

The Good News
MAY 2026 • ISSUE NO. III

PENTECOST

Pentecost feels like a scene from a movie. The disciples are gathered in a room, unsure of what to do next now that Jesus has ascended. Suddenly there is a loud sound like a rushing wind and then tongues of fire appear above their heads and they begin to speak fluently in different languages. From this brief moment of interaction with the Holy Spirit, the disciples go out and preach the gospel message to the world.

Pentecost is a Greek word that means "fiftieth." It is not just a Christian holiday; in fact, Pentecost is a celebration in Judaism. While we celebrate 50 days after Easter, Jews mark 50 days after Passover for Shavuot, a festival celebrating the giving of the Torah from Mt. Sinai. This is the beginning of the Jewish faith but not the Israelite and Hebrew people. (I will stop there before I start getting all sorts of things wrong.)

In our tradition, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and what has traditionally become known as the birthday of the church. Almost every church encourages folks to wear red, gather in prayer and praise, and often have some cake. We will do the same with an eye to the following Sunday when our Bishop Rob Wright comes to visit for Confirmation.

The Bishop's hat, called a miter, and its unusual shape is intended to remind us of the tongues of fire on Pentecost. He comes to remind us that we are connected to a larger community, both the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta and the universal church of Jesus Christ. He will specifically lay his hands on our candidates, some 40 youth and adults, to welcome them into the church and invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. It is a sacred moment that is all tied together through Pentecost.

So, I invite you to come to church two Sundays in a row–Pentecost on May 24 and Confirmation with Bishop Wright on May 31. We have so much to celebrate in the life of our church. So wear red, sing praises and celebrate, and we will definitely have cake.

Bill +



Dear Friends in Christ,

In an email last week to the congregation, I shared that the ministry of the Rev. Ruth Pattison as Associate Rector at Holy Innocents will be coming to a close. Ruth's last Sunday with us will be May 17.

Ruth joined us during the uncertain season at the end of COVID, first in an interim role, and quickly became a valued part of our common life. Over these past six years, she has shared her gifts generously. Her artistic vision shaped the Ventulett Art Gallery, and her gracious hospitality—especially at openings and parish gatherings—created spaces of beauty, welcome, and connection.

She strengthened our pastoral care through the Community of Hope, helped begin the now-thriving Women of Holy Innocents, and introduced many to the richness of Celtic Christian spirituality. Her preaching and writing have offered a thoughtful and distinctive voice in our community.

Transitions like this carry both gratitude and sadness.

On Sunday, May 17, we will gather to give thanks for Ruth's ministry among us. If you would like to contribute to a farewell purse, you may do so through the link from the QR code or by writing a check with "Gift for Ruth" in the memo line.

As we mark this ending, we also look ahead to the search for a new clergy colleague. These moments are part of the life of a growing parish, and we trust that God continues to guide us forward.

Thank you for your prayers for Ruth, our staff, and for one another.

Faithfully,
The Rev. Dr. Bill Murray



Memorial Gifts

RECEIVED FEB. 10 – APRIL 30

IN MEMORY OF

Gloria Gould

Domino Foods, Inc
Consumer Sales Group
Margaret Walters Topp
Kenby and Lana Clawson families
Elizabeth Gray Schappell
Susan and John Gornall
Robert Greenage

Chuck Lybrook

Marion and Pam Rivers

Ouida Bell

Locke Coleman

Nettie Silva

Joseph Tedesco

Dot Williams

Jack and Nancy Hubbard
Dorothy and Wade Kolb
Linda Hogon
Janet and John Todd
Locke Coleman
Joan Jordan
Jan Stewart

Susan Smith

Brian and Ashley George
Catherine and John Crawford
George and Ann Gerakitis
Bobbye Davidson
Robert Blakeslee
Christi Dahlquist







Welcoming Our New Director of Music

After a nationwide search, the Vestry and Rector of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church are delighted to share that Dock Anderson has accepted the call to be our next Director of Music.

"Dock is a perfect fit for our church and community," said the Rev. Dr. Bill Murray. *"His musical gifts are matched by his deep commitment to building relationships. With his Spanish-speaking skills and connections to the Atlanta Symphony and Temple Sinai, he is uniquely positioned to bring our communities together."*

Dock earned a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance, *cum laude*, from Birmingham-Southern College. Over the past 20 years, he has led choirs across a range of denominations and, for the last nine years, has served as Organist and Choirmaster at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Carrollton, where he more than doubled the size of the volunteer choir.

The Search Committee was especially excited by his experience with bell choirs, his fluency in Spanish, and his interest in growing music ministry with Our Lady of Guadalupe, the parish school, and Temple Sinai. A joyful note: Dock is engaged to his partner of 10 years, Barry Crawford. They will be married at the end of May, followed by a honeymoon in France.



Dock shares, "It is a joy to begin my ministry at Holy Innocents. As we get to know one another, I invite you to share your heart with me—especially how our worship can nourish your faith. My door is always open."

Dock will begin work with us in June. We look forward to welcoming him at a mid-week lunch on Wednesday, June 25, followed by a concert featuring patriotic music and a few of his favorite selections.

We will also give thanks for Randy Romig's time with us as Interim Director of Music on Sunday, June 28, before the choir takes a few weeks off for the summer.

Many thanks to the Choir for their faithfulness in the search process as well as the Search Team, Cammie Ives, Alexis Lundy, Rolf Meinhold, Mose Murray, and Lizanne Stephenson.






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ADULT FORUM SERIES

GERMANY PILGRIMAGE REFLECTIONS • *Sundays, May 10 & 17 • 9:15 AM*

Join us for a two-part Adult Forum inspired by our recent pilgrimage to Germany, exploring faith, music, and witness across the centuries. Come for coffee, conversation, and a deeper look at how these voices still speak into our lives of faith today.

MAY 10 • *Martin Luther & Johann Sebastian Bach*

We'll reflect on the bold reforms of Martin Luther and the enduring beauty of Johann Sebastian Bach. From Wittenberg to Leipzig, we'll consider how theology and music together shaped a movement—and continue to shape the Church today.

MAY 17 • *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

We turn to the courageous witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose life and writings challenge us to faithful discipleship in difficult times. What does it mean to follow Christ with integrity and courage in our own day? The Outreach Team will host breakfast this morning.

MAY 24 • *No Forum* • MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 31 • *Bishop's Visitation*

The Rt. Rev. Rob Wright, 10TH Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta, will join us for a bounteous breakfast and conversation.

WELCOMING OUR INTERNS



Ansel Best will graduate from The Citadel in May 2026 and plans to continue his education at Candler School of Theology. He has been actively involved in church life for many years, participating in youth group throughout high school and faithfully volunteering with Vacation Bible School each summer during college. Ansel is passionate about ministry with young people and is eager to serve as a Youth Intern for the summer and fall of 2026, supporting both the adolescent and young adult communities.



Kate George will graduate from Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in May 2026. She will be a freshman at Northwestern University in the Fall, majoring in Religion. While she has long attended the school, she comes to the church hoping to learn more about our programs and community. Her hope is to give back some of the many blessings she has received being on campus. Kate will serve as a Summer Intern and help with VBS and a whole variety of programs at the church.



Lizzie Singleton is back as our Children's Ministry Intern this summer! Lizzie returns to Holy Innocents before heading back to the University of South Carolina this fall. Lizzie brings a deep love for ministry and a joyful energy to her work with children. She has served as Co-Chair of the Episcopal Youth Commission for the Diocese of Atlanta, participated on teams for Happening and New Beginnings, and been a Youth Delegate to Annual Council. She has also spent the past four summers as a counselor at Camp Mikell.

Support VBS: Donate or Volunteer!

VBS is just around the corner, and we need your help to make it a fun, faith-filled experience for our kids! You can support VBS by donating supplies through our Amazon Wishlist (QR code) or by volunteering your time. We're looking for helpers to set up, clean up, guide kids as they move between stations, or bring a baked treat to keep our volunteers energized and appreciated. **Contact:** Renee Stephens (*rstephens@holyinnocents.org)*

The Feast of Pentecost

MAY 24

Join us for a vibrant Pentecost service where we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Wear your favorite red attire!

FOMA: Pro-Mozart Spring Concert

MAY 24, 3:00 PM

Join us for an enchanting afternoon of music as acclaimed virtuoso harpist Julie Koenig takes the stage for Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta's Spring Concert. Featuring beloved works by Mozart and other celebrated composers, this special performance will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 3:00 PM. All are invited to stay for a reception following the concert to meet the artist and celebrate an afternoon of timeless music and community.

Confirmation

MAY 31, 10:15 AM

The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright, Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta, will join us for our 10:15 AM service for a joint Confirmation with Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is your opportunity to join the Episcopal church through Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church from another denomination. All in the community are invited to strengthen their spiritual life with a Reaffirmation of faith on this festival day.

Patriotic Concert and Lunch

JUNE 25, 12:00 PM

Celebrate the arrival of our new Director of Music, Dock Anderson, at a special concert on Wednesday, June 25! Enjoy an afternoon of patriotic music and familiar favorites. A lunch will be held beforehand. Dock's first Sunday will be June 21, with a reception following worship.

GROUPS

Men's Third Friday Breakfast

MAY 15, 7:30-8:30 AM • FROST YOUTH CENTER

Enjoy warm hospitality, engaging discussions, and a fresh breakfast. Come for the conversation and stay for the fellowship.
Contact: Charles Crosby (*charles@corepm.net)*

Coffee for Parents with Young Children

MAY 17, 9:00-10:00 AM • PARLOR

Parents and caregivers of children age 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, hot breakfast, conversation, and community.

Prayer Shawl

JUNE 2, 7:00-8:30 PM • PARLOR

Join us as we knit & crochet shawls for those in need; but bring any project – needlepoint, cross-stitch, even mending – and enjoy fellowship while you work.
Contact: Cammie Ives (*cammieives@gmail.com)*

HIYA: Pool Party

JUNE 6, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Young adults in their 20s-30s are invited to kick off summer with us at a pool party at Jenny Cantrell's home! Join us on June 6 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for swimming, snacks, and a fun time hanging out together. Bring your towel, sunscreen, and a friend–RSVP on Realm! **Contact:** Megan Atkinson (*matkinson@holyinnocents.org)*

CCG: Sandwich Build

JULY 12, 11:15 AM • PARISH HALL

Please join us after the 10:15 service to help make sandwiches for our unhoused siblings at Church of the Common Group. If you would like to help deliver the lunches and worship with our friends, we will leave at 12:15 PM and will return to Holy Innocents after the service. **Contact:** Robin Hickey (*hickeys5040@gmail.com*)

BOOK CLUBS

Men's Dinner & a Book
MAY 12, 6:30 PM

The next Men's Dinner and a Book is Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 PM and the book is *Mattering: The Secret to a Life of Deep Connection and Purpose* by Jennifer Wallace. Kevin Nuffer is hosting. If you would like to attend, please contact Jeremy Webber for details. All men at Holy Innocents are included and invited. **Contact:** Jeremy Webber (*jhwwebber@gmail.com*)

Bucket List Book Club
JUNE 7, 1:00 PM • PARLOR

This co-ed group is reading *The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov. The next meeting will be held on June 7 at 1:00 PM. **Contact:** Audrey Sumner (*audreysum4833@gmail.com*)

Reading Connections
JUNE 8, 6:00 PM • INGLETT HALL C

The June Women's Reading Connections book is *Didn't You Use to Be Queenie B?* by Terri-Lynne DeFino. A novel about a disgraced celebrity chef, who vanishes after a public downfall and resurfaces as a soup kitchen manager in New Haven, Connecticut, mentoring a struggling line cook named Gale Carmichael, who eventually gets cast on a cooking show, forcing her to confront her past and potentially make a comeback. **Contact:** Michelle Driscoll *(dris1296@yahoo.com)*

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Choir
MAY 10, 9:30 AM

We are so excited to be singing on May 10th in honor of Mother's Day. Kids will start rehearsal at 9:30 AM, immediately following a shortened Sunday School. Children's Choir will sing for the congregation at the 10:15 AM service following that morning's Children's Chapel. All are welcome! **Contact:** Renee Stephens (*rstephens@holyinnocents.org*)

End of the Year Sunday School Celebration
MAY 17, 9:00 AM

Kids ages PreK-5th grade are invited to celebrate an exciting year of growth, learning, and faith at our End of the Year Sunday School Celebration! Join us on May 17th at 9:00 AM as we wrap up our programming year with a fun-filled tropical-themed celebration for all ages. Come dressed in your favorite bright colors or island-inspired outfits and get ready for a joyful morning together! Kids will enjoy a fun treat, a tropical egg hunt, and a special slideshow highlighting memories from the year. We will also recognize and celebrate our 5th-grade graduates, and every child will receive a gift. This will be a meaningful time to reflect on the year, celebrate our students, and enjoy fellowship as a community. We look forward to celebrating with you! RSVP on Realm.

VBS Decorating Party
MAY 28 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!

Please note: The final VBS Leader meeting is before the decorating party. Youth leaders, please be there at 10:00 AM, adult leaders at 10:30 AM. RSVP on Realm.

VBS 2026: Knights of the North Castle
JUNE 1-5, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM

Children will step into a world of courage, faith, and fun as they learn what it means to "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power" (Ephesians 6:10). Optional aftercare is available until 3:30 PM for families who need a longer day of fun and supervision. The week will conclude with campers sharing their VBS song during the 10:15 AM service on Sunday, June 7, with a picnic lunch for everyone. Cost: $85 per camper, $85 additional for aftercare.
Contact: Renee Stephens (*rstephens@holyinnocents.org*)



Holy Innocents'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

805 MT. VERNON HWY NW
ATLANTA, GA, 30327

