The Friendship Center of Atlanta

HOLY COMFORTER EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2026
REPORT TO ANNUAL COUNCIL

BELONGING KEPT EXPANDING

A Season of Renewal

Regular participation rose from roughly 40 to more than 60 adults at each gathering.

Belonging is not a 'ministry,' it is the Gospel itself, lived out in our midst.

~2,000
Meals prepared and served on site each month.

4×
Gatherings every week on our campus that provide wrap-around services.

~60%
Members living with multiple and complex needs.

100%
Members engaged through arts, gardening, wellness, and recovery programming.

WHERE BELONGING GROWS

Recovery Through the Arts ARTS
A studio where participants creativity is encouraged, exhibited, and celebrated.

Seedtime & Harvest Greenhouse and Gardens LAND
Shared land and purposeful work for gardeners and leaders.

Comfort and Friendship, monthly magazine STORY TELLING
Carrying our participants' voices into the Church's shared life.

Campus Renewal PLACE
New signage, accessible entryways and redeveloped public garden spaces anticipated in 2027.

Mobile Health Day HEALING
Primary care, behavioral health and wellness partners, on our campus providing care where trust is already built.

PARTNER PARISHES VISITED IN 2026

St. Anne's

St. Bartholomew's

St. Benedict's

St. Bede's

St. Martin in the Fields

Trinity Episcopal, Columbus

PARTNER PARISHES SCHEDULED FOR 2027

All Saints

Holy Innocents

Holy Trinity

Epiphany

NOTES FROM THE CENTER

HOLY COMFORTER · FRIENDSHIP CENTER OF ATLANTA

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Belonging is the Gospel.

Holy Comforter and the Friendship Center of Atlanta exist because we believe that belonging is not a "ministry" — it is the Gospel itself, lived out in our midst. Nearly 60% of our congregation lives with multiple and complex needs, and twice a week marginalized adults come, not for charity, but for kinship. We understand evangelism not as persuasion but as invitation — into shared life, shared meals, shared land and shared dignity.

Over the past year, that belonging kept expanding. Regular participation grew from roughly 40 to more than 60 adults at each gathering, and we prepared and served approximately 2,000 meals a month on site. We visited partner parishes across the diocese and launched a monthly magazine to carry our participants' voices further into the Church's shared life.

Our Recovery Through the Arts studio and Seedtime and Harvest Greenhouse & Gardens continued to grow as places where participants are not merely served but employed, exhibited and celebrated as gardeners, artists and leaders. Because healing is holistic — body, mind and spirit — we are planning an annual on-campus Mobile Health Day to bring primary care, behavioral health and wellness partners to neighbors whose lives are shortened not because they are sicker, but because care is out of reach.

We are also investing in our campus — new signage, accessible pathways and entryways, and a redeveloped public garden — because the physical shape of a place preaches as loudly as anything said within it.

None of this would be possible without the partnership, prayers and generosity of the Diocese of Atlanta and her parishes. Thank you for helping us keep making room for the ones our world too often overlooks.

With gratitude,

The Rev. Matthew Babcock
Vicar, Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
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Every bottle of pepper sauce, packet of seeds, and garden bed tells the same story: our gifts are worthy of sharing, and our community is better because of them.

— May C. Brown

WAYS TO WALK WITH US

Join a gathering —
Tues & Thurs 9am-1pm

Worship Weds & Sunday

Invite us to visit your parish

Subscribe to our monthly magazine —
holycomforter-atlanta.org/about-us

Give — holycomforter-atlanta.org/give