The Episcopal Chaplaincy at ATL

Hartsfield-Jackson
Atlanta International Airport
Part of the Interfaith Airport Chaplaincy
Busiest airport in the world?
Answer: HJAIA aka ATL

- HJAIA: 17 years running
- busiest for passengers
  - second busiest for passengers: Beijing
- second busiest for daily takeoffs and landings
  - busiest for takeoffs and landings: O’Hare
  - In 2014 O'Hare took first place with 881,000 aircraft movements, followed by Atlanta with 868,359
How big is HJAIA?
Space & Size

- 4,700 acres
  - the equivalent of 3,550 football fields
- almost 10 million interior square feet
  - in two terminals and seven concourses
How many runways?
5 Runways

- 5 runways
- ATL is one of the few airports that can handle three simultaneous take offs and/or landings.
- The fifth runway was completed in 2006 at a cost of over $1.2 billion.
  - It is 9,000 feet long and stretches across I-285.
  - It is the only current active runway in the US that stretches over an Interstate.
How many terminals?
2 Terminals

- 2 terminals:
  - Domestic (South & North) [Hartsfield]
    - opened 1980
  - International [Jackson]
    - opened May 2012
William B. Hartsfield
Domestic Terminal
Maynard H. Jackson, Jr.
International Terminal
How many concourses?
7 Concourses

- 7 Concourses: T, A, B, C, D, E, F
How many gates?
206 Gates

- 206 gates
Daily takeoffs and landings?
Daily takeoffs and landings

- 2,500 takeoffs and landings each day
  - an average of over 100 per hour
How tall is the control tower?
Tower

- **398** feet tall
- the tallest control tower in North America
  - 165 feet taller than its predecessor
  - cost $44.2 million
  - completed in 2006
How many gallons of water daily?
H$_2$O

- 917,000 gallons
- 725 toilets, 338 urinals, 601 sinks
  \[= 1664\text{ water use devices}\]
How many passengers daily?
Passengers

- 265,000 daily passengers on average
  - more than 300,000 passengers on some days
  - current airport was build to handle about 150,000 passengers
  - an average of 40,000 daily passengers have ATL-originating flights

- over 95 million annual passengers
  - 96.1 million in 2014
How many employees/contractors?
Employees

- 63,000 people work at ATL
  - Compare: there are 56,000 Episcopalians in the Diocese of Atlanta
  - this includes airline and airport employees and airport contractors (from custodial to ground transportation)
  - as a site = GA’s largest employer
    - the airport is the most populous single work site in GA and one of the largest in the Southeast
265,000 Passengers Daily
63,000 Employees/Contractors
Why Chaplaincy at HJAIA?

328,000 people every day

would be the 50th largest municipality in the US

Go to where the people are.
Interfaith Airport Chaplaincy (IAC)
The IAC was created in 1980 by what is now the Regional Council of Churches. – a 501(c)3 non-profit
IAC Volunteers

- 25-30 active volunteer chaplains
  - 4 active Episcopalians
  - more discerning their involvement

- 3 religions
  - 10 Christian denominations/expressions
  - Conservative Judaism
  - Sunni Islam
The Episcopal Chaplaincy at ATL

- Began in 1980
  - Peggy and George Beal from 1980-2005
  - Jackie Berlin since 1990

- Revitalized in 2013

- The Episcopal Chaplain to ATL is employed by and assigned by the Bishop of Atlanta since November 1, 2013.

- The Episcopal Chaplain to ATL is priest-in-charge at the airport and has oversight of the work of all other Episcopalians involved in the chaplaincy.
Department of Aviation (DOA),
City of Atlanta

- Provides chapel spaces, office space, utilities, and custodial services gratis
- Makes an annual financial contribution to the IAC operating fund
IACAC

- International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains (IACAC)
  - 173 chaplaincies at airports in 43 countries
Areas of Chaplaincy Work at ATL

With—

- Passengers
- Employees
- Service members
- Emergent/urgent situations
Activities of Chaplaincy Work at ATL

- Wayfinding
- Companioning
- Customer service
- Listening
- Ombudspersons
- Advocacy
- Explicit spiritual care
- Prayer

- Building relationships
- Leading services
- De-escalating
- Defusing
- Interceding
- Serving

Triage: getting people to “the inn”
in terminals and concourses
on the tarmac or anywhere at HJAIA—
- hangars
- parking decks
- trains
- restrooms
- break rooms
- fire stations
- police precincts
- customs hall
- chapels
WHAT'S YOUR FINAL DESTINATION?

INTERFAITH AIRPORT CHAPLAINCY
ATRIUM THIRD FLOOR AND CONCOURSE E • AIRPORTCHAPEL.COM
Supporters of the Episcopal Chaplaincy at ATL
The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

Diocese-Sponsored Ministries

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. —Matthew 25:40

The Diocese of Atlanta supports seven community ministries that focus on the vulnerable among us. You may scroll through the list below for general information, or look at the menu on the left for links to their websites.

Airport Ministry @ Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International

An Episcopal presence at the world’s busiest airport —welcoming people home and representing the church and Christ in the world.

The Rev. Donna S. Mote, Ph.D.
Chaplain
dsmote@mac.com | Vicar of ATL on Facebook
Assisting Chaplain: Barbara Pendergraft
The Rt Reverend Robert C. Wright, Bishop of Atlanta
Barbara Pendergrast, MDiv, BCC
Southwest Atlanta Convocation
St John’s Episcopal Church, College Park, GA
Lay People of the Diocese of Atlanta
Chapel in Atrium
Chapel on Concourse E
Chapel on Concourse F
Interfaith Airport Chapel

This is what we mean when we say “Interfaith Airport Chapel”:

People of various traditions and no traditions praying in their distinctive idioms with integrity while sharing the same space.
Regular Scheduled Services

- Sunday, 11:30 am: Atrium Chapel-Protestant Service
- Sunday, 1:00 pm: Concourse F Chapel-Protestant Service
- Wednesday, 1:00 pm: Concourse F Chapel-Roman Catholic Communion
- Wednesday, 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm: Concourse F Chapel-Episcopal Eucharist
- Friday, 1:00 pm: Atrium Chapel-Juma’h Service (principal Muslim Friday prayers)
Postures & Attributes of Episcopal ATL Chaplaincy

- Grounded, open, aware
- Positive, visible, active
- Available
- Attentive
- Holding the space
- Present
- Winsome
- Welcoming
- Gracious
#TheChurchHasLeftTheBuilding