



The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

The Dove

www.ecohs.net

December 2013

Upcoming Events:

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Dec. 1, after 10:45 service

ADVENT EVENING

Dec. 4, 5:45 p.m.

FOYER HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Dec. 7, 6:00 p.m.

VESTRY MEETING

Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m.

SASSE LUNCHEON

Dec. 13, 11:00 a.m.

WINE AND WISDOM

Dec. 15, after 10:45 service

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Dec. 19, 9:30 a.m.

PANTRY

Dec. 21, 8:00 a.m.

**Dove contribution
deadline: December 23**

From the Rector: A Time for Visiting and Welcoming

December is a time for visiting. Between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day, many of us visit more relatives, attend more parties, and see more old friends than all the rest of the year combined. It is a time of good cheer and catching up, even if at times it can be a frantic pace.

December is also a time when many people visit churches. Maybe they come with parents "to make Mom happy." Perhaps they come looking to rediscover a happy memory of childhood. Some attend seeking a deeper meaning to life. Others come because they are sad and want comfort. During this season of visiting, it is important for all of us to be aware of and welcoming to our guests.

This past Sunday, I had three separate conversations with people who were visiting our parish for worship. One couple had checked us out two or three times and decided they wanted to join our parish because we were a friendly place. They had visited several other Episcopal churches and found our congregation to be the most welcoming.

Another couple was searching for a spiritual home, a place where they could connect with God more deeply and serve others in practical ways. They enjoyed our worship and also the many options that we offered to people as a way to give back to others—from Angel Tree to the Pantry to Backpacks of Love and more.

One man came to us at a time of loss—his wife had just passed away. I had visited with them in the hospital. As we talked after church, he said how special the service was to him—it touched him even though he is not an Episcopalian. He told me he was so glad that he came. I invited him to come back and I hope he will.

During this busy season, especially here at church, let's not be in such a rush that we miss the people who come as our guests. Take time to say hello. Smile. Include people we don't know in our conversations. Help a newcomer with their prayer book or hymnal if he or she looks confused. Whatever we do, let us welcome others in the spirit of Jesus Christ. That is what the season of Advent is about—preparing for our Lord's coming, often in the form of a stranger.

Keith+

A Holy Advent to each of you. I pray that you find peace and stillness during this hectic holiday season, and that you are able, with God's help, to make room in your heart for Christ.

This month, we will be continuing to meet Sundays, 9:30 – 10:30a.m., for Christian formation in the Youth Building. We will share a light breakfast, hot cider (thanks to Shannon and Parker!), and conversation about the Old Testament.

In EYC (Sunday evenings, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.), we are talking about “listening,” as a way to make room in our hearts and lives for Jesus and for one another.

Our Advent party will be on Sunday, December 22, from 5:00 – 7:00p.m. at the Taylors' home. Please mark your calendars, and please RSVP by 12/18.

As always, friends are welcome at any of our youth events.

YOUTH NEWS:

Congratulations to Holley Ann Murray!

Sixth grader Holley Ann Murray received top honors in a statewide writing competition, after placing first in both a local and a regional competition. The writing competition was organized by the Col. Hiram Parks Bell Chapter 2641 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The essay, which Holley Ann wrote for a class in 5th grade, was about the Battle of Chickamauga. Holley Ann also read her essay at the organization's annual convention--quite an act of courage!

We are so proud of you, Holley Ann, and of the way you are using the gifts that God has given you.

Cathy's ordination

On Saturday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m., at the Cathedral of St. Philip, our youth minister, Cathy Zappa, will be ordained to the presbyterate (this means she'll be ordained as a priest). All are invited to attend.

What we have been up to...

With fall in the air and winter just around the corner, we have been thinking in EYC both about God's many blessings and about God's call to us, especially to care for and respond to those in our community who are in need.

On All Saints Day, we trekked to Atlanta for a Requiem service for those who have died on the streets in the past year, and we heard music by the Voices of Hope, a choir from Arrendale State Prison. This month, we also learned about Backpacks of Love, a ministry that discreetly provides food to impoverished families with schoolchildren; and we are eager to support this ministry ourselves, under the leadership of Laura and Cathy Schlecht. Sylvia Cardona, who directs a mentoring program for at-risk youth, led us in a reflection about impoverished youth.

In Youth Christian formation, we have been continuing our journey through the Old Testament and learning about our ancestors in faith, especially Abraham, Sarah, and Jacob. One thing seems constant: God works through surprising, imperfect people, who wrestle with God and with faith. We also have been learning about how we can respond to God's call by serving at our church, as lectors, intercessors, ushers, acolytes, and service leaders.

I encourage all of the youth to find a ministry at the church, and I would love to talk with you about where/how you might serve.

If you are in 6th – 12th grade, please join us for Christian Formation (a.k.a. “Sunday school”; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., in the Youth Building) and EYC (5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall, unless otherwise noted). **Friends are always welcome!**

Youth Leaders / Ministers

Thank you to all of the youth ministers who share your time, wisdom, and gifts with the wonderful youth of ECOHS, and to those who share your gifts behind the scenes.

Interested in volunteering? We are in the process of building up a phenomenal youth-ministry team. Whether you are already ministering among youth, or just starting to think about it, please contact [Cathy Zappa](#).

Please see next page for the December Youth Schedule!

- [Cathy Zappa](#)

Planning Committee Update

On November 10, we were excited to roll out the (very) preliminary plans for our new building. We are forming small working groups to address individual areas of the new building, determine need, materials, space, and cost. If you have an interest in any of these areas, please reach out to the group contact as listed below:

- Kitchen / Parish Hall - Carol Franklin
- Music / Technology - Shannon David
- Site and Flow - Ralph Davis
- Storage and Existing Space - Judy Foster
- Classrooms - Putnam Smith

There is an account set up for anyone wishing to make donations toward the capital fund for the new building. Mark "Parish Center Capital account" and the money will be reserved for that purpose, or see Kristen Edwards for details. Exciting times are ahead. It will be a lengthy process, but we will update you regularly.

*Thanks!
The Planning Committee*

**Foyer Holiday Social:
Saturday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.**

All adult parishioners are invited to mingle & jingle with ECOHS friends at the Foyer Holiday Social, 6:00pm on Saturday, December 7, at the home of Hally & Dan Krogh. For information and to sign up to attend, please go to the church [website](#) and click on the Signup Genius link or contact [Janice McClelland](#), 770-889-0631, or [Gloria Szokoly](#), 770-886-0661.

Wendy's Bears

The Foyer Ministry will be collecting new and gently loved Teddy Bears for our **Wendy's Bears** outreach program throughout the month of December. Teddy Bears are collected annually for children who are in the custody of juvenile court when they are present at the court for panel reviews and court hearings. These cuddly, adorable bears provide loving comfort to many children as they participate in what can be an emotional and difficult process. A collection container is located in the Parish Hall. For additional information, please contact [Janice McClelland](#), 770-889-0631, or [Gloria Szokoly](#), 770-886-0661.

- [Janice McClelland](#)

Pantry Update: November 2013



Pantry Angels: Kirk Wintersteen, Dennis & Linda Whittle, Midge Printz, Bruce & Liz Tanner, Judy Norman, Jay Sylvester, Harold & Pat Gill, Jim & Judy Foster, Larry Sims, Brian Lewis, Michael Arens, Sumner & Jan Cahoon.

Once again, thanks to all for the diaper donations. Please add them to your shopping list for December if you can. Our final handout for the year will be on December 21.

- [Ro Woodhead](#)

December Youth Schedule

**Every Sunday 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Christian Formation, in Youth Building*

Sunday, 12/1, *Advent*

- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.—Advent Wreaths. Please bring \$10 for supplies.
- NO Contemplative Service

Wednesday., 12/4

- 5:45 – 7:00 p.m.—Intergenerational Advent Evening

Sunday, 12/8

- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.—Christian Formation (Joseph)
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.—EYC (“Advent Listening”)
- *Angel Tree gifts are due today!*

Sunday, 12/15

- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.—Christian Formation (Moses)
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.—EYC (“Advent Listening”)

Sunday, 12/22

- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.—Christian Formation
- 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.—Youth Advent Party at the Taylors’ home **Please RSVP by 12/18*

Sunday, 12/29

- No EYC



The ECOHS music ministry is busy. The adult choir is preparing for Advent and Christmas. The children's and youth choirs are preparing for the traditional Christmas Eve pageant.

This year's pageant is "*The Paper Bag Pageant*." This pageant will also involve the congregation. Anyone wishing to participate will be given a paper bag with their costume and script in it. At the point in the service that their character is mentioned, all will stand with their costumes on and read whatever the script instructs. This should be a very welcoming and inclusive pageant to our members AND visitors. No one will be required to take a paper bag, but we hope you will consider it and all interested will be encouraged to participate.

Thanks to all of our choral musicians for their leadership in our weekly (and additional) services. Any children, youth, and adults who are interested in joining choir should email [Jeff Daniel](#) or speak with him at church.

Don't forget to visit the music portion of the church's [website](#) to find information about the music ministry of ECOHS. You can also hear the service music we are using. MP3s have been added to the website to give everyone an opportunity to learn the music used in the service each week.

Weekly choir schedules for September - May:

St. Cecilia (age 4 - 1st grade) and St. Luke (2nd - 5th grade) Choirs – Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

Adult Choir – Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Youth Choir (6th - 12th grade) – Sundays at 12:00 p.m.

Our New Church Organ

We have a new organ! Thanks be to God and to all of you for your generosity and support in this project! I am so honored to be able to lead the hymns and service music, psalms, and choir anthems from this new instrument. Sometimes I would swear that I hear actual pipes from it. I have received many compliments on the sound that the new organ is able to create. I hope to continue to improve on it in both playing and registering it (creating the sounds) for all of the music we do here at Holy Spirit. It could not have happened without all of you. I am so very thankful.

Peace,

Jeff

Remembrances, Prayers and Celebrations

- PRAYERS:** **Holy Spirit Parishioners:** Julie C. Anderson, Kendle Baggarly, Bill Bartow, The Brislin family, Sumner & Jan Cahoon, Gale Clarida, Bruce Cross, Ilse Ferrari, Tom Gibson, Harold Gill, Norm & Marilyn Goeltz, Robbie Goleman, Trevor Hicks, Cameron Howell, Chris Kennedy, May Kitsell, Sarah Lipscomb, Robert & Barbara Oliver, Jacqueline Perdue, Chris Prianti, Marylou Riley, Harry Stine, Jay Sylvester
- Friends & Family:** Joe Adams, Robert Allen, Miriam Barnett, Alice Buchanan, Linda Bryant, Michael Carew, Luke Chamberlain, Nathan Cobb, Marie Conley, Bill Dickerson, Paula Evangelista, Helen Gill, Ken Hawkins, Patti Hazzard, Howell family friend, Anne Hutson, Jeff Joyner, John Kelleher, Lynne Knight, Joy Kudsick, Arlene Larsen, Leslie McClary, Brent McCormick, Betty McIntyre, The Rev. Linda Moore, Caroline Newell, Fr. Jay Pierce, Wanda Price, Rick Reagan, Sydney Ridings, Cindi White Roth, Elwin & Mary Sasser, David Spruill, Charles Story, Taylor Suggs, Betsy Tanner, Edward Walker, Donna Washburn, Brent Weatherly, Keaton Yingling, Fran Young
- DEATHS:** Sylvia Nelson, Patty Fusaro, Heather Hampton, Frank Laudano, Margaret Brough, Bill Bartow, Al Kishel
- BIRTHDAYS:** Kirk Wintersteen, Judy Norman, Ty Watt, Steve Howell, Wade Baggarly, Garrett Venable, Chris Kennedy, Chris Correnti, Calvin Norris, Foster Watt, Neva Jahnz, Jason David, Tyler Hawkins, Noel Orris, Chad Cartwright, Shannon Darke, Sally Woodhead, Ann Maholick, Sharon Wilson, Kent Tuttle, Henry Cantrell
- EXPECTANT PARENTS:** Wade & Kristi Baggarly, Carlton & Trisha Estes, James & Jill Franklin Gooch
- ARMED FORCES:** We pray for all who serve our nation in the armed forces, both at home and abroad.
- BIRTHS:** Charlotte Louise, to Clif & Nichole Freeman and big sister Vivienne



Charlotte Louise Freeman
Born at 10:33 p.m. on November 27
6 pounds, 3 ounces
18.5 inches

Treasurer's Report

Into the fall and the Red Door Festival was a total success! As you read this, we will be working through the final stages of Stewardship, so I'll take a little more page space this month to share updates on that, as well as how the vestry has disbursed the large gift we received. But first, let's look at our monthly numbers.

Revenue is up in October just about 8%, led by very strong pledging performance -- up just over 12% -- better than expected cash in the offering, and other gifts. No one single event led to the increase - just strong giving.

Expenses for October were also up - about 12%. Like the revenue side, no single event contributed to this increase, rather some minor increases we'll budget for next year and some expenditures made out of step with the budget.



The annual numbers show the consistency of our activities with revenues maintaining at 7% over budget and expenses 3% over budget. Of course this doesn't include the large gift we received in June or the disbursements from that gift made by the vestry.

Before we look an update on Stewardship, I want to share the prayerful decisions the vestry has made with disbursements from the large gift we received in June. Substantive repairs and upgrades have been made to the buildings and grounds, making our church a safer and, I believe, more appealing place to gather. Some of the principal from our loan with the Diocese was retired, allowing us to avoid significant interest payments. Finally, the addition of Cathy Zappa and Kristin Edwards for the rest of 2013 significantly impacts our operations.

Downstairs bathroom	12,840
Remove Trees	2,500
Repairs - Youth Building	6,080
Fix Drainage	3,476
Soccer Field	4,700
Note Paydown	25,000
Gift to Memorial Garden	11,000
Curate 2013	542
Administrator 2013	3,800
Remaining Balance	30,062

Treasurer's Report, continued

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Pledge Units</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average</i>
Weekly	26	67,756	2,606
Semi-Monthly	3	11,400	3,800
Monthly	63	152,828	2,426
Quarterly	5	15,900	3,180
Semi-Annually	1	2,000	2,000
Annually	9	20,650	2,294
Irregular or Restricted*	3	7,160	2,387
Totals	107	277,694*	2,595

As we do each October, ECOHS kicked off its Stewardship season with strong results and wonderful ideas from Tom McDonnell and his team. I hope you've had the opportunity speak with them and prayerfully considered pledging. To the left is the most recent update.

*Reported incorrectly in one of the services; this number has been corrected.

And finally, our current cash balances are below. The operating account reflects final payments for the organ and the principal payment.

<u>Current Cash Position</u>	<u>Through October 2013</u>	<u>Through September 2013</u>
Regions Bank Operating Account	38,447	50,363
Regions Bank Money Market Fund	184,607	184,592
Regions Bank Pre-School Checking	(572)	947
Regions Bank Rector Discretionary	532	821
<u>Regions Bank Savings (Overdraft Protection)</u>	<u>10,240</u>	<u>10,108</u>
Totals	233,254	246,831
<i>Coverage (28,777 avg monthly expenses)</i>	<i>8.11</i>	<i>8.58</i>

Faithfully,
Bill Taylor, Treasurer



Weekly Schedule

Monday	1:00 p.m. AA Meeting in Parish Hall
Tuesday	12:30 p.m. AA Meeting in Parish Hall 12:30 p.m. Mothers' Group in Sanctuary 6:00 p.m. Education for Ministry in Parish Hall
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. "In Stitches" Knitting & Crochet in Parish Hall 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	10:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist 12:30 p.m. AA Meeting in Parish Hall
Friday	10:00 a.m. AA Meeting in Parish Hall
Sunday	8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

Mailing to the Church

If you are mailing to the church, please use the post office box address:

Church of the Holy Spirit
P.O. Box 1010
Cumming, GA 30028

All first-class mail should be sent to the post office box address. The Pilgrim Mill Road address only receives second- and third-class mail, and the post office will return any first-class mail with this address to the sender.

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Fr. Keith is available by appointment outside of scheduled office hours.

The Dove is a monthly publication of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. Questions, comments or submissions may be directed to co-editors [Gigi Comer](#) and [Meredith Wargo](#).