



HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE REV. DR. BILL MURRAY

Rector | bmurray@holyinnocents.org

THE REV. T. STEWART LUCAS

Vicar | slucas@holyinnocents.org

THE REV. RUTH PATTISON

Associate Rector
rpattison@holyinnocents.org

A ROAD IN CAPERNAUM

A Word from
The Rev. Bill Murray



I am standing on a road in Capernaum. It is a first-century road in a small town on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Behind me is

the synagogue, and two houses over is the home of Simon Peter. For the archaeologists and skeptics of the world, we cannot be completely sure if that particular spot was Peter's house. But there are only about 100 buildings in this tiny little town built of basalt stone. So, one of these houses has to be Peter's home because scripture tells us this is where Peter lived. And there is only one synagogue, which is where Jesus taught and shared scripture in his ministry. Here is where Jesus' ministry began—on the quiet, peaceful shores of Galilee. And

**"We stayed in
Nazareth and
saw the...home
of our Messiah."**

I am not sure what to do with that information, with the view of water, with the smells of flowers in the air, with the dark stones that make up these tiny homes.

For two weeks, 29 generous and searching souls went from site to site wrestling with those same questions. We visited Bethlehem where we saw the shepherds' field and the cave where Jesus was born. We stayed in Nazareth and saw the tiny, provincial town of 200 that was home to our messiah. We walked Roman roads in three different archaeological sites that were designated National Parks in Israel. Each likely locations where Jesus walked and talked, ate and drank, taught and shared. And none of us were able to wrap our head around all that it means.



I know that because we talked about it in small conversations over drinks and in group reflections in open fields. We all know that Jesus was a real, living human being. To stand in a place where he stood—well, that is something altogether different.

I am positive that knowing the sights, the smells, the geography, and the people of the Holy Land will impact all of my teaching and understanding of scripture. One of my professors once likened a pilgrimage to Jerusalem as a before and after. Before you go, it is like watching a show on black and white TV. After you go, it is like watching in full HD color. The stories are all the same, but everything is brighter, bolder, and far more complex.

“The journey was holy...because we shared our hearts, our hopes, our faith with one another on the way.”

As I reflect and pray on what this journey means to me, I come back again and again to the words with which we ended our journey. In the ruins of a church in Emmaus, we heard the Easter story where Jesus walks on the Way with two disciples. The followers of Jesus do not recognize him until they ask him to stay with them. He is then made known to them in the “breaking of the bread” (Luke 24:13-35.) Recalling that story, we shared a final eucharist together, we broke bread, and remembered the Easter story where it happened. But what draws me to that story both then and now is that the disciples talk not about the location or communion but what happened on the way. As Luke records the story, “They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the way?’” The two unnamed and unknown disciples are overjoyed that they were talking and sharing and learning on the road.

The Easter story, then and now, is not about the destination. It is about the people who walk with us on the path. For me, the sacred part of our journey

was spending time with 28 other folks all seeking God together. The journey was holy, not because we were in Israel or Jerusalem or dozens of different churches, but because we shared our hearts, our hopes, our faith with one another on the way. We will find ways to talk about the journey in more detail in the months and years

ahead. But what I treasure most is time shared with good people—either on the shore of Galilee or in a church on Mt. Vernon or somewhere else on the way. That is why we walk the way together, because that is where we find God.



Welcome Stewart, Amelia, Taylor, and Emily!

Getting to Know Our New Clergy and Staff



The Rev. Stewart Lucas, Vicar, a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, has worked in ministry at churches in Baltimore and Annapolis, most recently at the

Church of the Nativity and Comforter. He is married to Doug, a life-long Episcopalian from Huntsville, AL. Stewart and Doug, along with their 18-month-old Basset hound Esther, are looking forward to coming back home to Georgia to be closer to family and the Bulldogs.

Where did you grow up?

Macon, Georgia

Do you have siblings?

One older brother who is a surgeon in Charleston, SC. One nephew and two nieces. Two godsons in Athens and two goddaughters in Nashville and Birmingham.

What are you most looking forward to about being in the Atlanta area?

In addition to meeting all our new Holy Innocents' Church family, we're excited to be close to Publix, Zaxby's, Krystal, the University of Georgia, and of course our family and friends.

How did you come about the decision to get ordained?

Oh gosh. This is a long story told best in a sermon! But I can tell you that I am a lifelong Episcopalian and that I was named after an Episcopal priest, T. Stewart Matthews.

What is one fun fact people may not know about you?

That I was an extra in "House of Cards." Twice! Once as a Congressman and once as an acolyte!

What are your hobbies, favorite things to do in your free time?

Gardening, cooking, entertaining, antiquing, woodworking, and playing the piano and organ.



Amelia Simmons, Director of Communications, comes to HIEC after five years as Director of Communications at First Methodist Church in Athens. She graduated from Wofford College with

a BA in art history, and earned a BFA from UGA in graphic design. Amelia and her husband Brandon have one young son, Wilson.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm a wife, mother, artist, hostess, and aspiring tennis star! Growing up I dreamed of law school and diplomatic work at the United Nations, but after spending a semester in the hometown of Paul Cezanne, Aix-en-Provence, I decided I wanted to create art—not just write about it.

So are you an artist?

I took studio classes in a variety of different disciplines at UGA and continue to practice painting. I've hosted one solo show and hope to do more in the future.

How did your summers picking up pool towels prepare you for where you are today?

As a recreation attendant at the Ritz Carlton in Amelia Island, FL, I realized that the most important part of my job was hospitality. No matter what industry you are in, customer experience is paramount and good communication is good hospitality.

Tell us about your interest in tennis.

My dad was a collegiate tennis player and I played dominated mix doubles in tournaments with my grandfather. I didn't play much after high school, but jumped back in recently. Parishoner Alex Allen is on my tennis team, and the rest is history! Everything about tennis is fun—practice and competing in matches. This is how I feel the design process should be. From ideation to implementation your experience should be enjoyable and edifying. Each part of my story informs why and how I design. I look forward to hearing your stories!



Taylor Irwin, Seminarian, is entering her first year at Candler School of Theology., having just moved here from Macon, where she received a B.S. in Molecular Biology from Mercer University. She

is accompanied by her cat, Josephine March.

Do you have siblings?

I have two little sisters, and we grew up in the small town of Harlem, Georgia.

How did decide to attend Candler?

Candler offers varied training options, and their mission statement speaks of “ecumenical openness” which I learned was a call to the commitment of unity within the greater church body. There’s a lot of division right now within our churches, but the Bible teaches us the importance of church unity. I wanted to be a part of a school that taught me to think openly both about what I believe and about how I treat the people around me even when they are different from me.

As a hiker, do you have a favorite place to hike in GA?

Tallulah Gorge, it’s a fun but challenging hike with a nice spot to swim/slide down the rocks at the end. I have hiked all of the Appalachian Trail here in Georgia and stretching into North Carolina. I hope to complete the whole trail one day.

Your cat is named after a character in *Little Women*. Is that your favorite book?

I love all sorts of classic novels. Picking a favorite book is hard!! I will say one of my favorite authors is Oscar Wilde. I love his books and his poetry.

What is one fun fact people may not know about you?

I love music, especially playing music. I’ve been playing guitar since I was 12, and I love percussion instruments. My current endeavor is learning to play the banjo!



Emily Badacour, Communications Associate

Tell us a little about yourself.

I am an only child. I have a wide range of interest, from hiking to cooking to knitting.

I am a dog mom to a spaniel mix, Hudson. He is six years old and goes everywhere with me!

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Chickamauga, Georgia, a small Civil War town outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The area is so beautiful! I have spent countless hours running in the battlefield and hiking at Cloudland Canyon.

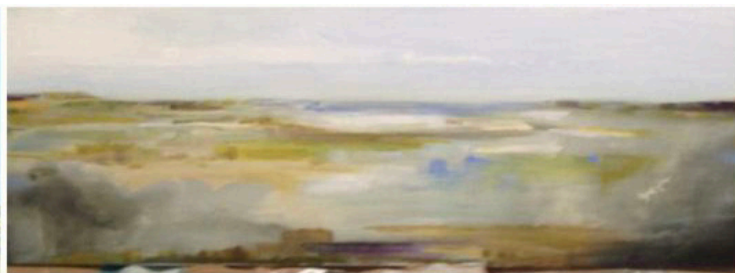
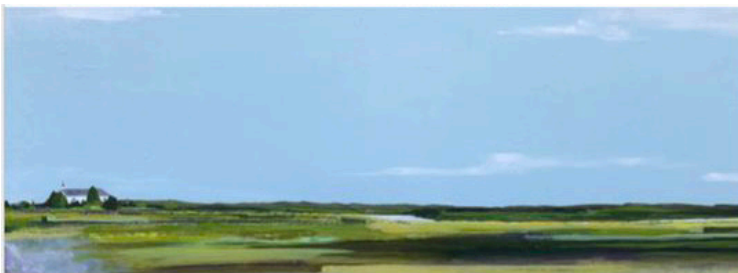
Where did you go to school?

I am a recent graduate of Kennesaw State University!

How did you pick History as a major?

I’ve always been fascinated by history! As a child, I enjoyed learning Bible stories for the historical aspect. I was constantly exposed to history. My high school, Gordon Lee, was built in the early 1900s. Next door was a mansion that was used as headquarters by both sides in the Civil War. Numerous times I’d eat my lunch on the mansion’s front porch, thinking about events of previous eras.

My A.P. United States History class solidified my love of learning. My studies at Kennesaw focused on American history.

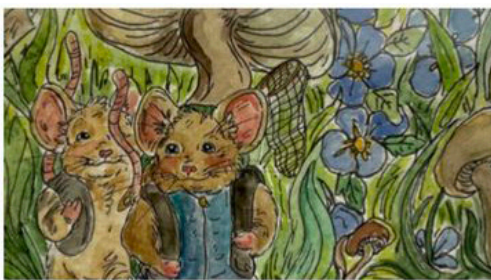


THE VENTULETT GALLERY PRESENTS

Waterways & Whimsy

featuring paintings from

Virginia Sloan & Cecilia Cassarino



Ventulett Gallery Presents

Historically, churches have been places of creativity where the arts flourish as outward and visible signs of God's life and presence among us. For those who may not know, the Ventulett Gallery was designed by parishioner, architect, artist, and friend Tom Ventulett during the church's 2012 renovation. He wanted the space to be a venue for artistic expression of the highest possible standards that elevate and educate our parish and community about the power of art to inspire and promote curiosity. Since its inception, we have welcomed many artists from both near and far leading a pathway to the inclusiveness, creativity, diversity, and innovation that are hallmarks of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church. The Ventulett Gallery continues to reflect our commitment to this important and life-giving work, pushing us to see and celebrate God in all things.

We look forward to showcasing the work of Virginia Sloan Cecelia Cassarino now through October 20.

Bianca Cato Office | bcato@holyinnocents.org



Adult Groups

Dinner with Friends | Foyers Group

A Foyers group is a random collection of eight people from church, who don't already know each other, with the sole purpose of sharing a meal and getting acquainted. Foyers captures Holy Innocents' "Open Minds, Full Hearts" spirit. The meals are meant to be simple, inexpensive, and stress-free. For each dinner gathering, two participants co-host a meal. There are options other than the household setting where you can host the meal when it's your turn. Consider a picnic in the park, or a restaurant, or book the firepit at Holy Innocents. Sign up this Sunday outside the nave or email the Rev. Ruth Pattison. By mid-October, we plan to scramble the names and present the groups of eight.

The Rev. Ruth Pattison | rpattison@holyinnocents.org

Women of Holy Innocents Fall Gathering | October 13

All ladies are welcome to join the Women of Holy Innocents from 6:00-8:00 PM at the fire pit! We are requesting last names A-M bring wine/beer/beverage and N-Z bring an appetizer or dessert. You don't want to miss an evening of friendship and fun!

The Rev. Ruth Pattison | rpattison@holyinnocents.org

Younger Adults' Small Group | October 16

Seminarian Trey Davis invites you to join this fun group for first meeting this fall following the 10:15 AM service. This time we'll gather for Hearth Pizza in Sandy Springs. The small group will meet monthly and is open to friends and partners of our twenty and thirty something members. The topics of discussion will be plentiful and a new avenue to grow community.

Trey Davis | trey.davis@emory.edu | 318-517-9862

Men of Holy Innocents Low Country Boil | October 16

Come join the Men of HIEC for food, fellowship, and fun at our annual low country boil on the banks of the Chattahoochee. The address is 1665 Lazy River Lane and will take place on Sunday, October 16 at 5:30 PM. The cost is \$25. Check your weekly email for a registration link or contact Dave Stockert to sign up.

Dave Stockert | stockert.dave@gmail.com

UPCOMING

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

EVENTS

All events are in Holy Innocents' sanctuary unless otherwise noted.



KIRKIN OF THE TARTANS

October 23, 2022 | 11:30 AM

Known as “Atlanta’s Busiest Bagpipe Band” the Atholl Highlanders will present a full tartan processional during our 10:15 AM service with a competition style show during our picnic at the Middle School Circle.



SHAWN KIRCHNER

November 6, 2022 | 10:15 AM

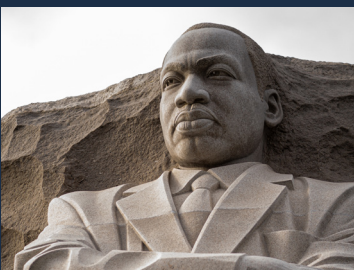
One of the most celebrated choral composers today, and a favorite from last season, we happily welcome back Shawn Kirchner. We will feature a new Mass setting specifically for Holy Innocents written in Shawn’s energetic Appalachian style.



LESSONS & CAROLS WITH THE GEORGIA BOY CHOIR

December 11, 2022 | 7:00 PM

A perennial liturgical favorite of our parish brought to life by candlelight and the sounds of the internationally traveled Georgia Boy Choir.



LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

January 20, 2023 | 7:00 PM

Sisters Chapel, Spelman College

Postponed from the pandemic, this interfaith event will feature a new arrangement of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by Dr. Kevin Johnson, Director of the Spelman College Glee Club. We will be joined by the choirs of Spelman, Morehouse, Clayton State, and Holy Innocents for this event, accompanied by gospel instrumentalists.

**“(We)
had an
absolute
blast this
summer”**

**-MEGAN
ATKINSON**

VBS Volunteers: A Testament of God’s Love

Megan Atkinson, Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

Holy Innocents’ Church had an absolute blast this summer hosting Vacation Bible School for our wonderful community! 32 of our youth group members worked alongside an amazing team of adult volunteers to help make June 6-10 a special week for the children. These teenagers completed two training courses, attended decorating day, and donated items to help prepare for a week of learning and fellowship. They then served as class and station leaders throughout the week and spent four hours a day ministering to and supporting the children. With the help of the adult volunteers, these youth led games, science experiments, and crafts that all pertained to the Bible story the children learned throughout each day. We are so thankful for these youth and for all those selfless volunteers who transformed a boring summer week into a beautiful testament of God’s love and support of all children.

The Glory of God

Renee Stephens, Children’s Ministry

“We have this treasure in clay jars, that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

–2 Corinthians 4:7

**“We
have
this
treasure
in clay
jars”**

**-APOSTLE
PAUL**

99 Kids, 46 volunteers and the power and presence of God made for the most joyous week of VBS. We want to offer a huge thank you to everyone who made June 6-10 such an incredible week of ministry for Holy Innocents! In VBS as in all other aspects of life, we do the planning, cross our t’s and then also remember that it is God’s power at work within us to do all of this. The world sees us, but what we are is a reflection of the of the glory of God. Everything good that we see and experience is only a foretaste of the glory and peace of God which is freely offered everyone. This was the focus of our VBS week as seen in our signal verse: “Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord’s glory has shone upon you.” –Isaiah 60:1

Our VBS follow up event was also a great success and witness to the glory of God. We are hugely grateful to the Sandy Springs Fire Department for donating their time and energy to bring joy to our church family and also very grateful for the many hands who helped to plan and prepare for the Church picnic and all of the children’s activities! We give thanks to God for all of the great things that are happening for the children and families of Holy Innocents.





Youth: Not too Busy for God

Director of Children and Youth: Megan Atkinson

When I was growing up, extracurricular activities were encouraged but not prioritized by schools and universities. This meant my childhood could be filled with only one or two activities in addition to the usual homework and church. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case as the academic world has taken charge and declared extracurriculars as the only way for students to “stand out.”

While this new paradigm has certainly impacted the families of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, it has not diminished the life of the Holy Innocents’ youth group. Over the summer, we had 32 incredible students volunteer for Vacation Bible School. These students dedicated over 20 hours of their time to help make Vacation Bible School a special week for our children. Since then, they have attended a Braves game, made a splash at a pool party, studied the Bible at Small Group, and have started Sunday school weekly at 9: 00 AM.

Amid hours of homework, two-a-day practices, cello lessons, and AP classes, the our youth have found a way to “stand out” not as extracurricular champions but as extraordinary Christians. These students who have taken it upon themselves to prioritize church can serve as an inspiration not only to myself but to all church members struggling to fit church into their busy schedules.

Connect

Clergy

THE REV. DR. BILL MURRAY *Rector*
bmurray@holyinnocents.org

THE REV. T. STEWART LUCAS *Vicar*
slucas@holyinnocents.org

THE REV. RUTH PATTISON *Associate Rector*
rpattison@holyinnocents.org

THE REV. ANTONIO BRITO *Associate for Hispanic Ministries*
abrito@stdavidchurch.org

THE REV. JOHN PORTER *Assisting Priest*
john.porter@forgingfutures.org

Music

DR. SEAN VOGT *Director of Music*
svogt@holyinnocents.org

DR. HANNAH BYUN *Assistant Director of Music*
hbyun@holyinnocents.org

Children & Youth

MEGAN ATKINSON
Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry
matkinson@holyinnocents.org

RENEE STEPHENS | *Assistant Director of Children's Ministries*
rstephens@holyinnocents.org

VALERIE ELLIOTT & HARRIETTE WALLACE *Nursery Staff*

Administration & Support

CAROLINE FLEMING *Parish Administrator*
cfleming@holyinnocents.org

MELODY MCNEIL *Executive Assistant for the Clergy*
mmcneil@holyinnocents.org

CAMILLE WALLER *Parish Accountant*
accounting@holyinnocents.org

BIANCA CATO *Office Manager & Special Events Coordinator*
bcato@holyinnocents.org

AMELIA SIMMONS *Director of Communications*
communications@holyinnocents.org

EMILY BADACOUR *Communications Associate*
ebadacour@holyinnocents.org

ISABELLY LUCIANO *Sexton*

SUSANA MUNEVAR *Sunday Sexton*



The Good News



HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

805 Mount Vernon Highway NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30327
404.255.4023 | holynnocents.org

WORSHIP TIME

SUNDAY SERVICE

In-person | 8:00, 10:15 AM, & 6:00 PM

LIVESTREAM

10:15 AM on Facebook & Youtube

MORNING PRAYER

Monday-Friday | 9:00 AM | Facebook

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 10/13 Women's Gathering
- 10/15 Harry Potter Children's Party
- 10/16 Men's Gathering
- Young Adults Lunch
- Hocus Pocus Youth Party
- 10/23 Kirkin' O' the Tartans & Stewardship Ingathering

NOVEMBER

- 11/6 All Saints' Sunday
- 11/7 Basketball League
- 11/11-12 Diocesan Council
- 11/27 Youth Advent Wreath Fundraiser

DECEMBER

- 12/11 Lessons & Carols
- 12/24 3:00 PM Children's Pageant
- 6:00 & 9:00 PM
- Christmas Eve Liturgy
- 12/25 10:15 AM Worship Service

Memorials & Gifts

RECEIVED MAY 1 – AUGUST 30

IN MEMORY OF JOHN COLEMAN

Sally and Peter Parsonson

IN MEMORY OF JIM SPENCER

The Atlanta Jaguar Society

IN MEMORY OF LELAND AHERN

Locke Coleman