

THE GOOD NEWS

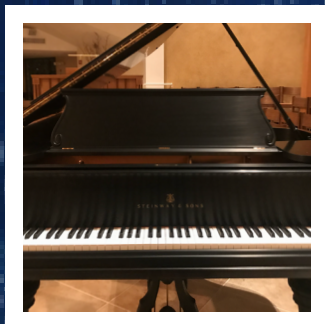
@ Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

January 2021 - Issue No. 5



New Priest on the Block:

Get to know Rev. Ruth, the newest addition to our staff, on **pg 2**



Musical ROI:

Dr. Vogt shares photos and info about our recent piano restoration on **pg 3**

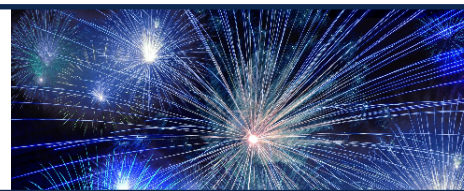


Outreach Spotlight:

This month's spotlight focuses on Horizons Atlanta. Check it out on **pg 6**

Happy New Year!

Rev. Kenya Thompson



Our decorations are stored away, the last Christmas cookie has been eaten, the days are shorter, and we are settled in for an Atlanta winter. This is usually the time of year when many people make New Year's resolutions: I will eat fewer desserts, work out more, read scripture every day, keep in touch with my friends and family... While I think resolutions can be helpful, we should also be mindful that things can quickly change and our grand plans for ourselves and our families may not come to fruition. Plans made for work, school, and leisure in 2020 came to halt in mid-February. Abruptly, we were thrust into a cavern of uncertainty; our lives changed, and our plans changed. Suddenly, we could not be together on Sundays, we have had to physically distance ourselves from family and friends, we adorned masks, covering our mouths preventing us from seeing each other smile. We felt anxiety, sadness, and disappointment in response to the change we endured. Yet, we learned to cope with change. We responded to uncertainty with creativity, perseverance, and love. Through prayer and faithfulness, we have been able to find joy in chaos, feel comfort in distress, and see the Light of Christ through the darkness.

As a community we reached out to each other through calls, emails, and cards. We lived into our responsibility to love our neighbors as ourselves by providing necessities to people who were in need and losing hope. Countless tales of generosity on the news each night have restored hope in our hearts and assured us that we can come together despite our differences. While we cannot erase the hurt or disappointment of the past, we can lean into Love, our Balm in Gilead, our healing salve. We can resign ourselves to forgive each other and love each other as God loves us.

We journeyed through Advent, waiting, longing for, and anticipating the future. We celebrated Christmas, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, joy to the world! Here we are. We have arrived on the other side of Christmas. We are in the season of the Epiphany in which we celebrate the manifestation of God through Jesus to all the peoples of the earth. Located in the first period of ordinary time, the season of the Epiphany invites us to reflect on the ways God's love is present in the world. In the context of the church's liturgical calendar, ordinary does not mean routine. Yet, it is during ordinary times, our regular course of living, that we are to live out the message of Christ: a message of love, forgiveness, and mercy. In our ordinary days we are called to an extraordinary task: to let love transform us and guide the way we move in the world. It is in living our ordinary lives that we experience the extraordinary nature of God's love for us and God's faithfulness to us.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in this new year!

A Word from Our Associate Rector

Getting to know

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Rev. Ruth Pattison

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Our new Associate Pastor for Creative Ministries

How and when did you decide to become a priest?

When I was ordained 26 years ago, I would have said that “the call” was like the life of a river. But pondering anew the answer has changed shape a little. It’s kind of raw and plain: by the time I was three, I had become a motherless daughter.

It compelled me to embrace pain and hold sorrow; to see it, say it, and not run away from it. Priesthood is a place that guarantees the opportunity to hold pain, to embrace sorrow.

The other piece is the profound sense of meaninglessness that her death lodged deep in my bones. My journey has always been about finding ways to say that something, even my own self, matters. Priests are meaning makers. That’s what we do. And we do it with you, around the sacraments. We get to break a loaf of bread at a table and say it means something, and we get to raise the glass - to life over death!

What is something that you love in your life as a priest?

I have always loved the scriptures, to preach, sing, study, act it out, anything. For that matter, I have created a Bible Study process that I call “Illuminated Pages,” so I’ll tell you about that, as the something I love.

In the ancient church, sacred manuscripts were illuminated, with gold gilded figures, deep reds and brilliant blues, even colorful dragon-like creatures from Celtic lore. Monks did the work. Scribes in monasteries used exotic ingredients like turmeric and saffron, and resin secreted by insects, to make paint colors! In Illuminated Pages, you are the urban monk, the modern scribe whose tools are a little different, but we make our own marks and illuminate

the manuscripts. Artwork, right on the pages of the holy book! It sounds a little scandalous, but it’s actually a very ancient, holy practice.

What are some of your hopes and dreams for your time at HIEC?

Well? Who knows what we’ll be doing in the post-pandemic era, but my hope is to embolden the church to be creative. More specifically, I hope to continue my work of what I call a “pop-up studio for the pastoral arts.”

I use the term “pastoral arts” to suggest that we can use art for the care and nurture of our own souls. Art itself is powerful, freeing, and healing. “Pop-up” means it can happen anywhere, with broad possibilities. I provide space and supplies, in a studio, because we are all trying to “make something” of our spiritual lives. I could tell you what to think or what you need in your life with God. But you will not think it until it is your own thought, and you will not find it until it is your own discovery. Mindful art helps us find those answers and make those discoveries, ourselves.

What is one fun fact that we may not know about you?

For a year now, I have worked with Rosie’s Roofing. My husband, Benno, and I are a team. We climb the roof, inspect, and write a proposal. It is holy work and thrilling inspiration. The Wise Men followed a star that stopped and stayed over a house that sheltered the Christ Child. We figure that means every roof shelters the holy one, and God can be found there, in human form. We sort of see ourselves as kings who have come to honor him. I have diversified now by accepting the interim associate job for another House of God, called Holy Innocents’.



Music Stewardship

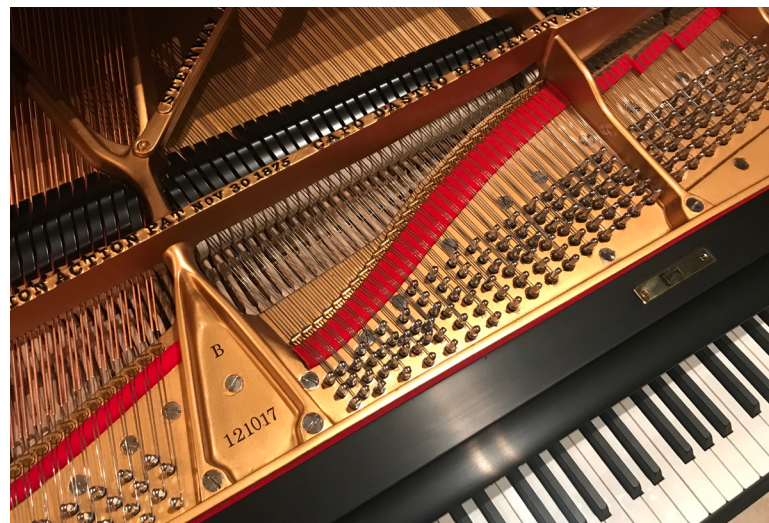
Dr. Sean Vogt

Stewardship comes in many forms. When I arrived to HIEC, there was discussion on the need for a new piano. I appreciated that Bill had wanted to wait until the new Music Director arrived so they could decide what would best fit them and their vision for the program. Whenever we rented a piano for Friends of Music concerts, between \$1k-\$2k per concert, I tried to program Sunday morning music around that resource. It was clear that a good piano for worship and concerts was needed.

Sitting in Bishop Commons was a 1900-1910 Steinway B - the B designates size. It had been moved to a corner and become an unplayable piece of furniture with a scratched body, details chipped away, or with huge chunks of wood gone. The potential return on investment (ROI) was significant so a video was created to help educate everyone, including myself, on precisely what we had and what needed to be done.

Additionally, there is a history that would be sad to erase simply for something new. The piano was owned by former HIEC Organist/Choirmaster Allen Wolbrink (1977-1987), given to Griff and Dede Callahan who, in turn, gave it to HIEC. From a stewardship perspective, refurbishing the piano seemed a better investment. A new piano with this level of detail would cost around \$150,000. An investment of \$45,000 brought that former piano back to life. Special thanks to those who made this possible: Sally and Pete Parsonson, Cammie Ives and Dave Stockert, Pick and Libby Lindsay, and the Friends of Music. Thank you!

Please, watch this video (<https://youtu.be/QEDwAStEiww>) to learn why and what we had. It's extremely interesting. Before and after photos provided by Jess Ruiz in Communications and Marketing. Be on the lookout for future concerts, streamed virtually, showcasing the refurbished piano in conjunction with our sanctuary's new A/V system.



Wait for it

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Renee Stephens



In the weeks leading up to Christmas, HIEC children met weekly over Zoom and talked about waiting and preparing for the mystery of Christmas. Our Advent series was called “Wait For It,” and we heard the stories of John the Baptist preparing for the Savior and the Angel Gabriel preparing Mary to carry Jesus; our last big idea of the month was “Jesus is the one we’ve been waiting for.”

We also met in person and recorded the Christmas pageant with masks and social distancing. While the pandemic has challenged us to find new and creative ways of connecting and learning, it is exactly in these hard times that our hearts are open to hear the whispers of the Holy Spirit.

So I hope and pray, even amidst all of this waiting, that the mystery of Christmas has brought a fresh nudge to your heart this year.



On Saturday, December 5 four of our very own HIEC youth stepped into the spotlight to lead an event for the rest of our youth group. This special gathering had 34 youth in attendance and began with a cookie decorating contest! Each youth received a custom box with a Christmas baby Yoda cookie and three bags of icing. One of our leaders, Elliot Stewart, explained that the objective was for each youth to make their Yoda cookie look as close to the supplied picture of Yoda as possible. Our four youth leaders then worked together to vote on a winner, Meg Hyser, who received a Starbucks gift card!

Following the cookie-decorating (and eating) portion of the event, our leaders kicked off the worship service with meditation to a song we used to sing in Sunday school: “You Make Beautiful Things.” Chase Pellettieri then read the scripture for the day, followed by Tyler Smith who led a prayer she wrote for the occasion. I then shared a quick sermon with the youth that focused on finding Christ’s light in this darkness and the symbolism behind Christmas lights. The service then concluded with a worship response activity led by Regan Kelly.

A special thank you to our four youth leaders who helped create a beautiful memory for our HIEC youth: Elliot Stewart, Chase Pellettieri, Tyler Smith, and Regan Kelly!

Youth Led

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CHRIST mas

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Party &

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Worship Service

Megan Atkinson



Looking Beyond the Virtual

Outreach Spotlight by Karen Calhoun

Horizons at HIES was once again privileged to serve 130 Sandy Springs K-8 scholars this summer. And though the pandemic changed some of the details, the cornerstones of the program remained the same. The goal for the summer of 2020 was to provide a fun, engaging, and educational Horizons at Home experience, uniquely and distinctly different from the remote schooling provided to our scholars earlier in the year.

This summer, students enjoyed live virtual instruction, video field trips, and hands-on activities such as growing plants from seeds, building and testing solar robots and SNAP circuits, and engaging reading and math pursuits designed to improve skills and build confidence. Programming centered on

a Global Awareness theme, and students began each day with a (virtual) global affirmation committed to celebrating differences and abolishing hate. Interaction with top-notch resources such as IXL Math, Lexia Reading, and the Seesaw app allowed students to learn, create and post items to personalized digital portfolios. The remarkable Horizons at HIES staff assembled virtual learning kits that contained school supplies, books, materials to enhance hands-on learning, and the coveted Horizons t-shirt! I-pads and regular food support were made available to families as needed to ensure the basic access and nutritional needs of our students were met.

Because we know that the virtual learning environment has a negative

impact, especially on low-income students, our school year programming schedule has been enhanced to provide additional academic, social, and emotional support. Students are meeting monthly, now on campus (thanks to the generous, ongoing donation of space by HIES); church members have been graciously providing delicious, healthy breakfasts for each session.

As long as public health guidelines allow, students will continue to gather (socially distanced and masked) on campus monthly so that Horizons can continue the important work of closing the opportunity gap and allowing children to achieve their dreams.



Horizon

Did you know?

Horizons National serves over 6,000 students across the U.S.; approximately 1,000 students are engaged through Horizons Atlanta at nine program sites. The HIES location evolved out of an HIEC outreach ministry created to serve local students over 25 years ago.

Students join Horizons the summer after their kindergarten year, and remain in the program through high school. Horizons is supported entirely by grants and individual donations, plus in-kind donations of space from independent schools and universities. The major program expenses are teacher salaries, bus transportation, and meal service.

How can I get involved?

- Pray for Horizons students, their families, Horizons staff, and teachers
- Provide breakfast for monthly Super Saturday programs (socially distant drop-off)
- Consider financial support or student sponsorship

Want to learn more?

To learn more, please contact:

Kate Kratovil, Site Director
(Kate.Kratovil@hies.org)

Karen Calhoun
(kncahoun@yahoo.com)

Visit www.hies.org/campus-life/horizons





THE GOOD NEWS

HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*805 Mount Vernon Highway
Atlanta, Georgia 30327
404.255.4023
holyinnocents.org*

WORSHIP TIMES

Online Services: Sundays at 10AM on Facebook and YouTube
Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday at 9AM on Facebook

CLERGY

Rev. Dr. Bill Murray, *Rector*
Rev. Kenya Thompson, *Associate Rector for Christian Community*
Rev. John Porter, *Sunday Associate for Outreach*
Rev. Ruth Pattison, *Associate for Creative Ministries*
Rev. Antonio Brito, *Associate for Hispanic Ministries*

VESTRY

Laura Foster, *Senior Warden*
Rosalyn Devine, *Junior Warden*
Brent Farnham, *Treasurer*
Greg Binney, *Assistant Treasurer*

Holly Chesser	Doug Peterson
James Gates	Nicole Rash
Marilyn Kimball	Fred Stewart
Kathie Larkin	Lever Stewart
Tommy Newton	Pete Vaky
Regan Kelly	Chase Pellettieri

MEMORIALS GIFTS

RECEIVED NOV 25 - DEC 15

*In memory of
Lee Schweiger:*

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MollyO Wagner

*In memory of
Charlotte Walker:*

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*Susan Rooker
Leslie Hale
Fran Morrow
Katherine Reedy*