



**Annual Parish Meeting on February 12, 2012**

## Annual Parish Report for the Year 2011

### Rector's Address

Good morning! Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today is not only our regular, though postponed, annual meeting but it is also the eve of my tenth anniversary as your rector. Ten years is considered a long tenure for a rector and I look forward to many more before retiring here among you. Holy Cross is a wonderful congregation and our foothills region is a great place to live. I can think of no better place one could be in ministry.

Last year my annual address focused on the fact that we have faced a great many changes over the past decade and that we as individuals and as a congregation will continue to have to adjust to the present demands of our religious and cultural circumstances in order to best fulfill the purpose God has for us and our church. To that end I called on you to take seriously the call to ministry for all Christians and the commitments we make in our Baptismal Covenant. I am happy to say that many of you have done just that. In a great many ways Holy Cross Church has moved from "consumer religion" to "active faith in service" and it is wonderful to be part of that growth in spirit.

We have had our challenges this past year but we have faced them and dealt with them quite well. We have lost several active and faithful members to death or relocation to another part of the country, but we have also welcomed new faces into our midst and have seen their ministries begin to grow and thrive among us. But there are still a great many folk in our area who are looking for and need the blessings this church has to give. It is my hope that during this coming year that all of us will make a deliberate effort to invite, welcome, and incorporate new members into this body of Christ so that we and they may be blessed in new and exciting ways as we continue to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That will only happen, though, if each of us is willing to actively extend that welcome and draw into our midst new friends and companions on this journey.

I want to thank your wardens and vestry for all of their hard work during the past year. We are very fortunate to have individuals who are willing to tackle the challenges of church leadership during these difficult economic times. You have heard your treasurer and senior warden report on how the vestry has met the fiscal challenges that have faced us and how they hope to continue to provide a stable environment where our ministries can flourish during these rocky times. We are extremely fortunate to have investment funds and endowments to aid and undergird our efforts, but we are even more fortunate to have leaders on the vestry and advisors to the finance committee whose skills in the baffling and esoteric realms of financial matters are

## Rector's Message cont.

extremely beneficial. As the world economy changes I am sure that our finance committee will respond quickly and appropriately to the trends. Nonetheless, it is of extreme importance that each of you contributes your tithes and offerings to the work of Holy Cross. The vast bulk of our operating fund comes only from your gifts and it is essential for the health of this church that everyone one of us support it with our time, talent, and treasure.

I especially want to thank Ben Davis for his leadership as our property chair over these past three years. During this year Ben has overseen our transition from having a full-time sexton to using a commercial cleaning service, and as a result has found himself having to personally pick up and fill in on numerous occasions where gaps in the maintenance routine were found. He has been on-call 24/7 and has handled those little annoyances effectively and with a good grace, despite any personal inconvenience to himself. But Ben has also had to oversee a huge project as we planned for the renovation of the rectory and engaged a contractor to make the repairs. Ben and the properties committee have done this church a great service in making sure that our rectory is again in top shape and available for use. And not only that, Ben is overseeing the refurbishment of our stained glass windows so that their beauty is secured for another fifty years or more. Ben, thank you. You have done yeoman's service and I deeply appreciate all of your hard work.

You have also heard Pam Doty's report on our efforts toward outreach to the people of our local towns and their surrounding areas. Being the point person for outreach is an arduous and heart wrenching job and I know how hard Pam works to establish a careful balance between compassionate service and accountability. She is uniquely poised to oversee those efforts since she has good, active, working relationships with so many of our local and regional social service agencies. As Jesus said, "*The poor will always be with you,*" (Matthew 26:11) and the truth of that statement is never as real as during troubled economic times. As followers of Christ it is our duty and responsibility to do everything in our power to provide for those who cannot provide for themselves. As Jesus said, quoting from Matthew (25:35-36), "*Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.*" While we should consider every act of generosity a reward in and of itself, nevertheless, the blessings we will receive are going to be far greater than any small loss we may presently experience.

I want to thank our church staff for their outstanding work during this past year. Wanda May, Susie Mahnke and Lori Walter are our three paid lay employees who work very hard to insure that every aspect of this church's life runs smoothly and is a blessing to us all. I also want to thank our lay volunteer staff for their hard work. I simply do not know what we would do without the ministry of Lynn Page and her work as the head of the Altar Guild. Her strength, calm presence, and acumen are such blessings to us all. I also want to thank Henry Moffitt for his work as sacristan on Wednesdays and for special services. His good grace and effort in preparing and overseeing Wednesday worship is a tremendous help and blessing to me. Finally I want to thank our wonderful deacon Marilyn Walters who goes so far beyond the call of duty on a weekly basis that I could not even begin to describe the breadth of her ministries. All of these faithful and loyal servants of Christ and this church deserve our thanks and deep appreciation.

(When I was a teenager I used to dream of being surrounded by wonderful women who would look after me and take care of me. Well, Henry being the exception, it looks like I got my wish.)

As we move into the coming year I need to tell you about a couple of things that I want this parish to consider as new opportunities for ministry.

## Rector's Message cont.

First of all, as many of you know, our memorial garden is in need of a bit of refurbishment. Since we have not had a formal memorial garden committee for a number of years the oversight of that space has fallen largely to the rector, the parish administrator and a few loyal volunteers. However, as our interments have increased in number it has become impossible to find unused places in the current layout where ashes can be buried. In order to make some appropriate changes in the layout of the garden and establish working policies in keeping with our current situation the senior warden and I will appoint a new Memorial Garden Committee to oversee this work. In addition, with the approval of the vestry I have asked John Walters to design a columbarium for the entombment of ashes above the ground. Part of the work of the Memorial Garden Committee will be to conduct a feasibility study to determine if there is sufficient interest in such a structure that its cost can be defrayed over a reasonable period of time.

Secondly, I have been in conversation with our Bishop and Father Walter Bryan from Good Shepherd Church regarding ways in which Holy Cross Church and Good Shepherd Church can possibly work together in a collaborative ministry to the mutual benefit of both congregations. As some of you may know, Father Bryan has indicated that he plans to retire early in 2013. It is incumbent upon Holy Cross that we work closely with our sister church across town to insure that both ministries remain viable and vital. Over the next several months Father Bryan and I will discuss with the Bishop ways in which the diocese and our two churches can create new and exciting models for collaborative ministry. Those ideas will then be introduced to each vestry and congregation for your feedback. This will be an exciting opportunity for us all as we explore new ways to make the ministries of our two churches more effective, efficient and mutually beneficial.

In conclusion let me say few short words about me. I know that you are all concerned about my health and the impact it has had on the church over the past couple of months. Please let me assure you that I am going to be fine. I am undergoing treatment for the atrial fibrillation and have been repeatedly reassured that I am not in any serious danger but will simply have to suffer through this nuisance for a while longer. I am watching what I eat, getting my exercise, resting as needed, and steadily feeling better. As I said in my recent column in *The Messenger*, we will just have to take it one day at a time and count on the wisdom of St. Julian of Norwich who said, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

So it shall.

Let us pray.

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 817)*

Michael

# Senior Warden Report

**Sam Doar, Jr.**

Good Morning.

In 2011 we faced some challenges. You have heard reports from the Finance Committee, from Outreach and from Properties. Before I make my remarks as outgoing Senior Warden, I would just like to thank those committees and their leaders, who have worked so hard to meet the challenges we've faced in 2011.

Bill and Lori have done an outstanding job with our finances. When we meet with our Auditor in December to talk about the prior year's financials, it is pretty boring (imagine that), because they never find any exciting errors or omissions to point out to us. We do hear a lot of "Good job, Bill" and "Good job, Lori" from that guy. So, thanks to Bill and Lori for all of their hard work and dedication.

I also want to thank Bill Jenks and his group who watch over our investments. During this time in which our economy is uncertain, we are very fortunate to have several here that can help us steer our financial ship safely and responsibly.

Thanks to Pam Doty and the outreach committee who do things for people here in the parish and in the community, quietly and many times discreetly, but very effectively. There are always needs out there, especially during these tough times, and we are thankful that we have so many here that can help meet those needs.

And to Ken Rossen, Mary Hales, Geoff and Ellen Carey who have worked so hard to take the ministry of Holy Cross to Church of the Advocate, and to Ruth Goodson and others who will be doing so this year, I thank you for your service.

And thanks to Ben Davis. You can easily see the results of his efforts this year when you look at the beauty of the stained glass in this room and also when you step into the newly renovated rectory. But he and Peter Fenn have also done much that is unseen but needed for us worship here and use these facilities daily. So I thank Ben, Peter and all who have contributed in these efforts.

I can't say enough about Wanda May and Susie Mahnke and all of the wonderful volunteers that do such a great job to keep this place going daily. The choir and the great job they do, Lynn Page and the Altar Guild, to Greg Wright for your work on the newsletter, the Flower Guild, InReach, groups, Hospitality and Fellowship groups and to all in the lay ministry, the chalciers, the lectors, greeters, ushers, our adult acolytes and our LEVs... you all deserve our thanks.

Thanks to our vestry, for all of your hard work and support. To the new Senior Warden, Geoff Carey, the new Junior Warden, Faith Weathington and to the new members of the vestry coming on today, I offer my best wishes and thank you for your willingness to serve this church. And to the outgoing Vestry members Greg, Jerry and Ben, I have enjoyed working with you over the past three years and I appreciate your service to Holy Cross.

Thanks go to Delores and Marilyn for your ministry and work for this parish and for this community. And finally, a big thank you to Father Michael, for all of your guidance and support throughout the year. You have allowed us to do what we need to do, but you have been the glue that holds us all together. That takes care of all of my thank you wishes except for two which I will cover at the end.

Now, I would like to speak briefly about two things that mean a great deal to me. The first is Stewardship. We need to change the thought that Stewardship is something we talk about only in the fall, when it is time to pull out the old pledge card and make a commitment. Although financial

## Senior Warden's Report, continued

support is essential for this church to function the way we want it to, it is only a part of Stewardship: the Fundraising part as Michael has said. The other part is Time and Talent or a better word is Service. With the financial part there are limitations. Although our goal should be tithing, and if we can't reach that we should work toward it, sometimes, you just can't give what you don't have. But with service, there are fewer limitations, because everyone can contribute. I have said before, this church is like a pot luck luncheon, everyone has something that they can bring to the table. No matter how large or how small. If you are willing to serve, we can use you.

Last year, we had an urgent need for Lay Eucharistic Visitors. We made our plea and you responded. Now we have several new LEVs going out to take the ministry of Holy Cross to those outside of these doors. You see God is calling each of us to serve. To take the wonderful gifts we have here at Holy Cross and to share them with each other and with the community as a whole. It seems to me that when we kneel down here in this place or at home and ask God for something, our expectation is that God is right here, listening intently to us, even with everything else going on in this world, 'God is listening to ME'. That is my expectation. But yet, when God calls on me, specifically on me, well, I am not always there for Him. There is always something else going on... can't do it right now, maybe next time, that sort of thing is my reasoning. But one thing is for sure, God will call again. So please join me in seriously thinking about service and stewardship at Holy Cross and in the community. God has given us this wonderful gift of Holy Cross; let's use it to do His work.

The second thing that means so much to me here is the Youth. I really can't decide whether their energy and enthusiasm makes me feel young and alive or if their energy and enthusiasm makes me feel really old and tired. But I know one thing, I enjoy being around them. We have had a great group of young people here at Holy Cross this year. We saw 4 of them go off to college this past fall. We have seen 2 more move away at the beginning of this year. Our numbers are small, but our heart is still large. Last year I was fortunate to have Geoff Carey to help with the youth, and this year Paul Zimmerman is along for the ride. We have some interesting discussions in Sunday school and we visit sometimes strange and new worlds when we visit churches of other denominations, but one thing I have learned from this bunch is when they are together, they have fun. We had such a tremendous time working on the luminary project at Christmas time and I am hopeful that we will be able to make a trip at the end of the school year. They also do a wonderful job serving as Acolytes each Sunday. So to Paul, Geoff and to the youth, a job well done and I appreciate everything you do for Holy Cross.

So that is it, my second term as Senior Warden has come to a close. As I was putting this address together, I went back and looked at my previous Senior Warden's address from 2004. At that time we had a heating and air conditioning unit that was failing, a roof that was in need of being replaced and a large and growing deficit budget. Since then as a group we stepped up and did the right things and look at us now. As Father Michael regularly says, "If we do the right things, for the right reasons, everything will be alright". How true that is.

So in closing, I want to offer my final word of thanks to my family for all of their support and to all of you who are also my family because you make me feel at home in this place. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Sam Doar, Jr.

## Report from the Deacon

**Marilyn Walters**

The past year was filled with opportunities for Holy Cross parishioners to serve and do God's mission on this earth. We filled the coat closet and the stomachs of the people who worship at The Church of the Advocate in Asheville. We continuously have given diapers and baby wipes to the Safety Net program in Polk County. These two programs have been successful because of YOU. You have taken on God's mission to help the poor, destitute, sick, homeless in this world, and you have succeeded. Thank you Holy Cross.

Many of you attended the Lenten and Advent Quiet Days which I offered this past year. These were times that we studied God's word in a quiet reverent manner. The Wednesday afternoon service at 5:30 is a time in which we can connect ourselves through worship, prayer and Eucharist with our God. Please plan to attend, the service is a moving experience and is over by 6pm.

I have renewed my covenant with Holy Cross for the year 2012. I am happy and feel inspired by you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our Lord with you each and every day.

Marilyn Walters

## Properties Committee

**Ben Davis**

The Properties Committee has had the opportunity during 2011 to address several issues related to the long-term well-being of our Parish's physical assets. First, there was the long-dreaded retirement of John Douglas, a fixture here for over two decades and an invaluable asset to this Parish. We have been marginally successful in maintaining the church facilities with a combination of volunteer labor (including and tremendously successful Parish Work day coordinated by Paul Zimmerman) and a commercial cleaning service.

There has been concern for some time about our owning vacant houses on either side of our church property. We recommended that the Twin Oaks property be put on the market, the Vestry agreed and we sought and received Diocesan approval to sell.

The Properties Committee also recommended and Vestry approved a plan to renovate the Rectory and offer it as a rental property. The objective of this plan was not to create a profit-making enterprise, but more as a preservation project for a property that Vestry agreed that we must continue to retain. A scope of work was developed and bids were solicited. Our contractor, Karaman Properties has been instrumental in producing an on-time, under-budget and visually stunning result. We hope to have an open house in the near future.

Another preservation initiative that is under way involves one of our most valuable assets—our stained glass windows. The Emmanuel Studio has been contracted to remove the deteriorated *lexan* storm windows and replace them with safety glass. The exterior effect is transformational and the quality and quantity of light reaching the interior spaces greatly enhances the beauty of our worship space.

The members of the Properties Commission include Austin Chapman, Ambrose Mills, Jerry Pospisil, and John Salmon. They have been willing to act decisively and work tirelessly to see these projects to fruition and have earned my undying gratitude.

Ben Davis

## From the Music Director

**Susie Mahnke**

Dear Holy Cross Congregation,

2011 was a full and exciting year musically at Holy Cross. We hosted six Wednesday at Noon recitals during Lent last year, inviting Holy Cross musicians and also musicians from the community to perform.

- ◇ Robert J. Powell, well known organist, composer, and Episcopal church musician, played a recital here in May.
- ◇ We continued our Wednesday at Noon series with four recitals during Advent. Renee Duvall provided box lunches for purchase at these recitals. The attendance swelled greatly throughout the month of December, with many of our congregation and community in attendance.
- ◇ Handbells have grown and improved under the direction of Margaret Leach. Ten of us are now rehearsing weekly and will play on Easter morning and one other Sunday this spring.
- ◇ The Holy Cross Choir continues to provide beautiful leadership at Sunday morning worship services. Our Choral Evensong on All Saints' Sunday was well attended by the congregation, and was an inspiring service for all of us.
- ◇ The Community Thanksgiving Service was held at Holy Cross in November. Music was led by a combined choir of 40 singers from the Congregational Church, Tryon Presbyterian, Tryon U. Methodist, First Baptist of Tryon, and Holy Cross.
- ◇ Choir members are dedicated to their choral ministry at Holy Cross. We now have twenty-one regularly attending members in the choir.
- ◇ Musicians from the church and community offered their talents at our Christmas Eve services, and it was a glorious celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Many thanks to the Holy Cross congregation, choir, and staff, for their love and support as we endeavor to do the work that we are called to do. Susie Mahnke Organist/Choir Director

## The Messenger

**Greg Wright, Editor**

“The Messenger” newsletter is produced on a monthly basis. The goal in producing “The Messenger” is to effectively communicate to the parish community all the activities, programs, and opportunities for service and worship within the parish, and to provide a forum for teaching and learning. During 2011, we had more than 180 submissions from 50 different authors.

Each month, Greg Wright sends a reminder to the contributors regarding the deadline for each issue. After Greg completes the layout of the issue, he then sends the file to Wanda May in the office. Wanda and the team of office volunteers proof the newsletter and make additions and corrections. They copy, assemble, and mail the completed “Messenger” to each member of the parish.

“The Messenger” is the most effective communication tool at Holy Cross. If you would like to see an article on a specific topic in future editions, have any suggestions for further improving “The Messenger”, or would be interested in writing for the publication, please contact Greg Wright at 828-894-3482 or [gawright@windstream.net](mailto:gawright@windstream.net). We welcome your thoughts and ideas.  
Greg Wright, Editor

# Treasurer's Report

# Bill Hillhouse, Lori Walter

## Noteworthy items from 2011

\*Our auditor, Swaim Brown of Spartanburg, SC conducted an audit for financial year 2010 and presented its report to a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Vestry. It was reported that we have received highest rating possible.

## Table of Pledges and Collections

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
# Pledges	144	148	147	150	140	104	124	107
\$ Pledged	277	333	321	347	326	230	247	210 (x 1000)
\$ Collected	277	313	300	327	279	219	237	* (x 1000)

## Budget Comparisons

	2010	2011	2012
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Pledges	270,000	220,000	210,000
Contributions	25,000	36,000	76,000
Plate	4,500	4,500	4,000
Endowments	19,500	44,310	22,740
Building Use	0	0	600
Other	<u>79,856</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>700</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>398,856</b>	<b>306,310</b>	<b>314,040**</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Parish Staff	263,054	240,617	213,342
Parish Properties	52,981	52,728	63,839
Diocesan Pledge	37,319	17,300	30,000
Administration	19,250	23,000	24,800
Music	3,750	2,750	6,850
Fellowship	0	3,075	2,000
Christian Education	1,500	1,250	1,250
Vestry	10,400	6,400	6,400
Youth	1,000	1,000	1,000
Communications	1,000	0	500
Outreach	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0*</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400,254</b>	<b>348,120</b>	<b>349,981**</b>

\*Outreach will be funded by the Burwell, Mary Brady Berry, Spence and Outreach Funds\*

\*\*Deficit between income and expenses will be drawn from unrestricted funds as needed. The projected deficit is \$35,941.

# Treasurer's Report cont.

## Distribution From Specials Funds

Outreach Distributions	\$ 8,860
Burwell Fund	\$ 9,516
Scholarship Distributions	\$15,000
Seminary Distribution	\$ 4,000
Mary Brady Berry Fund	\$10,586
Memorial Fund	\$ 8,565
Spence Fund	\$ 6,667
Lackey Fund	\$17,771
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80,965</b>

## Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the following persons who have given their time and expertise to serve Holy Cross in the management of financial matters:

*Staff:* Lori Walter, Wanda May, and Father Michael Doty.    *Volunteer:* Anita Briggs

*Finance Committee:* Bill Hillhouse-Chairman, Bill Jenks, Ambrose Mills, Jeanette Shackelford, Connie Brown, Jerry Pospisil, Paula Jordan, John Salmon and Sam Doar

*Funds Distribution Committee:* Cam Lawrence, Lynn Page, John Salmon, Ambrose Mills, Bill Hillhouse and Mandy Doar

## Parish Statistics

### 2011 Transitions

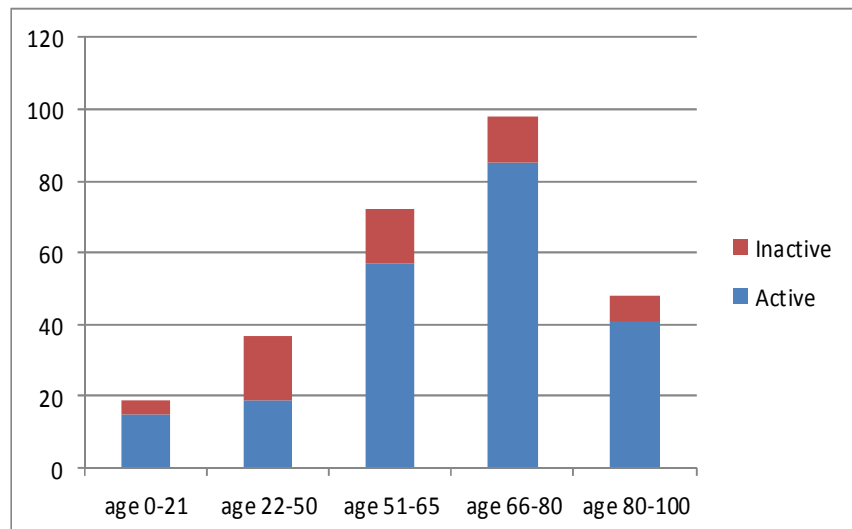
Marriages	1
Baptism	0
Received	0
Confirmed	0
Transferred In	3
Died (members)	16
(non-members)	5
Transferred Out	9

### Member Status

Regular Members	233
Adults:	225
Under 16:	8
Inactive Members	62
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>295</b>

*Friend of Holy Cross:* 30  
*Related to a member:* 24

### Members by Age



The good news is love. The first commandment is love. So is the second. Love is kind, generous, and self-sacrificial. Love softens the edges of a harsh, cold reality. It is the presence of God in a world torn and divided by greed and hate and fear.

We have seen the greed and the hate and the fear. Through the Outreach Committee of Holy Cross, love has acted to alleviate their effects in the Carolina foothills. This year, we as a congregation have provided assistance to those in the greatest need. We have gathered food for the hungry. We have collected diapers for at-risk babies. We have heaped piles of coats, blankets, socks, etc. on the tables downstairs to bring warmth to the homeless in Asheville. These are our most visible efforts. But there is more – much more.

This has been a difficult year in our area. Jobs are still scarce and the jobs that are available do not allow for “disasters” however small. A week’s lost wages while attending to a sick child puts an entire family at risk for losing heat or home. Daily people are faced with the choices of food or medicine; heat or rent; water or shoes.

In a climate of despair and depression, many make wrong, desperate decisions because they don’t have enough to put their world back together. If there isn’t enough to pay Duke Energy and no promise that there will be, maybe you might as well drink up what little you have and just give up. When resources are limited, fear and greed beat against the will to persevere and “do right.”

But love still acts. This year, Holy Cross Outreach worked to combat the greed, the fear and the despair. We have helped with rent, utility bills, heat, medicine, glasses, doctor bills, vehicle repairs. And we have endeavored to always respect and preserve the dignity of all who ask for help – even when we say no to their request.

We have provided information and referrals to other resources based upon the needs presented to us. When someone has come with a need for medicines, we have helped pay for drugs for the present and offered concrete assistance for getting those medicines in the future. When we have assisted with energy bills, we have occasionally been able to find weatherization help so the bills will be more manageable. We have assisted families made homeless by fires with finding shelter and furnishings – some from generous



## Outreach Report cont.

people in our congregation and some from other churches. We have on occasion provided the funds while other churches provided the labor to repair access to homes. When other funds and sources of help have been expended, Holy Cross has been able to offer help to bridge the gap.

We have spent \$35,000.00 from the Burwell, Mary Berry Brady, Spence and Outreach funds.

Church of the Advocate	1,262.59
Rent/mortgage	16,463.83
Energy	9,631.74
Vehicle repair	2,694.00
Water	954.34
Agencies	480.06
Other (medicine, septic tank, gravel, etc.)	4,013.77

The love and hope that comes from these expenditures – PRICELESS. Thanks be to God!

## Christian Formation and Programs Faith Weathington

Youth Sunday school programs of church visits and service, including luminaries and other projects. Leaders: Sam Doar and Paul Zimmerman

Adult Sunday School: varied programming led by Todd Walter, Duncan Ely, John Salmon and Ambrose Mills.

Advent Quiet Day retreat: led by Deacon Marilyn Walters, attended by 25

Crossings: Thursday programs on varied topics, led by Fr. Doty, Wanda May, Faith Weathington, Mimi Pospisil (we hope) and others.

Museum Day trip: venture to Greenville museum and Bob Jones Museum to view religious art and other collections.

Upcoming – Lenten retreat, more wonderful classes and a trip to visit the fresco churches in Ashe County

It was a busy holiday season for the youth of Holy Cross! We kicked off with a trip to attend services at All Souls Church in Asheville on December 18. The church looked lovely and the historic ambience added to the beautiful service. As it was Christmas Break, many of our college students were home and we were glad to be joined by Matthew, Flynn and Stephen. Along with Cassandra, Annie, Madison, Alita, Joaquin, Elizabeth and David we had a full house - and cars!

After the service at All Souls a quick lunch was eaten at the only McDonalds I've ever seen with a grand piano. Stephen was tempted to tickle the ivories but there wasn't time, so we pressed on. Upon completion of lunch everyone proceeded to the Biltmore Estate for a tour of the house festooned with Christmas decorations from top to bottom. The main marvel was the huge tree in the large dining room. I subsequently found out the first version of the tree is put up in early November and then in mid-December it is changed out for a fresh one literally overnight while the house is closed.

January's trip was to the church of St John In The Wilderness in Flat Rock. We attended a beautiful service and were warmly greeted by the members there. February's trip is to First Baptist Church of Landrum to once again experience different ways of worship in keeping with this year's theme. As always it will be the third Sunday of the month and if any youth wish to join us please let us know. We'd love to have you!

Sam and I want to take a moment to brag on our Youth for the luminary project. Quite simply it exceeded everyone's expectations. If you attended either of the Christmas Eve Services, we hoped you joined us in the Memorial Garden for an acapella rendition of Silent Night by the warm glow of the luminaries. The light, the notes and memories soared into the crisp night air. The Youth worked hard to affix labels with names, assemble, place in the memorial garden and then light over 300 luminaries - giving up parts of their Christmas vacation to do so. That it went off without a hitch is a testament to their spirit and can-do attitude. Thanks to the Youth who stayed late to help bring them all in after the late service because of the threat of rain.

If you did not see the luminaries there is a video on the Youth's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Youth-Of-The-Episcopal-Church-Of-The-Holy-Cross-Tryon-NC/183398011739144>. Or search Facebook for "The Youth Of The Episcopal Church Of The Holy Cross - Tryon, NC". And while you are there press the "like" button to show your support for what they do.

We end this month's Happenings on a bit of a sad note. Joaquin and Alita will be leaving us as the Rossen Family is moving to upstate New York. Their bright presence has added to all we do and we all wish to let them know we love them and will miss them. Yet with Social Media it will not be good bye but instead merely "adieu" as we will be keeping in touch!

We would like to invite all the Youth who attend Holy Cross to join our group. We have some exciting and interesting events planned and we'd love to see you there. Please come see us Sunday Morning's at 9:30 in the classroom or catch Sam or Paul anytime. ■

## Altar Guild

**Lynn Page**

The faithful members of the Holy Cross Altar Guild continue to provide the setting for our worship services. The altar and all other components are set for every service we have. The Altar Guild also prepares the home communion kits so that we may take the sacraments to those who are unable to be in church with us on Sundays or Wednesdays. This is a special ministry which provide the backdrop for our spiritual experience. If you are interested in serving, please contact Lynn Page.

Members currently serving include:

Carmen Preston	Pat Seifert
Katherine Wall	Harriett Sams
Jo Key	Barbara Salmon
Faith Weathington	Frankie Hillhouse
Allison Price	Pam Willis
Gay Patton	Lynn Page
Barbraann Barraud	Audrey Klatte- Linens

## Flower Guild

**Mimi Pospisil**



The Flower Guild, under the leadership of Mimi Pospisil, continues to grace the main altar and the chapel altar by providing beautiful seasonal floral arrangements, dedicated to The Glory of God. This group also provides or helps to coordinate floral settings for weddings and funerals. Periodically the group meets to sharpen their arranging skills. This is a fun and creative ministry. If you are interested, please contact Mimi Pospisil.

Those currently serving on the Flower Guild include: Mary Clare Jenks, Liz Beam, Harriett Sams, Patsy Baker-Hanskat, Faith Weathington, Nancy Ernst, Ellen Carey, Renee' Duvall, Katy Murphy, Gillian Butts, Karen Johnston and Mimi Pospisil.

Special thanks to Harry Sams for helping with the important ministry of delivering flowers to nursing homes after the Sunday services.

# Fellowship

# Boyd Correll

## **Sunday Morning Coffee**

## **Penn Dean**

Penn Dean is our Sunday morning coffee Coordinator. She makes sure the supplies are on hand for each host or hostess who graciously signs up for each services. Coffee hour is very important to the life of our parish. It is the second place that visitors or newcomers to the community can get to know who we are and be welcomed into our warm fellowship. Penn asks that you please continue to sign up for coffee. If you have never tried it, ask a friend to join you. It is an easy way to get more involved.

## **Wednesday Dinners**

## **Greg Wright**

Our Wednesday dinners continue to offer a very casual and friendly environment where a wonderful meal is enjoyed in warm and un-hurried fellowship with the Holy Cross community. The dinners are financially self-sustaining and are held once each month except during the summer. During 2011, we had seven dinners, for which our volunteers prepared approximately 450 meals.

To produce the Wednesday dinners, 15 or so volunteers contribute their time and talents by helping with shopping, cooking, setting up and cleaning. Some of the jobs require a few minutes commitment, others (like shopping and cooking), a few hours. Those who work together on the dinners have lively conversations, and have a wonderful time getting to know each other. We are in desperate need of more help on the clean up effort after each dinner. Please contact Greg Wright 828 894-3482 or gawright@windstream.net if you are willing to help.

## **Foyer Dinners**

## **Wanda Doar & Katy Murphy**

Foyer Dinner groups meet on the second Sunday of the month for dinner and fellowship.. Folks are with the same group for several months and then everyone is switched to another group. Twice a year everyone comes together at two larger events for more fun and fellowship. Sign up today. This is a great way to know one another better and in a relaxed setting.

## **Spring and Fall Parish Picnics**

## **Boyd Correll**

We have had fun, and special times when we gather once or twice a year at a place away from the church campus to have a picnic. This past Fall we gathered at the Meeting Place Senior Center. It was perfect for the breezy weather and there was lots of room to socialize.

## **Special Events and Coordination of the Kitchen**

## **Ellen and Geoff Carey**

The Carey family continues to oversee the kitchen and coordinate the occasional special event. They also help us keep our supplies and utensil levels maintained. Don't hesitate to help out when we do have special events. There is room for more help!

# Holy Cross Vestry and Wardens

2012

Rector: The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Doty [mdoty@holycrosstryon.org](mailto:mdoty@holycrosstryon.org)  
Senior Warden: Geoff Carey [gcarey@cliffscommunities.com](mailto:gcarey@cliffscommunities.com)  
Junior Warden: Faith Weathington [fweathington@charter.net](mailto:fweathington@charter.net)  
Clerk: Wanda K. May [wmay@holycrosstryon.org](mailto:wmay@holycrosstryon.org)  
Treasurer: Bill Hillhouse [hillhouse550@windstream.net](mailto:hillhouse550@windstream.net)

## Class of 2013

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## Class of 2015

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*The Episcopal Church of the*  
**Holy Cross**

**In Memoriam  
2011**



Jeff Bradley  
Ed Comolli  
Bill Froemming  
Helena Glover  
Cecily Holmes  
Morley Kahoe  
Bill Lee  
Ann McAndrews  
Mary Jane McDonald  
Madeline Miner  
Sylvia Moore  
Patti Owens  
Kitty Page  
Eleanor Petersen  
Dorothy Phillips  
Marguerite Van Pelt  
Dan Williams  
Dorothy Moore  
Evelyn Bennett  
Bud Phillips