



Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Meeting - 2020

THE 148TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Prayer

II. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECRETARY

III. ELECTION OF VESTRY

IV. APPROVAL OF 2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

V. STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. Treasurer's 2020 Year-end Report
- b. Presentation of 2020 Budget

VI. STATE OF THE PARISH

- a. 2020 Senior Warden Remarks
- b. Rector's Remarks

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Benediction
- b. Adjournment of Annual Meeting



Rector's Report - The Rev. Dr. Bill Murray

I had a professor of Church Music who required every single person in her class to sing the communion service. For about 10% of the class, this requirement was an absolute breeze. For another 10%, the singing was something they could do but did not relish. The remaining 80% were scared to death of even attempting to sing in front of other people, much less being graded on the humiliation. We thought the toughest part was to sing in front of our peers and honk things out. We discovered, however, that the toughest part was our professor's reaction. She had three responses after someone sang in front of the class. The first was outright praise for a job well-done. The second was an encouraging word or two that clearly said you tried and "good job." We quickly learned that third response was the worst option available: "Well, you sure did that." It was not a vote of praise but one where we just managed to get it done.

I don't know about any of you but 2020 was the year where I think of that turn of phrase often. "Well, you sure did that." Those first weeks after the church was closed and we pulled out iPhones and prayed that they would work for a hastily gathered and prepared online service were far from ideal. For the first 3-4 months we managed to have services, but it was far from perfect. Many of you faithful souls tuned in and sought connection. We added Morning Prayer Monday through Friday. We systematically found ways to meet via Zoom and Facebook and all sorts of platforms. They were not perfect. We even dusted off the old-school model of phone trees to make sure our community was safe, well, and connected. With the building off-limits, we ended up having Easter live from, well, my house. I felt like those early days were a process where we could only say, "Well, you sure did that."

At first we were all told that it would be two weeks. Then two weeks turned into two months. I could not be more proud of how our staff decided to embrace these changes and rise to new challenges. Megan Atkinson and Renee Stephens found a dozen different ways to connect our children and youth. From driveway visits to drive-through Sunday school pick-ups to weekly Zoom meetings, the tremendous two-some found ways that led other churches to call us for advice on how to keep programs running.

Jess Ruiz and Sally Suhr began the year with a clear and established process of HI-Lights and website updates with social media sprinkled throughout. In this past year, they added a newsletter, massively upped our on-line conversations, and learned how to stream services on multiple platforms. Thanks to the work of the AV Club, also known as Chris Protos, Chris Devine, and Bill Aaron, we took massive leaps by introducing slides, words, images, and a full production quality. This was the in-between step. This week we should finish our installation of new equipment to livestream from the church now and when we return to in-person worship. Many thanks for the generous gift from Susan and Dan Faulk which allowed us to upgrade

our entire system. The only hard part is so many churches and organizations have been looking for the same AV parts - which has slowed the process. On top of that, Chris Protos has been leading the charge to work on upgrading our website, branding, and online giving platforms. Thanks to a gift from Mary Vaughan, we will have that new website completed very soon. In just under a year, we will have completely revamped and rebuilt our online presence- upping our game.

Then there were the teams of folks who always excel in helping to get the church ready for each Sunday. While we could not engage them at first, we worked to find ways to let the Altar Guild, the Flower Guild, the Vergers, and Readers participate in new and different ways. The choir went on a singing hiatus but maintained community through regular meetings. Dr. Sean Vogt then jumped up the process by working with Wes Reynolds to do virtual hymns, Lessons and Carols, and a beautiful Christmas Eve service. Many thanks to Sean for his amazing work and to Wes for his time helping us learn new systems and ways to share music. Read more in Sean's report.

Before leaving us, the Rev. Buddy Crawford and the Community of Hope worked tirelessly to make sure our members in retirement communities were not forgotten. Phone calls, emails, cards, and even a basket for the holidays all combined to bolster the spirits of folks often completely isolated. Many thanks to that whole group for their passionate ministry and concern for others. With Buddy's departure, we welcomed the Rev. Ruth Pattison to our staff, in part because of her extensive experience with the Community of Hope program at St. Anne's. She has jumped in with the group and is working to get to know many of you.

And then... finances. The biggest concern most years is - "Were we able to pay the bills?" The pandemic created new problems in almost every way. How do we receive pledges without regular attendance? What is our budget without a loose plate offering, or an unpledged offering, or, gulp, folks being able to pay their pledges? How do we process bills and collections and do the business of the church while closed? Thank God for Caroline Fleming, our Parish Administrator, and Camille Waller, our Parish Accountant. Between them, we did not miss a beat. By the time 2020 ended, we had a strong surplus from reduced expenses and regular pledges. Let me say that differently, "Thank YOU, Holy Innocents'!" We cut as many expenses as possible, worried that we would not have enough, and almost everyone met their pledges during an unprecedented pandemic. I can think of no better indicator of the health of our community this year than a financial surplus—proof that while we are separate, we continue to work together to keep our community thriving. Thank you.

The unstated reality is that we have lost many members this year. COVID just increased those numbers as the year pro-

gressed. It has been a hard year being trapped inside or isolated. It has been an especially difficult time when we think on those whom we love and have lost. The inability to gather to support one another in our sadness, our grief, our fears, and our worries has made a hard season almost impossible. We all long for those days when we can gather - to see each other, to grieve with each other, and to be with each other.

We can certainly say that we live in historic times - or are living through history this year. Thanks to a gift from Dr. Michael Stewart, we hired Tammy Galloway, a historian who works with the Atlanta History Center, to research and write a history covering our 149 years. She has been working on the written, recorded, and documented stories of our community. The next step, and truly our focus for the next year, is to hear and tell the stories of our church. The work ahead as we look to our Sesquicentennial (our 150th Anniversary) is to record the stories of the generation that is dying, tell the stories of our current church and her ministries, recall the history of our church before her arrival in Sandy Springs, and to share that story of faithful witness through generations of Atlanta families.

As I look back over the past year, we started off making the best choices with little idea of what needed to happen next. We managed to reach out in a variety of ways- albeit imperfectly. If you only tuned in to our church in April, you would likely have shared the same sentiment as my seminary professor: "Well, you sure did that." But as the year has gone on, we have found ways to thrive in a new environment and to reach out to each other and to new families. We put together a drive-in Christmas Eve that was delightful and joyful in a whole new way. The numbers are pretty amazing. In 2019, our total attendance for church services was 23,060. In 2020, the online views of our church services for Facebook only was 54,526! That does not even include our YouTube channel and views or our other offerings throughout the year. John Porter's Thursday videos reached another 4,000 views in only 9 episodes. The year has been bumpy and disjointed, scary and saddening, connective and inventive, even joyful and wonderful all at the same time. The difference between where we were in March to now is staggering. I can say that we have done an incredible job. And all of this work will help us in the years ahead as we work to attract more families to our church. We still do not know what 2021 will look like, but I am optimistic that Holy Innocents' will handle it with grace and joy and some flair. We will accept the challenges before us and find a way to make it work.

Thank you for all the work and prayers, Holy Innocents'. We had an exceptionally successful year!

*May God bless you all,
Bill Murray*



Report by Rev. Kenya Thompson

In January we begin the season of Epiphany, which recalls how Jesus is manifested in the world. In this season God's priorities, love, grace and mercy, are revealed through Jesus. The year, 2020, was no exception. We began the season of Epiphany at Holy Innocents' with a lot of hope and many plans for 2020.

With the onset of COVID-19, however, many of our plans changed. We adapted to a new reality: meeting in person for worship or any other activity was discontinued. Yet, despite many challenges, we persevered. Although we could not meet face to face, we continued to love one another, to encourage one another, and to serve God by taking care of those in need.

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and do good deeds not neglecting to meet, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

Early on, we became aware of an increasing need in the Sandy Springs community. Our community responded by raising over \$15,000 for the Community Assistance Center. Through drives for Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and the Church of the Common Ground, we collected essential provisions for these communities so that their members could survive amidst a pandemic. In November, we held our first Giving Day—collecting coats, toys, school uniforms and gift cards for three of our partner organizations: Emmaus House, Lake Forest Elementary School, and the Community Assistance Center. Not being able to meet in person did not prevent us from doing 'good deeds' in the world. As a community, we gave life to God's priorities by sharing our blessings with our neighbors near and far.

In March, members of our Newcomers Committee reached out to visitors to find out how they were doing and to invite them to join us for virtual morning prayer and worship on Sundays. Through calls, emails, and text messages we connected with each to offer prayer, consolation and encouragement. We came together through virtual formation to grow spiritually, learn more about our faith, and have conversations around race and justice.

I am optimistic about the year that lies ahead of us. I believe that together, with hope in our hearts, motivated by God's priorities of love, grace and mercy, we can and will continue to make our world a kinder, gentler, and better place for all God's children.

*God bless,
Rev. Kenya+*

As we continue in the challenging season of Covid, I am grateful to be among you as the Interim Associate Rector.

My practical hope is to continue in the good stead of Buddy Crawford, and assist the rector in the areas of Pastoral Care, Liturgy, and Community, which Buddy so beautifully and meticulously directed. I have begun to get acquainted both with the big-hearted people who serve in those areas and the well pointed systems and physical spaces that keep Holy Innocents working like a well-oiled machine.

I have to say, because I have known Buddy for many years, that our gifts are complimentary, which is to say - we're opposites - except that we both love what we do. In as much as we all miss Buddy, I can assure you, because I know St. Anne's well, that their only rule is love and that there's an edge of fun in everything they do. He will prosper.

My less practical hope is to embolden the faith community to be creative. My true sense of creativity is poetically articulated in Proverbs 8, with the waxing-on by the Holy Spirit, expressing the delight in being the Wisdom of God and participating in the creation of the world. It is a thrilling text, and I've included it here for your convenience. Living and working in a pandemic, and the uncertain high seas of post pandemic, requires us to be creative; to think new thoughts, to see 'visions and dream dreams', to listen together and to try new things. That's what God did when God created you! This new creature who is called by your name! So, I think we are on solid ground and at holy purposes with our attempts to be creative.

I have ventured out a little bit with creative practices and the use of pastoral arts in the 8 short weeks since I began. We experimented with an outdoor pop-up studio series for Advent, we are stoking Friday Fires to tend the new light of Epiphany that shines in our hearts, and we are planning an on-site Pilgrimage experience and bread for the journey, for Adult Formation during Lent. I know I am in a creative company with your staff, because what an exotic Christmas Eve experience of Joy!

PROVERBS 8

22 The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

23 Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

24 When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth -

26 when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.

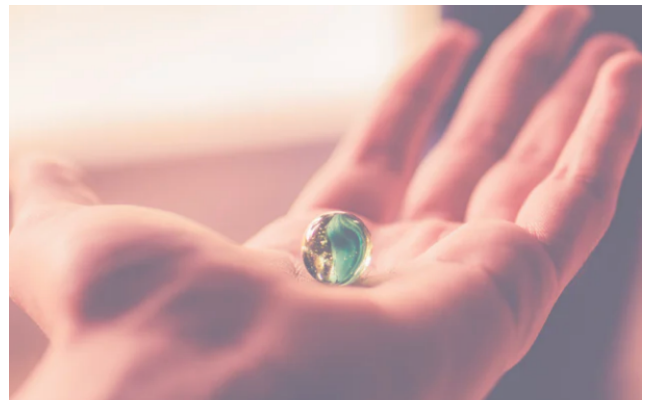
27 When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

28 when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,

29 when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

30 then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

31 rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.



Report by Rev. Antonio Brito

The community of Our Lady of Guadalupe wants to thank Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church and Rev. Bill Murray for opening their doors to us. It has been almost a year since our last meeting because of the pandemic but we remain strong in our faith, strong in the Lord's love, and ready to continue our mission and worship together when circumstances become better and we are allowed to gather in person once more.

Upon our return, we will continue with the spiritual formation and education of our budding community, emphasizing the importance the Eucharist, Baptism, the First Communion, Confirmation, and our own traditions. We will continue our efforts in organizing the Mayordomia in order to foster a sense of belonging in the Episcopal community.

Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, do not lose hope. With prudent actions and faith in the Lord, we will beat this pandemic and continue to live our lives as a community of faith and love.

God bless you all,
Fr. Antonio Brito



Report by Dr. Sean Vogt

We had one Friends of Music concert and then... Covid. But that didn't mean things stopped. If anything, they really ramped up in a stressful way. Many new platforms and apps to learn, for starters, and we did it. Like most people in the arts, we are always having to plan ahead for the next thing. Our "Good News" newsletter provided the opportunity for more insight into some of the following highlights:

Piano Restoration

Ongoing for about a year, this was a full body and sound restoration of the Steinway B grand piano that was sitting unplayable in Bishop Commons. Special thanks to Sally and Pete Parsonson, Cammie Ives and Dave Stockert, Pick and Libby Lindsay, and the Friends of Music who made the restoration possible. The piano is now in the sanctuary for use in worship and concerts.



Virtual Project

Although the above is exciting and was enough to keep anyone busy during a pandemic, the music ministry looked to engage a broader audience. It seemed everyone was doing some sort of virtual anthem or the like. The opportunity to engage in a corporate act of worship – there are two main corporate acts of worship: prayer and hymn singing – a virtual hymn seemed the appropriate way to go. An enormous amount of thanks goes to Wes Reynolds, who learned the software and spent hours compiling and editing. Outsourcing everything we did together would've totaled well within the \$15k-\$20,000 range. In addition to the virtual hymns, Lessons & Carols was a full-blown virtual professional production and took months to complete. Thank you, Wes. But we can't overlook the visual aspects to all of these events. Thank you to the altar guild and flower guild who beautifully set up and decorated our space to make these virtual projects visually engaging.

Carnegie Hall

Invitation for HIEC and HIES to perform Magnificat by Dr. Terre Johnson on Saturday, June 4, 2022, again an event related to our sesquicentennial as well as the musical work written for our 150th. All are invited on this trip which will include special guest access, sight-seeing, post-concert reception, etc. The performance will be accompanied by the union orchestra specially contracted for these Carnegie Hall performances. More details to follow soon.

Lift Every Voice

A new hymn arrangement as well as anthem and instrumental musical bridge (in honor of Rep. John Lewis) has been commissioned for February 2022. (February being Black History Month and 2022 corresponding to HIEC's sesquicentennial.) The piece is being written by Dr. Kevin Johnson, director of the Spelman College Glee Club and will be performed as part of a large interfaith service with HIEC, HIES, Clayton State University, Spelman College, and Morehouse College.

We do have plans underway for virtual concerts, thanks to our new, soon-to-be-installed, A/V equipment. First up will likely be a concert showcasing the restored Steinway. Additional thanks go to our section leaders who have found solo literature and worked hard to make their choices as close as possible to the readings for each Sunday. When one studies voice and vocal literature, you simply study a wide range of pieces – you don't go about it from a liturgical calendar perspective. Lots of hours between us has provided the best worship solution given diocesan guidelines and restrictions. Thank you to all of you. And, most importantly, thank you to our community for watching, sharing, and participating. The nice thing about being virtual is that stats are attached to the videos. We have engaged a very broad community nationally and internationally in the many tens-of-thousands. I don't see this format going away and am looking forward to creating other projects that continue to engage people near and far.

*Blessings,
Dr. Sean Vogt
Director of Music*

Report by Renee Stephens

In a year that was certainly like no other, the Children's Ministry at HIEC remained engaged and passionate in our work to learn about and love like Jesus. In the first two and a half months we had our normal Sunday School classes, Children's Chapel, Children's music program and Wed. Night GLOW meetings. In GLOW we made lanterns, did salt paintings, and made paper circuits. Halfway through March the pandemic forced us to make a quick pivot to online meetings, but we were lucky in that the children enjoyed getting online and learning new technologies in order to stay in touch. Zoom afforded us the huge privilege to meet safely from our homes and so we made living room forts together, we had Lego building challenges, we competed in Kahoot! and participated in countless Bible studies and Godly Play stories together.

Our summer VBS was virtual and 48 kids participated by becoming knights on a quest to discover the armor of God: truth, justice, peace, faith, and salvation. This began with a drive-thru to pick up their craft and science activities for the week, and then every day we did something new - from making snow, catapults, marbles mazes and earthquake tables, to knights and castles and dragons. In all the creating and experimenting of the week we discovered that what God offers is incomparable to what the world offers and that through Jesus we have access to a peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). The beauty of children is that they are readily able to access this peace and they give us glimpses into the joy of God.



In August we launched our virtual Sunday School program which has been very successful and a true testament to God's work in our hearts in the midst of the chaos and uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic. We have 34 children registered for "Sunday School Take-out" which involves coming to pick up Sunday School supplies for a set number of weeks and then meeting virtually on Sunday mornings to chat, learn, play, and craft together. Every pickup has a new theme, and from August-December we studied the promises of God in Genesis, the life of Moses from a theme of community helpers, the Ten Commandments as a virtual road trip, and for Advent, we met John the Baptist and Mary and others who waited on and prepared for Jesus and learned how we can do the same. We average about 20 children in attendance every Sunday and we have even been able to start a small group meeting for 4th and 5th graders immediately after our 9:00 large group meeting.

With the expansion of meeting guidelines, we were able to have a couple of in-person GLOW meetings in the fall, socially distanced and outside. We also met in person socially distanced to film the Children's Christmas Pageant, which even though very different than years past was still full of all of the beauty and wonder and innocence of children portraying the true mystery and miracle of the incarnation.

*In Christ,
Renee Stephen*



Report by Megan Atkinson

This past year has been a year like no other for our HIEC youth program. From canceling most of our events and trips to shifting to online Sunday school, our program morphed into one that was thought to result in a lack of participation and passion. While a completely online youth ministry seemed almost impossible to maintain, it proved to be a blessing in disguise. As of now, our HIEC youth group is stronger than it's been in years and continues to thrive during this unusual time.

One of the first areas of the youth program affected by COVID-19 was Sunday school. While the last few months of the 2020 school year consisted of only pre-recorded Sunday school messages, we were able to kick off live Sunday school in August with the help of Zoom and Google classroom. In addition to this new online-only format, several adjustments were made to help keep the class running smoothly. First, I pushed the class back to 11 AM and combined the youth Sunday school classes into one large class, allowing our youth to feel the extra support each week rather than engaging with only those in their same grade level. I also created a Sunday school "take out" system with Ms. Renee in which children and youth pick up a bag at the beginning of each month containing activities and crafts for

the Sundays in that month. So far, the youth have been learning how to apply lessons from Habakkuk, Amos, Romans, and Ephesians to the issues we are currently facing. Our new online format has highlighted the "come as you are" notion for our youth, which has resulted in their feeling more comfortable with each other and becoming more vocal during our class. Our average attendance has increased from 20 youth in 2019 to 34 in 2020, and our high school group has increased from 7 youth to an incredible 20 youth per Sunday. Overall, the youth Sunday school class seems to be growing, which has become apparent through our December Sunday school bag event in which 51 bags were claimed by youth. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for this class!

The EYC program was another aspect of this ministry that was strongly affected by COVID but that has continued to thrive throughout this school year. Due to the circumstances, I combined the Jr. and Sr. EYC groups into one large group and added a new monthly Bible study to our program. During the months of March-July, this combined group met online for activities such as our "vent and vibe" event, a Zoom gathering which offered a safe space for youth to discuss the protests.

I also provided one-on-one Zoom chats during these months, resulting in my conversing with over 35 children and youth individually. From August-September, we increased the number of online activities and hosted an “acts of kindness” event, which offered online service opportunities for the 18 participants. In October, we were able to start hosting pre-approved in-person events, which we kicked off with an outdoor pumpkin painting party in October and a Family Feud night in November. We also began meeting in person for our monthly Bible studies which were well received by a core group of high school girls. In December, we had the most successful event of the year as 34 youth attended our outdoor, youth-led Christmas party and worship service. Their passion for this gathering highlighted their love of taking on leadership roles and has resulted in my picking 3-4 youth leaders per event for the next several months. Overall there seems to be a new passion growing within our youth group that centers on worship, and I cannot wait to incorporate this more heavily into our monthly events.

In addition to Sunday school and EYC, the youth confirmation class was also impacted by COVID and adjusted to keep our students safe. This class began in August as usual but was set up in an online format with the students meeting twice a month on Sundays from 1-2 pm. Despite the circumstances, this is the largest youth confirmation class HIEC has had in several years with 24 high school students participating. At this time, we are unaware of when they will be able to get confirmed, but they will be ready whenever that day comes.

Unfortunately, our annual camping trip and ski trip were both canceled due to COVID. Also, our high school Greece pilgrimage originally scheduled for July 2020 was postponed until mid-July 2021. While this was certainly upsetting, it has given us a chance to re-open the trip to new high schoolers who would like to join. We now have one confirmed addition and three possible additions to this 11-person group.

It's been a privilege to watch our students grow in their faith and become more appreciative of our in-person gatherings. I firmly believe this past year has helped our youth open their Bibles a bit more and their cell phones a bit less, proving to us that God is doing incredible things through this bizarre time!

*In Christ,
Megan Atkinson
Director of Children, Youth, and Families*

2020 STATISTICS:

*middle school
sunday school*

Average decrease

14 to 11

Average increase

8 to 25

*high school
sunday school*

*sunday school
overall*

Increase from

20 to 34

Highest: **34**

Average: **18**

*EYC in-person
attendance*

*high school
confirmation
class*

Attendance of

24

Confirmed: **11**

Possible: **15**

*Greece
trip*



Report by Caroline Fleming

With the help of the resource staff at Holy Innocents, we have accomplished many things at Holy Innocents despite being closed for 9 months of the year due to Covid. I am grateful to all the help and guidance of many parishioners, especially Greg Binney and Brent Farnham in financial matters, Bill Aaron, Chris Devine, and Chris Protos in the AV/internet world, Rich Sokolowski and Charles Crosby with building issues, as well as Laura Foster and Rosalyn Devine in overall church matters. A special thank you goes out to Laura for the extra support she has given me, especially during the last 4 months. I am also very thankful for the dedication and exemplary work of our accountant Camille Waller.



Accomplishments in 2020:

- Replaced current IT company with new service oriented provider:
- Purchased new hearing-impaired hardware
- Installed new Livestreaming Equipment
- Repaired Key Card access points in building
- Replacement of lights throughout the building
- Continuing to improve relations with the school
- Replaced server for documents

In addition to the overarching Shared Agreement, the church continues with a shared agreement with the school for the Parish Hall classrooms, Parish Hall for Lower and Middle School lunches, Parish Hall kitchen, and the use of the chorus room. In addition, the school used Frost Youth Center for the first 9 weeks of the school year for the children of teachers who were not attending school in person. Caroline continues to meet weekly with the head of the HIES Calendar & Community Relations, Gera-Lu Crumpler, to coordinate use of the facilities and our shared space as well as maintain a good relationship with the school. We want to accom-

modate the requests of the school for the use of space as much as possible while balancing the growing programs of the church.



TO DO in 2021

- Complete obtaining 2 additional building assessment quotes
- Repair the Narthex ceiling, kitchen ceiling and back steps to Bishop Commons
- Acquire new phone and internet carrier
- Obtain energy analysis of building
- Create long term maintenance schedule
- Repair the floor in the Chapel

Due to Covid we were not able to hold our Holy Innocents' Youth Basketball program for 2020-21. We hope to resume next Fall and hopefully under the leadership of Patrick Gluesing again. He had a very positive influence on the children in the basketball program. We are blessed to have had him lead the HIYB program last year.

The most important hire in the financial area of the church is our onsite accountant. Camille Waller joined us May 1, 2019 in the office. She maintains the financial records, budgets and payroll for the church. We are blessed to have Camille on staff and appreciate her work ethic and attention to detail, and of course her presence in the office every week!

Our 2020 audit conducted by Brooks McGinnis will begin sometime in the Spring. The budget committee has completed the 2021 budget which was presented to the Finance Committee and Vestry.

Finally, we are currently in the process of filling the position of Facilities Director who will handle special events and the calendar among other things. We hope to do so in the very near future.

Ventulett Gallery:

The Ventulett Gallery was only able to host one show in 2020, a beautiful and varied display by the talented artists of the Atlanta Collage Society. We hope that when life gets back to pre-pandemic “normal” we will be able to host a full schedule of six shows a year. As that time approaches, we will be seeking a new Head Curator and committee members. We look forward to art-filled walls and lively opening receptions again.

Communications:

The Communications Department (Sally Suhr and Jess Ruiz) stayed busy this year as they - along with the entire staff - pivoted their work starting in March to accommodate virtual worshi. The timing was such that as Holy Week quickly approached, the first item of business was a huge mailing of worship materials to the parish to prepare for that liturgical period! Jess jumped in to help with Sunday morning recording and posting of services, and she navigated lots of new technology and almost weekly changes with capability and grace. Jess and the staff are very grateful for the help of the “A/V Club” volunteers who helped to get Sunday morning streaming going and for Alejandro Perez’ presence and help on Sunday mornings. Sally produced periodic mailings of worship materials and other parish communications. Together, the dynamic duo made sure that the website and HI-Lights stayed current to help keep the parish feeling informed and connected during this difficult time. New in 2020 was the creation of a monthly mailed newsletter - “The Good News.” We hope the parish has found the content informative and creative; we hope we can soon count on bulk mail to help get it into parishioners’ hands more promptly! We look forward to a new, more streamlined website and new branding for Holy Innocents’ early in 2021.

We strive for timely, complete, and accurate information and appreciate your grace should there be the occasional error. If you have any questions or comments, please be in touch!

Finally, thank you to the parishioners who have made our ministries what they are today and will continue to be tomorrow. We are grateful for you and your loving spirit that makes working at Holy Innocents more joyous!





Report by Laura Foster & Rosalyn Devine

We have appreciated the opportunity to be your Wardens for the past year and what a year it has been! It has been an honor and pleasure to work with the clergy and staff despite the unprecedented times and continue to serve our parish. As we look back on 2020, the work we focused on changed dramatically in early March with the onset of the pandemic.

Initially, we planned to work with the vestry and other lay leaders to begin implementing several of the initiatives outlined as priorities for the parish through our work with the 2050 project. We look forward to moving ahead with many of those initiatives in 2021.

God had other plans for us this year and we immediately pivoted our focus to keep our parish cared for and connected with the arrival of COVID in early March. Initially, the challenge was to stay in touch with each member of our community on a regular basis. A large group of volunteers made numerous calls to parishioners to check in, chat and relay any news pertinent to HIEC. The clergy and staff quickly moved to recording services via cell phone and posting to Facebook and YouTube. Our small groups moved meetings online and we all became familiar with Zoom. These groups did not miss a beat and we are still so thankful for the opportunity to continue connecting and learning from each other. In the early weeks of COVID, we were still hopeful that things would return to “normal” by Pentecost and we could gather again with a big picnic. Again, God had other plans.

As we moved into the summer, it became apparent that we needed to focus on the work of replacing our current website with a format that is user friendly, easily updated and able to act as a central communication hub for our parish. We are also taking this opportunity to update our messaging both internally for current parishioners and externally for those in our community that might be looking



to join us. It was exciting work and so many of you have been involved via focus groups that challenged us to provide feedback on who we are and what makes HIEC unique. It has been a collaborative effort and a continuation of the 2050 conversations. Another group of talented parishioners, the AV Club, stepped up to help the clergy and staff provide an improved online worship experience. This group continues to work tirelessly along with the staff to refine this process. The learning curve has been steep, and we hope all of you are enjoying the changes and improvements. Through several generous donations, both the new website and a permanent AV system in the Nave are close to fruition and will allow us to continue reaching members of our community virtually once the church reopens.

As fall got underway, the church began offering opportunities for outdoor services and small group meetings. We gathered wearing masks and remaining socially distanced. It was wonderful to be present and in person. This effort at creative gathering culminated with the fantastic Christmas Eve service at the Sandy Springs Drive-In.

So much positive work for the parish has been completed behind the scenes this year and we are poised to continue doing great things in our community. We have quite a story to tell! We look forward to regathering when the time is appropriate and continuing the work many of our committees have put on hold for the past months. As the vestry moves into 2021, we'd like to thank each member for their time and commitment to our parish.

A special thank you to those completing their terms: Nicole Rash, Doug Peterson, Lever Stewart, Marilyn Kimball and our youth members- Reagan Kelly and Chase Pellettieri. All of you have contributed so much, and we are grateful for your service.

*All our best,
Laura and Rosalyn*



Rector's Report on Liturgy and Pastoral Offices

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

	2018	2019	2020
Sunday Eucharist	186	206	84
Total Attendance	15,615	20,042	4,070
Weekly Eucharist	99	60*	14
Total Weekday Service Attendance (includes weddings, funerals, Christmas, etc.)	5,729	5,426	1,440
Weekday Daily Office Services	81	104	225
Private/Home Communion	48	52	15
Number of people served home communion	131	147	52
Easter Attendance	986	1,081	4
Christmas Attendance	1,125	1,090	328
Average Sunday Attendance	300	339**	78

Online Sunday Attendance 3,934 concurrent viewing households (Sunday's only)

Online Midweek Attendance 3,764 concurrent viewing households (Morning Prayer)

John Porter's Thursday Video 4,081 total views in only 9 episodes

Total Facebook Worship Views 54, 526 viewing households

Baptisms: 4 (11 in 2019) (8 waitings for baptism)
Riley Custard, Olivia Inhouse, John Ramsey, Eleanor Webber

Confirmations: 0 Receptions: 0 Youth in Confirmation Class: 24

Weddings: 1
Jacob & Megan Atkinson

Burials: 10 (14 in 2019)
Muriel Wiley, Larry Young, Elizabeth Rasmus, Donald Zima, Bunny Saussy, Warren Reedy, Margaret Martin, Lee Schwieger, Pete Fordonaski, Charlotte Walker

**Two weekday Eucharistic services ended in 2018 (Tuesday 12:00 pm and Wednesday 7:30 am). 630 of the total attendance was Annual Council for Diocese of Atlanta. This data means we had 39 fewer services in 2019 and increased attendance!*

*** Average Sunday Attendance in 2019 includes the attendance numbers for Our Lady of Guadeloupe. Average Sunday Attendance would be 319 for HIEC alone.*



Thank you for joining us!