



The CATHEDRAL TIMES

The weekly newsletter of the Cathedral of St. Philip · Serving Atlanta and the World · March 15, 2026

TRUE BELIEVERS? TRUE LOVERS!

by the Very Rev. Sam Candler, Dean of the Cathedral

One of my favorite stories (and I believe it is true) is about Alfred North Whitehead, the esteemed philosopher, who was delivering a lecture about cosmology, the study of the world. Cosmology seeks to explain where the world comes from, in both scientific and philosophical terms. After the lecture, an earnest listener came up and said, “Dr. Whitehead, what you have said sounds nice; but I know otherwise. The world, the earth, really rests on the back of a giant turtle.”

“Oh,” responded Dr. Whitehead, “What, then, does that turtle rest upon?” The man replied, “well, the turtle rests upon the back of another turtle!” “Really?” Dr. Whitehead indulged him, “How about that second turtle? What does he rest on?”

“Oh, Dr. Whitehead,” the man responded gleefully, “you can’t fool me! It’s turtles all the way down!”

I think of that story whenever I encounter a “true believer,” someone who is simply unable, or unwilling, to consider another point of view. I have engaged true believers since I was a child, and they are especially prevalent in churches. After all, church is the place where we hear so many stories that are hard to prove scientifically and empirically. Thus, churches can be places where people are often given license to be true believers. I have learned in church, however, that “true believers” can be dangerous, even destructive.

Yes, I learned about the danger of true believers in church, but I also learned about true believers in the county fair. Outside the tent at the county fair, I saw people mesmerized by the carnival barker, seduced by the allure of easy prizes, moved by the unthinking energy of the crowd, and generally wasting their time and their money.

I learned more about true believers when I read the excellent little book, published in 1951, with that title: *True Believers: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements*. It was written by Eric Hoffer, and it bears re-reading, time and time again. He was writing just after the mass movements of fascism and communism around World War II. But he also described the similar kinds of unaware brainwashing that occurs from generation to generation, such as in the French Revolution and in the medieval Church. The mindset of true believers is not deterred by facts or reason. “It’s turtles, all the way down,” and nothing anyone can say can change that.

I am sensitive to the “true believers” phenomenon because I serve in the religion field. Religion has always contained these types of personalities. Maybe because religion appeals to an unknown, religion can sometimes even pride itself by being unreasonable. And religion certainly deals in absolutes. That, too, can mean that religion is vulnerable to rabble-rousers and carnival barkers and fanatics.

Back in 2011, Frank Bruni wrote about the intransigent, and even naïve, obstinance of “true believers.” (see “True Believers, All of Us,” by Frank Bruni, *New York Times*, 6 August, 2011). He correctly observed then that such narrow-mindedness occurs on the right and on the left, in the religious and in the not-so-religious.

Eric Hoffer proposed that mass movements give true believers both a way to deal with their anger and also a sense of purpose. “Their innermost craving is for a new life—a rebirth—or, failing this, a chance to acquire new elements of pride, confidence, hope, a sense of purpose and worth by an identification with a holy cause... Passionate hatred can give meaning and purpose to an empty life ... Thus people haunted by the purposelessness of their lives try to find a new content not only by dedicating themselves to a holy cause but also by nursing a fanatical grievance.”

“Craving for a new life?” “a rebirth?” These are religious phrases! I get that part of the religious phenomenon, too. In my experience, true believers—whether conservative or liberal—are rarely persuaded out of their mindset by reason, or even by law! The way that people change their belief is by conversion. Yes, the good old religious word, “conversion.” We are not converted by being out-argued or out-reasoned. We are converted when we experience truth and morality and love in a new way.

Friends, that is why I belong to the church. Our role is indeed to convert, to show people a new way of life with our hearts, with the way we act, with the way we love. I do not mind true belief when it is founded in true love. I want to be a true lover first, and then a true believer.

Sam Candler



This SUNDAY

MARCH 15, 2026 • The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A

1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

8:45 A.M., 11:15 A.M., AND 4 P.M. IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

CATHEDRALATL.ORG / [THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PHILIP APP](#) / [FACEBOOK](#) / [YOUTUBE](#)

7:45 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, MIKELL CHAPEL

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Canon Julia Mitchener

8:45 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, CATHEDRAL

Celebrant: The Very Rev. Sam Candler

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Julia Mitchener

8:45 a.m. Cathedral Singers and Cathedral Choristers:

Thomas Matthews (1915-1999), *The Lord is my Shepherd*

Henry Purcell (c. 1659-1695), *Remember not, Lord, our offences*

11:15 a.m. Cathedral Choir:

Franz Schubert (1797-1828), *Psalm 23*

Becky McGlade (b. 1974), *Little Lamb*

11:15 A.M. LA SANTA EUCARISTÍA, MIKELL CHAPEL

Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Juan Sandoval

4 P.M. DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION, CATHEDRAL

Celebrant and Preacher: The Right Rev. Robert Wright

The choir of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta; Matthew Brown, director

SENIOR LIVING AND CARE 101

An offering from Respite Care Atlanta, a joint ministry of the Cathedral and other area churches

Friday, March 20, 10–11:30 a.m.

Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Ryland Knight Room

Already navigating care? We're here to help you plan the next steps.

An advisor from Senior Provisions will explain how care needs change over time, what types of care to consider, and how to make informed decisions at the right moment.

Join us to learn:

- The different types of senior care and when each is needed
- What Medicare and Medicaid actually cover
- How to layer benefits to meet care needs
- Which legal documents matter
- Veteran's benefits overview

Register at respitecareatlanta@spdl.org. This workshop is open to the public and is great for both caregivers and anyone who might have questions about their own senior living options.

PARISH *Life*

Episcopal Church Women

Spring Fling

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) SPRING FLING:
A TIME TO PLANT, PLUCK, AND PERUSE**

Thursday, April 23

5:30–7:30 p.m., *Cathedral Atrium*

“For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.” —Ecclesiastes 3:1–2

Grab a friend, bring a snack or beverage to share and come out to our first ECW-wide social event of the year! We are planning an Earth Day themed event, including some great local vendors for shopping, just in time for Easter and Mother's Day. This is a fun way to connect with other women in the Cathedral. All women of the Cathedral are welcome and encouraged!

Please RSVP at cathedralATL.org/ECWSpringFling.



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

This Lent, spend Wednesday evenings with your Cathedral community. Through March 25, we'll start with dinner in Child Hall at 5:30 p.m., followed by a variety of options from 6–7 p.m. to nourish your soul and mind. Dinner will change each week. Adults are \$15, and children's buttered noodles and applesauce are free. Registration and payment in advance online is preferred by Sunday each week so we can order food accurately. You can do this by the week or all at once. Walk-ups are welcome with cashless payment available onsite. **Learn more and RSVP for dinner at cathedralATL.org/lentenseries.**

HOLY SMALL TALK!

Child Hall

So much of what draws us to church is community in the name of God and shared faith—we love being together! Join us for small group discussions about wilderness, spiritual practices, temptation, and grace. Come once, come every time, just come and be together. Canon Ashley Carr leads this group with others.

WRITER'S GROUP

Room 240

If you enjoy writing and sharing what you've written with others, this group is for you! Whether it is a poem, letter, short story, novel or memoir, or maybe nonfiction or a cookbook, even a grocery shopping list for a unique menu, share your enjoyment of writing. Everyone will have their own primary project. The chief scribe will be parishioner Ken Brownlee.

FOR KIDS: JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Room 316

Children ages 3-5th grade will journey with Jesus into Jerusalem. We will hear the story of Jesus' arrival into the city as well as prepare banners that we will carry during the Palm Sunday parade on Sunday, March 29. Join us each week as we hear the story of Jesus' journey and prepare the way for his arrival.

THE CHOSEN: VIEWERS DISCUSSION GROUP

Lanier House. Please note this class starts at 5 p.m.

The Chosen series dramatizes Bible stories about Jesus and his first disciples. It's been energizing viewers worldwide, including our own Cathedral members for the past three years. Join us to view the next episode in our discussions. We bring snacks, and family and friends are also welcome. For questions, contact the Rev. Dr. Thee Smith at 404-365-1093 or tsmith@cathedralATL.org.

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Walthour Library

What we believe about heaven, judgment, and resurrection is the grammar of the Christian life. It quietly governs what we think the world is for, how we understand justice and mercy, and why the life of faith matters. This five-week course examines how our resurrection hope shapes imagination, ethics, and daily life, asking what it means to live faithfully now if God intends not to abandon the world but to redeem and restore it. Join Canon David Boyd as we explore how Easter gives shape to Christian hope and practice.

THE YOUTH TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT.

Ages 0-3: Nurturing Center is open.

The CATHEDRAL of ST. PHILIP

The Very Rev. Samuel G. Candler, *Dean*

Dale Adelman, Ph.D., *Canon for Music*

The Rev. Canon Salmoon Bashir,

Canon for Liturgy and Ecumenism

The Rev. Canon David E. Boyd III, *Canon for Pastoral Care*

The Rev. Canon Ashley Carr, *Canon for Parish Life*

The Rev. Canon George M. Maxwell, Jr., *Vicar*

The Rev. Canon Julia B. Mitchener, *Canon for Mission*

The Rev. Deacon Linda Rosengren

The Rev. Deacon Juan Sandoval,

Deacon for Hispanic Ministries and Pastoral Care

The Rev. Theophus "Thee" Smith, Ph.D., *Priest Associate*

Haven Long, *Senior Warden*

Mary Hall Perrin, *Junior Warden*

CATHEDRAL TIMES SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

FOR THE SUNDAY, MARCH 22, ISSUE, THE DEADLINE IS **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**. FOR THE SUNDAY, MARCH 29 ISSUE, THE DEADLINE IS **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**.

TO RECEIVE THE TIMES BY EMAIL:

CONTACT LIZ AULL, LAULL@CATHEDRALATL.ORG.

TO SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST:

CONTACT SARA CRAIG-GODELL, SCRAIGGOODELL@CATHEDRALATL.ORG.

404-365-1000 | cathedralATL.org

pastoral care emergency line:

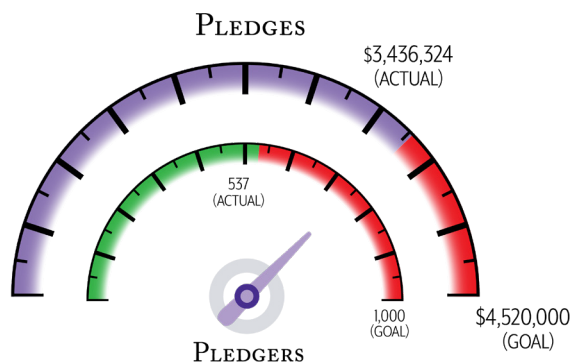
404-365-1003



CATHEDRALATL



STEWARDSHIP



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Pledgers: 537

Pledges: \$3,436,324

Thanks to the 70 households that have pledged almost \$400,000 to the 2026 Stewardship Campaign in the past several weeks—that covers approximately one month of budgeted pledge income for the Cathedral this year! With just over \$1,000,000 to go to meet our goal, please make your pledge today and help us keep the momentum going. Make your pledge at cathedralATL.org/pledge or contact David Rocchio, drocchio@cathedralATL.org or by phone 404-365-1033. Thank you!

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE AT
CATHEDRALATL.ORG/PLEDGE
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SUPPORT THE CATHEDRAL!



PASTORAL Care

RESILIENCE BEREAVEMENT WORKSHOP: DISCOVERING YOUR STRENGTH THROUGH GRIEF

Saturday, April 11

1:30–5:30 p.m., Child Hall

Please join Hospice Atlanta for their fourth annual RESILIENCE Bereavement Workshop on Saturday, April 11, 1:30–5:30 p.m. in Child Hall. This half-day event will help you discover the resilience within as you work through the grief of losing a loved one. The event features speakers sharing personal stories of resilience in grief, and loss-specific group breakout sessions facilitated by bereavement professionals.

This is a free event, open to all adults working through the death of a loved one. Pre-registration by April 4 is requested.

For questions and to register for Resilience 2026, contact Paulette Slawson, Bereavement Coordinator, Hospice Atlanta at 404-527-6558 or Paulette.Slawson@vnhs.org

SPIRITUALITY



LABYRINTH WALK AND TAIZÉ PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Monday, March 16

7 p.m., Child Hall

Refresh your soul with a contemplative third Monday of March. We'll begin in Child Hall for an hour of walking the sacred labyrinth path starting at 7 p.m. Or come a few minutes early for a brief introduction if you are new to the labyrinth.

Then, come to Mikell Chapel at 8 p.m. for Taizé Prayers for Peace. Originating in Taizé, France, this simple service of scripture, music, silence, and candlelight will bring a beautiful and prayerful close to your Monday.

The facilitated Labyrinth walk and Taizé service take place every third Monday at the Cathedral. Come to one, or both—and bring a friend! Questions? Contact Jeannie Mahood, jmahood@cathedralATL.org or 404-365-1031.

SACRED PAUSE – A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE IN LENT

Mondays, March 23 and March 30

7–8 p.m., Cathedral

Be still and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:10

Silence is God's first language; everything else is a poor translation. —Thomas Keating

Looking for a spiritual practice during Lent? Join us Monday evenings from 7–8 p.m., March 23 and March 30 in the St. Luke's Chapel (Andrews Transept of the Cathedral) where we will gather in silent community followed by brief readings and reflection.

Come early if you would like to learn more about the method of Centering Prayer, The Prayer of Consent. Facilitators, Wyman Davis and Sandra Carey will be available from 6:30–7 p.m. to answer questions and provide brief guidelines for the practice of Centering Prayer.

OUTREACH

TEACH KNITTING TO THE LAAMISTAD AFTER-SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Do you knit? Do you love to teach others? A dedicated group of parishioners volunteer to teach the LaAmistad students on Tuesday afternoons during their after-school program. Having a couple of extra volunteers would help keep the program strong! If you're interested in joining the knitting crew, please email Sara Craig-Goodell at sraiggoodell@cathedralATL.org.

A letter from parishioner and volunteer Susan Frierson about the program:

Teaching knitting to children began at the Boys and Girls Club in Brookhaven in 2013 at their after-school program. Since then, several of us taught knitting at the LaAmistad program at Peachtree Presbyterian for 6 years until Covid. We have also taught at Children's Healthcare every week for almost 10 years. While there, we offer to teach the patients along with parents and siblings when they drop by the library on Wednesday mornings. So many have thanked us for teaching them a skill that can distract them from whatever is going on with their health. This quiet time activity serves to reinforce their self-esteem and pride of accomplishment.

To quote what was in the AJC article about us in 2014, "there is something about seeing a child's face light up when they learn something new which is relatively simple but requires concentration. We are paid back tenfold with their enthusiasm."

After 18 months of teaching at the LaAmistad program at the Cathedral, we look forward to many more smiling faces of 4th and 5th grade knitters every Tuesday afternoon.

MUSIC



THE CHOIR OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Friday, April 24

7:30 p.m., Cathedral Nave

The Choir of Westminster Abbey is renowned worldwide as one of the finest choirs of its type. Comprising up to thirty boys and twelve professional adult singers, the choir's wide-ranging performing activities are rooted in centuries-old tradition, and its repertoire ranges from plainsong and Tudor polyphony to 20th-century masterpieces and new commissions. The choir's primary purpose is the singing of the Abbey's daily services. In addition, it plays a central role in the many royal, state, and national occasions which take place there. The choir also pursues a varied program of recordings, concerts and tours, traveling in recent years to Australia, the Far East, the United States, Russia, Hungary, Italy, Spain and Germany. In the UK, the choir presents an annual concert program in the Abbey, and has performed at many leading venues and festivals, including the BBC Proms and the London Festival of Baroque Music. Tickets are available at cathedralATL.org/westminsterabbey.

CHILDREN'S Ministry

HOLY EUCHARIST INSTRUCTION CLASS

Holy Eucharist Instruction Class is designed to instruct early learners (traditionally beginning in first grade) on the meaning of Holy Eucharist and the liturgy of the Episcopal Church. This is a three week class that meets in St. Mary's Chapel on the third floor. Classes are held during the education hour (10 – 11 a.m.) An adult is expected to attend this class with their child, so that conversations can continue at home (and it's great way to connect with other parents.) Please register at cathedralATL.org/HEIC. The schedule is as follows:

- April 19: Lesson 1
- April 26: Lesson 2
- May 10: Lesson 3
- May 17: Holy Eucharist Instruction Class Celebration



REGISTER FOR WEEK OF WONDER!

Vacation Bible School at the Cathedral of St. Philip is known as Week of Wonder. Join us for a week of fun in June as we wonder together at God's creation and All Creatures Great and Small. Camp is for children ages 3–5th grade from June 1-5, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Register at cathedralATL.org/WeekofWonder.

CHILL ON THE HILL

APRIL 26

IN THE CATHEDRAL PARKING LOT

Join us Sunday, April 26 for an evening of singing and dancing. Dean Sam Candler will start the show, playing his favorite songs on the piano, and then The Placeholders will take the stage with rock, dance and party tunes.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR DINNER, AND FAVORITE BEVERAGES AND JOIN THE FUN! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



the PLACEHOLDERS

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

We will once again have beautiful floral arrangements and decorations in our sacred spaces this Easter, with your help! Donations received on or before Sunday, March 29 will be listed in the Easter service leaflet. Those received after that date will be listed online. Your donation can be made in memory of or thanksgiving for a loved one. A minimum of \$150 per printed line is suggested, but any gift will be appreciated. Please do not let financial constraints prevent you from remembering your loved ones.

Give Online:

Scan the QR code to the right with your phone to be directed to the online giving form.

By Check:

Fill out the form below and include a check payable to The Cathedral of St. Philip (Easter Flowers).



REQUEST FOR EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

Please list name (or names) as you want them to appear:

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

NAME(S): _____

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

NAME(S): _____

Please complete the following information about you:

YOUR NAME(S): _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

DATE: _____

Please include a check with your request, made payable to The Cathedral of St. Philip (Easter Flowers). Checks and forms should be sent to the Cathedral. You may also make arrangements by contacting Hillary Jones, 404-365-1038 or hjones@cathedralATL.org.

PRAYER *List*

FOR THOSE WITH IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

Randy Allen • Frank Armstrong • John Bott • Nancy Ehringer • JT Foster • Henry Long

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR RECOVERING:

LONG TERM PRAYERS: R. Huntley Allen • David Apple • Betsy Bacon • Lucy Baker • Sandra Baldwin • Benjamin Bao • Lola Battle • Ann and Frank Blackistone, Jr. • Larry Boggs • Stacy Boyd • The Bryant Family • Don Cameron • The Crossley Family • Rita Daly • Jerri Darnell • Jean Davis • Debbie Dewees • Sharon Douglas • Lucy Draper • Janet Harrison Estes • Phoebe Forio • Brad Foresythe • Susan Gavalis • Jenny Ham • Heather Huber • Melanie Johnson • Bennie King • Karen Klein • Lisa Krysiak • Bonnie Lamberth • Charles Lane • Jill Mahaffey • Tommy Mason • Clyde May • Wynetta McNeill • Floyd McRae • Sally Menning • Glenn Miller • Graham Mullin • Jim Myrick • Charlie Neal • Lori Hegwood Owens • Marian Palmore • Patti Parker • Brenda Pruitt • Rubye Reid • Lorraine Reynolds • Barbara Rice • Bob Riggins • Lisa Rowe • Lisa Staats • Louis “Skip” Schueddig • Roberta Shields • Bronnie Smith • Fair Sutherlin • Richard Swanson • Hans Teeuw • Martin Tilson, Jr. • Tommy Truesdale • Art Vinson • Carolynne Williams • Jim Wilson

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Josephine Rose Adams • Marianna Bortner • Jason Brady • Trip Bray • Dennis and Robin Bridges • Saint Legend Brown • Beverly Brownlee • Geneveive Brownlee • Anne Bumbak • Memory Calame • Lila Jo Callaway • Karen Frierson Cate • Anna Clifford • Andrea Cody • Sally Coleman • Beatrice “Bea” Comstock • Linda Connelly • Inaam Copty • Ellen Cordova • Ava Corroon • John M. DeBorde IV • Mary Kent Ellis • Marilyn Epstein • Marly Farias • Martha Flory • Pete Fonash • Kyle Garcia • Shannon Garcia • Laura Gardner • Ann George • Alexis Grace • Nikki Greenaway • Thomas E. Glynn • Ted Hackett • Nicholas Hadden • Harold Ham • McKee Hamilton • Josh Hargraves • Shirley Helmke • Keith Hinze • Lisa Hoybach • Jane Hunnicutt • Cherish Huntley • Wayne Huerth • Beth Ingle • William Irwin • Richard Jacobson • Dilini Jayawardena • Rhett Jayne • Farley Jenkins, Sr. • Margaret Maples Jones • Delores and Lee Josephs • Patricia Kasm • Christopher Keltz • Mary Weston Klein • Gary Laney • Doris Little • Pete Livezey • Beverly Loper • Lauren Makhoul • Stephen McCain • Hailey McKeefry • Iris Miller • Carlene Minar • Jon Moravec • Larry Mortimer • Tom Myer • Augusta Horsey Nash • Fred Neuschel • Linus Nickel • Ramona O’Neill • Jeff Pace • Alfredo Paniagua • Stephen Pararo • Anna Lilia Diaz Parra • Ann Paskey • Kari Pekar • Jacquelin Bennett Phillips • Kevin Race • Alex and Preston Ratliff • Paul Reeves • Hugh Ripps • Charlie Roberts • Mr. and Mrs. William Rowe • Einar Sagstuen • Don Saliers • James Sands • Patricia Schooley • Lelia Sinclair • Alice Smith-Mather • Michael and Kathryn Snider • Laura Snyder • Becky Spotts • Doug Stapp • Kimberly Still • Izzy Straus • Dan Sullivan • Jan Swanson • Ted Tarantino • Pierson Thames • Cliff Thompson • Charles Vaughan • Angel Vega • Leopoldo Velita • Pat Volpicella • Dan Walls • John Wilmer • Caroline Davis Wish • Christie Woodfin • Cutler Woodfin • Sylvia Wright • Gordy Grayson Wyatt • Hollis Youngner

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Curtis Jones



SAVE THE DATE

Buckhead Cares One-Year Celebration
Thursday, March 26, 11:00 a.m.
Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Resource Center

Join us as we rejoice in one year of serving our unhoused neighbors together through Buckhead Cares, a groundbreaking interfaith and nonprofit partnership. Enjoy refreshments, be inspired as you learn about our collective impact, and witness exciting announcements about the year ahead.



THIS SUNDAY AT A GLANCE

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Mikell Chapel

8:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Cathedral

10:10 a.m. Old Fashioned Sunday School
Child Hall

10:10 a.m. Living Faith
Room 239

10:10 a.m. YP Sunday School
Room 120

10:10 a.m. Godly Play Parents
Room 368

10:10 a.m. Youth Sunday School
Room 382

10:10 a.m. Godly Play
3rd Floor above the Atrium

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Cathedral

11:15 a.m. La Santa Eucaristía
Mikell Chapel

1:15 p.m. Enjoy Biblical Greek!
Room 239 and online

4 p.m. Diocesan Confirmation
Cathedral

6 p.m. EYC for Middle and High School
Room 382



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PARISH *Life*



Last Sunday, Dean Sam Candler led a guided discussion with All God's Children, the Cathedral's community of LGBTQ+ members, families, and friends, to about the history of LGBTQ+ inclusion at the Cathedral and throughout the Episcopal Church. To learn more about All God's Children, contact the Rev. Canon Ashley Carr, ashley.carr@cathedralATL.org.