

CHRIST CHURCH

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

"Growing by God's Grace as a Family of Faith, Fellowship, and Ministry"



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 | 10:30AM

*"We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus
as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually."*

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church gladly welcomes all people. Our clergy, staff, and parishioners are delighted to assist you in learning more about our worship and our community. Restrooms are located in the Parish House to the left of the church. Ushers are available to assist you as needed. If this is your first time visiting with us today, please complete a visitor card (*located in the pew*) and place it in the offering plate. Clipboards containing materials for children are available in the Narthex.

Nursery care is provided next door in the Parish House; however, all children are welcome in our services.

Christ Church is an active and vibrant parish in the heart of Downtown Macon since its founding in 1825. We are a forward-looking parish that values our heritage, liturgy, and outreach to the greater community. To learn more please visit us online via our website at www.christchurchmacon.com. The Parish Office is open from 9a–4p Monday through Thursday. You can reach us by calling (478) 745-0427.

We Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christ Church welcomes all people and no matter where you are on your faith journey, you have a place here. We hope to see you soon.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Holy Eucharist at Carlyle Place

Thursday, September 17

10:30 am in the Lower Level Activity Room

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20

8 am & 10:30 am in the Church

Compline

Sunday, September 20

6:30 pm in the Church

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 27

8 am & 10:30 am in the Church

Compline

Sunday, September 27

6:30 pm in the Church

Holy Eucharist & Healing

Every Wednesday

Noon in the Church

Compline

Every Wednesday

8:45 pm on Facebook

THE ENTRANCE RITE

OPENING VOLUNTARY: *A Fancy in C*

William Byrd (c. 1540–1623)

The People stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Hymnal, 410

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GLORIA

Hymnal, S 280

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The People sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 50:15–21

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

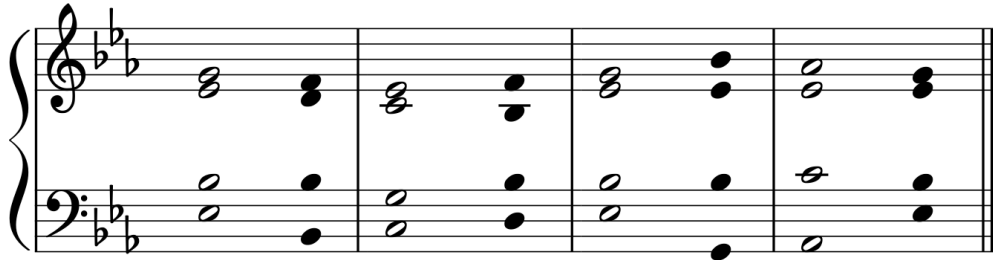
Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do

harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL

Psalm 103:8–13



- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and /mercy, *
slow to anger and of great /kindness.
- 9 He will not always ac/cuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for /ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our /sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our /wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the /earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who /fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the /west, *
so far has he removed our sins from /us.
- 13 As a father cares for his /children, *
so does the LORD care for those who /fear him.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 14:1–12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE: O bless the Lord, my soul!

Hymnal, 411

The People remain standing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21–35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Intercessor: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all peoples. Please add your own prayers of praise and
thanksgiving.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority,
especially those serving in the military: Alivia, Austin, Cameron, Donald,
Georgia, Joe, Lorraine, Sam, and Theodore.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to
conserve it.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those on our Parish Prayer list: Al, Angie, Bailey, Becca, Bill, Bob, Brenda, Catherine, Claire, Dan, Dave, Dennis, Ed, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Ellen, George, Gibson, Gracie Marie, Griffin, Helen, Jaime, JB, John, Kay, Kristie, Lee, Leslie, Libby, Lisa, Lowe, Margaret, Martha, Matthew, Nancy, Pat, Patricia, Pete, Phil, Pud, Rodney, Sammy, Tommy, Trisha, William, and Wright.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. We remember this day Martha Weaver McKenzie, Emmet Gardner McKenzie Jr., Emmet Gardner McKenzie, and Helen Lewis McKenzie, for whom the altar flowers are given in loving memory and to the glory of God.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant will conclude with a suitable Collect

The People remain kneeling.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SIN

BCP, p. 360

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

The People stand.

THE PEACE

The People sit.

WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

We come together as the Body of Christ, we partake in the Body of Christ, to go out into the world to be the Body of Christ. All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you do not wish to partake, you are invited to receive a blessing by crossing your arms at the altar rail. If you are unable to come to the altar, please notify an usher and the elements will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would like to receive prayer for healing, please remain at the rail after receiving Communion with your hands in an attitude of prayer and our prayer ministers will pray with you and anoint you with oil for healing.

THE OFFERTORY

The People stand.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY: “Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake” Richard Farrant (c. 1525–1580)

Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore. Amen.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION: Praise God from whom all blessing flow Hymnal, 380 v. 3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A BCP, p. 361

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord Hymnal, S 125

The People kneel.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION BCP, p. 362

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION BCP, p. 363

THE GREAT AMEN

THE LORD’S PRAYER BCP, p. 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM: Christ our passover Hymnal, S 155

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

During Communion, please observe a holy and respectful silence to allow for private prayer.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: I come with joy to meet my Lord

Hymnal, 304

The People kneel.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 365

THE BLESSING

The People stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Christ is the world's true Light

Hymnal, 542

THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: *Voluntary in D Major*

William Boyce (1711–1779)

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

CELEBRANT & GOSPELER

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

PREACHER

Tim Hoskins

VERGER

Sandy Duke

FLOWER GUILD

Erin Bickley

ACOLYTES

Annie Buzzell, *crucifer*

Will Buzzell, *clergy cross*

Brooks Buzzell, *torch*

Maren McNeill, *torch*

HEALING PRAYER MINISTER

Virgil Warren

USHERS & GREETERS

Susannah & Tripp Maddux

Ed & Molly Muse

Peter & Sydney Solomon

Duncan & Gini Walker

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Chris Blake

Susan Allen

ALTAR GUILD

Nan Harper

Katherine Hudson

Sally Hatcher

VESTRY WELCOMER

Molly Muse

AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNICIAN

David Cline

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Parish Office Hours | Monday—Thursday 9am–12pm & 1pm–4pm | Closed Friday

Sunday, September 13: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken) — *Church*
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School — *Parish House*
- 9:30 am Youth Sunday School — *Youth Suite*
- 9:30 am Adult Discussion of Sunday's Scriptures — *Great Hall*
- 9:30 am Bishop's Podcast Discussion Group — *Parlor*
- 9:30 am Christ Church Choir — *Church*
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (With music) — *Church*
- Lemonade on the Lawn — *Cloister Garden*
- 11:30 am Weekend Lunch — *Jones Chapel*
- 4:00 pm Parish Picnic — *Home of Blair & Brad Sumrall*

Wednesday, September 16

- 9 am Women's Bible Study — *Parlor*
- 10:45 am Wise Women's Bible Study — *Cloister Room*
- 12 pm Holy Eucharist & Healing — *Church*
- 8:45 pm Compline — *Facebook*

Thursday, September 17

- 7:10 am Men's Bible Study — *Cloister Room*
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist — *Carlyle Place*
- 6 pm Christ Church Choir — *Choir Room*

Friday, September 18

Parish office is closed

Saturday, September 19

- 11:30 am Weekend Lunch — *Jones Chapel*

Sunday, September 20: The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken) — *Church*
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School — *Parish House*
- 9:30 am Youth Sunday School — *Youth Suite*
- 9:30 am Adult Discussion of Sunday's Scriptures — *Great Hall*
- 9:30 am Bishop's Podcast Discussion Group — *Parlor*
- 9:30 am Christ Church Choir — *Church*
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (With music) — *Church*
- Lemonade on the Lawn — *Cloister Garden*
- 11:30 am Weekend Lunch — *Jones Chapel*
- 5 pm Sunday Evening Supper — *Great Hall*
- 5:30 pm Alpha Course — *Cloister Room*
- 5:30 pm Adult Bible Study — *Youth Sunday School Room*
- 5:30 pm EYC — *Youth Suite*
- 5:30 pm Knitting Group — *Parlor*
- 5:30 pm Choir School of Macon — *Choir Room*
- 6:30 pm Compline — *Church*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please send announcements to communications@christchurchmacon.com)

Alpha Marriage Course Postponed

The Alpha Marriage Course is being postponed due to scheduling conflicts. It will begin later in the fall, probably on Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in signing up, please contact the office or email Cynthia at cynthia@christchurchmacon.com.

Parish Picnic

TODAY from 4 pm to 7 pm

This year's picnic will be this afternoon starting at 4 pm. The Sumralls will be hosting at their home at 865 Fieldstone Drive. The picnic is always one of the highlights of the year and an excellent chance to connect with and get to know new people. There will be some tables and chairs there, however you may want to bring folding chairs and/or picnic blankets for your family.

The church will provide fried chicken. If your last name begins with A–I, bring a side dish. J–R, bring a fruit, vegetable, or salad. S–Z bring a dessert.



Safeguarding God's Children Training

Sunday, September 20 after the 10:30 am service

An up-to-date Safeguarding God's Children certification is required for all clergy, staff, vestry members, Sunday school teachers, and volunteers aged 16 or older who work with children or youth. Once completed, a Safeguarding certification is valid for three years before needing to be renewed. An online version of this class is available at SafeChurchAtlanta.org/Training. For those who would like to complete the training in-person, there will be a training in the Cloister Room on Sunday, September 20 following the end of the 10:30a service. Please email Rachel Horkan (Rachel@ChristChurchMacon.com) or Hope Westervelt (Hope@ChristChurchMacon.com) for more details or to register. Lunch is included for all participants.

Communion Around the Altar

Sunday, October 4 during the 10:30 am service

On Sunday, October 4, we will have an opportunity for children to gain a better understanding of worship by observing in Holy Eucharist from around the altar. Children will gather around the altar for the Eucharistic prayer during the 10:30 am service.

St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 3 at 10:30a

St. Francis of Assisi was one of the most popular medieval saints, known for his humility, care for the poor, and love of the natural world. Each year, we celebrate his feast in early October by gathering to bless and give thanks for our non-human companions and all the other blessings of the created world that God has given us. Bring your pets to the Memorial Garden at 10:30a on Saturday, October 3, for a short service and blessing. There will be treat bags and collar medallions for all the furry attendees!

Service with a Saint

Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 am

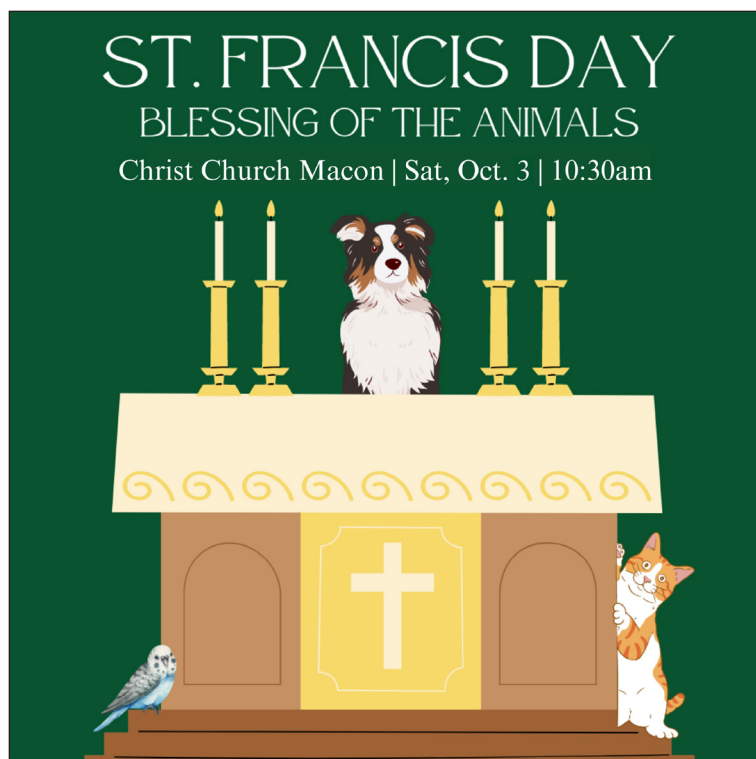
On Sunday, October 4, 2026, in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have a service project in the Great Hall during the Sunday school hour starting at 9:30 am. St. Francis was famous for his love and care for the poor and hungry. We will honor his example by making sandwiches to fill the community refrigerator at Centenary Methodist Church.

We are collecting donations of sandwich materials for the project. We need bread, peanut butter, and jelly. Bring them by the parish office during the week or to the parish house on Sunday morning. And be sure to bring yourself on October 4. There will be opportunities to help for all ages. Rumor has it that St. Francis himself will stop by to tell us about his life.

Choral Evensong

Sunday, October 4 at 6:30 pm

The choir will be presenting their first Choral Evensong of the program year on Sunday, October 4 at 6:30 pm. This will conclude that day's Sunday Evenings at Christ Church in place of the Compline service. Evensong is a beautiful part of the Anglican worship tradition that pairs choral music with the liturgy of the Evening Prayer service.



MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER



Empowering Haitians Through Education

Haitian Hope is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that, since 2004, has partnered with Saint Marc Episcopal School in the small mountain village of Trouin in the southwestern peninsula of Haiti.

On behalf of everyone in Haitian Hope, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support over the past year. Thanks to your donations, we have been able to continue providing essential resources, educational opportunities, and hope to a community in need.

As we start the 2026 - 2027 School Term we face the challenge of raising \$120,000 to continue our existing classes at St. Marc and the University Scholarship Program. Fortunately, a generous donor has offered to match donations received during August and September. A life-line to give us hope for success in the year ahead.

A gift of \$50 becomes \$100.

A gift of \$250 becomes \$500.

**Whatever amount you choose,
your generosity will have twice the impact.**

We deeply appreciate your trust and your willingness to stand with us during these challenging times and look forward to keeping you updated on classes at St. Marc's.

The previous school term concluded with a Solar Class that serves both students at St. Marc and the community of Trouin, Haiti.

Thank you once again for your kindness and for believing in the potential of the Haitian people.

With sincere appreciation,

Marcia Aldridge, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Haitian Hope

BOSTON BUTT SALE

Delicious Boston Butts smoked by Fincher's BBQ and flavored with the famous Haitian Hope Rub.

Butts \$50 each

Pick up at St. Paul's Oct. 15-17

To order, contact:

Irene Marxsen: 478-319-4220
David Cline: 478-244-0693
Elizabeth Benjamin: 478-390-8266



Solar Power Class July 2026

There is no electrical power in Trouin. Solar power can provide a light at night, charge a cell phone, or power a radio.

St. Marc School provides a Solar Power Class each year for students who have attended the electrical power class and people of the community.

Solar Class starts in the classroom and continues with cleaning and learning about the solar panels.



The students also learn what devices are needed to control how the electrical current from the panels is used to charge a battery, convert the solar panel electrical current from DC to AC, and how to safely connect an electrical device.

**Donate online by
scanning the QR code
or mail checks to:**

**Haitian Hope, Inc.
P.O. Box 4005
Macon, GA 31208
www.haitian-hope.org
Facebook:
HaitianHopeTrouin**



VESTRY

Jed Hill, *Senior Warden*
Rob Wilkin, *Junior Warden*
Steve Welsh, *Treasurer*
Chris Hair, *Clerk*

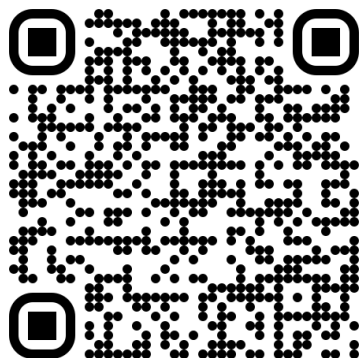
William Baxley
Jan Beeland
Margaret Boltja
Christine Hoskins

Keri Jones
Molly Muse
Jeff Powers
Nancy Wilkerson

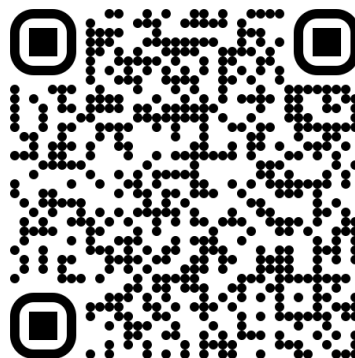
CLERGY & STAFF

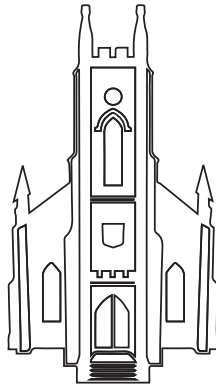
The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, *Bishop of Atlanta*
The Rev. Cynthia C. Knapp, *Rector*
The Rev. Harriette J. Simmons, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Dr. John F. McCard, *Priest Associate*
Hope Westervelt, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Rachel Horkan, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Jonathan A. Poe, *Director of Music & Liturgy*
Lacey Chaney, *Associate for Children's Music*
Nidia Svare *Parish Administrator*
Timothy Hoskins, *Director of Communications*
Laurel Eady, *Parish Bookkeeper*
Hal Brickle, *Director of Weekend Lunch Ministry*
Robert Hubbard, *Sexton*
Markisha Carter, *Assistant Sexton*

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CHRIST
CHURCH
EPISCOPAL