



Annual Parish Report for the Year 2016

Behold, I am making all things new.. Revelation 21:5

The Rector's Annual Address

Dear Friends in Christ,

Here at Holy Cross we have been blessed with transition and change over the past year. One year ago today, I was not your rector here at Holy Cross, but I was instead the priest-in-charge of St. Paul's Church in St. Louis. I was barely in the rector search process here at Holy Cross. Quite frankly, I barely knew Holy Cross as anything more than a parish profile on the national church website. I knew that my life would change in the next year, but I did not understand how that change would manifest itself or where I would physically be led. I was excited about the changes in the upcoming year, but I was also anxious and uncertain about what the changes would bring

At beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, we see the followers of Jesus in transition. They witnessed the end of their ministry as a group of people following the flesh and blood person of Jesus of Nazareth in his horrible death on the cross. I can only imagine how horrible and gut wrenching this scene must have been for the disciples. They had poured their whole lives into following this man around Israel and heard and saw him proclaim the Gospel, the Good News, in word and deed; however, the Good News seemed to wither up and die with Jesus on the cross. They could have called it quits and gone home after the seemingly violent end to Jesus' life, but there were the faint echoes of Jesus' words telling them to have faith, there was the empty tomb, and finally there was the risen Lord who came to the them in the upper room and told them that indeed the Good News was not dead, that he was not dead, and that God was indeed sending them the Holy Spirit to equip them to do all things they needed to do to be the Body of Christ.

Change is always being foisted upon the Body of Christ. Just when we think things cannot get better or worse, new circumstances arise and demand that we respond in grace to the new circumstances. The early

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followers of Jesus were all Jews, and they imagined that the Messiah was their very Jewish Messiah. A funny thing happened, though, gentiles somehow heard the Good News and wanted to follow Jesus as well. The Good News was no longer just about the Jews; rather, it was now clearly about everyone, no matter how Jewish they were before hearing the Good News. This radically changed the followers' conception of who they were, and it radically changed their concept of their mission. The good news of the Good News not just being for the Jews was, however, a complicated issue. We hear time and again in Scripture, whether it be Acts or 1 Corinthians, that these new gentile Christians coming into the fellowship of the disciples complicated the community and brought a whole set of problems the twelve disciples never thought of before. The early disciples were all Jewish, so they did not worry about circumcision or dietary concerns. They were worried about things that were irrelevant to the new gentile disciples.

As we look forward to the new year, many of the things that seemed so important over the last couple of years will no longer be relevant to this community or to the new people who walk through these doors. Last year this meeting was concerned very much with the healing that Mickey was helping you with and the rector search process that you were very much in the middle of. Mickey is no longer the interim rector and the rector search process has resulted in me being your new rector. The two big concerns of last year are no longer the big concerns. Many of you have already formed an opinion of me for better or worse, and some of you are just getting to know me still, but no one is still waiting for a new rector. Now the question is can this particular rector lead us in a way that will help us become the Body of Christ as God would have us to be? Can this rector actually do the work which we have called him to do? There will never be a moment in this church or any church in which there are no questions and there are no potential problems.

At the end of the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus gives the disciples a great commission. He tells them, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Mt. 28:19-20)" This is a bold command, and it can seem naïve on Jesus' part. How could he think these average guys, who seemed afraid of everything and often doubted Jesus, could actually get out of their own way? He was asking his disciples not only to do something without him, but he was also asking them to do something that he had not done with them already. He was commanding the disciples to move way beyond their comfort zone. He was asking them not only to confront the religious and political forces that had crucified Jesus, but he was also asking them to go outside the boundaries of Israel and talk with strangers who spoke in foreign tongues and had foreign gods and religious practices. Jesus, however, was not leaving them to their own devices; rather, he tells them that he will always be with them and that he is sending them the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen them.

Whatever we do here at Holy Cross, we must remember that we have been given a great commission, the same commission that he gave to the disciples at the end of the Gospel according to Matthew. This means that whatever we discern the Holy Spirit calling us to do and be that Jesus is always with us through the Holy Spirit and that the mission will always look bigger and

more daunting than we could ever imagine with only human imagination and desire.

I do not have all the answers of what this upcoming year will hold for ministry and liturgy. I do not have the answers and I do not want all of the answers so that I might be the font of all knowing from which you can drink. No, I am excited about discerning with you what God is calling us to do and be. I am excited to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to this community, and I am hoping that we are called into something more audacious than my little mind could ever conceive of by myself. I am excited to go beyond my fears and our fears to a place of truly listening and responding to the Holy Spirit so that we take the next step in becoming what it is that God calls us to be as the Body of Christ. Amen!

In Christ, Robert+

CONTENTS

Message from the Rector	1
Senior Warden	4
Junior Warden	8
Music Ministry	9
Daughters of the King	9
The Treasurer's Report	10
Stewardship	11
Newcomer Ministry	14
Administration	14
Outreach	15
Earth Ministry	15
Fellowship	16
Property and Grounds	17
In Reach	18
Christian Formation	20
In Loving Memory	22
Parish Statistics for 2016	22

2017 Holy Cross Vestry and Wardens

Rector	The Rev. Robert F. Ard
Senior Warden	Happy McLeod
Junior Warden	Paul Zimmerman
Treasurer	Peter Franklin

Class of 2018

Sharon Cargill
Happy McLeod
Mike Jordan
Gordon Hamilton

Class of 2019

Lucy Brannon
Joe Burgess
Larry Newton
Barbara Salmon

Class of 2020

Ben Fox
Jean Moore
Paul Zimmerman
Harriett Sams

2016 has been a spectacular year for Holy Cross! As a parish we are continually learning and growing in spirit and size.

Early in the year we were blessed by **Father Mickey** with his calm and positive approach, especially his bidding to love and serve the Lord, our neighbor and ourselves. He helped Holy Cross find it's voice so that we could discern who we are and what direction we should go with God's help and in calling a new priest. Many of you helped make Mickey and Maggie's last Sunday with us, June 26, a joyous celebration by being present, helping with the service, the food, and the gift.

The **first six months** of 2016 were highlighted by frequent Discernment reports, cleaning our buildings of clutter, redecorating the Common Room, painting the rector's office, cleaning the rectory, catching up on vestry required education, vestry and congregation education on transition to a new priest, Legacy Giving, revitalizing our Newcomers Committee, caring for our church family through **In-reach** and continuing our support of Church of the Advocate and Thermal Belt Outreach with food, money and clothes through **outreach**.

Then the **second six months** started with the arrival of the Ards! One of the perks of being senior warden is that Stan and I were the first to welcome Robert, Sharol and Genevieve to their new home. A home which was made ready for so many of your loving hands.

Thank you again to the **Discernment Committee** a thoughtful and comprehensive job guided by prayer in selecting Robert as our next priest. The diocese was invaluable to Holy Cross guiding us through the Letter of Agreement, answering questions and making suggestions.

A variety of **personnel changes** have taken place. Our long time sexton, John Douglas retired in May. Brittany Plumley has taken up where John left off. Father Mickey finished his time with us and Father Robert was called to ministry to and with us. In the mean time, Bishop Taylor retired and Bishop McLoughlin was consecrated. Our faithful supporter from the diocesan office, Jim Pritchett, retired.

We are sad Wanda May plans to retire as of Jan 31 2017. Wanda, you have been an asset for many years, 15, I think! However, I for one am very happy that you will be moving into another great place called retirement land! You now have the opportunity to do other things here at Holy Cross and in the community.

Lori Walter, our excellent financial administrator, will add the role of Parish Administrator. This will mean we can again have the office open from 9 to 5. Our volunteer office staff of Eileen Barton, Sally Dayvault, Kathy Alyea, Chris Reed, Pam Willis and Jeanne Mills I thank for their increased role since the office has been open for only half a day. We also thank Bill Jenks, our Treasurer for his excellent leadership and welcome Peter Franklin as our new treasurer.

Each Sunday we hear beautiful **music** from our organ, often bells and area musicians chosen by Susie Mahnke our excellent organist and choir director. Susie also has a ministry of caring for

the congregation. She visits, sends cards and makes calls giving care and attention to many members in need.

Thank you to Carol Newton for planning and carrying out **The Celebration of New Ministry** for Father Robert on Nov. 6. Carol was assisted by Kathy Alyea, Kathleen Hamilton and Katy Murphy. Ladies, it was a Celebration extraordinaire!

Thank you to John Hart, Greg Wright, Peter Fenn and all the volunteers that support them in making our **pot luck dinners, Wednesday night dinners and coffee hours** places of enjoyment and fellowship.

Thank you to Jacque Brown Williams for coordinating our **Foyer Groups** for the last several years.

Thank you to Happy McLeod and her team for bringing our **Prayer Ministry** into full use this year with classes and Healing prayer available each week.

Thank you to Claire Carey and her **Earth Ministry** team for continuing to help Holy Cross care for God's earth.

Our **properties** are in very good hands with Gordon Hamilton serving as chair and assisted by Ben Davis and Paul Zimmerman. (see report)

Bob Morgan and Mike Jordan have continued our **stewardship** plan of giving of our selves in time, talent and money as we can. Our finance committee has carefully brought together what we have given and what we have been given in the past through endowments to give Holy Cross a feasible budget for 2017.

Thank you to Peter Franklin, Kym Mahnke and Kym's associate, Katherine C. Gutierrez for reviewing the historical documents of the **Holy Cross Memorial Scholarship** to ascertain the original intent of the various donors.

If you have not been a member of **vestry** in the past, you may not know how much work goes on in the monthly meetings. Here are a few of the things we **accomplished in 2016**:

- called The Rev. Robert Francois Ard to be our priest,
- completed Letter of Agreement with Robert Ard,
- established WIFI use on the McGavern Room and Common Room,
- passed policy for How and When to publish information
- approved Healing Prayer ministry
- reassigned Leadership Circle responsibilities,
- began putting to paper the purpose of each ministry on the Leadership Circle
- sold the columbarium system to St. James, Greenville
- sent two members to Diocesan Convention

- passed policy on Interim Voting by email
- evaluated scholarship processes
- approved hiring of nursery worker
- attended Dismantling Racism and Safeguarding Gods Children and Church
- procedure for Notification of parish when member dies,
- review of HVAC system,
- applied for grant for repair of Common room windows with help of Jacque Brown Williams and Ben Davis
- approved Budget and plan for Legacy Giving and approved plan for new Stations of the Cross.

One of the amazing and wonderful things about Holy Cross is the fact that so many of you do things everyday to **help our parish family**. To mention a few, sending cards, visiting, taking flowers to members and friends at White Oak, LEV ministers to Benson Hall and other members, cooking meals and providing transportation are activities that take place frequently.

Our parish is busy **supporting the community in** many ways. Some of you volunteer with other agencies such as Hospice, Steps to Hope, Thermal Belt Outreach, the Little Theatre or the Tryon Museum. As time goes on, I hope we will find our voice in other ways that we can be of service in the community.

Thank you to the **2016 vestry** of Lucy Brannon, Joe Burgess, Sharon Cargill, Claire Carey, Gordon Hamilton, Mike Jordan, Happy McLeod, Bob Morgan, Katy Murphy, Larry Newton and Barbara Salmon for their positive attitude and willingness to work hard for whatever need we had. A special thanks to off going members, Katy, Claire and Bob. Happy, your role as Junior Warden has been superb. Thank you for sharing the load, day in and day out. You and Paul will make an excellent team for 2017. I especially would like to thank Father Robert, Wanda, Lori, Susie, and Bill Jenks for their guidance, words of encouragement and willingness to help

It is hard to believe that only one year ago we were hearing reports from the Discernment Committee saying they were beginning to review applications! And yet.... here we are in full swing with **Father Robert, Sharol and Genevieve!** Ards, seems like we have know y'all for a long time, not just 6 months. Thank you for coming to join us, accepting us, loving us and showering us with many many new ideas.

I would like to leave you with these thoughts. **What are the next steps for Holy Cross? Should we think more carefully about how each of us can be better stewards of the gifts God has given us?** Remember, Stewards are the caretakers. How are we using our time, talents and treasures?

Are there more needs in the parish? As Greg Wright has said, vestry holds a multitude of ways to express yourself - it's a way to learn, keep the mind charged and lead the church in making good choices. Sharon Ard is in need of more helpers for the nursery and children's church. What better way to serve God that to help raise up a future generation that is well

heeled in the gospel of Jesus Christ? Sharon Cargill can always use more help taking care of the needs of our members. Music is such a special part of Holy Cross. Are you a singer or a ringer and don't know it?!

Have you noticed we have some new acolytes? but, think we could use a few more. Maybe you are a girl like me who in our growing up years were not allowed to serve, we can now! Or, maybe you would like to know more about the meeting up the altar for Eucharist? Katherine Wall is waiting for your call. and, last but certainly not least, are you an old teacher or do you have a subject burning in you that you would like to share in Christian Formation? Larry Newton is the one to see!.

How can we reach outside the walls of Holy Cross to the community? What is the greatest local need? Can we decrease poverty or increase the level of health in our community? What do children in Polk County need?

A wonderful workshop was recently attended by the Vestry on Dismantling Racism. We learned much and I hope many of us will continue this dialogue to find where we can help next. At Wanda May's suggestion some of us read Jodi Picoult's book Small Great Things. I for one see that I still have things to learn about racism. On Feb.18, there will be a chance to become more involved with a discussion of this book from 3 to 5 at the Tryon Depot. Everyone is encouraged to take part.

As time goes on, I pray that each of us continue to discern the ways that God has in mind for each of us to be of service at Holy Cross and in the community. Let us not become stale in our approach to carrying out God's plan.

I would like to close with a prayer by Sir Paul Reeves; prayer at the WCC Seventh Assembly in Canberra, Australia

A Listener's Prayer

God

Grant me to be
silent before you-
that I may hear you;
at rest in you-
that you may work in me;
open to you
that you may enter;
empty before you-
that you may fill me.

Let me be still
And know you are my God.
Amen.

Junior Warden's Report

Happy McLeod

There seems to be a lot in the news these days about “bromance”. Well, I would like to begin with a tale of ‘sismance”. Thanks to everyone (thank you!) who helped me as your Junior Warden. I have to begin by saying thanks to Cam Lawrence who has become my sister-in-Christ over the past year. I have watched her, learned from her, grown to admire her and had fun serving as her “junior” with her. In stepping up to be your senior warden, I want to share a few truths I hold near and dear to my heart:

- Any organization, corporation, agency takes on the character of its leaders. I pledge to always strive to carry out the Mission of Holy Cross, which is to bring all people to come o know Jesus Christ.
- Believing that prayer is essential to communicating with God, I pledge to grow our prayer life. How can we know and do God's will if we don't talk to him? Or more importantly, listen to Him? As St. Paul instructs us, let's “Pray without ceasing.”
- And thirdly, I firmly believe in a “bottoms up” style of management. Your vestry needs to hear from you, be connected to you, know what you need and are thinking. Does this mean we will always do exactly what you want? Absolutely not! But it does mean your thoughts are put into the melting pot of things we consider for Holy Cross.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. I promise to do my very best.

Children's Ministry

Sharol Ard

In September 2016, Holy Cross began a weekly nursery during church services with a paid staff starting in October 2016. In addition, Holy Cross started a children's church in October that allowed for the children to worship and share communion with their family while hearing an age appropriate homily based on the lessons for that week.

Four junior acolytes were trained and participate in the service. In addition, the children helped with the early, family service on Christmas Eve by being torch bearers, junior acolytes, helping with the creché and singing.

During 2016, Holy Cross was excited to welcome some new children, youth and their families to the church. We are eager to see what God has ahead for us in 2017.



Music Ministry

Susie Mahnke

The music program at Holy Cross continues to be blessed, with the support of parishioners and the community.

The chancel choir has 20 regular members. Our choir provided music for Sunday morning worship and several special services, including seasonal liturgy, the Celebration of New Ministry for Robert Ard, Choral Evensong for the Feast of All Saints, and the community Thanksgiving Service. They also sang at memorial services of parishioners.

The Holy Cross Hand Bell Choir grew to three octaves of ringers this past year. We continue to ring at occasional Sunday morning worship services and at the 10:00 Christmas Eve service. In December 2016, we also participated in the Tryon Christmas Stroll.

Musicians from the church and community offered their talents for our worship services on Easter, Holy Cross Day, and Christmas Eve, and offered recitals on our Wednesdays at Noon Lenten Recital Series.

Holy Cross hosted two organ concerts during 2016. Dr. Charles Tompkins presented a concert in February, and Thomas Strauss performed after our choral evensong service in November.

Impressions, Polk County High School's chamber ensemble, performed their spring concert at Holy Cross in May, under the direction of Matthew Guffey.

Sincere thanks to the many parishioners who support and encourage our music programs, making it possible for us to offer our gifts in worship, to the glory of God.

Daughters of the King

Leslie Huntley

The vision of the Holy Cross Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world. We are an order of women who pray every day, take on study projects and perform service projects for the church and the community.

Among the service projects in 2016, we continued with a card ministry, donated funds to a local school for needed "emergency clothes" for kindergartners. In addition, we supported the Church of the Advocate by preparing desserts for dinners. Our chapter continued to support a child in Durgapur, India.

We are grateful for the support from Fr Robert. He has encouraged us to focus on our Vow of Prayer, and to reach out to DOK Chapters across the Diocese of WNC and Upper SC.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Jenks

This is a brief review of our current financial condition - a copy of my remarks and additional detail can be found in the annual report.

2016 was a good year for operations. Revenue of \$347,122 exceeded expenses of \$323,016 by \$24,106. The sources of our income (rounded off) were \$304,000 from parish giving which includes pledges and other non pledge income; \$30,000 of non restricted income from the endowments and the remainder of \$13,000 from various sources. Income increased by \$35,000 or 11% over 2015. Expenses were up 16% or \$45,000 - the primary reason being the search for and the hiring of Fr. Robert. We spent \$6,000 to improve the air conditioning in the nave part of the continuing requirement to upgrade our HVAC system. The use of restricted funds included, \$22,000 for scholarship awards and \$20,535 of capital funds to renovate the Common Room and the hallway. Other significant financial events which occurred in 2016 were:

- 1) \$20,00 bequest from the Buzek estate restricted for scholarship
- 2) non restricted bequest of \$9,163 from the Werner estate
- 3) sale of the Columbarium for \$25,000
- 4) \$63,314 prepayment on the Twin Oaks mortgage

Our cash and liquid assets continue to provide a very strong position relative to our expenses and liabilities.. Based on budgeted expenses of \$330,000 we have 110 days of cash in our checking account and over 3 yrs in a Operating Reserve fund held at the Episcopal Church Foundation. In addition, there are two other funds at the foundation - one that has a minimum balance of \$50,000 as collateral for our line of credit and a third fund to be established shortly which will have a value of approximately \$130,000. This, for the purpose of covering the various Permanent Funds which are designated for various in reach and outreach programs

A brief review of our operating budget for 2017 shows total expenses of \$330,838 to increase slightly over 2016 by \$7822. Budgeted revenue of \$324,235 however, will be less than 2016 levels by almost \$23,000. This is due in part to last years' Parish Giving being very robust, coupled with the absence of \$6,546 of Twin

Oaks mortgage payments. If necessary, the budgeted deficit would be covered from the Operating Reserve fund. For the first time we have constructed a separate budget to track the \$59,559 of restricted funds we will receive from our endowments.. The majority of these funds will be earmarked for scholarship, capital improvements, outreach, music and the altar guild.

In addition to the restricted funds, we also received \$30,000 of non restricted monies that can be used for daily operations. These funds which are held at the Polk County Foundation are

Treasurer's Report cont.

Bill Jenks

invested in Vanguard Funds and returned 3.5% last year after distributions and fees. I can't overestimate the importance of the endowments to our financial position and most importantly to our financial sustainability. We and the community are all beneficiaries of those parishioners who have elected to leave a portion of their estates to Holy Cross. Focusing for a moment on an analysis of our operating revenue, since 2013 Parish Giving has stepped up each year to meet our expenditures, and currently is almost 90% of total revenue. In addition, we are blessed with a very high level of financial participation. As positive as this is it also presents a potential risk as the possibility of not being able to fully resource future operating needs increases due to such factors as downward cycles in the general economy; or the demographics of our aging parish. To help offset these risks it is vital that our endowments continue to grow particularly in the category of unrestricted bequests. This is a request to each of you to seriously consider including Holy Cross in your legacy giving plans.

Lastly, I want to thank you Cam and Happy and the Vestry for their support. I also want to recognize the Finance Committee who in my opinion is a special group of smart, dedicated parishioners who have provided wonderful support while acting as treasurer. As always, Lori has been truly instrumental in accounting for all the myriad of financial details and for keeping me on track. Thanks Lori!. Finally I've thoroughly enjoyed being your treasurer - it's a been a satisfying & fulfilling job especially when the revenues meet or exceed the expenses.

Please welcome Peter Franklin as your new treasurer.

Stewardship

Mike Jordan

This is our opportunity to once again thank the members of the Holy Cross family for your participation in reaching our goals to further the ministry of Holy Cross both within the church community and within the community at large. Earlier this year, as we initiated our annual pledge drive, we stated that we were confident that that we would meet our objectives as a matter of the sound discretion and good judgment of our members. You have proven that our trust and confidence was well founded.

We have surveyed the congregation concerning interest in planned giving and are working to provide the information in response to parishioners expressed interest.

Members of the Holy Cross family have founded many of the organizations providing life sustaining services to the citizens of our community and, our members contribute countless hours as leaders and volunteers in many of them, as well as accepting roles in numerous civic organizations. To foster an appreciation of all those acts of stewardship that we do within Holy Cross and in the community, we continued our speaker series at our services, to provide members of Holy Cross the opportunity to gain a better appreciation of the many ways we endeavor, individually and collectively, to do and be what God calls us to be.

We are pleased to report that with your help, stewardship is alive and well at Holy Cross alive and well at Holy Cross. We thank you - God bless you!

INCOME & EXPENSE

	2014	2015	2016	2017 Budget	COMMENTS
INCOME					
Pledges	\$210,014	\$222,323	\$261,249	\$267,000	
Non Pledges	\$56,133	\$43,215	\$38,125	\$17,000	difficult to accurately budget
Plate	\$4,932	\$4,572	\$5,093	\$5,000	
Parish Giving total	\$271,079	\$270,110	\$304,467	\$289,000	87-89% of Total Income
Endowments (PCCF)	\$25,900	\$28,100	\$29,700	\$29,800	non restricted income
Funds (ECF)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6603 draw from Reserve to balance budget
Other	\$13,256	\$13,988	\$12,955	\$5,435	Twin Oaks mortgage paid off in 2016
Total Income	\$310,235	\$312,198	\$347,122	\$324,235	
EXPENSES					
Administrative	\$26,657	\$22,430	\$24,393	\$23,200	
Properties	\$70,204	\$55,788	\$68,952	\$62,245	increase in 2016 due to nave air cond. improvement
Vestry	\$41,623	\$40,686	\$54,142	\$33,540	2016 included \$23,996 rector search/move
Programs	\$12,837	\$9,715	\$7,644	\$13,815	Christian Ed, Music, Youth, Fellowship, Stewardship
Non Personnel total	\$151,321	\$128,619	\$155,131	\$132,800	
Rector	\$42,270	\$42,000	\$59,787	\$91,414	Interim 2014-15 & 7 months of 2016
Staff	\$113,304	\$107,982	\$108,098	\$106,624	
Personnel total	\$155,574	\$149,982	\$167,885	\$198,038	60% of total expenses in 2017
Total Expenses	\$306,895	\$278,601	\$323,016	\$330,838	
Surplus / Deficit	\$3,340	\$33,597	\$24,106	-\$6,603	2017 deficit to be offset from Op. Reserve

2017 Restricted Income Budgets

Income	Purpose	2016 Balance	2017 Disbursement	Expense	Budget	Notes
Bacon	Scholarship		5,400			
McGavern	Scholarship		17,800			
Scholarship sub-total		14,741	23,200		23,200	
Balance			37,941		14,741	
Lackey	Capital		13,700			
Moore	Capital		3,040			
Capital sub-total		4,640	16,740		19,500	plus contingency
Balance			21,380		1,880	
Brady	Outreach	8,425	5,425			
Burwell	Outreach	13,409	6,300			
Spence	Outreach	19,018	5,500			
Outreach sub-total		40,852	17,225		7,300	
Balance			58,077		50,777	
Main	Music		817			
Moore	Music		760			
Music sub-total		7,065	1,577		2,000	
Balance			8,642		6,642	
Main	Altar Guild		817			
Altar guild sub-total		323	817		1,500	will need to move
Balance			1,140		-360	\$ from Memorials
Total		67,621	127,180		53,500	
Total Disbursements			59,559			
Total Budgeted Expenses					53,500	
Total Restricted Income		67,621	127,180			
Other Restricted Income	Misc	47,965	47,965			
Balance		115,586	175,145			

Administration

Lucy Brannon

The administration area on our Vestry leadership Circle went smoothly this year. Our Parish Administrator Wanda May did an effective job of information management. She maintained parish records, produced reports and other documents from parish records as needed, and coordinated the parish calendar and use of the facility.

She also provided administrative support to the vestry, committees, and Rector. She welcomed and assisted newcomers, church members, office volunteers, and all office visitors. Wanda prepared meeting documents, posted minutes, made document copies, handled mailings and assisted the Financial Administrator as needed. She communicated regularly with rector, wardens, and committees about planning and setting up events, maintaining the facility, and ordering supplies and equipment and dealing with vendors.

Our Financial Administrator Lori Walter worked under the direct supervision of the Parish Treasurer William Jenks and was responsible for all financial affairs. She counted and recorded weekly contributions, pledges, and receipts and kept these records. She prepared and mailed semi-annual statements to all pledging and contributing members, and provided information to the internal auditor as requested. She prepared payroll payments for employees and handled taxes and benefit records. She paid all church expenses and recorded them in the proper accounts. She filed all receipts. She worked with the treasurer to prepare accurate monthly treasurer's reports, and worked with our audit firm. In addition she was current in computer skills and tax laws. Lori also managed the Holy Cross Website and published weekly emails informing the Parish of that week's activities at Holy Cross as well as special issues like Father Ard's current Video list and schedule changes, snow, and up to date information.

Greg Wright published the *Messenger* each month, which provided timely and detailed information on Parish activities as well as articles of interest to all. Pam Stone, a talented writer, did our publicity. Lori Walter handled our Technology and our Website.

Newcomer Ministry

Barbara Salmon

The Newcomers Committee is up and active under the leadership of Carol Newton. Newcomers have developed packets for visitors with information about Holy Cross and welcoming them to our church. They were very involved in inviting our neighbors on Melrose Avenue and surrounding areas to the Celebration of New Ministry welcoming Fr. Robert Ard and family to Holy Cross and to Tryon. This committee Interfaces with Rector, Parish Administrator, and Vestry to support the incorporation of newcomers into the church and serve as an interface between ministry members and church office to provide newcomer contact information.

To better serve our young families with children we have begun a nursery for children ages 0-about 4 years old and "Little Church" for children from 4-8 years old. The nursery is staffed with one employee and one volunteer from the church every Sunday from 9:30-noon. Children who attend Little Church will process out to the Sunday school room prior to the sermon and will return for communion. Little Church is totally staffed by church volunteers. A big THANK YOU to all those who volunteer to serve in this wonderful ministry.

Community presence actively promotes Holy Cross and its various events to the local and regional community by writing articles for local print media, promoting fund raising events or simply good works as well as appearing, as necessary, on local television and managing social media.

Outreach

Joe Burgess

This year, in the spirit of “Being the hands and feet of Christ”, Holy Cross served about 900 homeless people in Asheville through the Church of the Advocate program, delivered 4006 pounds of food to Thermal Belt Outreach and provided \$5,250 to help people in our community using resources at Thermal Belt to screen people needing services.

Currently, we have balance of \$40,700 carried over from the Holy Cross outreach funds and next year we want to use some of these funds to provide additional support to our community and world.

Holy Cross Memorial Scholarship Fund

This Scholarship Awards for 2016 totaled \$27,820 and were distributed as follows:

- * \$2,230 - Diocese of Western North Carolina for Seminarians
- \$5,200 - 4 Holy Cross High School graduates and Re-applicants
- \$10,600 - 12 Community High School Graduates (Polk, Landrum, Thomas Jefferson)
- \$5,000 - 6 College Re-applicants from the Community

The funds for these scholarships come from special endowments of Holy Cross for the purpose of furthering the education of seminarians and young people in the area served by Holy Cross. For the third year, Race to the Head of the Class, a run sponsored by Holy Cross also donated monies to this total.

Awardees and their families were invited to a service and reception in their honor in the spring of 2016.

A formal review of fall scholarship bequests was made by Peter Franklin, Kym Mahnke and an associate of Kym Mahnke.

Special thanks to all involved in working with the scholarship process.

Earth Ministry

Claire Carey

I presented the idea of Earth Ministry to our congregation with an article in the Messenger in February 2015. On March 1st, those who were interested in the idea were invited to hear what Dr. John Simmons had to say concerning Green Congregations in Spartanburg. He told us his Methodist Church had had a Duke Energy audit to see where they could save energy costs. Our florescent bulbs are a huge drain and need replacing. Work on getting an audit began and has still not been completed.

From that meeting a committee was formed to promote taking care of God's creation. We now recycle in the Parish Hall and the upstairs offices and we encourage our parishioners to do the same at home. When the upstairs hall was converted to an art gallery space, best environmental practices were followed. Most of the incandescent bulbs in our lamps have been replaced with compact fluorescents. Low water use plants are chosen for our landscaping along with organic pesticides and fertilizers when needed. I write a monthly article concerning our love of and care for God's earth and its peoples.

Fellowship is one of the hallmarks of Holy Cross. We celebrate each other through conversation, laughter and tears. Many of us were drawn to Holy Cross because of the support and camaraderie we found and many of us stay for that reason. Many close friendships are a result of the great fellowship we share. In addition to informal opportunities for fellowship, we hold a myriad of events that support fellowship:

Coffee hour. After the 9:30 service many parishioners gather in the parish hall for coffee and goodies. Peter Fenn is our coffee coordinator and makes sure that there is enough coffee and supplies. Some people grab a cup of coffee and go to a formation class. Others sit and talk and talk and talk. Members are encouraged to sign up for coffee hour which can be elaborate or simple. The addition of new coffee carafes this year has meant hotter coffee, which is easier to serve.

Wednesday night dinners

Under the leadership of Greg Wright and his team this monthly dinner is a time of excellent food and fellowship. A attendance sheet is posted in order to get a count and contributions for the dinner are accepted, but not required. We also celebrate the birthdays for that month.

Sunday festival pot lucks

John and Jane Hart coordinate the church covered dish lunches for special liturgical days such as Holy Cross Sunday, All Saints, Pentecost and the annual meeting. A hard working committee of wonderful volunteers assist with both set up and clean up, which makes the events even more enjoyable.

Foyer groups

Foyer groups are small groups of members who meet in homes for a meal once a month. It is an excellent program for getting to know people in the church. Foyers had been in existence for almost 10 years and had brought the congregation closer. For the last several years Jacque Brown Williams has coordinated the Foyer groups.

Special events

For the last several years Holy Cross has hosted a fund raising dinner in coordination with the Tryon Concert Association. The money raised is donated to the music program at Holy Cross. The excellent food and hospitality make it a well attended and enjoyable dinner. Greg also coordinates this evening.

Thank you to all the volunteers, both named above and not named. Fellowship is more than just an enjoyable experience ; it is a ministry, because we know we need other Christians in our spiritual journey. Thanks to everyone who helps and to those who participate.

Following is a report on the Properties projects and events from July to December 2016.

- Renovation of the church rectory. Work completed by Mike Karaman, AE Landscaping and church volunteers. Coordinated by Ben Davis, Property Manager. Completed in July.
- Church HVAC assessment and project bidding. Evaluation of age of system, efficiency of operation and options for increased cooling of the Sanctuary and Altar/Choir Area. Bids received from Horizon, Johnson Controls and Davis Heating and Air. Davis proposal increase air flow selected at a costs of \$6,000. Decision to replace the unit under the Sacristy pending.
- Hillside failure in August in the area of old playground. Insurance claim submitted. Partial payment with outcome pending.
- Proposal submitted in September to Diocese ECW for \$5,000 to fund renovation of Common Room Windows. Project entails getting the glass re-leaded, removing the screens, permanently affixing the windows and having custom storms made. Project may be funded from Lackey fund.
- Plan submitted in December to Finance Committee and Vestry for capital projects over the next three years. Plan is structured as a listing that can be altered according to need. Projects to be funded Lackey fund at roughly \$18,000 per year (\$24,000 available in the first year).
- Submitted proposal, as part of item above, for renovation of the women's bathroom and Common Room windows.
- Sunday Sexton to gradually convert to sustainable coffee and recyclable cups in year 2017.
- Ground Force church volunteer weekly maintenance of grounds with the assistance of AE Landscaping twice a year for mulch, pruning and planting. Coordinated by Paul Zimmerman.
- Regular maintenance of church and rectory. Coordinated by Ben Davis.

InReach is all of us taking care of each other. It's noticing when someone is absent and calling just to tell them they were missed. It is being friendly, helpful and supportive to our extended family, our church family, whenever we see or hear of a need. This church is very good at this!

It is so easy to see that this congregation loves and cares for each other – one of the first things that Jay and I noticed when we moved to the Tryon area and visited Holy Cross. After only one visit, our hearts knew we had found our home! We, as a church, realize that there are times in our lives when we are blessed by receiving God's love through others – when we are ill, recovering from a surgery, mourning the loss of a loved one – times that we could use a little extra help in addition to what our families and close friends can provide. InReach strives to fill these needs. Our InReach ministry is composed of three areas:

- ◆ Pastoral Care
- ◆ Grief/Bereavement Support
- ◆ Visitation.

Pastoral Care

Sharon Cargill 276-732-4876

Pastoral Care is the ministry that serves, cares and encourages our members in times of illness, loss of a loved one, or other family emergency or hardship. This ministry includes seven areas:

Cards and notes

Dorothy Schwobel sends caring and thoughtful notes and cards of encouragement to our members on the prayer list. Cards are also sent to members that are not on our prayer list to let them know that their Holy Cross Family is thinking of them.

3 to 4 times a year, usually close to a holiday, notes are sent to placebound members as well as to those on our prayer list; this is done by different members of our parish who express an interest in helping with this ministry. Usually we gather in someone's home and have fun doing this in a group while we enjoy each other's company.

Meals

We provide dinners to parishioners in times of need and also help with errands such as going to the grocery store.

Transportation

Bill Kelly's Team provides transportation to and from medical appointments, or special events at church.

Toolbox

Ben Davis heads up this ministry. They provide simple home repairs such as changing light bulbs that might require getting up on a ladder, replacing air filters, or repairing leaky faucets. They are also a great resource for suggesting who might be able to help if the job is too large or involved for them.

College

Paula Jordan sends notes of encouragement to all members attending college, usually 3 times within a school year.

Calls

Phone calls are made to follow up with members who may need a little extra encouragement, a listening ear or just to say "hello".

Funeral Meal A meal is offered to be prepared and delivered to the immediate family before the service. This can be a dinner the night before the service or a brunch the day of the service.

381 Cards and notes have been sent

117 Calls have been made to check on someone

111 Meals have been prepared and delivered

10 Rides have been given to the grocery store, drug store,
and/or medical appointments

73 visits have been made to members that cannot make it to church

Special thanks to Dorothy Schwobel who sent thoughtful notes and cards to all those members on our prayer list, our Toolbox chair Ben Davis, Bill Kelly and his team that took care of our Transportation needs, Judi Heim and Paula Jordan who sent cards and small gifts to our college student members and to all others too numerous to mention, who have willingly given of their time and talents to make this ministry possible. Thank you, Thank you!!!

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or would like to be more active in any of these areas, please call me! I would love to talk with you!

Grief/Bereavement Support Cam Lawrence 864-457-4469 Claire Carey 864-457-5171

Grief Support Ministry's goal is to support people in their journey of redefining, balancing and beginning their life without their loved one. Anyone is welcome to be part of this program. Currently the Grief Support Ministry numbers 24 participants, 17 of which are members of Holy Cross and 7 of the community.

The ministry works to carry out this goal in several ways. Members of Holy Cross and the community are contacted by cards and calls. Monthly meetings are held for sharing and supporting each other. An eight session program "Seasons of Grief" for those who are at least 6 months past their loss is held approximately once a year. Work of this ministry is done on a volunteer basis. Cost is minimal and supported by the church and the "Seasons of Grief" participants.

Please contact Cam Lawrence or Claire Carey if you are interested in joining this group or have friends and family who like to become a member of this group.

Visitation

This ministry has the pleasure of visiting with members that are place-bound and can no longer attend services. This area of InReach is being restructured so that more visits can be made. If you have questions and/or suggestions, please call Father Robert (W) 828-859-9741 or (C) 314-619-9214

We are so blessed to be perking right along. The Daughters of the King help us all with their prayers and varied activities; they are real givers to our parish. Thank you. The Daughters have shared this for our understanding: Reaffirming promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a daughter pledges herself to the life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. She receives support in the commitment from a world-wide community of like-minded women. The Mission of the Order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism.

Earth Ministry is moving along with the resourceful and caring leadership of Claire Carey – you may even have noticed some changes to the items we use during Coffee Hour – so that we can lead, and do the right things! Thank you, Claire!

Youth – Sam Doar, we are going to have to have a talk with you, for soon some of the young ones are going to be moving right to the age of readiness for Youth Group! And, speaking of Sam, please check out the Sunday After Church class: Jesus was an Episcopalian – and you can be one too! A big thank you to Sam for stepping up to offer this.

Prayer Ministries has been busy forming and praying. We have Prayer Team regularly now, and we have been fortunate to have a couple of classes here at Holy Cross include two led by Donna Rose. Thank you to Donna and to Happy.

Coffee Hour University and Adult Formation has tried a couple formats. We have been gifted by Fr. Robert's teaching; audiences for his classes are large.

In 2017 the format and focus will build towards classes that not only inform us but that also support us in our efforts to grow Christ within us, to develop our spiritual lives. Stay tuned – there are new things afoot!

Worship at Holy Cross is enhanced by the dedication of numerous members of our Parish Family devoting their time and talents. Among those making this important offering are:

Altar Guild – Katherine Wall
Linens – Penn Dean

Altar Guild is a ministry, serving priest and people, all of God’s Church, with helping hands in service to the Lord. The Altar Guild prepares for Sunday and Wednesday Services, the Rites of Marriage, Baptism and Burial, as well as special occasions by caring for the vessels, linens, and vestments. The Altar Guild also prepares the home communion kits so that sacraments can be taken to parishioners in their homes and Benson Hall by Lay Eucharistic Visitors. The Altar Guild is divided into teams and each team serves usually once a month.

Members who have served in 2016 are:

Patty Aldred	Pat Hale
Penn Denn	Barbara Salmon
Eileen Barton	Frankie Hillhouse
Carmen Preston	Katherine Wall
Leslie Brooks	Jo Key
Chris Reed	Faith Weathington
Caroline Chapman	Gay Patton
Caroline Rollins	Pam Willis

The Altar Guild would like to express a warm welcome to anyone, including men, who would like to join the Guild. Please contact Jo Key or Katherine Wall for any information or questions.

Flower Guild – Katy Murphy (Administrative Director)
Mimi Pospisil (Artistic Director)

The mission of the Flower Guild is to bring the beauty of God's natural creation into our church and enhance our worship. The Flower Guild is self-sustaining, that is; all money spent comes directly from the members' dedication of altar flowers, Christmas poinsettias and greenery, and Easter lilies. Any altar flowers that remain after the Sunday service are made into smaller arrangements and then taken to area nursing homes. These tangible representations of love from Holy Cross brighten both the room and the day of the recipients who are extremely gratefully

The Guild is always looking for new members, both to arrange altar flowers but also to help

Worship continued

Bob Morgan

with other tasks of the flower Guild, such as delivering flowers and helping with set-up and watering for major feast days. And if you want to learn how to arrange altar flowers they will be more than happy to teach you. An annual lunch is held in early December to plan for the coming year. The Guild thanks everyone who participates in this wonderful ministry and encourages others to join.

Current members are:

Mary Clare Jenks
Patsy Baker Hanskat
Ellen Carey
Renee Duvall
Nell Campbell

Jane Hart.
Pat Hale
Barie Baker
Valerie Burgess
Lucy Brannon

Lay Scheduler – Peter Franklin
Lay Liturgical Ministry – Sam Doar

Each week almost 20 volunteers serve Holy Cross as lay ministers. In total over 75 parishioners contribute to this effort. Lay ministers include: greeters, ushers, acolytes, chalice bearers, lay readers, and Lay Eucharistic volunteers. Not included in these numbers are those who serve the church as members of the altar guild, flower guild, nursery ministry, office volunteers, and ground force. Given the growth in our youth attendance we were excited to add youth acolytes to the lay minister roster in 2016. Additional volunteers are always needed and there is a particular need for ushers and Lay Eucharistic volunteers.

Parish Statistics

Wanda K. May

2016 Transitions	
Marriages	0
Baptisms	5
Received by the Bishop	0
Confirmed	0
Transferred In	31
Died (members)	4
(non-members)	2
Transferred Out	3
Removed from Rolls	11

Member Status	
Active Members	193
Inactive Members	88
Communicants*	50
* Still need to be Received, Confirmed or transferred	

In Loving Memory 2016
Gerda Hook Will Foard Claude Turner Peter Langgaard Joe Pullara John Triplett

*Church of the Holy Cross seeks to welcome, love, and
serve all people as we come to know God through Jesus Christ*



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The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, Bishop of the Diocese of WNC
The Reverend Robert Ard, Rector