



Volume 2, Issue 9

September 2018

# THE MINISTRY

## Sundays

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM Coffee Hour  
9:30 AM Choir Practice  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

## Tuesdays

9:00 PM EfM Morning Group  
6:00 PM EfM Night Group

## Wednesday

12:45 PM Prayer Shawl Knitters  
5:30 PM Holy Eucharist  
5:45 PM Parish Supper  
6:15 PM Children and Youth Activities  
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

## Thursdays

8:30 AM Bible Study

## Friday

10:00 AM Busy Bees Playgroup

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Friday  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## Contact us

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601.483.3959

## Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Morris Thompson, Rector  
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Marc DeCoste, Director of Christian Ed  
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Paige Brooks, Parish Administrator  
paige@mediatormeridian.org

Lora Tucker, Organist/Choirmaster

Michael Barney, Sexton

## When two or three are gathered...

"...you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them"

I think we often forget the power of community. The quote above comes from the prayer of St. Chrysostom. This prayer comes most notably nearing the end of our service of morning prayer. I think about it often, this statement of the power of a community in prayer. There is something special about Christians being in community. There is a joy that flows abundantly. There is a closeness that grows when God is in the midst of that community.

Every day I am grateful for the community of the Mediator. You have showed my family an unparalleled welcome these first two years of ministry. The celebration of new ministry we held last month only confirmed our commitment to one another. Thank you, once again, for calling me to be your Rector. It is special to be a part of a church that shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ with such generosity.

I often wonder what made this parish so special that we are able to do what others might claim can't be done. Things like welcoming the marginalized, feeding thousands with delicious BBQ, or even developing

close friendships with teachers and children thousands of miles away in Beraud, Haiti. When I think upon these ministries it's easy to see a common thread. They are all about gathering together.

Mediator, you live deeply into the joy of community. More than any other church I have been apart of, this church is a family. I have come to believe this is because of the innate happiness when we come together. When we come together on a Wednesday evening supper, parish retreat to Camp Bratton Green, trips to Longs Fish Camp for Sunday lunch, or even to work through the night smoking the most delicious meats in Lauderdale County, you better believe God is in the midst of us!

I hope you search this newsletter to see in what events you will partake. How can you help promote this wonderful church family by cooking a Wednesday meal, volunteering for the BBQ, engaging a new ministry, signing up for the Parish Retreat, or better yet, inviting someone new to one of these?!

Morris+

# Marc's Monthly Meltdown

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend the Spiritual Renewal Retreat at the Gray Center, organized by the Committee on Ministry with LGBT Persons. There I had the privilege of meeting dozens of individuals, who despite living lives deeply affected by discrimination and oppression, have maintained a sense of hope for the future.

The Very Rev. Todd Donatelli, Dean of the Cathedral in Asheville, NC, led the retreat. One of the discussions that he introduced was about the long arc of justice, which resonates with me on this particular topic of injustice as well as on so many others. It can be easy to think however that if the arc of history inevitably bends towards justice, then there is nothing we need to do in the present. However, I think God calls us to exactly the opposite.

I saw glimpses of important justice work in conversations with older LGBTQ people who were hopeful about a better life for those of us who are younger. I saw it in talks of legislative victories in recent years for the rights of LGBTQ people in Mississippi and around the nation. Even in the face of great frustration and disappointment at various steps back, I heard powerful stories from people who are fighting to make a difference, not only for themselves, but also for those who come after them. We can't simply wait for justice to come to us. Rather we need to work hard to keep the pendulum moving towards it, keeping in mind that the work does not start nor end with us.

Marc DeCoste

## Announcements

### Priest's Book Club

Our next book for book club is "Braving the Wilderness," by New York Times Bestselling author Brené Brown. It is available for purchase in the Bookstore. Our discussion will be Wednesday, October 3, at 6:15 in the Adult Ed room.

### EfM Resumes

A new morning EfM group will begin Wednesday, September 12, at 9 am. Elizabeth Graham is the mentor and Sissie Wile is the co-mentor for this group. Please contact Elizabeth at 940-642-5195 if you have questions.

### Calling all Mediator Cooks

Wednesday Parish suppers are back in full swing. Get your team together and pick out a Wednesday to prepare a meal. Remember to keep your receipts to turn in to the office for reimbursement. Call the office if you are interested in signing up.

### Acolyte Trainings

Each Wednesday in September we are holding acolyte trainings from 6:15 to 7:00. Every acolyte must attend at least one training. If you are new to acolyting Fr. Morris requests you attend 2 trainings. All children grades 4th and up are encouraged to participate in this ministry!

## Letters of Prayer

Mediator is beginning a new pastoral care card ministry! Participants will be writing letters to those on our prayer list, to let them know they are in our continued prayers. If you would like to be a part of this ministry contact Carolyn Mitchell.

### Invitation from Beth Israel

You are cordially invited to attend Rosh Hashanah services at Congregation Beth Israel on Sunday, September 9 at 7:45 pm. A reception will follow the service. Yom Kippur services are Tuesday, September 18 at 7:45 pm. This service includes blowing of the shofar. You are also invited to the "break the fast" reception after the service.

### Young Women's Bible Study

Mediator is beginning a bible study on October 1 for women in their 20's, 30's, and 40's! It will meet Mondays at 10:00 am. The Bible study will focus on the "I am" statements of John's Gospel. Childcare provided. Contact Emily Thompson for more information.

### Freezer/bake sale pans

In an effort to standardize sizes for the freezer/bake sale, pans are available in the office for you to fill with your favorite casseroles and frozen desserts.

## Upcoming Events

### Neighborhood Movie Night

Friday, September 28, at 6:00 pm, we will host a movie night in the Parish Hall. Pizza, drinks, and popcorn will be provided. The movie will be "Moana." People of all ages are welcome!

### Adult Movie Night

No, not that kind of adult movie! I'm sure you adults have been getting jealous of the youth movie nights. So, on Thursday, October 4 at 6:00 pm, we watch "Won't You Be My Neighbor" a documentary on America's favorite neighbor, Fred Rogers. Food and popcorn will be provided. BYOB

### Episcopal Church Women

ECW is meeting Monday, September 24, at 6:00 pm in the parish hall. A light dinner will be provided. ECW's program will be beginning "Project Purse". Bring your gently used purses and bags and we will fill them with toiletries, hygiene products, first aid products, snacks etcetera to give them to some in need. Also, as we continue our work on a new Mediator cookbook, bring a copy of your favorite cake or pie recipe. All women of the church are invited to join in the night of fun!



### Parish Retreat at Bratton Green

November 16-18 Mediator will host its second parish retreat at Bratton Green! There will be games and activities for both adults and children. We will have full use of the lake, hiking trails, disk golf course, and of course rocking chairs! Attendees will have the option to stay on the camp or conference center side. It will be a fun and relaxing weekend. Call the office for more information and to sign up.

### DOY Fall Retreats

DOY weekends are state-wide retreats for our youth at Camp Bratton Green. The Jr. High retreat is September 14-16 and the Sr. High Retreat is October 5-7. Cost for the retreat is \$75 (Scholarships are available). Register at diomsyouth.org. If enough Meridian kids are going we will take the Mediator Bus.

### Regular Parish Activities

#### Busy Bees Playgroup

The Busy Bees Playgroup meets every Friday morning from 10:00-11:30 am at the church playground and nursery. Infants through preschoolers and their caregivers are invited. Join us, rain or shine!

#### EYC September Schedule

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>: No EYC (Labor Day)  
Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>: EYC @ St. Paul's  
Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>: No EYC (Jr. High DOY)  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>: EYC and Pre-EYC @ Okatibbee  
Pre-EYC 3-4:30pm  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>: EYC @ St. Paul's

## Fourth Annual Fundraiser for Haiti

Tickets are now available for the 4th annual Gourmet Cocktail Supper to raise money for our friends in Beraud, Haiti. The event this year will be at Robert Covington and Ben Box, Jr's house on Saturday, October 13 at 7 p.m. The income from this fundraiser provides lunch for the students at Ascension as well as pay for teachers and scholarships for students.

You may purchase tickets for \$50 from the church office or from Barbara Thomas (601-917-3669).



Barbara Thomas

### Prayer Shawl Knitters

All are invited to experience the prayer, fellowship, and joy of knitting at our weekly prayer shawl knitters' group. The group meets Wednesdays at 12:45 pm in the parlor room. Come join this rowdy crew. Beginners welcome!

### September Food Pantry Items

5 canned fruits  
12 canned meats  
19 canned assorted soups  
26 box of crackers

### Bible Study

Come join our Thursday morning Bible study in the EfM room. This faithful group meets every Thursday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 am to read through and discuss holy scripture.

### Adult Sunday School

Don't miss out on our amazing new Adult Sunday School Class "Animate Faith." at 9:30. Coffee Provided!

## Thank You

Thank you for the wonderful retirement reception. In typical Mediator fashion, you outdid yourselves. The reception, cards and gifts so kindly expressed your support of my diaconate ministry during my tenure here at the Mediator. Be assured the overwhelmingly generous purse will go to good use. Elna and I have always dreamed of visiting the Holy Land when I retire. Because of your generosity, we will be able to fulfill that dream. We look forward to worshipping with you in the years to come.

Signing off, but NOT signing out,

Deacon Steve

## Vestry Highlights

### Members

#### Sr. Warden, 2020

Bill Scaggs

#### Jr. Warden, 2019

Ray Martin

#### Class of 2019

Ann Glazar  
Clifton Quinn

#### Class of 2020

Beth Calderon  
Pat Downey  
James Weems

#### Class of 2021

Brenda Easterwood  
Ross Goodin  
Fred Wile

Alice James, *Treasurer*

Morris Thompson, *Chair*

Paige Brooks, *Clerk*

- Leaks have been repaired in the nursery and the men's restroom.
- The LED lights have been installed in the church..
- Mediator Safety Policies Discussion: The vestry will consider these policies at the September meeting.
- Beth Calderon updated the vestry on plans for the annual Barbecue.
- Campus wide Wi-fi will be underway shortly

# It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

BBQ time is drawing near so mark your calendars! October 27 and 28 are the days the magic will happen. We will do like last year and open the freezer/bake sale on Saturday as well as Sunday, the official BBQ day. We are going back to one ticket where patrons can select pulled pork or fried fish plates when they arrive. Yes, we said fried fish. Our men do such a wonderful job on preparation and flavor, and we felt like fish could be served in equal servings like the pork. The chicken though delicious has been disappointing in portion size, and that is something that goes unnoticed until boxes are opened and chicken is prepared for cooking. Using one ticket will also allow us to distribute tickets to church members in envelopes asking that each make every attempt to sell a minimum of 10. And there's more! Back by popular demand will be the Boston butts. We plan to have 150 for pre-sale. The other pit will be used for the pork we will pull ourselves.

We greatly appreciate your support, positive community promotion, best effort at ticket sales, and participation in an area that suits your time and talents. Together we can make this BBQ a great financial success on behalf of our many local community organizations that need our assistance, while at the same time focusing on that traditional basic premise of a church that bakes, pulls, serves, cleans and chops together, stays together!

We will have a chairs meeting one Sunday after church in the very near future once all positions are finalized. We will be in touch by phone or email. If you are interested in supervising an area, please let us know.

Peace, Love and BBQ,  
Katy and Beth



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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Oct. 7 Blessing of the Animals  
Oct. 13 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Haiti Fundraiser  
Oct. 28 49<sup>th</sup> Annual BBQ & Bake Sale  
Nov. 16-18 Parish Retreat at CBG