

**This Week at**



**SEPTEMBER  
17  
2026**

## THE PARISH AT A GLANCE

### Worship

**SUNDAY, September 20:**

Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:00 a.m.  
with Special Guest Rev. John Ray, Deacon

**WEDNESDAY, September 23:** Evening Prayer 5:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Events

SEP 20: Vestry meeting

SEP 23 - 29: Erin Vacation (office closed)

SEP 30: Game Day! 3:00 p.m.

OCT 4: 1st Sunday Brunch  
Blessing of the Animals

OCT 17: Low Country Boil

OCTOBER's **1st Sunday Brunch** does not have a host.  
Grab a friend and sign up in the narthex!

PULPIT SWAP UPDATE: Christian Valley Church's visit to us this year has been moved to **NOVEMBER 15**. Mark your calendars - we'll be cooking!

### INSIDE:

- Deacon John Ray
- El Refugio Outreach
- Book Club News
- In Our Church Family
- In the Wider Church
- Truck-and-Treat
- ATL Episcopal Pride
- LOW COUNTRY BOIL!

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## IN OUR PARISH



Deacon John Ray will be joining us this Sunday to deliver the Message, which is sure to be informative and powerful. Rev. Ray is excited to come worship with us and, in fact, has expressed an interest in meeting with us after the service. **Please make plans to spend a few minutes in the Gathering Room to say "hello" and enjoy a cup of coffee with him!**

(The scheduled Vestry meeting will begin at 11:45.)

*From JohnRay.co:* After a successful career in investment banking, investment management, and strategic advisory, John Ray left the corporate world in 2013 to build his own business. His first book, The Generosity Mindset: A Journey to Business Success by Raising Your Confidence, Value, and Prices was published in 2023. His second book is set for release in the first quarter of 2027.

John is a Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, currently assigned to St. Mary and St. Martha of Bethany Episcopal Church, Buford, Georgia. He was the Director, Fund for the Diaconate in the Episcopal Church, 2022-2024.

John founded [\*Backpacks of Love\*](#) in 2011. In cooperation with 18 public schools in North Fulton and Forsyth Counties, Backpacks of Love delivers backpacks of food and other essential items to children who are homeless and otherwise in severe need. Since its January 2011 launch, Backpacks of Love has delivered over 400,000 pounds of food and other items to the children it serves.

Want to help with our **El Refugio** ministry but can't make it down to Lumpkin?

**They need gas cards!** The hospitality house offers \$25 cards to families who may be straining their budget to make the trip to Stewart Detention Center. Any station you see in the Columbus or Atlanta area is just fine. Get your cards/donations to Margaret Zachry or Erin Renfroe any time.

The **El Refugio** ministry is our small but mighty response to the need recognized by our diocese: more humanity in our immigration policies and enforcement. El Refugio is a lovely historic home in Lumpkin that provides a place for families visiting loved ones at the Stewart County Detention Center to spend the night, get a meal, or just take a break from the ice-y bureaucracy in a warm and home-like environment. St. Nicholas sends volunteers on Sunday afternoon to do laundry and household chores, but there are plenty of ways to help.

**The St. Nicholas Book Club** has chosen Alison Larkin's *The People We Keep* for their next selection.

(From *GoodReads*) A lyrical coming-of-age novel about a young woman's journey through heartbreak, chosen family, self-discovery, and creative resilience in 1990s upstate New York. Little River, New York, 1994: April Sawicki is living in a motorless motorhome that her father won in a poker game. Failing out of school, picking up shifts at a local diner, she's left fending

for herself in a town where she's never quite felt at home. After a fight with her dad, April packs her stuff and leaves for good, setting off on a journey to find a life that's all hers. Driving without a chosen destination, she stops to rest in Ithaca. Her only plan is to survive, but as she looks for work, she finds a kindred sense of belonging at Cafe Decadence, the local coffee shop. As April moves through the world, meeting people who feel like home, she chronicles her life in the songs she writes and discovers that where she came from doesn't dictate who she has to be.

**Rector's Discretionary Fund needs a boost!** This fund is one of the ways we share the love of Christ by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities. Demand is always high - we have helped almost 40 households this year alone. If you feel so moved, please drop a few dollars in the plate to rehydrate the well! (Use an envelope from the narthex so we know it's not a regular contribution.)

## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Prayer Requests

Your prayers are asked for Renner Loney, Linda Wilson-Sterling at Christian Valley Church, Nonie Bueche, Michael Davis, Scott Jarrette, Kim Stokes, David Mullins, and Hollis Hale. Continuing prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, and Mary Butcher.

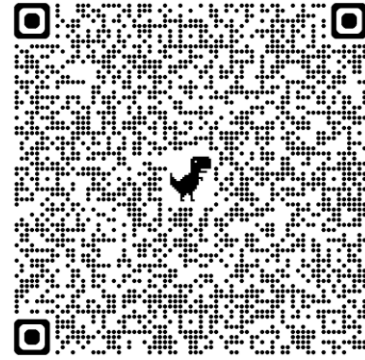


Continued prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, and Mary Butcher.

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 THE 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 (Aging by Design, Feeding the 5,000, managing volunteer shortages, and grant news).
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Use this QR code to go straight to the ticket webpage, or see Katherine Johnson for details.

# SCHWOB AT ZION

SEPTEMBER 27  
FEATURING  
**ARGO** STRING  
QUARTET

**Parade:** Sunday, October 11 at noon

**Pride Eucharist:** October 4 at 5:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Parish

[Click here](#) for full details, or go to [episcopalatlanta.org/lgbtq-ministries](http://episcopalatlanta.org/lgbtq-ministries)

## Atlanta Pride Celebration

# JOIN US FOR PRIDE PARADE & PRIDE EUCHARIST

LEARN MORE



LOW COUNTRY

LET THE GOOD TIMES



*Let the Good Times Boil  
at St. Nicholas Church!*

**Good food. Live music. Family fun.  
And the warmth of community spirit.**

Join us as we share stories, make new  
friends, and come together to raise  
funds for St. Nicholas!

**\$65 per adult.**

## *Low Country Boil Buffet Dinner*

Saturday, October 17

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church (outdoors)

69 Mobley Road, Hamilton

**5:00** Family Fun & Fellowship  
Games for kids and big kids!  
Live Music with Lee Daniel  
50/50 Raffle

**6:00** Dinner catered by Chef Chris  
of J's Catch Market & Grill

### **Traditional Low Country Boil**

Shrimp, Sausage, Corn on the Cob, and Seasoned Potatoes  
or Pork Tenderloin, Corn on the Cob, and Seasoned Potatoes  
Fresh, warm Beignets for dessert!  
Tea and Lemonade. Cash bar.

**\$5 Kids Plate:** Hot dog, Chips, Fruit and Ice Cream



**Make your reservations online  
at [www.stnicholashamilton.org](http://www.stnicholashamilton.org)  
or by phone: 706-587-3243**

**Reservation deadline: October 12**