



# GOOD NEWS

## Together. For Good. In Song.

Saint Augustine of Hippo supposedly said “Qui cantat, bis orat” which translates to “A person who sings prays twice.” No one can exactly place where in his writings this often quoted idea appears. An army chaplain once requested that the troops gathered for a service stand and sing the opening hymn. When few joined in, he stopped and repeated his request with the quote from Augustine, but he added, “If the Lord gave you a great voice, use it to praise God. If you were not gifted with a good voice, sing anyway and get even with Him.”

While I love the idealism of Augustine’s quote, I feel like we may often be closer to the second. What we often miss in our quest to sing well is what actually happens when we sing together. Singing fosters a sense of community and belonging, lowers stress levels, enhances our mood, aids memory and learning, and, yes, helps us express our faith. The Holy Spirit moves among us, weaving our voices into a harmony greater than any one of us could create alone. Music is not just an adornment to our worship—it is at the very heart of what we do together each week: worship God in spirit and in truth.

This is why this next season in our life as a parish is so important. With gratitude for where we have been, we now take the next faithful step in discerning the future of our music ministry. Our summer organist Leslie Boyette will carry us through the end of October. Beginning on November 1, we welcome Randy Romig as our Interim Director of Music. Randy, who guided us through a similar transition six years ago, brings both experience and

steadiness. He is available to serve through June of 2026, ensuring that our choir and program remain strong.

At the same time, we are engaging Dr. Sonya Subbayya Sutton, a distinguished Episcopal musician and consultant, to help us chart the future. Dr. Sutton will be with us the weekend of October 24–26 to meet with the choir, vestry, donors, and congregation. She will also teach during Adult Formation, sharing her wisdom about music ministry and search processes. She will then work with a search committee to help us identify candidates for our next Director of Music.

As we begin this process, I invite you to see it through the lens of our stewardship theme: Together. For Good. Just as pledges of time, talent, and treasure sustain our parish, the gift of music raises up our worship. When we offer our voices and support, God knits them together into something enduring and beautiful—for good.

You’ll also find in this newsletter our Friends of Music brochure, highlighting the remarkable series of concerts planned for this year. These offerings are yet another way music enriches our parish life and extends our ministry to the wider community.

Please keep our choir, our interim leaders, Dr. Sutton, and this search process in your prayers. And may we continue to lift every voice in gratitude and hope, trusting that God will guide us as we sing our way forward.

Faithfully,

# TOGETHER. FOR GOOD.

## TOGETHER. FOR GOOD. The Rev. T. Stewart Lucas

This stewardship tag line that can certainly endure the test of time. These memorable words remind us who we are at Holy Innocents: a community gathered by God, bound together in love, and called to share our gifts for the good of one another and the world.

This spirit is visible in the laughter of children in Sunday School, the voices that lift our worship in song, and the compassion shown through our outreach ministries. Each act of generosity and service becomes part of something larger, building up a church where faith, joy, and connection flourish.

You've also been receiving reflections from fellow parishioners and an invitation to consider how your gifts—of time, talent, and treasure—can strengthen our shared life. Your gift matters. **Your stewardship packets will arrive soon**, and we will gather and bless our pledges in gratitude and hope on October 19.

We're also hosting a different kind of **Ministry Fair** during the **Fall Festival** on October 26 after the 10:15 AM service. While the kids enjoy the Trunk or Treat, you can grab a cup of chili and explore ways to connect your gifts with ministry. It's a joyful chance to learn more about small groups, discover opportunities to serve, and maybe sign up to try something new!

Truly, we are Together. For Good.

## CHANGES AND CHANCES The Rev. Ruth Pattison

Grief isn't measured on a sliding scale. It just is. Unmeasurable. Incomparable. Our souls are a bit like fingerprints. Your soul has hidden nooks and crannies that match no one's, so your grief work is uniquely yours as well. Grief, pain, sorrow, and loss are not relative.

Grief can be subtle like a breeze, silent as night, unidentifiable like déjà vu that makes us wince, or it can roll in like gangbusters. Explosive. Insidious.

And for all sorts of reasons. A minor disappointment that leaves you gutted. Downsizing a whole house, and the life that went with it. Sending a child off to college, or kindergarten. Unwelcome news. Even happy events, like childbirth or marriage, can sprinkle us with loss, for whatever our life 'used' to be. Grief can be a memory. A moment. A resurgence. Grief time-travels, shows up mysteriously in the most random of ways, at other times it's as accessible as an open wound.

These are the "Changes and Chances" of life that weary us. [to quote a prayer from the Daily Office of Compline]

So, What are we to **do**? What are we to **do** when there's nothing that can be done? Well? Actually. There is something we can do. We can do the soul work of it. We can grieve, we can process, we can anchor ourselves in community. We can heal.

There is something we can do. We can show up for a pastoral arts workshop in the Pastoral Arts Studio at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church. Your church. We are offering a 2-part series, **Changes and Chances: A Workshop for all kinds of Grief**. Choose the daytime series, 10:30-12:00 PM, on Wednesdays, November 12 and 19; or the evening series, 6:00-7:30 PM, Thursdays, November 13 and 20. The group will be limited to 10 participants.

# FRIENDS OF MUSIC AND ARTS CONCERT SERIES

We invite you to a rich season filled with inspiring concerts, beloved traditions, and opportunities to make music together. From world-class guest artists to the joyful voices of our own choirs, this series is made possible through your presence, your support, and your gifts. Our Interim Director of Music, Randy Romig, warmly welcomes anyone who would like to sing in the parish choir or learn to ring handbells—no prior experience or music-reading skills required! Meanwhile, Alexis Lundy directs our thriving children's choir, rehearsing during Sunday School and Children's Chapel each week so that our youngest voices can offer their gifts regularly in worship. If you sing, play an instrument, or would like to sponsor an event, we encourage you to reach out—your participation is what makes this ministry flourish. Contact Randy at [music@holynnocents.org](mailto:music@holynnocents.org) to get involved.



## Silk & Sequins

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 4:30 PM CHRIST CHAPEL

This chamber choir weaves together Renaissance brilliance, Japanese-inspired delicacy, lush English lyricism, and contemporary anthems of love, identity, and resilience. Featuring works by Monteverdi, Lassus, Pärt, Izawa, Takemitsu, Finzi, Stanford, and more, across four evocative sets — the concert explores devotion, identity, fragility, and celebration, culminating in a powerful invitation to “see our true colors” and embrace the glittering fullness of self.

## Vaughn Ambroze Jazz Ensemble

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 AT 7:00 PM CHRIST CHAPEL

Vaughn Ambrose, Saxophonist and Performing Arts Chair at St Stephens and St Agnes School and his Sextet share a concert in Christ Chapel. Together, they weave the thread between Jazz, R&B, and Hip Hop with a few Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers charts peppered in.



## Sandro Russo, Concert Pianist

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 3:00 PM NAVE

Sponsored by the Pro Mozart Society of Atlanta.

Praised as “an artist to his fingertips” and “a pianist’s pianist,” he is celebrated for both his masterful interpretations of the classics and his championing of rare repertoire. Born in Italy, Russo studied at the V. Bellini Conservatory and the Royal College of Music before moving to the United States. Russo has released acclaimed recordings on the Steinway & Sons label, including Chopin – Late Masterpieces and Liszt: 12 Transcendental Etudes. [sandrорussopianist.com](http://sandrорussopianist.com)

## HIES Upper School Chorus

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 5:00 PM NAVE

Join us for Advent Lessons and Carols! In the Episcopal tradition, this service intertwines music and scripture, inviting the audience to reflect and prepare for the impending joy of the holidays. The lighting of the Christmas Tree in the Quad follows the service.



# UPCOMING CONCERTS



## Piano Duet Concert

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 12:30 PM *NAVE*

Get into the holiday spirit with lunch at 11:30 AM in Inglett Hall followed by a delightful Christmas Concert featuring our very own Randy Romig and his friend Cathy Adams on our Steinway piano. They'll bring joy to the season as they "tickle the ivories" with festive tunes! Register on Realm for lunch.

## Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 10:15 AM *NAVE*

On this Second Sunday of Advent we'll gather for our annual bilingual celebration of this feast with those who attend our Sunday afternoon Spanish-Speaking service. After this joyful service of worship with special music honoring Mary, the Mother of God. Following the liturgy, we'll gather for a festive lunch filled with food, fellowship, and the vibrant spirit of this beloved tradition. All are welcome—ven y celebra con nosotros!



## Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT 4:30 PM *NAVE*

"It's Just Isn't Christmas Until the Gay Men Sing!" The Chorus is back in our Nave for their Annual Holiday Concert. This is an Atlanta tradition that is not to be missed. The show brings us holiday favorites and the combination of beauty, camp, power, and joy that only the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus can.

## Christmas Eve Worship

10:00 AM

Service in Christ Chapel

3:00 PM

Christmas Pageant with our children singing and telling the Good News.

6:00 & 9:00 PM

Festive Worship with Choir, Organ, Strings, and Handbells



## Winter Choral Festival Concert

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 AT 4:00 PM *NAVE*

Our school will host this second annual gathering of more than 70 fourth and fifth-grade singers from HIES, St. Benedict's, and St. Martin's Episcopal Schools for a full day of music-making. Coordinated by Lower School music teacher Alexis Lundy, the students will learn challenging new repertoire and build community through song. The festival culminates in a spirited concert for families and church members, celebrating collaboration, growth, and our shared Episcopal values.



### Winter Feast & Song

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 *INGLETT HALL*

Something wonderful is cooking at Holy Innocents! Join us in Inglett Hall for a festive dinner and an evening of music, laughter, and fellowship. The program is still in the works, but you won't want to miss it—mark your calendars now and stay tuned for details!

### Evensong

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 AT 6:00 PM *CHRIST CHAPEL*

Join us in the intimate beauty of Christ Chapel as the HIES Upper School Chorus offers the ancient service of Evensong. Rooted in Anglican tradition, this evening liturgy of prayers and choral music invites us into peace, reflection, and beauty at day's end.



### CAC Love Your Neighbor Concert

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 AT 7:00 PM *THE WEBBER SCHOOL THEATER*

Join us for an amazing night full of music and community at this multi-faith concert benefitting the Community Assistance Center. The performance features musicians from various Sandy Springs congregations, including a community choir that was put together just for this event.

### Coro Vocati

SATURDAY, MAY 2 AT 7:00 PM *NAVE*

Recognized as one of the premier professional choral ensembles in the Southeast, the choir features some of the region's most talented vocalists and is known for polished performances that celebrate unique and intriguing programming. With a repertoire that spans the breadth of choral literature—from early music and time-honored classics to new works—Coro Vocati showcases a diversity of musical styles and cultural backgrounds. The ensemble is also a champion of modern composers and remains active in commissioning new works. [www.corovocati.org](http://www.corovocati.org)



## VENTULETT GALLERY OPENINGS

October 16, 6:00-7:30 PM  
Collage Society

February 7, 2:30-4:00 PM  
HIES Students & Alumni

December 11, 6:00-7:30 PM  
Leigh Kershner and Hays Hyre

March 12, 6:00-7:30  
Alisha Morgan

# GOOD NEWS

## LIFE GOES ON **Renee Stephens**

Life hurts sometimes. And yet other times we are filled with such joy and beauty that we wonder what we've even done to deserve such bliss. Both are our lot in life. And as much as we want to linger in those joyful spaces, there is also much to gain from persevering in our sufferings. Whether that's sickness, or loss, or change, or the collective grief of the world, it's part of our human experience.

We long for beauty and meaning in our lives and part of that is found in those utter joyful moments but the other part is found in those moments of suffering where we realize that our life is not in our hands. In that space we find that there is an incredible connection between us and God and all other human beings. When we begin to rest in that truth then we find the grace and courage and resilience to be joyful even when things are really hard.

The changing seasons always remind me of this. I enjoy the summer turning to fall, the reminder that nothing is permanent except for God and God's work in us. Every season has a beginning and an end. So, no matter what season you are in, come and join us this fall. All are welcome and all sorrow and joy is welcome too.



## THE BELLS! BELLS! BELLS! **RANDY ROMIG**

Most of us remember Edgar Allan Poe as the author of short stories of the macabre, but he was also an accomplished poet. One of his finest is titled simply "The Bells." It is a wonderful piece of poetry about the many roles bells play in our lives, from wedding bells, to alarm bells, to tolling bells.

Of course, in the English and later American churches, bells have played a significant part in our worship. For example, at Holy Innocents' every worship service begins with the ringing of a bell before the processional.

Now, it is time to re-form and re-shape our very own handbell choir, to further enhance our already dynamic worship experience. We own a gorgeous set of handbells; all we need are the bell ringers!

Our plan is to have our very own handbell choir ring for a service of Lessons and Carols on the morning of December 21. To make that a reality, we will have rehearsals of our bell ringers immediately after morning worship (from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM) on these dates:

- November 2 and November 16
- December 7 and December 14

Yes, we can do this! But we need ten ringers. I hope you will consider helping out this important ministry of our church. I welcome your calls or emails with questions or concerns: [rfromig@yahoo.com](mailto:rfromig@yahoo.com) or 404-915-6684.

Folks, we have many smaller communities within the larger family/community at HIEC. Our handbell choir offers yet another opportunity for community. I welcome you to the "bell community."

# GOOD NEWS

## PARISH ADMINISTRATOR CORNER: GRATITUDE, GROWTH, & GOOD NEWS Caroline Fleming

Thanks to your faithful generosity, pledge giving is right on track with our budget, and we've been able to keep expenses within budget. Our annual audit has been completed and reviewed by both the Finance Committee and the Vestry, and we're grateful to report that the church is in strong financial health with no significant issues. We are well-positioned to carry our mission forward with confidence in the year ahead.

Through your generous support, we were able to donate \$34,665 to Holy Innocents' Church in Parmalee, South Dakota, to help them rebuild after their church was lost to fire. Bill is attending the dedication of their new building, carrying with him a our gift of altar linens. What a beautiful reminder of how our shared faith can make a lasting difference beyond our own walls.

As we all know, buildings need care as they age, and we're excited to share that several long-awaited improvements are underway. We replaced two TVs in Inglett Hall with larger

ones with remote access for tech support (\$6,000) and are repurposing the smaller ones in other places. The dimmer for the Nave, which has not been working correctly for two years, will be replaced so we can once again enjoy proper lighting during worship (appx. \$60,000). We are also enhancing our technology by adding live-streaming and sound in the chapel (appx. \$20,000), which will serve weddings, funerals, and concerts. For safety, we will be installing a doorbell at the front single door (appx. \$7,000), which will allow us to keep the front doors locked during the day. This important step will help protect our school students and teachers, as well as our clergy and staff.

These projects reflect our commitment to keeping our campus both welcoming and safe, while also expanding how we can serve our parish and wider community. None of this would be possible without your prayers, commitment, and generosity. Thank you for being such a vital part of our church's mission and ministry.



## DOLLYWOOD FUN MEGAN ATKINSON

6th–12th graders, come spend an unforgettable weekend with your Holy Innocents' family at Dollywood! We'll leave Friday after school and return Sunday afternoon, staying in an amazing Airbnb and spending all of Saturday enjoying the park together.

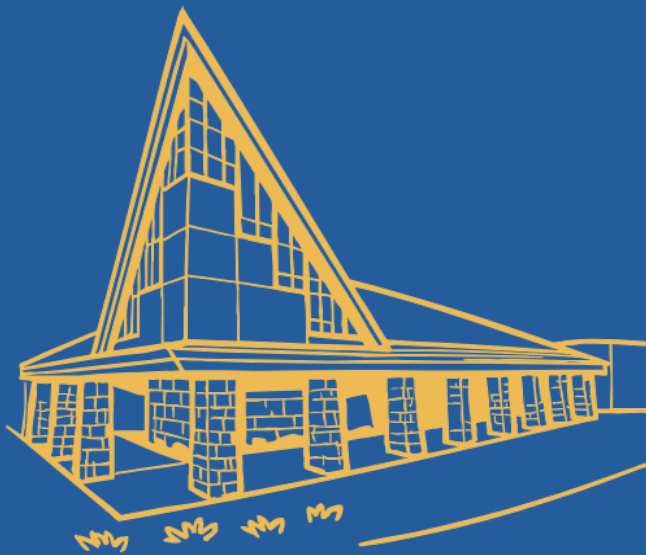
This trip isn't just about rides and fun, it's a chance to grow closer as a community, build friendships, and experience the joy of being part of the church family. In our youth group, relationships matter, and this weekend is a perfect way to connect, support each other, and make memories that last. Spaces are limited! Register by October 1 to join the adventure.



**HOLY INNOCENTS'  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

805 Mt. Vernon Hwy NW  
Atlanta, GA 30327

## FALL FESTIVAL | OCT. 26



Join us for our Fall Festival on Sunday, October 26! Wear your costume to Sunday School and worship, then stay after for an afternoon of fall fun—hayrides, a petting zoo, lunch, seasonal treats, trunk or treat, and a ministry fair to learn about ways to get involved.

# Together. For Good.