

December  
2014



# TOGETHER

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## A word from our Rector

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Dear Friends,

So, here we are in another “Holiday Season,” in the midst of which we, as people of faith, seek—somehow—to observe a holy Advent.

As the years go by this time of year seems to be both more hurried and more poignant. For more than a few of us, this can actually be a challenging season in which losses and frustrations can be keenly felt. The gap between the expectations of “cheer” and interior quandaries can be difficult to bear. And I think that most of us carry some heightened concerns about the state of our society—let alone the world. “Peace on earth; goodwill.” How will it be?

Ferguson. Once again our country faces a situation in which we are radically divided in our perceptions and perspectives—and this time, it’s even easier to write off the others who see it differently as ignorant, unenlightened, or morally deficient. The only thing we agree on is that it’s painful and destructive. One way or another, we’re all worried.

However we evaluate the status of the different players, when “truth” comes to mean that *our* side wins, things are desperate for all concerned.

Christians can offer glimpses (at least) of a different vision: one in which we see that *how* we get “there” already contains within itself its Destination—and that this is so, no matter how we define “there,” and no matter how immediately advantageous or not is it to our preferred sides.

For us, after all, Truth is Personal; to be met in the One who told us, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” (John 14:6)

For myself: I am more and more convinced that many of our long standing ways of political thinking no longer offer much promise of renewal, including some categories that perhaps once were necessary and helpful. We’re repeating old scripts at each other, at greater volume, but with less and less meaning.

We Episcopalians pride ourselves on our ability to question. We see (rightly, I think) that engaging our doubts is a part of the process of spiritual growth. Yet to be candid, my sense is that for the most part, we apply our well-honed skills of questioning and doubt to fussing about this or that element of our own faith tradition. I suspect, frankly, that we often don’t bring those skills to bear on our perceptions of the larger world in which we live.

And yet: In a world in which being a “grown-up” means having signed onto one impermeable political package deal or another, what a gift it might be for us as a people of faith to model another approach. Maybe, at least sometimes, we can be a people with the courage to be not so

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## ***A word from our Rector (con't)***

absolutely sure in political matters. We still will have our various convictions, of course, but also the ability to rest easier with them. We can't possibly have it all figured out, because surely there is more we can learn (even surprisingly, from "the others," however we define them), and—ultimately—because the One who is greater than all else has taken hold of us. The One who has already come—the same for Whom, in wonderful Mystery, we are also now waiting.

Foolish? Childlike? You bet. But I seem to recall reading (in a few places!) that such characteristics are a part of entering the Kingdom of God. More than this, they're a part of being able to offer some real wisdom and maturity to a world in desperate need of both.

A few days ago I ran across a very telling quote:

"Let us not be ashamed to be ignorant of some things in which a degree of ignorance is more learned than knowledge itself."

Perhaps—at least sometimes—with such an approach, as God's People, we might actually be of far greater good in the political realms than we previously thought possible. Perhaps, in a renewed ability to stand alone in faith (when need be), we will discover solidarities broader than we ever could have imagined. And perhaps, in such capacities, we will have something essential to contribute to national—and human—survival.

Yours in Whom we find "the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:19), even Christ Jesus our Lord,

Adam +

## **Events in December**

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

#### **December 24th (Wednesday):**

Christmas Pageant and Eucharist, 4:30 pm

Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist, 10:00 pm

#### **December 25th (Thursday):**

Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols, 10:00 am



## WOMEN'S LUNCHEON (DECEMBER 4TH---WITH MUSIC)

All women of the parish are invited to luncheon in parish hall on Thursday, December 4th at 12 noon. Special treats: Home made desserts will be served and we will sing Christmas Carols to launch us into the Christmas spirit. Please bring the usual sandwich to share, canned goods, for the Food Pantry and any Christmas cards you receive from charities, for the Free Shop. Volunteers for the day: Pat Carroll, desserts, Ruth Campbell, decorations, Sue Stevens, chips, lemon and milk and Dilys Smith, music leader. If you need a ride call Peter Blank, 508-760-1516.

## YOUTH CHOIR



Just a reminder the Youth Choir has a rehearsal on Dec 7th and Dec 21st just following the 10:00 am service. And we look forward to hearing them sing at the Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 pm!

## REHEARSAL & GINGERBREAD HOUSES—DECEMBER 6th (SATURDAY)

**REHEARSAL FOR PAGEANT:** The one and only Christmas Pageant rehearsal (main cast at 5:00 pm and entire cast at 5:30).

**HOUSE MAKING:** At 6:15 pm is the pizza party and gingerbread house making! The sale of Gingerbread Houses is Sunday December 7th following the 10:00 am service!



## FIRST FRUITS—DECEMBER 7th (SUNDAY)

Come enjoy the magic of the Holiday Season with culinary delights and Christmas greenery and decorations. First Fruits Holiday Sale will be from 8:00 am until 1:30 pm on Sunday December 7th in the Parish Hall.

Please bring in any baked goods for us to sell on Sunday. If you have any questions please call Dotti at 508-945-3969.



## SHEPHERD GROUPS

**Eastham-Wellfleet:** will meet at 5 pm December 14 at the home of Fay and Ike Cole, 180 Hay Rd, Eastham.

**Orleans:** will not meet in December

**Brewster-Dennis:** will not meet in December



**THIS ADVENT EXPERIENCE**  
*A Prayerful Walk in Conversation with God*

**An Evening Labyrinth Walk with Eucharist followed by a Light Dinner**

**Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30 PM**  
**In the Parish Hall**

We will come together in soft candlelight to walk our labyrinth. With sacred music to guide our shoeless steps, we will open ourselves to silent conversations with God. The meditative evening will continue as we gather at God's table to share in a simple Eucharist. The evening will conclude with a light soup dinner.

Finger labyrinths will also be available.

*Please note that if you need a ride you can call Pattie LaBranche at 508-255-3532 or Peter Blank at 508-760-1516.*

**MEN'S LUNCH (DECEMBER 17th)**



The Men's Lunch Group will renew meeting on every third Wednesday of the month from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm in the Fireplace Room. The December meeting is December 17th. The purpose of the men's lunch group is to provide a forum where men of the parish can meet together informally for lunch and general collegiality. For interested inquires call Bruce Lederhouse (508-801-0654) or Brian Skea (774-279-3454).

**A CHATHAM CHORALE CHRISTMAS (DECEMBER 21st)**

Join the group as they celebrate the Sounds of the Season in a grand space with traditional carols performed by brass, organ and their 100 voice chorus! Program Includes: Pinkham Christmas Cantata, the 12 Days of Christmas, traditional carols by Rudder, a generous Sing-A-Long and more surprises in the works!

Sunday December 21, 3:00 pm at **Our Lady of the Cape** church located at 468 Stony Brook Road, Brewster MA. Reserve your tickets at 1-888-556-2707 (\$25 open seating / \$30 reserved seating)

# General Articles

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### Gratitude

Gratitude is a feeling of appreciation and thankfulness for blessings or benefits we have received. Jesus teaches us to be a cheerful giver so we can experience His will through our generosity. As we cultivate a grateful attitude, we are more likely to be happy and spiritually strong.

We have built a parish that supports and nourishes us through good and hard times. Through the generosity of those who have already made a 2015 financial pledge to The Church of the Holy Spirit we have made progress towards our ability to sustain us in the coming year. We are very grateful and thankful for your support!

Stewardship is a highly personal and intimate duty (guided through prayer) on the part of each of us who consider CHS their Cape Cod parish. If you have not yet made a financial pledge for 2015, we pray you will.

If you did not receive or need another pledge card please contact the parish office.

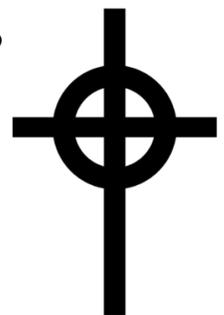
*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16*

**Please Note:** 2015 Offertory Envelope Boxes for weekly or monthly pledge payments will be in the Reception Room December 4th. Envelope boxes for weekly or monthly pledges received after 12/4 will be issued and placed in the Reception Room as well. Please pick up your box so we avoid postage.

**Please Note:** Your 2014 Pledge Statement will be issued in January 2015 following IRS rules for charitable contributions. All contributions received by Sunday December 28th will be reflected on your 2014 pledge statement. Any 2014 pledge payments made after December 28th will be reflected on your 2015 statement as "prior year pledge payments". 2014 statements not picked up by January 31 will be mailed.

## ACOLYTES

Every Sunday at 10:00 am our priests, their assistants and the CHS choir enter the church to start our main service of the week. But did you ever notice they are led to the altar by our own young people? These are our Acolytes, and now we have an opportunity for your students (grade 3 to 12) to join them. This will be an experience they will remember the rest of their life. It's a chance to serve this parish and God at the altar. Please contact MaryAnne Bragdon at 508-896-3481 or sparky508@earthlink.net.



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP and the GREEN TEAM

GOD SAW EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD MADE, AND INDEED, IT WAS VERY GOOD.

Genesis 1:31

The Earth is our God-given home – a place of beauty, wonder, and fragile balance.

As stewards of God's creation, we have a responsibility to work for a healthy and safe environment.

Our team's mission is to embody the Church's call to educate, act, and advocate for environmental justice and care of God's creation.

“Environmental Stewardship” refers to responsible use and protection of the [natural environment](#) through [conservation](#) and [sustainable](#) practices. Everyone can be an environmental steward by being aware and knowledgeable of the world around them and making sure they do as little as possible to negatively impact our world.

A “Green Team” is a collaborative group committed to improving the environmental sustainability of their congregation, often involving representatives from various ministries.

What are our next steps in becoming a Green Parish? Where and how do we progress from here?

Environmental topics being considered and discussed for CHS include:

- \* Energy Conservation (programmable thermostats)
- \* Renewable Energy (solar power)
- \* Water Conservation
- \* Toxics Reduction
- \* Waste Reduction and Recycling
- \* Florescent Light to LED Conversions
- \* Green Purchasing.



CHS has a recycling program. We currently recycle plastic, metal, glass, cardboard, fluorescent light tubes, and compact fluorescent light bulbs generated in our parish. Recycle containers are located in the Parish Hall kitchen and in the Church School area.

Additionally, CHS recycles paper products (newspaper, bulletins, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, etc.) Three paper recycle containers are located in the Parish Office area and they are found at: the reception desk, in the copier room, and in the hallway leading to the Parish Office.

If you want to contribute your time, talent, and expertise to Environmental Stewardship (Green Team), please contact Jack Sasso at [jacksasso@hotmail.com](mailto:jacksasso@hotmail.com) - 508-255-1732 or Nat Goddard at [kaynat@c4.net](mailto:kaynat@c4.net) - 774-722-5352 (cell) - 508-255-3818 (home).

Together we can continue the ‘greening’ of the Church of the Holy Spirit.



*Entered into Eternal Life*

*Mary Webbere*

**A HUGE “THANK YOU” FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE!!**

I want to thank the parish for the wonderful support for the 37th Annual Holiday Antiques Show and Sale. Your help as patrons and volunteers has allowed us to have another successful year. **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!** Thank you for taking the time to respond as patrons, volunteering to obtain donors and sponsors, covering the “gate,” printing labels, setting up the program listing for the show, working in the kitchen, helping to set up and close down the show and sharing your time, skills, and talents in so many other ways. The true sense of community that surrounds us here at the Church of the Holy Spirit make this event so special every year. May God’s blessings be with all of us as we look towards the celebration of Christ’s birth.

Thank you, Debbie Meguerdichian, Chair

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

A **GRATEFUL THANK YOU** to all the knitters, sewers, stuffers, crocheters, crafters and hammerers for your year long efforts as well as the bakers, workers and supporters who were present at the recent Christmas Bazaar. Your great spirit, enthusiasm and dedication are the keys to the Bazaar’s success. It’s really a wonderful day enjoyed by so many people, workers, vendors and customers.

All proceeds from the Bazaar are used to support the Galley West plus ministries here at the Church of the Holy Spirit as well as local charities.

**THE EPIPHANY TROPE & GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD - January 4, 2015 - 10:00 am service**

It has been a wonderful tradition at CHS - every Epiphany after the Trope - parishioners bring unwrapped toys to the "Christ Child". These gifts are stored in the CHS attic until December when they are brought (usually in a red truck) to the Cape Cod Council of Churches Christmas Gift Shop - Church of the Annunciation - 187 Upper County Rd., Dennisport. Low income & needy families can shop for a few gifts for each of their children under 18. Hats, mittens, books, games and food bags are also provided according to need. This Gift Shop hopefully brightens many a family's Christmas season and allows us all to share in the good works of others.

## THE FEATURED CHS ARTIST FOR THE MONTH

The featured exhibit in the CHS Gallery for the month of December is presented by CYNTHIA MURRAY.

In the November issue of Together it was announced that there would be a reprise of the display of my creche collection during the month of December in the CHS Gallery. It was gratifying to share my nativity sets with everyone in December 2013 and I am delighted to be asked to do it again. I remember hearing stories from parishioners last year about their own nativity sets and the stories behind them. This year I have asked parishioners to add their nativity sets to make this year's array even more special.

Don't miss this WONDERFUL exhibit. While in the Gallery sign up to exhibit/sell your art - your idea - your talent - your gift in 2015!

Sharyn Laughton 508 255 7277 [artoff@comcast.net](mailto:artoff@comcast.net)

## CAPE COD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



The Christmas season is here and has been since Thanksgiving if we believe all the toy commercials and Christmas music in the stores. But imagine how all this commercialism affects parents who can't provide much of a Christmas for their kids.

Fortunately, there are several toy distribution centers on the Cape where they can "shop" without money. One of the larger is operated by the Cape Cod Council of Churches through their Hands of Hope Outreach ministry in Harwich. Last Christmas, 267 families with 632 children were helped by Hands of Hope.

For many years, CHS has supported this program by donating the toys collected at our Epiphany Trope. In early December, toys collected at last year's Trope will be brought down from the parish hall attic where they have been stored and will be delivered to the Council's distribution center.

Please participate in the Epiphany Trope by donating new, unwrapped toys and please be as generous as possible. The need is great. — Bob Winter

## FREE SHOP

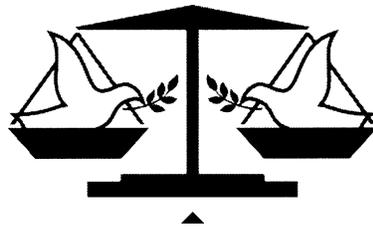
The Free Shop is gladly accepting WINTER clothing for adults & children. Christmas cards & Christmas decorations are also very popular (and fun!) with our customers. Thank you for your continued support of this CHS ministry. Your donations can be dropped off any time the Parish Hall is open. If the shop is closed - please leave your donations in a container outside the Free Shop door. The shop is open every Monday - noon to 3 and every Wednesday - 10 to 1.



## JUSTICE & PEACE

*"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God"+Micah 6:8*

- Please save the date, 8:30 am Monday, January 19th, for the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at Holy Spirit sponsored by Nauset Interfaith Association. Guest speaker: Callie Crossley, radio and television commentator on PBS! We are looking for youth musicians to do a 'music jam' at the breakfast! See Fr. Ken (413-478-5719 or ksbcampbell@verizon.net.)
- We have a few new FAIR TRADE products for sale in the Parish Hall! Come and see!
- Torture is a moral issue! Please join us for a special Human Rights Day webinar from 12:30 to 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 10th. If you are interested in participating, email Fr. Ken and he will forward you the form to register for the webinar. This is sponsored by the National Religious Coalition Against Torture.
- Pam, Cian and Carolyn Hanrahan, members of the J & P Committee, have been invited to speak at the Gesundheit Institute founded by Dr. Patch Adams in a 5 day conference on Healthcare and Justice during the Christmas holiday week ( West Virginia). They will be speaking about their personal experiences with our healthcare system during a family crisis. They feel called to **create positive change** in health care and are looking forward to being in the company of sympathetic folks to learn, share and strategize as they welcome in the New Year at the Gesundheit Institute! Yea! Go Hanrahans!



## PSALMS FOR ADVENT

A pdf copy of Psalms for Advent is available by emailing Dilys Smith at [dsmith@capecod.net](mailto:dsmith@capecod.net)

## THURSDAYS AT THREE

Thursdays will be on break until Thursday January 22nd 2015. Details to come.



## ALTERNATE ADDRESSES

Hello snow birds. Guess What? Bernie Hutchens is updating the database. This means that if you have an ALTERNATE ADDRESS (for winter or summer) you might want to give the main office a call and forward that information. Or if you choose you can email Bernie at [holyspirit@leansdatabase.com](mailto:holyspirit@leansdatabase.com) directly WITH:

Time Period: (From when to when)

Is this information good from year to year? Y/N

Name: Address:

City: State:

Zip: Phone:

Email:



## LOOKING INTO THE NEXT YEAR . . . MAJOR PARISH EVENTS DURING 2015!

Annual Parish Meeting, 11:30 am	Sunday, January 25
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 18
Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 29
Holy Week	
Children's Way of the Cross, 5:30 pm	Wednesday, April 1
Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm	Thursday, April 2
Good Friday, 7:00 pm	Friday, April 3
Easter Vigil, 7:00 pm	Saturday, April 4
Easter Day, 8 & 10 am	Sunday, April 5
Pentecost	Sunday, May 24
Summer Fair	Saturday, July 11
Rummage Sale	Fri/Sat, October 16/17
Christmas Bazaar	Saturday, November 21
Antique Show	Fri/Sat, November 27/28
Advent I, Advent Wreath Making	Sunday, November 29
Gingerbread House Sale	Sunday, December 6

Note: Other activities TBD

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

November 20, 2014

Matt Thompson reported an excellent turnout of 15 parents and 18 young people at “Youth Group” renewal meeting; a reorganization of youth activities under his leadership, along with Susanna Graham Pye, Susie Gray, Richard O’Hara, and Meridith Perkins.

Adam+ welcomes the expanding group of assisting clergy who are finding themselves well-occupied at the altar, as well as helping with hospital and nursing home visits, and on-call in emergencies.

“Garden Parties” continue their dedicated work at “keeping the grounds in bounds” no matter what the weather!

Sharon Inger has completed three lively Adult Sunday School sessions on the Old Testament Prophets; Judith Davis+ has led three “Hands on the Arts” sessions on watercolor illustration of journal entries.

The Food4Kids project will come up for discussion and planning after the first of the New Year.

Respectfully submitted, Dilys Jones Smith, Clerk

[Note: During the period of the Youth Group’s reorganization, its various different activities (like the Giving Tree) were deliberately put on hold until we had the chance to hear from our young people and their families about what their future interests for the Youth Group were. However, we’re looking forward to a return to its full activity in 2015 — with plenty of opportunities to support!]

### DID YOU KNOW . . .

We invite all of you to send your “**good news**” items to our Parish Administrator, Amanda at [holyspirit@leansadmin@verizon.net](mailto:holyspirit@leansadmin@verizon.net). Each month a new item will be included in *Together*. Please help us share all the wonderful things that happen at CHS.

### Did You Know that. . .

22 Advent Wreaths were made by the parish on the first Sunday of Advent?! (And a good time was had by all!)



### OFFICE CORNER

The Deadline for January 2015 *Together* is the 2nd Monday in December (December 8th).

**IMPORTANT: ANNUAL REPORTS are due December 31, 2014. Please send them by email in Times New Roman font in size 12 point (if possible) to [holyspirit@leansadmin@verizon.net](mailto:holyspirit@leansadmin@verizon.net). And if you can keep Annual Report in the subject box that’s a plus.**



## ***Together December 2014***

***The Church of the Holy Spirit***

***204 Monument Road***

***Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3512***

***508-255-0433***

***www.kolyspiritforleans.org.***

***kolyspiritforleansadmin@verizon.net***

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Permit # 6-NP***

**Vestry Officers:**

Wes Dreher, Warden

Ike Cole, Warden

Jack Nixon, Treasurer

Dilys Smith, Clerk

***Or current occupant***

**Vestry Members:**

Katherine Goddard

Ernie LaFrance

David Moore

Susan Owens

Rick Paris

Elizabeth Pratt

Brian Ridgeway

Matthew Thompson

**The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector**

Amanda McClenahan, Parish Administrator

Darlene T. Hagon, Director of Music

Sandra H. Cole, Organist

John P. Hagon, Handbell Choir

Debbi Manning, Office Assistant

Larry Kane, Head Sexton

John Larner, Sunday Sexton

Wayne Curry, Assistant Sexton



***Our mission as The Church of the Holy Spirit is  
to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,  
welcome all people and serve one another with love.***

### ***Dates to remember in December***

<b>Dec. 4 Thurs.</b>	<b>Ladies Luncheon</b>
<b>Dec. 6 Sat.</b>	<b>Gingerbread Houses</b>
<b>Dec. 7 Sun</b>	<b>Sale of Gingerbread Houses</b>
<b>Dec. 7 Sun.</b>	<b>First Fruits Holiday Sale</b>
<b>Dec. 24 Wed.</b>	<b>4:30 pm Christmas Pageant &amp; Eucharist</b>
<b>Dec. 24 Wed.</b>	<b>10:00 pm Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist</b>
<b>Dec. 25 Thurs.</b>	<b>10:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols</b>