



WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS

“Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here at Holy Cross as you are to receive the blessings of God so freely given, of new and unending life in Christ.”

We say these words every week to welcome everyone to our worship service, to the Lord’s table, and to the life of our congregation. These words also form the perfect introduction to the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross in Dunn Loring, Virginia. It is our open, welcoming atmosphere that has helped to build our community of faith into what it is today and that continues to sustain it as we discern to what purpose God is calling us.

The members of Holy Cross have overwhelmingly voiced their opinion that it is this welcoming atmosphere that has drawn them into the life of the congregation and that it is the people of Holy Cross who keep them coming back each week. The sense of openness and inclusiveness is central to our identity and to our desire to be a place where all may seek and serve Christ.

We are on the small end of program-sized churches; we have approximately 500 members and 200 households, including 80 families with children at home. Our average Sunday worship attendance is approximately 175 across three services. We are in the process of adjusting to the realities of being this size, which includes a recent effort to document the various programs and ministries of our congregation, including the people who make them work, and to provide a structure for organizing the various activities in our congregational life. This effort has put into writing (see chart below) something we’ve known to be true for some time: the lay leadership of our congregation is strong. Many of the activities at Holy Cross—including social, spiritual, and service activities—are organized with minimal need for clergy involvement.

The following sections expand on who we are, what we do, where we live, and what we seek in a rector.



HISTORY OF HOLY CROSS

In 1966, the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia bought four acres of farmland in Dunn Loring, Virginia, a small neighborhood in Fairfax County, with the vision of one day building a new house of worship. St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church of McLean helped establish the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross as a mission congregation in 1979. Fifteen people held the first service in the foyer of the Dunn Loring Elementary School, less than half a mile from the purchased farmland, with the Rev. Berry Parsons, Vicar, presiding.

In early 1983, the growing congregation moved its Sunday service to the local YWCA, conveniently situated in the same Dunn Loring neighborhood. In September, the Rev. Jonathan Bryan replaced Rev. Parsons as Vicar. The following year, those dedicated Episcopalians focused their efforts on planning a simple structure to house their growing community. Construction of the Church of the Holy Cross began in the summer of 1984, and the first service under the new roof was held in September 1985.

Between 1985 and 1987, the congregation grew from 25 households to more than 50, filling the seats with communicants of all ages. Holy Cross Phase 2—a multipurpose Upper Room and basement for a nursery, kindergarten, and classrooms—was completed by the winter of 1987, giving youth education and other developing ministries space for growth. A Memorial Garden was dedicated in a beautifully wooded area behind the church, adjacent to a new playground.

By 1989, Holy Cross' membership, programs, and finances had developed enough that it was declared a self-sustaining member of the Diocese of Virginia, and the Rev. Jonathan Bryan was named Rector. Ten years later, Holy Cross had grown to more than 100 households, had moved to 3 services on Sunday, and was bursting at the seams yet again. The congregation decided it was time to build again, and the planning for Phase 3 began. This was a huge leap of faith, as the plans called for a complete new sanctuary, a large welcoming narthex, and additional classrooms, bathrooms, and mechanical rooms below. But with many prayers, a capital campaign, and strong leadership, the beautiful new structure was completed in 2001 and dedicated by the Rt. Rev. David C. Jones, Suffragan Bishop of Virginia. The award-winning design completely transformed the church, both physically and psychologically.

We continued to grow at a comfortable pace while keeping a friendly, welcoming, small-church attitude. A large new kitchen enabled our service ministries to connect even more with our community, and today we prepare meals each month for a nearby shelter. The lower-level classrooms of the Phase 3 addition, along with the original classrooms, are used by a Montessori school in which many parishioners enroll their children.



Circa 1985



HISTORY OF HOLY CROSS

Jonathan retired in 1999 and was followed by the Rev. Joan Peacock-Clark. In 2003, the Rev. Elliott Waters became Interim Rector, transitioned to Priest-in-Charge, and led the congregation until early 2004, when the Rev. Jane Barr was called as Interim Rector.

After a thoughtful, thorough national search, Holy Cross called the Rev. Walter (“Wes”) Smedley IV in 2005. During the next eight years, our congregation flourished and grew, instituting many new programs and developing an even more diverse group of ministries. We were becoming a program church, learning to lead from within and reorganizing ourselves to better serve the parish and all those who continue to move “inside the beltway.”

In the summer of 2013, Wes was called to lead a struggling congregation in Chicago. The Rev. Elizabeth Tesi arrived last fall from Oregon as Interim Rector and is keeping us moving forward at a steady pace. A wonderful leader, she is helping us maintain our enthusiasm in God’s ministry and loving service as we search for our new Rector.



2001

We were becoming a program church, learning to lead from within and reorganizing ourselves to better serve the parish and all those who continue to move “inside the beltway.”

WORSHIP

At each of our three Eucharist services on Sunday, we repeat the essential message of our worship, welcoming all to partake of God's gifts. We use both Rite I and Rite II Eucharist settings but see ourselves as a broad-based, Rite II church, with a membership that comes from many different denominations. We welcome hearing a variety of voices from the pulpit, including visiting clergy and our own parishioners.

- Our 8:00 service is traditional, quiet, and contemplative, with no music.
- Our 9:00 service, which generally draws the largest attendance, is oriented toward families with children. About twice a month, the service includes our Guitar Group, which offers a ministry of contemporary, folk, and traditional songs of worship and praise with guitar, piano, violin, and voices. This service regularly features the two Children's Choirs, ages 3-5 and 6-10 (around 18 children total) who sing five or six times a year.
- Our 11:00 service features the adult choir, with a full complement of hymns and service music, including a sung psalm, and generally an offertory anthem. We include some chanting in our services throughout the church year and would love to have a rector comfortable in singing solo! If not, there are choir members who can serve as cantor for service music like the Great Litany and Exsultet.

We would be interested in reviving our past practice of a brief Eucharist at noon each Wednesday.

The flexibility of our sanctuary, with interlocking chairs that can be arranged in several configurations, lets us change things up for certain seasons. During the summer months, we have only two Sunday services and have sometimes set up the chairs in a different way (church in the round, for example). We have an outdoor chapel on a shaded lawn that we use for occasional summer services (often in conjunction with a parish picnic) and for the Blessing of the Animals. The covered porch outside the narthex gives us an alternative for bad weather as well as a sheltered place to start Palm Sunday and Easter Vigil processions.

Our volunteer adult choir, small but strong, is the heart of our music program. In addition to organ and piano, our choirs sometimes are accompanied by instrumentalists (recorder, flute, violin) from the congregation or by the Guitar Group. For some special services, we hire brass or string players or a harpist along with professional singers to augment our core group. Our music program has featured—in addition to solid weekly support of worship—Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols, a Children's Christmas musical, a jazz mass, special music for Pentecost and the Palm Sunday Passion reading, and an occasional Sunday Choral Evensong.



LEARNING & FORMATION

Learning and Formation for the congregation is offered on Sundays after the 9:00 service (except during the summer) and runs until 10:45.

- Preschool and kindergarten students use the Montessori-based curriculum Godly Play, which incorporates storytelling and self-directed learning through art and play.
- Godly Play continues in first and second grade with a more in-depth look at the people and the history of the Old Testament. Students at this level also begin learning the skill of finding chapters and verses in the Bible.
- Third-through-fifth graders use the “Living the Good News” curriculum and focus on one or more of the readings from the day’s service. They also discuss how the teachings in Scripture relate to their everyday lives.
- Middle school students meet for Sunday school after the 9:00 service. Next year, they will begin Rite 13. These young parishioners will reflect on their relationship with God as they actively serve the community.
- We are exploring using Journey to Adulthood (J2A) with the junior high school students next year; they will begin to reflect on their relationships with God as they serve the community.
- Our senior high class will be a combination confirmation class and senior high formation. The formation topics will be based on books and discussions that explore the transition to adulthood in the Episcopal Church.

Adults have several options for Christian education at Holy Cross.

- The HC Scholars Program offers 16 presentations each academic year, on roughly alternate Sundays and repeating on selected Wednesday evenings. Themes (Early Christianity and Anglicanism; Old Testament; New Testament; and Comparative Theology) are covered in modules that let participants self-pace and choose their depth of study. The Scholars Program requires no homework and recognizes those who attend regularly.
- On Sunday mornings when the Scholars Program does not meet, adults enjoy lectures on spiritual topics or discuss the lectionary readings further.
- A weekly Bible Study takes place on Wednesday mornings. Participants first review the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday, then meet as a book club to discuss a selected book on a religious or spiritual topic, such as *The Historical Figure of Jesus* by E.P. Sanders.

Vacation Bible School meets each evening for one week in the summer, allowing families with working parents a chance to attend. Kid-friendly dinners precede the fun learning. This year’s theme was Giving and Receiving God’s Love.

Holy Cross hosts a public lecture series, endowed by a parishioner, featuring nationally recognized scholars and authors on matters spiritual and sometimes controversial. These lectures draw an audience from the community and nearby



LEARNING & FORMATION

Virginia Theological Seminary, as well as from our own parish. A lively question-and-answer period always follows the lecture. Some recent guests include:

- Dr. Elaine Pagels, Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion at Princeton University. The recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, she is best known for her studies and writing on the Gnostic Gospels.
- Dr. John Dominic Crossan, New Testament scholar and former co-chair of “The Jesus Seminar,” historian of early Christianity, and former Catholic priest who has written more than 40 scholarly and popular works.
- Virginia Theological Seminary Professor Robert Prichard, who spoke on the religious and spiritual roots of the Episcopal Church.
- The Rev. Dr. A. Katherine Grieb, professor of New Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary, speaking on “Jesus: The Gospel of God.”

All of life is a spiritual pilgrimage, but there is a special sense of community in a tangible journey with fellow parishioners. Holy Cross has participated in several pilgrimages, both local and international.

- Holy Cross has an annual Advent retreat that focuses on slowing down and preparing our hearts for Christmas. One of the most memorable ones was a pilgrimage at the National Cathedral, a day of silent meditation followed by a walking meditation.
- On three occasions, the congregation has blessed groups of parishioners who embarked on 14 days of study in the Holy Land, joining others from around the world in one of the 22 annual courses at St. George’s College Jerusalem.

We have benefited from and contributed to seminarian training and have developed a strong reputation as a desirable field education site for students at nearby Virginia Theological Seminary.



SERVICE

At the end of the liturgy in our Sunday bulletin, a boxed statement reminds us “The worship has ended. The service begins.” This directive is one that reflects a deeply held value of Holy Cross. We believe that we are called to carry out God’s mission of radical love, service, and hospitality not just in our own parish but also in our greater community, our state, and around the world. We are mindful that from those to whom much has been given much is expected, and we strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

PASTORAL MEALS

Holy Cross delivers meals to fellow parishioners during times of illness, loss or great stress.

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Holy Cross is fortunate to have an extremely dedicated team of lay individuals trained in Stephen Ministry. Stephen ministers meet with parishioners usually once a week during times of struggle for as long as the parishioner needs the support.

MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS

In a partnership with Safe Haven, a community organization serving the homeless, Holy Cross parishioners come together once a month to prepare 150-200 meals in our kitchen for our homeless neighbors in the community. The meals are delivered to a nearby day shelter to share with those in need. Meal preparation is generally the second Tuesday of the month.

COMMITTEE FOR HELPING OTHERS (CHO)

CHO is an ecumenical group serving families and individuals in need throughout our area. Holy Cross collects food and clothing weekly to support the food pantry and clothes closet in nearby Vienna. Parishioners deliver donations regularly. When asked, Holy Cross provides volunteers to staff the center during walk-in hours.

Holy Cross partners with CHO for Thanksgiving and Christmas, providing food baskets for those in need. We provide Christmas gifts for needy families through our Angel Tree. At Easter, our Youth Group shops and creates Easter baskets for the children of families referred to us by CHO.

In the past year, Holy Cross provided Thanksgiving baskets, more than 100 Christmas gifts, and Christmas meal baskets for 11 families, and 21 Easter baskets for children.



SERVICE

ENDOWMENT FUND AND SALT AND LIGHT GRANT

Holy Cross is fortunate to have an endowment fund that was established in 1991. Income from the endowment is used to fund the Salt and Light Grant Program. Grant requests are accepted to provide “seed capital” for new or extended outreach and inreach ministries. Two proposals were awarded grants from the fund in 2014. One grant will fund a professionally edited video that will be used to raise awareness across the Diocese for the Tanzania Ministry; a second grant will fund scholarships and needed supplies for the Art & Soul ministry.

DUNGANNON MISSION TRIP

Each year Holy Cross sends youth on a mission trip sponsored by Region V of the Diocese of Virginia. Enthusiastically, the youth head to the very poor, rural community of Dungannon, in the southwestern part of the state bordering Kentucky. Job opportunities are few, and the poverty rate is high. The youth spend a week installing plumbing, laying flooring, putting on roofs, and rehabilitating the homes of people in need. Holy Cross volunteers enjoy getting to know homeowners and their families. In years past, our congregation has donated enough funds to cover each teen’s expenses, and we expect this tradition to continue. Our youth appreciate this opportunity and look forward to returning each year.

TANZANIA MINISTRY AND MISSION TRIPS**• Buguruni Health Center**

Medical missionaries and Holy Cross parishioners Dr. Henry Ziegler and his wife Priscilla spent several years living and working in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where they developed and implemented programs to improve the health and wellbeing of people in some of the city’s poorest neighborhoods. They led a mission trip to Tanzania in 2012, focusing on the physical structures of the health center and its neighboring Anglican school, as well as ministering to orphans of the AIDS epidemic. They and a few of the other missionaries continue to return to Tanzania on their own. They have raised funds to build a women’s surgical hospital.



SERVICE

- **St. Augustine's English Medium Primary School**

In the spring of 2013, Holy Cross was awarded a Mustard Seed grant from the Diocese of Virginia to take donated laptops to St. Augustine's English Medium Primary School and have the youth of Holy Cross teach basic computer and keyboarding skills to the students. That summer, three Holy Cross teens and three adults parishioners traveled to Dar es Salaam, where they taught more than 500 students and more than half of the staff in about five days. Planning is underway for another youth mission to Tanzania, hopefully in 2015.

- **Porridge Program/Chakula for Kids**

St. Augustine's is in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Dar es Salaam. Many families cannot afford both tuition and food, although tuition is modest compared to that at other private schools. The quality of public education is extremely poor, with teacher/student ratios commonly 1:200 per class, so many parents elect to pay tuition, leaving their children with only one meal a day. In response to this need, Holy Cross launched the Porridge Program in early 2014, aiming to feed 150 of the most malnourished children a healthy breakfast daily for a year and to expand the program in coming years, perhaps by partnering with other Episcopal parishes.

ART AND SOUL PAINTING

During Art and Soul sessions, participants tap into their inner artists and create paintings to donate to Pathways to Housing, DC, an organization committed to ending homelessness. Pathways distributes the completed artwork to clients as they move into their new, permanent homes. Sessions are held throughout the year.



COMMUNITY

Holy Cross holds a variety of events and activities throughout the year aimed at supporting and enriching our spiritual lives while deepening our social connectedness with one another. Usually informal and low-key, these are times outside regular worship when we get to know our fellow parishioners better and enrich our relationships and caring for one another.

- **Shrine Mont Weekend.** In early June each year, members of the parish gather for a special weekend at Shrine Mont, the Diocese of Virginia retreat center in Orkney Springs, Virginia. The weekend includes time for fun, fellowship, worship, and rest, with community meals prepared and served by the Shrine Mont staff.
- **Souper Supper.** Each February we carry on a tradition started by former parishioners called the Souper Supper, in which we gather to sample and savor a meal of soups, with guests contributing appetizers and desserts.
- **Baseball Game.** For the past several years, the parish has attended a Washington Nationals baseball game together on a Friday night in late April, an event that regularly draws more than 75 parishioners and friends. Seated together, parishioners not only enjoy our national pastime, but also find an easy and relaxing way to get to know one another better.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.** The Youth Group hosts our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper for the entire congregation, preparing and serving pancakes, bacon, and fresh fruit. The money raised from the dinner is used to stock Easter baskets for several local families in need.
- **Easter Egg Hunt.** Following Easter services, the Youth Group holds an Easter egg hunt on church grounds for young children of the parish.
- **OWLS.** A group of older Holy Cross parishioners formed Holy Cross OWLS (Older, Wiser, Laughing Souls) about four years ago to provide day-time activities for seniors who prefer not to drive at night. The OWLS meet every other month to share food, fun, and fellowship. After the meal, they usually have a speaker to provide thought and reflection.
- **Progressive Dinner.** The Holy Cross Progressive Dinner is a longstanding tradition in which we start the evening with all gathering for appetizers and beverages and then split into small groups and move on to homes of various parishioners for dinner and dessert.



COMMUNITY

- **Newcomers' Lunch or Dinner.** Holy Cross hosts periodic newcomers' lunches or dinners, where longtime parishioners share a meal and stories with those who have recently joined our congregation.
- **Annual Parish Picnic.** One Sunday each summer, we gather on the lawn behind the church for our annual picnic. All bring a dish to share, and the church cooks hamburgers, hot dogs, other picnic fare, and vegan dishes. The picnic is a relaxing time to socialize in an informal setting.

Although many of these events revolve around sharing food and “breaking bread” together, they are not simply social. Just as we share bread and wine at the altar during worship services, these events are integral to deepening relationships and encouraging spiritual growth and exploration. They give us opportunities to make real and practical Jesus’s admonition to “love one another.”



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Church of the Holy Cross Ministries, Programs, and Operations						
WORSHIP		LEARNING & FORMATION			SERVICE	
Services	Support	Children	Youth	Adults	Inreach	Outreach
Regular Services	Chalicians Readers	Sunday School	Sunday School Confirmation Class	Adult Ed Bible Study Advent Retreat Lenten Series	Pastoral meals Prayer chain Sunshine cards Lay Eucharistic ministers Lay visitors	African team ministry CHO food & clothing Cooking for the homeless Dungannon mission trip Jackson-Feild Home gifts UTO Tanzania mission Angel tree CROP Walk to End Hunger Art & Soul painting parties Holiday meals Hypothermia shelter
Special Services	Acolytes Ushers	Vacation Bible School		Newcomer Class Special Speaker Series		
Weddings	Flower Guild	Summer Story Time				
Burials	Altar Guild Choirs Guitar Group Nursery					
OPERATIONS		COMMUNITY				
Buildings & Grounds		Fellowship	Welcoming	Youth Group		
Communications		Ball Game	Greeters	Regular meetings		
Stewardship		Bishop's reception	Newcomer Events	Hoagie sale		
Finance		OWLS	Bakers	Shrove Tuesday pancake supper		
Counters		Souper Supper	Come-as-you-are Christmas Pageant	Special events		
Bookkeeping & Audit		Progressive Dinner				
Capital Management		HC Women				
Insurance		Parish Picnic				
Treasurer		Special receptions				
Administration		Parish retreat				
Office Assistance						
Computer Support						
Security						

The organizational chart above is a recent document that has evolved over the past year and is a necessary element for any program church. It is the result of many interviews with ministry leaders, employed staff, vestry members, and others with a role in decisionmaking at Holy Cross. It is meant to be organic and to change as we add or delete ministries or change leaders, but it defines how we serve the parish and community and the roll-up process for decisionmaking and budget tracking. Holy Cross ministries are grouped into five categories—Worship, Learning and Formation, Management and Operations, Service, and Community—in support of the areas of work in the church. The structure is intended to provide opportunities for cooperative initiatives and a robust leadership group without unnecessarily burdening individuals.

More than a hundred ministries flourish at Holy Cross. Each has its own unique set of duties, processes, and responsibilities but all are in close communication with the Vestry and Clergy. Clear leadership from a strategically focused Vestry allows appropriate autonomy at the ministry and committee level. The Vestry assists as necessary in short- and long-term planning, budgeting and resource allocation, and transitions in committee leadership.

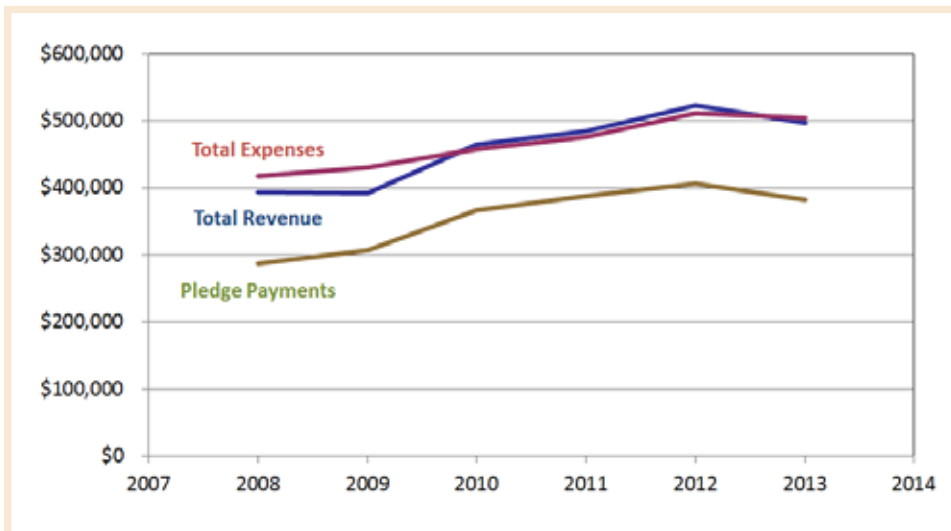
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

THE VESTRY

Twelve elected members make up our Vestry, which is led by the Rector, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden. The Vestry’s primary responsibility is to articulate the vision of Holy Cross and to lead the church strategically toward the fulfillment of that vision. Selection of new Vestry members is by lottery; that is, the names of all pledging (time or money) members who are in good standing in the parish are put in a hat, and names are drawn during the October Vestry meeting. The Senior Warden then contacts each of those parishioners in the order drawn to see if he or she will serve. Once all slots are filled, the nominations go to the congregation for approval. Because we value gender balance, we ensure that at least one-third of the vestry members are male (or female). We accept self-nominations for no more than two new members. Members commit to a three-year term, but shorter terms are sometimes available if a member resigns.

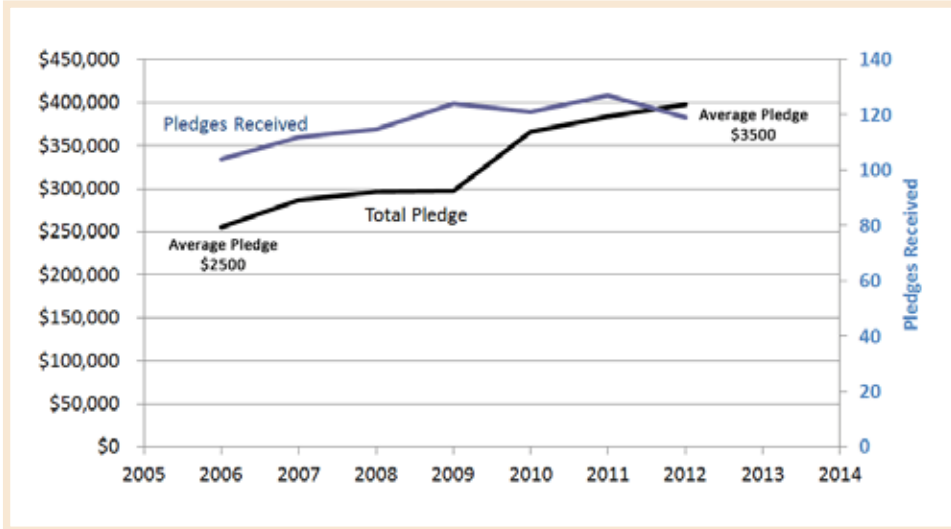
The culture of our Vestry has always been one in which decisions are made on a consensus basis rather than a majority-rule vote. We pride ourselves on the process of listening first, analyzing second, and, with prayerful thought, finally reaching agreement. We take time and care to ensure that any Vestry member who does not agree with the majority can present his or her view and can have a voice. The respect and care we have for each other will always come before the prideful need for “being right” in making difficult decisions.

BUDGET HISTORY



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

PLEDGING HISTORY



2013 STATISTICS

- Average Sunday Attendance: 175
- Easter Attendance: 433
- Burials: 3
- Marriages: 1
- Blessing of Civil Unions: 1
- Baptisms: 5
- Received by Bishop: 6
- Church School Students enrolled: 42
- Active Baptized Members: 481
- Communicants in Good Standing: 369
- Communicants in Good Standing less than 16 years of age: 68

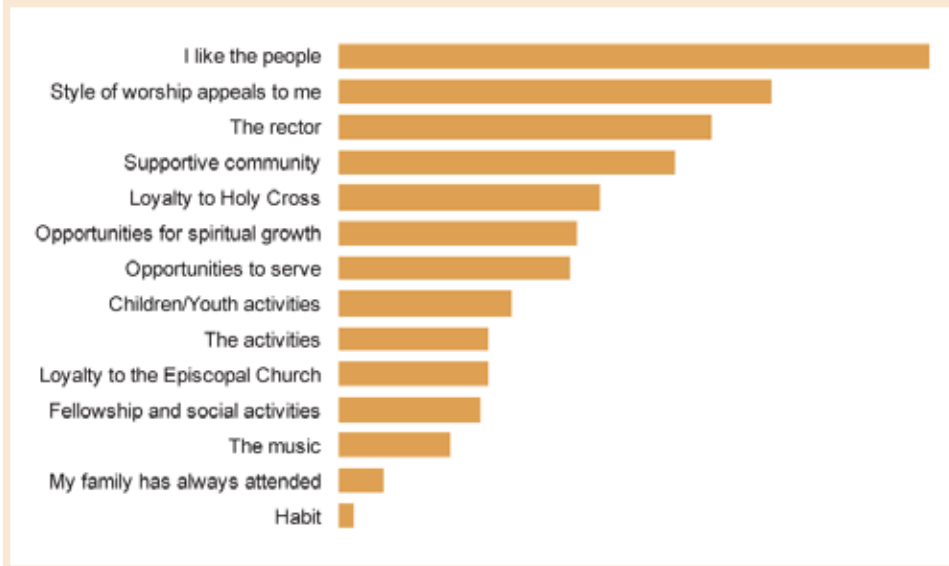
WHAT WE SEEK IN A RECTOR

In March 2014 the Holy Cross Search Committee conducted a survey of the parish to assist in the process of discerning the hopes and dreams of the congregation in finding a new rector to lead us. The congregation has almost 500 active members of all ages. There are 200 active households, 80 of which have children living at home. The survey, which was available on-line and in hard copy, drew 142 responses. The distribution of respondents by the length of time they have attended Holy Cross indicates a congregation with a good mixture of new arrivals and “old hands,” many of whom have been attending Holy Cross since near the time it was founded.

The results of the survey clearly indicated that Holy Cross is an attractive church, as many respondents indicated they shopped around before settling on Holy Cross as their church home. From a list of choices for “why you attend Holy Cross,” the top responses were that the Holy Cross community is welcoming, nice, and supportive and that the rector and the style of worship drew people in. These responses point to the fact that Holy Cross lives up to its mission statement, to be a welcoming place of worship for all travellers on the journey of faith.

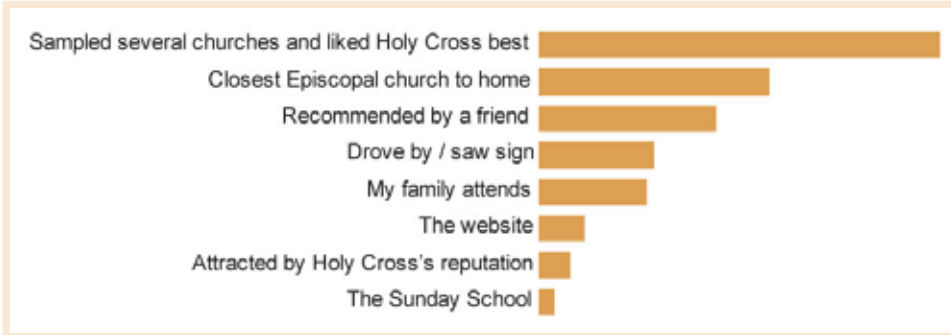


WHY PARISHIONERS ATTEND HOLY CROSS



WHAT WE SEEK IN A RECTOR

WHAT BROUGHT PARISHIONERS TO HOLY CROSS



When asked “what do you seek in a rector?” the respondents made it clear they are looking for a great preacher and communicator who can develop a strong, supportive congregation and can lead Holy Cross as it continues to grow its programs and ministries.

WHAT WE SEEK IN A RECTOR



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Although we consider ourselves to be a vibrant and growing faith community, we do face some challenges in both the short- and long-term future.

One such challenge is directly related to the growth of our congregation: physical space constraints that have significantly influenced how and when we worship.

The size of our sanctuary and especially the limited size of our parking lot have resulted in a shift from two Sunday morning services to three. While each of the three services has taken on a particular character that reflects the majority of its attendees, many congregants have expressed a longing to return to a two-service schedule that would enable more connections among greater numbers of members and visitors.

In addition, the move to three services has put some burdens on our clergy, partly because we have not yet been able to afford a full-time assistant rector. We are blessed to have had supply priests, semi-retired volunteer priests, and lay leaders to help meet the needs of our service schedule.

Maximizing our ability to meet the spiritual formation needs of our youth with only part-time staff availability is one of the challenges we face. As the youth of our congregation reach the 6th grade and beyond, they come up against another of our challenges: the lack of well-developed programs for middle school and high school students. The youth of our congregation are also an opportunity: they represent an under-served resource that is longing for more direct engagement with the life of the congregation.

Beyond high school and college, we have also found that our congregation does not currently have many programs tailored to young adults in our community, partly because this age group is significantly underrepresented in the demographics of the congregation. This represents both a challenge and an opportunity; new housing and transportation options in our neighborhood are bringing in frequent young adult visitors and we want to develop and provide meaningful programs and activities for young adults so they can find a home in our faith community.

Finally, as is the case for many congregations, we are often challenged by the difference between the ministries we seek to carry out and the resources available to help make these ministries happen.

What we seek in a rector is someone who will help us face and navigate these challenges in a manner consistent with the identity of Holy Cross.

The broader community around us is similarly both a challenge and an opportunity. The cost of living in the Washington metropolitan area is among the highest in the country, but at the same time our part of northern Virginia has seen steady growth, which is expected to continue.

We are often challenged by the difference between the ministries we seek to carry out and the resources available to help make these ministries happen.



DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

The Diocese of Virginia is one of the largest in the Episcopal Church by active membership with more than 80,000 members. Its congregations have the second highest average Sunday attendance in the Episcopal Church. It is composed of 185 congregations and covers 38 counties, extending from its southern boundary at Richmond and the James River to northern Virginia and from the Chesapeake Bay on the east to the Shenandoah Valley on the west.

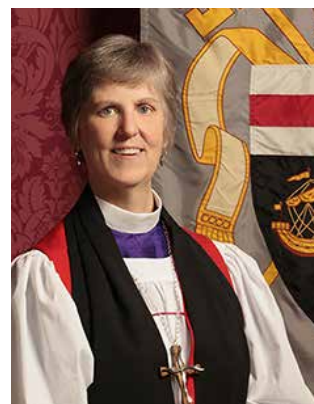
The diocesan offices are located in in Richmond at the Mayo Memorial Church House, a 19th-century Greek Revival mansion which was left to the Diocese by heirs of Peter Mayo, a wealthy 19th-century tobacco merchant. The Diocese also maintains a Northern Virginia office at The Falls Church-Episcopal, in Falls Church.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, who was elected and consecrated in 2007, began his ministry as the 13th Bishop of Virginia on October 1, 2009. He is joined in his Episcopal ministry by the Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan, who was consecrated on July 28, 2012. In January of 2011, the Rt. Rev. Edwin F. “Ted” Gulick, retired bishop of Kentucky, began serving our diocese as Assistant Bishop. The bishops serve the Diocese well and work with congregations in their ministry, helping them to pursue the diocesan priorities: youth and young adult ministry, strengthening our congregations, evangelism and proclamation, multi-cultural and ethnic ministries, and mission beyond ourselves.

The bishop’s seat is the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, an open-air stone chapel at the Shrine Mont Diocesan Conference Center. This facility, located in the Shenandoah Valley, is used for diocesan meetings, conferences and clergy retreats, and hosts extensive summer youth camping programs. The Diocesan Center at Roslyn in Richmond overlooks the James River and is a gathering place for diocesan events of continuing education. It is also often used for vestry and parish retreat, as well as for individual clergy retreats.

The Diocese owns and operates six secondary schools and has part ownership and operation of five continuing care retirement facilities. The Diocese enjoys the benefits of the Virginia Theological Seminary, the world’s largest Anglican Seminary, as a resource for education.

For more information, visit www.thediocese.net.



THE BROADER COMMUNITY

Church of the Holy Cross is situated on Gallows Road in Dunn Loring, Virginia, an unincorporated community of Fairfax County. Dunn Loring is a rapidly growing and transitioning area just 13 miles from Washington, D.C., and close to McLean, Vienna, and Fairfax City.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

A few minutes south of the church are the Merrifield/Dunn Loring Metro station and the recently-developed Mosaic District, one of the most exciting mixed-use developments in Fairfax County. It features high-end retail and dining, a Target department store, a Hyatt House hotel, the Angelika Film Centre, and apartment and townhouse residences.

A few minutes north on Gallows Road is the Tysons area, an important business district and home to the region's largest shopping mall. Metro's Silver Line has recently opened to serve the area. This entire area is undergoing a transformation and by 2050 is projected to be a walkable, sustainable urban center that will have as many as 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs.

THE APPEAL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax County offers residents a wide range of excellent employment opportunities, attractive housing options, an abundance of recreational opportunities, and proximity to Washington, D.C., with mountains to the west and beaches to the east. Fairfax County is the largest jurisdiction in the Washington area and has some of its most desirable residential communities. Business taxes fund some of the finest public services in the country: a well-run government, excellent schools, large libraries, and a beautiful park system.

TOP-NOTCH HEALTH CARE

Fairfax County residents have access to excellent health care. More than 3,000 physicians practice in Fairfax County, which is served by many fully accredited hospitals. These include Inova Health System's Fairfax, Fair Oaks, Mount Vernon, and Alexandria hospitals; Inova Hospital for Children; and HCA's Dominion Hospital and Reston Hospital Center.

QUALITY SCHOOLS

The Fairfax County Public School System is consistently rated among the best in the nation. FCPS offers a robust, well-rounded education for grades K-12, including gifted and talented services, comprehensive special education services, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) curricula, and professional-technical studies. Students also have access to strong sports programs as well as the performing and fine arts.



THE BROADER COMMUNITY

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education has a strong presence in Fairfax County, with several institutions of higher learning. Fairfax is home to George Mason University, the largest university in Virginia and a nationally recognized research institution. Other local schools include Virginia Tech-National Capital Region, Marymount University, and Northern Virginia Community College.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Fairfax County Public Library system is the largest in Virginia, with a total circulation topping 13 million items a year. There are eight regional libraries and 14 community libraries, with more than 2.3 million items, including e-books and audio books, available for checkout. The Fairfax County Public Library offers a wide range of free events for all ages, including children's story times, Lego clubs, book discussion groups, computer classes, e-book workshops, plant clinics, and even the chance to practice reading to a dog.

PARKS AND RECREATION

With more than 23,000 acres in 421 parks, the Fairfax County Park system is well used and highly regarded. Parks are an essential element of life to residents of Fairfax County, about 80 percent of whom visit the parks each year to enjoy nature, historic sites, trails, sports, fitness, aquatics, programs, classes, and events. Fairfax County parks are accredited and nationally recognized for excellence with the prestigious Gold Medal for Parks and Recreation.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Fairfax County offers residents a broad range of historical and entertainment options, including the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, and the National Firearms Museum. Wolf Trap, the nation's only national park for the performing arts, is in Fairfax County.

THE AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

Church of the Holy Cross is fortunate to be part of a larger faith community that includes our neighboring churches: The Vine Methodist Church, Dunn Loring Community Church of God, and the Vietnamese Alliance Church. Our new rector will find a richly diverse network of church leaders to engage in professional collaboration. We are also blessed to be close to the Virginia Theological Seminary, in both location and relationship. VTS continues to be an invaluable resource for Holy Cross, providing speakers from its faculty and seminarian interns completing their field education, as well as lay educational opportunities for our parishioners.



HOW TO APPLY

Individuals interested in applying should send a letter of interest, resume, OTM portfolio and a one page faith journey autobiography to rectorsearch@holy-crossepiscopal.org, no later than November 30, 2014.

