

2025 Annual Report

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

From the Rector

The overturning of the lake every fall and spring in my hometown always meant that there was often more sediment in the water from the tap. This overturning happened when the ice thawed and the cold water on top sank to the bottom. Nutrients were remixed throughout the lake and it was a process that kept the lake healthy.

This past year felt like our lake of Holy Comforter overturned, due to so many staff changes from retirements. We owe a debt of gratitude to wardens Kathy Paulini and Kim Brailey, Treasurer Peggy Miller, and Finance Committee member Art Kron for their guidance during this period of transition. Their efforts, alongside our hiring team, ensured the successful recruitment of gifted new clergy and staff to meet our evolving organizational needs.

It is a joy to serve alongside our outstanding new staff members: The Rev. Melissa Fauci (Associate Rector), David Grove (Executive Director of Parish Operations), Keith Joseph (Director of Children's and Young Families Ministries), and Ryan Huber (Director of Preschool and Kindergarten). Each brings unique gifts to our community. I am also deeply grateful for the continued excellence of our staff—The Rev. Jackie Thomson, Dr. David Boulware-Kelley, Liz Bleich, Denis McMullan, Elys McLean, and Victor Hernandez—as well as the amazing lay leaders making an impact. Special thanks to Lolly Mixer, the Refugee Ministry, Peter Eareckson (HVAC), Brian Land, Kerry Gilpin and Maggie Bain (Creation Care), Linda Lee Malone (Hogwarts VBS), Norma Williamson (Adult Formation), Kip Brailey (Confirmation), our Outreach and FACETS teams, Sunday School teachers, Andrew Eastman (Head Verger), and our Vestry, worship leaders, choir, ushers, and ECW/Pennywise leadership. Your collective dedication strengthens us all.

We are thankful that Peggy Miller's transition to volunteer treasurer allows her to maintain her excellent oversight of our finances. Her long-term knowledge is a vital asset to Holy Comforter and a true gift to our congregation.

Our campus has achieved significant milestones recently, including the completion of the Solar Array, the 3rd-floor renovation, a new music classroom, and the retirement of our Ministry Center debt. Having fulfilled the Master's Plan launched 35 years ago, we are now positioned to focus on strengthening our community and planning for the next chapter.

This year, our focus moves from our buildings to our communal life. We are seeking a 'Rule of Life'—a clear, simple statement that expresses our identity and our commitment to making disciples who love like Christ. I invite your prayers and participation in this new adventure. May God's Spirit guide us toward a vibrant future together.



The Rev. Jon Strand, Rector

CELEBRATIONS
and
INSPIRATIONS

Acolytes, Lay Liturgists, & Vergers

Celebrations...

- **Youth:** 17 Acolytes, 3 Eucharistic Ministers, 10 Lay Readers.
- **Adults:** 16 Eucharistic Ministers, 27 Lay Readers, 6 Vergers.
- **133 Services Supported.**

Aspirations...

We are looking for Acolytes for the Sunday 10:00 a.m. service and Eucharistic Ministers for Saturdays. Our volunteer numbers have declined, and we would love your help! No experience is needed, training is provided, and schedules are flexible.

Adult Faith Formation

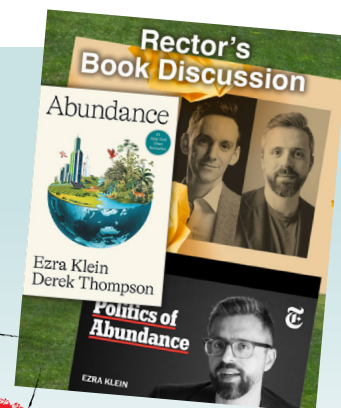
CELEBRATIONS!

Adult Faith Formation seeks to foster spiritual growth by providing opportunities to learn more about us and our relationship with God, this community, and the world.

- In 2025, topics of **Sunday Forums** included the relevance of ancient prophets to today's world, the complexities of creating the New Testament, and the politics of Abundance. An online class on Bonhoeffer was an opportunity to apply his teachings to current situations. Lent focused on Forgiveness, and Advent on a biblical approach to Hope. Participants in **Weekly Bible Study** groups (in-person and online) deepened their understanding of scripture and related writings.
- Newcomers and longtime members learned more about the Episcopal church and about our community through **Episcopal 101** classes and forums like **Mission Sunday**.
- Nature programs focused on our relationship to God's world, including a Forum on "SING" (Spirituality in Nature Groups), another on a deeper look at nature of our campus, and a multi-week online discussion on "Love God, Love God's World." The annual parish retreat also focused on God in nature.
- Awareness of ourselves as whole persons (body, mind, and spirit) was deepened through an online Enneagram series, and by Forums and training in Listening Hearts and Gestalt Soul Care. Body Wisdom was addressed in yoga classes.
- Attendance at Forums has been steady and growing, with more adults remaining at church after the Sunday 10:00 a.m. service to participate.

ASPIRATIONS

The Adult Faith Formation committee aims to foster spiritual growth and community through diverse programming. We are expanding our traditional offerings to include new focuses like parenting, special needs, and the arts. If you're interested in leading or organizing, we'd love for you to join us.



Episcopal
101

A class for newcomers
and old-timers alike!



Altar Guild

Celebrations...

- Increased total membership to 18 with 4 new members.
- Acquired "white" vestments in memory of Jim Mixer.
- Purchased new Christmas decorations.
- Prepared worship spaces for 150 services.
- Supported First Communion and Confirm not Conform and other Sunday School programs.

Aspirations...

- We would be pleased to welcome at least 6 new members for training in 2026.
- We would like to update our Lenten vestments.
- We would like to expand our participation in Christian formation to Adult Faith Formation.

Audio Visual (AV)

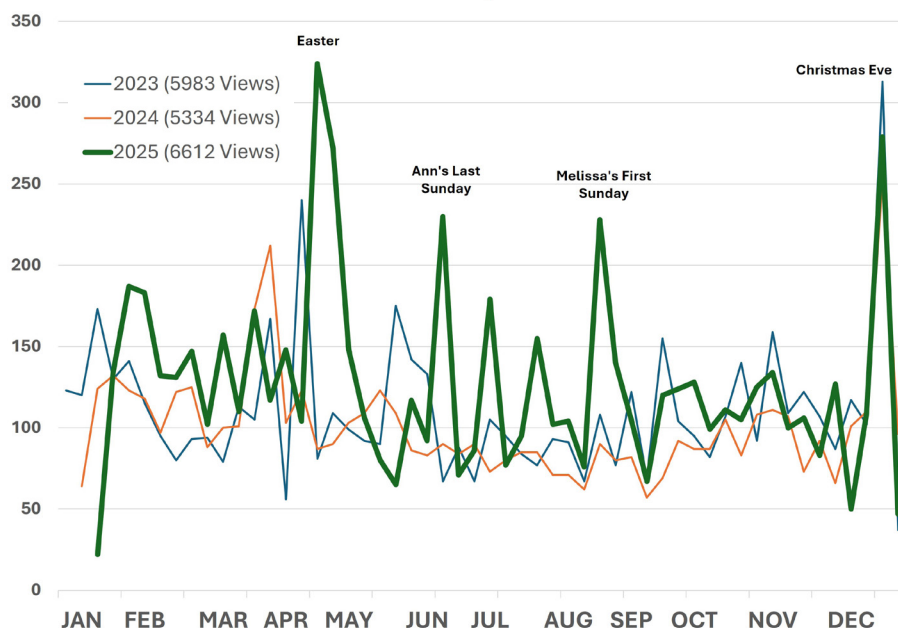
CELEBRATIONS!

We continue to see steady viewership of our Sunday services on our YouTube channel.

ASPIRATIONS

Having a robust team of volunteers is the goal. If you're ready to bring your passion for technology to our worship community, we'd love to have you on our AV Team!

Worship Services YouTube Views



Blood Drive

Celebrations...

- Collected 142 units of blood in 2025, enough to save over 400 lives.
- Collected 739 units of blood to date, enough to save 2,200 lives.
- Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who warmly welcome donors and make the blood drives possible!

Aspirations...

- Fill 100% of slots across all 5 blood drives in 2026.
- Increase Power Red donations to collect 2 units per donor.
- Raise average collection from 34 to 40 units per drive.

Buildings and Grounds

CELEBRATIONS!

Facilities & Structural Improvements

- **Third-Floor Renovation:** Successfully completed all phases.
- **Rodman House & Office Steps:** Repaired Rodman House steps and handrails; completed architectural and engineering designs for the Church Office steps replacement.
- **Labyrinth Restoration:** Rebuilt drainage systems and resurfaced the outer path.
- **Beulah Road Monument:** Resurfaced and updated the monument sign with an enhanced design.
- **Signage Upgrades:** Installed new outdoor signage and parking lot traffic-calming signs (“We Love Our Children, Please Drive Carefully”).

Sustainability & Energy Efficiency

- **Award Recognition:** Received the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions “Faith Community Champion” award for net-zero efforts, including canopy and rooftop solar projects.
- **Window Upgrades:** Installed energy-efficient windows in vintage HCEP&K classrooms, featuring emergency egress functionality.
- **Solar Median:** Resodded solar median to enhance aesthetics and soil health.
- **Heat Pump Conversion:** Completed two heat pump conversions and restored existing unit functionality.

HVAC & Infrastructure

- **System Automation:** Replaced the outdated HVAC building automation system to optimize climate control.
- **Boiler & Maintenance:** Performed significant repairs on the central boiler and secured comprehensive maintenance contracts for all HVAC equipment.
- **Paving & Sealing:** Resealed, resurfaced, and restriped all parking lots.
- **Wi-Fi Optimization:** Implemented network upgrades and repairs to extend Wi-Fi coverage across the campus.

Safety & HCEP&K Enhancements

- **Emergency Access:** Repaired HCEP&K window wells and installed new escape ladders and handrails for student safety.

ASPIRATIONS

- Ongoing Stewardship of the Campus to include:
 - Finalize and implement the exterior door security plan.
 - Develop a long-term HVAC equipment replacement plan.
 - Replace the Community Hall kitchen stove.
 - Repair or replace Holy Comforter’s 15-year old boiler.
- Install a stormwater mitigation feature (bioretention) and ADA-compliant path from the parking lot to the Meditation Circle inside the Seven Acre Woods.
- Consecrate St. Brigid’s outdoor Chapel.



Children's and Young Families Ministries

CELEBRATIONS!

• Community:

- **High-Engagement Events:** Families participated in a wide range of gatherings, including Epiphany door chalking, Easter Egg Hunt, Chili Cookoff & Game Night, VBS Reunion, Pumpkin Potluck, Advent Wreath Making, Gingerbread Extravaganza, and the Living Creche.
- **Participation Highlights:** Over 1,200 eggs were collected for the Easter hunt, and the Hogwarts-themed VBS Reunion drew 70 participants.
- **Ongoing Fellowship:** 2nd Saturday gatherings averaged 45–50 participants, reflecting consistent intergenerational engagement.



• Instruction:

- **Strong and Consistent Enrollment:** Sunday School enrollment remained steady at 64 children (Pre-K–6th grade).
- **Newly Renovated Learning Spaces:** Renovations created a custom environment for Catechesis and Godly Play classes.
- **Faith Put Into Practice:** Faith in Action 5th and 6th graders continued to connect learning with service; for example, on St. Francis Day, students created posters supporting local pet adoption.
- **Parent Engagement and Resources:** Two well-attended parent forums were offered—"The Sunday Struggle: How Busy Families Make Time for Faith" and "Priest on a Hot Seat: Answering the Tough Questions." We also expanded the parent library and provided take-home prayers.



• Service:

- **Regular Outreach:** Faith in Action supported monthly outreach through meal preparation, including sandwich making and utensil packing.
- **Community Partnerships:** Children and families collected, packed, and distributed over 70 Power Packs for Food for Others and supported the hypothermia prevention shelter.
- **Faith in Action Leadership:** Students raised more than \$500 for Five Talents at its annual Market Day.



• Worship:

- **Active Participation:** Children continued to serve as ushers, greeters, and musicians at 2nd Saturday worship, and Faith in Action planned and led a special family Eucharist.
- **Seasonal Worship Offerings:** Our interactive Children's Ash Wednesday service grew to 40 participants, and 2 family-friendly Messy Church services were offered.



ASPIRATIONS

- **Grow Volunteer Participation:** Expand involvement in Sunday School, 2nd Saturday hospitality, and community events.
- **Improve Event Planning:** Develop more reliable RSVP systems to support strong attendance and better stewardship.
- **Streamline Processes:** Apply Six Sigma-inspired practices to reduce duplication, simplify registrations, and improve outcomes.
- **Strengthen Communication:** Deliver information more clearly and efficiently to reach intended audiences faster.
- **Stay Rooted in Faith:** Ensure all improvements support deeper engagement and reflect Christ's teachings.



Coffee Hour

Celebrations...

- Thanks to 65 individuals (friends, couples, and families) and 19 ministries, every Sunday (except one snow cancellation) was hosted, fostering fellowship throughout the parish.
- Based on feedback, we improved with better service, comfortable seating, conversation starters, and the return of popular donut holes.

Aspirations...

- As we look toward 2026, we invite new individuals (friends, couples, and families) and new ministries to join the team and help share the joy of coffee hour fellowship. We also hope our 2025 volunteers will continue their wonderful service by covering at least one Sunday a year!

Creation Care

CELEBRATIONS!

- Continued the systemic removal of invasive plants, replacing them with native flora. Progress is becoming clearly visible.
- Facilitated educational opportunities, including an Adult Forum titled "Reading the Big Book," and an online series called "Love God, Love God's World."
- Distributed native plants to the community through multiple giveaway events.
- Supervised several Eagle Scout projects, providing hands-on education on environmental conservation and sustainable land management.
- Installed a newly-designed Welcome Garden and planted many flowers along the edge of the driveway and parking lot.
- Provided the programming for the Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont, as well as Meditations for a Lenten Quiet Morning.

ASPIRATIONS

Our new outdoor St. Brigid's Chapel will be consecrated on April 19. We invite everyone to enjoy this forest habitat for worship and reflection. To ensure all parishioners can access the site, we are building an ADA-compliant path for those with mobility challenges. We are also exploring a bioretention project to reduce runoff and protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



St. Brigid's Chapel



Welcome Garden

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Celebrations...

- **New "Wide Angle" Program:** A one-year fast track covering all four years of core EfM topics.
- **50th Anniversary Digital Launch:** New videos, podcasts, and study materials on Pathwright.
- **Updated Core Texts:** Fresh curriculum released for Classic and Wide Angle tracks.
- **Active Holy Comforter Groups:** One Zoom and one hybrid group—for all students.

Aspirations...

- Launch "EfM Reflections" (a new 6-week small group course) at Holy Comforter.
- Recruit new participants for Classic and Wide Angle programs, despite high graduation rates.
- Recruit new mentors/co-mentors for all programs (Classic, Wide Angle, Reflections).

Endowment Board

CELEBRATIONS!

- The overall principal of the endowment grew by 19% through a combination of new donations and asset appreciation.
- The Carol Stock Book Fund gave \$200 awards to 14 graduating seniors to be used for books as they went away to college.
- The General Fund provided \$10,750, at Vestry's request, to overhaul the church and school websites.
- The Endowment Board worked with the managers at the Episcopal Church Foundation, who manages the Endowment, to update our accounts to Individually Managed Accounts, which gives the Board and the fund managers more flexibility in how the money is invested, which should be a further boost to financial performance.

ASPIRATIONS

- We aim to maintain the Endowment's growth through 2026, though we remain mindful of potential economic headwinds. As always, the Board will take a long-term view in its decision making, in an effort to make the best financial decisions for the fund's future.
- We are excited to leverage the funds that the Endowment generates for the purposes that each fund was set up for, and have designated distributable amounts for each fund, which are available at the Vestry's request to be spent in 2026. This will include our Carol Stock awards for graduating seniors, funding for the education and professional development of non-clergy staff, support for the Columbarium and, from the General Fund, amounts that can be used for non-operating church expenses.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

CELEBRATIONS!

- ECW's Pennywise Thrift Shop raised over \$132,600 to support Holy Comforter (\$45,000 annual pledge; \$29,873 for programs; and \$57,800 in charity donations).
- Participated in a very unique field trip to the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C. exploring replicas of religious sites of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.
- Had a transformative spring retreat led by guest speaker, Mary Kay Brown.
- Completed a major digitization project of all ECW historical records to ensure long-term preservation and accessibility.
- Honored the dedication of past and present volunteers at our annual appreciation luncheon.
- Enhanced the weekly Coffee Hour by upgrading coffee pots with acquiring high-capacity coffee urns.
- Hosted the annual Christmas Giving Table where generous parishioners provided warm coats, clothing, personal items, toys, and gift cards to 6 designated charities; sponsored our bi-annual United Thank Offering drives; sent "Holy Comfort" boxes to young adults away at college, in new jobs, or serving in the military; provided prayer books for new confirmands and silver crosses for senior acolytes; helped support refugees; knitted prayer shawls; and so much more.
- Continued the vital ministry of coordinating funeral receptions to support grieving families.
- Continued our financial commitment to Holy Comforter and to local, state, and international charities.

ASPIRATIONS

The ECW is dedicated to the thoughtful stewardship of funds generated by the selfless volunteers at Pennywise Thrift Shop. These proceeds vitalize our church's mission and provide critical support to community charities assisting those in need. Looking ahead, we aim to grow our volunteer base and strengthen leadership within the ECW Board.



FACETS

Celebrations...

- Dedicated volunteers cook, pack, and deliver hot meals to community members in need.
- Youth help prepare meals as well as manage collection and distribution of winter clothing.
- Faith in Action supplements meals with PB&J sandwiches, cookies, and homemade desserts.
- We've welcomed several new volunteers!

Aspirations...

Although we are extremely grateful for our faithful FACETS volunteers who return each month and have been lucky to welcome several new volunteers recently, we would love to have additional volunteers join us. Sign up when you are available, no long-term commitment (or cooking skills) required!

Faith, Family, and Future Capital Campaign

The Growing Our Faith, Family, Future Capital Campaign was launched in 2022, with the goal to raise \$1,250,000 in honor of our 125th Anniversary. The Campaign focused on four pillars: debt retirement, solarize the campus, relocate and enhance the music room, and stewardship of the campus.

CELEBRATIONS!

- **Goal Surpassed:** Multi-year campaign exceeded the \$1.25M target.
- **Debt Retired:** Repaid \$800K in 2023 for the two-level Ministry Center.
- **Green Energy:** Solarized the campus in 2024, generating 100%+ of electrical needs and securing IRA funding.
- **Renovations:** Completed 3rd-floor and music room upgrades in 2025.
- **Stewardship:** Established long-term capital repair and replacement funds.
- **Mission Complete:** Capital Campaign officially concluded in 2025.

ASPIRATIONS

Our goal is to be strong stewards of our buildings, focusing on operations that support our mission and ministries through dedicated service and servanthood.



Holy Comforter Preschool & Kindergarten

CELEBRATIONS!

- Educated approximately 92 children.
- Implemented new enrichment programs for students (Spanish, Songbird Choir, Stay and Play).
- Hired a new director, Ryan Huber, who has over 12 years of experience in early childhood education.
- Revamped the school website and are exploring exciting ways to engage our community using social media.
- Installed new security doors, including an interior door separating the school from the rest of the church building for added safety.

ASPIRATIONS

We are actively exploring new ways to expand our offerings in Spanish, Social-Emotional Learning, and Christian Education. We are excited to cultivate school-to-church connections and provide a safe, engaging environment where children grow into a lifelong learners.



Hypothermia Relief Shelter

CELEBRATIONS!

March 2–9, 2025, Holy Comforter operated a hypothermia shelter providing warmth, safety, and dignity to individuals experiencing homelessness. The shelter offered refuge, meals, rest, and care through the efforts of 87 volunteers who contributed 325 hours of service. This initiative is part of a regional response to homelessness, supported by donated resources including facility space (\$3,000), meals (\$3,633), and essential supplies (\$496).

ASPIRATIONS

As we reflect on the impact of the 2025 shelter, we are already preparing for the future. The next hypothermia shelter week is scheduled for March 1–8, 2026, and we look forward to continuing this vital ministry with the support of our volunteers, donors, and community partners. Together, we are turning compassion into action.

Music Ministry

CELEBRATIONS!

- **New Choir Room:** We're loving the spacious, bright, and acoustically rich new space that truly inspires our singers.
- **Memorial Gift:** Received a generous anonymous donation in memory of member Marlene Threlfall to fully furnish the choir room.
- **Expanded Evensong:** Increased our Evensong offerings this year with a growing repertoire.

ASPIRATIONS

- **Move & Organize:** Finalizing move-in to the new choir room and restructuring the library.
- **New Organ:** Installing a new chapel organ from Ireland, expected around Easter.
- **UK Tour:** Initiating planning for the next UK choir residency.

First Rehearsal in the new Choir Room



Newcomers and Meaningful Engagement

CELEBRATIONS!

- **Newcomer Brunch:** Hosted 33 new 2025 attendees (a 20% increase) in collaboration with Greeters.
- **Outreach & Engagement:** Sent 40+ personalized emails and initiated a 3-month follow-up process for continued connection.
- **Hospitality & Integration:** Staffed receiving lines with welcome bags and integrated the Meaningful Engagement survey to promote ministry involvement.

ASPIRATIONS

- **Newcomers Class:** Collaborate with clergy/Adult Faith Formation to launch a program for exploring the parish and faith.
- **Informal Gatherings:** Reinstate "Coffee with the Rector" or similar events to welcome new members.
- **Engagement Update:** Revise the "Meaningful Engagement" ministry list and survey the parish in 2026.



Newcomer Brunch Guests

Pastoral Care

Celebrations...

- Funeral Support: Exceptional, well-organized, with AV support.
- Pastoral Care: Thriving Prayer Shawl & Eucharistic Visitor ministries.
- Worship: Regular, accurate updates to congregational prayer lists.

Aspirations...

- Establish a Pastoral Care Steering Committee to oversee our various pastoral care ministries.
- Form and train a pastoral care team to companion with those with various needs (grief, loss, illness, life transitions).
- Restart Bread and Jam ministry to enhance outreach and community connection.

Pennywise Thrift Shop

CELEBRATIONS!

For 65 years, Pennywise Thrift Shop has served the community by providing affordable, high-quality clothing and home goods. Sales directly fund charitable causes while fostering lasting connections among parishioners, customers, and neighbors.

- Powered by over 120 dedicated volunteers operating six days a week, Pennywise thrives on the heart and energy of a team with experience ranging from months to 50 years.



Types of Workers	Weekly Workers	Weekly Hours Worked	Yearly Estimated Hours Worked
Front Desk	32	76	3,952
Backroom	34	112	3,808
Consignment	7	27	1,404
Board Members	17	20	1,040
Other	11	20	1,040

Volunteers provide between 9,540 and 11,244 hours annually to operate Pennywise!

- Funds generated by Pennywise, after deducting operating expenses, are provided to the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) who distribute them to Holy Comforter as well as local, national, and international charities. In the last six months Pennywise has:
 - Generated a record \$202,531 in sales, providing \$116,703 net revenue to the ECW for charity.
 - Upgraded technology with new computers and software.
 - Achieved 40+ transactions per day.
 - Diverted waste from landfills by selling/donating clothing and household items.
 - Enhanced operations through volunteer training (70+ attendees) and manual updates.
 - Increased inventory capacity with new shelving.



Pennywise Board

ASPIRATIONS

Our ministry creates community by providing affordable goods and promoting sustainability. We invite you to join us in putting faith into action. *Love your neighbor as yourself. –Matthew 22:39*



Pennywise Luncheon

Pilgrimage

CELEBRATIONS!

- In March 2025, 15 women traveled to the island of Iona in Scotland for an unforgettable 10-day pilgrimage centered on St. Brigid and the feminine Divine.
- We have had two reunions since. In May, Christa van der Veer hosted a reunion brunch at her house and in November, Amy Heard-Davison organized a half-day retreat at her family home near Leesburg. The retreat centered on the role of nature in exploring the feminine Divine.
- **Camino:** We have 30 confirmed pilgrims who will be walking the final 100 km of the Camino Frances, an ancient pilgrim route starting in Sarria and ending in Santiago de Compostela Spain from May 19 to May 30, 2026. Our pilgrim band will walk through natural landscapes, mountains and villages, ending in the sacred city of Santiago de Compostela. We will embark together as a temporary committed Christian community, and we will complete the pilgrimage as a new people.
- **South Africa:** We have 12 confirmed participants and are looking forward to our first in-person gathering on February 19.



ASPIRATIONS

- We hope to create a meaningful pilgrimage to South Africa combining the wonders of the natural world, a deep dive into the history of South Africa, and how reconciliation, hope, and spiritual persistence reveal God in our lives.
- Pilgrimages are intentional encounters with God that render the pilgrim transformed by the encounter. Our pilgrimage ministry strives to support our parish mission and share the joy, sense of belonging, and spiritual growth that pilgrimages bring to those involved. We'd love to hear from you about what upcoming pilgrimages might look like at Holy Comforter.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Celebrations...

Part of the ECW (Episcopal Church Women), members create shawls, lap robes, and pocket or mini-shawls that our priests bless to comfort parishioners or friends. We also make hats and scarves for FACETS and winter hypothermia shelter guests, and chemo and preemie caps.

Aspirations...

We welcome anyone who likes to knit or crochet, either at a monthly gathering or at home. We have patterns and yarn. Feel free to bring your own projects and join us for tea, cookies, and conversation. If you or someone you know would like a shawl, lap robe, or a cap, please let us know.

Refugee Ministry

CELEBRATIONS!

- The refugee ministry is made up of a group of over 20 people from different walks of life and backgrounds who have one common goal: to welcome the stranger as Jesus calls us to do. Members work in teams that develop special relationships with each family. Members are the friends these families can rely upon and turn to when they feel lost in their new country and deeply long to be with their families back home.
- In 2025, we supported six families, including 11 children, as they adapted to life in Northern Virginia. These families are young and have been dropped into a foreign culture. They need friendship, guidance, and love and that is what the members strive to give them. In 2025, with the help of parishioners, we supported the families financially; tutored the adults in English and the children in math and reading; accompanied them to medical, dental, and legal appointments; assisted them with school and sports registrations; attended teacher conferences; helped with job hunts; drove them to work and school;



Craft Event

took the women shopping; and helped one family move to a new apartment. One of our members has taught one of the women to quilt, and consequently, the family has had three craft events at Holy Comforter in 2025, where they sold their beautiful, handcrafted items.

- We also have fun with the families. Members have opened their homes to these families, inviting them to dinners, movie nights and holiday celebrations. We have taken them to children's activities at Holy Comforter, the Natural History Museum, National Zoo, Water Mine Swimmin' Hole, Cox's Fall Festival, library programs, local parks, and ice skating. Each outing was a new adventure that brought smiles to their faces.
- We have had several celebrations this year. In February 2025, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of the arrival of one of our families with a festive lunch in the Community Hall. In October, one team gave a surprise birthday party to a family member on her 30th birthday. In November 2025, two of our families who arrived in 2021 provided a beautiful "thanksgiving" dinner for our members as a way of showing their appreciation for the support and friendship they have received since their arrival. The love in the room was palpable.

ASPIRATIONS

- Support families through every stage of U.S. resettlement.
- Connect deeply with families' cultures, hopes, and long-term visions.
- Scale the ministry by recruiting and mobilizing new members.

Senior Saints

CELEBRATIONS!

- **Lifelong Connection:** We celebrate another year of fellowship, honoring the wisdom and contributions our members bring to Holy Comforter, regardless of age.
- **Growing Together:** Our monthly gatherings keep us inspired and engaged as we continue to learn and grow as a group.
- **Caring for Neighbors:** Through our Medical Equipment Lending Closet, we offer support and mobility to those navigating recovery or physical challenges.
- **Serving with Joy:** We are grateful to continue our legacy of service, supporting the church through our many volunteer ministries.

ASPIRATIONS

With the support of our clergy and community, we are dedicated to serving our active senior members. We strive to grow our membership, build lasting friendships, and participate fully in the mission of Holy Comforter.



Spirituality and Well-Being

Celebrations...

- Name update for the parish "theme" or lens.
- Reenergized our Steering Committee.
- Simple website updates
- Restarted Restorative Yoga.

Aspirations...

- Website resource expansion and revitalization.
- More offerings of Gestalt Soul Care, Restorative Yoga, Health and Wellness Coaching, Spiritual Direction, and other Spirituality and Wellbeing resources.

Ushers

Celebrations...

- During the past year, along with our Greeters, our Ushers have created a welcoming, orderly, and reverent atmosphere. Through greeting parishioners, guiding visitors, collecting the offering, and assisting with the Eucharist, our ushers have ensured that the services run smoothly and all attending feel Christ's love.

Aspirations...

- Create four ushering teams consisting of 10 to 12 members per team, with each team responsible for 3 months per year, and each team member serving 2 Sundays per month in the months for which their team is responsible. (A commitment of 6 to 7 services a year.)
- Increase the participation of our youth in the Ushering Ministry.
- Invite parents with their children to participate in bringing the elements to the altar for the Eucharist.

VBS (Vacation Bible School)

CELEBRATIONS!

- **A Milestone Year:** Our 14th Hogwarts VBS was a massive success, bringing together 200 kids and a powerhouse team of 50 parents and dozens of teens!
- **From Students to Professors:** The “Hogwarts family” continues to grow! Three of our former students have returned as adult leaders to help plan, develop, and teach this year’s program.
- **Innovative Learning:** We’re keeping the magic fresh with brand-new classes and crafts—including a new Yoga session designed to help students find balance in body, mind, and spirit.

ASPIRATIONS

This year Hogwarts Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 22–June 26. Setup will occur June 15–June 21 with a special Diagon Alley VBS Preview after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, April 19. All are welcome to participate starting at age 5 through adults. Registration is now open. To learn more and/or to volunteer please visit the church website or contact Linda Lee Malone at vbs@holycorforter.com.



Youth Ministries

CELEBRATIONS!

- **Thriving Community:** 50+ youth (Grades 7-12) registered, with 10 serving as youth lectors.
- **Mission in Action:** 15 youth served in Puerto Rico, and strong engagement continues through Facets and Mt. Carmel Women’s Shelter.
- **Deepened Faith:** Launched a Sunday Afternoon Bible Study for 11th & 12th Grade boys.
- **Increased Connection:** Expanded our calendar with more events, building fellowship and community.

ASPIRATIONS

- **Cultivate Growth:** Foster deeper engagement by revitalizing attendance in Sunday Worship and Sunday School.
- **Inclusive Discipleship:** Transition the 11th and 12th Grade Bible Study into a co-ed environment to encourage diverse perspectives and peer fellowship.
- **Strategic Renewal:** Conduct a comprehensive review of our Vision Statement and ministry goals to ensure they remain relevant to our youth’s needs.

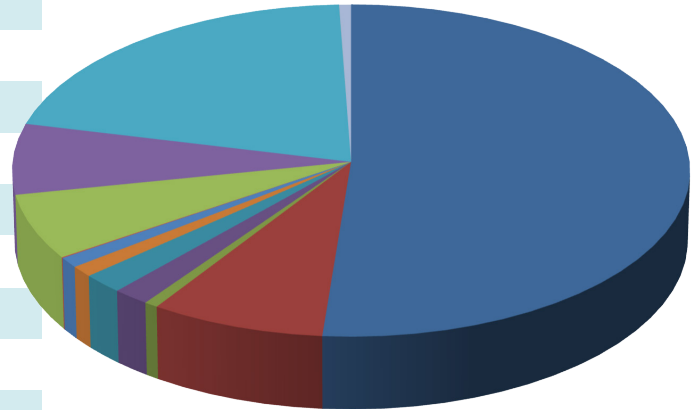


Resources and Sharing

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

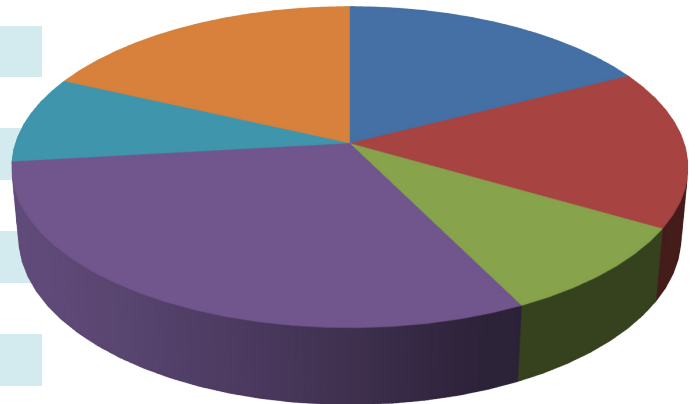
2025 Income

Pledges	51%	\$1,219,699
Loose Checks	8%	\$189,412
Loose Cash	1%	\$14,959
ECW Pledge	2%	\$40,000
Interest & Fees	2%	\$44,694
Preschool	1%	\$25,000
Rent	1%	\$23,586
Other Income	0%	\$1,654
Outreach Offerings	6%	\$149,703
Pennywise Thrift Shop	7%	\$163,839
Tuition	21%	\$491,555
Auction Proceeds	0%	\$55
Afternoon Adventures Program	1%	\$14,097
Total		\$2,378,253



2025 Expenses

Worship	17%	\$393,161
Formation	16%	\$359,195
Welcome & Pastoral Care	9%	\$209,151
Outreach	31%	\$688,176
Willing Generosity	9%	\$196,441
Our Church Home	18%	\$408,213
Total		\$2,254,337



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

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Open Circles - Church Office

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