

Holy Comforter

Mission A diverse worshipping community in the heart of Atlanta that seeks to restore all people to unity with God & with each other.

- The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter has been in Southeast Atlanta for over 100 years. As a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, 60% of the congregation live with mental illness or developmental disabilities.
- By the 1980s, Holy Comforter was situated in a neighborhood of many personal care homes for persons with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses. So the people of Holy Comforter did what came naturally and reached out to their neighbors and invited them to church. This is unique - Holy Comforter does not simply *run a program* to help persons with mental disabilities; rather these people, so often alienated in society, *are the church* at Holy Comforter. People of all abilities are knit together by the love of Jesus Christ at Holy Comforter.

We grow Disciples of Jesus Christ through . . .

- **Holy Comforter Clothes Closet** The 3rd Tuesday of each month, several people from SPSP go to Holy Comforter from 10:00 a.m. to Noon to organize, maintain and distribute clothes and much needed items to people of this community. So many things that we consider necessities and take for granted are desperately needed by those in need. Soap, shampoo, deodorant, tooth paste and toothbrushes, shoes, t-shirts, pants, underwear – are always helpful. Serviceable items that can be handed down can be put to good use by dropping them off at SPSP Outreach closet in the Holy Comforter Bin.
- **“Saturday Night Live”** – 4 times a year, we gather at SPSP and caravan/car-pool to Holy Comforter where we join them in a rousing song service for about an hour, then serve and join them in a big meal, including carry-out of planned leftovers. We have been doing “SNL” since the spring of 2003 and in that time have gotten to know these people as children of Christ who crave fellowship and appreciate our friendship.
- **Christmas Party** - Every December, SPSP hosts members and friends of Holy Comforter for dinner, singing, and a visit from Santa. The week before, we wrap packages for each of our guests that includes helpful supplies such as clothes and toiletries.
- **Picnics** – yearly, SPSP hosts Holy Comforter parishioners at a picnic (2018 Chattahoochee Nature Center)
- **Lunch** – twice a year, SPSP parishioners attend a Sunday Holy Comforter Church service and provide lunch

Value of this Ministry in one’s walk with Christ

- For Holy Comforter parishioners – provides opportunities to build relationships with others outside of their Church and to experience God’s love through support of clothes, songs, food and worship
- For SPSP Volunteers – experiencing direct giving to those less fortunate allows us to grow Discipleship by serving in spaces that Jesus served in

SPSP Volunteer Time Commitment

- Holy Comforter Clothes Closet – 10 hours a month
- Saturday Night Live – 4 hours a month
- Christmas Party – 4 hours annually
- Picnics – 3 hours twice a year
- Lunch at Holy Comforter – 3 hours twice a year