



2019 Reports for Annual Meeting  
The Chapel  
Bluffton, South Carolina  
February 24, 2020

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# From the Rector: Thank You!



**“Thank you”** to the faithful folks who were members of this parish before I became its Rector in 1996 and who continue to inspire us with their commitment to the Lord – we are standing on their shoulders and the shoulders of their predecessors in this holy place.

**“Thank you”** for faithfully attending worship services on our Historic Campus and Cross Schools Campus and for your tremendous participation in the Christian education offerings during the week.

**“Thank you”** to those who have caught the vision of a multi-campus congregation and who have embraced an appropriate sense of urgency for our dramatic efforts to reach unbelievers, nominal believers, and mature Christians of all ages, in southern Beaufort and Jasper Counties and beyond.

**“Thank you”** to the many parishioners who have assumed leadership and followship roles in the increasing number of programs equipping our saints to minister to each other and others in the Lord’s name.

**“Thank you”** to the members of our Vestry for their commitment to personal Spiritual growth and for their willingness to spend countless hours discerning and implementing God’s will for our parish in this dynamic time.

**“Thank you”** to the large and growing number of families and individuals who have made and honored pledges of their time, talent and treasure to support God’s Kingdom building work in and through this parish.

**“Thank you”** to those who are quietly going about the serious business of praying for hearts and minds to be open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and who are inviting others to “come and see” what God is doing in our midst.

**“Thank you”** to the parents, teachers, staff and trustees of Cross Schools for their splendid efforts to partner with this parish in the spread of the Gospel.

**“Thank you”** to the folks who served on mission teams at home and abroad, to the folks who serve tirelessly at God’s Goods to generate funding, and to the many who made these global efforts to strengthen Anglicanism so productive and meaningful for us and them.

**“Thank you”** to those who worked so tirelessly on the capital campaign, “The Present for the Future”, and to those who made and are fulfilling their financial commitments.

**“Thank you”** to Pastors Jonathan Riddle, Juan Rivera, Kevin Cook and Tom Hendrickson for their leadership in this parish and for their efforts to help us step boldly into God’s new tomorrow.

**“Thank you”** to the excellent staff of folks and office volunteers for all they have done and continue to do to support our witness to the world.

**“Thank you”** to the volunteers who work to make our ongoing ministries so dependable and successful: Acolytes, Altar Guild, American Heritage Girls, Caring Hearts, Community Home Eucharistic Ministry, Convention Delegates, Crafters Guild, Cross Care Visitation Team, CrossPoint Communion Teams, Crossroads, Cross Christian Women, Cross Kids, Cross Schools, Cursillo, Daughters of the Holy Cross, Dinner Ministry, Docent Ministry, Finance Committee, Financial Counseling Ministry, Flower Guild, Food Bank Teams, Friendly Faces Visitation Ministry, God’s Goods Team, Gracetime Servers, Greeter Ministry, Handyman Ministry, Healing After Loss, Healing Prayer Ministry, High School Youth Group, Historical Committee, Hospitality Teams, IF:Table Groups, Intercessory Prayer, Kairos, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers Ministry, Men Greeting Men, Memorials Acknowledgement, Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies, Middle School Youth Group, Military Care Ministry, Mission Cristiana de la Cruz, MOMM, Mom’s Ministry, Monday Night Dinner Team, Music Ministries (Gracetime, Sunday Singers and CrossPoint Band), New Member Shepherding Ministry, Nursery Ministry, Operation Christmas Child, Parish Office Volunteers, Pastoral Care Ministry Team, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Safety Teams, Salvation Shuttle Ministry, Samaritan’s Purse, Season Sisters, Side by Side, Stephen Ministry, Technology Ministry, Usher Ministries, Vestments Caretakers, Wedding Guild, Wednesday Night Supper Team, Worship Teams (Historic Campus), Youth Student Ministries and those whose efforts on God’s behalf are known only to Him.

And for the privilege of serving our Lord and His people at The Church of the Cross I humbly say, **“Thanks be to God!”** ♦

In His Power and for His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck" with a small flourish at the end.

The Very Rev. Dr. Charles E. Owens III



## Senior Warden's Annual Report, 2019

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord' ".  
(Ps. 122:1)*

God's grace and peace to The Church of the Cross parish family!

Opportunities continue for us to participate in a wonderful range of worship services. The Holy Land has been visited. Many Bible studies are available. Prayer groups are faithfully remembering our ministries, missions and healing requests. Education programs by our Clergy and Laity have drawn large audiences with outstanding reviews.

At the same time, we are experiencing a time of transition. We have been blessed by the addition of three new spiritual leaders in the Clergy. The new 2019 *Anglican Book of Common Prayer* was introduced into our worship. Ministry to the Latino community in Jasper and Beaufort counties was begun in earnest.

New worship space is soon to be available. The *Present for the Future* capital campaign is in its fourth of five years and winding down. The Church administrative offices are moving to the Cross Schools Campus. Communications technology is expanding with a refreshed website and a reformatted *E Currents* weekly email message. Preparations are underway to provide internet streaming of entire worship services.

We have welcomed three additional clergy: Pastor Juan Rivera, our Ambassador to the Latino community, and he has developed a five year plan with far reaching plans for their faith development. Pastor Kevin Cook has assumed the role of Chaplain to the Cross Schools to augment Christian experience for students... and their families. Fr. Tom Hendrickson has accepted oversight leadership of the 15 Pastoral Care Ministries which requires daily attention.

The construction of *The Chapel* on the Buckwalter Campus is nearing completion. Present and future worship options for our Parish continue to evolve. There are plenty of reasons to celebrate the Holy Spirit walking among us!

There is also the challenge that comes with change. We are asked to be patient and trust in God's provision while praying fervently for Him to give us a clear vision of His purpose . . . and eager souls to carry them out.

Our thanks go to our spiritual leaders: Fr. Chuck, Pastors Jonathan, Juan, Kevin and Tom . . . may they know the Lord's will for us! Thanks to all our Administrative Staff and to everyone participating in a ministry. You are Christ's hands in developing His Kingdom.

Senior Warden's Report  
Page Two

The Vestry has had much to consider. My thanks to our Clerk Joanne Byrd, Junior Warden Rod Musselman, Treasurer Michael Simon and former Treasurer Stew Brown. With much sadness we remember our colleague Natalie Mann, faithful servant leader and child of Christ, who passed away in December.

Looking forward, *The Chapel* dedication and hosting the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina Annual Convention are nearly here...Praise God for the opportunities to serve Him that these events represent.

We know we have God's blessing if we are willingly led to do all for His Glory.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Millard Simmons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "G".

G. Millard Simmons  
Senior Warden

**The Church of the Cross**  
**Consolidated Financial Report Operating 2019**  
**Budgets for 2020**  
(Unaudited)  
**As of December 31, 2019**

	<u>YTD Actual</u> <u>Jan-Dec 2019</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
Income/Expense		
Income		
INCOME	2,388,204.24	2,532,005.00
Total Income	<u>2,388,204.24</u>	<u>2,532,005.00</u>
Expense		
MINISTRY EXPENSE	498,777.41	547,900.00
SALARIES	1,147,831.92	1,291,292.80
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	363,887.35	392,950.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	118,332.54	120,120.00
Total Expense	<u>2,128,829.22</u>	<u>2,352,262.80</u>
Excess Cash Received Fund Principal 2019 - Church	259,375.02	179,742.20
Loan Principal repayment from Excess Cash	<u>-238,379.00</u>	<u>-200,000.00</u>
Remaining Cash 2019 - Church	20,996.02	-20,257.80

# ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild serves the clergy and congregation at Historic Campus and the Cross Schools Campus for Eucharistic services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and various special services. Duties include setting the Lord's Table, changing hangings to reflect the seasonal color, replacing candles, refilling oil in candles, polishing silver and brass, cleaning and caring for linens and additional tasks of the season such as special preparations for the Christmas Eve services and Lenten services.

The six teams assigned to Historic Campus rotate each week so that one team serves once every six weeks. The two teams at our Cross Schools Campus prepare communion for the CrossPoint services and monthly for Cross Schools Family Chapel.

The members on the teams serving the Historic Campus during 2019 are:

Team 1: Teddy McCracken (Lead), Lawton Ellis, Debbie Wood, Lynn Ryan

Team 2: Bonnie Linne (Lead), Deb Johnson

Team 3: Betty Mulholland (Lead), Roberta Mullins, Rosalie Simmons, Pat Savello

Team 4: Ann Elliott (Lead), Phyllis Spearman, Hoyt Spearman

Team 5: Lisa Ciresi (Lead), Jeanne Scott, Pat Fratoddi, Dawn & George Fleshman

Team 6: Risa Grace (Lead), Anne Sinclair, Karen Acker, Jeri Wires

The members on the teams serving the Cross Schools Campus in 2019 are:

Team 7 (CrossPoint): Barb Osler (Lead), Christine Siskey, Debbie Doty, Gini Simone, Genny Blackwell, Sue Short

Team 8 (Family Chapel): Phyllis Spearman

During 2019, Altar Guild handled preparations for Gracetime Services, 8:00am Services, 10:00am Services, Wednesday Services, CrossPoint Services, and Cross Schools Family Chapel Services.

Altar Guild also handled preparations for weddings, funerals, Healing services, retreats, vow renewals and HAL services.

There were also special service preparations for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter Sunrise service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

In His service,

*Phyllis Spearman and Lisa Ciresi*

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” (Colossians 3:23 KJV)

## THE AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

The American Heritage Girls is a ministry of The Church of the Cross serving girl's ages 5 to 18 years old. We are a non -profit organization dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and Country. We currently meet at the Mission Mall bi-weekly on Mondays from 6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

AHG is a dynamic Christ centered program designed to create a culture of servant leadership among girls. We are currently serving 40 girls with 10 volunteers registered and numerous other parent volunteers.

We have been very busy this year! In addition to badge work, we have included devotional and bible verse memorization into the meetings and participated in many service projects. From January 2019-December 2019, our troop has earned over 880 service hours!

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, we took part in AHG's National Day of Service by helping to clean up the May River and areas of downtown Bluffton. The girls have made Veterans Day cards for those in local retirement homes and Christmas cards for the military. We started a new program, Adopt a Grandparent, where girls visit and do fun activities monthly with the residents at the Benton House; along with singing Christmas carols in December. This is always a fun time and such a blessing to the girls and the residents! AHG participated in the Bluffton Christmas Parade and shared the story of Jesus through candy cane hand outs. The girls also participated in Wreaths Across America. This past summer, 10 girls and 6 volunteers attended a week long camp in North Carolina and the troop held a troop camp out last Spring.

If you are interested in more information about us or in volunteering in this growing ministry please visit The American Heritage Girls web site @ [www.americanheritagegirls.org](http://www.americanheritagegirls.org) or call Michael-Anne Land at the Parish office 843-757-2661. Please also visit the Troops website for pictures and updates @ <https://troop-sc1412.trooptrack.com/share/pages/14984>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Williams

### **Board of Directors:**

Lori Williams- Troop Coordinator

Paula Tisdell- Co-Coordinator

Sue Carlson- Shepherd

Michael-Anne Land- Charter Representative

## CARING HEARTS

Our ministry remains small but very mighty!

We meet on the second Monday of each month at 10:00 in the conference room next to God's Goods in an intimate and confidential setting.

Jodi Johnson, LMSW has faithfully assisted us at each meeting with guidance, compassion and support.

Every month we have new attendees as well as members who attend monthly, each with unique circumstances involving their caregiver responsibilities which can be extremely stressful and overwhelming. We listen to their situation and then Jodi sorts through the issues and provides advice which can include the use of local agencies, grants and other forms of support.

The scope of the caregivers' responsibilities can involve physical, emotional, financial and safety issues. Our ministry stresses the importance of the wellbeing of the caregiver. We believe in nurturing yourself so you can nurture others.

As new assisted living and rehab facilities open in our area, Jodi keeps us informed of their level of quality care.

Initially, our ministry was open to only The Church of the Cross members, but we now reach out to friends and family of our church members.

Our guiding scripture is from Timothy 4:19: "But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength".

Donna Stevenson and Betty Fisher

10-18-19

## **COMMUNITY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY**

**The Community Eucharistic Ministry (CEM) services the memory care residents at Bloom of Belfair each month. A special service bulletin is developed each month with scripture, prayer, and appropriate hymns. The Eucharist is celebrated once a month. There are four teams and a music leader. Approximately 25-30 residents attend each week.**

### **TEAM MEMBERS FOR 2019:**

**Bill Andrus**

**John and Elaine Parker**

**Connie Steinhouse and Milt Drewer**

**Bill Sullivan**

**Jack and Alice Wittmann**

**IHS,**

**Elaine B. Parker**

# Cross Christian Women (CCW)

**Vision:** There is a place for every woman in Women's Ministry.

**Mission:**

- Commit ourselves to live by, learn, and uphold the Word of God.
- Connect women of all ages through Bible study, fellowship, and service.
- Create an atmosphere where women can be released into their gifting for Kingdom purposes.
- Cultivate positive, encouraging relationships that will provide opportunities for discipleship.

**Motto:** Woven Together in Christ

**Scripture:**

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:16-17)*

**Ministries under the umbrella of CCW:**

Annual Christmas Bazaar, Daughters of Holy Cross, MOMS Group, New Member Shepherding, the Women's Discipleship Council, Retreat Team, Event Committee, Women's Bible Studies & Teachings, Crossroads Small Group Ministry, IF:Table, Stingray Mom's Bible Study

**Happenings in 2019:**

Women's Retreat at Epworth by the Sea

Spring Event with Tara Reeves

Monthly Lunch and Learn Teaching Series

MOMS Thursday Morning Group- led by Sue Carlson and Lisa Riddle

Summer Bible Study(All In Wednesdays)- led by Emily Campbell

Thursday Evening Bible Teachings-

Daniel (winter and spring), Acts (fall)- Rebecca Hamilton

IF:Table- launched in October with small groups gathering monthly in homes led by various women

Crossroads Small Groups- led by Mimi Harmon, Carol Halpin and Sue Kelley

Stingray Mom's Bible Study- (fall) Seamless led by Emily Campbell and Rebecca Hamilton

Daughters of the Holy Cross Esther Chapter- began in June with 8 members, 15 new members joined and took their vow in December after the fall session for study, prayer and discernment

We look forward to the year ahead as we work together for His Kingdom purposes.

Your Sister in Christ,

Rebecca Hamilton

Women's Ministry Coordinator

## **Cross Care Visitation Team**

**The Cross Care Visitation Team consists of 14 members, both men and women who live in Bluffton, Savannah and on Hilton Head.**

**The team responds to requests from the Parish Office for visits to parishioners who are having surgery, had surgery and recuperating, or who have been sent for rehabilitation.**

**The team visits are to Hospitals, Rehab Facilities and private homes, where we provide gift bags containing a wooden cross, prayer card and prayer patch. The visits include prayers with the patient. Some team members are also qualified Eucharistic Ministers who can provide Communion.**

**We do follow-up visits and/or telephone calls and when necessary, relay any concerns to other ministries.**

**The team is kept quite active all year round. I am especially proud of the dedication our members demonstrate in the caring and attention to this vital ministry.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Charlotte Sanginario**

## CrossPoint Chalice Bearing Ministry

The Chalice Bearing Ministry assists our Rector/Pastors in providing Communion to our Buckwalter campus every 4-5 weeks.

As Jesus instructed us to do; we gather at the Lord's table to remember all that Jesus has done for us in life, death, and resurrection, and to acknowledge that we are one church body in Jesus Christ.

During a typical service, we have two Paten Bearers (Body of Christ) and three Chalice Bearers (Blood of Christ) volunteering to serve. The Rector/Pastor leads the service as our third Paten Bearer.

Thank you to all of the ministry volunteers that served this year:

Bob Olsen	Chris Olsen	Chris Siskey	Willy Fanning
Gini Simone	Heather Robinson	Craig Pelley	Nancy Truman
Charlie Jensen	Lynelle Jensen	Maury Moody	Laura Nitz
DeeDee Graham	Tom Hendrickson		

Thank you also for the life, service and leadership of Natalie Mann, who we lost on 12/21/19.

All things in Jesus name,

Steve Nitz



## Cross Schools

***At Cross Schools, we inspire future leaders to grow spiritually and academically by intentionally designing opportunities for inquisitive learning and active service all for the glory of God.***

Cross Schools currently accepts students 12 months through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The school will begin accepting 9<sup>th</sup> grade students for the 2020-21 school year. Our reputation within the community is one of strong Christian values and academic excellence. The tradition of academic excellence is demonstrated in our curriculum and test scores. Our students traditionally score above their current grade levels on standardized tests. Recently, 43% of our 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students qualified as Duke Tip Scholars. The national average is 15% of the population.

Students are guided socially as well as spiritually at Cross. Character traits such as honesty, godliness, and respect are displayed by our students and are modeled by our teachers. Our teachers weave these values into their daily lessons. Students are guided through the day and even conflicts by these themes. Our overall theme this year is *Purpose*.

We have many community service projects in which our students participate. Our major project this year was Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox ministry. In connection with this ministry, our eighth graders traveled to Charlotte on a mission trip to assist at the Operation Christmas Child distribution center. We also hosted a guest speaker who had been a recipient of a box as a child. This was an amazing opportunity for our students to see the impact of this service.

At Cross Schools, our students know, love and follow Jesus Christ. Each school day begins in prayer and is followed by a devotional time. Students participate in Faith Formation classes and weekly chapel services. Bible is incorporated into all aspects of daily life at Cross.

In His Name,

Brad Schultz

Head of School

# Cross Schools' Faith Formation Program in 2019

## Cross Schools' Chapel Program

This year saw the continuation of the weekly chapel program at Cross Schools for all students from the 18 month-old classes through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All Preschool students, ages 18 month - age 5, enjoyed a large group Tuesday chapel in the Gym with singing and dancing, a Bible story with lesson, memory verse and prayer. **We had up to 17 Preschool classes in chapel at the same time ... approximately 250 little ones learning about Jesus!** Once a month, all families were invited to attend with their children and enjoy coffee fellowship before the service, and we continue to see an increase in the number of parents attending each year.

For the Middle and Lower schools (which has approximately 265 students), Wednesday chapel continues to be a highlight of the Cross experience. Students participated as acolytes, Worship Team members, readers, Chapel Buddies, AV/Tech team members and ushers. The week's messages helped to disciple our students and staff, and, once a month, families came together for Family Chapel with the priests of The Church of the Cross. Family Chapel also offers our school community the chance to participate in Holy Communion. **A special thank you belongs to the former Daughters of the King and the new chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross for their service in providing coffee and treats on Family Chapel mornings, particularly our Grandparent's Day Chapel!**

## Cross Schools' Bible/Faith Formation Classes

All students at Cross Schools take part in its Faith Formation program, also known as "Bible Time" in the Preschool. For the 18-month through 5 year olds, one of the Bible Teachers visit each class once a week to lead them in songs, prayer, and a re-telling of the week's Bible lesson from chapel. This is in conjunction with the classroom teachers' daily reinforcement of these lessons through songs, arts-n-crafts, Bible readings, and other activities.

In addition to daily, in-class Bible instruction, Kindergarten - 4<sup>th</sup> graders also receive weekly Faith Formation classes offered as part of the school's enrichment program. These classes focused on Church traditions, holidays, and seasons, such as the Day of Saint Francis, Advent, and Lent, and often served as a reinforcement of the week's chapel topic. **This year students also explored basic theology with "Big Questions" related to "The Fall" and "God's Salvation."** 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students also receive a graded Faith Formation class three times per week, in addition to memorizing the Books of the Bible, learning memory verses, writing reflection essays and participating in special projects and topics. Old Testament Survey is taught in 5<sup>th</sup>, New Testament Survey in 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade use a curriculum that focuses on life application called "Your Word is Truth" from *Truth:78*.

## Highlights of 2019!!

2019 brought some exciting additions and special events to the spiritual aspect of Cross Schools. Here are some of the exciting things happening at our school:

- All K-8<sup>th</sup> students served in a hands-on way in the community during our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Cross Schools' Missions Week**. This year's theme was *"Do small things with great love."* This special week in the spring provided our students the opportunity to participate in a number of service projects including:
  - ✓ baking treats and delivering them to the fire/police stations
  - ✓ working at The Church of the Cross Food Bank
  - ✓ cleaning up and doing painting at a Christian Refugee Ministry Center in Savannah
  - ✓ learning about our local environmental habitats and leading a clean-up of litter and marsh wrack
  - ✓ packing meals for school-age children with the PACK program in Savannah
  - ✓ planting flowers at a local nursing home and much more! **A special thanks to the Missions (MOMM) Committee of The Church of the Cross for providing the funds for Mission t-shirts and activities!**
- Cross Schools in conjunction with The Church of the Cross participated in Operation Christmas Child in October and November. This year we collected over 1,000 gift-filled shoeboxes to send around the world in the name of Jesus!
- Our 4<sup>th</sup>-annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade Missions Trip (**funded through the MOMM Committee of The Church of the Cross**) to Charlotte, NC to serve in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child processing centers was a huge success. This was in addition to a special trip to the Billy Graham Library for the "Journey of Faith" tour and Christmas displays, which was a very impactful experience for our students!
- We gave out new children's Bibles and information about the Church to over 70 new Preschool families.
- Ms. Michael-Anne Land, **Children's Ministry Leader for The Church of the Cross**, joined the Faith Formation teaching team for Preschool Bible Times and Chapel as well as K-2<sup>nd</sup> Faith Formation classes.
- Our 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade students enjoyed many special guests speakers who shared their testimony and other "life stories", including Pastor Juan talking to us about his new Hispanic ministry and needs in Puerto Rica and beyond.
- A school-wide, year-long PURPOSE theme based on Esther 4:14 ("For such a time as this!") has been our focus for 2019-2020.

*Both the school-wide chapel and Faith Formation programs will continue to grow in 2020 with the expansion of the Cross Schools Campus into a high school, and we look forward to embracing new opportunities as we keep building upon the foundation that has been laid in each of these areas ... all for the Glory of God!*

*Elisabeth Markle & Leslie Albert*

*Cross Schools' Faith Formation Leaders*

## Daughters of the Holy Cross - Esther Chapter

### **Who we Are**

We are women who have committed our lives to the work and service of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray daily for our Church, its clergy, the Order, and others in need. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and equipped with the powerful sword of truth as contained in the Holy Bible, we reach out to those who do not know Jesus to share His message of salvation through word and deed. We wear our cross as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice and our need for Him to be Lord of our lives. In community with our sisters, we are strengthened and encouraged to keep our fourfold Vow of Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism.

The Esther Chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross was instituted on July 20, 2019 with 8 new members.

Members of DHC are called into the Order by the Lord Jesus Christ, whose cross they wear. They do not decide themselves that they will become members of the Order. Candidates undergo a minimum of three months in study and discernment to test and confirm the call. Discernment comes as they take the following steps:

- Prayer
- Study the Bible, the DHC Candidate Study Manual, and the Handbook
- Reflect with their mentor and study group members
- Seek counsel from their priest and others whose spiritual direction you trust

\*Candidate Training classes will be offered each year in the Fall.

In Christ Alone,

Becky Owens  
DHC President

## Dinner Ministry Annual Report 2019

*Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulations, devoted to prayer,  
contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

*Romans 12-12:13*

As an arm of the Pastoral Care Ministries, The Dinner Ministry team is a group of church members who with Christian love and care volunteer to be available as needed to prepare and deliver home cooked meals to fellow church members who are in need for a wide variety of reasons, including but not limited to, those just released from the hospital, those who have had a baby and those who have lost a loved one.

In 2019, The Dinner Ministry served 8 families and 54 meals. Several members also prepared and delivered dinners for the members of Pastor Juan's Thursday evening ESOL class.

The Dinner Ministry team uses an online dinner planning website ([www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com)) to create customized online sign-up sheets that makes it easy to be organized, prevent duplication of meals as well as track and remind members what and when they are planning to take meals to a parish member in need.

While the Dinner Ministry team members seek to be a blessing most will share that they have been blessed beyond measure by the opportunity to serve fellow members of our parish in this very special ministry.

The 30 members of the 2019 Dinner Ministry team are listed below.

*Emily Campbell, Donna Caracola, Mary Jane Cheesman, Sylvia Coker, Nola Cotesworth, Beth Dickson, Alice Fraser, Deb Fuller, Janet Ganote, Pat Griffith, Erin Hicks, Dot Jager, Cheryl & Ed Johnson, Karen & Tim Jones, Kathy Kemmerer, Teri Lewis, Sandra Morgan, Rod Mussleman, Laura Nitz, Elaine Parker, Claudia Peacock, Pat Roth, Paul Scott, Nikki Sevier, Bess Soper Cheryl Tibke, Lynn Webber and Joan Whan.*

Submitted by,

Karen Jones  
Ministry Leader

## DOCENT MINISTRY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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The Church of the Cross, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, is one of the few structures in Bluffton that was not destroyed by Federal troops in 1863. More than 1,000 Union troops marched into Bluffton to “fire the town”. They actually destroyed about 2/3 of Bluffton on that historic day during the Civil War.

The Docent Ministry, organized in 2001, are church members who volunteer to serve as docents to conduct visitors on a tour of our historic building and relate interesting stories. These Docents conduct tours of the Church Monday through Thursday from 11:00 AM til 2:00 PM. Each volunteer Docent receives handout material to become familiar with the Church’s history and is assigned to work with current Docents before working a shift by themselves. Church members who enjoy history and talking to people are welcome and are encouraged to join the ministry.

In 2019, docents served three hours, once or twice a month, extending a person-to-person welcome to over 9,900 visitors and sharing information about God’s work at the Church of the Cross. In 2019, the following members served as docents:

BILL ANDRUS	JEFF HAWKS	ROGER SANDLER
BOB BOOHER	BRUCE HILDEBRAND	JIM SCOTT
PAT CAPUANO	NANCY HILDEBRAND	CHARLES SMITH
JIM CHEESMAN	KAREN HURST	LANETTE STAIR
LISA CERISI	JAN KIRK	ALLAN STRANGE
ED DEVILBISS	EMMETT MCCRACKEN	TOM WHELAND
BETH DRESHER	JEFF MCKILLEN	BUDDY WILSON
ANN ELLIOTT	TOM MURRAY	CAROL WILSON
NANCY GOURLEY	JOE OLSZYK	LESLIE YOUNG
CHARLES HALTIWANGER	BOB POINTON	
ANNELORE HARRELL		

## FLOWER GUILD REPORT 2019

The Flower Guild welcomed four new members this year. Members teamed up in 2020 to enhance worship services at the Calhoun Street campus and at other events throughout the year. Besides keeping flowers or other natural materials on the altar each week, we also provided floral decorations for two weddings, numerous funerals and various church holidays and events.

We were also able to make significant contributions to the Food Bank and Kairos Prison Ministry from funds accumulated over the past few years from the Bazaar, donations and weddings.

Membership is open to anyone with a love of flowers and the willingness to do the “hands on” work required to accomplish our mission. No prior experience is necessary.

Call Stephanie Mendenhall 843-505-8696 or email at [smendenhall@hargray.com](mailto:smendenhall@hargray.com) for more information.

Stephanie Mendenhall Chairperson

## **Food Bank Annual Report - 2019**

The Food Bank ministry mission is to give spiritual and nutritional support for anyone in need. We seek to honor God by lightening the load of life for everyone we serve.

The Food Bank serves only food of high quality that its volunteers would consume. The ministry goal has been to provide enough food to serve a family of four for one day. In 2019, this ministry far exceeded this goal thanks to both our congregation donations, volunteer initiatives and our partner Second Helpings. The Church Of The Cross congregation support increased in 2019: Each One Reach One wagons and baskets were filled; God's Goods team collected canned goods in the summer; Cross Schools had a Thanksgiving and a Souper Bowl drive; and a first annual Reverse Advent giving event happened. Together, approximately 10,700 cans were donated in 2019. The congregation donated \$7,865 in 2019 and an enterprising food bank volunteer received a \$2,000 grant for the food bank. Praise God!

The Food Bank again provided 3,900 full grocery carts for hungry families in 2019. The ministry cost in 2019 was \$18,956. The Food Bank ministry delivered a full shopping cart of high quality food for a family for \$4.90 per cart so a donation of \$5.00 to the Food Bank feeds a family for a day.

The Food Bank operates on Monday at the Mission Mall. The Monday schedule has two opportunities for volunteer service...9-noon; and 12:30-3:00 pm. The morning hours are used to set up the store and receive food from incoming trucks. We serve guests from 1:30 to 3:00. Each guest session begins with a bible reading or sermon synopsis. This devotion is given both in English and Spanish! God's Goods helps our guests by providing free clothes, toys and housewares every other Monday.

The Food Bank team has expanded its reach by preparing and serving grocery bags to about 50 riders of Palmetto Breeze buses. In 2019, Food Bank volunteers have filled over 700 grocery bags for Palmetto Breeze riders. These hard working riders have a 1-2 hour bus ride each way to work in Bluffton or Hilton Head. They appreciate having free, ready-to-eat food after a long day. This meal service happens every Thursday at the Palmetto Breeze terminal. Our team handles every fourth and fifth Thursday of the month.

The Food Bank ministry has been blessed with a volunteer team that enjoys working together and serving our guests. There is always a need for new people to step up their service to others in His name. To join us, contact the Church Office; email Rod Musselman ([rod.musselman1@gmail.com](mailto:rod.musselman1@gmail.com)); or just show up to see whether this experience calls you.

In His Service,

Jim Dorsch & Rod Musselman

## God's Goods 2019 Annual Report

It never ceases to amaze those serving at God's Goods the care and watchful eye of God over his store! God continues to bless this ministry with great volunteers, great donations, great customers and amazing financial blessings.

Last year, \$458,404.00 was given to the mission field from proceeds of God's store. To date \$2,753,891.00 has been given to MOMMS (Mission Outreach Minders and Modelers) to distribute locally, nationally and internationally to outreach missions. In addition to that MANY goods from God's store have been given to those in need.

All of this could not happen without the amazing team of volunteers and the Leadership Team that run God's store. Last year 345 volunteers worked over 43,728 hours to make all of this happen.

While success of financial blessings is great, the ministry that is done each day between volunteers, with our customers and to those whose lives are touched is what makes this ministry a true gift. This is the reason so many people work so hard in honoring God and are then able to see all that He is accomplishing!

God's Goods Leadership Team Roster is below as well as all those that have benefited from God's Goods Ministry in 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Perri, Ministry Leader

## GOOD NEWS CLUB



The last 3 years The Church of the Cross adopted a Good News Club to bring the life changing message of Jesus to young boys and girls ages 5-12 years old. The Good News Club is a ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship who has been in existence for 80 years. They provide standardized Bible curriculum, which includes power point presentations. There are approximately 30 schools that allow the Good News Club after school program in Beaufort County.

We began our 4th year in early October and will meet until the end of March. The Good News Club is held at the Bluffton Elementary School and Early Childhood Center. We currently have 8 volunteers. We meet for 2 hours once a week and this year we have 22 children attending the majority of them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. We use a Biblical PowerPoint presentation, a Bible lesson, a memory verse, a mission story, sing songs, play quiz games and have fun. It is amazing how much they learn and the interesting questions they ask. To date we have had 90% of the children pray the salvation prayer and many who have already accepted Christ asking for deeper meaning. Our goal is to plant the seed in all and nourish with the Good News!

Did you know recent research has determined:

- A child's moral foundation is generally in place by the time they reach age 9.
- What children believe by age 13, is what they will die believing.

For more information about the Good News Clubs, please go to [www.cefonline.com](http://www.cefonline.com). For more information about this opportunity, please contact Deborah Deignan at 843-837-2115.

Deborah Deignan

## **Gracetime Service - Volunteer Ministry**

*"The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."  
1Thessalonians 5:28*

This Gracetime ministry exists to provide parishioners of The Church of the Cross with the opportunity to use the gifts that God has given us, to serve our fellow Christian brothers and sisters in the name of Jesus Christ. In doing so, we follow the example set by our Lord and Savior Himself, when He said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:28)

This is an all volunteer ministry which provides chalice bearers, greeters, ushers and power point technicians, all of which are necessary to provide Church of the Cross parishioners and guests with the best possible opportunity to worship and hear the Word of God.

We currently have 13 chalice bearers, 21 greeters, 10 ushers and 4 power point technicians, with some people serving in more than one ministry. We are always looking for more volunteers to serve in all positions. If you are looking for a way in which to serve, please contact us. We will be happy to provide training at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy & Deb Johnson

## **Greeter Ministry – CrossPoint**

The Greeter Ministry mission is to ensure that everyone who enters our doors are greeted with a Spirit filled smile and feels the love of Jesus Christ. Because we are His door keepers we have a wonderful opportunity and responsibility to touch every heart. The Greeter Ministry is a face-to-face, hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart ministry committed to graciously greeting, directing and assisting worshipers as they enter and exit worship services.

This Ministry is blessed with a team of volunteers for both the 9:00 a.m. service where 20 members serve about every four to five weeks on a rotation; the 10:30 a.m. team consists of 49 team members and volunteer on a rotation of every seven to eight weeks.

We are always looking for additional greeters. If you feel the Lord is leading you to serve in this way please contact the Church office.

***Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have entertained angels. (Romans 13: 1-2)***

To all greeters, thank you for serving HIM in this ministry. What a pleasure and a blessing to serve alongside you as a member of this team!

Susan Ball  
Ministry Leader

This ministry utilizes the talents and tools of the people interested in performing handyman services at the Historic Church, Parish Hall, Offices and Cross Schools buildings. We give Thanks to God for the gifts that the Holy Spirit that gives us: the desire to do the work, the creative minds to solve the problems, the skill and assistance to safely perform our tasks.

## **Mission**

- Use your knowledge and abilities from the past
- On the present church and school buildings and furnishings
- To enhance the function, safety and appearance for the future

## **Vision**

- We can see what others don't
- We can do what others won't
- Our quality reflects our love for God
- Our ability reflects Gods love for us
- Most people will not see what we do but they will feel the results

## **Strategy**

- Respond promptly to requests for minor maintenance.
- Find and make repairs to buildings and furnishings before the problems grow into an urgent situation.
- Assist other ministries where our skills are needed.

## **Work Summary for 2019**

- About 95% of our work this year has been at Cross Schools. Major projects include The Soccer Field Net, The Red Roof Inn for the Chickens, and a Greenhouse. Many smaller projects were completed inside the school
- At the Historic Campus we repaired the fence, pump building, prayer chapel, access ramps to the office and brush removal to permit parking on the adjacent lot.
- Our support continued for the Crafters Guild, Alter Guild, and Plumbing Repairs.

## **The Church office no longer facilitates communication for this ministry.**

Requests for assistance by this ministry can be made to any team member or the leaders below. If you would like to join the Handyman Ministry please contact the leaders below.

It has been our pleasure to lead this group of diversely talented men and women.

His Humble Servants,

Jim Scott, Text 843-422-2176, Phone 843-705-7288, [jimnancyscott@aol.com](mailto:jimnancyscott@aol.com)

Jay Shook, Text 412-720-8899, Phone 843-705-7708, [jnsshook@hargray.com](mailto:jnsshook@hargray.com)

Mark Jenkins, Text 210-314-0600, Phone 843-705-7669, [mark6132@att.net](mailto:mark6132@att.net)

## Healing After Loss Ministry

Healing After Loss (HAL) is a confidential, Scripture-based support course for people who are mourning after the loss of a loved one. The program consists of seven two-hour sessions, for seven consecutive Sunday afternoons. The maximum number of participants is 10.

HAL offers caring support, hope and encouragement by facilitators who have personally experienced a loss, who have taken the HAL course and are committed to sharing their loss with the group.

We use a teaching workbook, "Harvesting Our Tears", to provide education about grief and how to deal with a variety of feelings and emotions. The book provides useful tools for the participants, as they move forward with hope and purpose in their lives. We rely totally upon God, through the Holy Spirit, to guide and to heal.

The HAL ministry had a very successful 2019. In the February/March session, nine people attended and in the October/November session, five people participated.

It was a very sad year for HAL however as two of our participants passed away unexpectedly and they were a great loss to all of us.

The evaluations of the program by the participants were very positive, with some people willing to serve.

Our team has worked very well together and we all have grown in our service to and for the Lord. We are so blessed by the courage and love of all our participants. We continue to seek and train new assistants and facilitators for this very valuable and rewarding ministry. Our goal is to encourage those with the gifts of caring, mercy and faith to consider HAL as a way to work for God's purpose.

Beverly Adams  
Team Facilitator

# Healing Prayer Ministry

The Healing Prayer Ministry is a vibrant, out-reaching ministry of the Church. Healing services are held each month at the Historic Campus on the first Sunday of the month at 3:00pm, with a special service held the Wednesday of Holy Week. The ministry mission is to continue Jesus' work - *spread the Word, heal the sick, and cast out evil spirits* (Mark 3:14-15).

The services are open to all parishioners as well as the community-at-large. The service includes singing praises to God, sharing His Word from Scripture, and offering individual prayer, as well as the Holy Eucharist which is in itself healing by receiving the blessed Body and Blood of Christ. Prayer can be for physical, emotional, or spiritual healing.

In addition, the Ministry offers private prayer appointments which can be made by calling The Rev. Tom Hendrickson at 843-422-0295.

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry is an adjunct of the Healing Prayer Ministry and meets weekly at the Cross Schools Campus before the 10:30am CrossPoint service. This special group of dedicated, devout individuals offer prayer and supplication on behalf of others. The scope is far reaching as they pray for our priests, leadership, building and grounds, individual prayers from our Church family and beyond, as well as our nation and the world.

All prayer ministers have completed extensive training utilizing materials developed by Christian Healing Ministries (founders Francis and Judith MacNutt). As well, Bible Studies and related subject matter books are recommended and encouraged for further enrichment.

We, as focused prayer members of The Church of The Cross, both in the Healing Prayer Ministry and Intercessory Prayer, are held up and spiritually supported by another ministry, the Daughters of the Holy Cross, who come beside us and pray for us. "We are commanded to pray for one another and for leadership at all levels, for the sick and for the lost. In it all we are to pray that God might receive the glory."

For additional information, please contact Father Tom at 843-422-0295 or [thendrickson@thechurchofthecross.net](mailto:thendrickson@thechurchofthecross.net).

Respectively submitted,

The Rev. Thomas J. Hendrickson  
Pastoral Care Coordinator

## HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

2019

On June 27, 2019 The Church of the Cross celebrated its 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The History Committee continues to collect information – papers, books, photos, and other items related to all the 165 years of the Church history.

The earliest book in the archives is the Treasurer's "Record Book" beginning 1867. In the twelve month period of May 1876- May 1877, expenses listed included Freight on Bell from Charleston, Labour and Dray - \$9.00 and Contract for belfry \$25.00. The income for this period was \$112.10. Accounts of the initial services mentioned a bell though there was no belfry. In the 1860's the bell disappeared but fortunately, it was located at a school in Charleston, SC and identified as the Church of the Cross bell.

The Archives are housed in file cabinets and a closet upstairs in the Parish Hall. This year a new filing system was completed as the information from Ministries, Services and Events are expanding the holdings. Photos from 1954 negatives were printed and added views of the interior of the church. All additions add to the recording of Church history.

At the monthly meetings, newly collected items are added to the files and we continue to research the history of the Church and support the Docent and other Ministries with information.

Anyone interested in the Church history is welcome to attend the monthly meetings, currently, the second Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall Library.

Active members in 2019 were Jim Cheesman, Ann Elliott, Nancy Mattison, Teddy McCracken and Buddy Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Elliott

## Home Communion

The following dedicated people gave 784 people Home Communion:

John and Elaine Parker	324 ( Bloom)
Tom Durston	312
Mill Simmons	122
B.J. Silver	12
Cheryl Hocevar	6
Bob Faas	12
Mary Jane Cheesman	<u>2</u>
Total	784

We have 10 Communion Kits:

John and Elaine Parker, Tom Durston, Mill Simmons, Bob Faas, Cheryl Hocevar- each have one.

There are two in the Home Communion cabinet and Mary Jane Cheesman has 3 at her home. We are working on a check in and out system so we can keep better track of them.

Also Mary Jane Cheesman has sent 136 grief books this year that required 408 stamps.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Jane Cheesman

## **Kairos Annual Report (2019)**

Kairos, meaning “God’s Special Time”, is an international program based upon three and one-half day weekends that are held inside prison walls by trained teams of volunteers. The purpose of the weekend is to take the love of God to the residents and to bring them hope. Locally, Kairos has reached over 700 inmates at the Ridgeland Correctional Institution by holding two weekends per year. (It should be noted that Kairos is self-supportive. We receive no county, state or federal financial aid.) After the weekend, the participants (residents of RCI) are encouraged to establish Prayer and Share Groups which meet weekly. Kairos also holds monthly reunions inside the prison, providing speakers, group discussions, singing and prayer. Twice a year, Kairos holds a Group Reunion Day for all Kairos Graduates who are able to attend. During this time, there are Kairos Graduate Speakers (talking about God inside the prison walls), group discussions, singing and prayer. The Warden at Ridgeland Correctional Institution fully supports Kairos. He states that the program has had a very positive impact inside the walls.

The Church of the Cross has been very involved and supportive of the Kairos Prison Ministry. There are men who volunteer to serve on Kairos Teams, men who have been Weekend Leaders, and men who serve on the Kairos Advisory Council. In 2018. The Church of the Cross Flower Guild donated \$1,000 to the Kairos Ministry. This year they have graciously supported the ministry with a \$2,000 donation. Along with the The Church of the Cross Flower Guild, it is hoped that members of the Church will also continue their support of Kairos in the upcoming year. Other volunteers include men and women who work in the kitchen to prepare food for the weekend. Some men and women attend the Closing Ceremony at the conclusion of each weekend. The Church Office and clergy provide great assistance in helping advertise our weekends, providing for needs, and collecting cookies. The church community in general supports the Kairos Ministry through prayer, financial donations, and cookie donations.

A new Kairos ministry is underway in the Lowcountry: Kairos Outside Prison Ministry. This three-day weekend is designed for women who are related to those who are incarcerated: wives, sisters, daughters, mothers. The Kairos Outside experience is designed to give hope to these women and to show them they are not alone. The Church of the Cross had two women team members who served on Kairos Outside Lowcountry #1 in November.

The Kairos Ministry thanks all who have helped bring Jesus to those behind prison walls.

**“I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you  
looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.**

**(Matthew 25:33)**

Kairos Coordinator,

Charlie Jensen

## Men Greeting Men

The Men Greeting Men Ministry is a service ministry in which new men are welcomed into the Church of the Cross. During the contact the new member is provided the latest information about the activities/ministries of the church and any question regarding the church are answered. Additionally, each new man is provided a Bible inscribed, by the Rector, with an appropriate scripture verse.

Our goal for 2020 is to continue to assist new men in the church with an easy transition into men's activities/ministries at the Church of the Cross.

### 2019 Team Members:

Bob Bothfeld  
Pat Capuano  
Rod Carlson  
Doug Dafler  
Rod Musselman  
Bob Olsen  
John Parker  
Craig Pelley  
Alan Restivo  
Paul Scott  
Mill Simmons  
J. Michael Simon

In His Service,

*John Parker*

## Men's Thursday Bible Studies

Three years ago our Men's Ministries launched "Warrior Discipleship Bible Studies" meeting in various locations, days and times. One began at the Mission Mall location (Thursdays from 9-10:30), and others continue elsewhere. From this particular small gathering of six to eight men in the MM Conference room (Youth area) has come a gathering of over twenty men divided into two groups of ten—twelve, and they are growing.

Presently, one group is reading and discussing **Romans** and the other **Hebrews**. Every man sits around tables, brings his Bible, and has the opportunity to share in exploration, meaning and life application of the texts. We've all learned that there is **joy** in discovering God's Truth, and in hearing from one another as to how God's Word has impacted our lives.

These lively gatherings are designed for **beginners** (many have never participated in such studies, so we use the Bible's table of contents, etc.). It is truly a fun gathering of bodies, minds and hearts! We don't need coffee and donuts - our stimulant comes from the energy exercised as we experience God's **ALIVE WORD** (Acts 4:12), hopefully taking root in our daily lives. We welcome all comers!

Charles Smith

## **MILITARY CARE MINISTRY 2019**

**The Military Care Ministry had a productive year. However, we need more participants to expand our potential for taking care of members of our Armed Forces, their families and veterans. Persons interested in becoming members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings where we discuss potential opportunities. We currently meet at 11:30am on the third Tuesday of the month at the Parish Hall on the Historic Campus. We are prepared to change our meeting time in order to accommodate those who cannot meet at that time of day.**

**During this past year we engaged in several support activities that were beneficial to those whom we serve.**

**We have taken clothing to Savannah to donate to homeless veterans, many of whom are destitute. We would like to do more for them when we have the resources to add to our capability.**

**We have expanded our source for names of service members to adopt. During our program, in which we host the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day coffee hour after the 10 o'clock service on the Historic Campus, we were able to find sponsors who have adopted seven troops. We will continue to offer names & contact information for troops during these future coffee hours.**

**Annually, we donate funds to support the wounded troop golf event held at Hampton Hall. The money raised during this annual event is used to support wounded troops nationally. We have been providing this support yearly for several years and expect to continue. The actual event is very exciting to watch, although the attendance is closely monitored. It usually begins with a parachutist jumping with an American flag and landing on a green near the clubhouse. I would encourage any who have an interest, to attend our meetings to find out how to attend this great program. Each year, the number of Purple Heart participants has risen.**

**Our expectation this coming year is to expand the ministry to the Cross Schools Campus at The Chapel. We haven't done enough to cultivate the attendees on that campus and we will be looking for volunteers to represent the Ministry there in this coming year.**

**Finally, we are looking to promote the Honor Flight for our qualified veterans. That is a program that transports those selected veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials and other significant locations in the city. It is a FREE program.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Roger Sandler**



## **2019 Mission Objective**

**Phase 1-** To study the unique needs of the Latino population in the Lowcountry, establish key relationships of trust within that community, and organize missional events that connect our church family with potential new Christians.

From spring to Late Summer, we made some of our first Latino contacts at our Farmers Market booth and introduced church members to them.

In July of 2019, we targeted a low-income community in Bluffton “Shady Glen” 30 children were ministered to via a mini VBS program.

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### **ESL Classes**

We have registered over 120 students since the inception of our language outreach programs. All our language opportunities concentrate on fostering Christian community through worship, prayer and fellowship. Our Thursday Night Program is led by teachers & assistants who create a wholesome environment where Latinos are welcome to interact and practice English without judgement. We begin this program with a home cooked dinner generously donated by volunteers and a team of folks who serve joyfully each week

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### **Sunday Night Program**

We established an evening ESL class with a small service following. This class is evolving and growing, beginning with a devotional and leading to a class from 6-7:30pm.

- **Mobile Mission Outreach**

Twice a month, volunteers from God’s Goods and Misión Cristiana work together, distributing clothes and food while sharing the good news of Christ with our neighbors.

- **Misión Cristiana Christmas Concert**

As a mission’s fundraiser to send mission shipments to Venezuela, we collaborated with Bill Andrus and two Barbershop Choruses. We plan to continue this concert each year.

- **Venezuela Mission Partner**

We have partnered with Ana Julia Cabrera with *Misioneras de Luz* (Missionaries of Light). This organization is currently building a small nursing home and an orphanage. We will be collecting and sending a shipment of goods during Lent.

Many person-to-person ministry opportunities were pursued, helping people find jobs, translating, and providing transport to the doctors, visiting the sick, assessing financial needs and helping when possible. Sufficient relationships have been established in order to enter phase 2 of our ministry.

## **2020 Mission Objective**

Phase 2- To focus on solidifying our missional relationships, leading to an inaugurated worship service in Spanish by December 2020.

- **Shady Sharks Soccer Team**

In partnership with our volunteer coach Susan Ball, we are organizing a mission's soccer team that will be composed of 30 children in two different age categories with the children of Shady Glen and our ESL students. We are currently working on logos and uniforms. This ministry is projected to start Mid-Spring.

- **Outdoor Mobile-Church Services**

We will lead bi-monthly evangelistic services at two outdoor preaching stations with food distribution where the canvassed neighbors will be able to conveniently meet up and hear the Gospel.

- **Online Evangelism**

A strong social media evangelistic presence will be established via announcements, video themes and live broadcasts of our new Spanish services. A meaningful relationship has been established with *Latinas al Rescate*, a Latino Facebook forum where area Latinos post needs and opportunities in the community.

- **Spanish Service**

Beginning on March 29, we will begin to build our future 1pm service. This will become our 7th service on a 3rd campus. This service will be an evangelical service that will introduce Latinos to Christ and to Anglican practices and ethos. Our goal is to regularly gather 50 souls for worship by Christmas.

- **Bilingual Sunday school**

Following the Spanish service, we will hold a missionary, bilingual Bible class that will serve as a hybrid ESL class that will not only help new Christians become familiar with English nouns and verbs, but also with the basic stories, characters and message of the Bible.

- **Legal Aid Opportunities**

On March 9, we will hold a 45 minute info session provided by *Legal Volunteers of The Lowcountry* called "*Conozca sus derechos*" (*Know Your Rights*). We are also going to establish connections with a legal aid and an immigration lawyer to help select cases.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have made this ministry possible and productive.

In His Service,

Pastor Juan Rivera

*Submitted by Sheryl Maddux*

## Mission and Outreach Minders and Modelers (MOMM)

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

1 Chronicles 16:25

It has been an active year for the Church of the Cross Missions and Outreach Minders and Modelers (MOMM). Our purpose is to focus upon, as well as to solicit, mission and outreach opportunities in our surrounding communities, the nation and the world. The goal for our work is to reflect God's love and to reach those who have not yet embraced the Gospel.

The Church of the Cross was able to reach out toward that vision, as we participated in the mission and outreach opportunities listed below:

Cross Schools

Anglican Frontier Missions

Heal Ministry

Gwen Webber – Estill

Pastor James – Hampton County

Pastor Juan Shady Glenn Ministry

Video Streaming Project

Young Lives

Bahamian Hurricane Relief

Operation Shoebox

American Heritage Girls

Good News Club

Samaritan's Purse

Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen

Christian Orphan Health International

Mission Trip to Peru

Christian Best Camps, Kenya

Broadhursts' Ministry in Madagascar

Hope for Life Homes, Russia

Diocese of Marsabit, Kenya, (School Building and scholarships)

The Youth Ministries - The Church of the Cross

Food Bank – The Church of the Cross

Kenyan Christian Education Partnership

MOMM thanks all those who work so diligently at God's Goods so that The Church of the Cross is able to have the necessary resources to support these mission and outreach opportunities. We also thank the many, many parishioners who have given their time, talent and prayers to spreading the Gospel beyond our doors. God has blessed us mightily and our response is to glorify Him through the work He has called us to do.

In His Service,

Bob Jarvis, Sonja Wesseler, Lynn Oberg, Tim Jones, Marty Strauss, Robert Hollings, Dorothy Saucier

# THURSDAY MORNING MOM'S GROUP BIBLE STUDY

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Thursday Mom's Group exists to develop a culture among mothers in our church and community that supports, nurtures and equips one another so that each woman can realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ.

## IN 2019

Each week, a group of moms met for Bible study, prayer and support, led by Sue Carlson and Lisa Riddle. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, this group of women put together homemade sugar scrub jars and bath salt ornaments to give to the moms who shopped at Bluffton Self Help's Toy Shop at Christmas. There are endless opportunities to serve the moms in our church and community. With additional leadership and participation, this ministry could grow to serve many more women.

## ONGOING GOALS

- to continue to build a mother culture in our church and community where moms feel connected to one another intellectually, relationally and spiritually
- to equip our moms to be the moms God intended them to be by helping them access the power they have in Christ through Bible study, prayer, and personal time in the Word
- continue to work with Bluffton Self Help, possibly "adopting" some families throughout the year
- to raise up leaders among moms in our Church

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." -Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

*Submitted by,  
Sue Carlson*

## **Crosspoint Worship Team**

Our team has been blessed with another year of worshiping our Lord alongside all of you! We continue to strive for an atmosphere of worship that is humble and inviting. This year we'll see a few changes and (good) challenges to our delivery as The Chapel at Cross Schools comes online, but leading the lost to Christ will still be the sole focus.

We've added Jason LaPorte, a talented worship leader and technical director, to our team and are looking forward to showcasing his amazing gifts to you in the coming year with an updated focus on created a cohesive worship atmosphere. We also look forward to presenting a live stream of our services in the coming months. We're very excited and prayerful about the future here at The Church of the Cross!

Jordan Ross - Director of Music, Cross Schools Campus

## NEW MEMBER SHEPHERDING MINISTRY

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers, not because you must, but because you are willing as God wants you to be.”  
I Peter 5:2a

The New Member Shepherding Ministry falls under the umbrella of Cross Christian Women. The ministry reaches out to all new women members...welcoming and familiarizing them with the facilities and the ministries of the TCOTC.

The mission of the ministry is to help the new member fully enjoy the many blessings of membership and to encourage them to share openly their time, talents and treasures.

Over the past year, The New Member Shepherding Ministry has reached out to over 81 new women members. Each new member was presented a gift of a daily devotional and information about our church programs. We encourage the ladies to seek out the church web site for the most current information about ministries, Bible studies, Sunday services, etc.

The Church of the Cross members currently serving as Shepherds for 2019 are:

- Sue Benton
- Martha Pike
- Diane Harris
- Cynthia Reed
- Cheryl Hocevar
- Sue Short
- Mary Pitcher
- Becky Owens
- BJ Silver
- Martha Marcinkoski

Thank you ladies for a job well done. God has blessed the growth of our Church and will continue to do so.

Submitted on February 8, 2020

Martha Marcinkoski

New Member Shepherding Ministry,

The Church of the Cross

## **PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

**The mission of the Pastoral Care Team is to support, encourage, and be available for the Pastoral Care Ministries of TCOTC.**

**These ministries are: Caring Hearts, Community Eucharist, Cross Care Visitation Team, Home Communion, Dinner, Financial Counseling ,Friendly Faces, Healing After Loss (HAL), Healing Prayer, Intercessory Prayer, Prayer Shawl, Season Sisters, and Stephen Ministry. In October, 2019, a Pastoral Care Roundtable Meeting was held in the Parish Hall for all ministries to share their goals, needs, and leadership status.**

**The team met the first Monday of each month in the Mission Mall and stayed in close contact with the Church office to assess the needs of the parish family. A Pastoral Care brochure can be found on each campus and is given to newcomers to make known the availability of assistance for our Church family.**

### **TEAM MEMBERS- 2019**

**Mary Jane Cheesman**

**Karen Jones**

**Sheryl Maddux**

**John Parker**

**Nancy Shute-Scott**

**Mill Simmons**

**IHS,**

**Elaine B. Parker**

**Pastoral Team Coordinator**

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to be blessed by dedicated women who give very generously of themselves to provide comfort and to glorify God through prayer shawls, lap robes, prayer patches and baby blankets. Through our handmade items we continue to have opportunities to partner with other ministries to promote healing and comfort for those in need.

We meet on the second and fourth Monday at 10:00 AM on the Calhoun campus. Our time together is spent with a prayer, devotional, sharing of projects, an occasional luncheon, helping each other and just having fun and fellowship!

We offer knitting and/or crochet lessons to anyone interested in becoming a member of our ministry. We look forward to serving in 2020 to glorify God and The Church of the Cross!

In His name,

Pamela Rubinos

## Safety Team Ministry

The Safety Team of The Church of the Cross continues to provide a dedicated team of safety minded Christians to serve every service at both campuses and select Church events. The team's mission is to create a safe environment where people can hear the life-giving message of Jesus Christ. In 2019, the Safety Team added 9 additional members to bring the total in the ministry to 48. Additionally, the team was afforded the following critical trainings:

- Safety and Awareness Training
- Active Shooter
- First Aid/CPR and AED certification
- Fire Training with the Bluffton Fire Department

The team is excited for 2020 and the opening of the Chapel on the Cross Schools campus. If interested in joining this important ministry, please contact James Hamilton ([hotelco92@hotmail.com](mailto:hotelco92@hotmail.com) or 843.707.2044).

Submitted by,

James Hamilton

## **Season Sisters**

Season Sisters (Widows' Ministry) was established 3 years ago to provide opportunities for Christian fellowship to reflect God's love to widows of the parish family of The Church of The Cross. Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month at 10am in the Parish Hall. All members are invited to enjoy lunch together after the meeting.

Our ongoing plan is to continue to engage our members in a variety of activities. The focus is on social and service groups for widows. In 2019, completing TCOTC Birthday Card Ministry was part of the monthly meeting. Visiting the Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon, Georgia, tour of Pinckney Island, and Christmas at the Millionaire's Club on Jekyll Island were some of our activities in 2019. Members are encouraged to participate in selecting entertainment activities, interesting tours, speakers and topics to explore.

In summary, the Season Sisters Ministry provides opportunities for fellowship, social activities, and resources to women in TCOTC who have lost their husbands. Through this ministry, the widows grow in their relationship with Jesus and develop a bond of sisterhood.

Emily Myers, Ministry Leader  
Diane McNamara, Program Director  
Sandy Reiter, Secretary

In His Service,

Emily Myers

# **STEPHEN MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

**STEPHEN MINISTRY MOTTO:**  
*CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE*

In Stephen Ministry congregations, such as The Church of the Cross, lay caregivers, called Stephen Ministers, provide one to one Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, caregivers, those who are ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, family issues or other crisis/life challenges.

Stephen Ministers have completed a minimum of 50 hours of training and attend continuing education groups to provide a caring ministry for The Church of the Cross members and others in their time of need.

Stephen Ministry continued to serve The Church of the Cross and community in 2019.

In February, 2019 TCOTC commissioned 4 new Stephen Ministers bringing a total of 19 Stephen Ministers. During 2019 we have lost 4 ministers to other ministries and personal issues, bringing the current total to 15 (5 men and 10 ladies).

No class was offered in the Fall of 2019 due to an insufficient number of students.

During 2019 we were blessed to offer one-on-one care giving to 18 total care receivers with 9 continuing on to 2020.

Our current Stephen Ministers are: Mitch Brach, Sallie Brach (leader), Mary Jane Chessman(delivers SM grief books), Sara Gibala, Laurie Haddock, Paul Halvorson, Kaye Halvorson(leader), Gail Johnson, Shirley Johnson, Mike(Manuel) Miguel, David Pierson(leader), Nancy Shute-Scott(leader), Susan Wheat, Laura Strange, Bud Villar.

All Stephen Ministers are honored and blessed to serve TCOTC. It is very humbling and rewarding to act as Christ's ambassadors. We also thank Fr. Owens, Pastor Jonathan, Pastor Juan and Pastor Kevin for their continued support.

If you, a family member or someone you know is in need of one on one support during a difficult time, please contact one of our pastors or a Stephen Ministry leader.

Respectfully submitted,

Sallie Brach

**Usher Ministry  
Calhoun Street 10am**

It has been a real privilege for the 6 usher teams to greet and serve you each Sunday in 2019.

Each usher team member is working to be sure you - whether a newcomer or long time member- feel you have come home and are with friends and fellow believers. The Usher Team mission is to take care of the details of each service so that you can focus on worship and the message the Lord is sending to you.

**We need ushers for 2020!** Each team needs six members and each team serves once every 6 weeks at the 10am service. If you are new to The Church of the Cross, this is a great way for you to meet lots of people and get involved in church life. The task is not hard, if you make a mistake, no one will know, and it's rewarding!

If you have been on sabbatical, come on back. We need your experience. We always have need for substitutes and extra help. The schedule for the year will be sent to you in middle February.

Please volunteer, call the church office or Stew Brown (843-816-5321) or [sdb55@aol.com](mailto:sdb55@aol.com).

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and HIM.

Stew Brown

## *Wedding Guild*

The Church of the Cross Wedding Guild members support the clergy, the Rector's Assistant, Risa Grace, and the wedding party with all aspects of weddings held in the church. In 2019, four weddings were conducted in the church.

Guild members are present for the bride's meeting, wedding rehearsal and day of wedding.

2019 Guild members were:

Phyllis Spearman  
Brooke Mendenhall  
Patti Garrity  
Sally Hoag  
Lynn Oberg  
Leslie Young  
Bonnie Leary

We're always looking for new members!

In His Service,

Risa Grace

## Worship Teams – Historic Campus

The Worship Team consists of men, women, and young adults serving at the altar every Sunday in various capacities to at the 8:00am and 10:00am service at the Historic Campus. These individuals assist in the worship service each Sunday as Sacristan, Sub Deacon, Crucifer, Chalice bearers, Torch bearers, Lay Readers and on special occasions Flag bearers and Thurifer. In addition to the Sunday services, they also serve on Ash Wednesday, during the Holy Week services, Easter services, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and for weddings and funerals.

Submitted by,

Karen Hurst  
Ministry Leader

## Youth Ministry

We've had a great year in the Youth Department, working with teenagers is nothing short of an adventure! It's amazing to help teach and disciple our students and to share the Good News of our Savior with them. What a joy it is to witness some of the seeds taking root. For instance, one of our teenagers recently said the following to me:

*"Every day in my prayers, I'm going to ask that I start seeing myself the way Jesus sees me."*  
For this and for so many things, we say thanks be to God.

As a rudder and umbrella, the Youth Department leadership has prayerfully chosen a **Mission Statement**, and our programs and ministries reflect these goals:

*Cross Youth exists to proclaim the Gospel to students, equip them to live a Christ-centered life and send them out into the world as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.*

The adult leaders and I are blessed to be a part of the lives of so many amazing middle & high school students and - of utmost importance - I could not do my job without these volunteer leaders. They are the heartbeat of our program! We gained three new leaders last year, and the adult volunteer team includes **(High School) Josh Hicks, Rod Musselman, Karen Hurst, Kim Wilhite, Jeb Ayres, Laura Nitz and Jane Kiser; (Middle School) Bob Jarvis, Josh Hicks, Erin Hicks, Stacie Green, Kristi Wheat, Kelly Williamson, Jane Kiser and Kelly Nicholson.**

We've also added **junior leaders** to our leadership team this year. These high school students serve in the middle school youth program on Wednesday evenings. This team includes **Emma Drury, Alec Toon, Jonah Carlson, Addison Black, Madeline Murph, Olivia Hicks and Lauren Madden.**

*All of these amazing leaders share their lives with 25 - 35 High school students on Tuesday nights and 75 - 85 Middle schoolers on Wednesday nights.*

We also have a praise band that leads worship on Wednesday nights, and we hope to add one to our high school program in the near future!

We've added programming on **Sunday mornings**, as well. These Sunday school classes have developed into Middle & High school groups that are digging deeper into God's Word. Our Middle school class meets from 9am to 10am at Cross schools and has 15 to 20 who attend weekly. Our High school group meets from 10:30am to 11:30am and is led by Kim & Tim Wilhite.

We've added a weekly Bible study for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls during the Cross Schools lunch hour. Led by Kelly Williamson and Ali Ross, and an 8th grade boys Bible study led by Tim Edwards and Rodney Gentry.

On yet another high note, our students and leaders have begun to share their testimonies with one other. It's amazing to see and hear our teenagers boldly share what Jesus has done in their lives and to allow the group to see that their peers also have struggles but are learning to lean on Jesus daily.

In addition to our weekly meetings, we spent four different weekends at Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island, laughing, talking, singing, and listening to speakers who challenged our students to put Jesus Christ first in their lives.

Of course, we've also had lots of fun this year - bowling, shopping, watching movies, having a girls' tea, enjoying pool and Christmas and pizza parties.

As we look ahead to 2020, our ministry includes all of the above, *plus* a return to Daytona Beach for the Passion Camp with Louis Giglio, and an increase from 55 participants last summer to 75 this June!

We're also working on the development of a Youth Council, as we continue to model and teach our young people how to love and lead others as disciples of Jesus.

Finally, here is a heartfelt thank you to our Church family for your support! We covet your continued prayers for the teenagers in our Church and community. They are deeply loved by the leaders and myself and, most important, by the Lord God Almighty.

Submitted by,

Tim Edwards  
Youth Pastor

# Cross Kids 2019

The Church of the Cross offers dynamic children's programming on each campus focused on meeting the needs of our diverse worshipping body and community as well as attracting families and children that do not currently have a place of worship.

## **Nursery**

In 2019 we welcomed Donna Roberts as our head of Nursery. She helps schedule our staff and manages the nurseries. We currently have 14 nursery workers that help with our 5 services each week between the Historic and Cross Point campus. We also provide nursery care for various events and even added an ESOL class in the fall. We are pleased to be caring for so many of the little children in the low country and sharing God's love with them.

## **Sunday School**

On our Cross Schools Campus, we offer Nursery care which includes ages infant to 3 years of age, and Cross Kids which is for our PK4-4<sup>th</sup> graders. We separate elementary programming between our PK4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade and our 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders. We start each Sunday with upbeat praise and worship, move into our lesson, and finish with either a craft or game to reinforce the lesson. We want to offer the kids a safe and fun environment while teaching them about how to grow closer to Christ! Across 2019, we averaged 65 kids a week at CrossPoint and that number continues to grow!

The Historic Campus offers Nursery care and Sunday school to the children at our downtown campus. They use the Faith Weavers curriculum in the classroom, which is an age appropriate and fun way of teaching them about the love of God!

## **Special Events**

In 2019 we had a number of events reaching out to our community. VBS was June 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. We had a blast with the *ROAR* curriculum as we went on an adventure through Africa where we served over 420 kids! It took over 100 volunteers to make that week happen! We also enjoyed teaching the kids at our "All-In Wednesdays" through the summer about the Armor of God. They performed a song and things they learned about God's Armor for their families and guests. In the fall we held our annual Pumpkin Carving contest and family fun! We ended the year with a Christmas craft and gift to make and take afternoon. We had kids come and make gifts and ornaments for their families to open on Christmas morning.

## **Volunteers**

As our children's program continues to grow, we wouldn't be able to have this ministry without our Cross Kids Team members. These teachers and assistants have a dedication and love for both God and children that positively impacts the lives of every child they interact with each week. They are a huge blessing and a talented group to work with. The people is what makes our church's children's ministry so extraordinary!

Michael-Anne Land