

CHURCH OF THE



**HOLY
CROSS**

2022 Annual Report

Epiphany 2023



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 the historic Christian faith, and committed to the good of our neighbors.

In early 2017, with the support of 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.

Over the past six years, Holy Cross has welcomed a growing mix of families, empty-nesters, newly-marrieds, and singles of all ages and different backgrounds from Crozet and the surrounding area. We currently gather for worship at Pro Re Nata Brewery in Crozet and began meeting there in June of 2020.

We envision a growing and joyful parish community of all ages in Crozet that experiences a common life in the love of Christ. To that end, we seek to be an intergenerational parish that leads people to Christ through Word and Sacrament.

Holy Cross seeks to live the practices of hospitality in welcoming others, rootedness in our faith and place, formation through the word, liturgy, and sacraments, and service in sharing our time, talent, and treasures.

Church of the Holy Cross is an
intergenerational parish that leads people to Christ
through Word and Sacrament



2022 IN REVIEW

The Lord continued to pour out his abundant blessings on our parish in 2022! From the beginning of our mission in 2017, we prayed that we would be a church that plants churches. In 2022, that prayer was realized when the Rev. Claude Atcho joined us to lead our Charlottesville church plant along with the Rev. Fitz Green. Planting a church is always risky, but planting a church while still in such a formative stage felt even riskier. But the LORD provided resources, funding, and most importantly, people committed to this vision of planting in Charlottesville. Thanks be to God for this new mission! We look forward to being in close partnership with Church of the Resurrection, sharing worship at times throughout the year and serving our broader community together.

In 2022, we welcomed 18 new adult members and currently have 73 active adult members. We performed 14 baptisms in 2022 and our Bishop confirmed 18 adults and children during his visit in December. In preparation for planting Church of the Resurrection, we shepherded Fitz Green through the ordination process to the priesthood and Claude Atcho to the diaconate.



We made a big change in August, adjusting our Sunday Holy Communion service time to 9:00 a.m. to accommodate Pro Re Nata's need to open at 11 a.m. Though the earlier time was not our preference, the parish has responded remarkably well. The time change, however, did mean we were unable to offer any Sunday School classes in the fall. We hope to restart Christian Education for adults and children in 2023.



In the spring we hosted the Marinus Ensemble, led by our own Rachel Yonan, for a performance of Haydn's *Seven Last Words*. This event drew 200 people, most of those outside of our parish community but who appreciate high quality classical music. We started supporting Grace Grocery with volunteers and are part of the emerging Crozet Ecumenical Outreach.

We have continued to mature in our liturgical life together, deepening our experience of the liturgy. Our Music Director Chris Campanelli organized a music workshop in the Spring, which taught us the beauty and value of robust congregational singing.

Sallie Campanelli, our Children's Ministry Coordinator, helped us grow our volunteer core for children's chapel, provided liturgical resources for families throughout the year, and helped shape our Children's Chapel program.



Our Men's Ministry, led by Mark House, hosted monthly breakfast meetings with guest speakers, many from our own parish, and facilitated Bible studies meeting in person and on zoom.

Leslie Lepage stepped into the role of Women's Ministry Coordinator in the fall and began hosting monthly gatherings with plans for more opportunities for women to connect in 2023.

Our Small Groups, after being disrupted by COVID, regained traction this year, with groups meeting in Crozet, Earlysville, and North Garden.

In October, we hosted Bishop Alfred Olwa for our Mission Sunday, in which we heard a report from our partnership with the Diocese of Lango in Uganda. Fr. Lawrence made three trips to Uganda in 2023 in support of our partnership with Lango and the Center for Faith Family and Justice.



PREVIEW

If a major focus of 2022 was getting Church of the Resurrection planted in Charlottesville, in 2023 we aim further to get Holy Cross rooted in Crozet. When we think about being rooted, we can consider what it means to be rooted theologically. We desire to be a church firmly rooted in the Scriptures and the Great Tradition that has been passed down to us. Being rooted also takes a geographical dimension. Just as we want to have a sense of place in our experience and practice of the Faith, so we want to have a physical sense of place, rooted in physical place longterm in Western Albemarle county.

We long for a permanent space, a church building that fits our mission and vision. To that end, we are conducting a feasibility study for what it would take for us to purchase land and build a building. Depending on the outcome of this study, we are likely to conduct a capital campaign beginning sometime in the middle of 2023. This will be an opportunity and challenge for our parish—an opportunity to open ourselves up to the Lord’s leading in our ongoing space search and challenge to trust His leading and provision. Being deeply rooted does not come easy, but we believe it is worth our focused attention, efforts, generosity, and prayers. Whatever this process looks like for us, we hope it will be a spiritual inflection point for our parish’s spiritual growth and missional presence in our community.

In 2023 we also hope to further grow our small group ministry, with new small group offerings and even greater participation. We are also exploring ways to provide a “Sunday School” for children and adults, given our space limitations on Sunday morning. We see Christian catechesis for all ages as an important growth area for our church.

We anticipate more opportunities to serve the practical needs of our community this coming year. Holy Cross has joined several Crozet area churches in forming the Crozet Ecumenical Outreach, an organization committed to serving the needs of our community.

Our Sunday liturgy remains and will always be the heart of our parish life together. We hope to grow, not simply in number of attenders, but in our joyful experience of receiving the Word and the Eucharist every week. Chris has challenged us to a more harmonious and hearty singing. We are seeking to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness with joyful reverence.

Holy Cross has grown exclusively by relationships and “word of mouth.” Please continue to think about friends you may invite to “come and see.” Most people will at least come to church once if invited by a friend. You never know what the Spirit might be up to in someone’s life!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income

First and foremost, thank you for your faithful giving to our church this year! We met our Tithes and Offerings goal and then just passed it through generous year end giving.

Thank you for your part in helping us to meet our budget this year, and making us able as a body to do the many wonderful things covered throughout this report. Our 2022 General Fund total income is summarized in the table below.

| General Fund Income | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Actual | Budgeted | % of Budget |
| Grants | 35,000 | 35,000 | 100% |
| Tithes and Offerings | 254,837 | 248,000 | 103% |
| Total Income | 289,836.86 | 283,000 | 102% |

Expenses

On the whole, expenses were on track for 2022. We exceeded our budget by about \$3,000 – which is not so bad considering the sizable rent increase we experienced mid-year. Expenses for the year are summarized below.

| General Fund Expense | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Actual | Budgeted | % of Budget |
| Worship | 9,649 | 11,200 | 86% |
| Discipleship | 13,343 | 16,520 | 81% |
| Community | 8,748 | 9,068 | 96% |
| Outreach | 40,217 | 41,800 | 96% |
| Space + Admin | 47,179 | 37,184 | 127% |
| Salaries + Benefits | 166,539 | 166,539 | 100% |
| Total Expense | 285,675 | 282,311 | 101% |

Our main areas of under-spending were: hired musicians (Worship category, adjusted in next year's budget), and childcare expenses due to lack of space to offer a nursery (Discipleship category), and Bank Fees as our finances have grown.



Our outreach expenses, which account for 14% of our total spending for the year, included a tithe to the Diocese of Christ our Hope (which primarily funds church planting), support of our sister parishes in the Diocese of Lango, Uganda, and various local outreach events and programs in Crozet and the surrounding areas.

Our rent to worship at Pro Re Nata increased by a total of almost \$11,000 for the year, or 44% of our original budget. We are thankful that we were able to absorb this cost in 2022, and the Vestry continues to weigh options in order to provide a suitable worship space for Holy Cross in light of financial stewardship concerns. Thank you for praying with us in this matter!

Fund Balances

Our three main funds and their balances are given below.

| Fund | Balance |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| General Fund | 113,604 |
| Rector's Discretionary Fund | 6,009 |
| Building Fund | 47,270 |

Our General Fund is in a healthy position as we say goodbye to grant funding in 2023. The Rector's Discretionary Fund provides resources to cover local needs quickly as they arise, and it is exciting to see a balance in our Building Fund as we begin to explore options for a permanent worship space for our church.

Visit holycrosscrozet.org/give to see options for giving to any of these funds.

Looking Ahead

This year will present new challenges to us as we age out of grant funding and therefore aim higher with our local tithes and offerings. At the same time, we are well-positioned from a strong financial start over the last six years and a growing body to reach financial self-sufficiency in a very short while. We trust the Lord's leading and provision and look forward to this year together!



OUR PRAYERS 2023

- For a spirit of unity, hospitality, and maturity in our mission
- For conversions to Christ and baptisms
- For a long-term, permanent location for Holy Cross in Crozet; for land and the resources to build
- For the addition of 8 new family units from Crozet/Western Albemarle
- For our church plant in Charlottesville, Church of the Resurrection, Dcn. Claude and Fr. Fitz
- For serving relationships with the poor and marginalized in our area; for the Crozet Ecumenical Outreach and Grace Grocery
- 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 and youth
- For vibrant worship on Sundays and the faithful preaching of the Word
- For our Christian education and catechesis for all ages; for all small groups
- For our men's and women's ministries
- For our partnership with the Diocese of Lango in Uganda
- For continued generosity and faithful tithing
- For our priest Fr. Blake and his family (wife, Mary Ann; children, Eleanor, Owen, and Mary Grace)
- For our priests-in-residence Fr. Lawrence (wife, Beth) and his work in Uganda and Fr. Gerry (wife, Jean) and his work writing and teaching
- For Chris our Music Director, Sallie our Children's Ministry Coordinator, and Kate our Parish Administrator
- For our Vestry: Sam Parks (Senior Warden), Jan Harrison (Junior Warden), Courtney Shindeldecker (Treasurer), and Jim Heetderks (Member-at-Large)



