
Annual Report of the Year 2009
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
Prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting February 7, 2010

The Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw, III, Bishop
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This year's Annual Report is dedicated in honor of Robert Randall, who served CHS for many years as a Lay Reader and Coordinator of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, who moved to New Hampshire in January 2010;

and in memory of Cindy Colella, long-time Parish Administrator, who prepared these Reports for many years, and who died of cancer in the fall of 2009.

The Order for the Annual Meeting
February 7, 2010

The Annual Meeting is set in the context of our Eucharistic Liturgy, and includes the Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant, Recognitions, Elections, Reports, Commissioning of Officers, Vestry Members, and Delegates, Prayers for the Church and the World, Holy Communion, and Dismissal for service in Christ's Name in the world. The Meeting takes place in the sanctuary; a light luncheon and time for conversation continue afterward in the Parish Hall.

The Mission Statement of the Church of the Holy Spirit

The work of the Church of the Holy Spirit is to offer a mission focused community of God to people in Wayland and MetroWest, and partner with our Diocese and other organizations for ministry in our world. Through uplifting worship, engaging religious formation, and timely mission initiatives, we invite people into deeper relationship with God and one another. We support the ecumenical and interreligious cooperation of Wayland's diverse religious congregation, and offer our sanctuary in the woods as inspiration to all for faithful stewardship of God's gifts.

All are welcome!

Reports of Ministries in 2009

Liturgical Ministries

Liturgical ministry is the work of the entire congregation faithfully gathered for weekly worship as the Body of Christ. The following ministries particularly support our worship.

Acolytes

Twelve young people serve as acolytes for services at the Church of the Holy Spirit. In 2009 scheduling of acolytes was taken on by Su Ribeiro, and distribution of the acolyte rota became electronic. Andrew Johnson continues to assist and oversee acolytes on Sunday mornings.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild of the Church of the Holy Spirit prepares the Altar for all services of the church, including weddings, funerals, and seasonal services. The Guild members care for all the linens, vessels, and other supplies as needed.

Under the direction of the chairperson, the committee members perform this work. Two Altar Guild members serve for one Sunday, on a rotation basis. All work is done with the direction of the co-directresses who are supervised by the Rector. A member of the Altar Guild is present at all services.

We are always happy to welcome new members. We would love to have new members, and all are invited to join us. Training and support is provided as long as needed. Being a member of the Altar Guild is truly a gratifying way to serve the Lord and the Church.

*-Ruth Chamberlin and Becky Patterson
Co-Directresses*

Flower Committee

The Flower Committee provides seasonally appropriate decorations for the altar area and other areas of the church for weekly and pastoral services.

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Both adults and youth serve in liturgical ministry as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers at Sunday, seasonal, and occasionally pastoral services. Two members of the parish also serve as Eucharistic Ministers B, licensed to bring Communion to those unable to come to services at the church. In 2009 Jim Metcalf took on scheduling of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, and e-mail distribution of the rota. For many years this ministry was done faithfully by Robert Randall, who moved in January 2009.

Music Ministry: the Organist-Choir Director's Report

This past year, the CHS music program continued its commitment to provide music of high quality for its liturgies and to offer outreach and collaborative efforts in the wider community. The choir sang at the regular Sunday services, as well as for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter, and at the Christmas Eve pageant service. The choir presented a special service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas, collaborated with the choir of Peace Lutheran Church for the Maundy Thursday service, and collaborated with other Deanery parishes for the Ascension Day service. I am grateful for the tremendous efforts choir members give on behalf of the parish.

In an effort to more fully involve the youth of the parish, a youth handbell choir was established in September. About a half-dozen young people have participated, and I am gratified by the skill and enthusiasm they have showed in this endeavor. The youth handbell choir participated in several liturgies throughout the year, and I am committed to increasing membership in this ensemble. Our young people have also contributed to liturgies by performing on other instruments including flute, guitar, and percussion.

CHS continued its series of performance events that aim to raise funds in support of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals and other worthy charities. Two concerts were presented last year: a performance by students of the Rivers School Conservatory Program in November, and a collaborative concert by the CHS choir and members of the Community United Methodist and Peace Lutheran choirs in May. I offer my thanks to Jim Metcalf, choir members, and all the other volunteers for their excellent publicity efforts on behalf of the performance series.

*-Daniel Ryan
Organist-Choir Director*

Ushers

Ushers serve at weekly, seasonal, and occasionally pastoral services. Ushers are coordinated by Ed Caraker.

Christmas Pageant

The yearly Christmas Eve Pageant, creatively proclaiming the Nativity Gospel, involves numerous children, young people, and adults of the parish; it was directed in 2009 by Julia Moser-Hardy at the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist continues to be among the most beloved of the year.

Men's Prayer Group

The Men's Prayer Group meets evenings throughout the year for sharing and prayer according to the Prayer Book order for Compline. The group is coordinated by Jim Metcalf and Chris Hagger.

Women's Prayer Group

An outgrowth of the Parish's Spiritual Life Renewal Group, organized in mid-2009, is the initiation of a Women's Prayer Group. The Women's Prayer Group began meeting in January 2010 led by Gina Poole and Kara Brewton. The Group meets Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Nursery Childcare

Childcare provides an important support for our Sunday services, enabling parents of very young children who wish to use the service to participate in worship knowing that their children are being cared for in a safe environment. Childcare is provided by a competent group of teenage sitters organized by Julia Moser-Hardy. While childcare is available to parents if they wish to use it, they are also always welcome to have their children with them in our services.

Formation Ministries

Formation ministries for children and young people continued strong in 2009. With the notable exception of community ecumenical and interreligious programs, and the offering of an excellent adult study in Lent, adult formation ministries continue to be challenged by marginal support in attendance and initiative.

Children's, Youth, and Young People's Formation

For young children and those in early primary grades, Godly Play continues to be a very creative Sunday morning experience in which children explore Biblical stories through a Montessori-style learning experience. Children are invited to "wonder" about stories as they tell them together using simple toy-like models representing elements of the stories. The program is very popular among both children and

teachers. Young people and teens also assist in the classroom. The Godly Play program is overseen by Kara Brewton.

Middle School and older primary grade children are engaged with timely topics in Sunday morning classes throughout the school year. Topics range from prayer and spirituality to local interfaith relations to environmental concerns for our planet. This thoughtful and creative curriculum is principally the work of Tammy Retalic, who coordinates the participation of a dedicated group of teachers. In 2009 Middle Schoolers sponsored a highly successful spaghetti supper for the parish, also under the direction of Tammy Retalic.

Young people and teens engage in both teaching and learning opportunities throughout the year, both at CHS and with the wider interfaith community in Wayland. Regular Confirmation classes include both young people and teens preparing for confirmation and those who have already been confirmed who serve as mentors; Andrew Johnson also faithfully assists as mentor and co-teacher of Confirmation classes. Young people and teens also participate in the Wayland Clergy Association's unique Youth Interfaith Education program, "Sacred Stories/Sacred Spaces," taught by the Association's Interfaith Intern through the Harvard Divinity School. This program, jointly supported by Wayland's interfaith community of Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Unitarian Universalist congregations, continues to involve students of who have completed the program as mentors of current students.

For young people of all ages, the annual Christmas Eve Pageant also serves as a powerful element in their Christian formation, as children learn the Christian story of life, death, and resurrection by taking timeless parts and leadership roles in the telling of the Nativity gospel. Likewise, serving at the annual Thanksgiving on the Common meal for the homeless on Boston Common, at which young people are the principal servers, provides a powerful learning experience about Christian responsibility for all people.

Adult Formation

Ecumenical and interfaith adult education programs of the Wayland Clergy Association proved highly successful in 2009. The Association's Interfaith Intern from Harvard Divinity School, jointly sponsored by ten Wayland congregations including CHS, coordinated a fall program looking at various topics from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Unitarian Universalist perspectives. Earlier in the year a program held at Temple Shir Tikva looked at "Shared Stories" from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim perspectives. Both series drew up to 100 participants. CHS Lenten study involved up to a dozen adults in book study and discussion. A "Book of the Month" on a topic of religious/spiritual interest has been recommended for monthly parish reading; the Vestry has token on one of these for its reading and discussion.

Mission and Outreach

Millennium Development Goals

As the mission priority of the Episcopal Church identified by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, contributing to achievement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals is an essential ministry of the parish. In 2009 funds were raised for Nets for Life – a program to reduce the incidence of malaria in developing countries jointly supported by Episcopal Relief and Development and corresponding agencies of the Lutheran and United Methodist churches – through an ecumenical fund raising concert in the spring by choir members of the three local churches. In the fall the parish collaborated with the Rivers School Conservatory of Weston in a concert to raise funds for development work of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent's Climate Centre in Africa. This creative partnership featuring the Rivers School's finest student musicians is now in its fourth year. Additionally, extra proceeds from last winter's Candlelight Dinner were donated to UN MDG projects.

2009 CHS Care Wear Volunteers

2009 was the best year so far in terms of the number of items we delivered to Metro West and Emerson Hospitals during the year. Here are the numbers:

948 hats, 181 blankets, 107 booties, 3 stuffed bears, 5 pairs of mittens, 34 baby sweaters, 4 quilts, and 20 Christmas stockings, for a total of 1302 items.

Special thanks to Betsey Gagnebin for making 371 of the 948 hats on her knitting machine. Betsey also delivered the following items which she and other Care Wear Volunteers made for another organization, The Knitting Connection:

257 hats, 70 pairs of mittens, 2 sweaters, 11 blankets, 12 booties, 2 scarves, for a total of 354 items.

So, our grand total for 2009 was 1656 items. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible. -Frances Wade

Ecumenical and Interreligious Ministries

CHS's unique situation as an Episcopal parish in a community that includes congregations of two of our national church's intercommunion partners – the Lutheran and United Methodist Churches – as well as two Jewish congregations, the Islamic Center of Boston, two uniting Roman Catholic parishes, an independent Congregational church, and a Unitarian Universalist parish provides extraordinarily

rich opportunities for interfaith learning and cooperation. This work is coordinated by the Wayland Interfaith Clergy Association and also undertaken through initiatives of the various congregations.

Programs in 2009 included support for the Clergy Association's Interfaith Internship through Harvard Divinity School, the "Know Your Neighbor" program through which members of congregations are invited to visit each other's houses of worship for learning and worship, the "Sacred Stories/Sacred Spaces" educational program for teens, the "Shared Stories" adult education series, and the fall series of interfaith classes for adults. In 2009 guest speakers/preachers at CHS included two local rabbis and Muslim leaders from the Islamic Center.

In 2009 the parish received an extraordinary grant from the Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis, Indiana in recognition of the rector's leadership in ecumenical and interfaith ministries in Wayland and in support of sabbatical time for him to develop these ministries. The Lilly Endowment's award fully funded both the rector's sabbatical activities and coverage of the parish's pastoral needs, as well as additional money for local CHS-initiated programs related to deepening ecumenical and interfaith relations and cooperation in Wayland.

Environmental Awareness – "Green Initiatives"

In 2009 the parish took on a more concerted effort to "go green," and promote awareness of and participation in environmental stewardship through increased recycling, more conscientious use of energy resources, and participation in advocacy and education on environmental issues. The parish participated in awareness days sponsored by 350.org, and made some use of the Massachusetts Council of Churches' curriculum on the dangers posed by toxic chemicals in the environment, "Healthy Kids, Healthy Churches, Healthy Communities." Parish young people have become very active participants in the parish's green Initiatives, thanks especially to the ministry of Gina Poole.

Reports from Parish Renewal Groups

In 2009 the Parish identified four particular areas on which to focus renewal in mission and ministry: Spiritual Life, Newcomer and New Member Ministries, Mission and Outreach, and Pastoral Support. Reports on work thus far in Mission and Outreach and Pastoral Support follow.

Pastoral Support

Pastoral Support is really done by the whole parish as it responds to the needs of parishioners. A small committee oversees this work coordinating and making needs known to the parish. This year the committee and parish have made meals for parishioners recovering from illness or surgery, sent get well cards to those recovering, and visited homebound and those in the hospital. In the future we would like to expand our card sending to birthdays and other occasions in people's lives. Also in the future we would like to arrange small dinner parties, luncheons, or teas. We rely on the Rector and parishioners to make us aware of needs in the parish. If anyone would like to serve on the committee, be willing to make a meal, drive a parishioner to an appointment, or knows of a parishioner who could use some TLC, please contact any of the committee members listed below.

Barbara Hart, Liz Price, Sonja Strong, Mary Mendler, Kathy and John Heckscher, Becky Patterson, Cheryl and Larry Smith

Mission and Outreach

Mc Garfield, Mary Thielscher, and Dave Haist met with Sandy Favrer from Wayland's Parmenter Community Health Center to determine what CHS could do to help that organization and better connect with individuals within the Metro West area. Sandy indicated that Parmenter would greatly appreciate receiving a portion of a package that a visiting nurse takes to people entering hospice. These items include soap, talcum powder, huggies, moisturizing lotion, etc. Mary Thielscher and MC Garfield went to various stores to price these objects, and, at present, it was reported that Target offered the best prices. MC Garfield will make a list of these items and make this available to the congregation. Parmenter indicated that they would love to receive 15 "baskets" of these items. MC Garfield plans to contact Parmenter to determine whether this is an annual number, a monthly number, or whatever. Hopefully, this is an annual number, as the cost of the items Mary and MC priced out totaled around \$17.00 per "basket."

Parmenter also indicated they would love to receive foodstuffs, as they support homeless people in the Metro West area. Dave Haist will provide a box, and a list of foodstuffs, that can be donated.

It has also been recommended that we contact two other organizations: MICAH, which advocates for community improvement initiatives in MetroWest and in which many MetroWest congregations are already participating, and the Interfaith Hospitality Network. The Interfaith Hospitality Network helps support homeless people, including providing temporary housing in churches, synagogues, and Mosques that are able to host such ministries, and may be looking for help with meals, etc. from congregations that are not able to host but want to contribute. MC

Garfield has volunteered to contact these organizations and to determine whether our congregation can provide some assistance.

During 2009, CHS, through the sales of Christmas cards, and the gift of an individual through the church, we sent \$500.00 to Cristosal. This is the organization that supports Episcopal projects for the people of El Salvador.

Other ongoing projects include feeding the homeless during the Thanksgiving holiday on the Boston Commons, providing Care Wear, the Knitting Connection which provides hundreds of hand knit items to hospitals and other agencies, and preparing and providing winter clothing for the homeless in Boston.