



The Dove

Church of the Holy Spirit - 3 Haytown Road - Lebanon, NJ - churchholyspirit.org

OUR MISSION: *to become like Christ as we serve others, proclaim God's love, and grow in the Spirit*



Photo © Mike Williams Montana Photography

FEBRUARY 2025

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What is the Question?

There is an expression which some of you may know: "If wine is the answer, then what is the question?" Ernest Hemingway is quoted as saying: "Wine is the most civilized thing in the world." Interesting and there are countless quotes by many others who view wine as something special and very enjoyable.



The marriage feast at Cana is a familiar Gospel passage for many of us and is interpreted as the first miracle our blessed Lord performed. Cana was a simple town in Galilee and the people there were not of any great wealth or influence. Ordinary people — craftsman, laborers, shepherds, farmers, fishermen and the like. But a wedding was important and when a couple was to marry the entire town turned out and the festivities could go on for days. So, imagine if you will, this wedding planning was in the works for some time. Today you probably establish a guest list of invitees that is made up of family and friends. But back then everyone was invited. That means you have to prepare to have ample supplies of food, arrange for music and most important of all, make sure there is plenty of wine to satisfy people's thirst. Wine was essential for a Jewish feast then. The Rabbis said: "Without wine, there is no joy."

Many believe that Mary, Jesus' mother was related to either the bride or the groom and she was one of the folks who helped plan and arrange what was to be served at the feast. So, the Gospel tells us that Jesus and some of his disciples showed up to celebrate the wedding. Were these unexpected guests? Could be, but Jesus was part of this community, and as a young man likely enjoyed a good time as many of us do today.

Mary suddenly notices there is little or no wine. My God. What do we do? She thinks for a moment and says to herself: "I know; I tell my son. He will know what to do." Indeed, he does, and she knew there was something incredibly special about him. So she tells him that there is no wine, and this will make the bride and groom and their families look bad. Jesus replies to her: "Woman, what concern is that for you and me. My hour has not yet come." I often think about that response from him. It seems a bit harsh, as if he were saying. "So what? That's not my problem." Someone once wrote: "Everyone is interested in a marriage: if the human heart does not have enough love in its heart, it seeks out those in love. The marriage at Cana is the most famous marriage in history because our Lord was present." Yes, he was there because he knew the couple and wanted to share in their happiness and have an enjoyable time.

Our Lord's mother asks him to do something special; to save the day and make this marriage feast a success. Stone jars are filled with water and our Lord blesses them and suddenly there is wine. Not just ordinary wine, but an excellent vintage which some think was saved for last. But what did Jesus mean when he said to Mary: "My hour has not yet come." In the Gospels, Jesus always refers to "his Hour." The hour had come to turn water into wine. The hour when he emerged out of the desert to begin his ministry. The hour when he raised Lazarus from the dead. The hour when he went to the Cross and died for our salvation. He always knew there was a time for specific moments in his life, when he had tasks to perform, for this was God's purpose. All through his life, he walked steadily towards that hour for which he knew he had come upon the earth. As someone said: "Each and every one of us is a dream and an idea of God's." All of us must each day, not only think of our own wishes and desires, but of the purpose for which God sent us into the world.

At this festive wedding in Cana, Jesus first showed his glory and power; his disciples also witnessed who he was. As for Mary, she knew all along who he was because she recalled that moment years before, when a messenger informed her why she was chosen to bear this special child.

Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus also refers to wine in conveying his messages. Of course, there is his using wine to symbolize his blood of the New Covenant. But I recall a passage where he says: “You do not pour new wine into old wineskins, lest they burst, and then the new wine spills out and is lost. New wine must go into new wineskins so that both are preserved.” He used this metaphor to illustrate that his message was to bring about a new covenant with God. So, it is with us, the new wine of his grace and love is poured forth into each of us to have, hold and preserve. For we must preserve what he has given us. So, it brings back the question at the beginning of my homily. If wine is the answer, then what is the question? Something to ask ourselves each day.

Fr. Andrew Calandriello

January 19, 2025

Scout Sunday Observance February 2, 2025

We encourage all Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Scouters and supporters of the Scouting movement to attend The Church of the Holy Spirit, 3 Haytown Road, Lebanon on Sunday February 2, 2025 at the 10:00am service to recognize Scout Sunday. Bring your fellow Scouts too!

Please wear your uniforms, pins, medals, neckerchiefs, scarves etc. to show your involvement and support for the largest and longest sustained youth-driven organization in the world. The World Scouting Movement was founded 118 years ago (1907) in The United Kingdom. The Scouting Movement in The United States of America was founded in 1910 (115 years ago).

Please let me know in advance if you plan to attend . Patches can then be made available for all in uniform. Yours in Scouting,

Rex van Veldhuisen ASM, OA

Chitkuwi Pilsu Allogagen
Troop 55 Garden State Council (GSC), Scouting America



Prayer in a Time of Transition

God of all ages and keeper of our days, we lay before you this season in which we find ourselves. What has been has ended and we know not what lies ahead. Be with us in this time and give us the courage and patience to live these days of losing and finding mindful, as Jesus taught his friends, that the grain of wheat must be planted in the earth and die in order to bear much fruit. Amen.

Vestry Meeting Highlights from January

The Vestry met on Thursday, January 16, and we want to share some highlights from that meeting:

We reviewed recent successes:

- We 3 Kings House Blessings.
- Bell Choir performances at Christmas.
- Lessons and Carols.
- Blood Drive.

Sally Bird, Treasurer, reviewed the full year financials. Sally will make a report on the financials at the Annual Meeting.

Sally Bird presented the Budget for 2025 and it was approved by the Vestry.

Eva Lesniak reported on the results of the Stewardship Campaign. Eva will make a report on the Stewardship Campaign at the Annual Meeting.

It was reported that the upgrade of the fire alarm system has been completed

Plans for the Vestry retreat were discussed.

Plans for Winter Thaw potluck dinner to be held on February 22 were discussed.

Plans for the Parish's Annual Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, January 26, were discussed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Diane Hrozencik, Senior Warden (elected at the January 26, 2025 annual meeting). Photo by Rex van Veldhuisen..



Regular vestry meetings are open to all (except when personnel matters are discussed). They are generally held on the third Thursday of each month at the church or via ZOOM. The vestry page on the website has more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Diane Hrozencik or Gary Scott. Their contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Annual Meeting January 26th

What a spirited and well planned meeting took place last Sunday in Dove Hall! If you weren't able to attend, perhaps this brief recap will be useful to you. Additionally, you may want to have a look at Treasurer Sally Bird's financial report on pp. 6-7. It includes two pie charts that were extremely useful to a math novice like me. [In case you wondered, Dove Hall isn't wired properly to make Zooming the meeting possible. Perhaps next year....]

Carol Crawford-Jones served as recording secretary yet again. She has dutifully taken on that annual role for as long as Philip Carr-Jones was rector — some 37 years. Thank you Carol, and may your recovery from recent surgery be swift and relatively pain free! Marge Keller served as Elections Teller (no new nominations were made). The outgoing vestry members, in addition to John Andrews, were Diane Bendahmane, Andy Follansbee and Meg McKenna (who had resigned earlier). John Andrews and Diane Hrozencik, once voted in as Senior Warden for a two-year term, presided. New members elected were Gary Scott, Tricia Simpson-Curtin, Susanne Higgins and Janet Matts. We congratulate all of them and the wonderful work of those whom they replaced. Nominated and elected for other roles in the church were the following:

- † Delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention: Karen Holmes, Diane Hrozencik and Rex van Veldhuisen.
- † Representing CHS at the annual Convocation will be Liz Cannizzaro, Michelle Marlow, and Rex van Veldhuisen. Cecilie Bulcha was elected as alternate.

Sally Bird's clear and well-illustrated presentation of the 2024 final budget elicited many questions, all of which were explained either by Sally or by another member of the congregation. In particular, Rex van Veldhuisen and Brian Savage, who have years of administrative experience in the Episcopal Church, were able to provide excellent explanations to augment Sally's work for newer members who are unfamiliar of the workings of the Anglican Communion.



A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the annual Service Award to Eva Lesniak, shown at right flanked by John Andrews and Diane Hrozencik. As one attendee commented, "Eva has a pie chart all her own". Congratulations, Eva!

Father Andrew opened and closed the meeting with prayer.

*Thanks to Dave Dabour and the van Veldhuisen duo,
Alex and Rex, for the annual meeting photos.*



Treasurer's Report

As of the end of December our financial results for 2024 were as follows:

	YTD	Budget YTD
Operating Revenue	\$ 337,252	\$ 370,729 (includes transfer to cover shortfall)
Total Expense	\$ 330,018	\$ 375,729
Shortfall/Gain	\$ 7,234	\$ (5,000)

A couple of notes regarding our finances:

- ◆ Our expenses through December were lower compared to budget. This was due, in part, to less spent on salaries and benefits. Father Andrew (who joined us as Interim Rector at the beginning of September) is part-time and we do not need to pay for his housing, pension or health. Our total expenses were \$45,000 under budget.
- ◆ However, our income line was less than the budgeted amount through December. Just a reminder – our budget included a transfer of over \$45,000 from our savings account in order to have a balanced budget (which we did not need to complete). Our annual auction in November exceeded the budget by \$4000, the billboard raised \$3000 more and interest income was \$3200 over projection. The facilities committee worked to increase the rental rate on several organizations that use our building.
- ◆ We were approved for a loan from the Diocese for \$50,000 to cover the cost of three renovations – roof replacement over the Dove Hall, improved grading on the walkway past the Memorial Garden, and the update of the fire and security alarm system for the church. We received the funds in mid-October.

Thank you to all for your continued support of CHS. Many of you have given of your time and talent, as well. We are especially blessed with our congregants.

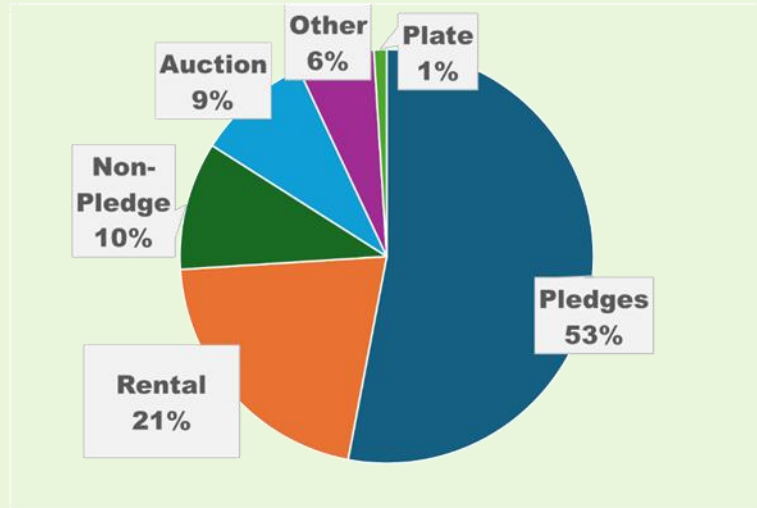
As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sally Bird, Treasurer

The opposite page contains the two pie charts referenced earlier. Thanks to Sally and the finance team for continuing their excellent stewardship of the CHS budget. We are extremely fortunate to have such a terrific group of qualified money managers keeping us in line, make sure our audits are completed in a timely manner, and making lots of silk purses out of sow's ears. Credit is due, as well, to the talented folks who work to ensure that whatever can be handled "in-house" is done to keep pressure off the CHS accounts and to the generosity of the folks who quietly ante up additional funds when extra expenses crop up.

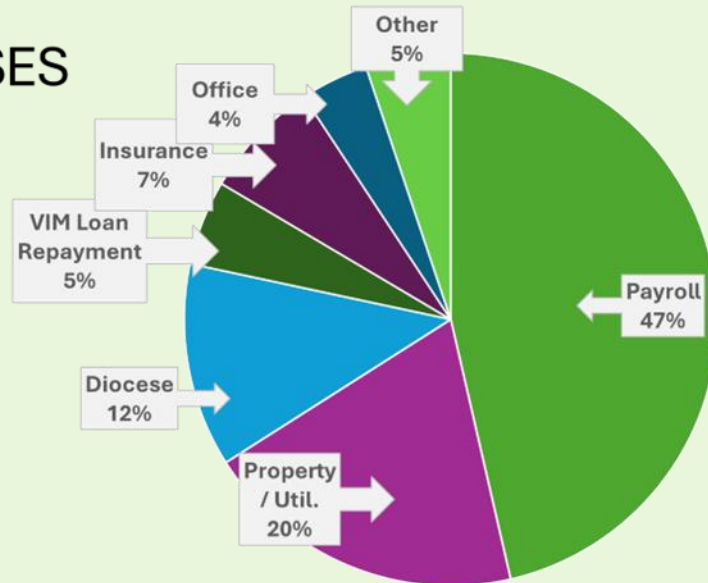
2024 REVENUE

**WE DO NOT
GET REVENUE
from the
Diocese**



2024 REVENUE was **\$337K**, similar to recent years
Revenue is primarily sourced from Parishioner's Contributions

2024 EXPENSES



2024 EXPENSES were **\$330K**, lower than 2023 due to Fr. Phil's retirement
Almost half of our expenses are for payroll.

Around the Area and Beyond

A reminder that the **Union Township Recycling Center** at 140 Perryville Road is accepting old laptops and desktops on Saturdays from 8:00am - 12:00pm during the month of February. These are being collected for Cycle for Survival, a non-profit arm of Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Hard drives will be destroyed. The Morgan Family of the Township, who have a grand-daughter who is a cancer survivor, is spear-heading this collection.



To repeat from last month: **The Hunterdon County Library** has a delivery service for seniors/ those who are homebound! Call or email for assistance. You can place books on hold via the library's online portal, which is easy to do; a volunteer can also help you select books, or choose books for you. This good service is sponsored by The Friends of Hunterdon County Library, who do so much volunteer work behind the scenes (including putting together the April book sale each year). 908-336-4229 or Email: fohcloutreach@gmail.com.

Flemington Marketplace announces a new **Target** store planned for the space previously occupied by Burlington on Route 202 near the Flemington Circle. Target will join co-anchors Kohl's, Michaels and ALDI. Other retailers in the group include Chili's, Hallmark, Panera Bread, Cold Stone Creamery, Verizon Wireless, Poke Café (coming soon), and Nail Imagine Nail Spa.



And in Stockton, the historic **Stockton Inn** on SR 29 is now open after a two-year renovation. The new owners have also reopened the **Stockton Market** just across the road on Bridge Street. The Inn has a rustic tavern and a quieter restaurant for more elegant dining, and has 7 rooms available if you are traveling there from a distance.

Howard Bird is a member of the New Jersey Astronomical Association and offered a guided tour of its observatory as part of the CHS auction last November. Half a dozen of us were intrigued. Alas Mother Nature didn't give us very clear views but Howard shared a wealth of information with us. I would recommend that you access their website — www.njaa.org — if interested and it's likely that Howard wouldn't mind talking about the place and the amazing photos that he has captured. I was going to include his wonderful photo of The Pleiades to whet your appetites, but this format doesn't do it justice. Howard explained: "The Pleiades is a cluster of over 1,000 stars, with 6 easily visible on a clear evening in the constellation Taurus. Also known as the Seven Sisters of Greek mythology, this asterism was known by many other ancient cultures, including the Japanese, where it is known as Subaru. It is not a coincidence that the automotive brand's logo features the seven sisters." The observatory, off Route 513 near Voorhees High School, is open Saturday nights from June 1 through October 31 and by special appointment.



Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the [Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles](http://www.episcopalrelief.org) to provide cash assistance to people who have been impacted during the Palisades, Woodley, Eaton and Hurst wildfires. The fires in January killed at least 25 people and displaced tens of thousands. St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Altadena has been destroyed, along with two rectories affiliated with St. Matthew's in Pacific Palisades.

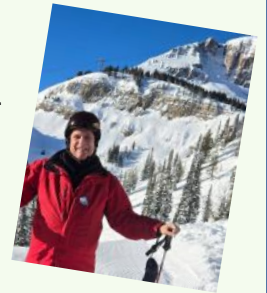
Where Were They Last Month?

W3K House Blessings video is on the church website (Home Page). Check out the results.



John and Deanne Altom were in Sayaluta, Mexico at a destination wedding. How lovely to escape our deep freeze!

Richard Southwick had a couple of days skiing in Jackson Hole, WY.



Judy and David Cahall spent a brief but lovely day/night in Cape May.

Erin Gora traveled to Costa Rica — no shortage of rain there, she reported.



Jaime Lyn Gora had her first working trip to Hawaii as a United flight attendant. She reported on Facebook: “I enjoyed every minute of the 23 hours I was there! I was able to see the sunset, hang out with a classmate from my flight attendant training class, soak up some sun, bob up and down in the bright blue waves and brush shoulders with Jason Momoa. Not bad for a first trip, even if the hours flying to and from Honolulu nearly equaled the time I was actually there!”



One of Jaime Lyn’s colleagues, **Tracey Bergstrand**, member of St. Thomas Alexandria, captured the exquisite Pieta of Michelangelo on a visit to St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome during a layover from her duties. Thank you, Tracey, for letting me share it.



PULSE OF THE PARISH

BIRTHDAYS

February

Floriene	Garrabrant	2	2
Richard	Emmitt	2	4
Ellie	Curtain	2	7
Jack	Daniels	2	9
David	Marlow	2	9
Elizabeth	Van Veldhuisen	2	15
Deanne	Altom	2	18
Erin	Rocchietti	2	24
Erik	Anderson	2	26
Ron	Schroeder	2	29

March

Judy	Linger	3	1
Arden	Olson	3	1
Melissa	Olsen	3	6
Deborah	Canty	3	8
Pat	Egan	3	19
Rex	Van Veldhuisen	3	20
Eva	Lesniak	3	22
Ethan	Rocchietti	3	24
Lindsay	Wygłendowski	3	24
June	Filipski	3	28
Mary	Scott	3	29

TRANSITIONS

Entered into Hospice Care: Fr. Walton Zelle, old friend of CHS and mentor of Fr. Phil.

Sandy Burton, husband of Barbara and father of Judi Gaines, in Ohio

Eternal Rest Grant to her, O Lord: Martha Gatewood, sister of Eleanor Tessier, on January 13th

Finlandia (Music by Jean Sibelius; Translation from the Finnish by Lloyd Stone)

This is my song
 Oh gods of all the nations
 A song of peace for lands so far away
 This is my home, a country where my heart is
 Here grew my hopes and dreams for all mankind
 But other hearts in other lands are beating
 With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine
 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean
 And sunlight shines on clover leaf and pine
 But other lands have sunlight too and clover
 And skies are everywhere as blue as mine
 Oh hear my prayer, o gods of all the nations
 A song of peace for their lands and for mine

Roberta Maas-Wester included this beautiful hymn in the Celebration of Eternal Life for her husband, Peter H. Wester, held at Holy Spirit on December 21, 2024. Thank you, Roberta!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 2 Scout Sunday (see page 3)
- 3 Worship Committee Meeting, 11:30am
Book Club Discussion (The Book of Lost Names) after the 10:00am service
- 8 Acolyte Festival at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton. See website for details on how to register.
- 11 Sangha Meditation; 6:30pm in the Sanctuary
Theology on Tap (Zoom only; twice per month)
- 20 Vestry Meeting
- 22 "Winter Thaw" Potluck & Open-Mic Hobby Share; 4:30 pm at the church (watch your emails and bulletin for more information, or check the website)
- 24 Sangha Meditation; 6:30pm in the Sanctuary
- 28 Theology on Tap (Zoom only; twice per month)

MARCH

- 4 Shrove Tuesday
- 5 Ash Wednesday
- 9 **Daylight Savings Time begins ("spring forward")**
- 11 Theology on Tap (Zoom only; twice per month)
- 20 Vestry Meeting
- 25 Theology on Tap (Zoom only; twice per month)

RECURRING MEETINGS

- Mondays Knit/Crochet and Chat: **On hiatus until April**
- First Mondays Caregiver Support Group [Zoom]
- Tuesdays 7:00am, Bible Study at The Spinning Wheel Diner
- Wednesdays Fr. Andrew's office hours, 11:00am-3:00pm
- Third Thursday Vestry; 7:00-9:00pm [check website for special Zoom link].
- Sundays 8:00 & 10:00am, Virtual or in-person services
[Eucharist can be delivered at home if requested]
9:30 & 11:15am, Choir Rehearsal, St. Francis Room



Who's Who at Holy Spirit [Area Code 908 unless otherwise noted]

VESTRY		
Senior Warden	Diane Hrozencik	dhrozenc@outlook.com
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	Alex vanVeldhuisen	alexv1969@gmail.com

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