

Worship in October

October 4	Wonder Church <i>The 19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> Blessing of the Animals <i>5:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas</i>
October 11	Holy Eucharist, Rite II <i>The 20th Sunday after Pentecost</i>
October 18	Holy Eucharist, Rite II <i>The 21st Sunday after Pentecost</i>
October 25	Holy Eucharist, Rite II <i>The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Capital Campaign Celebration</i> <i>and Burning of the Mortgage</i>

Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

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Coming Up in the Parish

OCT 4:	Wonder Church & First Sunday Brunch Blessing of the Animals 5:00 p.m.
OCT 7:	Book Club after Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m.
OCT 18:	Vestry meets after church
OCT 21:	Cookies, Crafts & Conversation 3:00 p.m.
OCT 23:	Harris County Truck & Treat 5:00 p.m.
OCT 25:	Capital Campaign Celebration
OCT 28:	Game Day! 3:00 p.m.

IN OUR PARISH

CALENDAR UPDATES:

- **Low Country Boil** has been postponed until a date TBA in the Spring. Contact Erin in the church office if you purchased a ticket.
- **Pulpit Swap:** Christian Valley Church's visit to us this year has been moved to **NOVEMBER 15**. Mark your calendars - we'll be cooking!

BackSnacks is back in full swing and could use your support. The BackSnacks program has 143 schoolchildren signed up this year to receive weekend food packages (compare that to 120 last year). Using BackSnacks' **Amazon Wish List** is a quick and easy way to donate food (and save Kathy some runs to Sam's).

The Harris County High School volunteers are dedicated, but **more adult assistance** is always needed and welcome. If you'd like to volunteer to pick up food, help pack the food bags, or deliver food to the schools for distribution, please get in touch with Kathy McMurtry.

The poster for the "Blessing of the Animals" event at Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church features a central image of a priest in white vestments blessing a dog held by a woman. To the left of the image are the church's logo and a circular logo for the Humane Society of Harris County. Below the image, the event title "Blessing of the Animals" is prominently displayed, followed by the address "69 MOBLEY ROAD • HAMILTON, GA" and the date and time "OCTOBER 4, 2026 5:00 P.M.".

Saint Nicholas
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Blessing of the Animals

69 MOBLEY ROAD • HAMILTON, GA

OCTOBER 4, 2026
5:00 P.M.

Join us at 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 4 for the Blessing of the Animals. This is a traditional way to celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi and commemorate his love of animals and nature. We'll have a short service of thanksgiving for God's creation, prayers for all animals, and, of course, the blessing. Bring your leashed or crated pets, a memento of a beloved companion, or a special stuffed animal to be

blessed by Father Bob. The Humane Society will be there with a few adorable adoptables to meet!

All Saints/All Souls is November 1. In observance of All Saints' Sunday on November 2, we will read the names of our loved ones who have passed away. Send the names of people whose memories you would like to honor to Erin in the church office by Wednesday, October 28 to be included.

On **March 4, 2026, the Rt. Rev. Rob Wright, Bishop of Atlanta, circulated a pastoral letter to be read in all churches** expressing support for and solidarity with people who have been detained or who are living in fear of arrest, separation from their families, and deportation back to countries they escaped at great risk and expense. According to tracreports.org, as of July 11 of this year,

70.6% of current detainees have no criminal convictions other than minor traffic violations; and reports from detainees and families regarding conditions at detention centers are chilling. But whether current detainees are “the worst of the worst,” or not, they and their families are human beings, they are suffering and we are aware of their suffering. As Christ commands us, we pray for them.

We invite anyone who needs prayer, or who knows someone in their lives who would be strengthened by the prayers of our congregation, to contact Father Bob or the church office to be included in our prayer list.

<https://episcopalatlanta.org/news/pastoral-letter-immigration/>

<https://tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts/>

The St. Nicholas Book Club has chosen Alison Larkin's *The People We Keep* for their next selection. The Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month after Evening Prayer.

(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.

From the Treasurer: At the beginning of October, quarterly statements will go out for two pledges: The regular annual pledge, and the Capital Campaign. If you pledged to both, you will get two different statements reflecting your pledge status as of September 30. Please take an extra moment to make sure you understand which statement you're looking at and what it's telling you. Jim or Erin are always happy to help interpret!

Capital Campaign Update:

Campaign Goal: \$73,000 Pledged: \$75,761 (YAY!)

Received thus far: \$62,982 (Whoo-hoo!) Left to go: \$12,779

Remember, we're trying to get all Capital Campaign funds in by November 30 so we can go into refinancing negotiations next year with as low a balance as possible on our remaining mortgage.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are asked for Wesley Brown, Linda Wilson-Sterling of Christian Valley Church, Nonie Bueche, Michael Davis, David Mullins, Hollis Hale, Jamie Webb, Peggy Sivell, Jimmy Hatchett, Larry Culpepper, and Deborah Culpepper. Continuing prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, and Mary Butcher.



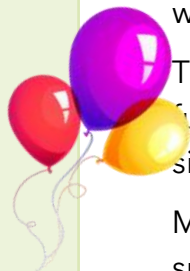
We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

October Birthdays:

Paul Westburg
Bobo Morgan
Charles Norris
Judy McCracken
John Brent
Libby Horne
William Morgan
Liz Dixon
Suzy Eidson

October Anniversaries:

Gene & Christi Wells
Bob & Judy McCracken
Mike & Linda Sawyer



Have you considered making a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund in honor of your birthday or other special occasion?

The Fund is how we share the love of Christ with our neighbors by providing small grants to those who need help with their rent or utility bills.

The need in our community remains high and the Fund goes fast. We have helped **48** households since January 1!

Many thanks to the following people who supported the RDF in September with contributions or by adopting a bear: **Beth & Kin Brown, Doug & Peggy Martin, Charles & Lynn Norris, Erin & Jeffrey Renfroe, and John & Charlotte Winsness.**

Coming up!

- Advent Adult Forum series
- Harris County Family Connections **Christmas Family Giving Tree**. The deadline is early, so get ready to do some shopping in November!
- **Faithful Innovations**: a series of Zoom and in-person workshops by the Diocese that will empower church congregants to deepen their own and their congregation's spirituality, engage and inspire leadership, discern God's leading, and affirm their faith that God has a vital role for our congregation to play. More information to come, but see Father Bob if you're interested.

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
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