

ST. CATHERINE'S EPISCOPAL FALL NEWSLETTER

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday Schedule

Come As You Are - 8:30 AM

Christian Formation - 9:45 AM

Holy Eucharist - 11:00 AM



ST. CATHERINE'S EPISCOPAL

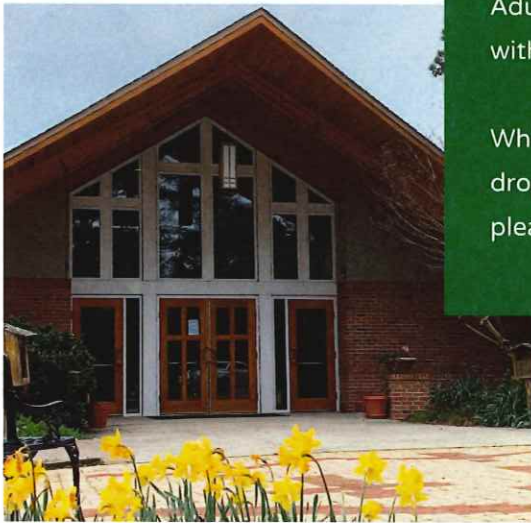
*Happy (almost) Fall, St. Cat's!
This Fall newsletter contains some of our fall offerings, including Sunday Education opportunities, a new Senior (55+) Ministry opportunity, Foyers dinner groups and more. It also has members of St. Cat's reflecting on their experiences of their ministries, the Christian journey, and life at St. Cat's. I hope you'll take a look and see where you sense God inviting you to journey with St. Cat's.*

*With love and every blessing,
Sarah+*



ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Fall
2023



Finding God...Everywhere!

As we journey together this fall, our parish will seek to answer the big question: where are we finding God? Each week, you will see a key question that all children, youth, and adults will have the opportunity to discuss in their own classes and with each other (at home, over coffee, anytime or anywhere). The Adult Education classes all revolve around this larger theme, but are designed with specific focuses.

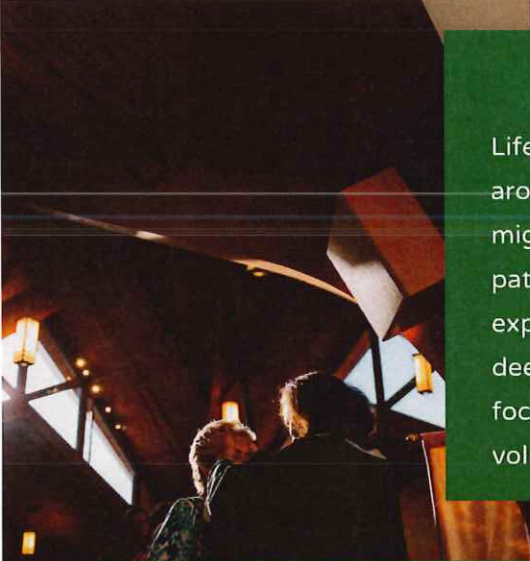
While we are thrilled if you attend adult classes regularly, we welcome you to drop in or visit at any time. If you wish to join an All God's Children group, please contact the class facilitators.

Finding God in the Lectionary

Although the Scripture readings that we hear each Sunday are very familiar, each time we hear them God speaks to us in a new way. Each week we discuss Sunday's lectionary. We look at these Bible passages in the context of when they were written, who wrote them, what happened before and after, what was going on in the world at that time. Was the Old Testament passage written before or after the Northern Kingdom had fallen? Was the Gospel reading written before or after the fall of the Temple? Where was Paul when he wrote the Epistle? And most importantly, what do these passages say to each of us today?



ADULT OFFERINGS CONTINUED...



Finding God in (the) Every Day

Life in the 21st century can be fast paced and our experience of the world around us may feel disconnected from our experience of God at church. It might be hard to see God in action in all we do. This class will explore our patterns and places of daily living, encouraging all to share their own experiences, to reflect on ways they experience God between Sundays, and to deepen their relationship with God and others around them. Each week, we'll focus on a different area such as social media, work, creation care, civic life, volunteering, relaxation, family, life stages, life crises, and more.

Finding God in the Frazzle

Designed especially for parents of children and youth, we'll wonder together how to find the holy in the midst of everyday life, the messes, the confusion, the good stuff and the challenging stuff. This is an evolving class, so your ideas of areas you'd like to discuss are welcome. We'll look at some different ways to pray and how we might develop household patterns that invite God into our everyday lives.



Finding God in Seeking Justice

Micah 6:8 says "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." In this class, we will discuss how we can translate God's calling for us to seek justice in our daily actions. We will use the book, "All God's Children: How Confronting Buried History Can Build Racial Solidarity," by Dr. Terence Lester to guide us in this reflective work. All are welcome to join us in this important conversation.

COMMUNITY

WANT TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD?

MUST dinners is always looking for new faces to help serve on Tuesday nights. Contact: Stephanie Langmaid and Tracy Bucklew ... Family Promise provides temporary housing for those experiencing homelessness. The ministry is full of opportunities to serve depending on the commitment level people are able to give at this chapter in their lives. Contact: Margaret Shaw ... Communities in Schools is always in need of people willing to give a morning to help our neighborhood youth learn about financial realities and how to succeed - Contact: Carol Fey (cfey@bellsouth.net)



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I have always had a deep spiritual core and as an adult I felt the need to find a home that more suited my beliefs and needs. Occasionally I checked out a spiritual route but found it ill suited. Since I joined St. Cat's I have found a community of caring, open-minded people who have welcomed me, guided me, answered my questions and, generally, made me feel at home. It is a joy every Sunday to worship with a community that has welcomed me and encourages me to grow - constantly. For the first time in many years I am at peace. - Mary Ellen



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Seniors Arise

Join us for a special meeting of all Seniors (self-identified but generally 55+) on Wednesday afternoon, August 30 at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. We'll be looking at different activities you want to participate in as well as what needs are important to you. We'll also be looking for a name of our Senior activities group (not SAG!) so get your creative juices flowing. Get-togethers will happen once a month and will involve restaurants, field trips, or Lunch and Learn events. Come help us determine where you want to go, what you want to learn more about, and the dates you want to do it on! This is your group so come put your ideas in the hopper. Snacks and beverages provided, of course!

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I inquired about Stephen Ministry over 25 years ago because I was in search of what my next steps should be along my spiritual journey. I looked forward to helping others. The bonus blessing is the support and love that we share with one another as Stephen Ministers.

-Natalie



St Cats Foyer Groups Returning!

One of the very best ways to get to know fellow parishioners in a church is through the Foyer program - small group gatherings at one another's homes or a local restaurant. The groups are intentionally mixed - single, married, young children at home, retired, etc. in order to get to know a variety of church members.

Groups will gather once a month in 2023 from September to January. Once groups are formed, each group will select their start date and time. Members take turns hosting at their homes or selecting a meeting place. All group members are asked to contribute food to the gatherings. NEW: We will switch Foyers Groups more frequently this year. You may have 2-3 gatherings with the same people and then, we will switch groups. Ideally, you will get to briefly encounter many people. This is an opportunity to make new friends or deepen relationships with those you know.

We will collect interested participant names through Aug 25th. If you would be interested in signing up or if you have further questions, please contact Kristin Blackstock at kgblackstock@hotmail.com.



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The work of All God's Children has been deeply spiritual for me. It requires leaning into God's call through prayer, scripture study, deep listening, truth telling, and community building. While the ongoing work of racial reconciliation is not easy or comfortable, it feels like living into God's dream for humanity. Sharing in this work in our parish community has meant deep commitment to and support for one another. Our ministry work is built on friendship, trust, and mutual calling to work towards God's vision for beloved community.

-Harriett

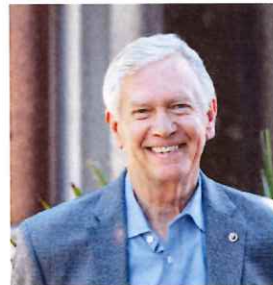
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God calls us to serve Him in a variety of ways. And sometimes just when we need to be called. Many years ago a parishioner and I were talking about Stephen Ministry and she said, "You would be good at that". This came at a time when I was questioning where God was in my life. A chronically ill child will make you ask "Why?" a lot. But I answered the call and now some 25 years later I can attest that my relationship with God has been transformed from "why, Lord?" to "where, Lord?" Mahatma Gandhi observed "that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Through Stephen Ministry I have developed a deeper understanding of God's love and purpose in my life. And that understanding is nurtured in the Stephen Ministry relationship as the participants journey through life's trials and joys together. I learned to see where God was present in my life not just in the good times but in the bad times, too. Always in all ways.

-David

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Participating in adult education has enriched my relationship with God beyond measure. Reading scripture on my own and discussing it with others offers me new perspectives as I journey through life. I also have made extraordinary friendships through the time and fellowship spent in adult classes in this parish. Participating in adult education has been good for my mind and soul!

-Elizabeth

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Community: this title has a dual meaning for me as to why St Catherine's is my church family. Community-the feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. As Tom and I moved 7 times in our first 16 years of marriage, finding a church community was always important to us. When we moved to Marietta in 2004, we had no friends or family here and started the church search. St. Cat's was not the first church we tried but others weren't a good fit. One service at St Catherine's and we knew we found our church community for us and our girls. That was almost 20 years ago. The second part is the physical buildings (and grounds). The spaces of St Catherine's. Our beautiful sanctuary, classrooms, meeting areas, offices, parish hall, youth house and grounds provide the spaces we need for worship, learning and doing God's work. Our spaces, now 20-30+ years old, require constant upkeep by our community. It is the responsibility of all of us to keep our buildings and grounds in good working order. If you wish to learn more about how you can help as part of our St. Cat's community, feel free to ask me, any vestry person or any staff members.

-Maureen

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All God's Children has served as the central heartbeat of my relationship with God and St. Catherine's over the past couple of years. The depth of connection, love, and accountability shared in listening, reading, learning, discussing, accepting, and doing this work God has called us to do in community has brought me closer to: Understanding. My. Purpose. There are many layers to this work that require courage...vulnerability...accountability...and resolve to honor God and God's Kingdom. It is imperative we find ways each day, week, and month to heal wounds inflicted by racism, oppression, neglect, and inequity present today and over generations and centuries past. While it is much easier to turn the other way, I choose to look the man staring back at me in the mirror and know: the path forward is one of reconciliation...one requiring my voice and action...one that restores the dignity of all people...one that leads to equitable, healthy, and prosperous futures for All of God's Children. Amen.

-Phil



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Family Promise of Cobb County is an Outreach program that St. Catherine's has supported since its inception in 2014. Along with 12 other faith communities, we provide shelter, meals and support services for homeless families. While the professional staff of FPCC helps the families with skills that will enable them to find consistent income, stable housing, and skills to maintain their goals, we at St. Catherine's offer them shelter and meals, one week at a time at least 4 times a year. Our amazing Youth House becomes their home for that time. Through this amazing program, I have witnessed the wonderful compassion that my fellow parishioners here at St. Catherine's have poured out on these families. I have seen first hand how we, as a faith community, are able to become the hands and feet of Jesus....giving our time and talents to serve those who need some help and compassion at a difficult time in their lives.

-Barb

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My involvement with Family Promise has ENRICHED both my relationship with God and my relationship with St. Catherine's. God definitely led me to a leadership role through the concept of the program; organizational skills and hospitality skills; but then exposed me to our wonderful guests. Our role was primarily to house and feed them in a Godlike manner. What they gave back to each of us was a knowledge and understanding of their lives. They came to this crossroads in their lives through unemployment, family illness, broken relationships....and needed our support and love. We will probably never know how we affected their lives. We just have our God-given faith that in some small way we helped. This is an amazing ministry at St. Catherine's.

-Eleanore

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My involvement in Outreach has helped me in two main ways. The first, and most important, is that it has helped me realize that regardless of circumstance, ALL people are a reflection of God's image and are worthy of respect and help. Second, I've appreciated the fellowship of other people of faith in accomplishing common goals. While my main areas of direct involvement have been Habitat For Humanity and MUST Ministries, I look forward to providing support for all of St. Catherine's Outreach ministries.

-Dave

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While God's love for us is not dependent on service, we are called to serve as thanks and acknowledgement and gratitude for all that is gifted to us --- undeserved mercies abound! We are called to help our neighbors and those among us who are in need -- and that means going outside of our place and space and comfort...to reach out and give in all manners and ways. When I make a conscious effort to get out of God's way and let go of my control, beautiful things happen...and it is through Outreach that I am trying to thank God for it all.

-Marion

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I find volunteering at MUST ministries homeless shelter a very small way of thanking God for the blessings that I have been given in my life. My involvement began over 34 years ago when the then Interim Rector, Doris Graf Smith, invited my family to join her to serve dinner at a shelter. We were humbled by the experience and hooked. We were not yet members of Saint Catherine's. Community Outreach is my passion and the reason that I remain committed to Saint Catherine's Outreach and MUST ministries. There but for the grace of God go I.

-Tracey

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My participation as a supporter of All God's Children (AGC) ministry has called me to challenge and deepen my relationship with Jesus. Confronting within myself my own judgements of others. My own imbedded biases are more glaring and my desire to address them is more intentional. I have gained a new appreciation of how truly unconditional the love of God for us truly is. As a supporter I have also witness the desire and actions of the St. Cat's community to live out our baptismal covenant.

-Maria

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ask me about

All God's
Children

a St. Catherine's Ministry Team

CHILDREN & YOUNG FAMILIES



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Sunday mornings, children are invited to a sacred place called the atrium to grow in their love and knowledge of God through Jesus and the work of their hands. Designed for ages three to six (Level I), six to nine (Level II), and nine to twelve (Level III), we proclaim and listen to the Good News of Jesus through the kingdom parables, the infancy narratives of Jesus, His paschal narratives, other biblical stories, and the liturgies of Baptism and Eucharist. We cultivate an awareness of God's ways in the world. We pray, sing, and celebrate together, living into the promises made at Baptism.

-Karen Maxwell

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Adam and I are continuously surprised by the depth of thought that clearly takes place during Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Hearing Margot's responses to scripture, the life of Christ, and the church encourages me to think more critically about my own beliefs and actions: Am I reflecting the light of Christ in my daily life? Am I growing in my own faith or simply maintaining a facade? I'm inspired by her Christian formation to ensure that my own foundation in Christ is secure. Margot says: "I like going to Catechesis because we get to spin the globe and see where Jesus lived. We learned about the dove coming down in Baptism and the Holy Spirit always being with us."

-Adam & Mahala

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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is what led me and my family to St. Catherine's in 2009! In the secular world you might call it networking, but the way our path unfolded was fluid, surprising and delightful. We prefer to think of it as the Holy Spirit at work. CGS itself worked this way by transforming me, a PK (priest's/preacher's kid), from someone who was in the passive habit of faith into an active, contemplative seeker of a deeper relationship with God.

-Alison

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St. Catherine's Families with Young Children has blessed our family in many ways. It has provided us a community of care and support and a nurturing, safe space where our children can learn and thrive. We've read a book on helping kids grow spiritually, enjoyed picnics on the lawn, designed booths for Trunk or Treat, taken part in service projects, and celebrated one another's birthdays through dinners out and Escape Room experiences (while the church watches our kids for free!). My wife regularly texts others in the group, offering support, seeking advice, and sharing laughs. Most importantly, because of this ministry, our two boys feel known and loved.

-Wade

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I've had the joy of journeying with 3-6 year old children in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd since the early 1990's and as a parent to our 11 year old who finished Level 3 this year. This has been one of the most important parts of my own spiritual journey. As I worship and learn with these young children, I find myself coming closer and closer to Jesus. Watching their faces as they listen and their hands as they work yea he's me more and more about the personhood/divinity of Christ. These sweet souls often effortlessly find their way to Jesus, bringing the adults along with them. It is a wonder to behold! When our daughter was 18 months old, we chose St. Catherine's because of the CHS program.

-Kristi

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My involvement as a youth leader at St. Catherine's Church has significantly transformed my relationship with the church community. Serving as a youth leader and mentor coordinator has allowed me to form deep connections with the youth as well as members and the broader congregation. Through organizing and participating in the multitude of youth activities such as Pilgrimage, overnights, trips, and leading two different groups of teens, I have witnessed the incredible impact of the youth ministry is in fostering a sense of belonging and spiritual growth among the youth. This experience has not only strengthened my own faith but also instilled in me a profound appreciation for the supportive and inclusive environment that the Church provides. I feel the youth program we have is the best part of St Cat's and being a part of this community for the last 12+ years has truly deepened my faith and enriched my life.

-Dave

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ST. CATHERINE'S YOUTH



Journey to Adulthood

Journey to Adulthood is a religious education program for 6th - 12th graders. Fully revised and updated, it is centered on inclusive, relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, and service projects. There are three distinct phases in the program, each two years in length:

- Rite-13 Group: 6th - 7th Grade
- J2A Group: 8th - 9th Grade
- 4Ward Group: 10th - 11th Grade
- Seniors

Vision

Youth who are partners of God, assured by love, empowered with gifts, and restoring the world.

Mission

A beloved community dedicated to God and each other as we grow, pray, serve, and play!



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Being an active part of the St. Catherine's youth program has been a great experience for me. It has introduced me to so many new people I never would have met before. It has also allowed me to make so many new friends. Finally, it has led to tons of leadership opportunities within the church community. I am now a part of the St. Catherine's youth steering committee as well of the St. Catherine's youth ministry committee. It's been fun getting to help plan the youth programming as well as get know the church leadership better.

-Emma

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Involvement with the youth program at St. Cat's has changed my relationship with St. Cat's a lot. It's allowed me to meet a lot of new people (both classmates and leaders) and get to know them better than I probably would have without the program. This isn't limited to just my class- I've also gotten to know the rest of the youth as well. It's a great environment for me to learn about myself, the other youth, and God. I always look forward to youth every Sunday and Wednesday and I don't think I would be the same without it.

-Christina

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The youth program at St. Cat's has helped me feel more connected with God. This is because it has helped me to be able to understand God and myself in a new way. Since I have entered the youth group at St. Cat's, I have felt much more able to speak my mind and thoughts. In a way I feel a lot more comfortable with talking to the people around me, and I feel much more connected to the community because of it.

-Zoey



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My involvement in the St Cats youth program has changed my life for the better. When I am with the youth group, I feel a sense of belonging. I know the people there love me and I can lean on in hard times. My relationship with God took a 180 when I entered the youth program. Before I felt God was far off and unattainable. Now I see God in all aspects of my life. Some of my best friends are in the youth group. It has also opened new doors in my life like Camp Mikell.

-Luke

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SERVING WITH ST. CAT'S



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I grew up Episcopalian and have been a member of a choir since I was a teenager. When other parts of the church left me feeling adrift, it was music that brought me back to safe harbor. While I'm relatively new to St. Cats (2018), it was the choirs welcoming nature as well as respect and care to the type of music that brings me home that I have remained. Music moves you in ways you never imagined, especially sacred church music. I have felt anthems deep in my soul bringing me to tears. It is then that I feel even closer to God.

-Marilyn

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Sometimes we ask where we have you seen the Holy Spirit and, on some weeks, I would have to think long and hard to a great answer. Since I started serving the streaming ministry, I see the Holy Spirit in our community a lot more often. There is something special about watching the comments on facebook. People who have moved away or are unable to attend in person still get to be a part of the St. Cat's community. Far away relatives get to see their loved ones be confirmed and participate in the service. The joy in their comments is contagious and reminds me of how blessed we are to share this wonderful faith community.

-Frank

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In 1998, my connection with Altar Guild began at Sts Peter and Paul. The Ministry Leader, Priscilla, warmly welcomed me, “roping” me into the ministry. Over the years, it has been a constant source of comfort amidst changes in the church and clergy. Altar Guild sets the Lord's table for Eucharist, and its quiet contributions enrich our worship. Each member brings unique gifts, such as caring for sacred linens and baking Eucharistic bread. Working with cross-generational teams, I've learned much about caring for our sacred elements. Communion is most fulfilling, witnessing the fruits of our labor nourishing the congregation spiritually. Altar Guild's emphasis on devotion and faithfulness in our sacred duties completes my experience.

-Katja

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Calendar of Events



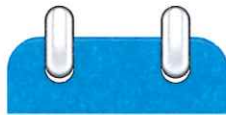
**August
2023**

- Blood Drive - 8/22/2023
- Guardians' night out - 8/25/2023
- Women's clothing swap - 8/26/2023



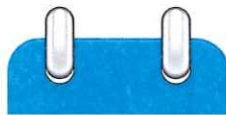
**September
2023**

- Labor Day/Office Closed - 9/4/2023
- Family Promise - 9/10-9/17/2023
- Welcome Music Director, Chris Walters - 9/17/2023



**October
2023**

- Blessing of the Animals - 10/1/2023
- Parish Workday - 10/7/2023
- Stewardship Kickoff - 10/8/2023
- AGC Pilgrimage - 10/20-10/22/2023
- Guardian's' Night Out - 10/27/2023
- Trunk or Treat - 10/29/2023



**November
2023**

- All Souls Day - 11/2/2023
- All Saints Sunday - 11/5/2023
- Ingathering Service - 11/12/2023
- Newcomers Coffee - 11/12/2023



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