

ASPBURY

u n i v e r s i t y



VOLUME 37

MAY 2025

NUMBER 5

MAY BIRTHDAYS



- | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Leslie Mathews | 7 Marlon Harman | 19 Joe Driggers
Elizabeth Newkirk | 26 Helen Downing
Carey Tucker |
| 2 Mike Flatt
Beth Harn-Via
Zaida Hester
Tommy Schafer | 8 Anne Green | 20 Marcie Palmer | 27 Gerry Harman
Terry Harman
Natalie Tisinger |
| 3 Lynne Allen
Jack Lewis
Freida McGee | 9 Bill Kelso | 21 Melanie Raulerson
Peter Smith | 28 Curtis Veal |
| 4 Carolyn Stuber | 12 Mike Skinner
Tom Wages | 22 Jeff Dick | 29 Sandy Golden
Faustina Smith |
| 5 Susan Bolinger | 13 Ross Bolton | 23 Patty Steinhauser | 30 Tim Conrow |
| 6 Mary Alice Garvin | 14 Todd Baiad | 24 Pat Annel | 31 Thomas Hunter
Alex Swanger |
| | 17 Kathy Consentino
Keith Purtee
Gregg Walther | 25 Carla McCaffity | |

May Anniversaries

1st
Jennifer & Colin
Knox

1st
Kim & Kelly
Limehouse

4th
Jamie & Bill
Kelso

11th
Mary & Pat
Prokop

11th
Dee & Robin
Christy

15th
Bonnie & Jeff
Kaar

15th
Wendy & John
Mason

17th
Claire & John
Marich

17th
Laurie & David
Tanner

21st
Barbara & Chris
Gooby

21st
Allison & Mike
Wilemon

27th
Nancy & Mike
Matheny

27th
Deborah &
Lawrence Staab

30th
Barbara &
Danny Beam

30th
John Giles &
Roy Hill

MAY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial	7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO		6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7:00p Men's Group		8:00a Congregations in service
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial	5:30p SING Rehearsal 7:00p JUST Nehemiah Action @Agudath Achim 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO		6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7:00p Men's Group		6:00p Bingo Fundraiser @ Tybee American Legion
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial 6:00p 2nd Sunday Seekers	12:30p Wisdom Seekers 5:30p SING Rehearsal 7:00p SMART Recovery	6:30p Ministry Round Table Meeting	6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7:00p Men's Group		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial		3:00p Improv Class 6:30p Finance Committee Meeting	6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7:00p Men's Group		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial	Church Offices Closed for Memorial Day 7:00p SMART Recovery @WO	6:30p Staff Relations Committee Meeting	6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7:00p Men's Group		



BINGO

FOR A CAUSE

Join us for a fun-filled evening of Bingo to benefit the

Michael J. Fox Foundation & Hospice Savannah

Prizes • Fun • Community • Giving Back

May 10th – 6:00pm

TICKETS



TYBEE AMERICAN LEGION

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE

WWW.ASBURYMEMORIALCHURCH.COM



CONGREGATIONS IN SERVICE



Congregations in Service – May 3rd & 4th

Join us for a weekend of service and community!

Saturday, May 3rd

Host Church: Asbury

Time: 8:00 – 8:15 AM (Coffee & Light Refreshments)

The morning will begin with a short interfaith service, followed by work assignments, which may include:

- Gardening at a community garden
- Helping at the Habitat Restore on MLK
- Assisting at Pegasus, the horse farm
- Walking dogs at the Humane Society
- Many other volunteer opportunities

For those unable to participate in off-site work, there will be opportunities to assemble kits for Church World Service, which provides aid to people affected by disasters such as floods and fires. We will also make no-sew blankets and other helpful items.

At 1:00 PM, a free lunch will be provided at 1st Christian Church on Victory Drive.

Sunday, May 4th

Host: Bahá'í Center, Waters Ave (near Asbury)

Time: 12:30 PM (Light Lunch)

Sunday will follow the same format as Saturday, with service projects and community outreach.

For any questions, please contact Margaret Cook Levy at (201) 286-1882.

We hope to see you there!

A theology in story: remembering a call to *Ministry*

Prentis Hemphill writes, "If the Covid-19 pandemic taught us anything, it is that we are all bound together in this life on earth, and our collective behaviors shape our continued existence here." (from "What It Takes To Heal.")

Jason's mother was from Taiwan, and it is our tradition to recognize the Lunar New Year with cards and a special dinner. Leading up to that time of celebration in January of 2020, we were becoming more aware of Covid-19. News articles informed that the celebrations were much different in China because of a coronavirus outbreak...felt strange and scary.



During each season of Lent, as we prepare for Easter, our church has taize type services on Wednesday evenings. We chant, light candles, have extended times of silence, utilize oil and water in ritual. These services are very meaningful, grounding, and meditative.

At the beginning of that Lent in 2020, our pastor offered to us to repeat the Lord's Prayer to ourselves each time we washed our hands to make sure we were washing our hands long enough.

It was funny, and it also made sense to me to pray the prayer like Jesus taught his followers to pray. So, I did, every time I washed my hands. At our Taizé service, in silence, I prayed not for myself but for the whole wide world.

As I have grown up and lived in Savannah, Georgia, many times we have prepared for hurricanes and tropical storms. Each hurricane season, we get ready with supplies, and we begin making plans ahead of time in case we have to evacuate. Where will we go if not sheltering in place? I remember going to the grocery store in early March of 2020. It was not hurricane season yet there were very long lines of people stocking up on supplies. I remember thinking this kind of felt like preparing for a hurricane to hit, except that there was nowhere to evacuate to if we needed.

As it turned out, we had only two of our taize services before our church was going to try temporarily having our services online. It felt very different for church, but it felt like the caring thing to do. At the time I was a hairstylist, and I owned my own business – a small hair salon with 4 employees. When my church closed, it felt the responsible thing to do to go



ahead and shut down the salon. I thought then, maybe it would be a few weeks.

That was the beginning of March – we did not reopen the salon until mid-May. And once we did re-open, I was determined we would open with all necessary PPE, cleaning supplies, mask requirements, as much room for social distancing as possible in a hair salon setting, with determined safety procedures. We as well had a system in-place for contact tracing, keeping track of who had been in the salon, asking them to please notify us if they contracted Covid-19 – and then we would begin the process of contacting clients to notify them they might have been around a Covid-19 case in the salon.... We also asked clients to please cancel ahead if they had or had been around someone with Covid-19 like symptoms. We practiced confidentiality with notifying clients; this was a lot for a small hair salon. It was stressful.

Prentis writes, *"When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, it seemed as good a time as any to start creating the kind of kin we needed."*

Those first few weeks of closure, I walked around my house with tears collecting in my eyelids. I was taken completely out of my element. My birthday is in April, so that April, my sister, and brother-in-law came to my house and stood at a distance from me in the yard.



I saw my Mother and my older sister over Zoom. That was my first time on Zoom now that I think about it! Aretha Franklin has a song called "Who's Zoomin Who!" Sounds different now. And then, people began to get sick around us. Every time I heard about someone getting sick, I just got down on my knees and prayed. That's all I could do. I remember our friend Bobby. Bobby and I used to sit next to each other at church. When Bobby was young, he used to dance in a giant birdcage at Stonewall! Bobby and I shared the same birthday in April!

Our church remained closed from March 2020 to June 2021 – but we had online services. And while those doors were in fact closed – I learned more about church than I ever knew before. The people of our church started a front-porch ministry, a card ministry, and an encouraging phone call ministry. I really learned what church is!

When I reopened my salon, so many people from church called to make appointments. I was so happy to get to see my church family at the salon and get to take care of them and provide a service to them in the safest environment we could try to maintain. And we wanted to get back to church! We missed being together in that house of God's. We were each other's family – the "island of misfit toys" as people around town call our church....

Prentis writes: "Queerness says different. The story of the outcast, the expelled, if they survive, is often of love in unforeseen places. Family forged in unconventional and peculiar ways. People taking care of one another, making someone who was a stranger our very own business."



My Mother died in April of 2024, almost a year ago as I write this. For over 10 years, my Mother had a lung disease called MAC. It was resistant to treatments, to antibiotics. I knew from what the doctors told us to be very careful around my Mom so that she would not get Covid. And she never did – not until January of 2024. I did my best to protect her by wearing a mask around her even outside and making sure she had her mask on properly when we had to go in public or to the doctor's. And I did all I could to try to protect myself from Covid in public or at the hair salon. We spent many afternoons sitting on the front porch or in her little boat on the lake behind my childhood home, fishing.



I recall like it was yesterday, searching Google for "gay-friendly seminary" and Chicago Theological Seminary appeared first on the screen.



On the little boat, fishing, is where I first told my Mom I wanted to go to seminary. Telling my family and friends that I was going to seminary was like coming out all over again! In a way, they weren't surprised, and, at the same time, they said, *oh it seems natural for you!*

On the first Easter after the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, our pastor spoke a message that resonated deeply with me as I was on the verge of beginning a theological and spiritual journey. I put the passage in notes in my phone, and I have kept it since. Reverend Billy said: *"Easter is about getting a vision of something greater than*

ourselves. And becoming part of that vision. When we become part of a great vision, we experience life – life in its fullness.

But one has to go inside the tomb to see it. To grasp it, to become part of it. There are many who see the stone rolled away but who won't go inside the tomb. Who won't get involved, who won't reach out. Who won't see the opportunity because of fear, or indifference. What do you need to try in order to connect with that which is bigger than yourself?"

I knew what I had to do! I had to go to seminary, I had to...

August Alderman



August Alderman



WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU,
AUGUST!

Master of Divinity
Chicago Theological Seminary

Graduate
Class of 2025



Enneagram for the People

Mickey ScottBey Jones

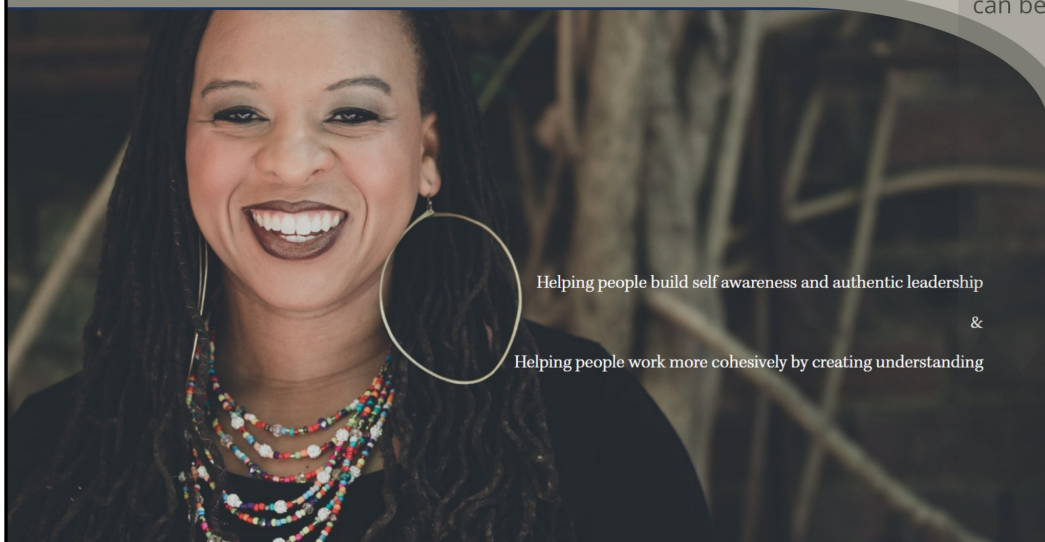
Certified Leadership Coach & Facilitator

Come explore what it means to grow in self-awareness—both individually and as a community of faith—so we can be empowered to engage more deeply and meaningfully with the world around us.

Wesley Oak Church

May 17th

10a - 4p



Helping people build self awareness and authentic leadership

&

Helping people work more cohesively by creating understanding

\$10 entry

**VBS
2025**



**JUNE
1ST - 6TH**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We're gearing up for an exciting adventure at VBS 2025 - The Great Jungle Journey, and we need your help! If you're ready to make a difference, have fun, and help kids grow in faith, we'd love for you to join our volunteer team. No experience needed—just a willing heart! contact ckincade@asburymemorial.org



2025 STEWARDSHIP

**Please search your heart
& plan your gift**

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY

SING
SAVANNAH
INSPIRING
THE NEXT
GENERATION



**SING CHILDREN'S CHOIR
MONDAYS @ 5:30PM**

ASBURY MEMORIAL CHURCH - 1008 E HENRY ST SAVANNAH

Wesley Oak | MAY 2025

Preaching Schedule

4
MAY

Chris
Kincade

11
MAY

J.J.
Collins

18
MAY

Micky ScottBey
Jones

25
MAY

August
Alderman

2ND SUNDAY

Seekers

Second Sunday Seekers Group meets on the second Sunday of each month at 6:00p 'at Parker and J.J. Collins' house.

This group is for anyone who wants a safe space to ask questions, share thoughts, and hear different perspectives about all things spiritual and theological. Let's get together to discuss the sacred mysteries, the frustrating questions, the ethical dilemmas, and moral conundrums.

There is no agenda, no book to read, and no expectations. Just bring an open heart, an open mind, your humility, your curiosity, and your kindness.

A SEASON OF RENEWAL AND GRATITUDE

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

— Isaiah 43:19

As May unfolds, we find ourselves surrounded by signs of new life—flowers blooming, days growing longer, and the world bursting with color and warmth. It's a season that naturally points us toward God's promises of renewal and hope.

Spring reminds us that even after seasons of stillness or hardship, God is always at work, quietly making things new. Whether in our personal lives, our families, or our church, God's grace is constantly unfolding in fresh and unexpected ways.



This month is also a time for gratitude—especially for those who nurture and guide others with quiet strength. As we celebrate Mother's Day and reflect on the caregivers in our lives, we give thanks for the love that mirrors God's own: patient, enduring, and full of grace.

Let this season encourage us to open our hearts to new beginnings, deepen our prayer life, and reconnect with one another in meaningful ways. As a church family, may we continue to grow in love and service, rooted in faith and lifted by hope.

Blessings to you and your loved ones this May!

5 Fun Facts About May

Named After a Goddess

May is named after Maia, the Roman goddess of spring and growth—fitting for a month that brings flowers, sunshine, and new life!

It's a Month of Celebration

May includes Mother's Day (2nd Sunday), Memorial Day (last Monday), and often Graduation season—a time for honoring, remembering, and celebrating milestones.

National Day of Prayer

In the United States, the first Thursday of May is designated as the National Day of Prayer, a day to come together in spiritual unity.

Flower of the Month: Lily of the Valley

This delicate flower symbolizes purity, humility, and the return of happiness. It's often associated with Christ's second coming in Christian tradition.

May Was Once a "Bad Luck" Wedding Month!

In ancient Rome, May was considered unlucky for weddings. Today, it's one of the most popular months to get married—proof that times (and traditions) change!



Cook and Connect with Creativity

Joy Cottage at Wesley Oak

Join Us for Suppers at the Cottage! Every fourth Sunday, we invite you to a delightful evening at the Joy Cottage where food, friendship, and creativity come together!

As we gather to prepare and enjoy a delicious meal together, you'll have the chance to cook, mingle, and forge new friendships.

But the fun doesn't stop with dinner!

At the end of each meal, we welcome a few brave souls to showcase their talents. Whether you have a poem to recite, a song to sing, or a craft to display, we encourage you to share what you love to do with the group!

Please come join us for an unforgettable evening of good food, even better company, and inspiring creativity. We can't wait to see you there!



WESLEY OAK CHANCEL CHOIR

COME & JOIN IN!

THE CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSES ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30 A.M. EACH WEEK. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THE MUSIC AT WESLEY OAK CHURCH, PLEASE CONNECT WITH J.J. COLLINS, DIRECTOR. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!

ASBURY MEMORIAL'S HEAVENLY

Honey

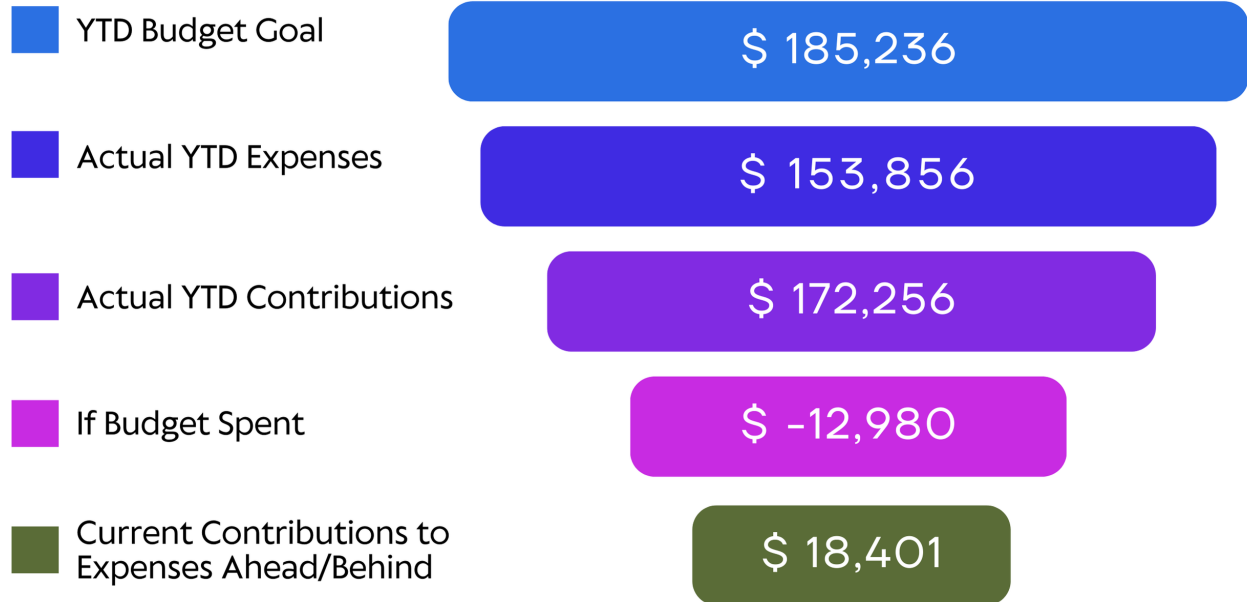
BUY SOME TODAY

only \$12

You can purchase Asbury Memorial's Heavenly Honey ALL YEAR LONG! Stop by the church office to purchase yours today!

2025 Financial Health

General Budget as of March 2025



ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS



WISDOM SEEKERS

QUESTIONS?

Contact Trish Haverkamp at
trish.haverkamp@gmail.com or
610.334.1981

Women's Book Club
Meets 2x a month

2nd Monday of each
month @ 12:30 via Zoom
4th Monday of each
month @ 12:30, typically
in person

Men's Group

What's on your mind?

We welcome all men to join us Thursday nights for fellowship and discussion. We talk about what is on our minds: a theological point or question, an interesting book or current events.

If you're looking for a way to connect, make new friends, participate in some fascinating discussions, and get to know others, please join us!

We have a great time and all from the comfort of our homes.

Should you have any questions, contact Gregg Walther at gdw0517@gmail.com

We meet Thursdays 7:00-8:30 via Zoom.
Zoom meeting ID: 844 3633 5506,
passcode: Asbury

When Shadows Fall

The members of Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak extend our love and sympathy to:

CeCe and Joe Coleman in the passing of their father and our dear friend, Col. William "Bill" Coleman

Monica, Dylan, Collin, and Ryan in the passing of Monica Mathias's father, Monroe Mathis

Laura Armitage and family in the passing of Laura's husband, Richard Armitage

Friends and family in passing of our friend and former choir member,
Shane Conner

Friends and family in passing of our beloved, Wayne Bland

Friends and family in passing of Jollie Ipsen

Ansley Manuel in the passing of her daughter, Alina Manuel

Kathy and Bill Oakley in the passing of Kathy's father, John Wyman



Memorials

A gift has been given in memory of
Betty Hohnerlein
by Bill and Ann Anderson

A gift has been given in memory of
Donnie Malphrus
by Bill and Ann Anderson

A gift has been given in memory of
Wayne Bland
by Dr Robert and Mary Ann Grant

A gift has been given in memory of
Wayne Bland
by Jim and Ann Green

Stephen Ministry

Stressed? Discouraged? Lonely? Sad?
Don't Suffer Alone.

Help Is Available. When we're stressed, discouraged, lonely, or sad, we try to keep our struggles hidden and are reluctant to ask for help.

However, that's not God's plan.

Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need. If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to provide confidential one-to-one care, encouragement, and support to help you through a tough time.

Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with
Candace Jenkins, 912-233-4351.

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care into your life.



Prayer Requests

Congregants of Asbury Memorial and Wesley Oak

DiAnne Amerson, Jim Burris, Kathy Consentino, Nancy Cvetan, Sam Durham, Katie Farmer, Deb Gibson, Preston Hodges, Sandy Hoecherl, Bubba Hughes, Bill Jahn, Pamela Lewanda, Marian Manigo, Virginia Moryadas, Alex Ormond, Frank Ramsey, Pat Stewart, Dave Thompson, Val Osborn Utsey, Beverly Vasta, Kenn Waters, Debbie Wright

Family Members and Friends

Meta Carswell, Tammy Hargroves, Barbara Ringham, Becki Sasser, Ezra Smith, Jeff Tenega, John Wyman

**WE HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS FOR YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT OF ASBURY MEMORIAL
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!**



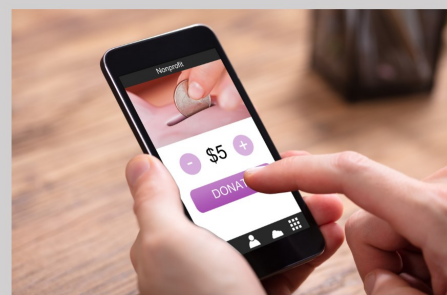
Mail:

Mail your contribution by check to:
Asbury Memorial Church
1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401



Website:

- Log on to our website: www.AsburyMemorial.org
- Click on the Give Now button
- Complete the form as directed.
- You can set it up to be a recurring donation!



Text Giving:

- From your mobile phone:
- Send your contribution amount to 833-690-5966
- Donate anytime, anywhere
- Use easy debit/credit card registration
- Make a one-time gift or set it up to be recurring

Asbury Memorial Church

1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401-7128

INT.ID 206896

Office 233-4351 Fax 233-5026

www.asburymemorial.org

Return Service Requested

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Supplying the flower arrangements for the worship service is a wonderful way to commemorate a date that is important to you or a loved one. Please check the Flower Chart in the narthex and sign up. The cost is \$70.

For more information call the church office at 233-4351.

Special Funds

One way to honor or to remember a loved one is with a memorial or an honorarium to some of our different funds such as the Properties Fund, General Fund, Piano/Organ Fund, Family and Children's Ministries Fund, Youth Ministry Fund, Laura Angell Scholarship Fund, Pet Memorial Fund or one of our Mission Funds.

Newsletter Information

If you have an announcement for "The Asbury Update," please email Chris Kincade at ckincade@asburymemorial.org.

Mission Statement

Asbury Memorial is a place where all people can develop their spirituality, use their talents, and grow in faith as we seek to love, serve, and celebrate God, each other, and our community.