



St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

Your Cathedral in the City. Jackson, Mississippi

All are welcome at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral. While this is absolutely true, some days this statement is harder to live into than others. The stress of COVID 19 combined with the death of George Floyd has left us all unnerved, exhausted and emotional. Which is why it is so important for us to once again claim our baptismal covenant language as the Book of Common Prayer so beautifully provides. We joined together last Sunday for the Feast of Pentecost to reaffirm our baptismal language. We promised, with God's help to:

Continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers. Continue every day - every time we gather in prayer for one another, for our city and leaders, for those who are sick and those who have died. A daily practice of prayer keeps us connected with one another and with God. Despite our social distance, we continue to learn, to pray, to connect.

Persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord. This is especially heavy on our hearts today as we must face the sin we all carry for the continued oppression of racism. It is not enough to blame another for "worse sins" and feel absolved. We of white privilege must own our compliance in a system that continues to favor us even in the face of a pandemic that is taking the lives of our black and brown brothers and sisters at far greater numbers than our white brothers and sisters. It is not enough to post outrage or join a march against police violence without also considering continuing issues of food deserts, mass incarceration, poverty, unequal educational opportunities, and the like. Now more than ever we need to join in the work we began in Jackson with our Community Partners (see below), to build on the relationships that we have in our community to help oppressed minorities long after the marches end and the news coverage is over.

Proclaim by word and example the Good News of Christ. In a world of chaos and strife, it is not enough to just say or even to do but we are called to be an example of God's good news. God is faithful yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We have hope in the Risen Christ that reminds us that the violent retribution and dark groaning of Good Friday was not the end. A glorious Resurrection followed, and even that is not the end as Jesus calls us to witness, to see our connection to God, as Christ is lifted up to rejoin the Trinity. Then on Pentecost the great Advocate, the Holy Spirit, blew in with such force that people felt the refreshing gust of wind, the burning refining fire, the peace and understanding now felt deep in our souls. We are given that power and glory to profess by word and example in this city.

Seek and serve Christ in all persons loving your neighbor as yourself. This pandemic has not always brought out the best in us as the stress mounts and we bounce from one outrage to another and yet we are still called to love - above all else to love. We must break this culture of contempt that has gripped our nation. Love self; love other; love God. See our community partners below and find your place to share God's love!

Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. Justice and peace - these are not two poles or opposing ideals but a united vision for us to claim as the kingdom of God. We don't get to choose between hard options: police and protester, black and white, red and blue, Christian and non-Christian, me and you. Together we give of our time and money and heart to bring all God's children to a place of justice and peace. Together with our community partners we claim our place in Jackson Mississippi at this time to welcome all and give them a spirit to know and to love God and the gift of joy and wonder in all God's works.

The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell

ARISE 2 Read

St. Andrew's parishioners are paired with second grade students at Watkins Elementary School to help improve their reading skills. For more information or to volunteer, contact Rose Lee Robinson at rljrobinson@aol.com.

BSA

Since 1916, the Scouts of Troop 1 have been affiliated with this parish. They train young people in leadership, skill development, and promote service to community.

CONTACT: The Crisis Line

Since 1971, the Crisis Line has been responding 24/7 to people who are troubled, stressed, and need someone to listen. Callers are listened to and accepted, options are explored, and information and referrals are provided. For more information, contact Dorothy Triplett at dct003@bellsouth.net.

The Good Samaritan Center

The Good Samaritan Center is a private, non-profit social service agency whose case managers focus on assisting families in crises beyond their control and helping them learn how to prevent such situations in the future. For more information, contact Ann Skelton at ann.skelton27@gmail.com.

Grace House

Grace House is a non-profit organization offering transitional and semi-permanent housing and support services for homeless men and women living with HIV/AIDS and women recovering from substance abuse. For more information, contact Jennifer Barrett at Jbarrett.msoun@gmail.com.

Habitat For Humanity

Habitat For Humanity is a Christian organization that builds homes for people in need in over 100 countries world-wide. Since 1986, over 635 new homes have been built in Greater Jackson by sponsors, corporations and thousands of Habitat volunteers. For more information, contact Bill Osborne at wgoii2@gmail.com.

Growing Up Knowing

Growing Up Knowing engages young people and their families in real conversations about sexual health and preventing abuse. For more information, contact Ann Skelton at ann.skelton27@gmail.com.

Meals On Wheels

Meals On Wheels is the community-based program designed specifically to meet the nutritional and social needs of seniors. Frequent in-home visits provide unique opportunities to meet nutritional needs, combat social isolation, address safety hazards, and provide holistic care.

McClellan Fletcher Grief Center

The mission of the McClellan Fletcher Center is to provide support and understanding in a safe and hopeful environment where children, teens and their families grieving the death of a loved one can embrace their grief and move through the healing process. Open to children ages 4-18 and their families. For more information, contact Kathy Woodliff at woodliffkathy98@gmail.com.

Mississippi Food Network

A non-profit agency and the only food bank in MS, The Ms Food Network distributes donated and purchased grocery items to help feed the hungry in 74 MS counties. For more information, go to msfoodnet.org or contact Margaret McLarty at mclartymp@aol.com.

Operation Shoestring

Founded in the heart of Jackson in 1968, Operation Shoestring educates, inspires, and empowers children and families in our central Jackson community and beyond to create holistic individual and community transformation. Shoestring does this by providing services in children and youth development and parent engagement, through direct services such as after school and summer programs for children and families and by leveraging the power of community partnerships. For more information or to volunteer go to operationshoestring.org, call (601) 353-6336 or contact Robert Langford at rmlangford@aol.com.

Refill Café

Refill Café is a non-profit workforce development café in the community of west Jackson providing young adults who have fallen outside the traditional system with the skills and opportunity to pursue a career path. The program is a long-term anchor for participants as we help place them into internships, jobs, advanced training programs, and opportunities leading to a degree. For more information, contact Jordan Butler at jordan@refillcafejackson.com.

Springboard to Opportunities

Springboard to Opportunities connects families living in affordable housing with resources and programs that help them advance in school, work and life. Working directly with families as well as establishing partnerships with other organizations to help families reach their goals is the aim. For more information, contact Sarah Stripp at Sarah.l.stripp@gmail.com.

Stewpot Community Services

Stewpot Community Services, located at 1100 West Capitol St. in Jackson, offers myriad services to both homeless and less fortunate members of our community. One of the founding entities of Stewpot, St. Andrew's provides volunteers who donate to the clothes closet, bag groceries, serve lunch, provide meals for the Opportunity Center on cold winter nights and serve in many other capacities. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Gina Halfacre at gchalfacre@gmail.com.

Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club

Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club is a ministry that offers a hot breakfast and fellowship for our friends experiencing homelessness. We serve between 50 and 100+ friends every Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m. This ministry is supported by your purchase of Alternative Giving Cards each Advent and Christmas. To volunteer as greeter/ fellowship sharer or for more information, contact Gina Halfacre at gchalfacre@gmail.com.

Working Together Jackson

Working Together Jackson seeks to provide much-needed collaboration, coordination, and synchronization of efforts of persons and organizations dedicated to making more abundant life possible in our community. Its' member organizations, including St. Andrew's, need individuals who wish to commit not only to doing justice and loving mercy themselves, but to humbly walking with others in concerted efforts to improve quality of life for all Jacksonians. For more information or to take part in the Cathedral's partnership with Working Together Jackson, contact Charles Hooker at Hook2115@aol.com.