

This Week at



AUGUST 21
2025

THE PARISH AT A GLANCE

Worship

SUNDAY, August 24

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The 11th Sunday After Pentecost

No pulpit swap this week: Date changed to September 28

WEDNESDAY, August 27

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

INSIDE:

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Upcoming Events

PULPIT SWAP HAS BEEN MOVED to September 28

SEPTEMBER 1: Labor Day - office closed

SEPTEMBER 3: Book Club meets after Evening Prayer

SEPTEMBER 7: First Sunday Brunch - sign up in the narthex

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Connect and Serve

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) cordially invites you to the 2026 Green Team Summit: Saturday, Feb. 7 (10- 4) at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. See Fr. Bob or Erin if you're interested in serving on St. Nicholas' Green Team!



IN OUR PARISH

BackSnacks is Back – With Big News!

BackSnacks is an outreach of St. Nicholas Church that fights food insecurity in Harris County schoolchildren by providing food for the weekend, when school meals are not available. This project is led by Harris County High School students – including our own Aleisha McMurtry, with volunteer help from our congregation and members of the community. Kathy McMurtry works tirelessly to advise the group and provide support to the student leadership.

With the new school year back in swing, BackSnacks is gearing up again. The monthly “pack” is scheduled for the second Wednesday in the month, beginning about 3:30 p.m and wrapping up in time for Evening Prayer. While volunteer help is always welcome, BackSnacks is extending particular invitations to the St. Nicholas congregation to help get to know each other and strengthen the bond between the church and this vital outreach program.

- September 10: Join the BackSnacks kids prior to Evening Prayer for a round of theatre games that will break down barriers.
- October 8: BackSnacks will host a “tasting” of the foods we pack for the kids.
- November 12: Cookies, ice cream, and conversation.
- December: The BackSnacks kids hope to join us for carol-singing.

And... in case you haven't heard: The **Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia** has awarded BackSnacks a grant of \$30,000 to renovate their workspace to make it cleaner, safer, and more conducive to operations. Work is expected to begin in the coming weeks – look for more news as it develops!

First Sunday Brunch is September 7: Be sure to sign up to attend – the hosts use the sign-up list to know how many to prepare for!

New on the calendar: Cub Scouts meet on Thursdays

The Cub Scouts Pack 109 will be meeting Thursday evenings in the Parish Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please take this into consideration when planning a trip to the church.

Book Club News

On August 6, six of us gathered to discuss *The Overstory*, which we all agreed was a hard read, a challenging but important work. Powers' impassioned and powerful writing brought home to us the importance of trees and other plants to human life and the impact of human actions on the natural world. We were all impressed by the longevity of trees and nature compared to fleeting human life.

For September, we chose a book highly recommended by Father Bob -- ***Love, Life and Elephants: An African Love Story*** by Dame Daphne Jenkins Sheldrick (1934-2018). Kenyan born and raised, she is the first person ever to have successfully hand-reared newborn elephants. Her pioneering work in perfecting the right husbandry and milk formula have saved countless elephants, rhinos, and other baby animals from certain death. In this heartwarming and poignant memoir, published in 2012, she shares her amazing

relationships with a host of orphans, and the love story between her and David Sheldrick, the famous Tsavo Park warden. It was "their deep and passionate love, David's extraordinary insight into all aspects of nature, and the tragedy of his early death that inspired Daphne's vast array of achievements, most notably the founding of the world-renowned David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the Orphans' Nursery in Nairobi National Park." (Amazon and Google Books)

The St. Nicholas Book Club will next meet on September 3 after Evening Prayer at 5 p.m.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are asked for Katherine Johnson, Bruce and Gabe Clouser, Joseph Edgar Alderson, and Edward Martin.

Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our homebound congregants: Liz Dixon, Mike Sawyer, and Jewell Wells.

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 newsletter.

From The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations:
Public Policy & Witness Weekly Prayers

www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/public-policy-and-witness-weekly-prayers-august-15/

We are one church united in prayer, naming reality in the face of lies, creating space for grief in the face of denial, and freeing space in our souls for hope. These prayers are not a replacement for action; they offer grounding and space to discern what actions each of us feel compelled to take.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

In case you missed it: Terry Edwards of Harris County Family Connections was featured as August's Hometown Hero in Georgia Magazine. Read it online here: https://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/gemc/georgia_202508/index.php#/p/Intro

Hometown HEROES

By Borden Black

Terry Edwards connects her community

It's all about connections, and Terry Edwards has them. As the executive director of Harris County Family Connections (HCFC) in Waverly Hall, she recognizes needs and finds partners to address them.

Originally from Jamaica, she practiced law in New York but hated the "concrete jungle." While visiting a friend, she fell in love with Harris County.

Since relocating to Georgia 21 years ago, Edwards has worked with people with mental health issues and developmental disabilities and has counseled jail inmates and the homeless. Four years ago, she landed at Family Connections.

"The job is all about improving outcomes for families and children," she says.

Her strength, she believes, is the ability to bring together community partners from all walks of life.

She has three focuses: early childhood, youth development and wellness.

"We start with data and make a plan," Edwards says.

More than 30 organizations collaborate with HCFC to address the wide range of needs of the county's families. They have tackled issues such as truancy, child abuse and neglect, poverty and physical and mental health.

Because the nonprofit is not included in the state budget, Edwards finds sponsors and grants and uses those resources to organize events and programs. These include providing children with back-to-school supplies and clothing and Christmas gifts, hosting a farmers market and offering exercise classes for seniors.

The town of Waverly Hall serves as the fiscal agent for the organization and provides office space and utilities. City Clerk Pam Nelms says the city has certainly gotten its money's worth.

"It doesn't matter what comes up; she will take care of it," Nelms says.

Longtime volunteer Josephine Bray points to an instance when a child needed dental work. Edwards not only took the child to a dentist but also arranged for a dental lab to come to the school.

"If it's not available, she will create it," Bray says.

"The underserved are not always seen and heard," says Marlyn Williams, a volunteer representing St. John Pitts Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church. "Terry has become their voice and speaks out for that group."

Lishiadette Henry, another community volunteer,



Terry Edwards of Harris County Family Connections packs bags with food and supplies for underprivileged kids.

says, "[Edwards] sees a problem—a family in need—[and] she's there."

Edwards' long-range goal is for the community to come together without her coordinating the efforts.

"Instead of each organization doing [its] own thing ... [they] work together," she says.

Borden Black is a freelance writer and former TV news director in Columbus.