



2023-2024 Annual Report

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS



CO:MISSION



CAMP NEXT GEN





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RECTOR
DAVID CUMBIE

Dear Church of the Holy Cross,

For any construction project, it's critical to know what you are trying to build. The same goes for a church.

So what is God building at Holy Cross? I was fascinated to learn that in 1891 a small group of people laid the foundations for Chapel of the Holy Cross and held the first worship service on July 10, 1892. One hundred and thirty two years later, Holy Cross has changed a lot, but those foundations remain.

That's because the foundation of the church is Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:10, "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

By God's grace, this foundation has been faithfully stewarded at Holy Cross by those who have come before us and, we pray, it will be built upon by those who come after us.

So how do we build on Jesus as our foundation?

The answer is the Gospel. The message of the Gospel shapes our identity, beliefs and methods. Faithfulness to the Gospel is our measure of success, not results. The power of the Gospel transforms our hearts and the world.

That's because the Gospel of Jesus is the gospel of the cross. It is on the cross that God demonstrated his love for us (Romans 5:8). By his blood we can know forgiveness from sin and be made right with God (Isaiah 53:5). We are made new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

This means we can expect God to do great things in us and through us, but it will come at a cost. Scripture teaches there is no glory, without sacrifice and suffering. It means death to the old self — not our will but His be done. And we are promised that if we suffer with him, we will be

glorified with him (Romans 8:17). That's because the cross always leads to the hope of resurrection life. This is the hope our world desperately needs. The kind of church we all need.

To build such a church is a high calling. It is something only God can do. But how awesome is it that God chooses to build it through us!

As the Lord builds His church it will mean making changes and shifting some priorities, including changes to service times, adjustments to staffing and budgets, and creating Sunday discipleship programs for children, students and adults.

These and other changes will help us to seek him together as **one church**. To pray, worship and serve as **one church**. To grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord as **one church**. And not because it's what we want or what we think will "work," but because we want to build Christ's church and see Him glorified.

As we look back on our history, let's give thanks for our firm foundation in Christ. And as we look ahead, let's seek to be a church built up by the Gospel of Christ.

For His glory,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "David". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.



Looking Back

Generational Testimonies & History of Holy Cross Timeline



From its humble origins as a colonial island chapel of ease, this community has evolved into a thriving multisite church. This year it will stand as two independent congregations, a testament to its remarkable journey and God's faithfulness.



There's just a sense of **community** here that I have not been able to find anywhere else. The people here **care about you** and your faith.



Lauren Pilling

I've been at Holy Cross my whole life with my sister, parents, and grandparents. My parents got married at Holy Cross in 1989. We've been attending the Contemporary service since I can remember. My sister also got married at Holy Cross in 2021. Holy Cross has been like a home away from home for me. I started being involved with the youth group with Jonny Keys in 2013 when I first attended what was previously called Camp Bonnie Doone. This upcoming summer will be my 9th year as a leader and 11th year being at the camp in general.

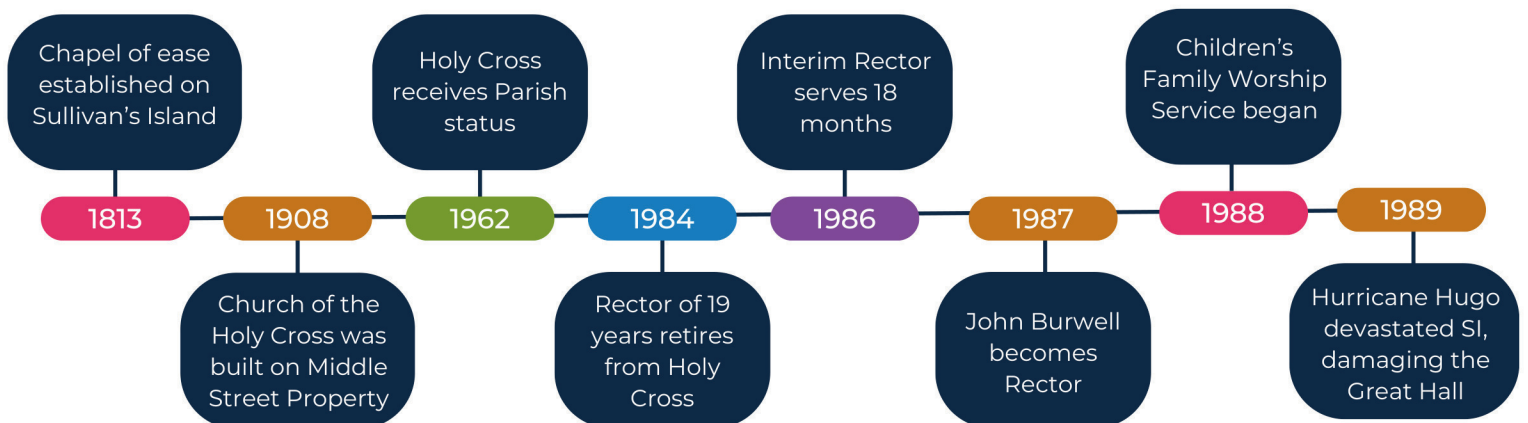


I wasn't really a Christian until I went to camp and Jesus really made His way into my life that summer, which is why I love the summer camp so much and encourage everyone to send their students each summer. This church has really

cultivated my walk with Jesus in a way I never imagined. Even when I went to college, I found myself always wanting to come back and help with youth stuff. I was able to join my life group right out of high school and that has been so helpful in my walk with God. They meet you where you're at, which has really kept me here.



Looking back at 14 year old me vs. where I am now (24 years old) with my faith and relationship with God, if I had not had the people at Holy Cross to walk along with me, I couldn't really say with confidence that I would be an active Christian today. I'm forever grateful for my time here and I am excited for the future and what that will look like.





Serving at Holy Cross has enhanced my life with God. I feel closer to Him - especially when I set up or take down the altar where the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are prepared for our communicants. It is an honor to be able to prepare the table which signifies the sacrifice he made for all of humanity.



Norman Moore

When did you start attending Holy Cross?

I began attending Holy Cross in 1953 when I was born. My Mom was a Sunday school teacher and would bring me to church in a bassinet and to her Sunday School class. I was baptized there in 1953. I started Kindergarten in the old Parish House in 1958.

What was Holy Cross like at that time?

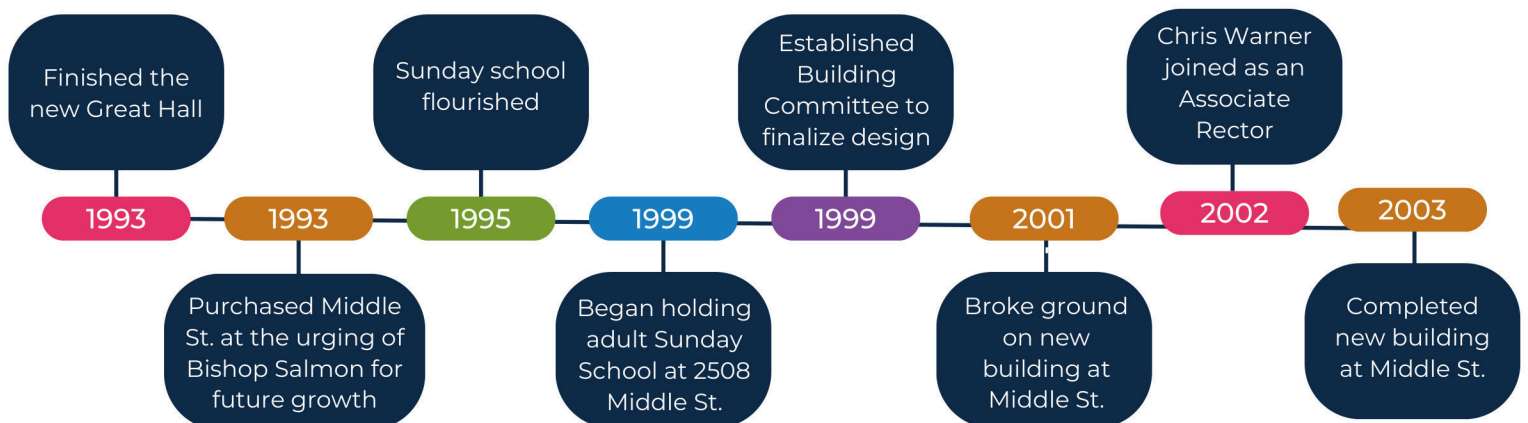
I started acolyting in 1962. I could only carry the flags during the procession/recession because you had to be confirmed to carry the cross and serve at Communion, and I wasn't confirmed until 1965 by Bishop Gray Temple. We received church pins if we only missed one Sunday of Sunday School. On Easter Sunday we brought our Mite boxes which were small offertory boxes we used to collect money for charitable purposes that taught us to give to others who were less fortunate. We had an active EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) for grades 6-12. I became the President of the EYC in 1970-1971 when I was a senior in high school. We visited other Episcopal churches where we sang hymns, danced to the latest top 40 songs, and talked about God and the Bible.

What has Holy Cross meant to you in your walk with the Lord?

Holy Cross has always been my home in my walk with the Lord. My Mom and Dad set great examples because they attended every Sunday. Early Sunday school taught us that Jesus Christ died on the Cross for our sins. While that is hard to comprehend as a 7-year-old, it was continually reinforced year after year. We learned much more when we went through confirmation classes in 1965 and it all started to make sense. Sunday School is where I got my foundation... but I am still learning today.

How did you see God at work?

I see God at work every day... when you come to him to ask for help, he always answers your prayers... maybe not the way you want... but he answers them. He has helped me out through some difficult times (Freshman year at The Citadel, deaths of parents, sister, close friends). Through Church, I have discovered over the past couple of decades that death has a new meaning for me.... we are just passing through this time on Earth until we have the joy of being with God in eternity!





The quaint ‘little white church’ on the corner of Daniel Island beckoned to us from our very first visit to the island, capturing our hearts with its charm.



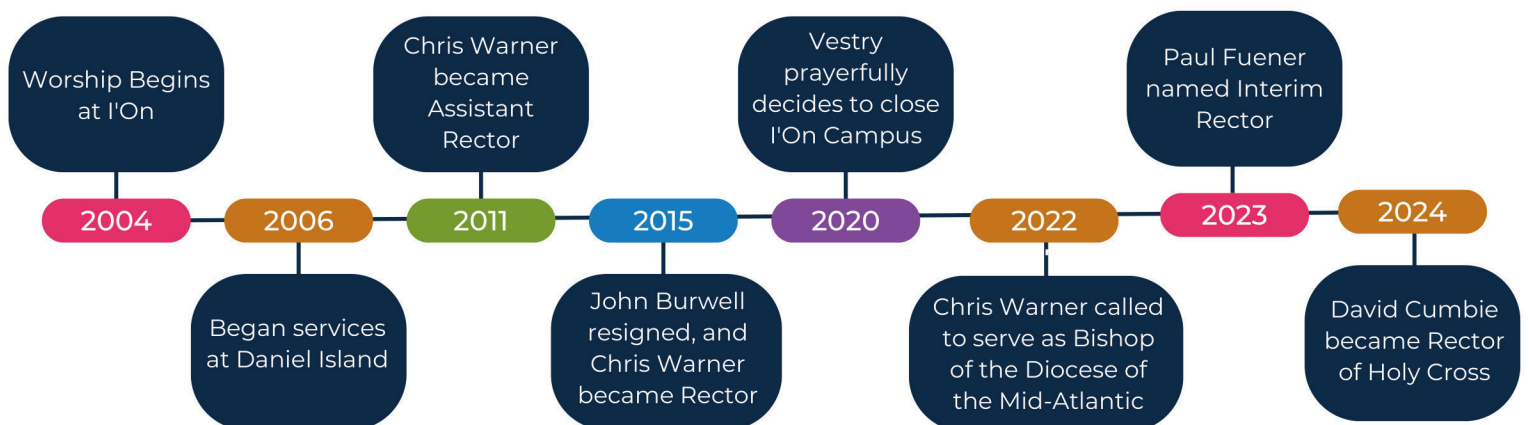
Lollis Family



Our journey to finding our church home began at a pivotal time, when the Lord led us to Charleston, even though we weren't actively seeking to leave our hometown in the upstate. Each time we returned to Daniel Island (DI), it felt more and more like the place we wanted to bring our family home to. The quaint "little white church" on the corner of DI beckoned to us from our very first visit to the island, capturing our hearts with its charm. Our initial connection with Holy Cross started through Marlo Greene and Holy Cross Island School (HIS School). After a delightful visit to the school, we were so enamored that we decided to start attending the family

service at Holy Cross. with the church community, allowing each of us to explore and nurture our faith in a supportive and welcoming environment. This service quickly became a source of immense joy for our entire family. As time went on, not only did the older girls and I join life groups, but our youngest also began attending HIS School, following in the footsteps of our middle child who had recently graduated. This journey has been a profound and joyful chapter in our family's life, deeply enriching our spiritual connections and community bonds.

Alongside our children's involvement, we have also found our own place within the church by joining different life groups (Tyner, her mother, and myself). Meanwhile, our oldest has become an active member of the youth group, experiencing the joys of faith and fellowship with peers. These groups have not only helped us grow individually but have also strengthened our family's bond.





THIS YEAR

Holy Cross Ministry Highlights from 2023



Embracing a year of profound transition and transformation in 2023, the Holy Cross congregation was guided by an extraordinary interim Rector. We saw the amazing fruit of family discipleship in the 5 youth Confirmations. Wrapping up the year, we joyfully welcomed a new Rector and concluded with the heartwarming Christmas Eve Turkey Fry ministry.

Daniel Island Music Academy

In January 2023, the Daniel Island (DI) campus launched a music ministry called Holy Cross Music Academy. This ministry was designed to meet the clear need for music lesson offerings in the DI community and to utilize DI worship leader Jake Willis' pre-existing connections as guitar/piano teacher on the island. The ministry, which is now known as Daniel Island Music Academy to avoid confusion following the DI church launch, teaches weekly music lessons on a variety of instruments to students of all ages, six and up (including adults). All of our instructors are Christians who are involved in Holy Cross or another local church as worship leaders and musicians themselves.

This program has built a bridge into our church community for many DI families with no previous connection to us; it has provided a meaningful place to work for a number of local worship musicians; it has also created a unique pathway for discipleship and music ministry involvement for Holy Cross church members of all ages who want to be involved. To highlight what we mean, read the story below of Eliza Dennis' journey in 2023. Her story shows the power for music to help someone grow, not just in craft, but also as a young person, a leader, and a disciple of Jesus. And it is indicative of what we want the long-term vision of Daniel Island Music Academy to be all about.

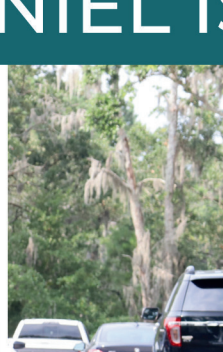


My journey with the music academy and the DI worship team has helped me to grow in my faith immensely over the past year. The chance to help lead worship music has been an incredibly empowering experience, all while giving me a greater passion for my faith. The experiences I've had with the music school and DI worship team have changed my life, while also being some of the highlights of my year." - Eliza Dennis

Eliza is a high schooler at our church who had previously learned a few instruments and had begun playing flute on occasion with the DI worship team in late 2022. When she enrolled in guitar lessons as the Music Academy launched, she quickly learned to play guitar and sing at the same time. This opened up opportunities for her to play for Music Academy events at Credit One Stadium, New Realm Brewing, Waterfront Park, and more. It also opened up doors for Eliza within the Holy Cross worship team: she went from playing flute once a month to also learning to play bass guitar on Sundays which helped fill a need on the DI team, as well as being able to lead songs vocally, play acoustic guitar, and sing harmonies on Sundays. And all of this is in addition to her also being asked to lead the DI campus youth worship team from guitar and vocals, including leading the youth band rehearsals and preparation for their monthly gatherings.



DANIEL ISLAND



MUSIC ACADEMY



Honduras Mission Trip

Since 2009, Church of the Holy Cross has been sending missions teams down to Honduras to serve at the Lamb Children's Home. We have become like family and this past summer, Holy Cross was blessed to be able to send not one, but two teams down to do what families do... love, support, work for and pray for one another. Familiar hugs were given and received as established bonds were strengthened and new ones made.



Over the years our teams have worked on many projects both on and off the property; cement making, weed pulling, house building and hugging on sweet little ones while playing with bigger little ones, just to name a few.

This summer provided our teams an opportunity to start and finish several projects as team two slid seamlessly into a few of the projects started by team one. Our teams were welding, making cement (with nothing but some water, sand, a shovel and a lot of muscle), hauling rocks, painting structures, fixing and redesigning a playground, working in the garden and organizing donated goods and clothing, but it wasn't all work. Some of our most precious moments flowed from the special activities we planned for the children at Lamb. There were water balloons, 3-legged races, bucket relays, soccer and many more field day games. We worked hard and we played hard and while our bodies were tired, our spirits were renewed as we shared the week together, helping each other, laughing together, praying and worshipping together and sometimes (many times) crying together.



You come away from these weeks with the sense that this is how it should be; brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing life together as the Holy Spirit hovers close and the Lord strips away your first-world distractions, allowing you to focus only on serving Him. The dictionary defines "family" as "all the descendants of a common ancestor." Our teams left Holy Cross as friends and acquaintances but returned from Honduras as family. The impact of these trips, while surely felt at Lamb, are life changing for those of us at Holy Cross who have answered the call and "followed the Lamb."



Emmeline Hamlin

Last summer I was able to travel with my mom, dad, and sister. Seeing God move in the people you are closest to and getting to serve side by side with them has grown my faith to such new heights. The peace I left with was greater than anything I had ever felt. My second visit, last summer was even greater. As we stepped off the bus at the children's home we were greeted by big hugs and laughter. I stood embracing their hugs and it hit me. These beautiful kids don't know the parts about me that mattered so much back home. They didn't care how my hair looked, or who I was friends with. They accepted us for who we were and you couldn't help smiling from ear to ear the whole week. Overall I can truly say going on these missions trips were truly life changing and I would tell everyone this until my face was blue.

Lizzie Hamlin

As I reflect on the question: How could one week make that much of a difference? Many things come to my mind but I can absolutely say this trip changed my life for the better. I loved going as a family and being able to witness change together, although it wasn't their first trip, I could still sense a transformation in each one of us as we bonded with the kids and one another. These kids have so much love to give and each one of us on the trip had something special to bond over. A change in your normal routine or comfy lifestyle can be scary but if your interested in going, do it, it will be a life changing experience you can't even explain. Being His hands and feet doesn't necessarily mean going somewhere foreign, it can mean a lot of things for different people. Listen to God and see what He is leading you to do.



Prime Timers



2023 has been such a great first year for our Prime Timers senior ministry. In January 2023, the first official meeting was held to discuss future programs and activities. Led by the Reverend Laura Bowman and Jennifer Baskin, the Prime Timers meet on the first Thursday of every month to eat, learn, and fellowship together.

Read a few of the 2023 highlights below.

01

March 2023

50+ attendees enjoyed an educational program offered by Special Agents from the FBI Columbia office. The program topic was elder fraud, and the agents discussed investment scams, "phishing", romance scams, people who call and say they are from Microsoft and your computer has a virus that they can fix if you will give them remote computer access, and much more!

02

July 2023

In the heat of July 4th week, the Prime Timers enjoyed a movie matinee of "Jesus Revolution" - including popcorn, pizza, and other treats! Despite the heat and the seasonal crowds in the area, more than 2 dozen people came and enjoyed our Prime Timer fun and fellowship!

03

November 2023

We had a Star-Spangled Salute to our Veterans, with special food, patriotic music and lots of good fun and conversation. Our guest speaker was Retired Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles C. Baldwin who was the Air Force Chief of Chaplains.



Art and Pat Giardino

For Art and Pat, the Prime Timers group holds a special significance as it gives them an opportunity to connect with others. At the monthly meetings, they can catch up with folks from different services and the clergy. The monthly gatherings also help keep them informed about upcoming events.

Art and Pat saw God at work in the ministry in 2023, specifically highlighting the growth of the Seafarers ministry throughout the year. As they look ahead to 2024, they look forward to the exciting plans and activities that Prime Timers have in store for the upcoming year.

Prime Timers March Meeting – FBI Educational Program



Prime Timers December Meeting – Christmas Party



Annual Men's Turkey Fry



"This year's turkey fry has blessed all of us at Holy Cross ON BOTH CAMPUSES confirming God's work in us and showing us how HE is multiplying his kingdom through us.

One of the ways the men's ministry at Holy Cross serves our community is by having our annual Christmas Eve turkey fry. The 55 or so turkeys we fry each year get sent off to families in the area who need a hot meal at Christmas time. It's truly been such a blessing to me and the men of Holy Cross to be able to fry these turkeys, package them up and give them away at such a needed time of year.

In years past the fry has alternated between Holy Cross' 2 campuses – Daniel Island (DI) and Sullivan's Island (SI). This year, with the impending launch of DI Holy Cross becoming its own church (Church of the Holy Spirit), we decided that we would each have a separate turkey fry. God showed us complete confirmation, through the turkey fry results, that launching Daniel Island to multiply Holy Cross and

Christ's community is the right move. Bobby Cummings was back to organize and lead the men this year at SI. Terrence Jenkins and Carl Wist lead DI.

In years past with men from BOTH campuses present at ONE turkey fry, we cooked an average of 50-55 turkeys. THIS year, the SI campus cooked 63 turkeys without the DI men! The DI men had their turkey fry the next day and cooked an additional 44 turkeys without the SI men! That's 107 turkeys! Praise Jesus! It really feels like a "Sermon on the Mount" moment when Jesus multiplied the 5 loaves and fed thousands and thousands of people. In the same way, Jesus is multiplying our church exponentially right before our eyes.

I am honored to have been a part of the turkey frys for the last many years. This year's growth was explosive. Thank you, Lord! I look forward to celebrating all the multipliers Jesus is performing in our Holy Cross/Holy Spirit community. Don't you just love a good Miracle! "

Blessings to you and your families,
Pat Kelly, Holy Cross Vestry.



SULLIVAN'S ISLAND



DANIEL ISLAND





Parish Registry and Financials

2023 Recap and Financials for the Year Ahead



Looking ahead and seeking what the Lord has next for our church as we approach the launch of Church of the Holy Spirit on Daniel Island and a new season of ministry for Church of the Holy Cross on Sullivan's Island.

Parish Registry

In 2023 at Holy Cross Sullivan's Island, we had:

- 6 youth baptisms
- 1 youth and 3 adults confirmed
- 6 deaths
- 9 new members
- 2 transfer outs

In 2023 at Holy Cross Daniel Island, we had:

- 16 youth and 1 adult baptisms
- 4 youth confirmed
- 4 deaths
- 20 new members



CONFIRMATION



BAPTISM



NEW MEMBERS

2023 Actuals for Sullivan's Island and Daniel Island

Revenues	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
Pledge and Plate	1,633,151	1,600,000
Other Income	325,689	343,328
HIS School	1,007,420	1,083,500
Total Revenues	2,966,260	3,026,828
Expenses		
Total Expenses	2,966,260	3,026,828
Net Income from Operations	0	0

2024 Sullivan's Island Budget

2024 Sullivans Island Budget	
Revenues	2024 Budget
Pledges	688,000
Plate Contributions	490,000
Other Income	43,000
Kids Club	92,250
HIS School	669,620
Total Revenues	1,982,870
Expenses	
Personnel	
Clergy Expense	327,555
Lay Employee Expense	602,224
Total Personnel	929,779
Worship	
Worship General Expenses	4,500
Traditional Music Program	1,850
Contemporary Music Program	1,675
Total Worship	8,025
Discipleship	
Family Ministries	3,400
Next Gen Ministries	12,420
Adult Ministries	27,156
Kids Club	32,564
Total Discipleship	75,540
Holy Cross Island School	
HIS School Expenses	35,500
HIS School Payroll	360,996
Total Holy Cross Island School	396,496
Operations	
Facilities Expense	325,427
Operations Expense	36,125
Total Operations	361,552
Media	
Communications	30,630
Technology	21,000
Audio Visual	2,887
Total Media	54,517
Parish Giving	
Diocesan Pledge	117,800
Discretionary	2,400
Outreach	3,000
Total Parish Giving	123,200
Total Expenses	1,949,109
Net Income from Operations	33,761
Capital Activity	
Estimated Building Fund Donations	128,882
Annual Building Principal Payment	162,643
Net Income from Capital Activity	(33,761)
Total Net Income	0



Church of the Holy Cross

Church of the Holy Spirit



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