

CHURCH OF THE



**HOLY
CROSS**

2019 Annual Report

Epiphany 2020



About Holy Cross

Holy Cross began with a vision for a new church in Crozet that would be rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, guided by practices and beliefs of historic Christian faith, and committed to the good of our neighbors.

In early 2017, with the support of the Church of the Incarnation in Harrisonburg and the Anglican Diocese of Christ our Hope, a small group of folks from the area began gathering in a living room for worship and a shared meal to pursue this vision of a new church.

We currently gather for worship at the Barn at Fidelis Farm and will be moving to an event venue at Pro Re Nata Brewery in Crozet in March of 2020.

Holy Cross continues to welcome a mix of families, empty-nesters, newly-marrieds, and singles of all ages and different backgrounds from Crozet and the surrounding area.

Holy Cross exists for the glory of God and the good of Neighbors. We dream of being an established parish church for Crozet, deeply rooted in our community while sharing in mission beyond our community.

As an Anglican church, we seek to gather people to Christ, form followers of Christ, and send out servants for Christ in Crozet and beyond.



2019 IN REVIEW

2019 was the second full year of Holy Cross' mission in Crozet. For half of the year, Holy Cross worshipped at 4:00 p.m. at Crozet Baptist Church. Realizing that time of the day was not ideal for a church in Crozet, we made the decision to move our services back to the Barn at Fidelis Farm in order to meet in the morning.

As soon as we moved back to the Barn, attendance increased and we were at capacity almost immediately. The Parish Advisory Team commissioned the "Space Force," led by Scott Remer, Mark House, Jan Harrison, and Randy Caldejon, to research all options for worship space in Crozet.

After an extensive search, a newly-constructed event space at Pro Re Nata Brewery emerged as the best opportunity. The space met our criteria: (1) location central to Crozet; (2) good childcare areas; (3) ability to meet in the mornings; (4) space big enough to allow for steady growth. Holy Cross will make the move to Pro Re Nata in the Spring of 2020.



Though we experienced some fatigue when we were meeting in the late afternoon, overall 2019 was a year in which the core of our church community was strengthened through serving together and hospitality. We had a number of people move out of the area but we also welcomed many new people into our fellowship.



In 2019, we hosted 2 foundations cohorts with 22 participants. Foundations is a 10 week course that covers the basics of Christian faith in the context of prayer and hospitality. Foundations is our core discipleship course and, for those who desire it, leads to confirmation. In the fall, we had our first round of Confirmations, with Bishop Steve Breedlove confirming 13 adults.

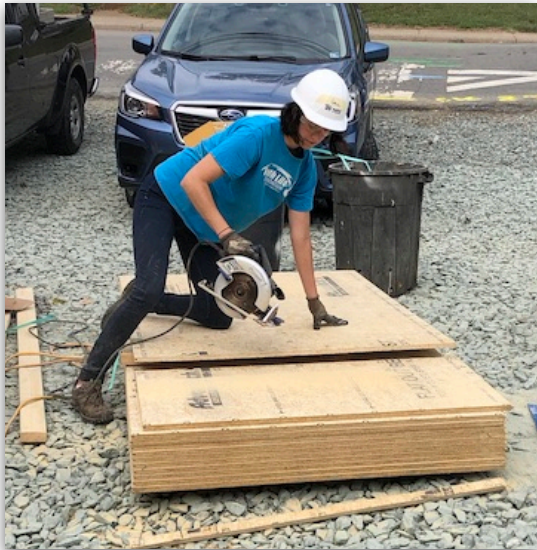
In 2019, we launched Triads, which are gatherings of 3-4 men or women who agree to meet for a period of time for the purposes of prayer, sharing life, and study. Many men and women have found these smaller gatherings fruitful spiritually and for deepening friendships.

In 2019, we continued to provide financial support for the Mission Center at the Diocese of Lango (Uganda). Additionally, we made preparations for our first church trip to Uganda in the Spring of 2020.

Chris Campanelli came on board as our Music Director and continues to grow our music ministry.



We sponsored and provided volunteers for service projects with Habitat for Humanity and International Neighbors.



Holy Cross also provided the volunteer core for the Crozet Family Literacy Program at Crozet Elementary School. This program works with ESL students and their families and is led by Holy Cross member and Crozet Elementary counselor Mary Heppner.

We completed a full week of Holy Week Services highlighted by our first Easter Vigil.

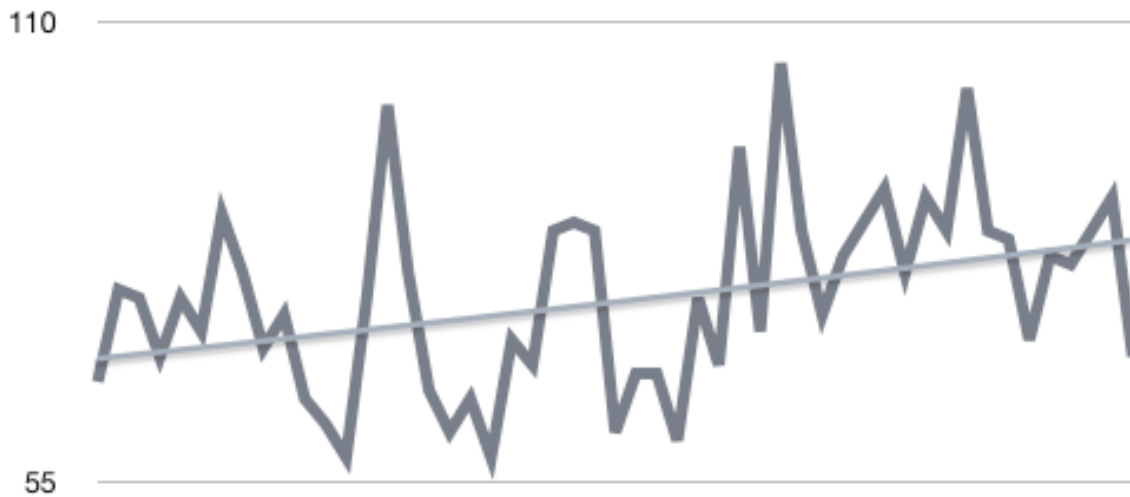
On Christmas Eve, we packed out the Barn (and the patio!) with a Holy Communion Candlelight Service with over 135 in attendance.

In 2019 we welcomed 17 new adult members and celebrated 3 baptisms.



2019 ATTENDANCE

2019 ASA: Avg 77 (Since Fall back at Barn: AVG 85)



2019 GIVING

	Actual	Budget
Outside Support/Grants	25,000.00	30,000.00
Diocesan Support	50,000.00	50,000.00
Tithes and Offerings	168,076.14	154,000.00
Total Donations	243,076.14	234,000.00



OUR MISSION IN 2020

Holy Cross will enter its fourth year as a mission in 2020. As an important step in our focus on planting deep roots in Crozet, we will move our worship service to a more public and accessible location at Pro Re Nata. Our desire is not simply to grow, but grow in ways that are healthy and sustainable for the glory of God and good of Crozet. To that end, we continue to operate with this mission:

Our mission to gather people to Christ, form followers of Christ, and send out servants for Christ in Crozet and beyond.

We like to point out how mission takes a liturgical shape. In our liturgy, God **gathers** us together in worship, **forms** us through practices centered on word, prayer, and sacrament, and **sends** us out into the world to do the work he has given us to do in our everyday lives. And just like the risen Lord Jesus is the focal point of Christian worship, so Christ is the center of our mission.

2020 will be an opportunity for Holy Cross to turn outward in mission to Crozet, to Charlottesville, and to the world.

- **Grow Roots in Crozet and Western Albemarle.** We envision a deeply-rooted parish church for Crozet and Western Albemarle. With our move to PRN we desire to welcome more people into gospel fellowship through hospitality and personal invitation.
- **Develop a Missional Presence in Charlottesville.** Holy Cross will work with sister churches, Church of the Incarnation in Harrisonburg and Church of the Resurrection in DC, as part of a diocesan effort to plant a church in Charlottesville. In 2020, we will seek to gather people to an initial vision for a new Anglican Church in Charlottesville, but in a way that doesn't detract from our mission in Crozet.
- **Cultivate Ugandan Partnership.** A team of 4 from Holy Cross will join 6 others from Church of the Lamb and Church of the Incarnation Richmond for an exploratory trip to Uganda in early March. The goal of this trip is to establish a relational connection with a sister parish. We believe being connected to the global church is important and life-giving to our work in Crozet.
- **Implement Small Group Ministry.** In the spring of 2020, we will launch a new season of Small Groups with a renewed emphasis on gathering together intentionally outside of Sundays. We sense a real need to develop friendships around the Gospel. We aim for our small group ministry to provide consistent opportunities for fellowship, friendship, prayer, encouragement, and study in God's word. We are adopting a semester model, in which groups run for 8 or 10 weeks and then break for a season before starting up again.
- **Nourish Children's and Family Ministry.** The Lord has blessed Holy Cross with an age-integrated community. We value welcoming our children into the full life of the liturgy and the church. We want to continue to welcome children in worship as much as possible while providing appropriate and focused contexts for their spiritual growth. So we will restart both children's chapel and a nursery for infants and toddlers when we move to PRN.



OUR PRAYERS & GOALS FOR 2020

- For a spirit of unity, hospitality, and maturity in our mission
- For conversions to Christ and baptisms
- For specific opportunities to serve Crozet
- For the addition of 8 new family units from Crozet/Western Albemarle
- For the development of a core team for a church plant in Charlottesville
- For serving relationships with the poor and marginalized in our area
- For the the launch and development of healthy small groups
- For the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and love of Christ through informal and planned hospitality events
- For the protection and spiritual growth of our children; the development of Children's Chapel and nursery
- For vibrant worship on Sundays and the faithful preaching of the Word
- For a long-term, permanent location for Holy Cross in Crozet
- For our emerging partnership with the Diocese of Lango in Uganda
- For our priest Blake and his family (wife, Mary Ann; children, Eleanor, Owen, and Mary Grace)
- For our curate Keith and his family (wife, Joanna; children, Emma, Gordon, Henry, Peter, Oliver)
- For our priest-in-residence Larry (wife, Beth) and his work in Uganda
- For Kate our Parish Administrator and Chris our Music Director
- For our Vestry: Sam Parks, Courtney Shindeldecker, Jan Harrison, Hunter Hollar



2020 BUDGET

Worship + Facilities	Space Rental, Communion Supplies, Music Ministry, Guest Clergy	28,320
Discipleship	Children's Ministry, Clergy Development + Travel, Small Group Materials	9,540
Community	Hospitality, Website, Welcome Materials	8,168
Outreach + Partnerships	Missional Grants (Local), External Partnerships, Diocesan Support, Church Planting	27,858
Office + Admin	Bookkeeping, Printed Materials, Office Supplies, Insurance	6,320
Salaries + Benefits	Full-time Vicar; stipend for Curate; part-time Parish Administrator; stipend for Music Director. Taxes + Health Insurance + 403b.	170,053
		250,258



GROWING WITH HOLY CROSS IN 2020

A Pastoral Letter from Fr. Blake

Dear Church,

As I pray and consider the new year, I would like to highlight three important ways in which I'm praying we continue to grow as a church.

1. Outward-faced. As we announced earlier in December, after an extensive search by our Space Force, we found a great space for Sunday worship at the new event space at Pro Re Nata in Crozet.

This venue will give us more space for our worship service, childcare areas, and a more public location in Crozet. We've been packed into the Barn—and it's been wonderful—but at PRN we will have more space to welcome new people into our church.

I love the hospitality and warmth of our church! Please join me in praying that hospitality multiplies so that we can welcome more people into a gospel fellowship in our church.

I'd like to ask each regular attender and member to pray for at least one person or family who may not already be connected with a church. As you pray for them, pray for an opportunity to invite them to church or a church-related event. My prayer is that in 2020 we become more outward-faced to Crozet (and beyond), extending the hospitality of the gospel to others around us.

Also in the upcoming year, a small team from Holy Cross will join two other churches in our diocese for a trip to Uganda to visit the Diocese of Lango in an effort to start a partnership with a sister church. Please pray for preparations for this trip and a flourishing relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Uganda.

2. Scripture-focused. Holy Scripture is our guide and final authority, the life-giving Word of God. We have a wonderful resource in the Daily Office Lectionary, which is an ordered way to read the Bible in a calendar year.

Would you consider making reading Scripture in the context of prayer a practice in this new calendar year? The Daily Office gives two readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, and it can be done in 15-20 minutes.

My hope for myself and our church is that we grow deeper in our love and submission to the Scriptures. I plan on providing regular summaries of the readings [here](#). Also, we've put together an easily to follow Prayer Booklet ([here](#)) with the Scripture readings.

3. Community-formed. How do I connect with Holy Cross outside of Sunday? That's a question I've been thinking about a lot, especially as we welcome new people into our community. Beginning the last week in January, we are launching a new slate of small groups that will meet for a 10 week term before taking a break.

I'd like for every member and attender to sign up for a group. ([Sign-up here](#)). Our goal is for these groups to provide a place of friendship and growth outside of Sunday.

In this coming year, please join me in seeking to live an outward-faced, Scripture-focused, and community-formed life in Christ.

Grace and peace,
Blake+

