



**HOLY INNOCENTS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

2025

Annual Report



Agenda

- I. Prayer and Call to Order**
- II. Announcement of Secretary**
- III. Election of Vestry**
- IV. Approval of 2025 Annual Minutes**
- V. Presentation of New Logo**
- VI. Wardens Remarks**
- VII. Stewardship and Financial Report**
 - a. Treasurer's 2025 Year-end Rerport**
 - b. Presentation of 2026 Budget**
- VIII. State of the Parish**
- IX. Blessing and Adjournment**



Liturgy and Pastoral Offices

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
|---|------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|-------|-----------------|--------|
| SUNDAY EUCHARISTS: | 210 | 207 | 204 | 209 | 177 | 84 | 206 | 186 |
| TOTAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: | 18,741 | 17,595 | 16,891 | 15,442 | 8,080 | 4,070 | 20,042 | 15,615 |
| WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS: | 65 | 75 | 64 | 47 | 25 | 14 | 60 [†] | 99 |
| WEEKDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE: | 3,987 | 4,885 | 4,063 | 2,524 | 3,766 | 1,440 | 5,425 | 5,729 |
| WEEKDAY DAILY OFFICE SERVICES: | 144 | 213 | 270 | 270 | 312 | 225 | 104 | 81 |
| PRIVATE/HOME COMMUNION: | 85 | 60 | 67 | 8 | 0 | 15 | 52 | 48 |
| HOME COMMUNION # SERVED: | 200 | 161 | 175 | 23 | 0 [‡] | 52 | 147 | 131 |
| EASTER ATTENDANCE: | 1,075 | 860 | 866 | 770 | 335 | 4 | 1,081 | 986 |
| CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE: | 1,082 | 1,016 | 1,031 | 942 | 516 | 328 | 1,090 | 1,125 |
| AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: | 360 § | 338 | 319 | 296 | 155 | 78 | 339 | 300 |
| BAPTISMS: | 51 ^{**} | 23 | 5 | 19 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 9 |
| CONFIRMATIONS: | 0 | 35 | 1 | 23 | 31 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| RECEPTIONS: | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WEDDINGS: | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| BURIALS | 11 | 10 | 16 | 10 | 21 | 10 | 14 | 18 |
| TOTAL FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE WORSHIP VIEWERS | 68,322 | 66,761 | 31,697 | 23,644 | | | | |

| School Information | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| ALL WEEKDAY CHAPELS : | 48,722 | 45,360 | 45,044 |
| COMMUNIONS RECEIVED: | 10,984 | 13,538 | 12,237 |
| EUCHARISTIC SERVICES: | 22 | 29 | 21 |
| MORNING PRAYER SERVICES: | 69 | 71 | 80 |
| OTHER SERVICES: | 1 | 2 | 2 |

[†] 2 weekday Eucharistic services ended 2018 (Tuesday 12:00pm, Wednesday 7:30am).

[‡] We were able to take communion at the beginning of 2020 but the pandemic impacted numbers for 2020, 2021, & even early 2022.

§ In 2025, we lost one Sunday for snow/weather. If that service is removed, ASA is 364.

^{**} In 2025, we include all Our Lady of Guadalupe stats. They baptized 30 into the church!



A New Day

The Rev. Dr Bill Murray, Rector

You can feel it everywhere you go in our community. Joy. Excitement. Anticipation. There is an electric energy as we turn the calendar from 2025 to 2026. I think it began as we started the new year.

After 13 years of labor, giving, management, and work, we paid off the mortgage. We all knew it would bolster the bottom line and help us begin a new process to repair and renew our new buildings. What I somehow did not anticipate was the sheer release and joy to know that we had finished that season of life. We talk about this in the church all the time: the importance of forgiving, moving on, putting away the parts of the past that wound us, and even accepting forgiveness. All of these are themes of our faith. Somehow, we were all surprised at the power of burning the mortgage on Sunday, March 30. The excitement, the release, the relief at ending the mortgage seemed to also open the way to letting go of some past hurts, worries, and wrongs. The flush of emotions was filled with power, both emotional and spiritual.

We did not celebrate it in the same way, but 2025 also saw our agreement with Diocese of Atlanta to host Our Lady of Guadalupe end. We had a contract that stipulated that the ministry was operated by the Bishop and the Diocese. Our Lady of Guadalupe officially became a ministry of Holy Innocents. Their members became members of our church and community. As I write this, I realize, we need to mark this occasion liturgically, with song and prayer and praise for the new ministry in our place that is challenging us to be a more loving and inclusive community. It is a powerful moment in the life of the parish to add a service that averages 90-130 folks a week! Even more so in a different language but with the same love of God and neighbor.

In May, architect Hank Houser presented the results from two years of planning and preparation in our parish Master Plan. Thanks to the work of Brian and Marie Thomas and many other faithful souls, we have a plan that encompasses our hopes and dreams for the present and future of Holy Innocents. The price tag looks large (\$12 million for everything) but we are dedicated to build responsibly, frugally, and without debt. What we raise in a future capital campaign, we will build. The images of fully repairing and improving the parish hall and kitchen along with the church and children's areas are inspiring. Together we can invest in the church and grow this community.

The new experience of this report was the summer. I had my first sabbatical which was a wonderful, restful, renewing time for me and my family. We had wonderful trips to the beach, to Maine, and to Alaska. More importantly, we just had time to decompress, reconnect, and love. I cannot begin to thank Hayley, Jenny, and the Vestry enough. I also give thanks for Stewart and the staff for the amazing work that they did in keeping everything moving. We do have to note that this summer was a challenging one for our staff. Ruth battled breast cancer (and is now in remission). Our Director of Music, Sean Vogt, resigned for a new job. Stewart had to continue all of our ministries in the midst of that chaos and did so with grace and aplomb.

This Fall we have been fast at work in a dozen different directions. After a wonderful stint with Leslie Boyette as our Interim Organist, we have been lucky to have Randy Romig return as our Interim Director of Music. He has increased the number of volunteer singers in the choir and revitalized the bell choir. Thanks to the hard work of Chris Devine, we signed a contract this Fall with Cherry Street Power to add solar panels to our roof and cover at least 24% of our electric needs. We brought back the Gay Men's Chorus for Christmas for an exciting concert. And so many more things large and small. It has been an electric Fall all around.

Each of these things might seem small but we cannot argue with the results. Our average Sunday attendance increased from 338 to 360. I really count is as 364 since we lost one Sunday for snow! We went from 5 baptisms in 2023 to 23 in 2024 to 51 in 2025. Now, to be clear, 30 of those welcomes were in Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our pledges are over \$1.6 million. We have seen more folks coming to church, more visitors filling out cards, and, yes, so many new families and children.

In the year ahead, we hope to move from to capital campaigns. We want to refine our vision for our space to prioritize growing and thriving. Some of that is repairing buildings and upgrading our facilities. Some of that is also working to welcome new folks and grow our community with exactly what we have. Some of that is dreaming of new spaces that can help us welcome and grow more in the future. I hate to use all of those old phrases, but I think we all know it and can feel it. We are turning a corner from the old and into the new. We have a bright future in front of us. We are all excited for a new day.



The Vicar's Report

The Rev. T. Stewart Lucas, Vicar

I've always admired people who can juggle—actual circus performers who toss flaming thingys into the air and somehow don't set themselves on fire. I am not that coordinated. And yet, a fair amount of my job at Holy Innocents turns out to involve a similar skill: keeping several things in the air at once, catching what needs catching, and trusting that most of it will land where it's supposed to.

Which brings me to my title. People often ask what the word vicar means. It comes from the Latin vicarius, meaning "one who stands in for another." In the Episcopal Church, a vicar serves with delegated authority from the rector and bishop, stepping in as needed to provide pastoral, liturgical, and administrative leadership. That definition became especially concrete during our Rector Bill Murray's summer sabbatical, when I served as head of staff and primary pastoral presence for the parish. It was a season that included real challenge with Ruth's cancer diagnosis, and our staff met it with steadiness, care, and generosity toward one another and this community.

One small but meaningful shift was moving staff meetings to Tuesdays. That simple change proved quietly transformative—strengthening collaboration, improving planning, and establishing healthier rhythms for our shared work. Bill agreed upon his return, and it continues to serve us well. Sometimes the smallest of adjustments can make the biggest impact.

Music, Worship, and Community

During the sabbatical, Sean resigned for a new position in Tennessee. While it was unexpected, I am encouraged by the new energy already present in our music program, including the beautiful blue vestments that debuted in Advent. We are also delighted by the strong and diverse pool of candidates for our next Director of Music. We have been reminded that Holy Innocents is well known across the wider Episcopal Church, and that reputation matters.

Stewardship and Belonging

Stewardship this year focused not only on finances, but on deepening belonging and shared responsibility. Our expanded Stewardship Team prayerfully developed the theme Together. For Good., inviting the parish to see generosity as a spiritual practice rooted in gratitude and love. Clear communication helped connect giving to the ministries it sustains, and we are celebrating 33 new pledges so far.

Formation, Hospitality, and Looking Ahead

My third focus this year was faith formation through preaching, adult forums, the Kanuga Parish Retreat, and pilgrimage planning. Our sermons and teaching explored grief, hope, desire, and belonging, grounding theology in the rhythms of ordinary life. I also had the privilege of representing the Church at baccalaureate and graduation during Bill's sabbatical, strengthening our bond with our School.

A vital part of our life together has been renewed attention to hospitality. We have increased parish gatherings, shared meals, and special events, and the impact has been clear. People are hungry, for connection, beauty, and joy. I am deeply grateful to Jenny Cantrell, Bill Clark, and the many volunteers who provide breakfasts and host events. In a world shaped by a growing pandemic of loneliness, these acts of hospitality matter. Creating spaces of warmth, joy, and beauty is not extra, it is a faithful act of resistance.

Yes, it is a lot to juggle sometimes—but the truth is, I never juggle alone. I am humbled by and grateful for a staff whose competence, creativity, humor, and care make this work not only possible, but joyful. Our beloved community is blessed by people who show up for one another with generosity and grace, and I am thankful for the trust of this parish, the partnership of Bill, Ruth, John, and Father Brito, and the shared hope we hold for what God is doing among us.



The Associate Rector's Report

The Rev. Ruth Pattison, Associate Rector

"Iced Decaf Latte please, whole milk." I placed my order with the young barista as I observed the variety of tattoos on her arms. I noted, with great intrigue, that of an ordinary folding chair on her forearm, in red ink, and of course I had to express interest. She delightfully said that she is a recovering addict and that most meetings are in random times and places, but almost always they use the folding chairs. She said the tattoo reminds her she needs to go to a meeting. She was nodding and smiling and touching the tattoo for the entirety of our conversation. I love it!

What a truly common denominator. A metal folding chair. Old school and ordinary. Light. Stackable. Moveable. Reconfiguring, and always a way to make more room. Room for you. Room for me. And anyone who shows up. A symbol of hospitality. Come as you are. There's a place for you. It says we are all in transition, and nothing is bolted to the floor.

While all of this captures my heart of hearts in general, it aptly describes, in particular, this year of 2025 for me, as a priest in this Holy Place, but also in my personal life as a woman, wife, mother, sister, grandmother and friend.

It's been a year with a bunch of folding chairs.

Change began for us in the final days of December 2024 with the joyful news of my daughter Caroline becoming engaged to Mackenzie. They set their wedding date for December 2025.

Between snow and ice storms in January 2025, my second grandbaby, Halsten, was born in the wee hours of a Sunday morning.

And so, our year began with shifting and changing.

I am thankful for "folding chairs." Because I want to sit. And stay. And be included. And I want there to be enough room, not just for me, but for more and more love in the room.

Roles change, people change, places change. Folding chairs increase the possibility of love.

My cancer diagnosis in June and surgery in July meant folding chairs banging and clanging here, there, and everywhere. In a sense, you could say, I had to sit down. At home. At work.

And as I sat down, everyone seemed to get up, and step up.

Everyone everywhere insisted I rest and so, set up a folding chair for me. Everyone everywhere insisted I eat but not cook and so, brought me food. Everyone everywhere insisted I let go, and everyone everywhere stepped up to the plate, and sent love and cards and prayers. That everyone everywhere is you (and of course my beloved family). I am deeply and eternally grateful.

This stepping up has resulted in lots of forward movement and the ministries in my corner are flourishing. We've got new leadership and administrative efforts on the Newcomers Team, (with Emily Wilkerson at the helm). HI is enjoying such an increase in visitors that we are in need of more greeters on our team!

The Women of Holy Innocents have begun two new endeavors with Mahjong events (Emily Wilkerson and Sunni Newton) and Corks and Conversation (Jenny Cantrell and Rhonda Hills), simply because we love to be together, and now, women have begun bringing ideas to us, the planning team!

Our congregation is well cared for in the Pastoral Care department, by the combined lay ministries of the Intercessory Prayer group, the Knitters guild, the Healing Prayer teams on Sunday mornings and the Eucharistic visitors. We have increased our

ranks with continual training for the Community of Hope pastors, and in keeping with the folding chairs motif, two of our members (Jane Chandler and Maggie Menkus) stepped up to take the reins when more than one of us in our group had the diagnosis of breast cancer and had to sit down. In the Pastoral Arts department, I held an open studio every Wednesday during Lent, and two, two-part grief workshops (Changes and Chances), during November, because art heals, and I wanted to, and thought it might be good for all of us.

The Ventulett Gallery opening receptions have enjoyed an increasing team effort on food prep and set up. (see Caroline Fleming's report for more details.

On December 27th 2025, Benno and I hosted the Lindberg (my maiden name) extended family Christmas party. Fairy lights overhead, plastic plates with sterling flatware, folding chairs galore to accommodate 32 of us for a sit-down dinner in the driveway! Drinks on the porch to include a hot chocolate bar with home-made marshmallows, a firepit in the tiny front yard even though we were clad in short sleeves and linen and there was no need for fire. Still, we wanted the fire. Folding chairs because we wanted to make room for more love.

Children's Ministry

Renee Stephens, Director of Membership & Children's Ministry

Each new year creates space to look back with gratitude and ahead with expectation. Our faith invites us into this movement, teaching us to remember well while remaining open to what God is doing next. As we revisit the stories that ground us, we also discover new expressions of growth and joy. The past year was one such season, a vibrant and grace filled season in the life of HIEC's children's ministry.

Our core programming continues to be a strong and steady presence in the lives of our children and families. Club 45, Godly Play, Children's Chapel, and Wednesday Night GLOW are all thriving and well attended. These spaces have become places where children feel known, welcomed, and free to explore their faith with curiosity and joy. Over the summer, VBS once again brought energy and excitement to our church, creating lasting memories and deepening relationships across generations.

Club 45 remains a place for older elementary students to dig deeper into scripture, spiritual practices, and community. Godly Play continued to be a rich and meaningful environment where children encounter the stories of faith in a way that honors their questions and voices. Children's Chapel, with all its beautiful and holy chaos, continues to be a weekly highlight as children



journey together to hear stories, sing boldly, and practice gratitude as a spiritual discipline.

Wednesday Night GLOW continued to grow in both numbers and spirit. This year, the addition of family dinners has been a wonderful and loved enhancement. Gathering around the table before programming created space for connection, conversation, and hospitality, strengthening relationships not only among the children, but across families as well. GLOW continues to be a place where spiritual disciplines are practiced in hands-on, creative, and joyful ways.

One of the greatest gifts of this year was the addition of the Children's Ministry internship program. The presence of our summer intern, Lizzie, and our fall intern, Kelsey, helped meet the growing needs of our programming, and they brought energy, care, and creativity to every space they served. Lizzie and Kelsey both made a lasting impression on the children and contributed significantly to the vitality and sustainability of our ministry.

This year was made possible by the faithful commitment of volunteers, teachers, families, and the wider parish who generously shared their time, gifts, and love. It is a joy and a privilege to serve such a vibrant community, and I am deeply grateful for the ways God continues to move among the youngest members of our church.

Youth and Young Adults Ministry

Megan Atkinson, Director of Youth, Young Adult, & Family Ministries



The 2025 program year began during the winter months as I returned from maternity leave, having left the youth ministry in the capable and faithful hands of Mary Claire Brakefield and Connor Mendelson. During this time, the youth program remained active and well-supported. Students continued to meet regularly for youth group and participated fully in the Parish Retreat, staying engaged in both faith formation and community life until my return in April. This continuity was an important reminder to our students that they are a valued and essential part of the life of the church, even during seasons of transition.

Upon returning in the spring, the youth quickly re-engaged in a full schedule of gatherings, service, and celebration. We began with a Youth Easter Egg Hunt followed by our students cooking and serving a meal for Community of Hope. Spring also included meaningful moments of celebration and leadership, including our Senior Recognition Luncheon and Youth Sunday, both of which highlighted the important role our youth play in the worship life and faith story of our church.

Summer 2025 was marked by strong youth leadership and intentional relationship-building. Forty-one students volunteered for Vacation Bible School, serving younger children and supporting the broader parish in a significant way. In addition to group activities, the summer months included one-on-one and small-group time centered on conversation, encouragement, and pastoral care.

In the fall, our youth group entered a season of deeper formation with the launch of a new curriculum, *What If Jesus Was Serious?*, which invited students to wrestle honestly with how Jesus' teachings shape everyday decisions, relationships, and behaviors. We also hosted a game day at AG Rhodes Nursing Home, hosted the parish's Blessing of the Animals, and gathered for a S'mores worship night. In addition, following the loss of their building, the Sandy Springs United Methodist Church youth group began joining our youth ministry events. I also began teaching the Our Lady of Guadalupe youth group, meeting on Sundays from 12:00-1:00 PM.

During the cooler months, we continued to focus on community-building and shared joy. Our youth traveled together on a trip to Dollywood and hosted an outdoor movie and food truck night. We look forward to the next few months as we move into Confirmation and the celebration of our graduating Seniors.

Our young adult group has also seen encouraging momentum in 2025. While growth has been gradual, we are beginning to notice increased attendance among 20–30-year-olds at our services. We have also hosted several gatherings, most recently a dinner at Rev. Stewart's home, which drew strong participation and fostered meaningful, engaging conversation within this newly formed group.

Building and Facilities

Caroline Fleming, Parish Administrator



We have had another busy year at Holy Innocents. Only with the help of our special sextons Isabelly and Adriana are we able to hold so many events throughout the year. They are the very best! I also continue to be appreciative of the incredible work of our accountant Camille Waller who keeps the financial house in order. I am grateful for all the help and guidance of many parishioners, especially our treasurers, Doug Peterson, Brent Farnham and Dave Stockert, who volunteer many hours of their time in financial matters.

In addition to many small things requiring attention throughout the year, some of the accomplishments for 2025 include:

1. Replaced one HVAC unit and repaired many others
2. Completed extensive Memorial Garden improvements with visible markers and landscaping. Thank you, Heather Barber!
3. Installed new Memorial Garden plaque sign. Thank you, Will Kelly and Chris Devine!
4. Hung portraits/pictures of past and present assisting priests. Thank you, Emily!
5. Purchased two larger TVs for Inglett Hall
6. Installed livestreaming equipment in the Chapel
7. Contracted for the replacement of the Nave dimmer which is obsolete
8. Contracted for the installation of solar panels. Thank you, Chris Devine!
9. Installation of doorbell system to enable doors to be locked for safety

Facility Goals for 2026 include the following:

1. Replace broken security cameras and improve security system
2. Paint some inside areas of the church
3. Complete installation of the new dimmer for the Nave
4. Complete installation of the solar panels

Holy Innocents' Youth Basketball

In partnership with Holy Innocents' Episcopal School basketball programs, we continue to sponsor this league for 2nd-5th graders. We are so thankful for the wonderful leaders: Director, Maria Smith and Associate Director, Richard Wood. We are fortunate to have them as well as volunteer parents and current HIES students leading this program.

Audit & 2026 Budget

Our 2025 Audit was conducted by an employee of James Jordan, CPA. The fieldwork was completed in May 2025 and the report was presented to the Finance Committee and Vestry. The budget committee has completed the 2025 budget which was presented to the Finance Committee and then approved by Vestry on January 20, 2025.

Ventulett Gallery

Ventulett Gallery had another successful year especially as we expanded to a team approach to opening receptions. We are so appreciative of the following parishioners who have helped throughout the year: John Cox, Tricia Carlson, Molly O Wagner, Lisa Ediger, Michelle Ventulett and Cheryl Sykes. Ruth does an

amazing spread for the receptions held at the beginning of each show generally on Thursdays 6 pm – 7:30 pm. Keep an eye out in HI Lights and attend them in the future. We held eight different shows in 2025 with a variety of artists bringing beauty to the walls. The gallery is booked throughout 2026 and into early 2027 with shows. We would love to expand a team approach to curating the gallery and installing artwork. Please contact Caroline or Ruth if you are interested.

Finally, it is impossible to name everyone chairing and serving on a committee to make things happen at the church.... for Sundays as well as during the week. Thank you to all the volunteers and 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!

Outreach Activities in 2025

Charles Crosby

During 2025, the Holy Innocents community faithfully answered the call to love and serve our neighbors. Through generous donations of time and treasure, parishioners supported Outreach partner organizations both financially and through hands-on volunteer service. Your dedication and compassion continue to make a meaningful difference, and we are sincerely thankful for your commitment.

Financially, the Vestry approved an Outreach budget of \$60,000 in 2025, a 33% increase over 2024. Our Outreach Committee champions collaborated closely with our long-term partners to identify specific needs that align with our mission and the grant distributions are listed below.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Church of Common Ground: | \$8,400 |
| Community Assistance Center: | \$8,400 |
| Emmaus House: | \$7,500 |
| Habitat for Humanity: | \$5,000 |
| Holy Comforter: | \$5,000 |
| Horizons at Holy Innocents: | \$5,000 |
| LaAmistad: | \$5,000 |
| Solidarity Sandy Springs: | \$7,500 |
| Holy Innocents Parmalee, SD: | \$35,000 |
| \$5,000 from Outreach grant funds | |
| \$30,000 donated by the parishioners of HIEC Atlanta | |

The financial support was used for a variety of uses – budget support for the food pantries for the record needs in 2025;

equipment for a career empowerment center and salary supplement for a social worker.

Finally, parishioners engaged with our partner organizations by volunteering and/or supporting in a variety of meaningful ways. Here are some of the things that we accomplished this year:

Church of Common Ground:

560 lunches over 6 occasions

CAC Lenten Food Drive:

provided over 4,000 lbs of food, donated over \$11,000

Solidarity Pantry Easter Egg Hunt

over 7,000 eggs for more than 300 children

Emmaus House:

provided dinner to over 50 families of summer literacy program students; provided almost 100 Thanksgiving meal bags for families

Habitat for Humanity:

23 volunteers work on the home over seven Saturdays

Holy Comforter:

provided dinners for congregants

Solidarity Sandy Springs:

hosted an Easter Egg Hunt with HIES for 350 children

Horizons:

provided breakfast for summer program students

Solidarity and CAC:

Christmas Adopt-a-Child programs, provided presents for almost 150 children

Thank you to the many parishioners whose generous giving and dedicated service supported our Outreach partners and positively impacted countless lives. If you would like to learn more about opportunities to give or volunteer, please contact Charles Crosby at charles@corepm.com or Jan Paul at jan-paul1005@gmail.com.

The Treasurer's Report

Doug Peterson

HIEC continues to be blessed with a strong financial condition:

- Pledge receipts and other contributions were higher than budgeted.
- Total expenses came in well below budget.
- The Church no longer had any debt service burden.
- Our other funding sources grew stronger.
- The "Together. For Good." Giving Campaign was a success.

In 2025, pledge revenue was approximately \$1,602,000, which was \$117,000 greater than budgeted. Total revenue was approximately \$2,272,000, or \$162,000 above budget.

Expenses in 2025 were approximately \$2,041,000 (before \$170,000 property reserve transfer), which were significantly lower than budgeted. Areas of budget savings were primarily in administration expenses including facility expenses, landscaping, and other administrative expenses, but also in the music program. Areas that were above budget included utilities, insurance, AV/livestream expenses, and bank fees, but these were only modestly over-budget. As part of our expenses, we are pleased to report that we were able to accommodate a significant increase in Outreach funding for the second year in a row. The HIEC staff continued to do an amazing job managing the operational areas and associated expenses of the Church.

In June 2024, the Church paid off its outstanding debt and eliminated the Church's debt service costs. The building loan balance was around \$2,000,000 at the start of the debt reduction capital campaign in late 2021. Principal on the building loan was gradually reduced to \$138,000 by June 2024, and paid off with reserves thereafter. As a result, in a mostly rising interest rate environment, debt service costs declined from approximately \$134,000 in 2022 (6.8% of the operating budget) to \$70,000 in 2023 (3.4%) to approximately \$29,000 in 2024 (1.4%). In less than three years, we freed up approximately \$135,000 in funds for other meaningful purposes.

Other sources of funding for the Church include operating cash, designated funds (restricted accounts), and the endowment. Each of these funding sources remains at healthy levels. In 2025, as noted above, we made a sizable transfer of operating cash to the property reserve for anticipated future needs. The endowment showed significant growth through sizable contributions and market appreciation.

We had a successful giving campaign where the goal of achieving \$1,600,000 in pledges, or an 8% increase over the 2025 budget, was nearly achieved as of this writing. Also, the Church received pledges from 25 new families, which is another sign of growth. Not only did this ease the 2026 budgeting process, but it will enable us

to provide budget increases for the areas targeted in the campaign.

The treasurers believe that HIEC is on strong financial footing for the reasons mentioned above. We remain extremely grateful to the clergy and staff who have worked so hard to grow the Church and manage the resources of our Parish. We continue to be amazed by the incredible generosity and support of the HIEC community and parishioners, which are essential to the growth and vibrancy of our Church.

Community of Hope

Karen Calhoun

Vision: To be a listening presence

Mission: Creating communities, steeped in Benedictine spirituality, to serve others through compassionate listening

Each Community of Hope International center offers a variety of settings for lay pastoral care ministry. The center at Holy Innocents is comprised of fifteen active care-givers, who gather approximately ten times each year for worship and continuing education. We are extremely well supported and guided by our priest, Ruth Pattison.

Wherever there is a need for a compassionate listener or a reassuring presence, pastoral caregivers can be useful. Pastoral care is offered by extensively trained lay caregivers at COHI centers across the United States and abroad, including here at Holy Innocents. Members of our group connect with parishioners and others through telephone calls, written correspondence, prayer, and visits (sometimes including Eucharist). Our caregivers also support family members and friends during times of crisis. Additionally, many of us volunteer with outreach organizations outside the parish—activities which allow us to employ our skills as compassionate listeners.

Please see www.cohi.org if you're interested in learning more. For information about the HIEC center please contact Karen Calhoun (knccalhoun@yahoo.com)

