



Getting to Know God, Self, & Others

Voices from our Parish

The following are stories of faith and generosity worth considering as our parish family considers how we can support Church of the Holy Comforter with an annual pledge.

Giving yields much growth and happiness - Susan & Ed Hussey

We have been members of Holy Comforter since 2002.

Holy Comforter offers so many ministries that provide opportunities for all in our church community the opportunity to grow through learning, serving, or deepening their faith. Three of those ministries have had a profound effect on our family: VBS, the acolyte ministry and Our Daily Bread/Britepaths. Our children attended the Hogwarts VBS for several years and would come home energized with stories about what new things they did that day. Our daughter Grace has come back and been a counselor “prefect” for the last three years. VBS took one of their favorite stories and showed them how you can have fun while finding a deeper meaning about your faith at the same time. Hogwarts also provides a great opportunity to share that experience with others. That experience with exploring more about our faith has been further enhanced as our children have become acolytes. Participating in the service has taught them the meaning behind our actions in church. Both of our children truly enjoy being a part of the service and happily look forward to the next time they get to serve.

Our entire family has been involved with Britepaths, from helping put food packages together to delivering food to families. It is the most incredible feeling to see both the joy and relief on the families’ faces when you arrive with the gift of two weeks of groceries. All of the families have been so thankful and so happy. All of us have had great times visiting with them and have made many different connections with members of each family. It’s on our ride home when we talk about how exciting each visit was that I can see how we each have been blessed in the experience. A simple act of assistance provides so much joy and fulfillment for all involved.

Every involvement we have had with Holy Comforter’s ministries has shown us that a little time can lead to a lot of growth and happiness.

What the ministries mean to me and my family - Ashley Boam

My girls and I joined Holy Comforter in 2013 and were immediately delighted by the ministries offered. My daughters have participated in Sunday School, Choir Camp, Youth Group, and for the first time this year, Vacation Bible School. In addition, they have both formed special relationships with several of the priests who have served our congregation. I have found some of the special church services to be particularly meaningful, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, which have made Lent and Easter a more compelling part of my faith journey. In addition, the Healing Prayers Ministry has been a source of comfort during difficult times. I've been grateful for opportunities to serve as a lector and in support of adult formation, as just a small way to give back to a church that has provided so much to me and my family.

Fifty Years of Blessings from Holy Comforter. What a joy! - Marj Riley

We were Holy Comforter members before the Spirit Window, when the parish hall had no upstairs, there was no narthex, and St. Mary's Chapel was downstairs where Mother Jackie has an office. We came when the pond stretched north to the rectory—perfect for ice skating.

Our spiritual life was energized as we made deep commitments to Jesus Christ as our Lord, ventured into tithing (10% of all income), grew through two parish-wide lay witness Faith Alive Weekends, as well as Cursillo.

My Dad was baptized along with our son Tom, and all three of our children were married here. They presented the church with the gold-plated Gospel cover on our 50th wedding anniversary.

Wonderful, rich fellowship, including faith-building a Bible Study group, Christmas caroling on a double-decker bus, EfM, parish retreats, and more recently, Senior Saints.

Altar Guild was a major blessing for decades—preparing holy space for holy worship, prayerfully working side-by-side with remarkable clergy and laity and serving Fathers Kendall, Miller, Denig, and Lord, their extraordinary associates, and also dedicated interim rectors during transition.

ECW and Pennywise blessed me with their mindset of serving Christ: His hands, ears, and voice to affirm church growth, care for the less fortunate. And the blessings of our Prayer Shawl Ministry and FACETS, preparing food—tucking into sandwiches a favorite scripture verse—and then offering encouragement to the recipients.

My understanding of “blessings” changed through five decades at Holy Comforter. It is indeed more blessed to give than receive. There is no way we can count all the blessings poured out on us through Holy Comforter! Thanks be to God!

Why pledge? - Norma Williamson

My late husband, Larry, used to joke that the reason we were pledgers was because one day I took him out to the middle of a lake in a row boat and wouldn't let him go back to shore until he agreed to pledge.

Well, that wasn't what happened, but there is some truth to the story. I did tell him I never understood why people who wouldn't expect to join a club or attend a performance without paying for it, assumed that their church could get by with a few dollars thrown in the offering plate. I said that pledging to the church was both a spiritual and a practical necessity. I pontificated about how we were blessed in so many ways, and we needed to show our gratitude. How was a church supposed to function without regular dependable income? There were so many things to pay for: salaries, supplies, utilities, maintenance, insurance, and of course the church's many ministries. As the daughter and granddaughter of clergymen, I was acutely aware of how tight church budgets could be.

Taking advantage of all the church provided without paying for it was like cheating, I said. Finally, to hear him tell it, he threw his hands up in surrender—and from then on we pledged.

We give in gratitude to God for the many gifts given to us. And by doing so, we ensure that our church can continue its vital ministry in the world. As Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The act of pledging is easy: return the pledge card you received by mail, visit the Stewardship Committee table in the narthex, or simply pledge online at www.holycomforter.com today.