



# Church of the Holy Spirit News & Notes

February 2014—Volume 17, #2

## Advocations – February 2014



*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you!*

This verse (Isaiah 60:1) is the opening line of a canticle at Morning Prayer, and is also the text of the paperless chant that we have been singing at the 9:30 service throughout January. In the church calendar, this period of time (from Christmas through the Feast of the Epiphany, and the Sundays following Epiphany) is a season of light. We hear about the star leading the Wise Men. We read in John's Gospel about the Light coming into the world. And we follow Jesus as he begins his ministry, as God's light shines through him, in his baptism, teaching, and healing.

This year, two things combine to make this season of light particularly meaningful. Easter is late in 2014 (April 20), which gives us a long and leisurely Epiphany season (Ash Wednesday isn't until March 5) to live with and explore these themes. And, this year, the Feast of the Presentation, also known as Candlemas, falls on a Sunday: February 2. The Presentation is one of the few major feasts that takes precedence of a Sunday: when February 2 is a Sunday, the usual readings and prayers (for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany) are dropped, and the readings and prayers for the Presentation are used instead.

The Feast of the Presentation commemorates the occasion of Jesus' Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40), when Mary and Joseph brought the six-week-old Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, to make the required offering of two doves to "redeem" the first-born child, who would otherwise have been dedicated to God. There, they met the prophets Simeon and Anna, who recognized Jesus as the Messiah, and Simeon sang the "Song of Simeon", which is still used at Evensong as the canticle *Nunc dimittis*: "Lord, you now have set your servant free ...".

As one might infer from the name "Candlemas," the Feast of the Presentation is the celebration of light *par excellence*. In fact, there is considerable evidence that the roots of Groundhog Day are in the Candlemas celebration: February 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> is the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, and there are various folk myths about how the weather on Candlemas predicts the weather for the rest of the winter.

The traditional way of celebrating Candlemas was to march in procession carrying lit candles; the candles were also blessed. And so that's exactly what we'll do at the 9:30 service on February 2! We'll begin worship that day in the Undercroft, light and bless candles, and process up into church for the service. It will be a beautiful culmination of our 5-week "season of light".

But of course, what is most important about God's light, which has been lit in our lives through God's coming into the world in Jesus Christ, is not how we celebrate it in worship, but what we do with it the rest of the time. How are you letting your light shine? We have the rest of the Epiphany season to think, pray, reflect and dream about this question!

See you in church for Candlemas!

In God's peace,

Grace+

Stay connected with CHS





# News & Notes

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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

*Suki Brown*

#### Junior Warden (property issues)

*Robert Cochran*

#### Treasurer

*Wavell Fogleman*

#### Clerk

*Kristen Fischer*

#### At-Large Members

*Brendon Hoch*

*Susan McKimens*

*Bill Tedrow*

*Stephanie Osborne*

*Lois Grant*

*Sharon Smith*

#### Email

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## Reasons Why I Support Building the New Church

Modern churches are connected to the community, and our connection to the community is at our Highland Street Site. When the church is located on Highland Street, our worship and outreach will be physically connected, and the community will be encouraged to participate in both.

Ten specific reasons follow:

1. Mold in the Undercroft – Undercroft kitchen is old and bathrooms are depressing.
2. The new church will be barrier free.
3. Less maintenance costs—energy efficient building with modern heating – avoid cost of future major repair needed to maintain the present church building.
4. Parking. (There is no parking at the Main Street Site during the week.)
5. Convenience – program execution and looking after our facilities will be easier when they are all at one location.
6. New church will be conducive to Wi-Fi and other new technologies.
7. Better location in the community: hosts the farmers' market; the new site is conducive to constructing a labyrinth, a children's playground, holding outdoor worship (church in the trees), and holding after church outdoor coffee get togethers.
8. Modern building allows for new worship formats.
9. Chairs allow our church space to serve a variety of functions in addition to worship.
10. Lastly, the goal is to build a modern church which will refresh our spirits and be appealing to the young families that will attend the church in the future.

Bob Cochran



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## Building Project Teas

The building project is moving forward! If you haven't already responded to the invitation to one of the "Teas" with Chris Williams, our architect, to get a look at the plans, let us know whether you plan to attend on February 9 or 23!

### **PRAYER FOR THE BUILDING PROJECT:**

*O God, we praise you for your ability to do great things! Guide and encourage us as we prepare to raise a new building for your worship and service. Help us to stay focused on our goal to create a new home, where all are welcome and can come together to experience your love and be sent forth in your service: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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## Our Newsletter is Evolving!

**Starting in February, CHS will begin communicating with members primarily through a weekly email news digest sent out by the office on Thursday mornings.** This digest will include much of the same content as both the Sunday bulletin and the monthly newsletter. It will allow us to include links to online resources and to communicate in a more timely manner. (Each digest will contain a link to the previous Sunday's sermon!) Several of our fellow parishes in the Lakes Region have shifted to this mode of communication and found it to be effective.

Here's what you need to know:

- If you already receive the newsletter by email, you don't need to change anything; you will get the weekly digest automatically.
- If you receive the newsletter on paper, and have an email address that you use and at which you could receive the digests, please let Melissa know ([holyspiritnh@myfairpoint.net](mailto:holyspiritnh@myfairpoint.net)) and she will switch you over.
- **If you receive the newsletter on paper and do not have email, you will continue to receive a monthly paper newsletter.**

We look forward to this change and welcome any feedback as it is implemented!

## 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 this 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](mailto:holyspiritrector@gmail.com), 996-1490) for details.

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

**February 12** – Marriage at Cana

**February 26** – Healing of the paralyzed man

\* **March 12** – Jairus' daughter

\* **March 26** – The Transfiguration

**April 9** – The Good Samaritan

\***(April 17 [Thursday at 5 PM]:** Parish Maundy Thursday dinner – Cross & Resurrection)

**April 30** – Easter Week

**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.

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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](mailto:holyspiritnh@myfairpoint.net). Submissions should be received by Wednesday morning to be included in that week's email newsletter.



# News & Notes

## Acolytes and LEMs Needed!

CHS could very much use a few new ACOLYTES or LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS! These ministries help to make our worship orderly and meaningful. LEMs serve the chalice of wine during communion; acolytes carry the cross and gospel book and assist the priest in other ways. If you are interested in acolyting, contact Kate Donahue at [kdonahue@prhs.sau48.org](mailto:kdonahue@prhs.sau48.org) or 536-9539. If you are interested in being a LEM, contact Kathy at [kmlennox@plymouth.edu](mailto:kmlennox@plymouth.edu) or 536-4779.

## Spread Some Cheer--Help With the Postcard Ministry

Kathy Lennox has taken over as the contact person for the Postcard Ministry; many thanks to Carol Perkins for her hard work! If you would like to help with the Postcard Ministry for a month, please contact Kathy to sign up. Additionally, if you have any names of relatives, family, or friends that should be on the monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries, please contact Kathy so she can add them. Please include a current address for whoever you'd like to add! Finally, if you have spare cards of any kind, consider donating them to the Postcard Ministry! Please contact Kathy for any of these items at [kmlennox@plymouth.edu](mailto:kmlennox@plymouth.edu) or by phone at 536-4779.

## Sunday Service Child Care—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](mailto:holyspiritnh@myfairpoint.net).

## Stewardship Minute

We hear a lot about pledging during stewardship season, but supporting our church community is a year-round endeavor. As we begin the 2014 budget year, how does your pledge compare to those of other parish members? Check out the following table and see where you stand! Can you prayerfully consider moving up into the next category and helping the Church of the Holy Spirit balance its 2014 budget?

Pledge Amount	# Pledges for 2014
\$10,000:	1
\$5,000-9,999:	6
\$2,500-4,999:	9
\$1,000-2,499:	14
\$500-999:	11
\$1-499:	17

## Be a Joyful Voice for the Choir

Our new organist, Ash Morgan, has done a terrific job in his first few months with us. The Choir is always open to new members! No musical training is required. Come and have fun singing! Rehearsals take place Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m.

## Special Days in February

### Birthdays

Peter Burson  
Nancy Plantinga  
Dick Osborne  
Phoebe Griswold  
Sharon Smith  
Dean Sherman  
Fred Moran  
Wesley Lambert  
Tom Donahue

### Anniversaries

Jim Cierniewski &  
Debbie Triolo



# February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00/9:30 Eucharist-CH	3	4 Exec. Comm. Mtg- 10:30am-CLC	5 Healing Service- 12:30pm-GH Yoga-5pm-GH	6 ECW-noon-GH	7	8
9 8:00/9:30 Eucharist-CH Building Project Tea	10	11 Vestry Mtg-7pm- CLC	12 Family Worship- 5:30pm-Hold.Sch.	13	14	15
16 8:00/9:30 Eucharist-CH	17	18	19 Yoga-5pm-GH	20	21	22
23 8:00/9:30 Eucharist-CH Building Project Tea	24	25	26 Yoga-5pm-GH Family Worship- 5:30pm-Hold.Sch.	27 Quilting-9:30am- GH	28	Regular Mtgs: AA-7am M-F-GH -7pm W-GH AI-Anon-7pm M-GH NA-7pm Th-GH