



God's People, the Church

The Rev. Dr. Bill Murray • Rector

People almost always get it wrong. They look at the stonework and breezeways and clerestory and talk in hushed tones about the church. They grow quiet in the empty spaces and the soaring roofs. They marvel at the beauty of the edifice. And they are right to look at the architecture in awe. But they are wrong. No building—from the Hagia Sofia in Istanbul, to the St. Peter's in Rome, to Holy Innocents in Sandy Springs—is the church. As Paul says it perfectly and succinctly in his letter to the church in Corinth,

"Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

The buildings are wonderful, but they are just tools to use to grow the faithful in God. Or to say it with more poetic license: the giggle of children, the laughter of friends gathering, the tearful embrace of those mourning, the quiet of study and reflection, the warmth of prayer and praise, the song of praise speak of the church of God.

You may not have noticed, but Stewart and I have both been pretty intentional of speaking this truth all Fall. We are the body of Christ. We are God gathered

together in the world. We are the Church. In a world where division reigns, this is a radical image and an unimaginable truth. We wander together. We seek together. We act together to find God. And we do this by choice.

We are growing because we understand that the church are the people. We focus on learning and growing together. The more ways we can find to be together, to work together, to laugh together, to sing together, to pray together, then the better we are as a church together. Yes, we love the buildings because this is that sacred place where we gather. But if we take out the people, it loses much of its meaning and all of its soul.

As we walk this road, may we remember this. We always need to be reminded that it is the faithful of God gathered who are the church. That the goal is not deeper understanding, perfect faith, enlightenment, or reconciliation with all. The goal is to worship together. The goal is to get to know one another. The goal is to seek God as a community. Hopefully we are gradually beginning to realize that we are the church. That we are working to be together, for good.

Bill +

Together. For Good . . . Again.

The Rev. T. Stewart Lucas • Vicar

Yes. This was last year's stewardship campaign theme. But when our Stewardship Committee gathered early this summer to think of a catchy new theme, we paused. "Wait," we said. "Last year's was so good. We don't think we got all the good out of it!" So, this year, we will.

Together, we worship and learn and play and sing. We hammer and dance and cook and work and listen. We care for one another and welcome people who are finding their way here. We want to spend another year recognizing those gifts and considering how we will sustain them.

Over the next month, you will hear from fellow church members about why they love this place. You will hear a special hymn written by our new Director of Music about why God calls us to be together. You will see pictures of our community doing the ordinary and extraordinary things that make up our shared life.

And we will give you some facts. 'The Diocese' does not give us money to run this place. Our parish depends on our giving to support its staff and ministries. This is a big place, with lots of space that needs to be cared for so we can continue to gather together. We need your support.

Our team's invitation begins with stewardship as a practice of faith. We give because all that we

have is from God. Yes, we may have worked hard for what we have. Still, we begin with gratitude, recognizing how much we have received and asking what God calls us to do with it.

As a community, we have inherited great gifts: the vision of our founders, the generosity of those who built this place, and the faithfulness of those who have created an endowment now totaling over \$4 million. Their gifts continue to make a difference in our life together.

Now we have been called to steward this place in our own time. And that means asking a question I hope we will carry through this fall: What will the saints who come after us wish we had done today? What legacy can we leave so that others may discover the joy and wonder of living together for good?

Our Committee invites you to reflect on your giving practice. Do you have one? Does it stretch you? Could you take a risk, trusting that your generosity will help make room for what God is doing among us?

Our Pledge Ingathering will be October 25, along with our Fall Festival, lunch, and Trunk or Treat. There will be much to celebrate.

We are glad you are here, and we are so grateful to be together with you. For good.

Memorial Gifts

RECEIVED JULY 16–SEPT. 9

IN MEMORY OF

Dot Williams

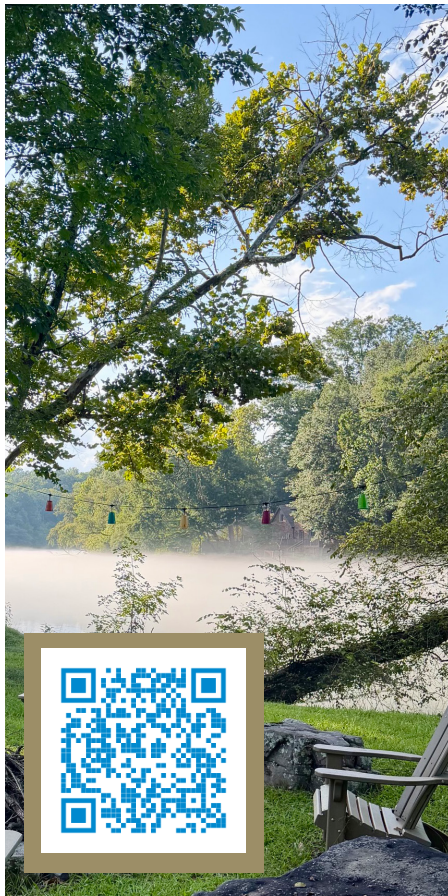
Anna Paige and George DuRant

IN MEMORY OF

Pattie Bock

Suzanne and Robert Boas





Men of HI: Low Country Boil

October 4 • 5:30 PM • \$30 per person

The Men of HI are heading back to the banks of the Chattahoochee for their annual Low Country Boil! Spend the evening by the river enjoying a classic Low Country spread, cold drinks, and plenty of time to catch up with friends and get to know some new faces.

Whether you've been coming for years or haven't made it to a Men of HI gathering before, this is an easy night to jump in. Dinner will be served outdoors along the river, so pull up a chair and settle in for a relaxed fall evening together. The cost is \$30, which includes food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Location: 1665 Lazy River Lane, Sandy Springs, GA 30350

Contact: Dave Stockert (stockert.dave@gmail.com)
or 678-427-2380



Women of HI: Progressive Dinner

October 8 • 6:00–8:00 PM • \$15 per person

Join us for an evening of good food, meaningful conversation, and the joy of getting to know one another better.

Our Women's Progressive Dinner is designed around a simple idea: connection. As we move from table to table throughout the evening, you'll have the opportunity to meet new people, reconnect with friends, and share conversation with women from across our church community. Whether you're new or a longtime member, there's a place for you at the table.

We'll begin the evening with appetizers and beverages in Bishop Commons, then gather for dinner in Inglett Hall. Each course will bring a new table group, with thoughtful conversation prompts led by Renee Stephens to help us share our common experiences, discover what makes each of us unique, and build deeper relationships.

Come ready to eat, laugh, listen, and connect. Together, we'll make space for community, friendship, and fellowship.

Blessing of the Animals

October 4, 6:00 PM

Bring your pets to Holy Innocents for our annual Blessing of the Animals! On October 4, this special service will take the place of our regular 6:00 PM worship, with our fourth and fifth graders and youth helping lead the evening.

Held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of creation and all living things, the Blessing of the Animals is a chance to give thanks for the pets who share our lives and offer a special blessing for each one. Pets of all shapes and sizes are welcome!

Our young people will play a special role in the service, helping lead worship and welcome our pet families. Club 45 children and youth should arrive at 5:00 PM to help prepare. Youth interested in participating can [sign up](#) with Megan (matkinson@holynnocents.org), while fourth and fifth graders can sign up with Renee (rstephens@holynnocents.org)



CCG: Sandwich Build

September 27, 11:15 AM–2:00 PM

Spend part of your Sunday serving alongside our friends at Church of the Common Ground, a church community on the streets of Atlanta. Without a traditional church building, their ministry brings worship and community directly to people experiencing homelessness in the heart of the city.

After the 10:15 AM service, we'll gather in the Parish Hall to make sandwiches and prepare lunches for our unhoused siblings. It's an easy, hands-on way for all ages to help, and there's no need to sign up in advance to make sandwiches. Those who would like to continue the afternoon with Church of the Common Ground can help deliver the lunches and stay to worship with the congregation. We'll leave HIEC at 12:15 pm and return following the service.

Whether you have a few minutes to make sandwiches or can spend the afternoon with our friends downtown, we'd love to have you take part.

Contact: Robin Hickey (hickeyss040@gmail.com)

Friends of Music: Joe Alterman Jazz Trio

October 24, 7:00-8:30 PM

Settle in for an evening of live jazz, wine, and cheese in Bishop Commons with Atlanta jazz pianist Joe Alterman. Known for bringing swing, soul, and an unmistakable sense of joy to the piano, Alterman is a longtime mentee of jazz greats Les McCann and Ramsey Lewis, carrying forward their groove-filled, life-affirming approach while bringing a musical voice all his own. McCann called him “a giant,” while Ahmad Jamal hailed him as “a very special artist.”

Alterman has released eight critically acclaimed albums and performed at celebrated venues including the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Birdland, and the Blue Note. His work also appears on two Grammy Award-winning projects, and his collaborators have ranged from jazz legends to Atlanta music icon Dallas Austin. Beyond the stage, Alterman is a writer, interviewer, and host and producer of *The Upside of Jazz* on WABE 90.1, where he explores the music, people, and stories that have shaped jazz. At the heart of it all is his piano—joyful, swinging, and alive.



Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

October 25, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

One of our favorite fall traditions is almost here! Come in costume for Sunday School and worship, then stick around after the 10:15 AM service for lunch, Trunk or Treat, hayrides, a petting zoo, cake walk, and more. Bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon of fall fun at Holy Innocents.

We need trunks, too! Help make Trunk or Treat happen by signing up to host a trunk. Decorate as simply or elaborately as you'd like, pick a theme, fill your trunk with treats, and get creative! Prizes will be awarded for Most Creative Trunk, Best Decorated Trunk, and Funniest Trunk.

Setup begins immediately following the 10:15 AM service, with Trunk or Treating beginning after lunch.

Contact: Renee Stephens
(rstephens@holynnocents.org)



Gallery Opening: Creative Coterie

OCTOBER 1, 6:00-7:30 PM

Celebrate the opening of *Creative Coterie* in the Ventulett Gallery on Thursday, October 1, from 6:00–7:30 PM. This group exhibition brings together a vibrant collection of landscapes, nature-inspired scenes, and imaginative works by Amanda Bernal Goodall, Anita Best Misel, Elizabeth Waddell, Heather Miller, Jaya Saxena, Judy Price, Maryam Askaran, Pamela Smith, Penny Mauterer, Sue Taylor, and Theresa Forman. The exhibition will remain on display through November 16.



Women of HI: Mahjong Night

OCTOBER 2, 6:30-9:00 PM

Join the Women of HI for an evening of laughter, fellowship, and Mahjong! Everyone is invited, no matter your skill level. Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the game, come enjoy a friendly, welcoming evening and connect with friends. There is no cost to attend. Please bring an appetizer or drink to share. Come ready to play, connect, and enjoy a fun evening with the Women of HI!

Contact: Emily Wilkerson
(embwilkerson@gmail.com) or
Sunni Newton (sunni.newton@gmail.com)



Holiday Market

NOVEMBER 8, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

Browse gifts and goodies from local artists, makers, bakers, and other creative vendors, all gathered right here at HIEC. Whether you're checking off your Christmas list or just seeing what catches your eye, there will be plenty to explore throughout the morning. **Interested in being a vendor?** We'd love to feature artists, makers, bakers, and anyone with something creative to share. There is no cost to participate, and we will provide a table and tablecloth for your display.

Contact: Elaine Morgan
(ewmorgan1@bellsouth.net)



HI Basketball League

Registration is open for the 2026–27 Youth Basketball League! Open to boys and girls in 1st–5th grade of all skill levels, with a focus on learning the game, building confidence, and having fun. **Contact:** Maria Smith (hiyb@holynnocents.org)

Parents' Coffee

SEPTEMBER 27, 9:00-10:00 AM

Parents and caregivers of children aged 4 and under are invited to a cozy coffee hour to connect and get to know one another. This gathering is open to members, newcomers, and families baptized within the last three years. No agenda, just coffee, breakfast, conversation, and community.

Jr. Youth Group: Halloween Party

OCTOBER 18, 4:00-6:00 PM

All 6th–8th graders are invited to a special Halloween Youth Group on October 20 from 4:00–6:00 PM! Come ready for spooky games, Halloween treats, and plenty of surprises along the way.

Club 45: Halloween Breakfast Party

OCTOBER 25, 9:00-10:15 AM

4th & 5th graders, join us for a Halloween Breakfast Party. Wear your costume and come ready to enjoy breakfast, special treats, and fun times with friends!

Dollywood Trip

NOVEMBER 13-15

Our youth are heading to Dollywood! The weekend is open to middle and high schoolers and includes two nights in Pigeon Forge and a full day Saturday exploring the park. The group will wrap up the trip with a Sunday morning devotional before heading home. The cost is \$475, plus money for meals on the drive there and back. Registration closes October 17.



GLOW

OCTOBER 7 • DINNER: 5:30 PM

PROGRAM: 6:00-7:00 PM

It's a STEAM-themed night at GLOW! Kids will explore the power of prayer through a hands-on science experiment and art activity. Families will gather for dinner at 5:30 PM before kids head to GLOW from 6:00–7:00 PM. Adults are welcome to stay and spend time together during the program.

Children's Choir

OCTOBER 18

Our Children's Choir will sing a special anthem during the 10:15 AM service! All children in PreK–5th grade are welcome to participate, with rehearsals taking place during Sunday School and Children's Chapel.

Children's Ministry

Contact: Renee Stephens (rstephens@holynnocents.org)

Youth Ministry

Contact: Megan Atkinson (matkinson@holynnocents.org)



Holy Innocents'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

805 MT. VERNON HWY NW
ATLANTA, GA, 30327



Fall Festival

October 25 • 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

