



PARISH REPORT 2020: UPDATE ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS

In this issue:

- Sr. Warden Report
- Rector's Insight
- Pastoral Care
- Grounds & Buildings
- Evans Christian Academy
- Going Virtual
- COS Marketplace
- What's to Come
- Acknowledgements

*"For no one can lay
any foundation other than
the one that has been laid;
that foundation is Jesus Christ."
- 1 Corinthians 3:11*



OUR SAVIOR IN A PANDEMIC

You have heard it said many times over that 2020 is a year of unprecedented events. The biggest event of all is unquestionably the most unexpected global Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 has turned the world and our lives upside down. We all have had to adjust to a "new normal" in our routines and way of life. Church of Our Savior is no different. We have had to alter the manner in which we worship and we all feel the loss of community deep in our hearts. We have also lost dear members of our parish and had several members tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Despite the adverse effects, we remained strong, resilient, and faithful throughout the State of Georgia shelter-in-place mandate in March /April and the cautious reopening of our community in the ensuing months. Several members of our parish have stepped up and seized the opportunity to work around our beautiful campus and in the buildings to do upgrades and repairs in anticipation for when we can all gather back in the church.

This Parish Report 2020 features updates on the new developments that have taken place since January to our present day. While we have accomplished a lot, more than we can imagine, there is still more work to be done.





SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

by Linda Vrana



Even under these extraordinary conditions, your Vestry has been hard at work. We continue to meet on the third Thursday of every month via Zoom and have also had several special called meetings.

I, along with our Vestry members, are excited about new opportunities that have come about while our Church was locked down. For one, our new partnership with Evans Christian Academy not only adds to our financial resources, it was also a Church outreach effort to provide much needed space for the teachers and students to have classes. They are a small private school who needed a temporary home due to the sale of their building. After a review of our campus, the Vestry entered into an agreement with them to lease space in Stuart Hall. However, after consultation with an architect, it was determined that the improvements that would need to be made in

Stuart Hall were cost prohibitive and the project was moved to Harison Hall. To meet the legal necessary requirements for a school, numerous improvements needed to be made to Harison Hall to bring it up to code. The Vestry approved for Our Savior to apply for a line of credit from Queensborough Bank which was approved, for the improvement projects in Harison Hall. When all is said and done, we will have a completely updated and safe building to return to.

At the beginning of the shelter-in-place order, the Vestry also approved the purchase of new video and sound equipment to enhance our virtual worship experience. We are grateful and pleased with the results and the positive feedback we have received. More importantly, our virtual services have brought on new viewers and members to our Church!

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who have helped maintained, repaired, and renewed our beautiful campus and buildings. The Vestry and I are also deeply grateful to everyone who has continued to uphold their pledge giving and those who gave additional donations towards certain projects within the Church. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Regrettably, due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, Our Savior's Annual Oyster Roast, Trunk or Treat, the Holy Ghost Weenie Roast, and Holiday Craft Market will be cancelled until further notice. We were blessed however, to be able to carry out the Annual BBQ safely thanks to Steven Herrington and team. We will advise you of future events as we get more guidance and recommendations from the Diocese.

I know I speak for the entire Vestry when I say how much we look forward to being together again as a Parish Family. Pray for each other and stay safe!

God's Peace,
Linda



The Episcopal

Church of Our Savior

Martinez, Georgia

September 16, 2020

RECTOR'S INSIGHT

by The Reverend Al Crumpton



March 15, 2020 is a date I will never forget as it relates to my vocation as a priest in The Episcopal Church. That was the first Sunday we moved all of our worship activities online after the shelter-in-place order was issued by the State of Georgia.

Another date I will never forget is March 31, 2020. A few days prior, Bishop Benhase and I had been in discussions about how we might be able to safely offer the Holy Eucharist on Easter Sunday. We had agreed to a method similar to what is currently in place with the outdoor communion station, but on March 31st I received a text from Bishop Benhase stating that we could not safely proceed due to all of the unknowns that early in the pandemic.

From March 15th onward, your Vestry and I had to make countless decisions and adjustments that none of us could have imagined at the beginning of the year in order to keep the ministry of the Church of Our Savior moving forward during this unprecedented time in the life of our parish.

Saying "thank you" barely scratches the surface on the deep appreciation that I have for everyone who played a part in the adjustments that were needed to make our ministry not only survive, but actually thrive during a pandemic that didn't come with a set of instructions on how to proceed. From the incredible ongoing financial support that came in from parishioners maintaining their pledges, to unexpected donations that came when needed most, to the volunteers who stepped up time and time again to keep things rolling, our Lord's presence was clearly seen in how members of the Body of Christ faithfully pulled together to achieve so much even when we had to remain socially distant. I give God the glory for inspiring us, and a huge thank you to each member of our parish for listening, coming together, and following the lead of our Lord as the path forward unfolded. It has been an incredible journey that I believe has made us stronger and opened new opportunities for ministry along the way.

Looking to the Future

At the time this report is being prepared, we continue to remain in the Phase 1 mode of the pandemic operating guidelines from the Diocese of Georgia. Our current online activities, and our mode of distributing the Holy Eucharist are allowed under Phase 1, with the possibility of being able to eventually move to some mode of in person worship at a date yet to be determined if the COVID-19 numbers continue in a downward trend.

If the decision is eventually made to resume in person worship during Phase 1, I would like for you to be aware of the restrictions that exist. Under Phase 1, we would not be allowed to sing hymns, receive the chalice at communion, have indoor in person Christian Education activities, plus no coffee hour or breakfast. If the decision is made to resume with two worship services on Sunday mornings, the services times will be adjusted to allow for the worship space to be sanitized between the services with the new sanitizing fogging machine. We would be limited to a service time of 40 minutes, with everyone in attendance wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, and being spaced apart 6 to 10 feet, with no more than 50 people in the building at the same time. Rather than receiving the bread of the Holy Eucharist and returning to your seat, we will conclude the entire service that will have the clergy persons going to the EXIT doors with the sacrament. While exiting the building you will receive the host and then proceed to your vehicle to leave.

Needless to say, the current method of having the worship service exclusively online, with the outdoor communion station being made available afterwards, allows for the greatest amount of flexibility under the current guidelines. Your Vestry and I will continue to discuss adjustments that may be necessary in the same manner that we have been doing since the beginning of the pandemic.

Blessings and Peace,
Fr. Al +



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PASTORAL CARE

by The Reverend Al Crumpton

Pastoral Care was one of our greatest concerns at the beginning of the pandemic. With the shelter-in-place order, followed by the guidelines for social distancing, our usual ways of providing Pastoral Care had to change quickly. Our pastoral care team rose to the occasion to keep this vital ministry alive and well during so many changes.

Letters to the parish were frequent in the early period of the pandemic. As things were changing almost weekly we did our best to communicate those changes as soon as possible. This was a limited form of Pastoral Care, and a reliable one-way mode of communication.

In the early days of the pandemic, the decision was made to use the online meeting service ZOOM for two-way communications and group gatherings. The young adults have used this service for online times of sharing, and the EfM group will be using ZOOM when they kick off the new year. During the entire time we had Morning Prayer on Sundays, ZOOM was an essential tool allowing us to gather together online for the Virtual Coffee Hours.

The tried and true Church of Our Savior Phone Tree was revived during the pandemic. At least 9 volunteers divided up the names on the parish directory to check in with people by phone to offer a friendly voice of assurance on the other end, and pass along any pastoral needs to the clergy for follow up.

We were able to conduct a food drive in July that collected much needed food for our ministry partner 143 Ministries International. We have also continued our Saturday Sacks food assistance program to help children in need at Martinez Elementary School.

Hospital visits have been challenging during the pandemic. When hospitals were locked down, pastoral phone calls were made to parishioners. On the few occasions that limited visits were permitted, all of the proper precautions were taken, including PPE and sanitizing, to make sure the pastoral care could be delivered as safely as possible.

Recently, we also honored and celebrated the lives of Mike Herrington and Zachary Sandlin who transitioned from this life to the next. Even though we could not gather as the entire parish family for these services, it was comforting for each family to be together in our sacred space.





JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

by Travis Foust



Please see Sandra's and Bob's report. Just kidding, not really. Both of them, and their respective committees have really helped a great deal with buildings and grounds since March 2020; actually, before then as well. We are all very thankful for their efforts! Since we last met as a congregation in church, there have been many improvements. For such a large group of people who have not formally been seeing each other in person for 6 months we have been very busy! The smaller projects are too numerous to recall (however, Bob's and Sandra's reports are fantastically detailed), I will touch on some of the larger accomplishments.

The roofs of the Church, Stuart Hall, and Harrison Hall were all replaced. We now have a professional audio/visual system complete with lights, cameras, and microphones to capture and broadcast our services to the world! We gained a new tenant, Evans Christian Academy, a small private school for 6th - 12th graders. We have decided to remodel and upgrade Harrison Hall to accommodate Evans Christian Academy satisfying Columbia County's guidelines and rules. Construction is happening as we speak! We have completed all kinds of landscaping work headlined by tree, stump, and shrubbery removal.

Lastly, and most importantly, we have been working to figure out the best steps to resume in person services. We have been working out the details for months in preparation for that glorious day mostly concerning, social distancing within the church, time spent within the church, and proper cleaning. We did purchase, and a few of us got trained, on the use of the "ghost buster" like backpack to disinfect and fog the church after use. We will need additional volunteers to operate this rather fun device in the coming weeks.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the last 6 months but even more excited to see what the next 6 months has in store for The Church of Our Savior!

Thank You,

Travis Foust



Renovation work commences in Harison Hall





BEAUTIFYING OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPUS



Yard Days



Tree removal



Picking up
the donated bricks
for walkway from
Mike Herrington's
place of business



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GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

by Sandra Ribando

Chairperson of Grounds Committee

Although we haven't been meeting in person for most of this year, the Grounds Committee has continued to work on improving the appearance of our campus and reducing the maintenance burden. Work completed since January 1 this year:

- Removed the wrought iron fencing around the former "jungle" between Harrison Hall and Stuart Hall, re-sized it, gave it a fresh coat of paint, and re-installed it as the entry to the new Garden of Serenity. This is now a beautiful space thanks to garden stewards Sandy Turner and Lisa Bush.
- Aerated the areas under the cedar trees where parishioners park, and removed all the ropes and wooden stanchions around the property.
- Re-purposed some of those stanchions and converted them into markers for our new outdoor Stations of the Cross, completed and installed in time for Lent (and, unbeknownst to us at the time, the pandemic).
- Cleaned out the overgrown area behind Harrison Hall, and in the median strip between the handicapped parking and the drive on the west side of the church.
- Renamed most gardens to honor the "fruits of the spirit" and selected saints. Raised funds for, and installed, new metal signage in all garden spaces.
- Installed new shrubs in front of Stuart Hall with donated funds.
- Removed three large hollies and one sick river birch in front of the church to improve its visibility from Columbia Road.
- Repaired concrete walkway between Stuart Hall and the parish hall.
- Removed one dying cedar tree from the median area between the handicapped parking and the drive on the west side of the church.
- Cleared out the shrubs on the west side of the parish hall and removed all brick, preparatory to installing a wider, more level, brick path way to connect the area near our burial gardens to the courtyard area.
- Conducted three yard days to help with the general appearance of the campus and tackle specific projects.

Upcoming Projects:

- Completed new concrete walkway to connect the handicapped parking (former priest parking) to the walkway to the parish hall. Work to be done by contractor.
- Complete the new brick walkway to connect the area near the burial gardens and the courtyard (scheduled for 10/5-9, using volunteers and parish funds).
- Finish clean-up behind Harrison Hall.
- Clean-up the former Garden of St. Nicholas (children's garden, SE corner of Harrison Hall)
- Raise funds for, select, and plant a new tree for the center of the courtyard to honor the memory of Rhett Ransom. (probably will be completed in the spring of 2021).
- Raise funds for sod for several areas that need new grass (installation in spring 2021)
- Raise funds for permanent outdoor stations of the cross (installation TBD, depending on funding)



ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON THE GROUNDS



Re-installed/re-painted wrought iron



Garden of Serenity



New shrubs, front of Stuart Hall



Temporary stations of the cross



New signs to identify garden



Walkway repair in progress



BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

by Bob Sunderland

Chairperson for Buildings Committee



While the Church remained inaccessible for in-person worship, the Buildings Committee took the opportunity to upgrade, repair, reconstruct, clean, declutter, and install new equipment in the buildings on campus. These include work done to Stuart Hall, Harison Hall, and the Storage Shed.



Stuart Hall

- Replaced siding on community room side (east side) of the building.
- Painted entire east side and portions of the front of the building and back west side room.
- Added new flooring joist underneath community room.
- Installed new closure mechanism to the front door.
- Patched concrete walkway and step.
- Replaced about 12 ceiling tile panels in community room and bathrooms.
- Added shelving to large stand in community room.
- Chapel area cleaned and floor waxed.
- Cleaned out upstairs storage area.
- Removed old and unused items.
- Had hot water heater serviced and new hot water line run to supply hot water to entire building.
- Had all fire extinguishers in all buildings recertified.
- Power washed the ramp and back wall under the overhang in the rear.
- Cleaned out furnace room and replaced lock on door.
- Had 2 new AC units and new furnace installed on the 1st floor.





MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

Harison Hall

- Removed all furniture, nursery and classroom items from Harrison Hall to Stuart Hall in preparation for upgrade improvements and school.
- New illuminated exit signs installed above every door.



Storage Shed

- Rearranged the shed for better storage.
- Purchased KAMO Disinfectant Fogging Machine and trained several parishioners in its use.



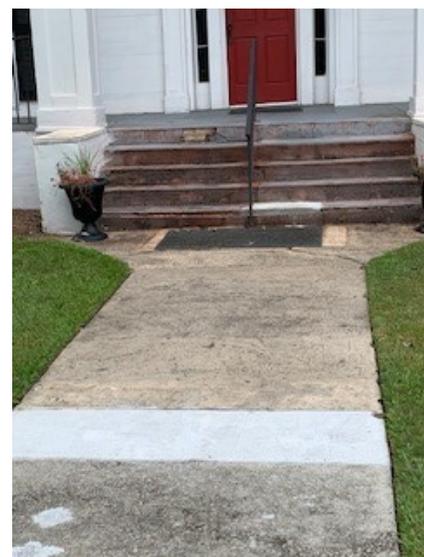
Cleaned Chapel in Stuart Hall and Waxed the Floors



Repair of Ceiling Tiles in Multiple Rooms in Stuart Hall



New Roof Installations for Harison Hall and the Church



Repaired Concrete Walkway to Stuart Hall



EVANS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

by The Reverend Al Crumpton



At the beginning of the year, I received a phone call from Freida Lachman who is the founder and director of Evans Christian Academy which is a small private school for middle and high school students. Ms. Lachman informed me that they were preparing to sell their current building and were looking for a space to lease for a few years as they worked to grow and eventually move on to another location that would be constructed in the future. I brought this exciting partnership potential to the Vestry who shared my interest in exploring the opportunity. In our discussions, we analyzed how our current building spaces are being utilized and came to an agreement that with some adjustments, it might be possible for us to accommodate the school.

In March, prior to the pandemic, we moved forward with a plan to lease the first floor of Stuart Hall to Evans Christian Academy. At that time, it made sense to lease the underutilized space for a good purpose. However, our hopes and plans were delayed by the Columbia County Fire Marshall who inspected the building to ensure that it was in keeping with legal building codes to run a school. The changes that the Fire Marshall required for us to make were cost prohibitive that could negate our partnership with Evans Christian Academy. Not willing to give up this wonderful opportunity, the Vestry and I explored the possibility of leasing Harison Hall with the Governing Board of the Academy. Both parties agreed to pursuing this option. Meetings were held on how to relocate the nursery and Christian education classes to Stuart Hall, with movement continuing in that direction.

During this process, we also learned that Harison Hall would need renovations and safety equipment installed to meet Columbia County and the State of Georgia occupancy codes for schools. The required changes to Harison Hall would cost much less than what it would have been required for Stuart Hall. The Harison Hall renovations will include constructing a fire barrier in the center of the building, modifications to the existing restrooms to bring them into compliance with the American with Disability Act (ADA) requirements, installation of EXIT signs with battery powered LED security lights were installed at each exit, crash bars will be installed on each exit door, replacing with current Gas Heating and Cooling system with a all-electric systems, and installing a fire and security system.

The first thought many folks have is how will we be able to do all of the work to Harison Hall that is needed to meet the occupancy codes before Evans Christian Academy can move into the building. This is where the amazing part comes in and I believe it may also be in God's impeccable plan and timing. Many may remember that our beloved Treasurer, Mike Herrington, used to promote the idea of legacy giving as a way for us to have a lasting impact on the parish after we move from this life to the next. Mike practiced what he preached because he not only played a key role in bringing the partnership with Evans Christian Academy to fruition, our parish received a significant legacy gift from his estate that is going toward the start of this renovation project!

The cost for the Harison Hall renovation project is approximately \$85,000. To date, we have received donations of approximately \$53,000 for the project. The Vestry has approved a line of credit with Queensboro National Bank for the balance of the project cost. The lease of Harison Hall to Evans Christian Academy is for 5 years. The first 2 years of lease payments from Evans Christian Academy will pay off the amount borrowed from Queensboro by September 2022. The remaining 3 years of lease payments from the school will go into a special budget line item to fund additional improvement projects on the Church of Our Savior buildings and grounds.



Current outdoor classrooms





GOING VIRTUAL

by The Reverend Al Crumpton

As noted earlier, March 15, 2020 saw the birth of Church of Our Savior's Video Ministry. It started in my home office during the time of the shelter-in-place order, which led to having parishioners lead Compline online from the end of March through the end of August; to having Morning Prayer online every Wednesday and Sunday from March until the end of July and; to finally returning to the service for Holy Eucharist on August 2nd with the outdoor communion station. It was a daunting, arduous and extremely challenging process of coordinating readers, doing recordings, editing the recordings, and uploading it to the Church's Facebook page and website. Nonetheless, we all pulled together and pivoted with each challenge and grew closer in the process.

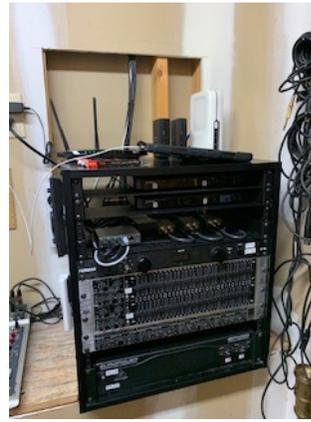
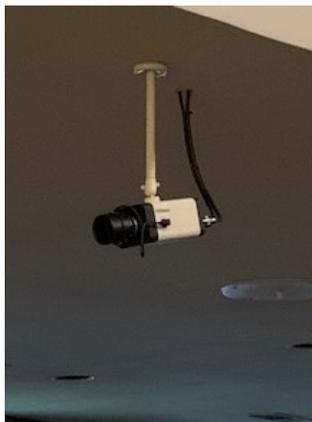
During this time, the Vestry and I made a commitment to make the video ministry a permanent part of the Church of Our Savior parish ministry as we witnessed the positive outcome it showed in terms of increasing viewership. To do this, the Vestry agreed to invest in a new video and audio system that has been installed in the Church sanctuary. Thanks to many who responded to the request for financial support to purchase of the needed equipment and wiring, this approximately \$10,000 investment was fully funded by donations from folks throughout our parish and beyond. The person who got the ball rolling in our fundraising efforts, by making the first contribution towards the video ministry, was Mike Herrington. Hence it was only fitting that the first time we went LIVE with the new system was when we all gathered together online to honor Mike during his memorial service to celebrate his life. Mike's service drew the largest viewership to date with over 1,400 views from people who extend far beyond our parish community. Our Sunday services are now reaching 250 to 300 plus viewers on average through our Facebook Livestreaming video.

Once the new video and audio equipment were installed by the contractor, Bob Sunderland and I added additional lightings to better enhance the video quality and adjusted the camera angles to get better views.

The video system has proven to be an essential lifeline for our parish community to gather online to worship together. With God's help, and the faithful support from so many, we have opened a new path into our parish that will play a key role in outreach for years to come as we move forward.



New cameras installed to enable participation in services



New audio equipment



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Church of Our Savior

Martinez, Georgia

September 16, 2020

COS MARKETPLACE

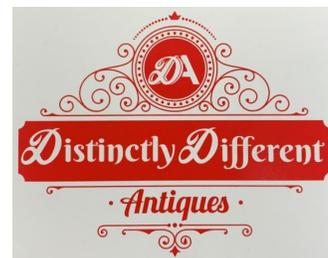
by Val Crumpton



The COS Marketplace started in early 2019 as a fundraising platform for Church of Our Savior's operations. With the assistance of Bob and Fran Sunderland, support from the Vestry, and contributions from the parish members, we started selling used furniture and items donated by church members on Facebook Marketplace, using Stuart Hall as a storage and pick up location. It started out well but it eventually lost traction as a lot of time was wasted waiting for seemingly interested parties to show up to view the items who never did. So what next? What can we do to sell the collection of items that we have gathered at Stuart Hall?

While many churches have started thrift stores as an added financial resource, the overhead costs of operating such a store are high. One of our parish members, Ms. Gail Crawford, and I were talking one day while doing yard work at the church. I shared with her the idea of a thrift store for the church to raise funds. She excitedly told me that a friend of hers, Linda Wilcox, was starting an antique store on Bobby Jones Expressway. She said that Linda and her husband Pete own the stretch of commercial property where the store is located and Linda has decided to use one of the offices and convert it into an antique store. Gail then suggested that I speak with Linda to explore the possibility of renting a space for COS Marketplace. I called Linda, met with her at the store, and the rest is history. I secured a small room in Distinctly Different Antiques and with a ready donation, paid our first month's rent. The Sunderlands and other volunteers including Al and myself, started bringing in our stored collection. Our in-house graphic artist Kimberly Young helped design a beautiful COS Marketplace sign that is proudly featured on the outside door frame and inside wall of our room at the store. Our cost for renting the room at \$100 per month is a small price to pay as Linda Wilcox takes care of processing the sales, pays the utilities, for store advertising, and everything else that comes with operating the business. In addition, she and her business partner Herb Womble have become friends of Church of Our Savior, making contributions to our fundraisers for projects and helping us promote our Marketplace.

Since the beginning of 2020, despite the pandemic challenges and period where Distinctly Different Antiques had to shut its doors for a month due to the state shelter-in-place order, our COS Marketplace continues to make a net profit. From **January to August 2020**, our **gross income** from retail sales and rent donations is **\$2,378.71**. Our **total expenses** for the same period is **\$700** not including expenses incurred by our volunteers that have been contributed towards the cost. Linda also waived one month's rental fee during the time that her store was closed. Hence, our **net income (gross income less total expenses)** to date is **\$1,678.71**. Net income from the COS Marketplace goes to the Church's general fund and is used where needed. Donations towards the rental fees are always welcomed as it allows 100% of the sales proceeds to go to the Church. Donations of gently used furniture, household items, and collectibles keep our Marketplace operational. My heartfelt thanks go to all our volunteers and contributors, especially Bob and Fran Sunderland who work tirelessly to make the Marketplace a success. The COS Marketplace is operational because of all your support and prayers.





WHAT'S TO COME...

by Linda Vrana



As you read this parish report, it should be very apparent that none of the work would have been possible without the prayers, hard work and the financial support of the entire parish. Together, we have overcome the odds and kept our Church operational and alive! I look eagerly towards worshipping in person with you all at Our Savior and preparing for the most joyous season of all, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Coming up in October is Stewardship and thereafter budget planning for 2021. While we will not be having our Stewardship meal together, our work in planning for next year, keeping you informed and updated on Stewardship will continue. The Chairperson for the Stewardship Committee this year is Bob Thompson and George Anderson will be the Vestry Liaison. In the near future, you will be receiving a Stewardship letter from Bob.

Please prayerfully consider your gifts to Our Savior for 2021. Your pledges will help the Vestry to plan our budget for the coming year, and most certainly help to maintain and expand the ministry of our beloved church.

Gods Blessings to all!!

Linda Vrana
Sr. Warden



The Episcopal

Church of Our Savior

Martinez, Georgia

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PHOTO CREDITS

Grounds: Sandra Ribando

School: Fran Sunderland

Buildings: Bob & Fran Sunderland

Others: The Reverend Al & Val Crumpton

RECTOR / PRIEST

The Reverend Al Crumpton

DEACON

The Reverend Deacon Sandy Turner

VESTRY MEMBERS & OFFICERS

Linda Vrana, Sr. Warden & Acting Treasurer
Travis Foust, Jr. Warden
Faith Wittke, Secretary

Denise Aldrich
Claudia Alexander
George Anderson
Gette Carter
Wendy Flowers
Betty Meehan
Sandra Ribando

STAFF

Donna Hardwick, Parish Administrator
Mary Gaffney, Organist
Jody Grant, Youth & Young Adult Minister
Mendy Grant, Children's Minister
Alma Bogdanovic, Sexton
Chris Rayburn, Grounds Keeper
Maggie Haney, Nursery Attendant

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Thank you for taking time to read this Parish Report. Peace and blessings to you all!