

The Trumpet

A monthly publication of the people of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Cartersville, GA.



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A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER MARY



“What is in this for me?” How many times have you heard someone say this or something similar? Consider an alternative phrase I recently learned from a favorite spiritual guide, Joan Chittister: “What of God is in this for me?” This revised question opens up a whole new way of living, it seems.

To ask “What of God is in this for me?” changes the entire meaning. If we take some time to prayerfully reflect on the question we discover a soul-filling discerning way to approach life. Maybe we could, as a community of faith, reflect on this question during the Forty Days of Lent? Maybe it will help us

as members of the living Body of Christ to begin a new holy habit. We could begin by asking “What of God is in Lent for me?” We might even ask, “What of God is in Lent for us?”

It is unfortunate that Lent seems to have lost much of its power to deepen and strengthen our life in Christ. I have witnessed on many occasions people taking on Lenten disciplines of giving up chocolate, dessert, alcohol, sodas and the like for the sake of looking better on the beach come summer. Indeed, going on a diet can be a good thing...for our body that is. But God calls us to health and wholeness (holiness) of body, mind, and spirit for different reasons. “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?” (Isaiah 58: 6-7)

It seems that God is interested in our religious life to the extent that it deepens our connections to God **and** to one another. This does not mean that we do not reap some benefit...indeed it is good for us as well, just not necessarily in the way the world around us understands ‘good’. The good comes to us from our participation in Christian life as we reach out and care for others. That is not always easy or comfortable.

And of course this brings us to the real purpose of Lent: to prepare ourselves for Easter morning...to know in our hearts as well as our minds what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. As you are aware human life is not all happy-clappy and comfortable. God in Jesus Christ made the human journey on this earth which included suffering and death. God in Jesus Christ walked the way of human suffering all the way to the cross and beyond. For our sake he made that walk and triumphed over sin and death. For our sake and by our faith we make that walk with him each year. We experience a bit of sorrow and suffering with Jesus so that we are more prepared when our own “Good Fridays” arrive. More importantly, when new life comes following our “Good Fridays” we know to give thanks for the Resurrection of Christ and all the new life that is available to us because of him. We come to know that our Risen Lord and Savior is with us all the time.

So “What of God is in Lent for you” this year?

~Mother Mary Erickson

FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH TO BE A TREAT!

As a gesture of gratitude to all of those who give of their talent, time and treasure to further God’s Kingdom through ministries at Church of the Ascension, the Stewardship Committee would like to provide the meal for the First Sunday Lunch on March 6. All you have to do is show up and be hungry. The menu will be chili of all sorts and descriptions including vegetarian and chicken chili, salad, bread and King’s Cake for dessert. This is the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent so please help us make it a celebration! And again, thank you your commitment to this place.

~Stewardship Committee



INSIDE

- Bishop Alexander resigns
- Pancake Supper
- Women’s Retreat planned
- Holy Mowers ride again!
- Summer Camp at Mikell
- Gardening classes offered
- Natalie Goodwin at Ascension Coffee House
- Men’s Breakfast planned
- Brunt, Hamilton, and Tonsmeire are winners
- A Sure and Certain Hope
- Ascension on Facebook
- Distinguished Young Women
- Safeguarding God’s Children
- Diocesan Ministry Fair



BISHOP ALEXANDER ANNOUNCES PLANS TO LEAVE IN 2012 TO JOIN FACULTY OF CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

by Nan Ross, director of communication for the Diocese of Atlanta

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander has announced his plans to step aside next year after 11 years as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. He said he will join the faculty of Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta in the fall of 2012.



On Feb. 7 Alexander informed the diocese's Standing Committee of his intentions, stating that his resignation will become effective upon the ordination of his successor. He also sent a letter by mail informing all clergy of the diocese.

He has asked the Standing Committee to initiate the process to elect the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta. "I believe it is reasonable to expect an election in the spring of 2012 and the ordination of the next bishop of Atlanta late that summer or early in the fall," he wrote in a letter to clergy of the diocese.

When Alexander, 57, was elected 10 years ago as the ninth bishop of Atlanta, he left behind an extensive career in theological education, including service at two Episcopal seminaries. "I am richly blessed," he said. "These years in the Diocese of Atlanta have been a wonderful season in my vocation."

At Emory, his primary duties will be as a professor of liturgy, focusing on the practical disciplines of ministry: liturgy, preaching and pastoral theology. In addition to teaching, he will also provide direction to Candler's Anglican-Episcopal Studies program.

Alexander has informed Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori of his plans. He said he expects the diocesan Standing Committee to meet soon with Bishop Clay Matthews of the Episcopal Church's Office of Pastoral Development to begin the transition process.

The Rev. Dena Bearl, rector of Grace-Calvary Church, Clarkesville, is president of the Standing Committee this year. She said, "We give thanks to God for having provided this diocese with such a capable and dedicated bishop. Bishop Alexander has fulfilled his vows as bishop with great devotion to the church."

Alexander has served the wider church in a variety of capacities. He was one of five bishops named by an Episcopal Church nominating committee for the election of the 26th presiding bishop. He presently serves as president of the Board of Directors of the College for Bishops, as a regent of the University of the South, and as a member of the board of the Archives of the Episcopal Church. He also is vice chair of the newly formed Church Investment Group.

In 2009 Alexander was elected to a six-year term as the 23rd chancellor of Sewanee: The University of the South by the university's board of trustees. He will continue in that post through the board's October 2012 annual meeting.

PANCAKE SUPPER

The Annual Pancake Supper will be hosted by the EYC of Ascension on Tuesday, March 8th from 6:00-8:00. The pancakes are free but we are asking for donations to help cover the expenses of the meal. Please come and join us for food and fellowship in preparation for Lent.

WOMEN'S RETREAT – APRIL 9, 2011, 10:00AM – 4:00PM

From the Bible we know that Jesus retreated several times during his life. The Gospel writers tell us "he withdrew." He withdrew from his daily work of healing, teaching, calling for justice, and caring for the poor, the widows, the outcasts. It was difficult work. It was life threatening work. Yes, he was God, ***and*** he was human as well. He had to deal with human limitations: hunger, fatigue, loss, emptiness and more. Many question if he was God at all. I say how wonderful that we have a God who fully understands our human limitations. He understood the need for the human soul, the place that connects with the divine spirit, to be nourished, refreshed, and guided. He needed time to be fed by God without all the distractions of his disciples and crowds. In our day he might have said, I am getting away from everything to recharge my batteries.



Of course humans don't have batteries, but all the same we need to tend to the care of ourselves, body, mind, and spirit, in a way that prepares us for the work God calls us to do. Fatigue often leads us to retreat, but there can be dry periods in our lives when we are not sure that we know where and for what God is calling us. Times of great stress or new opportunities warrant some quiet retreat time as well. Regardless of what is going on in our lives, it is important to withdraw, to quiet ourselves, to "Be still and know that I am God."

On April 9, Connie Evans and I will lead a Women's retreat at the Evans Farm. We invite you to come be with us. The topic of the retreat is "Discernment." Discerning God's will for our lives is a spiritual discipline that leads us into prayer, sharing, community, and new life. A bulletin board with more information and flyers with the signup sheet will be in the Parish Hall on March 20th. Come and See! Come and Be!

~Mother Mary Erickson

YOUTH TO WALK IN HUNGER WALK

Church of Ascension will participate in the Hunger Walk 2011 in downtown Atlanta. This walk supports the Episcopal Charity Foundation and the Atlanta Food Bank. The EYC of our church are invited to participate, but anyone who wants to join us... Come on! The Walk will be held Sunday, March 13. We will leave after communion during the 11:00 service. If you raise or contribute \$25.00 or more you will receive an event T-shirt. Donations are welcome and checks should be made out to **The Episcopal Charities Foundation**. Forms will be available at church on Sunday March 13th. Participants will need spending money for lunch and possibly dinner. We may need adults to help transport participants. If you have questions, want to make a donation or come walk, contact Jamie or Linda Hamilton.



BUILDING & GROUNDS NEWS

It's that time of year again! We will be looking for volunteers for the Holy Mower program. If you are interested in participating, please contact Keith Martin, Jamie Hamilton or Dennis Popham. Speaking of Holy Mowers, we are hoping to buy a riding lawn mower. We have retired individuals who assist in mowing and a riding mower would be very beneficial when those summer temperatures start to rise. We would welcome any donations toward this goal. Please notate "riding mower fund" on your check and place your donation in the alms basin or send it to the church office.



To enhance the grounds, we would like families/individuals to adopt a planter box or natural area located around the church grounds. The planter boxes will require summer flowers late next month and just a little maintenance throughout the summer. Places like under the fig tree would just require some upkeep once in awhile. Wouldn't it be neat to see little plaques located all over our grounds with the words "This planter/area adopted by _____" with perhaps a favorite verse?

A "To Do" book has been created and is located in the Parish Hall by the bulletin board. Please make a note in this book about any problems or concerns that you have pertaining to buildings and grounds. Doing this will keep you from having to hunt down a committee member and there will be a record of all the requests so nothing will be forgotten. This record will be a great tool to share with members of the building and grounds team and things will not slip through the cracks.

Please look for upcoming parish work days. There is always something for everyone to do, inside and outside. Not only do things get done, but these work sessions are great opportunities to fellowship. Thank you very much for all your hard work thus far and our committee is looking forward to seeing you again real soon.

-Keith Martin, Vestry Liaison for Building and Grounds

REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR SUMMER CAMPS

Registration is underway for 2011 summer programs at Camp Mikell. The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta's camp and conference center, just outside Toccoa in a beautiful mountain setting, has been doing summer camp since 1941. A variety of camp sessions—traditional, as well as specialized, e.g. outdoor or performing arts -- are available for rising first graders through high school. There are counseling positions for high-school students and paid staff positions for college-age students.



CAMP MIKELL



FREE LECTURES ON GARDENING

Free lectures on gardening will be offered from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 19 and March 26, at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2601 Henderson Mill Road, Atlanta. Session 1 is titled Backyard Vegetable and Herb Gardening, and session 2 deals with Using Earth's Natural Components to Organic Matter in Soil. The St. Bede's Gardening Forum will be led by Julia Dalbom. Information: chere_julia@comcast.net or 404-259-4360.



NATALIE GOODWIN HIGHLIGHTED AT ASCENSION'S MARCH COFFEE HOUSE

Ascension is pleased to welcome back Natalie Goodwin to the coffee house stage on Friday, March 11th! Natalie is a local singer/songwriter who has a flare for the creative. She works as the manager of the Booth Art Academy for the Booth Western Art Museum and teaches pottery, jewelry making,



glass mosaic art, egg dying, and other art classes for the community. With a bachelor's degree in Ethnomusicology and a Masters degree in Creative Arts in Learning, Natalie's music is inspired by music from around the world. Along her musical journey she has sung everything from opera to bluegrass. She describes her style as "folk with a hint of blue."

Rick McKee will host and also perform his original songs. Rick is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, singer/songwriter, music educator, and co-founder of Ascension's Coffee House.

Admission is free to the community, but all voluntary tips and donations collected will benefit ministries at Church of the Ascension. If you'd like to be part of the Coffee House Ministry Team, please contact Angee McKee at amckee56@aol.com or 770-606-7311.

Please bring non-perishable food items to contribute to the Ascension Food Pantry and join us in the parish hall at The Episcopal Church of the Ascension for another great evening of live, original music on Friday, March 11th at 7-9 p.m. All are welcome!

ASH WEDNESDAY-MARCH 9

Services will be held at 12:15 p.m. (no music) and 6:30 p.m. with full choir. Come and share in this special opportunity to begin your Lenten season.



MEN—COME AND GET IT!

Breakfast is served! All men of Ascension and their male guests are invited to attend the Men's Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 12th.

Doug's Jr. will do the honors for a meager price of \$6. Please call the church office to make your reservations. Don't miss this great fellowship opportunity.



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

ANDY BRUNT—After a very intense six rounds of competition, Darlington fourth-grader Andy Brunt won the Lower School Spelling Bee on Feb. 3 by correctly spelling the word “thespian.” Forty students in grades 3-5 competed.



PINEWOOD DERBY CHAMPS

Stephen Hamilton and Andy Brunt



both won the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby 2011! Stephen's Derby was held February 13th at Trinity Methodist Church in Cartersville. He claimed the best paint award and 1st Place Webelo. We are still waiting to hear who won first place for the Pack 15. Pictured are Stephen Hamilton and his brother, James. Andy Brunt raced with his pack in Rome on February 18th and won the whole race! Congratulations boys.



SARAH TONSMEIRE--Sarah was selected as Ambassador of The Year by The Cartersville-Bartow Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Leadership Bartow Class of 2011. The Chamber Ambassadors represent the Chamber at ribbon-cuttings and special Chamber events throughout Cartersville-Bartow County.

COMING UP THIS MONTH

A three-part class facilitated by Mother Mary Erickson from 1-4 p.m. on March 19, March 26, and April 2.

“In Sure and Certain Hope” is a Lent offering about life, death, and new life. All, over the age of 16, (this is **not** for seniors only) are invited to come and discuss life and death in the “sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (BCP p. 485).

Session I (March 19) will focus on issues of faith.

Session II (March 26) will focus on the need for Advance Directives and an appointed Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare in our times.

Session III (April 2) will address issues of wills, estate planning, and planned giving. This is a series, so if you sign up please come to all three sessions. You are also encouraged to bring a loved one and your favorite ‘St. Peter at the Gate’ joke.

To register: Call Mother Mary Erickson at 770 382-2626 or e-mail at merickson@ascensioncartersville.org

THE LATEST FROM OUTREACH

Bane and Blessing

Thank you all so much for the cans of soup. Everyone was so generous. We had so many cans at the eleven o'clock service it took two burly men to carry the basket to the Altar.

Planning is underway for our annual Bane and Blessing Sale. Storage space is available for items you can't wait until summer to get rid of. Please let Marcia Humphreys or Christopher McAbee know if you have any “BAD STUFF” to provide us with “GOOD STUFF” for our annual sale to support the food pantry. We begin Bane and Blessing in earnest after Vacation Bible School.

Food Pantry

If you have motel/hotel size bars of soap, shampoo, lotion, etc. many of our patrons would appreciate them. Actually any type of cleaning products/personal hygiene products would be appreciated especially by those folks striving to get back into the work force and needing that additional lift during the job hunt.

If you would like to help in the Food Pantry on Wednesday morning please contact John or Terry Bangert. Thanks to your generosity we will be offering some extra items each week such as pasta and sauce or rice and beans. Though we can use most anything, as you shop please remember the items that are placed in bags each week.

Weekly bags:

- 1 6oz. can of tuna, chicken, or salmon
 - 1 can of green beans
 - 1 can of potatoes or corn
 - 1 can of pork and beans
 - 1 box of macaroni 'n cheese
 - 1 package of Ramen noodles soup
- Each patron receives two bags.



Thank you to everyone who has helped with pet food. We have been able to distribute 14 bags of cat and dog food each week. Don't stop, because the need has not. Thanks to you these folks are able to keep their pets even though it is a difficult time for them.

Church Shop

If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering your time at the community Church Shop on Main Street please contact Winnie McGruder or Earline Walpole.

Upcoming Events

Spare Change Sunday for the Red Door Fund is March 27th.

~Marcia Humphreys, Vestry Liaison for Outreach

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Acolyte training takes place every Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. service. Thank you to Jamie Baker for her supervision. Please call her if you have questions or would like your child to be trained.

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE???



Far right—Alex Dial
Center—Dylan Flowers
Far left—Webb Popham

Update—Alex Dial is a freshman at Georgia Tech. Webb Popham is a junior and Dylan Flowers is a sophomore at Cartersville High School.

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED TO...

Angee McKee and her family at the death of her aunt Juanita Heath Robinson. "May Light Perpetual shine upon her."

PRAYERS FOR HEALING...

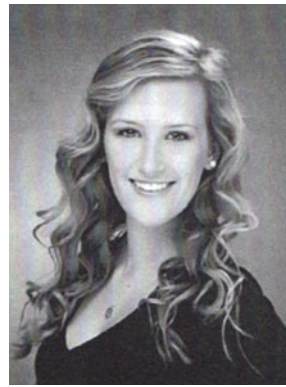
For Healing—Long-term: Ann, Johnny, Mary Ann, Alan, John, Warner, Bill, Carolyn, Katy, Linnie, Jim, John, Pete, Mim, Sally, Alice, Brad, Hope, Sam, Cindy, Robert, Lynn, Larry, Mary, Toni, Reed, Nancy, Ginny, Edward, Lorraine, Ron, Lillian, Michael, Philip, Anne, Tom, Butch, Debra, Matthew, Susan, Sybil, Lewis, Diane, Melanie, Bob, Melanie, Scott, Justine, Margaret, John, Jim, Andrew

For Healing: Sybil, Bonnie, Beth, Lynette, Larry, Shirley, Mary, Kelley, Bennett, Britt, Coleen, Sidonie, Nicholas, Beth, Harvey, Melissa, Roland, Susie

For Those who are Homebound: Evelyn Fox, Bill Grate, Alma Schutz, Mike Kelly, Eleanor Arnold, Mary Fowler

For Those Serving in Military: Jake Caldwell, Kevin Jones, Micah Owens, Charles Patterson, Lewis Patterson, Michael Rountree, Gabriel Thorn, Lee West, Bill Sanders, Alex Blake, Christopher Briasco, Aaron Partlow, Rob Force, Elise Miller, Ulissa Miller, Jimmy Dean, Christopher Borst, Joel Askins, Janice Pecua, Caleb, Jason

TWO LOVELY LADIES COMPETE



Bonnie Rowland



Heather Miller

Church of the Ascension was well represented by Bonnie Rowland and Heather Miller at the recent 2012 Distinguished Young Women of Bartow County Scholarship Program. These young women were scored on several areas including academics, fitness, and talent and competed against nine other beautiful young ladies. Bonnie was awarded a \$200 academic scholarship and was named Second Honoree which included a \$900 scholarship. Both Bonnie and Heather did a great job and should be very proud of their accomplishments.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND NOTES

02/22/11

Our financial results for the month of January were very positive. I get the feeling our servant ministries are so accustomed to NOT having a budget that they are a bit reluctant to spend money. PLEASE DON'T BE! We want our servant ministries to thrive! A few key points on the financial results:

We had an excess of operating revenue over expenses of \$3,358.04 on a breakeven budget (projecting no excess or deficit).

Our pledge receipts exceeded budget by \$1,363 for the month. Our overall servant ministries expenses were \$350 less than budget.

We received an insurance reimbursement of \$4,128 to help offset bathroom repair expenses of \$5,700 that were incurred in December.

Our vestry has discussed the need for funding a "rainy day" savings account for over a year. I am pleased to report that we have made our first deposit into a new Vestry restricted savings account of \$500.00. Each month (and more often if necessary) our Parish financial leadership reviews our cash position to assure that we are disbursing funds within our means. Going forward, these cash requirements discussions will include the possibility of making regular monthly deposits into the vestry restricted savings account.

Financially speaking, we have begun our new year on a very positive note.

MINISTRY FAIR 2011

The annual ministry fair for the Diocese of Atlanta will be held on Saturday, March 12, from 9 AM until 4 PM at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. For information, go to www.episcopalatlanta.org/Content/Ministry_Fair on the Gathering special guest and all workshops. Registration information is available there as well.

Happy Birthday to...

- 2 Sarah Baker*
- 5 Tom Maher*
- 7 Elizabeth Pneo*
- 14 Nancy Newman*
- 14 Brad Paulk*
- 14 John Spearing*
- 15 James Feraltn*
- 23 John Newman*
- 25 Todd Harper*
- 27 Neal Brunt*
- 30 Marcia Humphreys*



Happy Anniversary to...

- 5 Beth and Jesse Ochoa*
- 25 Jentfer and Kevin Howard*
- 27 Tiana and Charles Brachel*

ASCENSION IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

We now have a Facebook page. If you are on Facebook just search on Church of the Ascension. It will be listed as a Church/Religious Organization. The page will contain updates on important events as well as photos and videos. It is also a great place for positive comments about services and events since the page is not just directed at members. Please invite all your Facebook friends to "like" this page so we can share our progress and excitement with a wider spectrum of people. Hopefully there will be a link from our website to the Facebook page in the near future.

Church of the Ascension
205 West Cherokee Avenue
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770.382.2626
Fax: 770.382.2874
www.ascensioncartersville.org



JUST SO YOU KNOW

Why is Lent forty days long?

Because 40 days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. Moses stayed on the Mountain of God 40 days (Ex 24:18, 34:28), Elijah traveled 40 days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kings 19:8), Nineveh was given 40 days to repent (Jon 3:4), and most importantly, prior to undertaking his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness praying and fasting (Matt 4:2). Since Lent is a period of prayer and fasting, it is fitting for Christians to imitate their Lord with a 40-day period. Christ used a 40-day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for his ministry, which culminated in his death and resurrection, and thus it is fitting for Christians to imitate him with a 40-day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration of his ministry's climax, Good Friday (His crucifixion) and Easter Sunday (His Resurrection).

Why are the forty days called Lent? They are called Lent because that is the Old English word for spring. Not just because it is the season of the year during which it falls, but because Lent is the Church's Springtime during which we start fresh. This is something unique to English. In almost all other languages, Lent's name is a derivative of the Latin term, Quadragesima, or "the forty days."

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN—SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH 1:00-4:00 P.M.

This class is required for all people who work with children and youth. Vestry members are also required to attend. Everyone is welcome. The class is offered by the Reverend Mary Erickson, who is a diocesan trainer for this curriculum.



To Register -

[Email](mailto:Mother Mary Erickson) Mother Mary Erickson, or call 770.382.2626.

Heartfelt thanks to the many adults, youth and children who made Sunday's renewal of all our ministries and installation of the new rector such a celebration! Steve and I are delighted to be here. May we be blessed with joy and enthusiasm as we move forward in ministry together. ~ Mother Mary Erickson

The Rev. Mary K. Erickson, Rector
George Chesnut, Organist and Choirmaster
Nancy Haight, Vestry Clerk
Dan Baker, Senior Warden
Carol Robson, Junior Warden, Christian Ed.

Brenda Worley, Trumpet Editor available at carl46@bellsouth.net

David Horah, Vestry Member, Fellowship
Marcia Humphreys, Vestry Member, Outreach
Keith Martin, Vestry Member, Bldgs. & Grounds
Angee McKee, Vestry Member, Liturgy & Worship

Nancy Miller, Vestry Member, Finance
Mason Rountree, Vestry Member, Evangelism
Earline Walpole, Vestry Member, Pastoral Care
John Youd, Vestry Member, Stewardship

Trumpet Deadline is the 15th of each month.

EPISCOPALIANS, MORAVIANS INAUGURATE FULL COMMUNION

With an evening Eucharist Feb. 10 that blended elements of the liturgical and musical practices of both traditions, representatives of the Episcopal Church and the two provinces of the [Moravian Church in North America](#) formally inaugurated a full-communication relationship between the denominations.

The service at [Central Moravian Church](#) in downtown Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the seat of the Moravian Church's [Northern Province](#), included a newly written Liturgy for Christian Unity from the Moravian Book of Worship and an Eucharistic prayer adapted from the 4th century liturgy attributed to St. Basil the Great (The Book of Common Prayer's [Eucharistic Prayer D](#)). Most of the hymns came from the Moravian Book of Worship and while some hymns are also found in the Episcopal Church's 1982 hymnal, many were unique to the Moravian tradition.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and Moravian Provincial Elders Conference presidents, the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth D. Miller (Northern Province) and the Rev. David Guthrie (Southern Province) officiated at the service.

