



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE ANNUNCIATION

SERVING GOD | SERVING OUR COMMUNITY |
SERVING ONE ANOTHER

"...It's what we do!"

1673 Jamerson Road Marietta, Georgia 30066

2025 Year in Review

The year 2025 was a rebound year where we grieved the loss of some of our long-time members, but we also said hello to many new members, the most we have had since 2019.

*“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. (Luke 1:46)*

*“Tell out my soul” was our stewardship theme this year, and there were many stories shared throughout the year. Some that brought us to tears and others that made us proud of who we are. Every year this parish becomes more faithful and blesses each one of us with our parish mission statement lived out. “Our Mission is to bear witness to God’s love and invite, encourage, and prepare God’s people to share that grace with others.” ECA members also continue to carry out our unofficial, but recognizable motto, “It’s what we do” in so many ways. We gave of our time in ways that ministered to both our parish and our community. We shared our talents in multiple areas including maintenance and projects around our property and in leading projects for the community. We gave financially with a generosity that a lot of churches no longer see. This Parish is doing wonderful things together not only in this place but out in our communities. We are blessed with a church community that continues to make ECA a very special place. In the following pages you will see how the ministries and committees at ECA revealed our generosity among one another and proclaimed the greatness of the lord in our mission and ministry God has called us to do. You will see where we have been and our vision for the future. We are deeply grateful and thankful to take this journey with you all and look forward to continued success in all we do.
Thank you to all who continue to “proclaim the greatness of the Lord” with each other
At ECA and with the people we serve and witness to daily!*

Fr. Paul, Vestry, and Staff

CLERGY AND STAFF

Bishop of Atlanta – The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright

Rector – The Rev. Paul McCabe

Seminarian – Foster Peterson

Pianist & Choirmaster – Joe Lozier

Communications Coordinator – Pamala Foye

Sexton – Horace Higgins

Youth Coordinator – Lily Lippert

Nursery – Kendall McCabe

VESTRY AND WARDENS

Matt Reaves - **Senior Warden/Vestry Liaison to Finance and Stewardship**

George MacDonald - **Junior Warden/ Vestry Liaison to Buildings & Grounds**

Horace Higgins - **Vestry Liaison to Parish Life & Secretary of Vestry**

Cheryl Farr - **Vestry Liaison to Children & Youth Ministry**

Kate Martiny - **Vestry Liaison to Servant Ministries**

Robin Keith - **Vestry Liaison to Faith & Spirituality**

Michele Myers - **Vestry Liaison to Connecting Ministry**

Helene Freese - **Vestry Liaison to Worship**

Jeff Whittingham - **Vestry Liaison to Reach Ministries**

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Stewardship and Finance

Respectfully Submitted by Matt Reaves, (Sr. Warden) Vestry Liaison for Stewardship & Finance

The ECA Stewardship and Finance Committee exists to oversee the time, talent and treasure of ECA. As a first time Senior Warden and Liaison to the Finance Committee, I came to better understand the financial component of what it takes to sponsor all the great works and ministries ECA provides at our church and in our community. We want to recognize that all that happens at ECA is because of this time, talent and treasure within our congregation. As stewards of these funds, we strive to ensure that each dollar is accounted for and utilized to its fullest, and each act of service is recognized and appreciated.

As of : 31-Dec-25	For 2026	Pledges :	83	92%	Still Outstanding Pledge Info:		
Total \$\$ Pledged to date :			\$263,760	Average	Extended	Previous year Pledges still Remaining	4
TBD	28%	Increase :	23	\$547	\$12,570	Past Pledge Amts Remaining	\$8,500.00
Proposed 2026 Pledge Budget	7%	New :	6	\$2,127	\$12,760	Each Averaging: \$	2,125.00
	10%	Decrease :	8	(\$2,685)	(\$21,480)		
	1%	Lost:	1	(\$120)	(\$120)		
Avg. Pledge for 2025 :			\$3,177.83	Net:	\$3,730		
Overall 2026 Avg. Pledge change vs. 2025 Avg. :			(\$96.92)				
			-2.96%				
					\$272,260		\$8,500.00

During this year as Senior Warden, I learned so much about the Church and how we rely on the many volunteers to support our various ministries. Unfortunately, this year several members of our ECA family went home to be with the Lord. Watching the ECA community come together to provide for the families during their time of bereavement was something that I had never really understood before. Having volunteers to help at Church of the Common Ground, Emmaus House, Shady Grove and so many others was inspiring for me, both as Senior Warden and a ECA member. As we move in 2026, I know ECA will continue to thrive because as we say, “It’s what we do.”

As Liaison to the Finance Committee, I learned more about the how ECA works, but also many of the ‘why’s’. There are many moving parts with the financial workings of the church, but the level of transparency provided to the congregation through weekly updates allows for all ECA members to know exactly where ECA is at any given moment. The procedures and policies that have been in place have put ECA on solid financial grounds with opportunity for growth.

In 2025, ECA continued to be fiscally sound in our approach to providing the necessary funding for our many ministries, programs, and staff. The Finance committee did a great job of following our Financial Policies and Procedures, which allows for prudent decisions by the Vestry, and ensures fiscal responsibility for future capital and growth at ECA.

The finance committee worked to ensure clear transparency throughout the year in how the money is managed and dispersed. This year we accomplished:

- Finalizing the Audits for the past 5 years to be submitted to the Diocese. (Delays due to COVID.)
- Continued review of our financial processes to move with the times.
 - Minor changes to the Sunday counter process we recommended.
 - Continued review of our financial processes to maintain accountability.
 - Review of our Financial Accounts, Banking and Investments.
 - Review of our financial process to coincide with the ECA By-laws Review and Update.
- “Tell out my Soul”, stewardship campaign through the back half of the year which has brought us close to the Budget we set for 2026.

There is still much work to be done as we move into the new year, but ECA is in great financial shape to continue our many ministries and with the continued leadership our Vestry, 2026 is shaping up to be a great year. All are invited to attend the ECA Finance Committee Meetings typically meeting on the first Sunday of each month in the Activities Building.

**Episcopal Church of the Annunciation
Preliminary Budget 2026 - December 2025**

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Accounts	Annual Budget 2025	Total Actual 2025 Dec YTD*	Annual Budget 2026
REVENUES			
Contribution Income			
400100 - Plate Offering	\$5,000.00	\$3,772.00	\$5,000.00
400200 - Pledge Payments	\$268,530.00	\$247,914.28	\$263,760.00
400300 - Non Pledge Payments	\$20,000.00	\$16,958.29	\$25,000.00
Total Contribution Income	\$293,530.00	\$268,644.57 *	\$293,760.00
Other Income			
410650 - Music Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
410800 -Interest Income	\$0.00	\$4.41	\$0.00
Total Other Income	\$0.00	\$4.41	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$293,530.00	\$268,648.98 *	\$293,760.00
EXPENSES			
Mortgage Expense			
500100 - Loan #700028 Principle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
500200 - Loan #700028 Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Mortgage Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Diocese			
500500 - Diocesan Pledge	\$23,261.00	\$23,261.00 *	\$24,437.00
590500 - Diocesan Functions	\$1,000.00	\$375.00	\$1,000.00
Total Diocese	\$24,261.00	\$23,636.00 *	\$25,437.00
"Reach"			
510200 - Donation Income	(\$3,500.00)	(\$2,500.00)	(\$3,500.00)
510300 - Outreach Expenses	\$20,500.00	\$16,810.12 *	\$20,500.00
510400 - Inreach	\$2,000.00	\$750.18	\$2,000.00
590100 - Scrip Program Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total "Reach"	\$19,000.00	\$15,060.30	\$19,000.00
Clergy Compensation			
520100 -Clergy Salaries	\$48,003.00 *	\$48,003.12	\$48,003.00
520150 - Rector Housing	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.32	\$28,000.00
520200 - SECA Rector	\$6,502.73	\$6,502.80	\$6,502.73
520250 - Assistant Priest Salary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520300 - Assistant Priest SECA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520400 - Mileage & Cell Phone	\$9,000.00	\$9,505.73	\$9,000.00
520500 - Rector Medical Insurance	\$3,900.00	\$3,779.28	\$3,900.00
520600 - Rector Pension	\$16,471.03 *	\$16,418.81	\$16,471.03
520601 - Assistant Priest Pension	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520602 - Assistant Priest Health Ins.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520603 - Assistant Priest Life Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520650 - Rector Term Life Insurance	\$238.50	\$238.50	\$238.50
520801 - Associate Priest Housing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Clergy Compensation	\$112,115.26	\$112,448.56	\$112,115.26
Clergy Expense			
520775 - Clergy Cont. Education	\$1,000.00	\$600.97	\$1,000.00
520800 - Supply Clergy Expense	\$4,500.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,500.00
800350 - Rector Sabbatical Fund	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Total Clergy Expense	\$10,500.00	\$1,800.97	\$9,500.00
Worship			
530100 - Music Director	\$22,000.00	\$20,765.00	\$22,000.00
530150 - Outside Musicians	\$3,000.00	\$2,550.00 *	\$3,000.00
530200 - Music Choir Supplies	\$250.00	\$363.32	\$250.00
530300 - Piano/Organ Maintenance	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$250.00
530400 - Bulletins and Printing	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
530500 - Spiritual Life & Acolyte	\$1,000.00	\$1,104.13	\$1,000.00
Total Worship	\$26,700.00	\$24,907.45 *	\$26,700.00

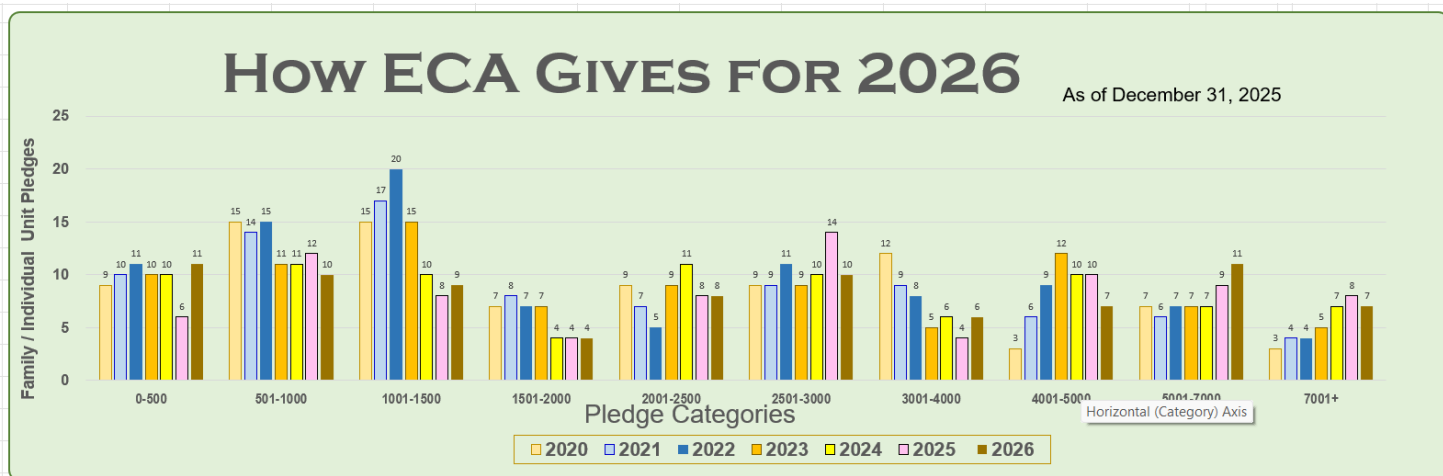
Episcopal Church of the Annunciation
Preliminary Budget 2026 - December 2025

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Accounts	Annual Budget 2025	Total Actual 2025 Dec YTD*	Annual Budget 2026
Altar Guild			
530700 - Altar Expense	\$1,500.00	\$1,529.49	\$2,000.00
530800 - Flowers	\$1,500.00	\$1,922.94	\$1,500.00
530801 - Flower Income	(\$2,500.00)	(\$1,530.00)	(\$2,500.00)
530900 - Altar Guild Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Altar Guild	\$500.00	\$1,922.43	\$1,000.00
Evangelism			
540400 - Web Page Expenses	\$250.00	\$99.80	\$250.00
Total Evangelism	\$250.00	\$99.80 *	\$250.00
Office & Admin Expenses			
550100 - Checking Account Service Charge	\$0.00	\$804.00	\$0.00
550200 - Parish Administrator Expense	\$17,056.00	\$15,778.76 *	\$17,056.00
550300 - Telephone & Internet Exp.	\$2,000.00	\$1,727.65	\$2,000.00
550400 - Office Expenses - Copier lease	\$5,750.00	\$4,556.04	\$5,750.00
550500 - Postage	\$200.00	\$72.75	\$200.00
550700 - General Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
550800 - Equipment Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Office & Adm. Expenses	\$25,006.00	\$22,939.20 *	\$25,006.00
Parish Life			
560300 - Coffee Hour	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
560400 - Parish Life Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$758.01	\$1,000.00
560500 - Membership Directory Exp.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
560600 - Stewardship, CDC, Nametags	\$750.00	\$292.54	\$750.00
560700 - Vestry Activities	\$3,000.00	\$2,503.72	\$3,000.00
Total Parish Life	\$4,950.00	\$3,554.27 *	\$4,950.00
Building and Grounds			
570100 - Fire & Liability Insurance	\$10,000.00	\$11,594.50	\$11,300.00
570200 - Propane Gas	\$1,500.00	\$1,225.57	\$1,100.00
570201 - Garbage & Recycle Exp.	\$1,000.00	\$243.33	\$500.00
570202 - Power	\$7,750.00	\$5,683.48	\$7,000.00
570203 - Water	\$1,200.00	\$745.89	\$1,000.00
570300 - Maintenance Exp. Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$2,442.49	\$1,000.00
570400 - Maintenance Exp. Buildings	\$1,000.00	\$1,372.40	\$1,000.00
570500 - Custodian	\$6,600.00	\$6,540.00	\$6,600.00
570501 - Cleaning Supplies	\$600.00	\$508.65	\$600.00
570600 - Grounds & Landscape Exp.	\$8,500.00	\$6,562.17	\$8,500.00
570700 - Pest Control	\$2,700.00	\$2,498.26	\$2,700.00
570900 - Room to Grow	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Building and Grounds	\$41,850.00	\$39,416.74 *	\$41,300.00
Christian Education			
580200 - Adult Education Exp.	\$500.00	\$433.90	\$500.00
580300 - Youth Christian Ed. Exp.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
580400 - Nursery Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
580500 - Nursery Worker Exp.	\$4,900.00	\$4,790.00	\$4,900.00
580600 - Youth Coordinator Compensation	\$20,500.00	\$20,249.92 *	\$20,500.00
580601 - Youth Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$944.42	\$2,000.00
Total Christian Education	\$28,500.00	\$26,418.24 *	\$28,500.00
Total Expenses	\$293,632.26	\$272,203.96 *	\$293,758.26
Net Total	(\$102.26)	(\$3,554.98) *	\$1.74

Church of the Annunciation
Summary of Restricted Accounts
December 2025

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Credit Adjustments	Debit Adjustments	Ending Balance
Temporary Restricted						
General Designated						
800100 - Youth Designated	\$3,192.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,192.90
800125 - Young Adult	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
800150 - Prayer/Hymnal book fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
800151 - Room To Grow	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
800200 - Music Designated	\$548.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$548.55
800300 - Discretionary Designated	\$83,738.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,900.00	\$500.00	\$116,138.73
800325 - Rector's Discretionary Account	\$3,617.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,617.54
800350 - Sabbatical Fund	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
800400 - Reach	\$16,197.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$2,500.00	\$13,797.65
800401 - Adult Mission Trips	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
800500 - Episcopal Church Women	\$3,139.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$461.00	\$246.00	\$3,354.00
800510 - Tea Time Designated	\$8,106.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,106.42
800525 - St. Martha's Guild	\$2,932.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,932.92
800550 - ECA Men's group	\$5,382.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,382.82
800600 - Memorial Fund	\$10,638.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,638.79
800700 - Parish Events	\$778.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$778.30
800750 - Saints Fund	\$22,169.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,169.36
800800 - Scrip	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
800900 - Building and Grounds	\$18,976.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$795.00	\$2,330.00	\$17,441.82
800950 - Prepaid Pledge	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total General Designated	\$184,419.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,256.00	\$5,576.00	\$213,099.80
Total Temporary Restricted	\$184,419.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,256.00	\$5,576.00	\$213,099.80



Buildings and Grounds Ministry

Respectfully submitted by George MacDonald, (Jr. Warden) Vestry Liaison for Buildings and Grounds Ministry



It has been an extremely busy year for the Buildings and Grounds Ministry, which seeks to maintain our wonderful buildings and grounds at ECA through routine maintenance, upkeep, projects, and more. Many have helped and much has been accomplished. A giant thank you to all who have supported these efforts. The Garden Gnomes have met consistently throughout the year to care for our beautiful property. The ECA grounds always look inviting and well-cared for because of this group of dedicated volunteers. The Garden Gnomes generally meet twice

a month and always welcomes newcomers!

Buildings and Grounds volunteers held Spring and Fall workdays on the grounds and completed re-organize and re-vitalize projects in our Swift and Activities Buildings. It was a challenging year as Buildings and Grounds completed or supported projects on all our Buildings. The Activities Building projects included: pumping the septic system, replacing the cast iron drain piping, replacing both toilets, and merging the rear closets to create proper storage space for the ECA Reception Linens. The Swift Building projects included: replacing the water heater, renewing the main restroom toilet, and replacing the main restroom sink. The Church Building Narthex upgrade project was finished to include: new mailboxes, a new rug, new LED lighting, and new exhaust fans in the restrooms and sexton's closet. The broken church window glass was replaced and the carpeting in the Nave was cleaned.



Buildings and Grounds repaired a sinkhole, which developed in the entrance driveway, painted the handicapped parking area and exit drive road crossing walkway markings.

Permanent in-ground parking posts were installed in front of the Pavilion to control parking and prevent damage to the Pavilion. Additionally, the roof of the Swift Building received a much-needed repair. Much has been accomplished this year because of all the support and volunteers. Many thanks again to all involved. Our Building and Grounds Committee meets the 4th Monday of each

month at 7:00 pm. All are welcome, please come join us!



Connecting Ministry

Respectfully submitted by Michele Myers, Vestry Liaison for Connecting Ministry

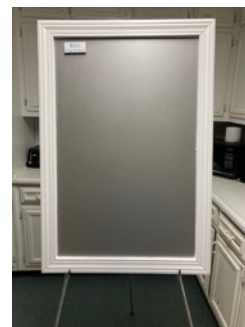
1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up."

The Connecting Ministry at ECA serves to welcome everyone and helps connect guests visiting to our many ministries. This ministry is open to all who wish to greet and welcome guests that attend Sunday services. When guests arrive, we welcome them and share information about our mission and ministries. We have had an increase in the number of families that have become involved during 2025! Six families have joined ECA the past year are already connected to a number of different ministries. We've also had guests that didn't sign the guest book but continue to worship with us.



During 2025, those signing our guest book were contacted on Monday after Sunday services and made to feel welcomed by providing additional information about our church. There was a Newcomer's Luncheon held in June to further facilitate relationships and connections. It was well attended and many people have since starting sharing their time and talents due to the connections they've made.

Lastly a Name Tag board was implemented to encourage everyone to wear their church nametags. The goal is to inspire a sense of community and a way of learning everyone's name regardless of how long they have attended ECA. Nametags are sorted alphabetically by last name.



The Connecting Ministry works with other ministries to foster a sense of community and encourage involvement. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, reach out to Michele Myers to learn more. All are welcome!

Parish Life Ministry

Respectfully submitted by Horace Higgins, Secretary and Vestry Liaison for Parish Life

The Parish Life Ministry is a ministry to help create a sense of fellowship within our parish and inform our church and local communities about our life as a family here at ECA. Parish Life provides our parishioners with a way to create, take part in and facilitate events to foster relationships and fellowship, both on our property and off.

Several sub-ministries operate under Parish Life, such as our ECW (Episcopal Church Women). This group is for every woman at ECA, and their invited guests. Our ECW is very strong. They enjoy fellowship several times a month during planned brunches, lunches, dinners, and events. The ECW also brought forward our first “Music under the Pavilion” event. A family-friendly, live, outside music concert, that was a big success. In 2025, they also attended community events of interest, which included (but were not limited to) field trips to various locations, such as Marietta Pops Orchestra concert(s), museum visits, garden tours and learning events. ECA – ECW also went to diocese wide events such as ECW Spring Retreat at Camp Mikell and the Fall Gathering in October. ECW also set up 2 fundraisers to support the varied events that take place. For an even more complete list of ECW events please join one of their monthly meetings on the first Sunday of each month at noon in the Activities Building, or contact Janice Maxwell to learn more.



Another large event in 2025 was the Annual ECA Ladies British Tea in February. The 2026 Tea is rapidly approaching and sells out almost every year. Get your tickets to attend soon! This Ladies Tea is enjoyed by parishioners and guests who attend yearly and definitely a labor of love for the ladies at ECA.



Another sub-ministry is our ECA men's group, which has reestablished itself starting in Q2 of 2025 after a hiatus. The men helped during the Annual Yard Sale by manning the grill for the day. They also sponsored the Pancake Supper with the youth for Shrove



Tuesday and Pentecost celebration. Additionally, they were very instrumental with some of our outdoor music concerts in the setting up and taking down tables, chairs and cleanup. The Men's Group enjoyed an off-site Saturday breakfast, an Atlanta Braves game with dinner, the Annual Men's Fishing Trip to Florida, and skeet shooting at Garland Mountain. We hope to grow this part of the ministry in 2026. Come check it out!



In 2025, Parish Life hosted several fire pit fellowship nights, three on site music concerts and several off-site concerts as well as a few impromptu gatherings for music, dining and fun! If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved or help with any of these sub-ministries or with Parish Life, contact Horace to learn more.



Reach Ministry

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Whittingham, Vestry Liaison for Reach

The Reach Committee's mission is to be the hands and feet of Christ for ECA, serving those in need through direct hands-on involvement as well as supporting other organizations that require physical or financial assistance. The ECA Reach Ministry meets on the second Sunday of each month in the Activities Building after church services. This year, our work involved over 40 parishioners at various levels of participation during 2025. Please know we can always use a few more hands, particularly when we prepare food and serve the unhoused. So, don't be reluctant to become involved or to invite a prospective parishioner to participate.

As the saying goes, "It takes a village" to make this ministry work. So, a very huge and warm 'thank you' to everyone who participated! Cindy Lippert, the Reach Chair, works tirelessly and provides the leadership to oversee this ministry. A special 'thank you' to Cindy for her role in this ministry at ECA.

To understand the high level of hands-on effort required to support aspects of the Reach ministry, let's dive into what it takes to serve the unhoused at Shady Grove every fourth Wednesday of the month. Each month this typically involves at least 10 to 15 people preparing food at home or at ECA, packing the food, serving the unhoused, and purchasing the necessary food and clothing items. It often presents as a very spiritual moment to serve and be among the unhoused. Below you will see just how much goes into serving the unhoused at Shady Grove each month:

- Hot home cooked meals are prepared at ECA and transported to be served for 100 people that include protein (e.g. meat loaf, roasted chicken, roasted turkey, etc.), mashed potatoes or grits, a vegetable typically green beans, something sweet, and water or soda. Gator Aid in the summer and hot coffee in the cold weather.
- A bagged breakfast is also provided that includes a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, energy bar, and fruit. That makes a total of 200 meals to prepare each month for Shady Grove.



A significant amount of clothing and hygiene items are supplied through purchases or donations. The team is always on the lookout for sales. Inventories are periodically conducted to identify needed items and seasonal requirements.

Additionally, there were other occasions when we provided meals during 2025. On three occasions during the year, we fed 100 unhoused people lunch at the Church of the Common Ground at Atlanta's Woodruff Park. At the Emmaus House in downtown Atlanta, we provided 100 hot purchased lunches to Freedom School graduates and family members. On December 4th, we provided 100 hot home cooked dinners for Emmaus House grandparents. All-in-all, nearly 3,000 meals were provided to approximately 1,800 individuals! ...and this does not include the people we touch through food drives supporting Encompass Ministry and Never Alone.



We also support (through financial donations) the Episcopal Relief & Development with disaster funding (this year Texas floods), the Episcopal Community Foundation, Never Alone, Encompass Ministry, Family Promise, Camp Mikell and others as need arises. New for 2025 and 2026 is the support for Samantha Wells ministry in Turkey.

Traditionally in years past, Reach hosts a community yard sale to raise funds. This year, our September Yard Sale resulted in approximately \$2,200 of net proceeds. Collection of furniture is time-consuming backbreaking work with diminishing proceeds in recent years. One benefit has been it attracts potential parishioners. The Committee has decided, with Vestry concurrence, to end the Yard Sale in 2026 and create a Fall Festival event. The festival can help raise money but perhaps more importantly create a new opportunity to attract potential members to ECA. Help will be needed for this new endeavor; more to come about this ministry early in 2026 and how you can support it.

The Angel Tree continued in 2025 as a wonderful opportunity to provide Christmas gifts to those in need. Three families and nine children were provided with gifts. During 2026 we will look to expand this portion of this ministry to include seniors living alone or in need.

Most In-Reach 'hands-on' needs are confidentially handled by Fr. Paul and funds are available to provide help. We support Southern Comforters with needed yarn when they request it. We also provide funds for get well cards, anniversary cards and birthday cards to be mailed to our parishioners by Linda Harris and Maggie Galt.

The Reach Ministry's funding is created through the ECA annual budget as well through donations to the Reach Restricted account. We welcome new ideas for Reach ministries and are open to solutions and new projects as well as how these could be implemented.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the successes of Reach in 2025 through donations and hands on participation. Please join us in the Activities Building on the second Sunday of each month at noon to learn how you can get involved. We look forward to your help and prayers in 2026!



Faith and Spirituality

Respectfully submitted by Robin Keith, Vestry Liaison to Faith and Spirituality

It has been such a joy to witness so much growth in faith, spirituality and friendships at ECA throughout 2025. This ministry exists to foster these things through planned activities and Christian Formation (Education) throughout the year.



The year 2025 marked our three-year anniversary of Faith, Food and Fellowship which is a monthly dinner



program for people to gather, eat and share in fellowship. Faith, Food, and Fellowship (Triple F) meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. We have been focusing on developing Triple F as an opportunity to share in fellowship with a free homecooked meal, followed by a short program, all done by our fellow parishioners. In 2025 we had a variety of speakers and interactive discussions following dinner ranging from talking about Epiphany, an update from our missionary in Greece, mission work and Christianity in Morocco, spirituality through photography, writing our own Prayers of the People, bible trivia, learning more about Daughters of the King, to preparing for Advent. During Lent, we offered a Lenten Series on Wednesday evenings with a soup and salad dinner and discussion.

Christian Education classes were offered in-between our 8:30am and 10:30am services on Sundays. The first adult class is called “The Bible Challenge” and started in 2023 as a challenge to read and reflect on the entire bible in one year. Bliss Petersen invited people to join her on this challenge, but it has grown into so much more. The group continues to read and discuss biblical related readings. Anyone can join at any time and books are provided. Our other class was lead by Ron Allen where we discussed events in our community and around the world, and how we as Christians respond to that. These types of discussions open our minds and hearts as we hear each other’s perspectives and experiences in life. And our youth have enjoyed their own Christian Education opportunities which are elaborated on in the Youth report. We hope you will join us for more of these events and activities! If you have ideas of programs you would like to see, please let your Vestry know!



Children and Youth Ministry

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Farr, Vestry Liaison to Children and Youth Ministries

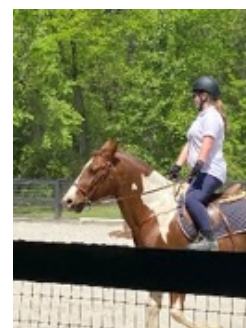
The ECA Children and Youth Ministry encompasses Christian Formation (Youth Sunday School) Youth Group, Youth Events, and the end of the year Children and Youth Christmas Pageant. Our Christian Education Ministry continues to be an integral part of ECA, especially through the programs that teach and enrich our children. Our



Sunday School class meets the first and third Sunday monthly from 9:40-10:30. Lessons from January to May concentrated on the life of Jesus. In September, we began learning more about the Episcopal Church service and why we do what we do. We also began learning “heart character” by talking about the Fruits of the Spirit. These lessons will conclude May 2026.

In March, each child received a “Lent in a Bag” activity with 6 Lenten symbols, readings, and weekly reflections. The youth also enjoyed helping at the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

In April, the youth worked together to solve many puzzles in an escape room activity to free Jesus from the tomb! They were successful in the end and found chocolate crosses in the final lockbox. On April 19th, our Youth Group, led by Lily Lippert, supported each other in sporting events beginning the day at Kenlin’s soccer game, then Melynn’s softball game, and concluded the day at Abby’s horseshow. On Easter, everyone enjoyed the Easter egg hunt.



May brought a close to our Christian Formation classes (Sunday School) for the school year as we wrapped up our study of Jesus’ life. We had a “luau” celebration for our youth and graduates during coffee hour. Summer activities for the Youth Group included a trip to Mountasia Mini Golf with a pizza party, a visit to the Chattahoochee Nature Center and movie night under the pavilion.



We kicked off Sunday School with an ice cream social in September and our youth participated in both services by carrying the small wooden cross and youth banner. We had a scavenger hunt in the church looking for items that we might not have noticed before. Our class, AKA the Worship Explorers, studied the progression of the Episcopal service beginning with the music. We made maracas in class and used them while singing Father Abraham. Lily also began hosting a Youth Group breakfast on the second Sunday of each month during Sunday School time. September breakfast was plentiful,

October was themed a “spooky” breakfast, and November was a Thanksgiving themed breakfast.



In November, we moved our class space to a larger room. We began learning about the Fruits of the Spirit concentrating on love. The youth had a movie night/dinner under the pavilion. In Sunday School, we each colored a paper “Flat Jesus” to remember that Jesus is always with us and took pictures around the church grounds with their Jesus.



December, our class learned about the readings in the service and the Psalms. We began learning hand motions to Psalm 23. Patience and Kindness were the Fruits of the Spirit for the month. A Christmas breakfast was enjoyed. On Christmas Eve, Molly Norman and Lily helped our children tell the Christmas story in our Annual Pageant.

I would like to thank the youth for consistently attending our Christian Formation (Sunday School) and Youth events as well as the parents and grandparents for faithfully getting them there to support our youth ministry. We have 4-6 students in Sunday School and usually 5-10 attend youth group events. I look forward to watching our children continue to fellowship with one another in the New Year!



Servant Ministries

Respectfully submitted by **Kate Martiny, Liaison for Servant Ministries**

Servant ministries at ECA are the “hands and feet of Christ” for the parishioners. We uplift the church family and help when a church member is in crisis, suffers an illness, injury or death in the family. Together, this ministry ensures that the members of ECA are well cared for as we serve one another in Christ. The groups that make up Servant Ministries include Journeys, Caregivers, Daughters of the King, Cards from the Heart, Meal Preppers, Southern Comforters, Holy Haulers and Eucharistic Ministers. The year 2025 presented us with many opportunities to serve one another.

Journeys is a support group that helps parishioners deal with life events, death, grief, depression and conflict. Journeys meets the second Saturday of every month and is headed by Suzie Hart, a professional Social Worker.

Caregivers is a ministry that provides support to parishioners in need of assistance.



The Daughters of the King (DOK) members of the church take part in the worship and work of the church. They are committed to daily prayer and also assist and support families before and after a funeral. If you would like more information about DOK, please contact Janet Livingston or Pam Weed.

Cards from the Heart is a ministry at ECA that sends out cards to parishioners for birthdays, anniversaries and when people need support. Linda Harris and Maggie Galt are responsible for this ministry.

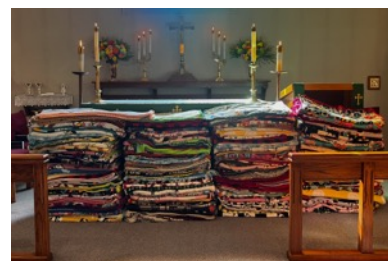


Meal Preppers provides meals for anyone at ECA who is going through a difficult time and is in need of a homecooked meal. Several church members prepare and deliver meals when needed.



Southern Comforters is a group that creates blankets and prayer shawls to be blessed then donated to organizations. This year, Southern Comforters donated 463 blankets to Safe Path Kennesaw Foster Kids Program and Cobb County Community Liaison. More

than 12 prayer shawls were also created this year. Contact Beth Brady or Carol Scheidler for more details.



Holy Haulers members help parishioners get to church on Sunday as well as appointments during the week. Please consider helping with this ministry if you have time to help a parishioner who is in need of a ride.

Eucharistic Visitors assist Father Paul by taking communion to parishioners at home or in the hospital who are ill or unable to attend church services. Linda Harris, Ron Allen, Bliss and Foster Peterson, Robin Keith, Pam Weed and George MacDonald are currently serving in this ministry. Contact Father Paul if you would like to receive home communion.



Servant Ministries is a very fulfilling part of ECA and we are always looking for additional volunteers. Please contact Kate Martiny if you would like to help with one of these worthwhile ministries. Together we can continue to grow this vital ministry and support the lives of others here at ECA!

Worship Ministry

Respectfully submitted by Helene Freese, Vestry Liaison for Worship Ministry

The Worship Ministry oversees all aspects of our regular weekly services. This involves setting up the church and altar each week by one of the four Altar Guild teams, and recruiting volunteers to help serve during Sunday church in positions such as Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Ushers, Acolyte, and more. This also includes, but is not limited to, the altar flowers, cleaning and polishing the linens, glass and silverware used for the service, putting up the hymn numbers, filling and cleaning the candles and putting the correct frontal on the altar.



This ministry also ensures an adequate supply of bread for the services. The choir practices each week under the excellent direction of Joe Lozier, who also selects the hymns based on the readings for the week and in consultation with Fr. Paul. Besides the regular weekly services, the Altar Guild assisted with set up for seven burial services.

The Altar Guild also decorates the church for Palm Sunday services, and makes the palm crosses for distribution at the Palm Sunday Service. In 2025, a refresher training was held in October for all current members of the Altar Guild as well as to recruit and train anyone else interested in joining the Guild. Two new people attended the session and were each assigned to one of the four teams. An additional training session will be held in early 2026 for anyone who was unable to attend in October.

In November of 2025, Altar Guild hosted its annual Advent Wreath Making Workshop. Participants were encouraged to gather greenery from home to bring as Altar Guild guided them in making their own Advent Wreaths.



A change started mid-year has been to have only one service on the 5th Sunday of the month. The hope is that this will facilitate regular attendees of the different services to mix and get to know each other. In total, ECA held 104 services from January through November, with a total attendance at these services of 3,727. This is an average of 36 people per service, and does not include the many home visits and other services held through our church. If you would like to get involved in Atar Guild or to volunteer for any of our worship services, please contact Helene Freese to learn more.



Rector's Report

Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Paul McCabe, Rector of ECA



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! This past year our stewardship campaign was based on *Tell out you Soul*. ECA continues to do incredible things at the parish and in our communities. When I think of Tell out my Soul, I think of Mary and the Magnificat, *my soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*. During our stewardship campaign several parish members shared how events in their lives had taken place and because of the love and support provided by ECA members, they felt God's presence and were uplifted. *"Our Faith has been strengthened through loss, our hearts have been filled through service, and our hope continues to rest in God's unending grace.* (Jane Gray) This statement is one of many that continues to define what ECA is to any people. Our faith community is strong and vibrant in all the ministries that take place at

ECA and in our surrounding communities for which it is an honor to see all that takes place as your rector.

Just in the last few weeks, ECA members were honored to participate in feeding the grandparents at Emmaus house, provide multiple families with Christmas gifts, clothe and feed numerous individuals and families at Shady Grove, and continue praising and worshipping the Lord we humbly serve. I am proud of the ministry and mission we do, and this is what makes us so special in our life together, as the phrase goes, *"it's what we do!"* and this continues to be our mantra.



I am going into my 17th year here at ECA after arriving in March of 2009 and have never looked back concerning what we are called to do. A couple of months ago, I read a sermon written by the Rev. Bill Swift, first vicar at ECA, when they were meeting in the Modesto house, only a few may recognize his name. He stated, *"ECA will exist to form a community of faith for three primary reasons, to worship God, to Love one another, and to serve our communities and neighbors."* Can you believe we will be preparing next year to celebrate our 40th year of ministry and our 40th Ruby Anniversary committee is preparing an incredible line-up for our celebration in 2027. A lot of work has been done by the Vestry evaluating our

needs and prioritizing what needs to be done to our buildings and property. They have also worked tirelessly in their ministry positions to make sure the parish and worship life are sound. We also had a special committee look at our previous parish by-laws that were inadequate and with the help of Jeff Whittingham, Matt Reaves, George MacDonald, and Horace Higgins, we were able to present it to the Vestry for approval and to vote on at our Annual Parish meeting. Our top priority continues to be addressing ECA's aging buildings and our needs of the parish.

This past year we went through many projects to fix and maintain our buildings and grounds as was shared in the annual report. As we continue to refresh and renew our buildings and property, my hope is that it will also renew our own faith in order to keep us strong for many years to come. This is in order so others may experience the joy and love we share in our worship with one another. We have come to a place and time in the parish where we will have to explore more deeply what we want to accomplish in the next few years. The Vestry has begun the hard work, and we will begin doing more work with the parish this year about options we have to meet the needs of the parish and the community. We are in tremendous financial shape, unlike other parishes in the Episcopal church, and I believe it's time for us to discern and pray more deeply about what's next in the life of ECA.





We are very blessed at ECA as “Tell out our souls” revealed about the many things we do and have accomplished as we serve our risen Lord and savior. I want to personally thank all members of the parish for your unwavering support both financially and spiritually. None of the ministry and mission we do would be possible without it. To our new youth director Lily, I personally know how hard it is to build up a youth program and I am thankful for her commitment and dedication with our children and youth and working alongside Cheryl Farr to make it happen.

I would also like to recognize and thank our outgoing Vestry members, George Macdonald, Jr. Warden, Kate Martiny, and Robin Keith, who filled the remainder of Chris Renaud’s term at his death. I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and hard work at ECA. I also especially want to recognize and thank Foster Peterson, our seminarian, as he continues to navigate learning how to balance, Church, family, seminary, and work life. Sadly, next year we will have to send off Foster to another parish for his seminary field placement. We are going to miss his tremendous gifts and faith experience he brings to the Parish. Thank you to all for continuing to trust me and our work together as Rector of Annunciation, I am deeply thankful for all your love and support. I am looking forward to what 2026 will bring because of the incredible parish ECA is, “It’s what we do!”

To God be the Glory! Fr. Paul+

