

March
2016



TOGETHER

A word from our Wardens

Dear Friends,

What is “**Pledge Plus**,” and why does the Church of the Holy Spirit need it?

If you attended the 2016 Annual Meeting, and/or the Finance Open Discussion on Valentine’s Day, you know that the **2016 CHS budget has a projected deficit of \$43,000**. Simply put, “Pledge Plus” is a short, additional pledge campaign with the goal of eliminating that deficit.

The principal reason for the deficit is that CHS pledge income has been flat for the past ten years, while expenses continue to rise. We’re creatures of habit; it’s easy to fill in the same pledge number, year after year. But we’re at the point where we need to take a real step forward. **Pledging now accounts for only 56.4% of CHS’s annual income**, and we have to draw on the church’s investments to make up the difference. **This budget contains a 6% draw on investments; a number neither financially prudent nor sustainable**. We need to reduce the draw to a prudent and sustainable 4 to 4.5% as soon as possible.

This deficit cannot be eliminated simply by further cutting expenses. Personnel costs, Diocesan Assessment, and Insurance expenditures account for 79% of the operating budget, leaving only 21% of the total budget available for cutting. CHS staff will not receive salary increases for 2016. This budget is truly “bare-bones,” and any further reductions will cut into muscle and bone. Such cuts would significantly reduce programs and activities that make up the active and rewarding parish life we all hold dear.

So we are left with the need to achieve a balanced budget through raising the pledge income for 2016, and beyond. Father Adam, Mother Liza, the Wardens, and others have already increased their 2016 pledges in response to Pledge Plus. As of today, we are already 22% of the way towards the \$43,000 goal.

We invite you to join us in increasing your 2016 pledge, and help eliminate the 2016 budget deficit. Raising an additional \$43,000 seems a heavy lift. But we are confident that with your help, we will overcome it, and then some. **To put this number in perspective, keep in mind that if every pledge unit were increased by an average of \$5 per week, the deficit would disappear!** Of course, such an average increase depends on the great majority of us participating. If almost all of us pitch in, the personal shares in closing the gap are reasonable, and the goal very attainable.

If you choose to increase your pledge through Pledge Plus, you can write a one-time check for the increased amount, or increase your regular contributions, or any combination that is the most convenient for you. We do ask that you let us know what you plan to do, so that we can track our progress.

Steve Koehler, our new Treasurer, is the point person for Pledge Plus, and would be happy to answer any question you might have about how to participate. You may write him by e-mail
(con’t to next page)

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
204 MONUMENT ROAD, ORLEANS, MASSACHUSETTS 02653

A word from our Wardens — con't

at shk811@gmail.com, or send him a note by mail at the church address, or simply drop it in the collection plate on Sunday. (And even if you have simply begun to add to your pledge payments, in response to the Pledge Plus conversation so far, we ask that you let Steve know that this is the case.)

Finally, we want to reiterate that we are already truly grateful for your support of CHS, through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We know that some of you already give as much as you can, and in some cases, maybe more than you should. We assure those who will not be able to increase their current pledges that we fully understand. We are grateful beyond words for what you do give.

But if you **can** increase your pledge, please do so, and know that your contribution will go a long way towards maintaining the financial health and wellbeing of this parish.

Thank you for your consideration, and please reach out to us, your Wardens, if you have any questions or concerns about this or any other topic.

Rick Paris

Cynthia Murray

Events in March

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 23: Children's Walking the Way of the Cross - 5:00 pm

Thursday, March 24: Maundy Thursday: 7 pm Holy Eucharist with Mandatum (ritual of the Washing of Feet)

Friday, March 25: Good Friday: 3 pm Labyrinth Walk and 7 pm Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, March 26: Holy Saturday: 7pm—The Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday: 8 am & 10 am—Holy Eucharist with Easter Egg Hunt after 10 am service



WOMEN'S LUNCHEON, THURSDAY, MARCH 3rd

The women of the parish will gather for their monthly luncheon at noon in Parish Hall on Thursday the 3rd. Volunteers for the day are: Barbara Mahoney, Sue Stevens and Marty Williams. All women are welcome to come and enjoy the camaraderie, conversation and good food. Bring your own sandwich to share; beverages and dessert are provided. Please bring canned goods for the Food Pantry and diapers for The Baby Center. If you need a ride, call Peter Blank.

FRIDAY LENTEN SERVICE AND SUPPER

MARCH 4th, 11th & 18th (FRIDAY at 5:30 pm)

Come join our Friday Lenten Service and Supper which incorporates a devotional in the church followed by soup & bread and a presentation in the Parish Hall. Look for the bread and soup sign up sheet in the Reception Room. We need two entries of soup and two entries of bread.

Note: On March 11, the devotional will be the Labyrinth and will be in the Parish Hall.



YOUTH BRUNCH, SUNDAY, MARCH 6th

Please attend the Youth Brunch in the Parish Hall just after the Sunday 10:00 am service. Every first Sunday of the month the Youth Group hosts a brunch. Come March 6th and join the fun!

RESPITE IN WALKING THE LABYRINTH, FRIDAY, MARCH 11th

On March 11 at 10:00 am our regularly scheduled walk on the second Friday of each month will be held in the Parish Hall. The theme, "True Connectedness," will focus on the ability to "notice what we are noticing" so we may improve life, make more conscious choices and decisions, and help us to control negative responses to experiences.

Dr. Margaret Rappaport, Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator, will guide the walk. Meditative instrumental music by classical composers: Brahms, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Schumann, and Mendelssohn will be offered by Darlene Hagon, Director of Music. The Rev. Anne Koehler will provide a brief theological reflection on the "true connectedness" Jesus practiced.

Additionally, on March 11 at 5:30 pm we will offer our special quarterly evening labyrinth walk within the celebration of an intimate, meditative Eucharist, also in the Parish Hall. Dr. Margaret Rappaport will give a brief introduction to the uniqueness of the labyrinth in Lent, the Rev. Anne Koehler will lead our worship, and Lenten choral music will be offered by Darlene Hagon, Director of Music. A soup and bread supper will follow. Please join us for this inimitable event.

For both events, banners with the *Stations of the Cross* will be arrayed creatively around the labyrinth, providing an appropriate setting for our silent conversations with God in this season of Lent. Each participant will be offered a small olivewood Caring Cross, sized and shaped to fit easily into your hand, to take on the journey.

Usually, twelve to eighteen people gather in candle light to contemplate the theme, the music, and the spiritual offering that encourages a communal prayerful experience. Everyone is welcome.

On Good Friday March 25 at 3:00 pm a special guided labyrinth walk that brings together the meditative power of the labyrinth and the Stations of the Cross will be offered.

MEN'S LUNCH, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16th

MEN'S LUNCH will meet the third Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon pm in the Fireplace Room. Bring your own bag lunch. Coffee and snacks are provided by our donations. All men in the parish are welcome. If you think of a friend who could come if a ride were provided, please invite them to come with you. Questions? Bruce Lederhouse (508-240-2853)



SHEPHERD GROUPS, SUNDAY, MARCH 20th

Orleans Shepherd Group: will meet on Sunday, March 20th at 5:30 pm (details to follow in the blue bulletin)

Dennis/Brewster Shepherd Group: will meet on Sunday, March 20th at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Cynthia and Tom Murray, 173 Crocker Lane in Brewster. Call Murrays at (508) 896-5634 for directions and call Elizabeth Merritt at (508) 240-6998 with any questions.

Eastham-Wellfleet Shepherd Group: will meet March 20th at 5 pm at the home of Kate Paradise, 10 Richard Lane, Eastham. Bring something yummy to share and be ready to have a good time!

General Articles

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

- THANK YOU TO ALL who made the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper delicious, happy and creative with hats & songs - memorable from set up to take down!
- THANK YOU to Hanna Sweeney & Julia Telman (Nauset High School students) for volunteering to help in the Nursery/Church School.
- DID YOU KNOW that there is a "game table" for children during "coffee hour" in the Parish Hall - inspiration of Ruth Campbell!
- TIME TO FILL THE EGGS - pick up "empty" plastic eggs in the Reception/ Gallery Room. Fill with WRAPPED candies (no peanuts please) & trinkets—return to same location by Palm Sunday. THANK YOU for making this traditional Easter egg hunt so eventful for the children.
- The Church School is the featured ministry for the month of March. Check out the ministry bulletin board in the Parish Hall.
- SIGN UP SHEET is posted on the Church School bulletin board for your choice of food and number of family attending - Walking the Way of the Cross & Supper—March 23.

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- **MARCH 6** - Singing with Father Charles begins at 9:45; after classes children join their families in church. Youth Group Brunch in the Parish Hall following 10:00 service.
- **MARCH 13** - children remain in Church School during service in church
- **MARCH 20** - Palm Sunday - children gather in Parish Hall. After procession into church and children sing in church - children attend classes - after classes children join their families in church.
- **MARCH 23** - Holy Wednesday - Walking the Way of the Cross & supper - 5:30
- **MARCH 27** - EASTER! ALLELUIA! No Church School classes - Easter egg hunt!
- **APRIL 3** - Presentation of Communion Preparation Class

GREEN TEAM - HELPFUL TIP

Establish a habit of unplugging devices not in use (e.g. chargers, coffee makers, fans, and space heaters), or plug them into power strips so you can flip them on and off without worrying about accessing those pesky outlets. This could help reduce your household electricity consumption by around 10%.

CALLING ALL CHS ARTISTS - crafters, quilters, photographers, painters, sculptors , builders, poets, authors - creative people - no one has signed up for MARCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you would like the CHS Gallery for the month of March please call!

Sharyn Laughton - artoff@comcast.net - 508-255-7277

STEWARDSHIP

Commitment

A commitment is a promise or dedication to a person or cause. A pamphlet (found in our church tract rack) entitled "The Episcopal Church- a Faith for Thinking People" includes the following statement: *"The Episcopal Church is a church which asks not for blind faith and unthinking obedience, but for thoughtful, responsible commitment."* The pamphlet also states *"Episcopalians believe that all we are and all we possess is a gift from God. We give to the church out of thanksgiving for all that God has entrusted to us."*

Our Rector and Wardens have asked each of us to consider making an additional stewardship commitment to support the financial needs of our parish. Please pray about all the parish brings to your life and then make your response accordingly. If you need to discuss the parish financial needs, please contact Fr. Adam or one of the Wardens. If you have not made a financial pledge to CHS, please contact the parish office. We will mail you the pledge packet.

"Take steps each day to be sure your life expresses commitment to Jesus."

– Charles Stanley

THE PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED!

- The new pictorial directories are in the office. Please take one per family.
- There is also a box of named envelopes containing photos for those people who were photographed but who did not purchase any photos. The envelope also contains your "one per family" directory.
- If you are at your "Alternate Address" and would like us to send you your copy please let us know. A contribution to cover the cost would be appreciated.
- Comments welcomed, errors in directory information to holyspiritorleansdatabase@verizon.net. Bernie Hutchens will update our Database and make new versions (just the typed directory info) available through the office.
- From your coordinating team for this project: Celia Calhoun (ccalhouncape@comcast.net), Bernie Hutchens (above), Page McMahan (page.mcmahan@gmail.com) and Sharon Inger (ingers@comcast.net).

FOOD FOR KIDS

Ruth Campbell, Director, attended Project Bread's Summer Food Service Program Kickoff held in Marlboro on Wednesday, February 10. Ruth was asked to read a testimonial letter from a young mother in Chatham whose family the CHS's Food4Kids has helped the past three summers. She was also asked to share HaiDi Pye's video portrayal of hunger on Cape Cod. (HaiDi, a fifteen year old member of CHS who volunteers with her entire family for Food4Kids, created the video for an international human rights contest for highschoolers.) The letter and the video, which were introduced during the opening ceremonies, were warmly received by attendees at the conference. Project Bread has released both the testimonial and video use by the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the federal United States Department of Agriculture. Additionally, Food4Kids received the Team Performance Award which is given for "a group who has expanded SFSP (Summer Food Service Program) by coordinating the efforts of many stakeholders to create a cohesive, robust summer program." Food4Kids is thankful to be a part of the CHS community that has nurtured and humbly addressed the social justice issue of childhood hunger on Cape Cod and beyond.

Food4Kids will be accepting applications for the following paid positions beginning on March 1: Director-in-training (DIT), early day manager, late day manager, site supervisors, and site monitor. For a job description and application, please contact Brian Ridgeway (brian.ridgeway@yahoo.com or 408-710-9434) or Ruth Campbell (rwcampbell@verizon.net or 413-537-9200). Food4Kids also relies on volunteers of all ages from Church of the Holy Spirit and the larger community. Volunteers will have the opportunity to sign up during the month of May at the Food4Kids display in the Reception Room/Gallery at the church.

THE FREE SHOP

Still feels like winter but beginning to accept "warm" SPRING clothing! PLEASE no heavy WINTER clothing - boots/shoes - household items - our space is limited! The Free Shop is open every Monday - Noon to 3 & every Wednesday - 10 to 1. If the shop is closed there is a container outside the shop door for your donations. The Free Shop is located on the first floor of the Parish Hall, by the elevator.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK—A LESSON OF FAITH

It was last year at this time that I took my customary drive to Nickerson State Park to check the trails for our annual walk. I was shocked to find the road closed and two feet of snow on the paths. Right then, I was ready to throw in the towel. It looked as if, after 30 years, there might not be a Good Friday walk. . . But God had other ideas.

After rejecting several alternatives, I was "led" to Crosby Landing Beach. But there was no way to get the town of Brewster to permit our walk. God had other ideas. In less than two weeks (thanks to the girls in the Town Hall) we cleared four agencies and the selectmen for our permit. But, in the midst of the worst winter I can remember, I was sure the turnout for the walk and our fundraising would be at all-time lows. Again, God erased my doubts. Close to fifty brave souls turned out to walk for Jesus on a raw and windy day, with rain predicted.

And fundraising???? Well, thanks to the incredible (and in some cases, extraordinary) generosity of COHS and a number of other churches, we had our best year since I became chairman. We were able to help more families more substantially than ever before, and are still going. I felt as though I were a part of a modern day fishes and loaves miracle experience.

I wish you could all be there to share the tears and smiles of relief, the hugs and the quiet thank-you's, the looks transformed from despair to hope, because they all happen thanks to you. You've made Christmases come alive for autistic children and their parents, you've carried families over the rough times of birth defects, the fear of homelessness, cancer, and the loss of personal possessions. You have honored Jesus's sacrifice with your own and you have reflected his life's ministry through your giving and generosity. I hope once again you will join us in whatever way you can in our journey to the cross on Good Friday, as you have done so many times before.

As for me, I will continue to learn that, despite my doubts and fears, God will be there to guide me, as always, if I just have faith. — Rich Weeks

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, MARCH 15th

From 9:00 am until 2:00 pm the Red Cross will be here for their blood drive. Please call for an appointment at 1-800 RED CROSS.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CAPE COD

If you are interested in volunteering, check their website (habitatcapecod.org), scroll down to "Volunteer Up", and/or ask Jody Mines, Gilbert Merritt, or Nat Goddard about the variety of opportunities.



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Orleans, Massachusetts
Highlights of the FEBRUARY 18, 2016 Vestry Meeting

- New Vestry members were welcomed and given an overview of the work and responsibilities of the Vestry. Committee liaison assignments were handed out.
- Treasure Steve Koehler gave a concise explanation of the workings of the financial team at CHS as well as a general overview of the various funds.
- The Rector and Wardens reported that the “Pledge Plus” campaign is underway with 17 additional pledges already received. An explanatory mailing will be going out to everyone shortly.
- Building and Grounds reported that the Septic and gutters have been cleaned and that they have hired someone to clean the bathrooms.
- Church School noted that Confirmation will be held at St. Christopher’s in Chatham on June 11, 2016.
- There was discussion about updating the sermons currently on our website and Mother Liza and Father Adam’s more recent sermons will be added.

Respectfully submitted, *Victoria C. Hutchens, Clerk*

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT — REGULAR SERVICES

Saturday 5:00 pm*

Sunday 8:00 am and 10:00 am

* (The time changes back to 5:00 pm from 4:00 pm on March 5)

OFFICE CORNER

E-MAILS: You might have noticed starting mid January our **e-blast emails** are coming via Constant Contact, which is a software package primarily for e-blasts. E-blasts are emails that go out to a large group (like the whole church) as opposed to an email I would send to you specifically. Look for THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT followed by the standard administration email address (holyspiritorleansadmin@verizon.net) and it’s probably one of our e-blasts. 

TOGETHER DEADLINE: The Deadline for April issue of *Together* is the Third Monday in March, which is March 21, 2016. 

EVENTS IN PARISH HALL—AUDIO/VISUAL: We can do many things with our audio/visual cart that connects with the sound system and a Liquid Crystal Display projector. However, please be aware that our sextons are not Information Technology (IT) specialists and can trouble shoot only so many problems. As a result we need you to bring your laptops, flashdisks, Power Point presentations, DVDs etc . . . at least **24 hours in advance** to make sure the items are compatible with our system and you are getting what you want. Many Thanks!

Together March 2016

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holyspiritorleansadmin@verizon.net***

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Vestry Officers:

Rick Paris, Warden
Cynthia Murray, Warden
Steven Koehler, Treasurer
Victoria Hutchens, Clerk

Vestry Members:

Marcia Bechtold
Daniel Corcoran
Brooke Eaton-Skea
Jack Gentile
Katherine Goddard
Melissa Keeffe-Jones
Susan Owens
Matthew Thompson

The Rev. Adam S. Linton, Rector

The Very Rev. N. DeLiza Spangler, Assisting Priest
Amanda McClenahan, Parish Administrator
Darlene T. Hagon, Director of Music
Sandra H. Cole, Organist
John P. Hagon, Handbell Choir
Debbi Manning, Office Assistant
Wayne Currey, Interim Head Sexton
Sebastian Byland, Weekend Sexton
Shernette Edwards, Cleaning Assistant

Or current occupant



***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.***

<i>Dates to remember in March</i>	
March 3, Thursday	Women's Luncheon
March 4, Friday	Friday Lenten Service & Supper
March 6, Sunday	Youth Group Brunch
March 11, Friday	Friday Lenten Service & Supper
March 16, Wednesday	Men's Lunch
March 18, Friday	Friday Lenten Service & Supper
March 23, Wednesday	Children's Way of the Cross
March 24, Thursday	Maundy Thursday Service
March 25, Friday	Good Friday Service
March 26, Saturday	Vigil and Holy Eucharist
March 27, Sunday	Easter Sunday