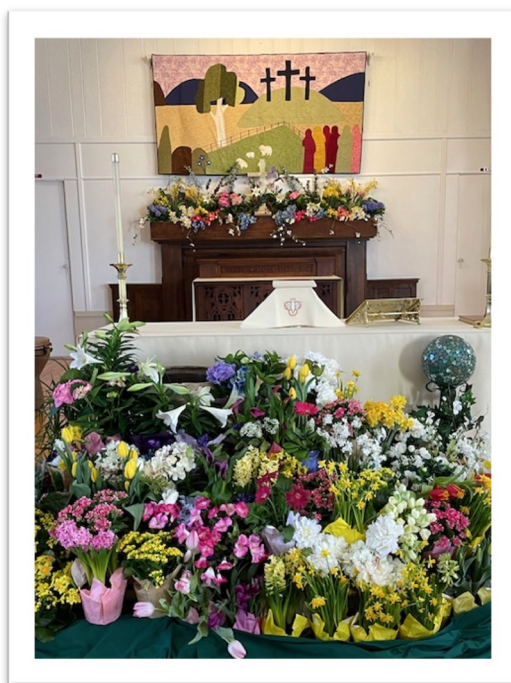




Annual Report 2024

Annual Meeting February 2, 2025



**Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
3 Pleasant St.**

Sutton, MA 01590

508-865-3103

holyspiritwma@gmail.com

www.holyspiritepiscopal.org

The Mission of the Church

(from The Book of Common Prayer, p. 855)

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. This mission is carried out through the ministry of all its members.

The Mission and Vision of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

MISSION: The Purpose of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts is to carry on Christ's work of transformation and reconciliation. We work and pray together to develop healthy, mission focused Christians and congregations who live the fullness of the Baptismal Covenant wherever God places us.

VISION: We are becoming ever more recognizable as the Body of Christ. We are learning and growing together as a community of miraculous expectation, utterly dependent on God, fully gifted by the Holy Spirit, joyously living Christ's Great Commandment and Great Commission in Western Massachusetts and the World.

Holy Spirit's Vision Statement

Created December 11, 2016

To connect people with God by sharing the Good News

The three primary ways we will do this are through:

- ◆ Welcoming people to and into our community
- ◆ Reaching out to tend those in need
- ◆ Worshipping frequently and in a variety of ways

**Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
Sutton, Massachusetts
Annual Report 2024**

Bishop of Western Massachusetts
The Right Reverend Dr. Douglas J. Fisher

Rector

The Reverend Julie Carson

The Staff

Amanda Leighton, Secretary
Lynn Ljunggren, Music Director
Gabe Connolly, Sexton

The Officers and Vestry of Holy Spirit

Sandy Piscitelli, Warden
MaryAlice Worden, Warden
Robert Perkins, Treasurer
Lisa Stejskal, Clerk
Rebecca Takis-Smith Holly Dolan Tim Woodcock
Logan Rice Michelle Gagan Alice Ploysungwan

Statistics Report
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
2022-2024

	2022	2023	2024
Baptisms	5	7	3 Ariya Burkle Luan Ward Siobhan Johnson
Confirmation & Reception	6	7	0
Burials	5	3	2 Robert Reil Verna Kosiba
Marriages	0	0	0
Average Sunday attendance (in person)	51	52	56
Easter Principal Service attendance (in person)	66	113	121
Christmas Eve Principal Service attendance (in person)	87	98	98

Stewardship Information Holy Spirit 2022–2025

Range of pledge	2022	2023	2024	2025
\$ 10,000-14,999	1	1	2	2
7,500-9,999	1	0	1	0
5,000-7,499	2	3	5	8
2,500-4,999	7	9	9	9
1,500-2,499	8	9	13	12
1,000-1,499	6	8	11	12
500-999	3	4	3	8
250-499	3	4	3	1
100-249	0	0	0	0
\$1-99	0	0	0	0
Total pledges	\$89,300	\$95,264	\$128,428	\$141,400
# of pledge cards	33	38	47	52
Average pledge	\$2706	\$2507	\$2,733	\$2,719.23

As of January 20, 2025

Minutes for Holy Spirit Episcopal Church Annual Meeting February 4, 2024

Sutton, MA 10:00 a.m.

Present: There were 58 parishioners in attendance.

Opening: At 10:15 a.m., during the time for the sermon, Pastor Julie called the annual meeting to order.

Adoption of Minutes of 2023 Annual meeting: Jim Stejskal moved to accept the amended minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting; Holly Dolan seconded. They were unanimously adopted. Amendment to minutes found on page 7:

3-year term vestry ending 2024: Deb Fiore and ~~Holly Dolan~~ Phil St. John

3-year term vestry ending in 2025: ~~Phil St. John~~ Holly Dolan and Ray Connolly

Rector's Report: Pastor Julie encouraged everyone to read her report. She shared St. Brigid stories with a theme of giving to others and challenged the congregation to ponder what history will say about HSEC. We would be remembered for increasing our stewardship, attendance, ministries, growing food for our neighbors, programming for children and adults and having inviting worship. She challenged the community to ponder what work is ahead of us. Her vision/prayer is that future HSEC parishioners will see that we had a history of being fully welcoming of the LGBTQIA+ community, acknowledging the sin of racism, and increasing volunteerism. The future will see that that we threw excellent parties, cared for creation, and continued our work with outreach.

Wardens' Report: MaryAlice Worden pointed out that her written report contains all the highlights of the past year at HSEC. She reviewed that the Profile and Search committees brought forward 3 Rector candidates. The process culminated with us calling Julie Carson to be our Rector. She reported that beginning February, 2024, a new tenant for the Rectory will begin occupancy. The Wardens were pleased to report that our lift has been repaired. Plumbing and heating issues which have been addressed. In the future, we will need to discuss the state of the boiler system. She encouraged parishioners to join a committee or share their time/talent for the good of the church.

Following the Peace the meeting continued with the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report: Bob reviewed 2023 statement, looking at the budget and expenses. He pointed out raising over \$4500 from Chain of Lights. On the Expense side, Bob pointed out that salaries are the bulk of that; for Julie, Lynn, Amanda Layton (secretary), and Gabe Connolly (Sextant). Another big expense is the common Local Share, \$22,133 and the \$50,000 4-year loan taken out to renovate the church. In January 2023, he reported that we had a \$15,000 surplus of capital funding which the Vestry voted to apply to the loan, saving over \$1,960 in interest and reducing the term to 33 months. This will result in the loan being fully paid in May 2025. Charlie DeVane made a motion to accept the 2023 Treasurers report which was seconded by Logan Rice. It was unanimously adopted.

The 2024 budget was shared which the Vestry had previously adopted. Bob pointed out that offerings have increased which is a sign of a healthy church. The Rectory rent will now be included in our 2024 income. He pointed out that our Local Share has decreased, and our property insurance has increased. He indicated that we would need to look at other options for property insurance to see if we could find a better rate.

Holly Dolan made a motion to accept the reports of the rector, wardens, and treasurer as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Stejskal. The motion passed unanimously.

Following communion, the meeting continued with the final business items.

Gratitude to off-going Vestry members: Pastor Julie extended sincere thanks to the three off-going Vestry members: Phil St. John, Deb Fiore, and Ray Connolly. Each was recognized for his/her service and presented with a gift.

Presentation of Slate of Candidates for Elected Positions 2024: Pastor Julie then presented the following slate of candidates.

Officers (Annually Renewable)

Jr. Warden Sandy Piscitelli (5th year)

Sr. Warden MaryAlice Worden (3rd year)

Treasurer Robert Perkins (7th year)

Clerk Lisa Stejskal (2nd year)

3 year Vestry term ending in 2025

Holly Dolan Logan Rice (completing an uncompleted term)

3 year Vestry term ending 2026

Michelle Gagan Alice Ploysungwan

3 year Vestry term ending in 2027

Tim Woodcock Rebecca Taki-Smith

Two Delegates to Diocesan Convention (one year term)

Phil St. John Julie St. John

Two Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention (one year term)

Pat Ainsley-Baker *vacant*

Election of new vestry and delegates: Holly Dolan made a motion to accept the slate of candidates as presented. The motion was seconded by Charlie DeVane. The motion was passed unanimously.

Pastor Julie encouraged others to consider serving in the future.

Questions and Answers: There were no questions from the congregation. Pastor Julie encouraged all to speak to any vestry member if there are concerns.

Installation of the new Vestry and Delegates: Pastor Julie then called forward and commissioned the new delegates and vestry members.

Adjournment: Jim Stejskal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julie St. John seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Stejskal
Clerk of Vestry

The Rector's Report 2024

Here are some highlights of the year, sorted roughly by liturgical season.

Christmas & Epiphany

January and February 2024 allowed me the opportunity to learn more about the Sutton community by attending colleague meetings through the Sutton Millbury Interfaith community, the Grafton Interfaith Clergy Association, and the diocesan Worcester corridor clericus. I continued to bring my therapy dog Glory to community organizations including the Sutton Senior Center, the Sutton Public Library, CareOne in Millbury, and the Southborough Public Library. We make regular visits there as well as other places in Worcester and Metro West. I continued to meet weekly with the Wardens to give and receive support in this ministry together. Thanks to Brian Yacino and his kitchen crew, we enjoyed the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, including the liturgical act of saying goodbye to "Alleluia" for Lent. Our Ash Wednesday services were both in-person, and we enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day party during coffee hour on March 17. Singing, stories, and jokes of varying quality were enjoyed.

The Tuesday morning Bible Study was attracting 10-12 people each week, and it continues to be a community of reflection and study, and a lot of laughter.

Lent & Easter

I continued to accompany members of the Pastoral Care team in their visits to homebound parishioners who regularly receive home communion. It was a great opportunity for me to get to know the visitors, and to meet parishioners who I normally do not encounter on Sunday mornings. I now include visits to those homebound parishioners who remain in my usual schedule.

The Lenten season was enhanced by a Wednesday evening book group, which was well attended and enjoyed. The need and desire for adult formation is quite active in this congregation, and I receive a lot of joy preparing and facilitating these opportunities.

Holy Week worship was well attended on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, as were services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Maundy Thursday included an Agape meal, which doubled the number of attendees from 2023. On Good Friday we offered one service instead of two, which also increased the attendance.

Easter Season & Pentecost Sunday

During the Easter season, which was early in 2024, we made plans for our Good News Garden and decided how to distribute our weekly harvest. We blessed our Garden, and the rest of our property, with a Rogation Sunday blessing outside. A varied crop of vegetables was tended by a team of parishioners and managed by Jim Stejskal.

In March, I was appointed Dean of the newly formed Worcester and Blackstone Valley Deanery, which encompasses the southern half of the Worcester corridor. I enjoy getting to know the clergy and congregations in this deanery, and the opportunity to support the Bishop and ministries of our diocese.

The vestry enjoyed a day retreat, led by Dave Seifert, to plan some goals for the year and to agree upon how we will work as a new vestry with a new rector. It was exciting and refreshing to set some intentions while enjoying a meal and prayer together.

The Season of Pentecost & Advent

In the month of June our Summer Potluck and Book Group began meeting on Wednesday evenings. This was a chance for fellowship, prayer, and learning, all accompanied by a shared meal. We also planned for two outdoor worship service in July and August, which were well attended and enjoyed. Many thanks for those who had to do actual heavy-lifting to allow these services to happen!

Following our excellent Open House Picnic and Ministry Fair, our fall program year began. Tuesday morning Bible Study began in September. Also, 8 children in our congregation became participants in our Sunday School in a Bag pilot program, with partner parishes in the deanery. As Bishop Fisher announced his retirement, with an election for a new bishop to occur in November, 2025, I was appointed as a chaplain to the search and transition committees.

During Advent I offered daily Morning Prayer, livestreamed on Monday-Friday, using several forms of Morning Prayer, devotions and scripture.

I thank God for how happy I am here with you at Holy Spirit. As I prepare to celebrate 25 years of full-time ministry, I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us for this year, and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Julie A. Carson, Rector

Worship Leaders 2024

Eucharistic Ministers*

Debbie Achilles
Bill Johnston Pauline Johnston
Pat Ainsley-Baker Marialyce Worden
Logan Rice Alice Ploysungwan
Holly Dolan Rebecca Takis-Smith
Alex Woodcock

Eucharistic Visitors*

Pauline Johnston Jean Bruce-Wiegersma
Pat Ainsley-Baker Verna Kosiba
Alice Ploysungwan Cyndi Davis
Patty Kelly-Bedard

Lay Preacher*

Ray Connolly

Altar Guild

Marialyce Worden Deb Fiore
Becky Augustus Marsha Hudson

Tech Team

Phil St. John Dan Fiore
Bob Perkins Thomason Carson
Tim Woodcock

Ushers

Bill Johnston Pauline Johnston
Sandy Piscitelli Bob Perkins
Deb Fiore Pat Ainsley Baker
Elizabeth Klisiewicz Steve Klisiewicz
Marialyce Worden Verna Kosiba

Worship Leaders*

Verna Kosiba Holly Dolan
Pauline Johnston Bill Johnston

Readers

Bob Perkins Jim Stejskal
Brian Yacino Deb Fiore
Ray Connolly Elizabeth Klisiewicz
Logan Rice Holly Dolan
Verna Kosiba Marialyce Worden
Thomason Carson

Counters

Sandy Piscitelli Marialyce Worden
Alice Ploysungwan Michelle Gagan
Deb Fiore Lisa Stejskal
Bob Perkins Holly Dolan
Rebecca Takis-Smith Logan Rice
Tim Woodcock

* = licensed ministry

The Wardens Report 2024

Another busy year at Holy Spirit is in the books – and 2024 did not disappoint! The year started off with a well-attended and joy filled epiphany potluck supper, confirming how much we love breaking bread together - and if there is food involved, count us all in!

Your vestry held an all-day offsite meeting at the Grafton Community Barn in early March 2024, facilitated by Dave Seifert. We got to know each other better, each member was assigned as a ministry liaison, and 2024 goals / areas of focus for the coming year were agreed. We urge you to prayerfully consider joining a ministry team to support our parish community. Speak to anyone who has prepared a report for this annual meeting!

We are a healthy and vibrant parish! Fellowship among our community remains strong – throughout 2024, in general attendance at services was high (requiring an increase the number of printed bulletins available on Sundays), and coffee hour, including several “deluxe” coffee hours, remains popular. We have been blessed to welcome several new members during the year. The planned Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was cancelled because of snow, but we had a lot of fun at the return of the St. Patrick’s Day dinner in March, at a Woo-Sox game in August, and at the parish picnic in September. In line with our desire to worship “in a variety of ways”, we again held two well-attended summer outdoor services in the back of the church (in the shade of the building). With the assistance of parishioners and the Altar Guild, the sanctuary worship space was transformed during the year in accordance with the liturgical seasons. Thanks to all who helped with the decorating and those who made the generous donations that covered the cost of Easter and Christmas flowers. Throughout the year, many partook in Christian formation opportunities provided by Pastor Julie, including Bible Study, devotional hikes, book group, and Advent morning prayer.

Throughout the year there were the usual repairs, maintenance and inspections that took place within the church building. A few major repairs bare mention. It was discovered that the main water shut off into the building was inoperable; its repair required coordination with the town water department and the plumbers; after several stops and starts it was finally replaced in February. At the same time, the boilers were on their last legs, resulting in several Sunday mornings where we were greeted with water spilling out of the boiler room flooding the bathrooms and parish hall. Despite numerous attempts at repairs, the boilers finally gave up the ghost and vestry voted to replace them. Thankfully, there was adequate money in the repair fund to cover the cost and the new, more efficient system should serve us well for years to come. Early in 2024 we were also able to finally locate a local service person willing to come evaluate the lift, which had become inoperable in late 2023. Despite learning that the equipment was no longer manufactured in the USA and that repair could be either expensive or not possible, luckily an inexpensive fix was made. Hopefully if we continue to adhere to simple instructions that reduce the wear and tear on key parts, the lift will continue to serve us for some time. Lastly, in August 2024, a new dishwasher was installed, after no repair parts were available for the burnt-out heating element in the 30+ year old existing machine. Money for the new machine was also taken from the repair fund, and the Community Breakfast team was especially grateful for a working sanitizing dishwasher.

After completion of major repairs in what was an empty rectory in 2023, as of February 1, 2024, new tenants have settled in to the home. It's wonderful to see the lights on and family activity in the yard, with the added bonus of 11 months of rent being paid, a big plus for our budget. We did have to replace the kitchen stove and upgraded the smoke detectors, but all in all there were no major issues during 2024 and the lease has been renewed for another year.

We would like to thank the many individuals that have volunteered their time over the past year with the many tasks that needed to be handled, from repairs, prepping for pot-luck lunches, gardening, cleaning, decorating, and more. Our church family is blessed to have so many wonderfully, kind and helpful individuals who keep Holy Spirit moving forward every day!

MaryAlice Worden and Sandy Piscitelli

The Music Director's Report 2024

Senior Choir Report

Another successful year is in the books! Looking back on the year I was excited to note all the different music the choir presented between anthems, solos, duets, and instrumentals. This year, we sang 20 anthems, had 5 different soloists, several flute/guitar and flute/piano duets, and even had musicians in addition to the choir share their talents on drums, trumpet and euphonium! The dedication and joy our musicians bring with them to our rehearsals and services are vital to the quality of music we enjoy on a weekly basis. Just recently, I asked who would like to sing a solo part in a piece we are working on and three hands immediately popped up! Very exciting!

Our music is chosen to illuminate the week's Scripture readings, and the choir is vital in supporting the congregation's voice in song. Having said that, we are blessed with a congregation that SINGS! As I sit on the piano and organ benches each Sunday, I hear your singing, and it makes me glad! This year, we had the opportunity to take a couple of field trips! In October, we went to see singer Chris Tomlin in Connecticut in December, we visited Ethel Johnson for some Christmas Caroling.

There is a wonderful spirit and energy that fills this church and the people in it. We believe that the music ministry here at Holy Spirit is critical to the life of our worship service and these observations help to make sure we are headed, and stay, in the right direction!

Please take some time and reflect on joining us. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7PM-8:30PM. And remember, all voices are welcome to share the word of God, even if you only want to share once in a while!!

Lynn Ljunggren
Music Director



The Treasurer's Report 2024

If you look back to the annual report of 2023, you will see that we had an actual operating deficit of \$48,556.80 for that year. In 2024, we anticipated a deficit of \$23,509.00, less than half the deficit of the year before. The vestry voted to cover most of that deficit by withdrawing \$23,000.00 from the Support Fund we have invested with the Trustees of the Diocese. In addition, we took a quarterly withdrawal from the Holy Spirit Fund, which is also invested with the Trustees, as we have in previous years. We still ended up with an actual deficit of \$2,688.84 for 2024 due to some minor overage expenses. We had two major capital expenses this year when we replaced both boilers. That money came from our Repair Fund invested with the Trustees that was set up specifically for those types of capital expenses. However, offerings were very strong this year and there was a lot of energy in the congregation during our 2025 pledge campaign. The money that you give to Holy Spirit is the fuel that drives our church to be a beacon of hope to the communities around us. Thank you for your faithful giving! Not only financial, but also the talent that people bring to the church. Increasingly we are seeing folks getting involved in different ministries. There is a lot of life here at Holy Spirit!

Looking ahead to 2025, we see a smaller deficit. This is because giving is up substantially, we have rented the rectory, and we continue to take a quarterly withdrawal from the Holy Spirit fund. I am very excited to see what 2025 brings to Holy Spirit! Our energy is incredible, and people notice it when they attend. We have much to be thankful for and I am very grateful to all of you! We don't talk a lot about money but what you give is important to having church the way we do now. It is important for the work we do outside our walls as well.

Again, thank you for being faithful givers of your treasure, but also of your time and your talent! God bless you all!

Bob Perkins

Treasurer



Budget 2024 and 2025

Revenue

Accounts	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Budget 2025
Total Offerings	\$ 136,933.57	\$ 141,028.00	\$ 149,520.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 207.86	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Easter Offering	\$ 1,000.67	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Pastor Discretionary Offering	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ -
Memorial Fund Offering	\$ 1,038.40	\$ -	\$ -
Coffe Hour Donations	\$ 117.75	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Church Outing	\$ 406.00	\$ -	\$ -
Christian Formation Income	\$ 275.00	\$ -	\$ -
Rectory Rent	\$ 30,800.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 33,600.00
Building Use	\$ 80.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Endowment Fund Interest	\$ 33,667.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Easter Flower Donation	\$ 604.66	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Christmas Flower Donation	\$ 488.92	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Mission Outreach	\$ 458.30	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Worcester Fellowship Offering	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ -
Community Breakfast	\$ 820.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 900.00
Fundraising General	\$ 5,515.33	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,500.00
Miscellaneous Income (Recover Deacon Expenses)	\$ 54.50	\$ -	\$ -
Endowment Draw for Operations	\$ 23,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Endowment Draw for Capital	\$ 26,773.00	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer from Memorial Account to Operations	\$ 5,300.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenues	\$ 267,825.96	\$ 210,028.00	\$ 226,370.00

Budget 2024 and 2025

Expenses

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 138,043.00	\$ 138,343.00	\$ 142,465.00
Insurance	\$ 5,744.00	\$ 5,669.00	\$ 6,630.00
Deacon Stipend (Paid in Error)	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
Deacon Pension (Paid in Error)	\$ 4.50	\$ -	\$ -
Office Expenses	\$ 7,888.37	\$ 7,449.00	\$ 8,899.00
Utilities	\$ 14,997.30	\$ 14,190.00	\$ 14,050.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 15,916.90	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 16,600.00
Rectory Expenses	\$ 6,898.83	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,250.00
Local Share	\$ 20,638.00	\$ 20,638.00	\$ 18,195.00
Tithely Fee	\$ 1,534.69	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,500.00
Diocesan Convention	\$ 70.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,500.00
EMWM Loan Expense	\$ 13,547.40	\$ 13,548.00	\$ 4,512.00
Communication	\$ 1,673.35	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 153.14	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Music	\$ 754.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 800.00
Worship Support Expense	\$ 7,157.69	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Christian Formation Expense	\$ 185.85	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Church Outing Expense	\$ 468.15	\$ -	\$ -
Easter Offering Expense	\$ 2,673.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Christmas Offering Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Connect Africa	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Worcester Fellowship Expense	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Mission Outreach	\$ 45.67	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Pastoral Care Expense	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Chain of Lights Expense	\$ 502.23	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Easter Flower Expense	\$ 595.58	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Christmas Flower Expense	\$ 112.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Bank Fees	\$ 45.00	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expense	\$ 26,755.75	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer from Operating to Memorial	\$ 1,038.40	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer from Operating to Discretionary	\$ 762.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 270,514.80	\$ 233,537.00	\$ 228,451.00
Net Total	\$ (2,688.84)	\$ (23,509.00)	\$ (2,081.00)

Sunday School in a Bag Grant

	Actual 2024
Revenues	
Sunday School in a Bag	\$7,500.00
Total Revenues	\$7,500.00
Expenses	
Sunday School in a Bag Expenses	\$1,731.91
Total Expenses	\$1,731.91
Net Total	\$5,768.09

Balance Sheet

As of 12/31/2024

Assets

Operating Account	\$ 20,044.88
Memorial Fund	\$ 26,608.54
Repairs Account-Vested	\$ 28,012.95
Support Account-Vested	\$ 94,753.15
Holy Spirit Account-Vested	\$ 706,960.80
Rectory Security Deposit	\$ 2,801.26
Rector's Discretionary Account	\$ 3,433.51
Rectory Last Month Rent	\$ 2,801.27
Total Assets	\$ 885,416.36

Liabilities

Security Deposit Account	\$ 2,801.26
EMWM Loan	\$ 5,588.75
Rectory Last Month Rent	\$ 2,801.27
Total Liabilities	\$ 11,191.28

Sunday School in a Bag (Grant)	\$ 5,768.09
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Total Net Assets	\$ 874,225.08
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Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 885,416.36
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COMMITTEE REPORTS 2024

MISSION AND OUTREACH

We continue to find new opportunities to come together and engage in mission and outreach this year. In June, we delivered many “birthday bags” filled with cake mixes, frosting, and decorations to the Sutton food pantry. During the spring and summer we created and cared for a Good News Garden. Parishioners took turns weeding, watering, and harvesting. We harvested 85 pounds of food! The food pantries in Sutton and Millbury were thrilled to receive fresh produce during the summer and into fall.

In October, we honored the work of St. Francis with a drive to support pets. The total donations included:

135 cans of cat food, 40 lb. Of dry dog Chow, 13 lb of dry cat Chow, 6 cans of dog food, 6 bags of dog treats, 2 dog leashes, 1 dog collar, 1 bath wash for dogs, 1 dog toy, and one container of doggie Doo pickup bags.

In November, we reached out to local food pantries and asked for a list of the most requested items. Again, we had a great outpouring from parishioners to support Thanksgiving and Christmas needs. “Attic Treasures” during Chain of Lights is another initiative where we offer a range of gift and household items priced at \$1.00. Folks were lined up for the “fill a bag for \$5.00” at the end of the day! Leftovers from the Chain of Lights kitchen were donated to Thursday Cafe.

Each month we continue to make lunches for Worcester Fellowship (WF). We have several families engaged in making the 50+ lunches that we donate. Our lunch bags are known to be the fullest and much appreciated by the WF community. Annually, we commit to sending \$1000 to CONNECT Africa and monthly we send \$100 to Worcester Fellowship. We also partner with local community agencies and Diocesan projects doing great work when we donate both our Easter and Christmas offerings.

We are now working off of a yearly calendar where we identify the outreach opportunity and the project lead for each month. A big THANK YOU for all you have done to support these efforts that make a difference to so many!

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Dolan

PASTORAL CARE

Members: Verna Kosiba, Patty Kelly-Bedard, Jean Bruce-Wiegersma, Pat Ainsley-Baker, Pauline Johnston, Alice Ploysungwan, Cyndi Davis, Pastor Julie

As a new vestry liaison to this amazing group, I first want to highlight and pray for Verna Kosiba who will always be with us in spirit; her contribution to this ministry, her smile, and kind words never forgotten. The Holy Spirit community and her beloved team were shocked and saddened by her passing. Her ideas, leadership and healing heart touched so many on this committee and in our church.

Pastoral Care is a ministry that encompasses any activity that renders aid and comfort to the parishioners of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. By that definition the entire congregation of Holy Spirit is doing pastoral care through caring for one another. Any act of providing support and kindness to someone in need including: Phone calls, emails, prayers, note cards, meals, rides, listening, providing a hug or a smile. The beauty of this ministry is that everyone is always watching out for each other and filling in whenever the need arises. The team has provided eucharistic visits to homebound parishioners (or those at rehab/ nursing homes), delivered flowers at Christmas and Easter, given small thoughtful gifts to those going through a tough time, as well as baptismal/graduation gift bags. The knitting group has created many warm and beautiful prayer shawls, baby blankets and winter hats for community members including a local recovery program. Meals have been provided to those who could use a warm meal as a token of support and spiritual nourishment organized through a Meal Train.

New this year:

- Information board downstairs highlighting the Pastoral care ministry and services (table of knitted items, note cards and prayer cards)
- Healing prayer with laying of hands, second Sunday of each month
- Part one "Final Affairs" workshop was held for preparing and discussing wishes for your funeral with a lunch hosted by pastoral care. This was very well attended with over 20 parishioners.

NEEDLEWORK MINISTRY

The Needlework Group has been meeting monthly for the past year, completing a variety of projects. These include baptismal blankets, prayer shawls, pocket prayer shawls, baby blankets, and winter hats. A table with these items has been set up downstairs which makes these items available to everyone. Additionally over 30 winter hats were also donated to a local rehabilitation facility, items for the Chain of Lights as well several baby blankets given to Pernet family services in Worcester. Currently, the group is making crocheted octopuses to be donated to neonatal facilities.

Many thanks to the dedicated crafters who contributed to these meaningful projects: Verna Kosiba, Alice Polysungwan, Pauline Johnston, Patty Kelly-Bedard, Marsha Hudson, Cyndi Davis, Donna Donovan, and our cheerleader, Jean Bruce.

God's work is in hand!

Pat Ainsley-Baker

CHAIN OF LIGHTS

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Chain of Lights is Sutton's kickoff event of the holiday season that occurs on the first Saturday of December each year. Various participants throughout town display their sites during the day for 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This event is Holy Spirit's signature fundraising event with proceeds funding some of our mission outreach. The day is also an opportunity for visitors to see and feel the welcoming hospitality of our church.

Again this year, we had the leadership of the following people: Lynn Ljunggren-Cookie Walk, Holly

Dolan and MaryAlice-Attic Treasures, Brian Yacino-Music, Cyndi Davis and Lisa Stejskal-Raffle Baskets, Donna Donovan-Crafts, Logan Rice-Kitchen, Alice Ploysungwan-Popcorn and, new this year, Kate Johnson-Children's Craft. The congregation once again came through by baking, making delightful dishes for the kitchen, making crafts and raffle baskets, giving to the Attic Treasures, and singing during the day! Thank you to each and every person who helped out, you are truly a gift to Holy Spirit!

The day of the event didn't seem as busy as last year, but our parking lot was pretty full most of the day. Visitors seemed to enjoy their experience at the church and we saw a lot of smiling faces as they left. Our gift was being able to show the light of Christ to those who came and hope that they return as fellow parishioners one day. Again, thank you to all who participated in one way or another!

Cookie Walk	\$1,478.50
Attic Treasures	\$372.00
Crafts	\$1,215.00
Raffle	\$1,656.00
Kitchen	\$667.00
Popcorn	\$44.00
Children's Crafts	\$27.00
Music Donations	\$80.00
Total	\$5,539.50
Expenses	\$526.40
Net Total	\$5,013.10

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Perkins, Chair of Committee

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Initially supported by a Congregational Development Grant from the diocese, except for a hiatus during the Covid months, our Community Breakfast has been continuously serving members of the surrounding community since May of 2012. It continues to serve as a social event rather than just a meal, as most of the group arrives before we start serving at 8:00, and they stay seated and talking well beyond 9:00 when we stop serving. In addition, many of the patrons have visited our church for functions such as Chain of Lights, and the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

We served this year with 5 regular volunteers Donna Donovan, Alice Ploysungwan, Lee Williams, Maryalyce Worden, and Brian Yacino cooking and serving. In total, we served 280 meals over 11 months (we did not offer breakfast in July, due to the July 4th holiday).

Although attended mostly by local retired non-parishioners, the meal is open to everyone, and this year we've had several of our Holy Spirit members attending. A \$5 donation per person is suggested. Financially, the ministry is self-sustaining, this year contributing \$819 to HSEC.

Submitted by Brian Yacino



WELCOMING/NEWCOMER COMMITTEE

In 2024, we formalized our welcome process by establishing procedures to help us welcome new people to Holy Spirit. First, we created Welcome Gift Bags, which we leave in the Narthex to be given to people upon their first visit to HSEC by the ushers, Pastor Julie, or a member of the Welcome Committee. Included in the gift bags are the HSEC Brochure which describes our church, a magnet with a picture of the church and the day/time for worship services, Pastor Julie's business card/contact information, Welcome Registration card, and some candy - always nice to have something sweet!

Second, we established a plan to host deluxe coffee hour every quarter to show our appreciation for new members of the church. New members are identified by having completed and returned the Welcome Registration card. Our first event was held 1/5/2025 to officially welcome 10 new members, and will continue each quarter (if we have new folks). We also gave a small gift to each new member: a coffee mug with the official HSEC Logo.

Respectfully,
Michelle Gagan





Breakfast, Baby Jesus, and Baptisms



Connecting people with God by Sharing the Good News

Slate of Candidates for Elected Positions 2025

Officers (Annually renewable)

Jr. Warden Alice Ploysungwan (1st year)

Sr. Warden MaryAlice Worden (4th year)

Treasurer Tim Woodcock (1st year)

Clerk Lisa Stejskal (3rd year)

3 year Vestry term ending in 2026

Michelle Gagan Lee Williams

3 year Vestry term ending in 2027

Logan Rice Rebecca Takis-Smith

3 year Vestry term ending in 2028

Nancy Falcone Jean Bruce Wieggersma

Two Delegates to Diocesan Convention (one year term)

Cyndi Davis MaryAlice Worden

Two Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention (one year term)

Bob Perkins Lisa Stejskal

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee;

Bob Perkins

Julie St. John

Holly Dolan

MaryAlice Worden

Sandy Piscitelli

Rev. Julie Carson