



# Share The Spirit Newsletter

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Vol. 14 Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2024

## Greetings from Rev. Lisa Graves

October 2024, This past Sunday at our tremendous celebration of confirmation and our bishop’s visitation, we were given a compliment that may sound surprising. We were told that thanks to our efforts to grow in size and mission, we are no longer considered a small church. We have been declared “average”! It is an incredible milestone to be in the average size category for Episcopal churches and it shows that we have worked together and thrived in the process because moving from one category to another is a good, but sometimes, difficult thing for congregations to do.

In an ECVF article:

- The smallest churches are considered **Family size**. This is most Episcopal churches these days. They are a single cell group, and they are governed or run by a few key families or even one family. This doesn't mean there are not more families, it just means that a few folks seem to be running most things and that everyone knows everything that is going on. The priest is seen as a chaplain of sorts, shepherding folks in their most human moments of birth, death, celebration and loss. When fights occur, they are family feuds and grudges are held for a long, long time.
- The next church size up is considered **Pastoral size**. This is where we are now. It is priest centered in that the priest knows most everything that is going on and the governance still includes those key families but new groups are forming. This is when not every person knows everything that is happening any longer. The pastor is at center of program and new member incorporation. Fights are over the pastor (and his/her attention or direction and changes that are made.)
- **Transitional size** occurs when you are growing from a Pastoral sized church to a program church. In this model every person and program is stretched thin. The key family ('s) are still on Vestry,

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## Holy Spirit Happenings



- November 3 is the **end of daylight savings time** and it officially resembles the coming of winter. The early dark evenings, the cooler weather, making hot soups, and the signs of Thanksgiving and Christmas coming! Everywhere there are signs of Christmas and sometimes Valentines candy and decorations in the stores too. We live in a fast paced world.
- This year is important as it is also an election year and on **November 6, please vote**. This is your right as an American citizen.
- **November 1st is All Saints Day, and celebrated on Sunday. November 24 is Christ the King Day** when it is the last week of Ordinary time and the coming of Advent on Dec. 1st. This day celebrates that Jesus rules over all the earth.
- Preparations are under way at Holy Spirit as the ECW is planning the annual **Angel Tree**. This is important as it will truly make some child's Christmas with a gift that they would not have otherwise. Look for the tags on the tree with the information from the Tuckerton, Eagleswood, and George Mitchell Schools. Be an **angel** and put a smile on some child's face this Christmas.
- The ECW was busy with a **Bake Sale** that was successful with nearly \$300.00 in sales.
- Thanksgiving is coming! **Holy Spirit and St. Stephens** will have a **joint Holiday Dinner** at St. Stephens. They will make the turkey, and Holy Spirit is asked to bring the sides. How wonderful to get together and celebrate fellowship and be thankful for our food and church family. Please see message from your Senior Warden on pg. 5.
- **Bishop Sally French with the Holy Spirit Choir** on Confirmation Day. How the choir has grown. Thanks to Angela and all who make the service more meaningful with the messages from the hymns. We had a large attendance, wonderful meeting and reception. The bishop recognized our growth in finances, attendance, worship and overall excitement in our ministries.
- Did you get your pumpkins? The **Pumpkin patch** earned over \$6,000. in total sales. Thanks to all who helped to make this another successful year.







# PUMPKIN PATCH

## Holy Spirit Episcopal Church

220 E Main St./Rt 9, Tuckerton \* 609-296-9618  
October 13-31 \* 12-6 daily







## October Blessing of the Animals & September Community Dinner



Cats, Dogs, and Chickens were blessed in October. Mamas Gonna Recue brought 8 dogs and two were recued. How wonderful.

The Free Community Dinner is held every Last Wednesday of the month.





## ***A message from your Senior Warden***

Mark your calendar for the **Harvest Dinner**      **St. Stephen's 4pm November 24**

One of the perks of being in an affiliation is the joint celebratory events. The steering committee of Holy Spirit and St. Stephen's met a few months ago to plan our joint holiday event.

Many factors were considered: minimal work, affordable, large enough hall. After much research and discussion, it was decided that our best option was to join in with St. Stephen's at their Harvest dinner. St. Stephen's has been doing this for a while and it's a great success. We are thrilled to be able to partake in the fun and celebrate together.



We ask what we could do to help. Everyone who comes to the dinner brings a side dish and Holy Spirit is in charge of the dessert table. If you choose to make a dessert, you don't have to bring another side dish. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall like we did for our luau. Please sign up.

St. Stephen's provides the turkey and ham paid for by a basket auction. We do not have to make any baskets. I'm sure we will take chances on them. There will also be a 50/50. They provide the decorations and the music. It's going to be a fun evening.

Please sign up as soon as possible so we know what food will be brought and for a count. The vestry will be there, and we expect many of you to join us. Get to know St. Stephen's. They are a warm, friendly congregation. After all, we share the same great priests. I know you will have a wonderful time.

Louise

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

To Church of the Holy Spirit, St. Stephen's Church, and the Navajo Nation





## A message from your **Junior Warden** re: **Thanksgivings**

Thanks to all who volunteered to the pumpkin arrival:

- The staff who planned and coordinated the day, especially our Priest Chip+
- Eastern Insulation for the pallet delivery
- Tractor rental for the tractor
- Sharon and her group for the décor
- The truck driver with his timely arrival
- And all the volunteer carriers; our members, our groups that meet in the church (especially the boy Scouts on the “chain gang” in the truck) and their parents Who also pitched in big time, the double headers who unloaded at St. Stephen’s and Holy Spirit, and our repeat volunteers Vince and neighbors like Jim who lives on Cedar St. a and saw our need two years in a row)

It only took 2 hours to get 600+ pumpkins all settled, the truck cleaned, and on it’s way.

- ◆ Let’s talk about Farmer’s Market. This was our first year and a real “hit with the fire hose” learning experience. As we look back we made some great new friends, saw first hand the amount of effort to run a “small business”, and watched our Priest-in-Charge develop into a profit running farm stand manager with some help from her posse. A church is a brick and mortar part of the community and we showed that on every Tuesday with our tents, trucks, and music on main street.
- ◆ To Dave, Linda, and Lisa+ for commissioning the children’s Bible study room and the teachers that have already begun.
- ◆ To the repurposing of the undercroft closet for holiday/festive decorations like our big event: The Luau.
- ◆ To the member that brought to our attention the difficulty of getting their mother in a wheel chair through the 7/11 doors. We fixed the chain, held the door open wider, and removed the protruding handle. To the members that noticed that we need a wheel chair on each level in case of emergencies or if someone needs valet service from their car.
- ◆ Say good-bye to the wobbly stair treads. Dave literally pulled them up, prepped their surfaces, and re-glued them securely.
- ◆ To all our support team that keep us up and running: \*Mike and his crew who groom our lawns, edge our walks, and bag our clippings. \*Jim and Adam for keeping our critical HVAC running, and the motor shop for the time and talent repairing our fan motor.
- ◆ The terminator who nipped a potential problem in the bud with same day service and a healthy donation to our church.
- ◆ AND OUR GREAT RESIDENT STAFF: JEANETTE, LINDA, DAVE. They have been wonderful to work with through this challenging first year for me.
- ◆ To Elaine who does such a great job from afar with our newsletter each month.
- ◆ And to all our member volunteers who never said no when help is needed.

**THANKS, Jim H.**



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But many new groups, and some outside influence and subgroups form. The priest is stretched - at cusp of needing additional staff, but resources may not be there to fund this. Any fights are over inclusion/information/communication/attention of clergy.

- Finally we have the **Program size church**. This is a corporate style church with Multi-cell and group-centered governance. The committees have power; Vestry moves to oversight/direction; they are more relational and less task-focused. The pastor is administrator/delegator. Fights are over resources and priorities.

So we are now a pastoral sized church. A church that is large enough to be doing big things, but small enough to still care and know one another. The bishop was so enthusiastic about us, our church, our members, our programs and our energy.

And that is a compliment to every one of you. The church is after all, not the building or the priest but the people. We are blessed with the best people around and I give thanks to God for all of you!

Lisa+

**CONDOLENCES**

It is with great sadness to report that **Jean Rhoads**, a long time congregant of Holy Spirit has passed away to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May her soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace.

Please keep Jean and her family in your prayers.





# CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Rev. Lisa Graves

Rev. Dr. Chip Graves

Louise Wagner	Senior Warden
Jim Heller	Junior Warden
Kathy Trapani	Vestry
Debbie Fisher	Vestry
Anna Tews	Vestry
Rita Lanorith	Vestry
Dennis Laffey	Vestry
Rick Mellerup	Vestry
Rick Mellerup	Clerk
Kathy Haines	Treasurer
Jeanette	Office Administrator
Jim DeSalva	Pianist
Angela	Choir Director
Elaine Paul	Newsletter

**SUNDAY EUCHARIST:** 8:00am, 9:30 am

**Wednesday Morning Worship** 10:30am

**Nov 24 Joint Holiday dinner**

**With St. Stephens 4:00pm**



**We're on the Web!**

[www.holyspirituckerton.org](http://www.holyspirituckerton.org)

## **POST SCRIPTS: Did you miss it? CONFIRMATION WITH BISHOP FRENCH**

