

# Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta  
established 1828



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Holy Cross

September 15, 2024

## **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 II 10:00AM**

**Prelude**

*Fanfare*

H. Purcell (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.*

**At the Entrance: Hymn 216**

*Salve feste dies*

**Opening Acclamation and Baptismal Sentences**

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;

People *There is one hope in God’s call to us;*

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People *One God and Father of all.*

**Gloria: Hymn S280** *Hymns beginning with an S are found in the service music section at the front of the hymnal.*

**The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. 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 and hymn, the preacher will offer a sermon that seeks to help nurture our personal and communal reflection.*

**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.*

**The First Reading: Wisdom 7:26–8:1**

Reader: Marsha Kump

For wisdom is a reflection of eternal light,  
a spotless mirror of the working of God,  
and an image of his goodness.

Although she is but one, she can do all things,  
and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;  
in every generation she passes into holy souls  
and makes them friends of God, and prophets;  
for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

She is more beautiful than the sun,  
and excels every constellation of the stars.  
Compared with the light she is found to be superior,  
for it is succeeded by the night,

but against wisdom evil does not prevail.  
She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,  
and she orders all things well.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**The Gradual: Psalm 116**    chanted by the choir

BCP 803

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: \*  
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*  
for the Lord has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord \*  
in the land of the living.

**The Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

Reader: Daniel Grizzle

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**The Gospel Reading: John 12:31-36a**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham**

**Presentation and Examination of the Candidate**

BCP 301

- Celebrant        The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.  
*Sponsors*        *We present Smith Lanier Anderson to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.*
- Celebrant        Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?  
*Candidate*        *I will, with God's help.*
- Celebrant        Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?  
*Answer*            *I will, with God's help.*
- Celebrant        Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?  
*Answer*            *I renounce them.*
- Celebrant        Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?  
*Answer*            *I renounce them.*
- Celebrant        Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?  
*Answer*            *I renounce them.*
- Celebrant        Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?  
*Answer*            *I do.*
- Celebrant        Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?  
*Answer*            *I do.*
- Celebrant        Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?  
*Answer*            *I do.*
- Celebrant        Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?  
*People*            *We will.*
- Celebrant        Let us join with Smith Lanier Anderson who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?  
People *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
People *I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
People *I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.*

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
People *I will, with God's help.*

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
People *I will, with God's help.*

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
People *I will, with God's help.*

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
People *I will, with God's help.*

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
People *I will, with God's help.*

## Prayers for the Candidate

Leader: Daniel Grizzle

Celebrant Let us now pray for Smith Lanier Anderson who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.  
People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.  
People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

### **Thanksgiving over the Water**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### **The Baptism**

Smith Lanier Anderson, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Smith Lanier Anderson, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Celebrant and People*

*We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

*Helpful notes: We have arrived at the point of the liturgy that focuses our attention on Christ's presence with us in the Holy Eucharist. "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving," and we are called to remember our gratitude to God for the blessings of our lives. Together, we share in Holy Communion, which we believe is the Real Presence of Christ both within the bread and wine and within each soul present. We offer ourselves and visualize ourselves on the altar, as we pray for a transformation of heart that will nurture our ongoing lives.*

**The Offertory Anthem** *Agnus Dei* from Coronation Mass No. 15 in C major, K. 317 W. A. Mozart (156-1791)

Caroline Brent-Chessum, soprano; Nicole Parks, alto; Steve Brailsford, tenor; Ben Schoening, bass

*Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

**At the Presentation: Hymn 423** verses 1 & 2

*St. Denio*

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

BCP 361

**Eucharistic Prayer A**



*Celebrant* *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (the Celebrant will offer a prayer for the day)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus: Hymn S130**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.



Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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: Hymn S155**

Celebrant Behold who you are: The Body of Christ.

People *May we become what we receive.*

Please be seated. Ushers will guide congregation forward for Holy Communion.

### **Communion Music**

*Sanctus & Benedictus* from Coronation Mass No. 15 in C major, K 317, sung in Latin W. A. Mozart

Caroline Brent-Chessum, soprano; Nicole Parks, alto; Steve Brailsford, tenor; Benjamin Schoening, bass

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. Hosanna in the highest.

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**Hymn 480**

*Kingsfold*

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

BCP 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. 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 675**

*Bourbon*

**The Dismissal**

BCP 366

**Parish Photo**

After the dismissal, congregants seated in the back 8 pews are asked to fill in the center aisle and front pews. Everyone else please remain standing where you are. The photo will be taken from the balcony.

*After the photo, you are invited to come to the chancel to view the carved stone from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre that is embedded in the altar.*

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Our **Episcopal Youth Community** (grades 6 - 12) will gather for fun and fellowship this evening from 5-7 PM in room 115 of The Grace Center.
- Grace Church Friends of Music welcomes the **Franklin Pond String Quartet** on Sunday, September 22 at 4:00 PM. Concert is free; a reception will follow in the parish hall. The 2024-25 season will continue with a concert by the Georgia Boy Choir on Sunday, October 13.
- Grace Church invites you and your pets to a **Blessing of Animals** on Sunday, September 29 from 2:00-3:00 PM. Weather permitting, we will gather on the Brenau lawn.
- Grace parishioners are invited to a **Fellowship Night** at Cork It on Monday, September 30 at 6:00 PM.
- Save the date for Sunday, October 27 as we **celebrate the ministry** of The Rev. Dr. Park at Grace, with a breakfast reception at 9 AM and a combined service of worship at 10 AM.

## THINGS TO NOTE

- Today is our parish feast day: the **Feast of the Holy Cross**. Please join us for lunch in the parish hall following the service!
- Today also marks the beginning of our annual stewardship campaign, **Behold Who You Are**. Make a pledge to support the mission and ministry of Grace Church online at [www.gracechurchgainesville.org/pledge](http://www.gracechurchgainesville.org/pledge).
- The **altar flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of John "Pete" Nesbitt by Martha Nesbitt.
- Do you receive our **weekly newsletter**? Join the email list at [www.gracechurchgainesville.org/subscribe](http://www.gracechurchgainesville.org/subscribe).
- **Christian Education** (Sunday School) classes for children, youth, and adults will meet most Sundays until May 4, 9:30-10:30 AM. This fall, CE will *not* meet on September 15, October 13, or October 27.
- Explore the **Glimpses of Grace podcast** on Spotify or your podcast app of choice! Episodes are also available on our website at [www.gracechurchgainesville.org/podcast](http://www.gracechurchgainesville.org/podcast).
- We invite **visitors and newcomers** to fill out a Welcome Card, online at [www.gracechurchgainesville.org/welcome](http://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](http://www.gracechurchgainesville.org/photo-video-policy).

## PERMISSIONS

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*Fanfare*, H. Purcell (1659-1695) | *SALVE FESTA DIES* Composer: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, By permission of Oxford University Press., Author: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 540?-600?, Source: Tr.: The English Hymnal, 1906, alt., By permission of Oxford University Press. | *ROCKINGHAM* harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807), from Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, ca. 1780; Author: Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) | *Sanctus & Benedictus* from *Coronation Mass No. 15* in C major, K 317, sung in Latin W. A. Mozart | *Laudamus te* from *Solemn Vespers K339*, (1780) W. A. Mozart | *KINGFOLD* Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), By permission of Oxford University Press., Music: Kingfold, English folk melody; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) | *BOURBON* Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt., Music: Bourbon, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859)



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## **MINISTRY CLUSTERS** *full list 2025 onward*

### **Administration**

- Staff
- Vestry
- HR/payroll
- Regular budget/bill cycle: deposits and payments
- Audit
- Parochial Report
- Finance Committee
- Building and Grounds Committee
- Endowment Committee
- The 1828 Society: Planned Giving
- Bicentennial Campaign—financial and building construction
- Maintenance: tracking spreadsheet
- Children of Grace administration

### **Compassion**

- Outreach/Community Ministries
- Pastoral Care
- Home Communion/Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Flower delivery
- Community of Hope International
- Children of Grace: staff and families pastoral care
- Good News at Noon weekly lunches

### **Formation**

- Children: Godly Play, Whirl, parent support
- Children of Grace development
- Youth: EYC monthly, Sunday School, pilgrimage planning, Diocesan camp
- Adults: Sunday Forum, Parenting Class, retreats, Sound Bath, Pilgrimage to Greece, Bible study, book studies
- The Center for Prayer and Spiritual Practice: retreats, speakers, community development
- Education for Ministry
- Sunday School: Forum spaces, parenting class
- Retreats: parish-focused and community
- Daughters of the King
- Centering Prayer
- Prayer Yoga
- Women's Ministries: retreat, book studies and gatherings
- Men's Ministries: T3 meetings

## **Liturgy & Creative Expression**

- Sunday Eucharist
  - Choir, Vergers, chalice, readers, intercessors, oblations, ushers, acolytes
- Special Services: Evensong, Blessing of the Animals, Christmas pageant
- Baptisms, funerals, weddings, confirmations
- Friends of Music events/concerts
- Wednesday nNoon Eucharist
- Children of Grace Chapel
- Lanier Village Chapel
- Tuesday evening Compline
- Wedding Guild
- Funeral Guild
- Altar Guild
- Flower Guild
- Brass Guild

## **Participation**

- Membership transfers
- Parish Feast Day picnic/celebration
- Spring/May celebration
- Thanksgiving potluck dinner
- Summer events
- Fellowship gatherings
- Annual Meeting
- Parish events: set up group, greening of the church
- Directory update





**THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

**GRACE CHURCH**

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop  
Website: [www.episcopalatlanta.org](http://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](http://www.gracechurchgainesville.org)

**CLERGY & STAFF**

The Rev. Stuart Higginbotham, DMin., Rector, [stuart@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:stuart@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
The Rev. Cynthia Park, PhD., Senior Associate Rector, [cynthia@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:cynthia@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
The Rev. Brandon Nonnemaker, EdD., Associate Rector for Children, Youth & Families  
[brandon@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:brandon@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
Lynn Swanson, Music Director/Organist, [lswanson@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:lswanson@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
Reba Page, Parish Administrator/Finance, [rpage@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:rpage@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
Jennifer Williams, Director of Communication, [jwilliams@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:jwilliams@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
Jeremy Landers, Facility Manager, [jlanders@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:jlanders@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
Jessica Voyles, Ministry Coordinator, [office@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:office@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
Mike McPeck, Worship Technology Assistant

**VESTRY & OFFICERS** *Emails found at [www.gracechurchgainesville.org/about/vestry](http://www.gracechurchgainesville.org/about/vestry)*

Term ends 2025

Frank Rinker - Administration, Compassion  
Julia Greene - Junior Warden  
Beth Neidenbach - Participation, Formation, Compassion  
Sally Pittman - Participation, Formation

Term ends 2026

Jim Brim - Compassion  
Stuart Deaderick - Senior Warden  
Helen Scovill - Compassion  
Anita Smith - Compassion, Formation, Liturgy & Creative Expression

Term ends 2027

Sue Bowron - Administration, Liturgy & Creative Expression  
Kimberley Boyd - Compassion  
Steve Carlson - Administration  
Cheryl Kelley - Formation, Compassion

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](http://www.gracechurchgainesville.org/cog)  
Meg McPeck, Director, [mmcpeek@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:mmcpeek@gracechurchgainesville.org)  
Liz Katz, Assistant Director, [lkatz@gracechurchgainesville.org](mailto:lkatz@gracechurchgainesville.org)