



Christmas at HIEC



I keep coming back to the shepherds. Every year they grab my attention in a different way. They are regular men and women just going about their work and minding their own business. The next thing you know, they are being addressed by an angel shining with the glory of the Lord telling them about a baby in nearby Bethlehem.

Then, a multitude of the heavenly host appears. To translate that, we are not talking about a whole bunch of heavenly beings. Host is a term for army. So, literally the shepherds are surrounded by the armies of heaven cheering and celebrating and rejoicing. The moment is one of overwhelming might and majesty and awe. I have to believe that they decided to go to Bethlehem as an escape more than a desire to confirm the good news.

While we plan to have a wonderful array of services and events celebrating the birth of Jesus, we will not have an army of any variety cheering for God and peace. We will instead have six services to cover just about any and every option for our community:

10:00 AM, December 24 - This service is designed to be meaningful celebration of Christmas in the chapel before the parking lots are packed and the chaos of Christmas Eve takes over. Patterned after the 8 am Sunday service, we will break bread together, hear the good news of Christ among us, and pray for peace.

1:00 PM, December 24 - This service will be for Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Our Lady of Guadalupe), our Spanish speaking community. They will sing, pray, celebrate, break bread, and rejoice together for the birth of Emmanuel – God With Us. Todo en español.

3:00 PM, December 24 - This service is our beloved and annual Christmas Pageant. All children are welcome to come 30 minutes before

the start to dress as an angel, a shepherd, or an animal and participate in our re-telling of the nativity. We will celebrate our families, share communion, and ponder anew the ways God draws near.

6:00 PM, December 24 – This service features the full choir, strings, communion, and the celebration of the nativity of our Lord. Many of our families who have aged out of the pageant love to come and reconnect at this service and celebrate Christmas together.

9:00 PM, December 24 – This service features all the bells and whistles possible for celebrating Christmas. We will sing carols with the choir and strings, hear the story of our faith, share communion, and use incense as a visible reminder of our prayers before God. This service is a beautiful way to welcome Christmas together.

10:00 AM, December 25 – This Christmas morning service is in the chapel, has plenty of parking, and is a quiet and meaningful celebration of the birth of our Lord. We will hear the story of Christ's birth, break bread together, and peacefully reflect on the miracle of God drawing near.

I pray that you can all come and celebrate at one of the services. If you are unable to attend, please tune in on our Facebook page (facebook.com/hiecatlanta) or on You Tube (www.youtube.com/@HIECatlanta)

If you are able, please consider giving to our Christmas offering. This year we will be sharing all of our Christmas donations with outreach programs in Sandy Springs- reaching out to those in need in our community. Please give generously and often!

I hope to see you soon – be it Christmas, in the New Year, or just at a regular Sunday service. We have so very much to be thankful for, so very much to celebrate about, so very much to praise God for. Let us go to Bethlehem together to see what those angels have proclaimed and what we know to be true. God is with us! Emmanuel!

Bill +

2025 Vestry Candidates



Michelle Ventulett is the proud mother of Will (23) and Margaux (20), both graduates of HIES. She has been active in the HIES community for over 22 years and has been a member of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church since her baptism in 2001. Michelle has enjoyed various volunteer roles, including teaching Vacation Bible School and supporting the ESL program. Professionally, she serves as the Director of Marketing for PIMSY EHR, a mental and behavioral health software company, a field she finds deeply rewarding. In her free time, Michelle enjoys photography, traveling, walking, and spending time with her children and friends.



Greg Euston has been a member of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church since 2014. He and his wife, Kimberley, recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary and live in East Cobb. They have three children: Christopher, a banker in Manhattan; Alex, a high school science teacher in Phoenix; and Katherine, a chemistry student at Furman University. All three children were confirmed at Holy Innocents and served as acolytes. Greg is an active participant in the Men of Holy Innocents and recently served on the Stewardship Committee. Professionally, he is the president of McGraw Euston Associates, a public relations and corporate communications consultancy. Outside of church, he has served on the boards of the Georgia Conservancy and A Thousand Summers.



Rick Otness has been a member of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church for 27 years. He moved to Atlanta with his wife, Maureen, and son, Eric, in 1992. The family initially attended St. Martin in the Fields and later St. David's before discovering Holy Innocents. Before moving to Atlanta, Rick served on the Vestry and as Stewardship Chair at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenwich, Connecticut. At Holy Innocents, he has primarily volunteered as an usher, first at the 9:15 AM service and now at the 8:00 AM service.



Tricia Carlson is a lifelong Episcopalian and has been a member of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church for 35 years. She has contributed to the church in various ways, including helping with EYC, participating in foyers, teaching Sunday School, and serving on the Altar Guild. She is currently a member of the Flower Guild and the Strategic Planning Committee. Recently retired, Tricia enjoys spending time with her two grown daughters and grandchild.



Ellison Losin is a ninth grader at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School and has been part of the Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church community for the past five years. She has volunteered as a counselor at the church's Vacation Bible School for the past four years and is involved in various clubs at HIES. This past fall, she was a member of the HIES volleyball team and remains active in the fine arts program. Outside of school and church, Ellison plays tennis at UTA in Brookhaven.



Lucy Peterson is a ninth grader at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School and has been a member of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church since 2016. She volunteers for Vacation Bible School, serves as an acolyte, and is an active participant in the youth group. Outside of her church involvement, Lucy plays soccer for both Southern Soccer Academy and HIES. She is also a Golden Bear Guide student ambassador, a member of the yearbook staff, and participates in multiple clubs at her school.



Annual Meeting

JANUARY 26, 9:00 AM

Join us in Inglett Hall for a special time of fellowship as we review our ministry's finances, reflect on 2023's accomplishments, and embrace the vision for the year ahead. Let's step forward together in faith and community!

CONNECT

PARISH RETREAT

Camp Kanuga

FEBRUARY 14-16

RECHARGE, CONNECT, AND INSPIRE: BUILDING UP HOLY INNOCENTS TOGETHER

Join us this Presidents Day weekend at Kanuga Conference Center in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina for a beloved parish tradition! This all-ages retreat is a time for fellowship, fun, and connection. Whether you're new to the church or a longtime member, this weekend is for you.

Our theme, "Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11), invites us to dream about our church's future as a welcoming, faith-filled community. Highlights include shared meals, engaging conversations, a service project, and plenty of laughter.

Friday February 15 dinner through Sunday February 16 lunch.

Cost: \$375 single / \$575 double
(children/youth free with a parent)

Register now with the QR code!



Our retreat leader, The Rev. Daniel P. Strandlund, is rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in High Point, NC. Daniel has served churches in Alabama and Texas. He holds an MA in Systematic and Philosophical Theology and recently began a DPhil in theology at the University of Oxford. Daniel enjoys music, travel, exercise, and playing Dungeons & Dragons. He and his wife, Lucy, also a priest, live in Winston-Salem, NC, with their cat and lively extended family.

THANK YOU, HOLY INNOCENTS!

We are deeply grateful to the 190 households who have already pledged, helping us celebrate \$1,350,540 raised toward our 2025 goal of \$1,540,000. Your generosity fuels our shared mission of "Nurturing Faith and Cultivating Community."

This year's campaign supports exciting growth in children and youth ministries, outreach, worship, and the expansion of our Spanish-speaking ministry. If you haven't pledged yet, there's still time to join us in building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Every pledge makes a difference as we strive to reach our goal! Thank you for your commitment to our shared ministry. *Together, we can accomplish so much.* You can pledge online at holynnocs.org/give/

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 9

Reading Connections 6:00 PM

DECEMBER 15

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

FOMA: Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus 4:30 PM

DECEMBER 20

Men of HI: Third Friday 7:30 AM

DECEMBER 22

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Club 45: Christmas Party 9:00 AM

Children's Choir 10:15 AM

DECEMBER 24

Chapel Service 10:00 AM

Spanish Speaking Eucharist 12:00 PM

Christmas Pageant 3:00 PM

Eucharist with Carols 6:00 PM

Eucharist, Carols, and Incense 9:00 PM

DECEMBER 25

Eucharist 10:15 AM

JANUARY 5

Family Epiphany Party 5:00-7:00 PM

JANUARY 6

Reading Connections

JANUARY 8

GLOW 6:00-7:00 PM

JANUARY 9

Women of HI: Vision Board 6:00-8:00 PM

JANUARY 12

Youth Group 4:00-6:00 PM

JANUARY 13

Reading Connections 6:00 PM

JANUARY 14

Men's Dinner and a Book

JANUARY 16

Gallery Opening 6:00-7:30 PM

JANUARY 17

Men of HI: Third Friday 7:30 AM

JANUARY 26

Annual Meeting

Children's Choir



**HOLY INNOCENTS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

805 Mt. Vernon Hwy NW
Atlanta, GA 30327

FOMA Presents

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS

December 15 | 4:30-5:30 PM

Holiday favorites and the combination of beauty, camp,
power, and joy that only the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus can.