



Church of the Holy Spirit News & Notes

May 2014—Volume 17, #5

Advocations – May 2014



Dear Friends,

The Church of the Holy Spirit's Vestry spent the day on March 22nd at Holderness School, in a retreat led by Hannah Anderson, the Canon to the Ordinary (Bishop Rob's assistant).

The retreat tackled head-on some of the difficult challenges facing the church as we seek to become an intergenerational, barrier-free, 21st-century congregation, and to incarnate this vision in a new building that will support rather than hinder our mission.

Canon Hannah called on us to consider the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9): That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

We discussed the quality of the "soil" at CHS, how we are seeking to "transplant the garden" to a new location, and how we can cultivate that garden over the next couple of years. Our ideas focused around a clearer articulation of the parish's mission; fellowship and inreach to existing members; and ways to welcome and include children and families.

It was also clear that we must focus on growth and new members, even before we have the attractive new sanctuary to which to welcome them, and that conclusion became central to Grace's "Living Water" sermon on March 23rd.

The Vestry also drafted the following "Covenant of Values" for our life together:

SHARED VALUES THAT GUIDE US

- Willingness to talk about a personal relationship with God.
- Openness to trying new ways of doing things.
- Caring for people in and beyond the parish.
- Coming together to worship God on a weekly basis.
- Participation is valued in the life of the parish.
- Respect for the diverse ways people express faith.
- Open and welcoming to all people.
- Welcoming of different ideas.
- We follow the tradition of Jesus Christ who accepted all types of people.

Stay connected with CHS

On Facebook



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Church of the Holy Spirit

P. O. Box 68
Plymouth, NH 03264

Church Building

170 No. Main Street

Community Life Center

263 Highland Street

(603) 536-1321

Rector

Rev. Grace Burson

Vestry Members

Senior Warden

Joan Bowers

Junior Warden (property issues)

Robert Cochran

Treasurer

Wavell Fogleman

Clerk

Kristen Fischer

At-Large Members

Brendon Hoch

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Exciting progress on the building project!

The Capital Campaign Committee is pleased to report that the campaign tally currently stands at 77% (\$308,000) in our progress toward our goal of raising \$400,000 to build the new church. If they have not yet contacted you, they will probably do so soon, as we work on getting all the way to 100%! Our profoundest thanks to those whose pledges have gotten us this far toward our vision of a barrier-free, flexible, efficient building that will position us to expand our worship, fellowship, formation and outreach ministries.

Meanwhile, a very exciting opportunity has arisen for us to pursue a significant state grant that would allow us to incorporate a commercial kitchen and community gathering space (parish hall) into the project from the start. This extension of the building would allow us to fill a clear need in the community, which lacks both commercial kitchens and affordable gathering spaces. We are working closely with Whole Village, the Farmers' Market, and many other local groups who are enthusiastic about the possibility of this vision coming to fruition. The grant application is a daunting one, and of course nothing is guaranteed; but we are working hard to make our case as well as we can. I am very excited about this chance to live more fully into our mission of serving the community in Plymouth and the surrounding area.

Please continue to keep the Capital Campaign and the grant application process in your prayers!

In Search of Fundraising Ideas

The budget we adopted for 2014 includes \$3,000 in fundraising income. We will likely participate in the town-wide yard sale in September and that has generally brought in about \$1,000. But that means we will still need to come with a fundraiser (or two?) which will hopefully bring in the other \$2,000. One event we have held in the past was the auction of goods and services donated by members of the church. That event wasn't held last year so perhaps someone(s) would like to step forward and get it going for this year – perhaps late May or sometime in June? Or maybe you have a brilliant idea for a fundraiser which we haven't tried before. If you do, please talk to any member of the Vestry or Grace. With the right idea, there will likely be people who will step up to assist in carrying it out – just give us a shout. It is really important that we don't put off keeping our budget in balance.

Wavell Fogleman, Treasurer



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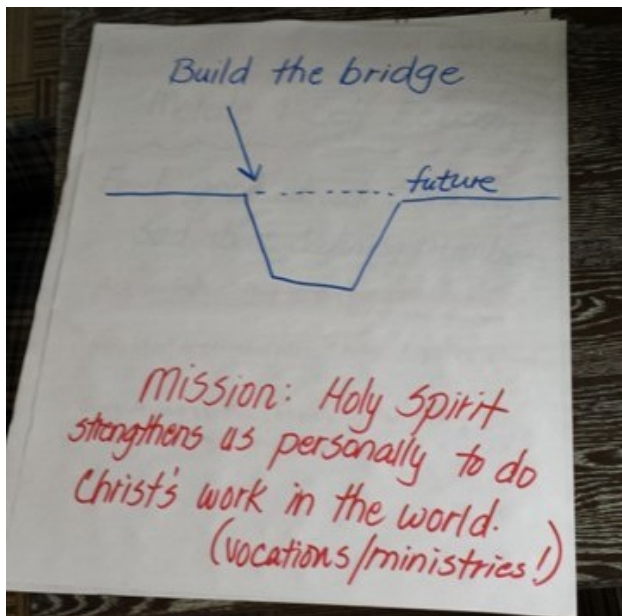
Advocations (con't from page 1)

Now that we have traveled through Holy Week and Easter and been reminded how God always brings life out of death; and now that spring finally seems to be here, with its literal manifestations of that new life and growth; let us all be on the lookout for signs of resurrection in our lives and the parish's life, and be eager to share them with each other and with the world.

Stay tuned for more news and fresh ideas as the parish moves forward with this vision! And keep inviting your friends and neighbors to church!

In God's peace,

Grace+



Flip chart sheet showing the "bridge" over the "canyon" that CHS faces as it transitions from the old building and way of doing things to the new. How can we make that bridge stronger? How can we find traveling companions to cross it with us?

ECW Meeting and Book Sale

The next ECW meeting will be on Thursday, May 1st at noon in Griswold Hall. And...it's time again for this year's Book Sales! The May Book Sale will take place Thursday, May 29th from 3-6 p.m. in Griswold Hall. (The Book Sales are always on the last Thursday of the month.) Please contact Barbara Brooks at 744-3597 with any questions.

Reminder: UTO Offering

United Thank Offerings will be collected on May 11, in the spirit of the UTO Prayer: "Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen."

Nursery Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help provide child care in the Undercroft during the 9:30 am service each week through mid-May. The shift lasts from 9:15 – 10:30. If you are Safe Church trained and would like to help, please contact Melissa Greenawalt at 536-1321 or email holyspiritnh@myfairpoint.net.

Follow Grace's Blog!

Have you visited Grace's blog, "Parables of the Pea Patch"? You'll find each week's sermon there, as well as other writings and insights, so it's a great way to stay even more connected. You can link to the blog at parableofthepeapatch.wordpress.com.

Do you have news to share? We'd love to hear from you! Send your announcements to Melissa Greenawalt, Parish Administrator, at holyspiritnh@myfairpoint.net. Submissions should be received by Thursday morning to be included in that week's email newsletter.



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Got Stuff? Sell it at the Flea Market!

Do you have some collectables or other fun stuff you would like to get rid of? Why not sell it at the Church of the Holy Spirit's Flea Market? Spaces are just \$10 if you bring your own table, or \$15 if we supply one table (Need more tables? They can be rented for \$5 per table.) The first Market will be held on Saturday, May 17th from 8 a.m. -12 p.m. at 263 Highland Street. Please call Barbara Brooks at 744-3597 for more information.

2014 Plymouth Farmers' Market

It may not seem like it, but the Plymouth Farmers' Market is coming up soon! This year, the market will run every Thursday from 3-6 p.m. June 5 through September 4. As in years past, the market will be held at 263 Highland Street. Support local farms—and have a great time! If you know of anyone who would like to be a vendor and would like an application, or for more information about the Farmers' Market, please contact Carol Perkins at 536-3823 or via email at cperk40119@aol.com.

Spring is Here!



Though we've had some weather ups and downs all throughout April, new life is winning! The early season flowers are taking

every opportunity to push upward wherever the ground is thawed. Thanks to Grace for spotting these tenacious crocuses on an early-April Sunday morning! Do you have signs of spring you'd like to share with others? We'd love to hear from you!

Family Worship for 2014

Family Worship is CHS' "third congregation," and if you've been wondering where the children and their parents are on Sunday mornings ... they're at Family Worship on Wednesday evenings! You do NOT have to be a child, or have a young child, to come and be part of this terrific group and its experience of faith and fellowship!

Our gatherings – of young children, their families, and those who love them – are being held his semester on the campus of Holderness School, and the families from the parish and the school are enjoying our time together. We eat together, then share a Bible story and activity and a short, kid-friendly worship service. The time frame is 5:30-7:00 PM. Contact Grace (holyspiritrector@gmail.com, 996-1490) for details.

All sessions are Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 PM, unless otherwise indicated.

May 14 – The Good Shepherd

***May 28** – The End of the Story

* Dates with an asterisk are in the Undercroft; all others are at Holderness School.

May Celebrations

Birthdays

Leon Desfosses	Lilah Piper
Jim Parziale	John Michaud
Dick Burne	Mike McKinney
Sara Smith	Jim Boyd
Fred Gould	Lynn Ann Gallagher

Anniversaries

Carol & John Perkins
Dick & Stephanie Osborne
Jim & Jane Parziale
Jonathan & Marcia Santore

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Regular meetings and events: Yoga-5pm W-GH Choir practice-7pm-CH	AA-7am M-F-GH -7pm W-GH Al-Anon-7pm M-GH NA-7pm Th-GH			1 ECW-12pm-GH	2	3 Lay Leadership Institute
4 8:00/9:30 Eucharist-CH	5	6 Exec. Comm. Mtg-11am-CLC	7	8	9	10
11 8:00/9:30 Eucharist-CH United Thank Offering	12	13 Vestry Mtg-7pm-CLC	14 Family Worship-5:30pm-HS	15	16	17 Flea Market-8-1100n-GH
18 8:00/9:30 Eucharist-CH	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 8:00/9:30 Eucharist-CH	26	27	28 Family Worship-5:30pm-UC	29 ECW Book Sale-3-6pm-GH	30	31



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
PO BOX 68
PLYMOUTH, NH 03264

The Church of the Holy Spirit Welcomes You!

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Plymouth, NH 03264

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