

December
2015



TOGETHER

A word from our Rector

Dear Friends,

“Get out there, beyond the confines of these four walls, and *do* something!”

One frequently hears something like this as a pious exhortation among church-folk. To a certain extent it makes sense. The Christian project is not (or should not be) an institutionally self-absorbed enterprise. And yet...

An attitude may have crept in—that what we do, as the gathered Church, is at best, unimportant, and more often than not, perhaps an unworthy self-indulgence.

But how could we possibly so dismiss Word and Sacrament—both of which occur, on their regular basis, within a Church setting? Is this not the place from which the Lord sets forth and empowers our Mission as Christ’s People?

Here’s an analogy to consider: Suppose, some evening, that someone we love was gripped by terrible chest pains. Of course, we’d call 9-1-1 right away. But suppose there was no answer, even after trying a few times. We might then get our dear one in the car, and drive as fast as we could to Cape Cod Hospital.

And—supposing one more time—once we got there, we found the place barely staffed, and the few there obviously no longer up to their various jobs. If we asked what was going on, how satisfied would we be, if we were told, “Well, the management of this place kept telling us, ‘Stop being so obsessed with health care. Get out there, beyond the confines of these walls, and do something important for a change.’” Might we not then feel—rather strongly—that the Hospital had forgotten why it was there, to begin with? That it, after all had its own critical mission? Might we not question if the folks in the Hospital’s management were in the right line of work?

So, dear ones: What we do in *this* place, as Church, matters too. Very much so. It’s not everything that needs to be done in human community; not a replacement for everything else—but it is indispensable.

If we are going to be of any real good to the world, we ourselves must be **transformed**. In the words of the Collect for the First Sunday of Advent: “Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light.” We don’t get to transformation merely by “doing more stuff.”

Our formation—together, in fellowship as the gathered People of Christ — matters. Word and Sacrament are the very source of our mission: worthy of our respect, worthy of our cherishing, and worthy of our whole-hearted, joyful, and confident engagement.

Even so, Come, Lord Jesus.

Adam +

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

Events in December

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES!

- **4:30 pm Christmas Eve Children's Pageant on Thursday Dec. 24th**
- **10:00 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist on Thursday Dec. 24th**
- **10:00 am Christmas Day Service on Dec. 25th**



WOMEN'S LUNCHEON, DECEMBER 3rd, THURSDAY

The women of the parish will gather for their monthly luncheon at noon in Parish Hall. Volunteers for the day are Barbara Mahoney, chips, Barbara Barrett, milk and lemons, Dot Cross, napkins. 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. If you need a ride, call Peter Blank, 508-760-1516.

YOUTH BRUNCH, DECEMBER 6th, SUNDAY



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 December 6th and join the fun!

FIRST FRUITS, DECEMBER 6th, SUNDAY

Greens-Making for Christmas Sale on Sunday 8:00 am until 1:30 pm
Located in the Parish Hall.



Don't miss this opportunity to buy some beautiful fresh greens arrangements at the First Fruits Sale. These will include centerpieces, mantel boughs, swags, and smaller items for hostess, teacher and nursing home gifts. Baked goods and gift baskets will also be available for purchase. All proceeds will go to local charities.

Making the arrangements will begin on Wednesday, December 2 and continue through Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the CHS Parish Hall. If you would like to join in on this fun activity for a great cause, stop by any day for as much or as little time as you have and for as long as you are having fun. No pressure, but if this appeals to you, mark your calendar!!

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT LABYRINTH, DECEMBER 11th, FRIDAY

The place to start a meditative and prayerful walk in the labyrinth is before you step on the path. Concentrating on deep relaxed breathing, you prepare to be open to the unexpected “places” the walk will take you.

Stand at the entrance for a period of time. Gaze at the patterns that make the labyrinth. Commit to an inward focused experience, free from distractions. Walking the labyrinth is a gift to you. There is treasure to be found and cherished.

At the Church of the Holy Spirit a group of people walk together on the second Friday of every month at 10:00 AM. On December 11 we will meet as usual at 10:00 AM and gather again at 5:30 PM for Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Anne Koehler and a facilitated candlelit walk with music selected and arranged by Darlene Hagon. A different theme for each walk will encourage us to focus on the inspirations of the Advent season. — Margaret Rappaport

SHEPHERD GROUPS, DECEMBER 13th, SUNDAY

- **Brewster/Dennis:** Will not meet in December.
- **Orleans:** The Orleans Shepherd Group will meet December 13th at Sally Drew's home, 347 Tonset Road, East Orleans.
- **Eastham/Wellfleet:** This Shepherd Group will meet at 5 pm December 13 at the home of Fay and Ike Cole, 180 Hay Rd., Eastham. Bring a wrapped gift for the Yankee Swap.



MEN'S LUNCH, DECEMBER 16th, WEDNESDAY

MEN'S LUNCH will meet Wednesday, December 16, at 12:30. 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 would come if a ride were provided, please invite them to come with you. Questions? Bruce Lederhouse (508-240-2853)

DECEMBER GALLERY DISPLAY— Children's Christmas Books

Cynthia Murray and Ruth Campbell have for many years collected favorite Christmas stories used in classrooms and church services in Episcopal Churches. Come to the Gallery in the Reception Room, find a comfy chair and read alone or together with a child or a grandchild during the Advent/Christmas season. Gallery open 9-3 p.m. Monday -Thursdays and 9-12 on Fridays and of course on Sundays! There will be music and Hershey Kisses for everyone.

TOAST & JAM CHRISTMAS CONCERT, DECEMBER 17th, THURSDAY, 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall



Bring your own food and drink and enjoy this wonderful concert of Christmas Music (some classics and some new). This blend of Bluegrass, Americana and Standards is sure to please. Tickets can be bought at the door for \$15.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

A huge thank you to all who in any way supported the Christmas Bazaar. It was a fun day and a wonderful way to begin the holiday season. **THANK YOU!**



A HUGE "THANK YOU" FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE!!

I want to thank the parish for the wonderful support for the 38th 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. Your blessings that you have so willingly shared to make this event successful are truly appreciated. The true sense of community that surrounds us here at the Church of the Holy Spirit makes this event so very 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

AN HOUR OF ENCOURAGEMENT , WEDNESDAYS, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall

Emerging from our series on Julian of Norwich, a group has begun meeting each Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. The content and format varies from week to week and may include readings from authors like Julian probing spiritual matters, time for prayer, praise and thanksgiving, time to share personal experiences and reflections and writings of participants, all to encourage each one's spiritual journey. All are welcome to join at any time and bring guests to participate in this intimate time together with the Lord.

General Articles

You are invited to . . .



"Getting to Know You"

Parish Pot Luck Supper

Thursday, January 14, 2016, 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Hosts: The Welcoming Paths Team

Music by our favorite DJ, Bernie Hutchens, playing all your favorites



Sign up sheet in reception room

Pot Luck assignments: A – H, main course dish

– M, side dish, N – P, salad, Q – Z, dessert



MUSIC NEWS

- We look forward to choir member Donna Tavano's bulletin board surprise in the Parish Hall in December!
- While we're thinking of December please mark your calendars for our Taize Eucharist Service at 10 am on December 13. Peggy Gerber, flute and Rebecca Linton, cello will be joining us for this special candlelit service with icon banners.
- Thanksgivings abound!

— Darlene Hagon

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Thank You

Thank you to those who have made a 2016 financial pledge to The Church of the Holy Spirit. Your support is critical to our ability to continue our good works. Through November 30, we have received 142 pledges for a total of \$287,582. If you have not yet made your pledge, we hope you will do so as soon as possible. The 2016 budget development is underway and we rely on your pledge to fulfill our financial obligations. If you did not receive a pledge card, please call the office.

For those who indicated their pledge would be paid on a weekly or monthly basis, 2016 Offertory Envelope boxes will be placed in the Reception Room the week of December 7th. PLEASE HELP US SAVE POSTAGE and PICK UP YOUR ENVELOPE BOX. The boxes include 8 special offering envelopes as follows:

- **Initial Offering** - a \$3 donation defrays the cost of the envelope boxes and is applied to the Stewardship budget.
- **Theological Education Offering** - Our combined annual donations are given to an institution, chosen by the Rector, for the advancement of theological education.
- **Birthday Offering and 5 other envelopes for specific days during the church year** (Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas). Donations made using these envelopes are included in our overall income for the current year.

Donations made using these 8 additional envelopes are recorded on your giving statements but are in addition to your annual pledged amount. Have a blessed and Christ-filled season and healthy and Happy New Year!

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. Psalm 126:4

DID YOU KNOW?

To my knowledge this is the first time in CHS history that we have four couples currently singing in our choir: Fay and Ike Cole, Anne and Steve Koehler, Diana and Chris Crighton, Darlene & John Hagon. And we are also blessed with Emeritus members Charlie and Elinore Wood; and Donna Tavano and son Jon Idman.

— Darlene Hagon

UPDATE OF THE PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Some of you are asking when the new Directories will be here. Mid November we sent all the information in to Lifetouch for production, with as many corrections as we have received to date. We understand that the production period is 6-8 weeks, so we should receive copies early in January.

Your Team: Celia Calhoun, Bernie Hutchens, Page McMahan, Sharon Inger and many volunteers who have helped us along the way.

THE FREE SHOP

The Free Shop is gladly accepting winter clothing and Christmas decorations! We are hoping that the Free Shop will be on your list for holiday shopping—stop by on Monday (Noon to 3) or Wednesday (10 - 1)! Your donations can be dropped off any time the Parish Hall is open. If the shop is closed there is a container outside the Free Shop door. Thank you for your continued support during this holiday season and the winter months!



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

**When life gets too
hard to stand...
kneel!**



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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – YOU CAN HELP

I recently watched the documentary film “Bag it – The Hazards of Plastic in our Environment”. What starts as a film about plastic bags evolves into a wholesale investigation into plastic's effects on our oceans, environment, and bodies. We saw how our crazy-for-plastic world has finally caught up to us...and what we can do about it. Here are some alarming statistics about plastic:

- Scientists estimate that 100,000 marine mammals and a million seabirds die every year by ingesting plastic or becoming entangled in it.
- It is estimated that 8 million tons of plastic debris enters the ocean every year.
- 90% - about 270,000 tons – of all marine debris floating on the ocean surface is plastic.
- The US produces 32 million tons of plastic waste annually. Only about 9% is recycled.
- Plastic bags, plastic jugs, Styrofoam cups, fishing lines, and glass bottles last ***forever***.
- Aluminum cans last 200-500 years. Tin cans last 80-100 years.

We can make a difference! REDUCE – REUSE – REPURPOSE – RECYCLE

- BAN THE BOTTLE – Drink tap or filtered water in a reusable environmentally safe container.
- CAN BPA – The lining that coats almost 75% of cans of vegetables and other foods contains a chemical called bisphenol A (BPA) which studies report increases the risk of cancer. Since it is impossible to tell which cans contain BPA, you can avoid the whole issue by choosing fresh or frozen foods.
- RECYCLE your paper, plastic, glass and metal.

CHS has an effective recycling program that greatly reduces the amount of material going into our landfills. If you are interested in joining this Recycling Ministry, please contact me at jacksasso@hotmail.com or 508-255-1732.

Help us protect our precious Cape Cod environments now and for generations to come!

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 families with 632 children were allowed to select several toys for each from the Hands of Hope distribution center.

For many years, CHS has supported this program by donating the toys collected at our Epiphany Troupe. In early December, toys collected at last year's Troupe 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 Troupe by donating new, unwrapped toys and please be as generous as possible. The need is great.** — Janet & Bob Winter, CHS Delegates, Bill Heuss, Public Policy Ministry

Entered into Eternal Life



*Elizabeth (Libby) Pratt
David Moore*



**VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS
NOVEMBER 19, 2015**

- The Rector announced the resignation of Weekend Sexton Bob Marks, who had been warmly welcomed only a few months back. He had to move out of state and will be missed for his helpful and kind manner.
- We accepted the Rector's Sabbatical Plan for next summer.
- We initiated planning for a Memorial Garden Project, which will include a new landscape design to commence as weather permits.
- The Rummage Sale was a GREAT success, bringing many parishioners together to work and get to know each other better!
- Advent and Christmas activities will include Wreath-Making, the Giving Tree Project, the Christmas Bazaar and hosting the Antiques Show before the end of the month. Together will contain the details.
- The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on January 31, 2016 following the 10:00AM service.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilys Jones Smith, Clerk

WELCOMING VISITORS

If you are sitting near visitors at the services please extend them a greeting and, if you attend the 10 am service, invite them over to the parish hall for coffee hour and a visit to the newcomer table.



HELP WANTED: WEEKEND SEXTON

As you may have heard, Bob Marks, Weekend Sexton, has left to take care of family matters in PA. He will be sorely missed---a hard act to follow. Don Bragdon has agreed to cover Sunday duties for us until we find a permanent replacement for Bob.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP. If you know of anyone who wants a part time weekend job, 8 – 16 hours, providing custodial coverage and backup as needed, please contact Kate Paradise, 774-207-0435.

OFFICE CORNER

NEW *TOGETHER* CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED: We want *Together* to reflect all the MANY ACTIVITIES going on at CHS. So if you haven't written about your group in a while, please feel free to do a write up so we have a chance to hear about your group!



TOGETHER DEADLINE: The Deadline for January issue of *Together* is the third Monday in December, December 21st.



Together December 2015

***The Church of the Holy Spirit
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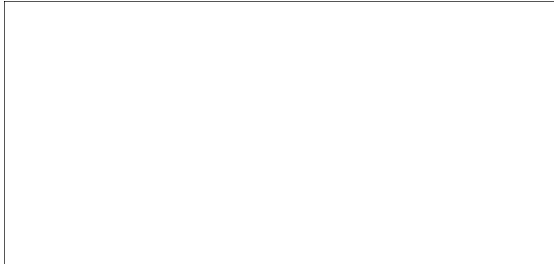
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Vestry Officers:
Ike Cole, Warden
Rick Paris, Warden
Jack Nixon, Treasurer
Dilys Smith, Clerk

Vestry Members:
Marcia Bechtold
Daniel Corcoran
Jack Gentile
Katherine Goddard
Cynthia Murray
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
Larry Kane, Head Sexton
Wayne Currey, Assistant Sexton

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 December</i>	
Dec. 3, Thursday	Women's Luncheon
Dec. 6, Sunday	Youth Group Brunch
Dec. 6, Sunday	First Fruits Sale
Dec. 6, Sunday	Gingerbread House Sale
Dec. 11, Friday	Labyrinth
Dec. 13, Sunday	Shepherd Groups
Dec. 16, Wednesday	Men's Lunch
Dec. 17, Thursday	Toast & Jam Christmas Concert
Dec. 24, Thursday	4:30 pm Children's Pageant
Dec. 24, Thursday	10:00 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist
Dec. 25, Friday	10:00 am Christmas Day Service