

The CATHEDRAL TIMES

The weekly newsletter of the Cathedral of St. Philip · Serving Atlanta and the World · July 26, 2026

WATER

by the Rev. Canon Ashley Carr, *Canon for Parish Life*

A few weeks ago, our son, Shepherd, was baptized. Yes, he's three. When he was born, we gave him two middle names: Philip (I didn't work here yet!) and Abbott. Abbott is the name of an English professor from Sewanee, TN for whom a beautiful garden and trail system is named—Abbo's Alley. We knew that Shep had to be baptized there.

For decades, this place has been a playground and sanctuary in Sewanee, especially for me as a child. It has a trail that probably wasn't intended for 10-year-old mountain biking, though it was perfect for us. There's a little cave, so many bridges to play on and under, a koi pond, rocks, trees, perfectly placed benches, and a creek running throughout. As a kid, and even as an adult, it is the best container for safe curiosity and the feeling of being out in the wild while still just down the road from, well, everyone I know.

The baptism in that sacred place was beautiful, and as we all splashed in the creek afterward, I got thinking about water. This place is special to me and my family, but does the actual water of baptism matter? Does it matter where the water came from? Of course, the prayers make it holy, but what about the water itself?

When my Godson and nephew was baptized, I brought water from the Zygaktis River in Greece where tradition holds that Lydia was baptized. It was an unassuming river, but it felt holy when I was there, so I swiped some water (don't tell Greece). His siblings were baptized with city water, and our daughter, Mary Stuart, got that good old Dekalb County tap water. I have no idea where the water they sprinkled on me came from.

I can assure you that my 15-year-old nephew has no clue that his baptismal water came from Greece. It might also be true that the roughly eight billion children baptized here at the Cathedral have not considered their water's origin. Between you and me, it comes from a sink right here in this building meticulously balanced to be warm—but not too warm.

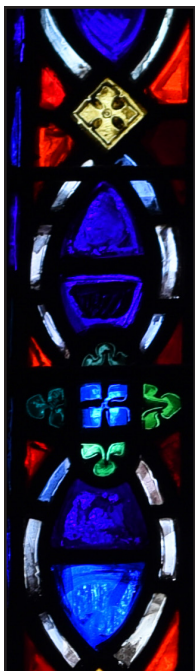
All the water we know, drink, wash with, play in, and sprinkle on heads, has been around for thousands, millions, and maybe even billions of years (mostly...don't get all technical on me, scientists). The water of your baptism may once have flowed through the River Jordan, it might have been in a glass of water that Gandhi sipped while fasting in protest, it might be spraying up in the splash pad at Truist Park right this second, you might have left it in the ocean at St. Simons. Our water might have been Jesus' water—it certainly existed when he did.

In water, we have a constant reminder of what God has made that sustains, cleanses, delights, and refreshes. It links us across time and culture, from the atmosphere to the ground soil, from 10-year-old Ashley to her 3-year-old son, from us to them. We say wonderful prayers to make the water of baptism holy, and those prayers definitely matter. But the water matters too. It carries millennia of memories, joy, miracles, and even devastating sadness. It's an integral piece of our faith and a lasting gift from our Maker.

As we continue to splash around in all kinds of water this summer, as we prepare to baptize babies, as we look with horror at flooding, and as we watch summer storms roll in, maybe we begin to notice the water and give thanks to God for blessing us with such a powerful gift, from Genesis to Revelation, from Jesus in the Jordan to babies in Buckhead.

God could have chosen anything to carry the promise of salvation and love in baptism, but God chose water—ordinary, powerful, mysterious water. Maybe it does matter.





This SUNDAY

JULY 26, 2026 • The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 12, Year A
1 Kings 3:5-12 / Psalm 119:129-136 / Romans 8:26-39 / Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

8:45 A.M. AND 11:15 A.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. Dr. Thee Smith

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Salmoon Bashir

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Thee Smith

Cathedral Choir:

Richard Shephard (1949-2021), *The secret of Christ*

Thomas & Elizabeth Coxhead, *My eyes for beauty pine*

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

Officiant and Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Juan Sandoval

Adult **EDUCATION**

Summer of Hope, 10:10 a.m., Child Hall

Join us in Child Hall on Sunday mornings for the second annual "Summer of Hope." This speaker series sponsored by the Outreach Ministry will focus on the Cathedral's many new and continuing ministries offering relationship, encouragement, advocacy, support, joy, and purpose in partnership with our most vulnerable neighbors.

This Sunday, July 26: Why do we volunteer?: That's the question we will discuss at this Sunday's Summer of Hope session. Come join some of our most dedicated Emmaus House volunteers, our new executive director, David-Lee Mattison, and former executive director, Joe Iarocci, to learn more about Emmaus House and each other.

With the Thrift House closing in September after 77 incredible years, we want to make these last few months a true celebration, and we'd love your help to go out with a bang!



Come on in to find a final treasure, or consider donating those special items you no longer need. We're still gratefully accepting fine jewelry, clothing, bags, china, and all sorts of other odds and ends until **Saturday, August 15**. Donation drop-off hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The following sales are ongoing this summer:

- Christmas in July
- Books
- Jewelry - starts Friday, July 28

Thank you for making the Thrift House such a blessing to the community for all these years!

NEW MEMBERS

Robin Craig from Boca Raton, FL

Ted Ihnen from Augusta, GA

Grayson and Kate Kemper from Alexandria, VA and Atlanta

Mark McGahee from Roswell, GA

Tom Sharp from Alpharetta, GA

Emma Grace Timms from Macon, GA

Chad and Kayla Williams from Lawrenceville, GA and Milton, GA



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

As the school year nears, The Ansley School requests your support. You can help provide essential classroom supplies and resources by contributing through their Amazon Wishlist.

Your donation ensures that every student and teacher has what they need to start the year strong!



LEARN MORE

PRAYER *List*

FOR THOSE WITH IMMEDIATE NEEDS: Katie Neill • Peggy Thuyler and family

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR RECOVERING:

LONG TERM PRAYERS: Randy Allen • R. Huntley Allen • Lucy Baker • Benjamin Bao • Ann & Frank Blackistone, Jr. • Larry Boggs • Jeff Bonnell • Lawrence Booker • Stacy Boyd • The Bryant Family • Don Cameron • Alex Cann • The Crossley Family • Rita Daly • Jerri Darnell • Jean Davis • Laura Demo-Anderson • Debbie Dewees • Sharon Douglas • 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 • Marlene Matthews-Muniz • Clyde May • Wynetta McNeill • Floyd McRae • Sally Menning • Glenn Miller • Millicent Miller • Graham Mulling • Jim Myrick • Charlie Neal • Leo Ortiz • Lori Hegwood Owens • Marian Palmore • Patti Parker • Patricia Payne-White • Brenda Pruitt • Ruby Reid • Lorraine Reynolds • Barbara Rice • Lisa Rowe • Lisa Staats • Louis "Skip" Schueddig • Taylor Shailendra • Roberta Shields • Bronnie Smith • Fair Sutherlin • Richard Swanson • Tommy Truesdale • Art Vinson • Jim Wilson

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Frank Adams • Josephine Rose Adams • Frank Armstrong • Alexander Collins Astrop • Savannah Biven • Walter Boleman • Brenda Bootle • Marianna Bortner • Jason Brady • Trip Bray • Dennis and Robin Bridges • Saint Legend Brown • Beverly Brownlee • Geneveive Brownlee • Anne Bumbak • Marion Bunch • Grace Burnias • Lila Jo Callaway • Caroline Cate • Anna Clifford • Andrea Cody • Sally Coleman • Beatrice "Bea" Comstock • Linda Connelly • Inaam Copt • Ava Corroon • Barbara Daniel • Henry "Hank" Diversi • Marty Dunn • Nancy Ehringer • Mary Kent Ellis • Mercy Elyon • Marilyn Epstein • Elaine Escher • Martha Flory • Pete Fonash • JT Foster • Kyle Garcia • Laura Gardner • Ann George • Emily Giesen • Alexis Grace • Peter Grandell • Nikki Greenaway • Thomas E. Glynn • Dub Gulley • Ted Hackett • Nicholas Hadden • McKee Hamilton • Josh Hargraves • Victoria Leigh Hartness • 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. • Woody Jones • Delores and Lee Josephs • Patricia Kasm • Christopher Keltz • Mary Weston Klein • Gary Laney • Doris Little • Pete Livezey • Henry Long • Lauren Makhlof • Dawn and David Mayers • Stephen McCain • Hailey McKeefry • Barry Miller • Iris Miller • 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 • Jacquelin Bennett Phillips • Kevin Race • Paul Reeves • Hugh Ripps • Charlie Roberts • Mr. and Mrs. William Rowe • Einar Sagstuen • Don Saliers • Ernest Sandoval • Krista Sandoval • Patricia Schooley • Lelia Sinclair • Alice Smith-Mather • Michael and Kathryn Snider • Laura Snyder • Doug Stapp • Izzy Straus • Dan Sullivan • Jan Swanson • Ted Tarantino • Pierson Thames • Cliff Thompson • Pamela Tubbs • Charles Vaughan • Angel Vega • Leopoldo Velita • Pat Volpicella • Dan Walls • Ron Winston • Cutler Woodfin • Sylvia Wright • Gordy Grayson Wyatt • Hollis Youngner

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: George W. Atkins, Jr.

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, AUGUST 2** ISSUE, THE DEADLINE IS **WEDNESDAY, JULY 22.**

TO RECEIVE THE TIMES BY EMAIL:

CONTACT LIZ AULL, LAULL@CATHEDRALATL.ORG.

TO SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST:

CONTACT DAN MURPHY,
DMURPHY@CATHEDRALATL.ORG.

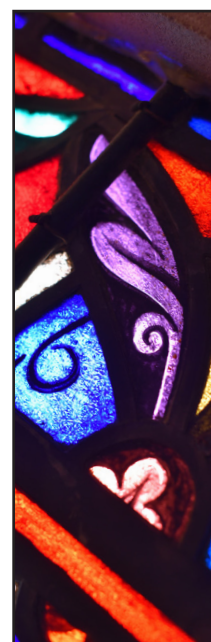
404-365-1000 | cathedralATL.org

pastoral care emergency line:

404-365-1003



CATHEDRALATL



MUSIC



SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CHOIRS UNCORKED

Choirs Uncorked is back – Friday, August 28! Proceeds from this fun and entertaining evening will help support the Cathedral Choir's pilgrimage to Canterbury and Winchester Cathedrals in the summer of 2027. Join us as we hang up our cassocks and let our hair down to show a side of ourselves not seen on a normal Sunday morning.

As part of this fundraiser, we are once again hosting a Cathedral of St. Philip-style Silent Auction. The success of this event depends on the generosity of our Cathedral community, and we are now accepting donations of auction items. Your donation—whether an experience, service, collectible, or handcrafted item—will help make this extraordinary journey possible.

Some of the items that have been especially popular in past auctions include vacation stays, original artwork, airline miles or hotel points, professional services, sports memorabilia, adventure experiences, unique jewelry and crafts, curated gift baskets, antiques and decorative collectibles, rare or specialty books, and event tickets. These are simply suggestions—all donations are sincerely appreciated. Our goal is to offer distinctive and desirable items that generate excitement among bidders while supporting the Cathedral's vibrant music ministry.

Donations are being accepted now and may be dropped off at the Cathedral front desk, in the choir room, or given to Carlisle Dent, Michael Vandergriff, or any member of the music staff and choir. Please include your contact information and a suggested opening bid with your donation so we may properly acknowledge your generosity. Thank you for your continued support of the Cathedral and its music ministry!

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STEWARDSHIP



CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT THE CATHEDRAL'S STAINED GLASS?

The Cathedral's stained glass is the largest and most impressive art collection on campus (and a new digital feature of the Good Faith Chapel!), and we are blessed to have a dedicated endowment fund to support its upkeep. You can help us continue to maintain the beautiful stained glass by committing to the endowment. Contact David Rocchio at drocchio@cathedralATL.org or by phone at 404-365-1033 for more information.

BOTTLED WATER DRIVE

Through Sunday, August 16

Did you know that asphalt can reach 150°F in the summer? That kind of heat makes being outside in the city unbearably hot. Help us keep our neighbors cool by donating cases of bottled water to Crossroads Community Ministries for them to distribute through their street outreach teams! We'll collect water in the Atrium until Homecoming Sunday, August 16.

PARISH BBQ

CathedralATL.org/ParishBBQ

August 23

5:30 p.m.

