

**This Week at**



DECEMBER  
11  
2025

## THE PARISH AT A GLANCE

### Worship

#### **SUNDAY, December 14**

**Holy Eucharist, Rite II** - *The 3rd Sunday in Advent*

Lay Ministers: Lynn & Charles Norris, William Morgan & Steve Morse, Drucye Cox, Shanti Patel

**Adult Forum after the service!**

#### **WEDNESDAY, December 17**

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

### Upcoming Events

DEC 14 Adult Forum: Being an Episcopalian

DEC 16 Vestry meets via Zoom at 7 pm

DEC 17 Cookies, Crafts & Conversation 3 p.m.

Confirmation Class 6 p.m.

DEC 17-22 Office closed for Parish Admin vacation

Through DEC 31 - Keep Columbus Beautiful Shoe Drive

### INSIDE:

- Stewardship Report
- Confirmation Class
- Christmas Parades
- Vestry
- Office closure 12/17-22
- 3rd Wednesday CCC
- Christmas Eve Services
- Shoe Recycling
- Book Club News
- Annual Meeting
- Our Church Family
- In the Wider Church
- In Our Community

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### Connect and Serve: BackSnacks

BackSnacks needs food! Easy-to-prepare entrees such as canned ravioli or spaghetti and meatballs, mac-and-cheese, or ramen noodles are especially appropriate.



[www.stnicholashamilton.org/stewardship-2026](http://www.stnicholashamilton.org/stewardship-2026)

## Report on the Stewardship Campaign

by Jim Gilliam, Treasurer

First, I would like to thank the parish for their continued generosity to St. Nicholas. For 2025, our pledge budget is \$130,800 and it is projected that we may exceed that.

During the budgeting process by the Vestry for 2026, we set our pledge budget goal at \$140,000, an increase of a little over 7.5% over 2025. The Vestry took a conservative approach in an effort to control costs even in an environment where costs are increasing at a much higher rate, particularly in utilities, insurance and the costs of repairs, maintenance, and supplies.

During our presentation of pledges on Sunday, we came in at \$102,000 which is great start as we still have several more weeks to collect pledge commitments before the 2026 budget kicks in.

If you have not had a chance to submit your pledge, you may place your pledge card in the offering plate over the next two Sundays or reach out to Erin at the church to arrange your pledge. If you have misplaced your pledge card or did not receive one, they can be found in the narthex of the church. And you can always pledge online on our church website.

Again, thank for your generosity and commitment to the future of St. Nicholas.

## IN OUR PARISH

### Confirmation Class continues :

For everyone: Adult Formation **December 14** after the service: "Being an Episcopalian"

Module 4 – Mission, Ministry, and Confirmation

**Wednesday Dec 17, 6 p.m.**

*Living out our faith in the world*

**Sunday is the last chance for Flowers & Music Donations!** The poinsettias will be ordered in the coming week and we have a special musician scheduled. Your donation helps the Christmas beauty happen, and commemorates a loved one or a personal blessing at the same time. Envelopes are out in the narthex.

**Christmas Parades Update:** The Pine Mountain Christmas parade will now be Saturday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m. Come join us if you'd like to ride on the fire truck!

**Vestry Meets December 16:** The Vestry will meet Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. to conduct the business of the church. Guests are welcome; let Erin know if you'd like the link to attend. To view the November minutes and financial reports, [click here](#), or see Erin for a hard copy.

**Office closed December 17 – 21.** The Parish Administrator is taking a few days off. The newsletter and bulletin will be prepared on Monday and Tuesday (December 15 and 16), so get your news in fast next week! Let Erin know if you anticipate needing to get into the church while she's gone (and you don't already have a door code).

**Cookies, Crafts, & Conversation meets December 17.** We had a great group at our first meeting in November, with half of us stitching on a project and all of us enjoying tea, cookies, and chit chat in our comfortable new Gathering Room. Join us on 3rd Wednesdays at 3:00, with time to tidy up before Evening Prayer. Invite a friend!

**Christmas Eve services** will be held at St. Thomas in Columbus and St. Mark's in LaGrange. St. Thomas has two services, at 4:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. (Both services are exactly the same, except that the 10:30 service will have incense.) St. Mark's will have a Children's Pageant Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. and a service with Musical Prelude at 8:00 p.m.

St. Mark's will have a **Christmas Day service** at 10:00 a.m.; there is no Christmas Day service planned at St. Thomas.

**It's Time to Recycle Those Shoes!** October 1 – December 31, St. Nicholas is participating in Keep Columbus Beautiful's Shoe Recycling drive. Bring any kind of shoes you're ready to get rid of. Rubberbanding them together is helpful, but condition does not matter. Those that can be worn will be sent to those who can use them; those that can't will be recycled – either way, they stay out of the landfill! Bin in the narthex.

**St. Nicholas Book Club** has selected *Resistance Women* by Jennifer Chiaverini as their January read. The novel is inspired by the life of Mildred Harnack, a real historical figure whose story was previously untold because the U.S. government deliberately buried it after the war. Harnack was one of dozens of members of the network of American and German resistance fighters the Gestapo called *die Rote Kapelle* (the Red Orchestra). The bulk of the action takes place between the wars, beginning in 1929; I was initially surprised that a novel about Nazi Germany before and during WWII began so early, but Chiaverini's chosen timeline serves her story well: As a reader, you see events escalate over time through these women's eyes. The setup feels leisurely, but the payoff is worth it. (from *Modern Mrs. Darcy*) The Book Club next meets on January 7, 2026.

**The Annual Meeting** of the church is set for **January 11, 2026** after the service. Participating in this meeting is an important part of stewardship: New Vestry members will be voted upon, the budget will be presented, and there will be reports on church programs and activities. **First Sunday Brunch** will be moved to this day so we can meet on a full stomach – plan to attend!

## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Prayer Requests

Your prayers are asked for Kelly Dimon, Sheri Cody and the grieving family of Bruce Clouser, Christine Risdon, Kenny Hall and his family, Steve Morse, and Ryder Hughes. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our beloved homebound congregants: Mike Sawyer, Liz Dixon and Patricia Collins.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.



## IN OUR WIDER CHURCH

- **News from the Diocese:** [Click here](#) to catch up on what's happening in our own Diocese of Atlanta, including an Events calendar for the few months.
- **News from The Episcopal Church:** [Click here](#) to read The Episcopal Church Weekly.
- **News from the Episcopal Community Foundation:** [Click here](#) to read the latest news.

## IN OUR GREATER COMMUNITY

### Support Opportunities in Harris County

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. & Feeding the Valley Food Distribution (Drive-Thru)

**Date:** Wednesday, December 17

**Time:** 8:30 AM

**Location:** Moultrie Park, Hamilton, GA

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Food & Clothing Giveaway

**Date:** Saturday, December 20

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Location:** Mount Commadore AME Church  
2871 Ripshin Road, Midland, GA