



## On the Go with God

THE REV. T. STEWART LUCAS

Even as another program year winds down, and even as our beloved rector Bill begins his sabbatical, Holy Innocents' is on the go with God. The Spirit doesn't take summers off — and neither do we! Whether you're hitting the road or staying close to home, this season invites us to keep growing, keep learning, and keep trusting that God goes with us.

Jesus once said, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). That promise carries us through every season — not just the sunny ones. It carries us through sabbaticals and slowdowns, road trips and rest stops, even through death itself. Because the truth is: none of us is indispensable. Yes, we matter. Yes, we're beloved. But even our mortal lives are part of something bigger — a creation that keeps unfolding, a Church that keeps moving, a Gospel that never sleeps.

That's why our summer includes something for everyone. Our **Road Trip Vacation Bible School** will send kids "On the Go with God" as they explore stories of trust, courage, and adventure. On June 8, we'll celebrate the **Feast of Pentecost** with a joyful reminder that the Holy Spirit is always stirring up something new. And for adults, our **In Sure and Certain Hope** series (May 18–June 1) offers gentle, faithful conversations about legacy, end-of-life planning, and resurrection hope. Then, each Sunday morning through August, join us for **Summer School for the Soul** — a series of thought-provoking talks and video discussions to keep your spirit growing, no matter where you are on your journey.

So, wherever summer takes you — across the country, down the street, or deeper into your own heart — know this: Jesus is on the move. And you're invited to come along.

Let's go!

## Upcoming Opportunities

### MAY 29

VBS Decorating Party

### JUNE 2-6

Vacation Bible School

### JUNE 2

COH: Dementia & Caregiving

### JUNE 3

Bucketlist Book Cub

### JUNE 6

WOHI: Mahjong Night

### JUNE 8 | PENTECOST

VBS Sunday

Young Adults: Health & Wholeness

### JUNE 9

Reading Connections

### JUNE 10

Newcomer's Dinner

### JUNE 15

Young Adults: Health & Wholeness

### JUNE 18

Gallery Opening

### JUNE 20

Third Friday

### JUNE 22

Young Adults: Health & Wholeness

### JUNE 26

Second Half Lunch & Concert

# FORMATION

## In Sure and Certain Hope: Adult Forum Series

SUNDAYS, MAY 18, 25 & JUNE 1 AT 9:00 AM | INGLETT HALL

*"In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life..."*

— Book of Common Prayer, p. 499

These familiar and comforting words are spoken at every Episcopal funeral. They are more than a liturgical phrase. They are a bold statement of faith and an invitation to live and die with intention, grace, and peace.

This three-part Adult Forum series is especially designed for those in the second half of life. Together, we'll reflect on the legacy we hope to leave and how planning ahead—spiritually, practically, and liturgically—can be a profound act of love.

### May 18 – Planning with Purpose

Attorney Ben Appel, Endowment Chair Meredith Gurley Johnson, and Assistant Treasurer Dave Stockert will guide us through the essentials of end-of-life planning. From creating a family plan with passwords to understanding probate, they will show how organizing your affairs is a sacred and practical gift to those you love. This is stewardship at its most personal: easing burdens, clarifying wishes, and honoring your values.

### May 25 – The Meaning of a Christian Funeral

In a compelling video presentation, the Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Long explores the meaning and evolution of Christian funerals. A celebrated preacher and longtime professor at Emory's Candler School of Theology, Dr. Long draws from his book *The Good Funeral* to explore how grief, hope, and the community of care come together in our worship and witness at the time of death.

### June 1 – Planning Your Own Service

The Rev. Stewart Lucas will lead a gentle, faith-filled conversation about planning your own funeral service using Holy Innocents' newly updated Funeral Planning Booklet. We'll talk about choosing scripture, hymns, and prayers that reflect your faith and tell your story. Far from morbid, this is a beautiful and hopeful step. It is a way of saying to your loved ones, "I've prepared the way." Like the wise bridesmaids in Matthew 25, we keep our lamps trimmed and burning, ready to meet the bridegroom with joy.

As Episcopalians, we believe in the dignity of every person and the promise of resurrection. This forum is not about fear or finality. It is about faith, hope, and love. These conversations offer both spiritual grounding and peace of mind.

Bring your questions. Bring your hopes. Bring a favorite hymn.

Let's walk together in sure and certain hope.

*"The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance..."*

— Proverbs 21:5

# CONNECT

## Unknown Donations

We've received unidentified donations from Fidelity Brokerage Services. If you have any information regarding these gifts or believe they may be connected to your efforts, please reach out directly to Caroline ([cfleming@holyinnocents.org](mailto:cfleming@holyinnocents.org)) for further coordination.

## Pentecost & Parish Picnic

Join us for a vibrant Pentecost service where we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Wear your favorite red attire! After the service, join us for a parish picnic. We'll provide BBQ & hotdogs. Those with last names beginning with A-L bring desserts, and last names beginning with M-Z are invited to bring sides and salads.

## Office Closures

The office will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day; on Thursday June 19 for Juneteenth, and July 4-7th for the holiday.

Thank you for your understanding!

## Holy Water

### THE REV. RUTH PATTISON

I woke in the middle of the night to realize, "Lord have mercy, I missed the moment!"

I see it now.

I wanna go back, I want a do-over so I can respond with just the right playful holy gesture that would match his holy delight.

I get what he was doing now.

On the Wednesday of Easter week, I was cooking dinner in my son's kitchen, and as always, had Denton helping at my side in his toddler tower. He loves full on involvement in the cooking and is captivated by water play for hours on end. All the sudden he took the long handle bottle brush, and just so pleased with himself and joyful, dipped the brush in the sink water and started flinging it all around the kitchen island. With a gleam in his eyes, he splashed it intentionally on me, and then across the room toward Mama and Daddy and baby brother. He was thrilled!

Of course, we all simultaneously blurted out "Denton! Keep the water in the sink!"

That's what I figured out in the middle of the night. I could see what he was doing, plain as day. He was asperging all of us!

I knew it!

I called David later that day and asked if Denton had ever done that before, and he said, "Well, not before Sunday!" David knew it, too.

On Easter Sunday morning, I had worked my way through the aisles splashing all of you with a sprig of ribbon-tied rosemary dipped in holy water, flinging it far and wide, calling out to you, "remember your baptism!" You are all so playful! Some-

times you laugh, sometimes lean in to make sure I reach you, or you're wide-eyed with astonishment when you're not expecting the water.

When I got to the pew of my own little family group, Denton first looked at his hands and arms as if to say, "what's happening?!" Then he looked up, delighted to see me playing with everyone, and holy water everywhere.

At just two tiny years of age, he was swept up with God in the worship experience, and, but of course, reenacted the experience of the worshiping community, in his very own kitchen. He took it home in his own little heart and initiated holy play and brought all of us into it with gusto!

Pentecost is our do-over. At least I consider it mine. The chance to open myself to Holy play when the Holy Spirit shows up. Another chance to find God in the playfulness of the water and the human community, the thrill of worship, and the liveliness of the Holy Spirit.

Asperges is how we live it – and learn it – this holy play.

Isn't this how we are with God? Sometimes we laugh, sometimes lean in to make sure we get wet, or turn wide-eyed with astonishment when we're not expecting a splash.

We don't have to "understand" the meaning of things.

Like a toddler, ours is to give in to the delight. Just get caught up in the joy. Get swept up into this Goodness that is God.

"Remember your Baptism!"

Come to church on Pentecost and take it home in your own little heart, and not to worry if the Holy Water leaps out of the kitchen sink!

# REFLECTIONS

## Resting in God's Love

**RENEE STEPHENS**

If you've ever sat with or near a child in worship, then you know their attention is in and out as far as what's going on from the front of the room. My oldest is ten now, but ever since he first learned the Lord's Prayer, he would drop whatever picture he was drawing or coloring and recite with the congregation as soon as it starts. He's not quiet about it either, he recites every word boldly and with the confidence that shows that he knows what's he doing and that he knows what he's doing is important. It undoes me a little bit every time. Now my 6-year-old has started doing the same thing. It's like a switch is flipped, as soon as they hear "Our Father," they drop what they're doing, stand a little taller, and recite with confidence. As if they count this as their contribution to worship and while there's a lot of other stuff that goes on, and lots of words are spoken, this is the one thing that they know and count on.

Sometimes things happen in life that shake our entire foundation. Someone dies, moves, or gets really sick, and we are left holding the crumpled pieces of the past, thinking wait a minute, how could this happen? It wasn't supposed to be this way. Suffering changes you. The things that initially seemed so incredibly important all of the sudden become trivial. In a crisis, our plans and our preferences are all diverted and some things never go back to the way they used to be.

This is why it's so important to nurture your faith. All things in life change, but the one thing that will never shift is the presence and love of God. This is what we're working on when we come to worship and pray and study the Bible. We're strengthening our recognition of God's love and presence. So, if that day comes, that the entire rug is swept out from under your life, then you already know that one thing that you can hold fast to.

It starts with the Lord's Prayer and eventually it becomes that spark that you feel when you know you are in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Pray for me, the clergy and staff, all of our incredible VBS

volunteers in the coming weeks. This is the very thing that we are seeking to nurture in the youngest amongst us: the ability to recognize and rest in the presence and love of God. Check out the many ways that you can be a part of this ministry from bringing snacks for volunteers, to donating supplies or helping with set up or clean up. Every role is important!

## Young Adults: A Place to Connect, Grow, and Be

**MEGAN ATKINSON**

We're so excited to share that the **Young Adults** program is back and blooming! This refreshed ministry is made just for people in their 20s and 30s who are looking to build real community, deepen their faith, and share meaningful conversations without pressure, pretense, or needing to have it all figured out.

Whether it's gathering around a table for a good meal, diving into deep (or delightfully random) discussion, or enjoying the gift of being together, there's room for you here.

This June, we're kicking off a one-of-a-kind **Bible study series** inspired by *The Body Keeps the Score* by Bessel van der Kolk. Together, we'll explore how faith and mental health can walk hand in hand. We'll tend to our healing through Scripture, honest conversation, and hope-filled reflection. It's a chance to look at trauma through a holistic lens and see how God meets us in our stories with compassion and light.

Then in July, we'll slow things down with our **Glow & Grow Garden Party**, a calm and soul-nourishing summer evening featuring iced tea, gentle music, and DIY terrarium stations. You'll leave with something beautiful you made with your own hands: a tiny garden to remind you of how good things grow when we care for ourselves and each other.

The **Young Adults Program at Holy Innocents'** isn't about being perfect. It's about being present. And we'd love to have you with us.



# OUTREACH

## CAC Lenten Food Drive Makes an Enormous Impact

Parishioners' generosity to CAC was a pure act of love and made a huge impact by providing monetary and food donations for the families they serve! Thank you to all our parishioners who participated and gave so generously! Our goal was to raise one ton of food. In summary, here is what we provided:

- 2,946 pounds of food collected at HIEC and delivered to the Pantry.
- 1,196 pounds donated through CAC Mindful Giving platform valued at \$1,076.79.
- 4,192 total pounds of food which is more than twice our goal!
- Additionally, \$11,310 in donations were paid to HIEC; checks for these funds sent to CAC.
- This equates to an estimated additional 6,318 pounds of food per Feeding America.

In total, our parishioners donated an estimated equivalent of more than 10,510 pounds of food, which is an astounding five tons of food—five times our goal!

CAC sends this note of appreciation to HIEC:

"Thanks to your support, we were able to purchase a wide variety of essential non-perishable food items to help nourish many families in our community. Thank you so much for your continued support and for being part of this network of care and hope!"



## Habitat for Humanity Build

June 7, 21, 28 – July 12, 19, 26 – August 2 | Saturdays, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Holy Innocents and 7 other Atlanta area churches are sponsoring Habitat for Humanity's summer faith build. All adult parishioners and teens 16 and older are invited to participate. At least 4 Holy Innocents members will be able to participate each Saturday. No skills required, just the desire to help an Atlanta family buy a home at a very affordable price.

- All volunteers are required to register online individually.
- Registered volunteers will receive automated confirmation and reminder emails with a link to the Volunteer Information Packet and directions to the build site.
- The minimum age required to volunteer is 16 years old. Volunteers ages 16 and 17 must print their Release and Waiver form and bring it to the build site with a parent or guardian signature.
- HI has 6 volunteer slots on June 7 and 4 slots every other Saturday. Registration closes at 7:30 AM, the Thursday before each build day.

If our slots are full when you register, you will be put on a wait list and notified on Thursday before the build day in case the other churches don't fill their slots. Scan the QR code to learn more.



# SUMMER AT HIEC

## Groups for Men & Women

Learn more | [holynnocents.org/groups](http://holynnocents.org/groups)

### READING CONNECTIONS

JUNE 9

6:00 PM | HIEC Conference Room

Join us in Inglett Hall C to discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah; it is a historical fiction novel set during the Vietnam War that tells the story of Frances “Frankie” McGrath, a young nurse who joins the Army Nurse Corps to serve in Vietnam  
Michelle Driscoll | [dris1296@yahoo.com](mailto:dris1296@yahoo.com)

### WOMEN’S WISDOM CIRCLE

MONDAYS

8:30 AM | Zoom

Start your week with authentic, in-depth conversation in light of the wisdom sayings from throughout the ages.

Abbie Hattauer | [abbiehattauer@gmail.com](mailto:abbiehattauer@gmail.com)

### MEN’S DINNER & A BOOK

JULY 8

6:30 PM | Private Home

Join us for dinner and a discussion of *The Spy and The Traitor* by Ben Macintyre, hosted by Joe Nuzzaco.

Jeremy Webber | [jhwwebber@gmail.com](mailto:jhwwebber@gmail.com)

### THIRD FRIDAY | MEN OF HI

JUNE 20

7:30 AM | Frost Youth Center

Enjoy warm hospitality, engaging discussions, and a fresh sausage and biscuit breakfast. Come for the conversation and stay for the fellowship.

Charles Crosby | [charles@corepm.net](mailto:charles@corepm.net)



## Memorial Gifts

RECEIVED APRIL 1-MAY 13

IN MEMORY OF  
JACK COURTNAY

MARY VAUGHAN

IN MEMORY OF  
BILL COMER

PATRICIA AND TERRY PITTMAN



# U P C O M I N G   E V E N T S

## **VBS Decorating Party**

May 29, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

We need your hands to help prep for VBS! In just a few short weeks we will welcome 100 kids for an entire week of crafts, science experiments, music, games, and other activities. Help us prepare our space and supplies for this exciting ministry. Pizza provided! **Contact** Renee Stephens | [rstephens@holyinnocents.org](mailto:rstephens@holyinnocents.org)

## **Dementia & Caregiving: An Evening with Nancy Kriseman**

June 2, 5:00-7:00 PM

Noted author and geriatric consultant Nancy Kriseman, LCSW, will be with us to discuss her book, *Meaningful Connections: Positive Ways to Be Together When a Loved One Has Dementia*, on Monday evening, June 2nd, from 5:00-7:00 PM. We will gather with snacks and beverages in the Narthex, and our speaker will begin at 5:30 PM. Our lay pastoral care team, The Community of Hope, is hosting this event and invites anyone in the parish and friends you might like to bring along. Please RSVP on Realm.

## **VBS: Road Trip**

June 2-6

This year's theme, based on Joshua 1:9, reminds kids that God is always with us. Open to rising Pre-K to 5th grade. Rising 6th grade+ can be youth leaders. The cost is \$85, with optional aftercare available. **Contact** Renee Stephens | [rstephens@holyinnocents.org](mailto:rstephens@holyinnocents.org)

## **Bucketlist Book Club**

June 3, 1:00 PM

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 3, at 1:00 PM in the Parlor. The reading is *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. This book club is open to men and women! **Contact** Audrey Sumner | [audreysum4833@gmail.com](mailto:audreysum4833@gmail.com)

## **Women of HI: Mahjong Night**

June 6, 6:30-9:00 PM

It's game night! Mahjong is a tile trading game akin to Rummy or Bridge that's having a revival in Atlanta. Come learn to play mahjong Friday, June 6th. No experience needed - beginners will learn from Casey Freedman, an experienced mahjong instructor. If you already know mahjong (even if you're a beginner), join us to play a few games. Cost is \$65 for the lesson with Casey and your own Mahjong card. Free for experienced players. Sign up on Realm.

## **Newcomer's Dinner**

June 10, 6:00 PM

Join the Holy Innocents' Church Clergy, Vestry, and Welcome Team for a taco dinner while making new friends. Hosted by Rosalyn and Chris Devine. [rsvp@holyinnocents.org](mailto:rsvp@holyinnocents.org)

## **Helping Other Holy Innocents'**

In the summer of 2023, Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Maui, and Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Parmlee, South Dakota, both burned down. We have been in touch with both communities over the past few years about how to help. The Maui community is still working to rebuild both the town of Leihaina and the church. They are likely still a year or two away.

We are delighted to share that the HI in South Dakota on the Rosebud Reservation has broken ground and is working to rebuild. The Church Insurance Company has covered much of the cost to rebuild the building and infrastructure. As you can imagine, there is a great deal more than a door and a ceiling needed to celebrate a Eucharist together. In an effort to support our Sicganu Sioux siblings, we will be taking up a collection to help them rebuild from this fire. They are projecting a \$30,000 need to finish a small bell tower and a narthex/walkway. Please give generously to help them rebuild their beloved church home which was founded in 1890. The consecration is scheduled for August 22, 2025.

Please make checks payable to our Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church and mark them 'South Dakota'.



**HOLY INNOCENTS'  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

805 Mt. Vernon Hwy NW  
Atlanta, GA 30327

**PENTECOST**  
*JUNE 8*

**VBS PARTY  
& PICNIC**

