

Wellness and Spirituality: Moving Forward



2022
Annual Report

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

From the Rector

2022 represented recovery and adaptation with so much to celebrate! As the Vestry recently looked at attendance numbers for 2022 when you combine both in-person and online numbers, we were at higher levels than pre-pandemic. People are engaging in our community in a variety of new ways yet to be fully understood. There are many doors into our community with worship at the center of what we do. Many of our recent courses, even for newcomers, are online or hybrid, as it has been discovered that people often share more deeply when they are in the comfort of their own homes. Vestry meetings have a hybrid component that allows our members to attend virtually as well. The capacity to be a full participant in leadership and study groups wherever we are is a revelation. It is not uncommon that we meet people for the first time months after they have been attending online; or we are able to pastorally support a funeral or wedding for a loved one. Of course, it's really helpful to see each other in person, but it's not the only way we are the body of Christ.

In 2022, so many good roots grew that are preceding outward signs of change. Thanks to all of you we were able to retire most of the remainder of the debt from the Ministry Center this year. We are now down to a mere \$250,000 already after starting last May with \$800,000 in debt, due to our highly participatory "Growing our Faith, Family and Future: Celebrate 125 Years!" capital campaign. Your contributions and pledges of \$1.25 million for our 125th Anniversary are allowing for not only complete debt retirement ahead of schedule but also creating an opportunity for solarization, new choir room and a needed capital equipment replacement fund. So much good work has been done on both efforts, soon to be realized in actual changes to our campus. Thanks to our campaign team of Kevin Reynolds, Kari Govan, Jason Crum, David Grove, Suzie Garrod, and Peggy Miller along with Kirby-Smith Associates we have more than met our original goals well ahead of schedule.

The adaptations and recovery meant we could finally return to choir rehearsals, our choristers' program could recommence, we could celebrate with a Spaghetti Gala "SpaGala" 125 years of ministry, continue to support our Afghan families, make new friends through our shared Iftar and Turkish Early Thanksgiving events with the American Turkish Friendship Society (ATFA). Our Hypothermia Shelter returned to on-campus presence supporting those who are in need of housing. Pennywise has never been stronger, thriving in its new location, supporting ministry within and beyond the church. Due to the leadership of Linda Meyers, and our Preschool board, our Preschool is extremely healthy with waiting lists for enrollments. Our ministry with FACETS continues with youth and adults serving those who struggle economically.

After waiting two years we were finally able share in a mission trip with our confirmation class going to Puerto Rico this past June, and our youth ministry programs continue to be vital places of conversation

and learning and service. Our children's programs for our youngest members are remarkable in their substance. Our choirs inspire us weekly and more often with Sunday worship and Evensongs, each member reminding us to use our gifts to the glory of God. Adult Formation has never had so many outstanding offerings thanks to Norma Williamson who shares this ministry with the Rev. Ann Gillespie and others.

This past fall we were able to add back in a third service at 11:15 a.m. on Sundays, held in the chapel until it is ready to return to the sanctuary with sufficient numbers to continue to attract people. At 80% of regularly-filled seating capacity, we will move back into the sanctuary. A worship space that is regularly less than 50% full usually doesn't feel inviting to new attendees. I am grateful we have the chapel worship space as an "incubator" for keeping our community growing.

Your ideas and inspirations make our community grow. Your efforts to show up, and make commitments and to foster a life of faith with others is a blessing. Thank you for all the ways you make the body of Christ in this place. Do come, show up, learn to love the people you meet here, as they will love and care for you in ways that strengthen the sense of presence of the One who loves us and calls us to a life of love.

Recently, a parishioner compared our preaching team to the 1927 Yankees baseball team which was very kind. I would say that we have an "All-Star" lineup with our whole staff at Holy Comforter, people whose first instinct is to use their gifts to serve God and love all those around them. It is freeing and energizing to work with such talented, creative, thoughtful servant leaders: I give thanks for The Rev. Ann Gillespie, our Sr. Associate; The Rev. Jackie Thomson, our Pastoral Associate; Peggy Miller, our Parish Administrator; Liz Bleich our Assistant Administrator; Dr. David Kelley, our Music Minister; Brynn Pacitti, our Director of Children's Formation; Denis McMullen, our Youth Minister; Elys McLean, our Communications Director; Tom Gaddell, our Facilities Manager; Victor Hernandez, our Sexton, and Leila and Roya, who support our nursery. Each bring an integrity and vitality that is tremendous.

Our lay leadership at Holy Comforter regularly amaze me in the ways they serve with cheerfulness and consideration. This past year Jason Crum and Suzie Garrod were exceptional in their faithfulness as our Sr. and Jr. Wardens along with our whole Vestry. There is a spirit of collaboration and prayerful intention

Beth, my wife, is a regular inspiration to me, and to many in our community, bringing a depth of thoughtfulness and wisdom too great to be counted. It is a joy to share life together.

Keep praying and thinking about how we can better serve together and strengthen the presence of Christ here. May we continue to form more and more the beloved community God dreams about in us.

In Christ,

The Rev. Jon Strand
Rector



January



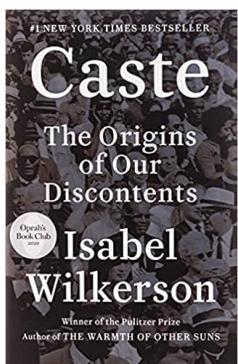
The 125th Anniversary Planning Team began production of short video testimonials recalling how Holy Comforter impacted parishioners' and friends' lives. Production also began on a video scrapbook with images from 1997 to 2021.

On January 9 youth worked with the adult FACETS team preparing hot meals or delivering hard boiled eggs, bottled water, and warm gloves and hats to our Fairfax County neighbors in need.

On January 17, Becoming Beloved Community Ministry's Book and Movie Club met on Zoom to discuss the book, "Caste," by Isabel Wilkerson.



In partnership with FACETS, our Hypothermia Prevention Shelter began on January 30 and served guests through February 6.



February

Date Night Under the Stars



On February 12 the Marriage Ministry sponsored "Date Night Under the Stars," an interactive experience taking couples on a journey exploring their dreams as a couple.

On February 19 ECW (Episcopal Church Women) gathered for "What is your story?" This empowering program was created by Alysia Dempsey (founder of "Inspires" and the author of "Welcome") to inspire everyone to write their own story and celebrate the diverse stories of others.



Holy Comforter Church
125th Anniversary

Little Book of Days

Holy Comforter's 125th Anniversary "The Little Book of Days" makes its debut—a motivational journey of 125 days of actions to: Build Your Faith, Strengthen Your Spirit, Develop Your Compassion, Exercise Your Body, Love One Another, Nurture Yourself.

On February 21 Becoming Beloved Community Ministry's Book and Movie Club met on Zoom to discuss the film, "Passing," based on the 1929 novel by Nella Larsen.



February 27
Pancake Breakfast,
prepared and served
by our youth



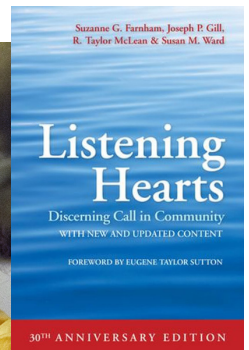
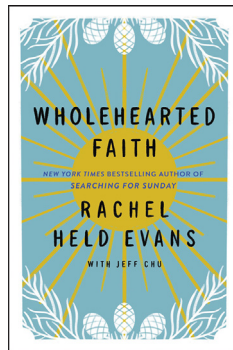
March

Pennywise Thrift Shop celebrated National Read Across America Month with the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Seuss.



We offered 3 special Adult Faith Formation Lent programs:

- Book Discussion - "Wholehearted Faith" by Rachel Held Evans
- Workshop - "Being Present with Grief: A Journey of Awakening," led by Wendi Kaplan, a psychotherapist specializing in relational and biblio/poetry therapies
- Workshop - "Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community" (30th Anniversary Edition)

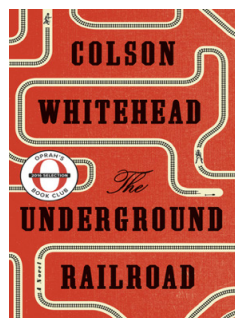


On March 5 Holy Comforter men and youth cleared invasive plants along the woodland edge, constructed brush piles for wildlife, collected and repurposed rubble, and improved the garden path.



Since 2011, the ECW has sponsored boxes of "Holy Comfort" to brighten the days of our young adults who are away from home in college, the military, or just on their own. In 2022, 50 boxes were mailed out, each containing over two dozen items, including a letter from Jon+ and personal notes from members of the parish.

Led by the Rev. Ann Gillespie, the Faith in Action Sunday School class learns about the Eucharist, why it's constructed the way it is, the symbolism, and the mystery of what's actually happening during communion.



On March 21, Becoming Beloved Community Ministry's Book and Movie Club met on Zoom to discuss the book, "The Underground Railroad," by Colson Whitehead.





Easter Day



The April 24 Holy Comforter Concert Series features "Third Practice."

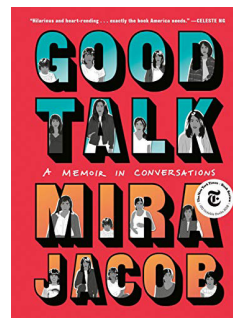
April



Hogwarts VBS Diagon Alley Preview on April 24



HCEPSK (Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten) Annual Silent and Live Auction Dinner Event on April 22: "BACK TO THE 80s!"



On April 25, Becoming Beloved Community Ministry's Book and Movie Club met on Zoom to discuss the book, "Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations" by Mira Jacob.



On April 27 we gathered with friends from the American-Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) for Iftar—dinner and conversation to make new friends and talk a bit about our different faiths and lives!

April 30 Youth Benefit Concert, "Ordinary Miracle"



May

Holy Comforter celebrates with a 125th Anniversary "SpaGala" on May 7.



May 1 Youth Benefit Car Wash



May 11 Five Talents Breakfast with Five Talents Kenya



Capital campaign is launched, "Growing our Faith, Family, Future"



ECW Women's Retreat, May 13-15



Men's Retreat, May 20-22



On May 23, Becoming Beloved Community Ministry's Book and Movie Club met on Zoom to discuss the movie, "Fences," based on the play by August Wilson.

June

ECW "Mad Hatter" Spring Tea on June 4



On Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 14 youth and 3 adults were Confirmed/Received, with Bishop Ted Gulick presiding.



On June 13, Becoming Beloved Community Ministry's Book and Movie Club met in person to discuss the film, "My Name is Pauli Murray."

Puerto Rico Mission Trip June 12-19



Hogwarts VBS June 20-24

We sponsored "A Talk with Daryl Davis: How can you hate me when you don't even know me?" at the Vienna Community Center, for Liberty Amendments Month.





Four of our own Holy Comforter parishioners were selected to be cabin counselors at Shrine Mont Summer Camp.

July



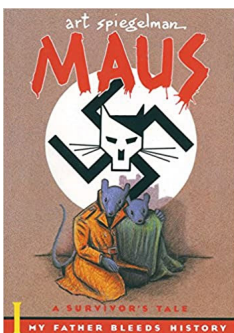
July 24 Choir Day—when visiting singers joined the Adult Choir for Sunday service in the morning, lunch and workshops, and Evensong in the afternoon.



July 10 Program, "A Look at GPC Through the Art of the Met." We learned how great works of art from the Metropolitan Museum are a way to encounter our inner landscapes and engage in an enjoyable and revelatory time of self-awareness.



July 17 and 24 (and October 30) Program, "Whose side is God on?" We learned about religious nationalism—what it is and how to respond to it.



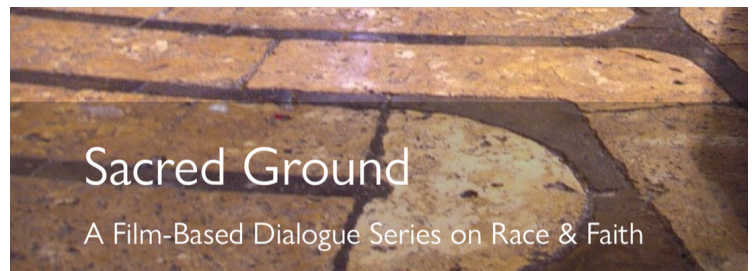
On July 18, Becoming Beloved Community Ministry's Book and Movie Club met on Zoom to discuss the graphic novel, "Maus I" by Art Spiegelman.



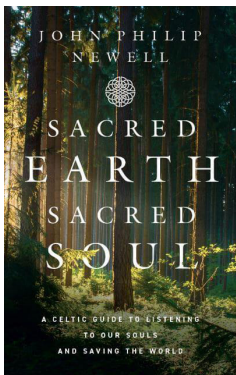
August



August 7 Creation Care Program, "The Forest and the Trees." We learned more about ways to connect with Nature.



Registration opens for the fall and winter session of Sacred Ground—a ten-session multi-media program, grounded in Christian faith, exploring racial injustice in the U.S. in the example of Jesus Christ and the power of scripture.



August 14, 21, and 28 Rector's Book Discussion, "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: A Celtic Guide to Listening to Our Souls and Saving the World" by John Phillip Newell



August 8-12 Summer Choir Camp



Sheep graze on the church property, to help control non-native invasive plants.



Acolytes right before the service



September



September 9 Senior Saints tour of Ben Lomond Historic Site



September 10-12 All-Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont



On September 19, Becoming Beloved Community Ministry's Book and Movie Club met on Zoom to discuss the movie, "The Farewell."



October



Blessing of
the Animals
on October 1



On October 10, Indigenous Peoples' Day, the Men's Group planted 17 native shrubs and trees.

Faith in Action Sunday School
class learns to cook healthy foods



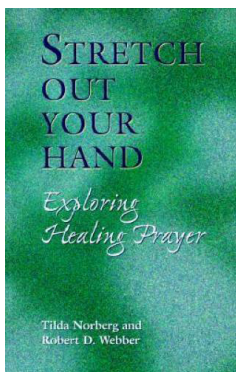
Youth Reader



On October 22, we joined our Afghan friends for a program of stories and photos of their beloved country, of coming to the U.S., their transition to our Vienna community, and of how their families are continuing to manage in their new homes.



October 30 "Pumpkin,
Potluck & Prayer"



Oct. 29; Nov. 12; Nov. 19; Dec. 10 Book Study, "Stretch Out your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer." We explored healing prayer in the Christian tradition.

HCEPSK (Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten) Halloween Parade



November



Youth Group FACETS
Outreach on November 13



Middle School Sunday School



On November 14,
Becoming Beloved
Community Ministry's
Book and Movie Club
met on Zoom to discuss
the film, "El Norte."

November 20
Youth Roller
Skating



BALTIMORE BRASS



The November 20 Holy Comforter Concert Series features "Baltimore Brass."



On November 18, our Confirm not Confirm
Confirmation class visited and toured
Temple Rodef Shalom.



Senior Acolyte Recognition on November 20

Making Advent Wreaths
on November 27



December



December 2
Senior Saints
BYO Lunch,
"Cookies,
Cupcakes, and
Carols"



HCEPSK (Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten) was selected for the 2022 Best of Vienna Award.



Pennywise won 1st place in the Shine Bright Vienna Holiday Decorating Contest!

December 4 All-Parish
Gingerbread Extravaganza



On December 10 we gathered for Advent Quiet Day: The Gift of God's Presence, with group discussion, testimonies, song, and worship, led by the Rev. Timothy H. Grayson.

On December 13,
the Pennywise
Front Desk
and Backroom
Teams gathered
for Christmas
lunch.



December 18
Youth Group
Christmas
Caroling



HCEPSK (Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool and Kindergarten) staff



We donated new jackets, underwear, gloves, toys, and \$410 in gift cards to the CHC (Committee for Helping Others) Christmas Store, helping 497 families in need.



Children's Living Crèche on Christmas Eve

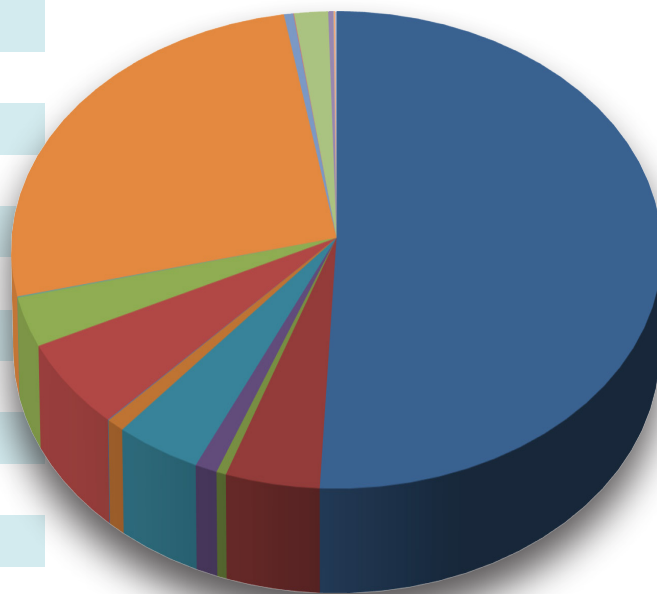


Resources and Sharing

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

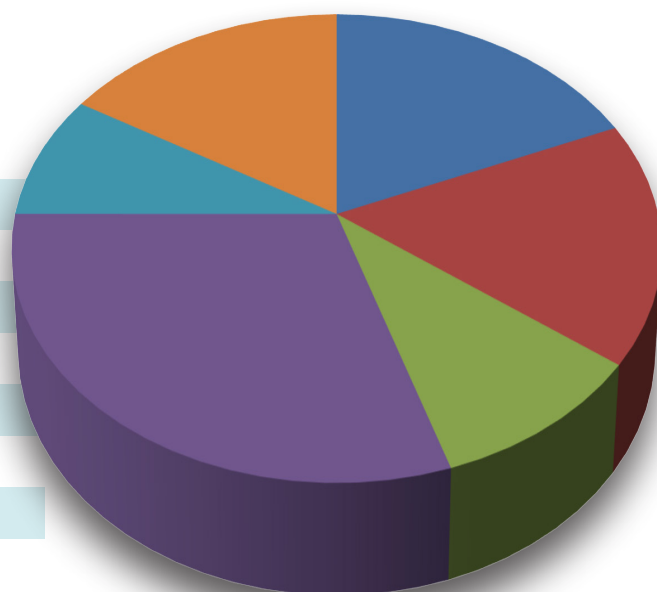
2022 Income

Pledges	51%	\$1,109,492
Loose Checks	4%	\$97,737
Loose Cash	0%	\$10,172
ECW Pledge	1%	\$23,175
Interest & Fees	4%	\$90,474
Rent	1%	\$19,195
Other Income	0%	\$909
Outreach Offerings	6%	\$127,563
Pennywise Thrift Shop	3%	\$72,920
Coffee Hour	0%	\$0
Special Events	0%	\$1,250
Tuition	26%	\$572,224
Registration Fees	0%	\$10,510
Fundraising	0%	\$984
Auction Proceeds	2%	\$38,667
Afternoon Adventures Program	0%	\$5,660
Logo Items Sales	0%	\$369
Preschool Supply Fee	0%	\$1,939
Kindergarten Book Fee	0%	\$1,470
Total		\$2,184,710



2022 Expenses

Worship	18%	\$356,974
Formation	17%	\$323,546
Welcome & Pastoral Care	10%	\$189,294
Outreach	30%	\$578,114
Willing Generosity	9%	\$166,670
Our Church Home	16%	\$315,763
Total		\$1,930,361



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

Acolytes and Vergers

Andrew Eastman (aeastman@holycorforter.com)

Addiction & Recovery Care

Alexandra MacCracken (alexandram.gpc@gmail.com)

Adult Faith Formation Team

Norma Williamson (williamsonwork@aol.com)

Afghan Ministries

The Rev. Jon Strand (jstrand@holycorforter.com)

Altar Guild

Lolly Mixter (lollymix@gmail.com)

Audio/Visual

Randy McGuire (rlmav8r@gmail.com)

Becoming Beloved Community

The Rev. Ann Gillespie (agillespie@holycorforter.com)

Blood Drive

Laurie Pedry (laurie@pedry.net)

Book and Movie Club

Peter Brownrigg (peterfromnova@gmail.com)

Britepaths

Susan McGuire (osusnna@gmail.com)

Childcare Center

The Church Office

Children's Ministries

Brynn Pacitti (bpacitti@holycorforter.com)

Creation Care

Margaret Bain (margarethbain@gmail.com)

Chris Jones (rcjones@gmu.edu)

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Joni Langevoort (jlangevoort@gmail.com)

Sharon McGroder (sharon.mcgroder@gmail.com)

Andy Pettigrew (pettigrij@cox.net)

Dianne Stoddard (dlstoddard@orrick.com)

Endowment Board

Bob Bruce (rwbruce1@cox.net)

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Jeanna Spielmann (jeanna@spielmannstudio.com)

Eucharistic Ministers

Andrew Eastman (aeastman@holycorforter.com)

FACETS

Laura Gori (laurasgori@gmail.com)

Food4Thought

Susan McGuire (osusnna@gmail.com)

Brynn Pacitti at (bpacitti@holycorforter.com)

Foyers

Shelia Creswell (screswell@verizon.net)

Gestalt Pastoral Care

Alexandra MacCracken (alexandram.gpc@gmail.com)

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

Alex Graham (agraham160@aol.com)

Holy Comforter Episcopal Preschool & Kindergarten

Linda Meyers (lmeyers@holycorforter.com)

Lamb Center

Dottie and Don Stone (don.dot.stone@cox.net)

Lectors & Intercessors

Andrew Eastman (aeastman@holycorforter.com)

Listening Hearts

Frances Sullinger (fsullinger@verizon.net)

Marathon Bridge

Brian & Luanne Obert (obert04@aol.com)

Marriage Ministry

Katie Krogh (katiekrogh@gmail.com)

Memorial Gifts

Peggy Miller (pmiller@holycorforter.com)

Men's Fellowship Group

Randy McGuire (rlmav8r@gmail.com)

Music Ministry

David Kelley (dkelley@holycorforter.com)

Newcomers Ministry

Harriet Church (harrietchurch@gmail.com)

Open Circles - Church Office

Outreach Team

Zara Harris (zrharris@mac.com)

Pennywise Thrift Shop

Judy Kilkenny (kilkennyjudy@gmail.com)

Prayer List (Sunday Bulletin)

Shelia Creswell (screswell@verizon.net)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Linda Becht (lbaileybecht@gmail.com)

Relationship Recovery Group

Alexandra MacCracken (alexandram.gpc@gmail.com)

Remembrance Reception Chair

Wesley Harrison (wesleyharrison@cox.net)

Samaritan Ministry

Lisa Curtis (lisacurtis001@gmail.com)

Saturday Evening First Saturday Social

Chris & Jeanna Spielmann (chris@spielmannstudio.com)

Senior Saints

Richard & Barbara Fitzsimmons (rfitzs@gmail.com)

Linda Gamboa (lindamgamboa@gmail.com)

Stephen Ministry

Linda Murray (linmurray@cox.net)

Winifred Conkling (winifred.conkling@verizon.net)

Ushers

Suzie Garrod (suze@kinggarrod.org)

Vacation Bible School

Linda Lee Malone (vbs@holycorforter.com)

Vestry Senior Warden

Suzie Garrod (suze@kinggarrod.org)

Vestry Junior Warden

David Grove (dsgrove@me.com)

Youth Ministries

Denis McMullan (dmcmullan@holycorforter.com)