

# Wellness and Spirituality: Moving Forward



## 2020 *Annual Report*

Church of the Holy Comforter  
543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna, VA 22180

## From the Rector

Dear Holy Comforter Family,

From the murmurings about a possible pandemic, to the sudden stay-at-home orders, to constant mask wearing and physical distancing—this year has been unlike any other. Thankfully, our Holy Comforter staff was ready to pivot when we got the news that our church would be closed for worship and gatherings beginning March 13, 2020.

From then on, we have strived to maintain and deepen our connections to Christ's ministry together wherever possible: beginning with pre-recorded worship services, to Faith-in-the-Time of Corona reflections, to Zoom worship and coffee hours, outdoor youth meetings and retreats over Zoom, outdoor worship services including pop-up and drive-in style, and live-streamed church—we adapted! Our Drive-Thru LIVE Nativity was a joyful surprise hit! Studying our Sacred Ground curriculum for racial reconciliation with members of our congregation was a sincere privilege. Pennywise Thrift Shop moved to the front circle, then successfully back into our new store!

Thanks to David Kelley, our Minister of Music, and our choirs, the quality of our Sunday worship became remarkable—bringing together voices one-by-one into a marvelous whole. Ann+'s background in film was invaluable! Our comfort with uploading and sharing large video files, creating small groups and Compline over Zoom, and tending to camera resolutions and angles made for a steep learning curve that has continued. Andrew Eastman became our virtual verger and Randy McGuire enabled a new transition to live-streaming, which we will use for years to come.

This pandemic caused us to dramatically increase our online presence and witness, which will remain well after this crisis. Former parish members have reconnected, and we now can as easily welcome members from Richmond to Australia! Peggy, Liz, Elys, Denis, Brynn, Patti, Jackie+, Ann+, David, Tom, and Victor and our whole ministry team of staff and leaders have continued to serve with creativity and grace everywhere. Please thank all our staff, leaders, and teachers whenever you see them. Special thanks to the tremendous ministry of Linda Meyers who navigated the myriad of challenges

running our Holy Comforter preschool and kindergarten with remarkable warmth, skill, and persistent care. Peggy's attention to our finances was amazing as always.



*Holy Comforter Clergy and Staff*

As a congregation, you have been so generous and flexible—thank you! Even though we lost income through rentals you met our pledge commitments at 100%, and you gave generously to those who most needed financial support. You kept up and strengthened your ministries in varied ways. In many ways we have never been more connected—the virtual platforms have allowed for certain connections to become easier than before.

I am deeply grateful to serve among you as priest and Rector, as we are guided by the Holy Spirit. As a favorite spiritual goes: "Lead me, guide me along the way for if you lead me, I will not stray. Lord let me walk each day with thee, lead me O Lord, lead me."

With love in Christ,

The Rev. Jon Strand  
Rector



# January



Faith in Action New Year's  
Exercise Class

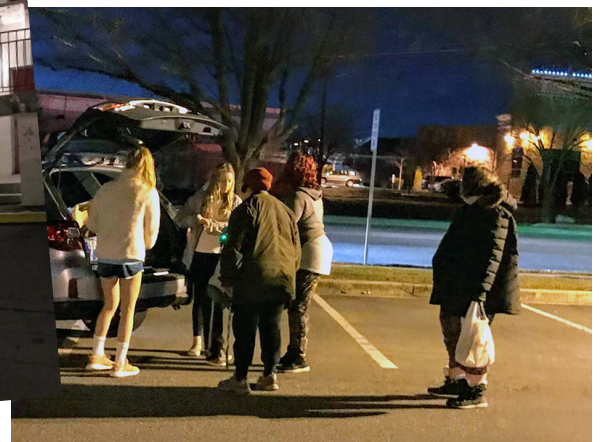


On January 10 the Senior Saints  
are joined by the Rev. Ann  
Gillespie, who speaks about her  
personal journey to the ministry  
and to Holy Comforter.



On January 19 the  
Food 4 Thought  
packing party  
produces 100 "power  
packs" for kids in  
need at Marshall Road  
Elementary School.

On January 12 the  
Youth Group provides  
hardboiled eggs  
and bottled water to  
our Fairfax County  
neighbors in need.



Faith in Action  
Sunday School  
Class



# February



On February 22, the ECW workshop is a morning of meditation, reflective exercises, and journaling.



On February 7, the Senior Saints learn about raptors of VA, MD, and D.C., featuring live birds that were injured and are cared for by wildlife rehabilitators.



On February 23, the Youth host the All-Parish Pancake Breakfast.



On February 26 our clergy offers Ashes To-Go at the Vienna Metro Station.







# March

On March 6 the Senior Saints gather for lunch and a Trivia Game—their last gathering before the Coronavirus lockdown.

On Sunday, March 22 we offer our first digital worship service and digital Children's Chapel.



The March 8 Voice Recital features parishioners Melissa Graham, Soprano and Linda Murray, Soprano, accompanied by George Peachey on Piano.



The Kelleys sing for our first digital Compline.



On March 22, the Central Farm Market begins setting up in the lower church parking lot every Sunday.





April

Digital Palm Sunday Eucharist



The virtual Marriage Retreat focuses on communication, featuring parishioner and Clinical Psychologist, Amy Heard Davison.



Digital Storytime for children



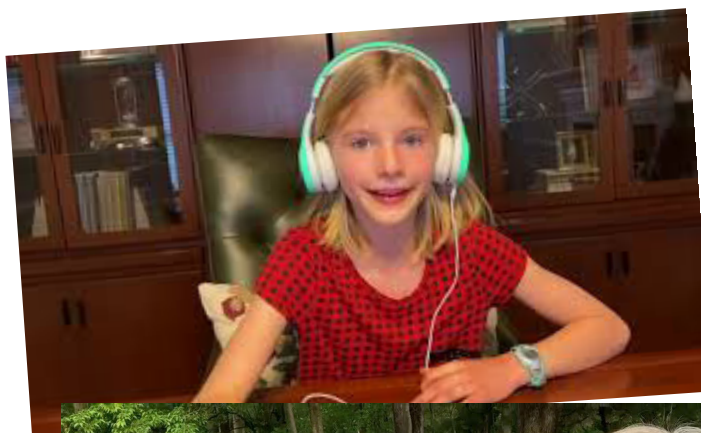
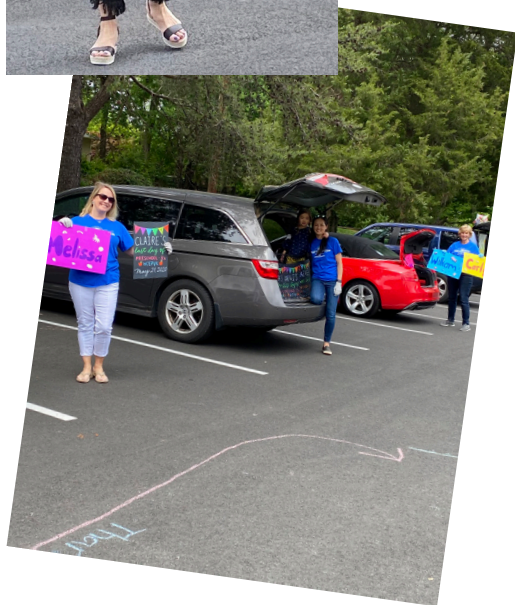
Holy Comforter weekly Zoom Staff meeting



# May



On May 22, Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten closes its school year with a very special "Drive Bye."



Creative digital worship services continue.



On May 31, Pennywise Thrift Shop sets up the first outdoor Pop-Up Shop on the front circle of the church.



# June



On June 15, Children who use the nursery get a visit from a staffer delivering gift bags with their favorite Holy Comforter snack, as well as a book and other surprises.

On June 19, Holy Comforter parishioners, clergy, and friends turn out for the Juneteenth Rally of Remembrance—an evening of prayer and protest against racial injustice.



Our virtual Hogwarts VBS takes place June 22-26.

Our first Outdoor Pop-up Church happens on June 27.





# July

Outdoor Pop-up Church is going strong.



The Farmers Market continues, with COVID-19 protocols.

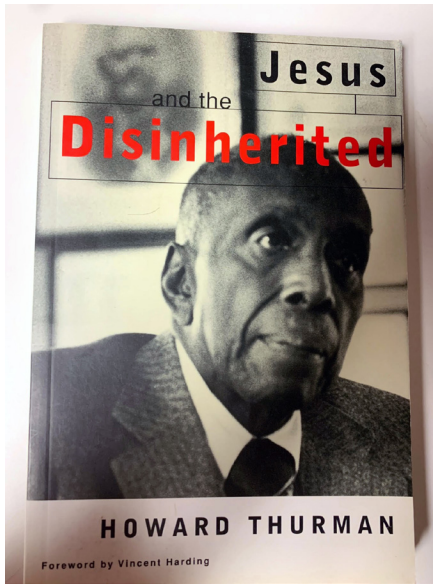


On July 25 we offer the first "Navigating the New Normal: Finding God in Your Body" Zoom yoga with the Rev. Ann Gillespie.





# August



A 4-part Book Study on "Jesus and the Disinherited" by African-American theologian and civil rights leader Howard Thurman, focuses on racial inequality and nonviolent responses to injustice.



On August 1, Confirmation students, parents, and mentors gather on the front circle for the Service of Wisdom, a celebration of the completion of the 2019-2020 Confirmation curriculum.



On August 9, the Rev. Jackie Thomson celebrates Eucharist virtually, from her back yard.



On August 23, the Rev. Jon Strand celebrates Eucharist virtually, from Shrine Mont.



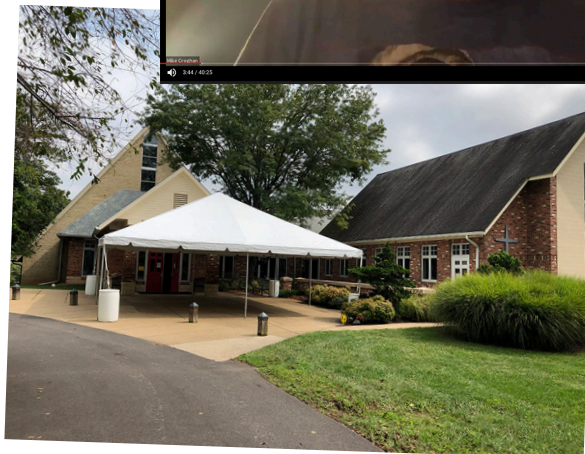
# September

Youth Game Day on September 13



Through Sacred Ground, a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race and faith, 30+ parishioners share a virtual spiritual journey, seeking a heightened personal awareness and more mature understanding of racial issues in the context of faith (September-January).

Prayer in Practice explores a variety of types of prayer and spiritual practices (September-December).



The tent goes up on September 18!



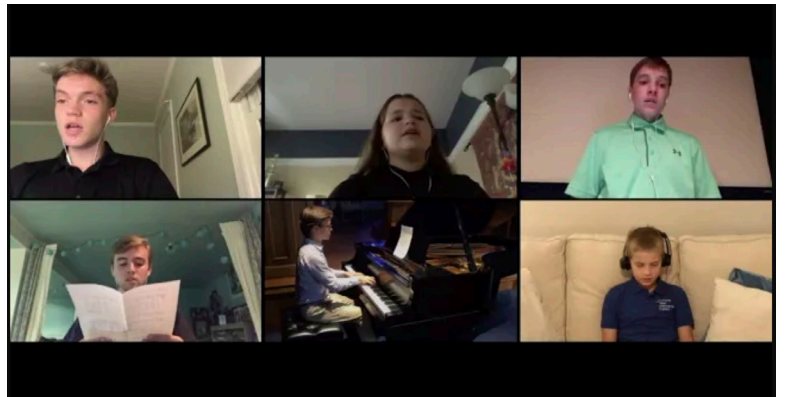
# October

Blessing of the Animals on October 3



Vienna Crop Walk for  
Hunger Relief on October 4

Youth-Led Worship Service,  
"Hope on the Horizon,"  
premieres on October 9.



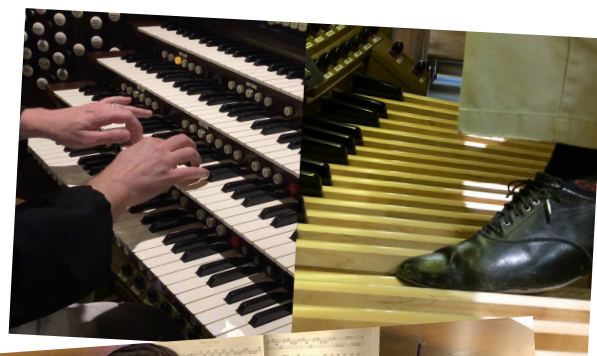
Spaghetti  
Dinner To-Go  
on October 25





# November

In our "Fall Life Snapshots" digital meditations, parishioners share pictures showing how they are making memories during this challenging time:



On November 8 we offer our first Virtual Organ Recital Featuring Dr. David Kelley.

The Hedleys share how their granddaughter's sealed, inflated Halloween costume enables them to give her a loving, COVID-safe squeeze!



Shobha Verghese shares the wedding anniversary gift she created for her daughter and son in law.



The Obert's share their early family Thanksgiving.



The Krogh family shares how they enjoy fall recipes and pumpkin decor to get into the fall spirit.

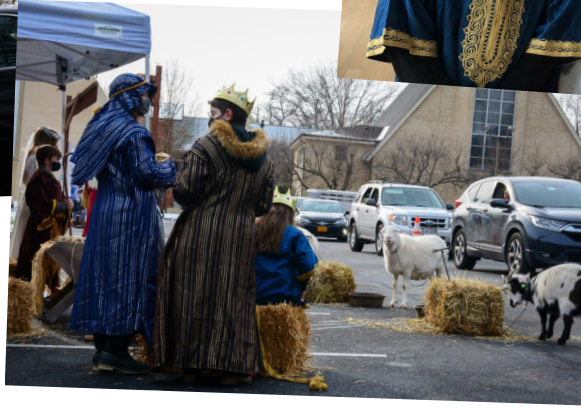




# December



On December 19 our Drive-Thru LIVE Nativity draws at least 1,000 people!



The Youth-Led Worship Service, "Creating Christmas Cheer," premieres on December 23.



On December 20, Libby and Marty Cammisio light the Advent candles for our Livestream Worship Service.



The virtual choir sings "Silent Night" by candlelight for the Christmas Eve service video.



On Christmas Day Jim Menke ushers 25 people outdoors in 28 degree weather!

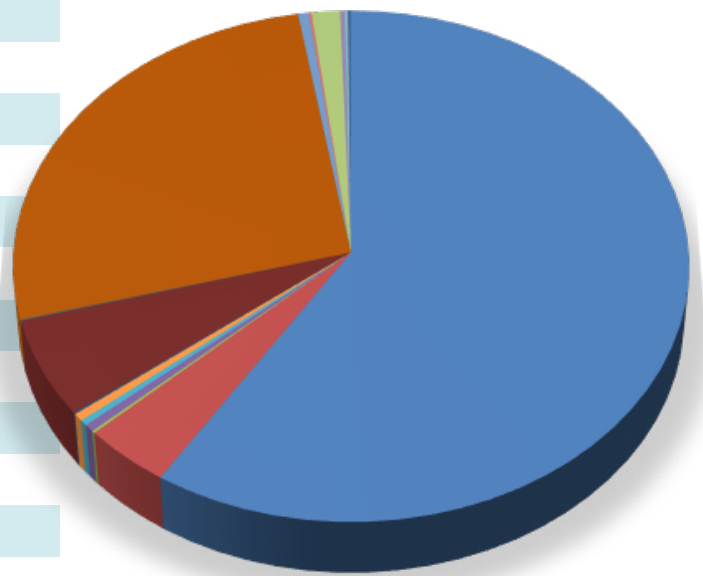


## Resources and Sharing

The following charts were prepared by consolidating ministry reports to give an overall picture of Holy Comforter's income resources and expenses.

### 2020 Income

Pledges	59%	\$1,076,027
Loose Checks	4%	\$73,070
Loose Cash	0%	\$2,657
ECW Pledge	0%	\$8,385
Interest & Fees	0%	\$6,340
Rent	0%	\$8,663
Other Income	0%	\$1,880
Outreach Offerings	6%	\$111,991
Pennywise Thrift Shop	0%	\$0
Coffee Hour	0%	\$0
Special Events	0%	\$1,152
Tuition	27%	\$483,739
Registration Fees	1%	\$9,535
Fundraising	0%	\$2,760
Auction Proceeds	1%	\$26,045
Afternoon Adventures Program	0%	\$4,220
Early Risers Program	0%	\$2,370
Summer Camp	0%	\$399
Kindergarten Book Fee	0%	\$2,938
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,822,171</b>



### 2020 Expenses

Worship	18%	\$333,810
Formation	15%	\$275,824
Welcome & Pastoral Care	12%	\$209,607
Outreach	27%	\$495,021
Willing Generosity	9%	\$159,479
Our Church Home	19%	\$338,277
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,812,018</b>



Note: Compensation and benefits expenses for all paid staff were allocated to the various categories according to the percentages of each employee's time spent engaged with that category.



# Ministry Contact List (as of 2-22-21)

## **Acolytes and Vergers**

June Harper (borealchick@aol.com)

## **Addiction & Recovery Care**

Alexandra MacCracken (alexandram.gpc@gmail.com)

## **Adult Faith Formation Team**

Norma Williamson (williamsonwork@aol.com)

## **Altar Guild**

Lolly Mixter (lollymix@gmail.com)

## **Audio/Visual**

Randy McGuire (rlmav8r@cox.net)

## **Britepaths**

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## **Childcare Center**

Patti Boerger (pboerger@holycorforter.com)

## **Children's Ministries**

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## **Coffee Hour**

Chris Doyle (chris\_e\_doyle@hotmail.com)

## **Diocesan Representative/Region V**

June Harper (borealchick@aol.com)

## **Education for Ministry (EfM)**

Margaret Bain (margarethbain@gmail.com)

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## **Endowment Board**

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## **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

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## **Eucharistic Ministers**

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## **FACETS**

Winifred Conkling (winifred.conkling@verizon.net)

## **Food4Thought**

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## **Foyers**

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## **Gestalt Pastoral Care**

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## **Greeters**

Jeanne Firey (jeannefirey@gmail.com)

## **Habitat for Humanity**

Russ van der Veer (prvanderveer@gmail.com)

## **Healing Ministry**

Alexandra MacCracken (alexandram.gpc@gmail.com)

## **Hypothermia Shelter**

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## **Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool & Kindergarten**

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## **Lectors & Intercessors**

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## **Listening Hearts**

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## **Manna Makers**

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## **Marathon Bridge**

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## **Marriage Ministry**

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## **Memorial Gifts**

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## **Men's Fellowship Group**

Randy McGuire (rlmav8r@cox.net)

## **Moms' Group**

Amy Britton (amy.c.britton@gmail.com)

## **Music Ministry**

David Kelley (dkelley@holycorforter.com)

## **Newcomers Ministry**

Harriet Church (harrietchurch@gmail.com)

## **Open Circles - Church Office**

## **Outreach Team**

Joni Langevoort (jlangevoort@gmail.com)

## **Pennywise Thrift Shop**

Mary Coulombe (marycoulombe@gmail.com)

## **Prayer Chain**

Mary Ann Barton (maryannbarton@hotmail.com)

## **Prayer List (Sunday Bulletin)**

Shelia Creswell (screswell@verizon.net)

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

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## **Relationship Recovery Group**

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## **Remembrance Reception Chair**

Wesley Harrison (wesleyharrison@cox.net)

## **Samaritan Ministry**

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## **Saturday Evening First Saturday Social**

Chris & Jeanna Spielmann (chris@spielmannstudio.com)

## **Senior Saints**

Richard & Barbara Fitzsimmons (rfitzs@gmail.com)

Frank & Linda Gamboa (lindamgamboa@gmail.com)

## **Stephen Ministry**

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## **Stewardship of Creation**

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## **Ushers**

Cathy & Clyde Clark (clark10131@verizon.net)

## **Vacation Bible School**

Linda Lee Malone (vbs@holycorforter.com)

## **Vestry Senior Warden**

Kari Govan (kari@govangroup.com)

## **Vestry Junior Warden**

Jason Crum (jasoncrum@yahoo.com)

## **Youth Ministries**

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