, and the horse began to trot. “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!” he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn’t notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted “AMEN!” at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, “Phew! Praise the Lord!” —*Submitted by Z.S. via rd.com*

Source: <https://www.rd.com/jokes/religion/>



"You'll remember in last month's Messenger, we asked for volunteers to take over the care of our Pet Memorial Garden. Good news! The very next day **Bill Sims** and **Dwight Briggs** called and said that they would be, not just willing, but happy, to tend to the Garden! Where I come from, a response that quick is called "a New York minute"!!! They have already spruced it up with new bark and plants. So here is a heartfelt "thank you" to Dwight and Bill from everyone at St. Augustine. Know that you are loved and appreciated!!! When you get a chance, stop by and see what a lovely addition to our Church the Pet Memorial Garden is."

*JoAnn Blackstock*





## Do these statements describe St. Augustine?


Do you agree/disagree and what suggestions or changes would you make?

1. Most persons in my church know each other by name and have opportunities to make contact beyond church.
2. Persons in my church know quite a few members but by no means all: there are few opportunities to make contact outside of Church.
3. Persons in my church know very few members beyond their group; they have almost no contact outside of church.
4. Few members live near my church and most drive from other communities, passing lots of other churches. A large number of the members identify with communities other than where the church is located.
5. The church sees itself as an extended family where many people have been friends for many years.
6. The church has experienced limited growth as newcomers have joined, but the leadership core of the church still comes predominantly from a few key families or individuals.
7. There are regular meals held for the entire church to celebrate friendship and an occasional meal which can be catered is held around large events for introducing new directions such as building programs or to honor people such as volunteers.
8. A few key people seem to hold most of the leadership positions and decisions appear to be made formally.
9. Leadership roles are distributed among persons who represent several different groups in the church; decisions are made in a formal setting such as board meetings or requests in mailings.
10. Church projects are completed by small groups of persons and do not usually involve the entire church.

We welcome your comments!

Submitted by JoAnn Blackstock, Senior Warden

Author unknown



**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE AND FOOD PANTRY HOURS**

**10 AM TO 3PM**

**MONDAY, THURSDAY, AND FRIDAY**

**CHURCH #: 770 961 9353**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**ALL OTHER TIMES: FOR EMERGENCY ONLY, CALL**

**JoAnn Blackstock, Senior Warden, 516-642-6562**

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church  
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Morrow, GA 30260  
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### ST. AUGUSTINE'S VESTRY 2021-2022

Elaine Beal	Communications/Clerk
JoAnn Blackstock	Senior Warden/Finance & Stewardship/ Treasurer
John Flaherty	Buildings
Teresa Hale	Junior Warden/In Reach
Mary Job	Christian Formation
Susana Kyle	Food Pantry
Elayne Miller	Parish Life
Corrie West	Outreach
	<b>CLERGY</b>
Rev. Chris Starr	Interim Priest
The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright	Bishop of Atlanta