

The Chimes



IN THIS ISSUE:

2	Church Information	13	– January	22	Children's Ministry
3	Rector's Message	14	– February	23	Youth Ministry
4	VBS Pictures	15	– March	24	Youth Sunday Pictures
6	Fall Parish Retreat	16	– April	26	Last Day of Sunday School
7	2025–2026 Year-in-Review	18	– May	26	New Needlepoint Chair
8	– August	19	Music Ministry	27	Pentecost Pictures
9	– September	20	Choral Evensong	28	June–July Calendar
10	– October	20	Choir School Showcase	29	Parish News
11	– November	21	Jazz on Walnut Street	30	June Ministry of the Month
12	– December	21	Education for Ministry	31	July Ministry of the Month

About Christ Church

Christ Church is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Atlanta. We are a vibrant parish in the heart of downtown Macon, Georgia. Founded in 1825, Christ Church is the oldest church in Macon and the Mother Church of the Diocese of Atlanta. Last year, we observed the Bicentennial of our founding in a yearlong celebration. We are grateful for all those from around Macon and Middle Georgia and the Diocese of Atlanta we joined us during our celebration. We are a loving place where all are welcome and we invite anyone interested in becoming part of our family to join us in building the next two hundred years at Christ Church.

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The Rev. Cynthia Knapp
Rector

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

A year of faithfulness and growth

“In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.” — 1 Peter 3:15

In looking back on this year what stands out to me the most is the growth we are experiencing with new people of all ages becoming an active part of our community of worship and faith. While certainly it is the Lord who provides the growth, I believe it is also testimony to your faithful witness. While some have simply found us by searching online, many have said they were invited by friends who are members here, or that many of their favorite people go to Christ Church. In other words, it is the faithfulness of your witness that is so attractive.

People come to the Lord because they are wooed by him. It is the power of attraction that draws people to following Christ, not a good argument. When people see Christ in your life, they want that too. When people see the peace of God that passes understanding keeping you calm and joyful when we are living in crazy times, they want to know what anchors you. When you are going through personal struggles but seem to be rising above them because of your faith in the Lord who holds the future in His hands, you bear witness to the hope that is within you.

We have been wrestling for years now with how to do evangelism Episcopalian style. The Lord must have been laughing as we wrestled in those conversations trying to figure out what to do, because the Lord was already working through your faithfulness to spread the good news. When you care for those in need by serving in various ministries in our community, you bear witness to your faith in the Lord. When you take time out of your busy schedule to come to worship on Sundays, have your children in Sunday School, and even yourself go to Bible Study, you are bearing witness to your faith. When you serve in the church not because you should but because it is a joy for you, you bear witness to your faith. When you give back to the Lord sacrificially with your time, talent, and treasure, you bear witness to your faith. When you have committed to raise your children within a community of faith alongside other parents in fellowship with that faith-filled community, you bear witness to your faith. When you extend a welcome to people you don't

know when they come into church, or when you invite a friend to come to church with you, you bear witness to the hope that is within you. This year we have been seeing the fruit of your faithfulness, and it has been and continues to be a great blessing. You are the reason we are seeing such growth. It is Christ in you. It didn't even require serving on a committee, just living in faithfulness and bearing witness to the one who gives you life, love, joy and peace.

Even as I sit writing this a parishioner stopped by who has been living this out who just happened to be wearing one of the Christ Church t-shirts from our fall retreat. It made me smile to see such a concrete example of what I was in the process of reflecting on!

The storms of this world continue to rage around us. We still face personal loss, stresses caused by finances, challenging relationships, illness or injuries, and we constantly deal with things that would distract us from what is most important. But in holding Christ as Lord above all else in our hearts and in our minds, He holds us steady, lifts us up so we don't get stuck in the mire, and all those other concerns and distractions become subject to His far greater power at work in our lives. We are truly blessed to be living in Christ and living as part of this wonderful body of Christ that is Christ Church. I rejoice to see you inviting others to be a part of our family of faith, and to see you welcome the stranger with such warmth and compassion. You are truly a witness to the steadfast love of the Lord. You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and even though the mark from baptism may be invisible, the light of Christ within you shows as you live for Him!

Blessings to you my beloved parish family,
The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

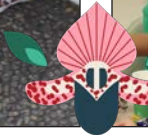
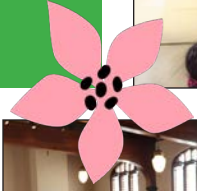
Vacation Bible School




Day One



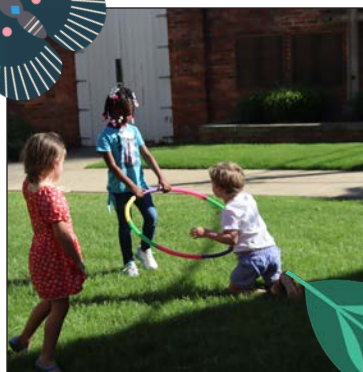

Day Two

Day Three



Day Four



2026 Parish Retreat at Camp Mikell

“Treading upon the heights”

October 9–11, 2026

This year we are proud to be hold our fall parish retreat at the Diocese of Atlanta’s own Camp Mikell in Toccoa, Georgia. Camp Mikell is a 460-acre camp along Little Toccoa Creek in the mountains of North Georgia. It features mountain, valleys, streams, waterfalls, forests, comfortable cabins, retreat facilities, and a climbing wall. Our theme for the retreat is “Treading upon the heights” and is taken from 2 Samuel 22:32–34. Together, we will explore that ways in which

God guides our feet over difficult places, meets us on the mountaintops of life, and prepares us to return down the other side.

We excited to build on the success of last year’s treat at Kanuga. Everyone who went had a wonderful, fulfilling, and energizing time together. These retreat are an opportunity for relaxation, spiritual growth, and bonding, both as individual families and as a parish family. We look forward to seeing you at Camp Mikell in October!



Age Group	Shared Room	Private Room
Ages 0–3	Free	Free
Ages 4–12	\$90.00	\$125.00
Ages 13–17	\$135.00	\$187.50
Ages 18+	\$180.00	\$250.00

Includes lodging, linens, meals, and activities. 50% deposit due at registration. Remainder due July 4.



**SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER**

REGISTER NOW. REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 4.



2025 – 2026 YEAR IN REVIEW

Photographs by:

**David Cline · Rachel Horkan · Tim Hoskins · Cynthia Knapp
Nidia Svare · Hope Westervelt · Evey Wetherbee**

While at first it seemed like this year was destined to live in the shadow of last year's Bicentennial Celebration, the 2025–2026 program year turned out to be a busy and eventful year in its own right. In every way, the people of Christ Church have shown their willingness not just to appreciate the foundation laid by past generations, but to build upon it to continue this parish as a house of worship, service, and love in the heart of Georgia for years to come.

The following pages are a month-by-month review of everything that has happened in the past year with pictures from all our church's many activities since the program year began last August. Laid out like this, it is easy to see what a full year it's been. From the holy days of the Church calendar like Christmas, Easter, All Saints' and Pentecost, to beloved annual gatherings like the Blessing of the Animals, the Parish Picnic, and the Shrove Tuesday Supper, to our children and family events like All Hallows' Eve, the St. Nicholas service, and Vacation Bible School, this year was fill with all the worship, joy, and fellowship we've come to expect at Christ Church. In addition, this year brought

new, special experiences. We held two service projects to serve our downtown Macon neighbors with sandwiches and hygiene bags. We invited Allen Levi, the Columbus-based author of the novel *Theo of Golden*, to give a talk that attracted over 400 attendees from around the Southeast. We held two parish retreats, one to Kanuga, the Episcopal camp and conference center in the mountains of Hendersonville, North Carolina, and one on the island of St. Barths. And we celebrated the Centennial of our Parish House, which was constructed in 1926, by excavating a time capsule that was built into its cornerstone and by gathering our own time capsule to document our Bicentennial Celebration.

It has also been a year of incredible growth. We are blessed with an active and vibrant community across all age groups, from our youngest children to the Seasoned Saints. We have had so many new members that we had to hold two newcomer parties this year and in April Bishop Wright confirmed thirteen youth and thirteen adults. We look forward to seeing what this community's love and dedication and God's faithfulness will bring in the year to come.



**CHRIST
CHURCH**
EPISCOPAL



AUGUST



The Blessing of the Backpacks



Music time with Ms. Lacey!



The first day of Sunday school



Adult Sunday school



Mind already blown



Equipping our students for the school year



Youth Sunday school



Young Family Supper Club at the Schorrs'



Peanut butter and jelly



All in the Family service project



Learning about hospitality



All ages working together



Everyone pitched in



A full fridge

SEPTEMBER



Fall parish breakfast



Everyone gathered in the Great Hall



Fall ECW gathering hosted by the Sheridans



Starting the year off together



Seasoned Saints dinner



Rooted: An Evening of Song & Spirit



Joyful worship fills Jones Chapel



Fall newcomers welcome party



Hosted by the Hollidays



Introducing ourselves to new members



Making the altar frontal



2025 Fall Parish Retreat at Kanuga



Compline in the chapel



Saturday afternoon at the lake



Sunday morning Eucharist in the woods



The baptism of Carlice Foreman

OCTOBER



St. Francis of Assisi pet blessing



Giving thanks for our animal friends



Choral Evensong



Meow!



Fall parish picnic



Hayrides around the farm



So much food!



They lined up early to hear Allen Levi



Columbus-native author Allen Levi



Signing his novel! Theo of Golden



All Hallows' Eve service



Everyone in their costumes



A Nu-Way hot dog for the soldier



A kitten



Carnival in the Great Hall



The Hulk loved the beanbag toss



Avast!

NOVEMBER



Leading the procession



The Feast of All Saints



All Souls' Service



Remembering our loved ones



Rooted in Jones Chapel



Addison Henry speaking at Diocesan Council



Elizabeth Benjamin receiving the Bishop's Cross



The baptism of Smith Mark Walker



Stewardship luncheon



Parish retreat to St. Barths



Caribbean sunset



The Feast of Christ the King



All in the Family service project



Filling hygiene bags



Everyone helped



Journey into Advent



Making Advent wreaths



Getting the holly just right

DECEMBER



St. Nicholas Service



Gifts from St. Nicholas



Making miters



ECW Christmas Party



Hosted by Leah McNeill



Cookies and Carols



Making gingerbread houses



Advent Lessons and Carols



Preparing for Christmas



The adult and children's choirs



Christmas Pageant



The Holy Family



Shepherds



Angels and Magi



Christmas Eve



Silent night, holy night



Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

JANUARY



The Feast of the Epiphany



The Magi adore the Christ child



Epiphany house blessing



Snow day



Winter wonderland



Snowy garden



Christ Church in the snow



Chilling on ice



EYC Winter Retreat



Wipeout



Retreat theme



Winter in Tennessee



Scenic view



A licensed preacher



Annual meeting



Senior Warden's report

FEBRUARY



All in the Family



Journey into Lent



Rachel and the Alleluias



The Alleluias are buried!



Choral Evensong



The end of Epiphany



Let my prayer be counted as incense before you



Shrove Tuesday



Low Country Boil...



...and King Cake!



Laissez les bons temps rouler



Lent



Ash Wednesday



The Imposition of Ashes



Let us observe a holy Lent

MARCH



Jones Chapel



Choral Evensong



Lenten Chants



New Beginnings



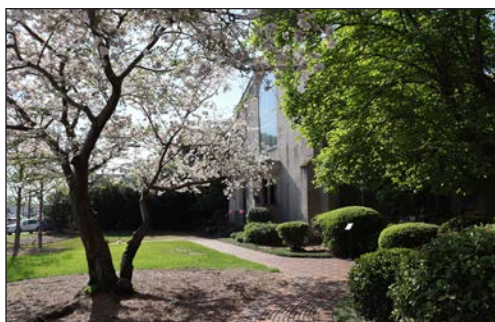
Camp Mikell



Young Family Supper Club



Fun on the swing



Cherry blossom time!



Spring Art Show



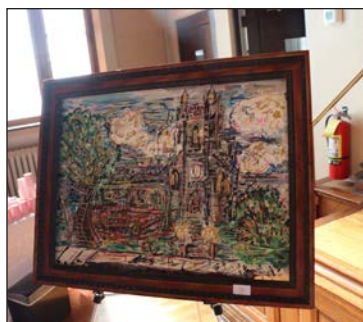
Stained Glass Window Tours



Art show



Our curator, Ginny Lane!



A masterpiece



Learning about history



Palm Sunday



The Liturgy of the Palms



Learning about Holy Week

APRIL



The Spiritual Art of Song concert



Altar servers luncheon



Agape supper



Maundy Thursday



Processing to the church



Foot washing



Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday



Noon service



Veneration of the Cross



Easter egg hunt



And they're off!



Spring flowers



A photo finish



All the families together



The Easter Vigil



Together with St. Paul's

APRIL



Easter Day



Planning the procession



At the flower cross



Easter best



Excavating the cornerstone



Found the time capsule



Treasures of the past



Confirmation service



Children's choir



Listening to Bishop Wright



Confirmation



"Let your Holy Spirit ever be with them."



Viewing 1926's time capsule



Blessing 2026's time capsule



Newcomers Welcome Party



Introducing ourselves



Welcoming newcomers

MAY



Youth Sunday



Addison's sermon



Our seniors



Choral Evensong



Chanting in the chapel



Choir School of Macon awards



New choristers



Last day of Sunday school



Sundaes Sunday party



Baptism of Reeves Harrell



Baptism of Stuart Turk



Jazz on Walnut Street



The Matt Miller Quintet



Choir Appreciation Barbecue



We love our choir!



The Day of Pentecost



O come, Holy Spirit



Red velvet cake

MUSIC MINISTRY

A Year of Harmony: 2025–2026 Music Ministry Year-in-Review

What a breathtaking year of worship and song we have shared! The 2025–2026 program season has been a true testament to the spiritual art of song here at Christ Church. The season lifted off joyfully in August with the return of our beloved Christ Church Choir, immediately enriching our Sunday Holy Eucharists. Shortly after, the Choir School of Macon began its new year in September, nurturing the next generation of musical talent through our St. Cecilia Choir and our older Choristers.

Throughout the year, our spirits were consistently uplifted not just by congregational hymns and organ preludes, but by unforgettable special events. Our fall was anchored by a magnificent Organ Concert and Choral Evensong on the C.B. Fisk organ, and our holiday season was made all the more beautiful by the cherished service of Advent Lessons and Carols in December. As we moved into winter and spring, our souls were fed by intimate Choral Evensongs in Jones Chapel and the Church, and a glorious Spring Confirmation



Service where all our choirs combined their voices. We were also deeply moved by “The Spiritual Art of Song” in March, an incredible concert featuring a stunning lineup of sopranos—including Marie Jarriel Roberts and Makayla Brooks—alongside talented students, performing a beautiful blend of Spirituals, Gospel art songs, and classical masterworks.

To close out our spring offerings, we enjoyed

a joyous, free community gathering for “Jazz on Walnut Street” featuring the Matt Miller Quintet. Throughout it all, my weekly blog, “*The Liturgy of Peace*,” provided a space for deep, thoughtful reflections on the connection between scripture, daily life, and the music we share.



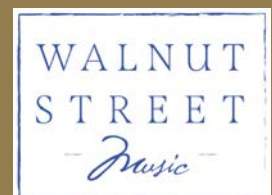
As we close the book on this spectacular season, our eyes are already fixed on an exciting horizon! We should also add that there are some wonderful musical programming opportunities in store for next season, with some very familiar faces returning to share their incredible talents.

Looking further ahead, we are thrilled to be preparing for our upcoming Choral Residency at Lichfield Cathedral in the United Kingdom, scheduled for August 2027. This residency also includes 10-15 non-singer slots, so if you are interested in joining us on this incredible journey, please contact Jonathan! To help make this \$75,000 dream a reality, we recently launched “The Lichfield 365” fundraiser. We invite our entire parish family to stop by the Parish House to claim a donation slot and help send our voices across the pond. Thank you for a wonderful year of making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

“Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord!” — Psalm 150:6



Mr. Jonathan Alan Poe, M.Mus
Director of Music & Liturgy
<http://www.walnutstreetmusic.org>



Choral Even- song



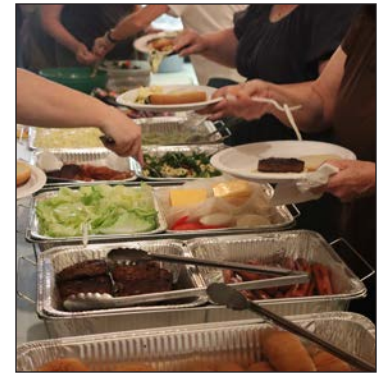
Choir School of Macon Showcase & Awards



Jazz on Walnut Street



Choir Appreciation BBQ



Registration for EfM Opens in mid-July

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a program of lay theological education that offers an intensive, systematic exploration of the Christian faith. It consists of four year-long programs covering, the Old Testament, the New Testament, Church history, and ethics and spirituality. The programs follow the academic year and consist of a curriculum of readings and weekly two-hour discussions on Zoom. The next session begins on the Monday after Labor Day and registration opens in mid-July.

Education for Ministry lives at the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. It is a unique four-year, small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has helped more than 120,000 participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service where they

live, work, and play. EfM helps the faithful discover the Christian tradition, bringing it into conversation with their experiences of the world. EfM seminar groups develop theologically informed, reflective, and articulate seekers of God.

Many people have been taught that one must be ordained to be a minister, but our vows at baptism say something different: that all baptized Christians are ministers. God calls us to be active participants in ministry. What is that ministry? As the Church, we are called to continue the ministry of Jesus. We are called to be the hands, heart, and incarnate body of Christ in our own place through worship, reflection, service to others, and by the proclamation of God's Word to all people.

For more information about EfM, visit: www.theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Year-End Review:

From fun at special events like the annual Easter Egg Hunt to fellowship and spiritual growth during Sunday School, what a wonderful programming year we've had in Christ Church's Children's Ministry! This year's Sunday School's focus in Sunday School was trusting God, even when times get tough. Through both Old Testament and New Testament stories, we learned how to lean on God in our own lives and how to share that His love with others. It is my hope that this group of children always remembers God's steadfast love and guidance in their lives.

Thank you all for your support of our ministry and for loving on the youngest children of God!



Vacation Bible School 2026:

Christ Church's Vacation Bible School, Rainforest Falls: Discovering the Nature of God, was full of energy and fun with over 100 participants, youth helpers, and adult volunteers. Throughout the week we explored how God is our creator, all-knowing, our safe place, and forever love. Each day, kids enjoyed a snack, sang and danced to songs, completed a craft, experienced a Bible lesson, performed science experiments, and played games to help them learn more about God. Each evening ended with fellowship and a meal in the Great Hall.



Rachel Horkan
Director of Children's Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY

What an incredible and fun time we have had this year in youth group! Our 6th-12th graders spent this school year diving deeper into their faith, building relationships that will last a lifetime, and exploring what it means to live into their relationship with God. In Sunday School, we spent the year exploring The New Testament through videos and thoughtful discussion. We also had 13 youth who decided to commit to their faith through Confirmation Class which met every Sunday morning this year. Each Confirmation Class taught our confirmands about topics like church history, the sacraments, The Episcopal faith, and so much more. We were thrilled that all of them were confirmed on April 19th!

Our EYC group met every Sunday evening and every other Friday morning this year! EYC was filled with so many fun activities like packing socks for Weekend Lunch, writing holiday cards for parishioners who are homebound, making positive affirmation jars, walking through Lenten prayer stations, and so much more (in-

cluding lots and lots of games!) We also did our annual haunted house trip in October and added a new trip, The EYC Mountain Retreat, which was a wonderful success! We took 15 youth and 5 adult chaperones to Gatlinburg, TN for a fun long weekend spent skiing, playing in the snow, ice skating, visiting the aquarium, doing Bible study, and so much fun time in community playing board games and endless rounds of imposter and hide and seek. We are really excited to keep this trip and a yearly tradition!

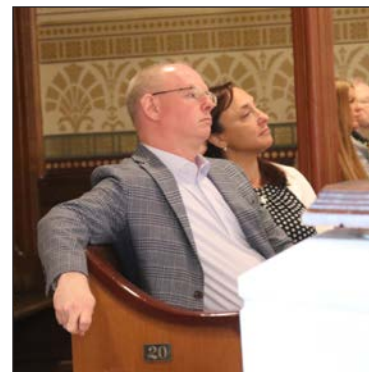
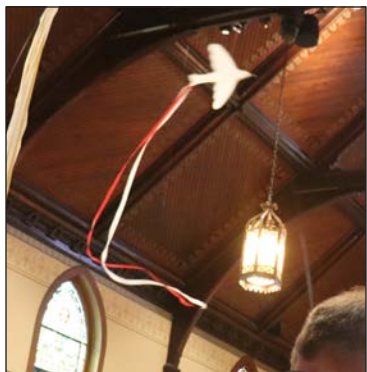
There were so many other joyful moments, trips, and experiences throughout the year and I'm so grateful for this committed group of teenagers who are so eager to be in community with each other and grow in their faith.

We are so thrilled for our seven graduating seniors and can't wait to welcome our new 6th graders to our group in August! For more information about our youth program, please do not hesitate to reach out to Hope at hope@christchurchmacon.com



Hope Westervelt
Director of Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday





Last Day of Sunday School



Karen Yarbrough has recently completed this exquisitely embroidered needlepoint design, which will be installed as the back cushion for the tall chair on the pulpit side of the altar, to complement the bishop's chair on the lectern side which has the crest of the Diocese of Atlanta embroidered on its back cushion. This design features a cross surrounded by grapes and wheat, representing the bread and wine of the Eucharist, and the trigram "IHS," which comes from ΙΗΣΟΥΣ, the name of Jesus in Greek. This needlepoint work will join dozens of other embroidered cushions and kneelers which have been crafted with skill and dedication by generations of Christ Church members.



The Day of Pentecost



WEEKLY CALENDAR of EVENTS *June & July 2026*

May 31 – June 6

Sunday, May 31: Trinity Sunday

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Monday, June 1

4:30pm | Vacation Bible School | Parish House

Tuesday, June 2

4:30pm | Vacation Bible School | Parish House

Wednesday, June 3

12pm | Holy Eucharist & Healing | Church
4:30pm | Vacation Bible School | Parish House
8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Thursday, June 4

4:30pm | Vacation Bible School | Parish House

Saturday, June 6

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

June 7 – June 13

Sunday, June 7: The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Wednesday, June 10

12pm | Holy Eucharist & Healing | Church
8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Saturday, June 13

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel
3–5pm | Haitian Hope Fish Fry | St. Paul's

June 14 – June 20

Sunday, June 14: The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Tuesday, June 16

5:15pm | Vestry Meeting | Cloister Room

Wednesday, June 17

12pm | Holy Eucharist & Healing | Church
8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Thursday, June 18

10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Carlyle Place

Saturday, June 20

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

June 21 – June 27

Sunday, June 21: The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Wednesday, June 24

12pm | Holy Eucharist & Healing | Church
8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Saturday, June 27

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

June 28– July 4

Sunday, June 28: The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Wednesday, July 1

8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Saturday, July 4

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

July 5– July 11

Sunday, July 5: The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

WEEKLY CALENDAR of EVENTS June & July 2026

Monday, July 6

Parish office closed for Independence Day

Wednesday, July 8

8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Saturday, July 11

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

July 12– July 18

Sunday, July 12: The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Wednesday, July 15

8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Saturday, July 18

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

July 19– July 25

Sunday, July 19: The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church

10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Tuesday, July 21

5:15pm | Vestry Meeting | Cloister Room

Wednesday, July 22

8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Saturday, July 25

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

July 26– August 1

Sunday, July 26: The 9th Sunday after Pentecost

8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Wednesday, July 29

8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Saturday, August 1

11am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

PARISH NEWS

Welcome the Newly Baptized!



**Reeves Curfman
Harrell**



**Stuart Evelyn
Turk**



**Robert Hatcher Receives First-Ever
Honorary Doctorate from MGSU**

Christ Church member Robert Hatcher was awarded Middle Georgia State University's first-ever honorary doctorate in recognition of his longtime leadership in the Macon community and support of MGSU.

MINISTRY *of the* MONTH: JUNE



About us:

Macon Volunteer Clinic provides free, high-quality medical, dental, and pharmaceutical care to low-income, uninsured adult residents of Middle Georgia. Staffed by dedicated volunteers, we offer compassionate healthcare to those who need it most—helping our community stay healthier, one patient at a time.

Our impact at a glance

2025

- 7,229 Patient Encounters
- 1,189 Medical Visits
- 301 Dental Services provided
- 198 Cancer Screenings
- \$249,797 in Prescription Assistance
- 187 Active Volunteers providing 4,664 hours of service
- \$1,563,470 Estimated Value of Services

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Every gift helps provide free, life-changing care to those in need.



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CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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MINISTRY *of the* MONTH: JULY



www.maconbookem.org

Book 'Em is a local 501(c)(3) corporation which partners with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office to deliver books to children/youth in our community who might otherwise have none. Christ Church parishioner Katie Powers serves as its executive director.

To date, Book 'Em has delivered over 60,000 brand-new books to children/youth in Macon-Bibb County. This partnership with the BCSO helps to foster a positive relationship between our local law enforcement officers and the community. Most recently Book 'Em held a book distribution at Rosa Taylor Elementary School. Each of the school's 405 students was able to select four brand-new books to keep in an effort to prevent "summer slide." Every dollar donated goes toward the purchase of new books. Donations can be made via maconbookem.org or by sending a check to **Book 'Em** at 3557 Vineville Avenue, Macon, 31204.

Why is this so important? More than 43% of all children in Macon-Bibb are growing up in poverty. Most of these children have very few, if any, books in their homes. Consider this statistic: in low-income neighborhoods there is approximately **one book for every 300 children**. In **middle** income neighborhoods there are approximately **13 books per child in each household**. Access to books is fundamental to developing reading skills. Studies confirm that the number of books in the home directly affects reading achievement levels. Perhaps the most disturbing fact of all is that many municipalities plan the number of jail cells needed in the future by the percentage of students in their schools who cannot read fluently by the end of their 3rd grade year.

For more information about Book 'Em or to make an online donation, visit: maconbookem.org



