



Annual Report 2025

Annual Meeting

February 8, 2026



Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
3 Pleasant St.
Sutton, MA 01590
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The Mission of the Church

(from The Book of Common Prayer, p. 855)

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. This mission is carried out through the ministry of all its members.

The Mission and Vision of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

MISSION: The Purpose of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts is to carry on Christ's work of transformation and reconciliation. We work and pray together to develop healthy, mission focused Christians and congregations who live the fullness of the Baptismal Covenant wherever God places us.

VISION: We are becoming ever more recognizable as the Body of Christ. We are learning and growing together as a community of miraculous expectation, utterly dependent on God, fully gifted by the Holy Spirit, joyously living Christ's Great Commandment and Great Commission in Western Massachusetts and the World.

Holy Spirit's Vision Statement

Created December 11, 2016

To connect people with God by sharing the Good News

The three primary ways we will do this are through:

- Welcoming people to and into our community
- Reaching out to tend those in need
- Worshipping frequently and in a variety of ways

**Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
Sutton, Massachusetts
Annual Report 2025**

Bishop of Western Massachusetts

The Right Reverend Dr. Douglas J. Fisher

Rector

The Reverend Julie Carson

The Staff

Amanda Leighton, Admin

Lynn Ljunggren, Music Director

Gabe Connolly, Sexton

The Officers and Vestry of Holy Spirit

Alice Ploysungwan, Warden

MaryAlice Worden, Warden

Tim Woodcock, Treasurer

Deb Fiore, Clerk

Jean Bruce-Wiegersma, Nancy Falcone, Michelle Gagan,

Rebecca Takis-Smith, Lee Williams

STATISTICS REPORT
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
2023-2025

	2023	2024	2025
Baptisms	7	3	3 Avery, Parker, & Davis Copeland
Confirmation & Reception	7	0	4 Joshua Lukas Gwenevere Sudol Claire St. John James Roy
Burials	3	2	4 Kevin Ellis Anne Coon Frederick Cook Charlotte Cook
Marriages	0	0	2 Catherine Falcone & Daniel Gieselman Claire Fellman & Joseph Murphy
Average Sunday attendance (in person)	52	56	60
Easter Principal Service attendance (in person)	113	121	115
Christmas Eve Principal Service attendance (in person)	98	98	93

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION
Holy Spirit 2023—2026

Range of pledge	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
\$ 10,000-14,999	1	1	2	2	1
7,500-9,999	1	0	1	0	2
5,000-7,499	2	3	5	8	5
2,500-4,999	7	9	9	9	8
1,500-2,499	8	9	13	12	10
1,000-1,499	6	8	11	12	9
500-999	3	4	3	8	3
250-499	3	4	3	1	1
100-249	0	0	0	0	3
\$1-99	0	0	0	0	0
Total pledges	\$89,300	\$95,264	\$128,428	\$141,400	-
# of pledge cards	31	38	47	52	42
Average pledge	\$2,706	\$2,507	\$2,733	\$2,719.23	-

Minutes for Holy Spirit Episcopal Church Annual Meeting February 2, 2025

Sutton, MA 10:00 am

Present: There were 54 parishioners in attendance and 6 parishioners online.

Opening: Pastor Julie called the meeting to order at 10:15.

Adoption of Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting: Charlie DeVane motioned to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Bob Perkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Wardens' Report: MaryAlice Worden reported that once again it had been an honor for Sandy Piscatelli and her to serve as wardens at HSE during this past year. There were more than a few major maintenance repairs, including plumbing, and major elevator issues, along with the purchase of a new sanitizing dishwasher. She encouraged all to use the dishwasher, so that HSE can eliminate the use of all paper products in the kitchen. MaryAlice emphasized that HSE is strong and healthy both financially and in membership. She was happy to report that HSE had increased pledge units. She encouraged all to get more involved by joining a committee. She is looking forward to 2025.

Rector's report: Pastor Julie thanked everyone, especially the wardens and the vestry, for their help, money and time. She gave special thanks to her staff colleagues: secretary- Amanda Leighton, music director Lynn Ljunggren, and Sexton- Gabe Connolly. She also emphasized that HSE is in a good state of being with solid finances, strong leadership and deep faith. The mission of HSE still holds strong and can continue through 2025.

Treasurer's report: Bob reviewed the 2024 statement. He was very positive and felt there was nothing out of the ordinary in his report. There were some large expenditures for the boilers, the dishwasher and the elevator. However, HSE was able to cover all expenses. The best news of all was that the \$50,000 four-year loan, taken out to renovate the church, will be fully paid in May 2025. He also reported that there were nine new pledges this year, which exceeded the goal of five. Bob also reported that after ten years as treasurer of HSE, he will be leaving the position. Bob will be serving as Executive Director for Trustees for the Diocese Tim Woodcock will be taking over as HSE treasurer for 2025. Looking ahead for 2025, Bob feels HSE is in excellent shape with a deficit of only \$2,000. Charlie DeVane

made a motion to accept the 2024 Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Rich Bedard. It was unanimously adopted.

Gratitude to off-going Vestry members: Pastor Julie extended sincere thanks to the three leaving Vestry members: Holly Dolan, Sandy Piscatelli and Bob Perkins. Each was recognized for his/her service and presented with a gift. A special thanks was given to Phil Carson for generously making the gifts.

Presentation of Slate of Candidates for Elected Positions 2025: Pastor Julie presented the following slate of candidates.

Officers (Annually renewable)

Sr. Warden: Maryalice Worden (4th year)

Jr. Warden: Alice Ploysungwan (1st year)

Treasurer: Tim Woodcock (1st year)

Clerk: Lisa Stejskal (3rd year)

3 year vestry term ending in 2026

Michelle Gagan Lee Williams

3 year vestry term ending in 2027

Logan Rice Rebecca Takis-Smith

3 year vestry term ending in 2028

Nancy Falcone Jean Bruce Wiegiersma

Two Delegates to Diocesan Convention (one year term)

Cyndi Davis MaryAlice Worden

Two Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention (one year term)

Bob Perkins Lisa Stejskal

Pastor Julie explained that in the future the Diocese was eliminating the requirement that there be one vestry delegate and one delegate at large. Any two parishioners will be eligible to be delegates to the convention.

A motion was made by Holly Dolan and seconded by Charlie DeVane to accept the slate of candidates. The motion passed unanimously.

Questions and answers: There were no questions from the congregation. Pastor Julie encouraged all to speak to any vestry member or her if there are concerns. Pastor Julie added that there are new church linens and clergy vestments for Advent, presently being made, in honor of Ethel Johnson's 100th birthday.

Installation of the new Vestry and Delegates: Pastor Julie then called forward and commissioned the new delegates and vestry members.

Adjournment: Brian Yacino made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Perkins seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Hudson
Acting Clerk of Vestry

THE RECTOR'S REPORT 2025

Here are some highlights of the year, sorted roughly by liturgical season.

Christmas & Epiphany

January and February 2025 brought about new and continuing energy for welcoming and inclusion from all sides. We enjoyed a lovely Newcomers' coffee hour where we welcomed new members to the parish, and we celebrated an Epiphany potluck. The work of the Expansive Welcome team continued with opportunities to share our own stories, organize and plan a campaign, and dividing into teams of interest. I also began my work as co-chaplain to the Bishop's Search process, which included meetings with the wider committee, consultants and advisors, and my co-chair.

I continued to bring my therapy dog Glory to community organizations including the Sutton Senior Center for a monthly bereavement group, the Sutton Public Library, CareOne in Millbury, and the Southborough Public Library. We make regular visits there as well as other places in Worcester and Metro West. I continued to meet weekly with the Wardens to give and receive support in this ministry together. Sadly, our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was cancelled due to weather, as was our scheduled visitation from Bishop Fisher. He graciously rescheduled to one of his planned vacation days in July. Our Ash Wednesday services were both in-person, and we enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day party during coffee hour in March. Singing, stories, and jokes of varying quality were enjoyed. The Tuesday morning Bible Study was attracting 10-12 people each week, and it continues to be a community of reflection and study, and a lot of laughter.

My work continued as the Dean of the Worcester and Blackstone Valley Deanery, which encompasses the southern half of the Worcester corridor. I enjoy getting to know the clergy and congregations in this deanery, and the opportunity to support the Bishop and ministries of our diocese. I meet monthly with the clergy of these 16 parishes and weekly with the other Deans. I also gather with the clergy from Millbury and Sutton on a regular basis.

Lent & Easter

The need and desire for adult formation is quite active in this congregation, and I receive a lot of joy preparing and facilitating these opportunities. Holy Week worship was well attended on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, as were services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Maundy Thursday included an Agape meal. On Good Friday we offered one service instead of two, which also increased the attendance. Thanks to Phil Carson, our

new microphone system was installed in the sanctuary and through several weeks of fine-tuning, our mics and speakers are a dependable part of our efforts to welcome all.

Easter Season & Pentecost Sunday

During the Easter season, we made plans for our Good News Garden and decided how to distribute our weekly harvest. We blessed our Garden, and the rest of our property, with a Rogation Sunday blessing outside. A varied crop of vegetables was tended by a team of parishioners and managed by Jim Stejskal.

The vestry enjoyed a day retreat to plan some goals for the year and to agree upon how we will work as a new vestry. It was exciting and refreshing to set some intentions while enjoying a meal and prayer together.

The Season of Pentecost & Advent

We planned for two outdoor worship services in July and August, one of which was moved inside because of rain. Many thanks for those who had to do actual heavy-lifting to allow the outdoor service to happen!

Following our excellent Open House Picnic, our fall program year began. Tuesday morning Bible Study began in September. Also, 8 children in our congregation became participants in our Sunday School in a Bag program, which became a monthly in-person event during worship. The diocese began to focus on electing our new bishop in November, and our parish delegates participated in learning more about the candidates and process.

Our Expansive Welcome process continued with opportunities for learning and listening as we welcomed guest speakers through the fall. We also enjoyed other coffee hour forums to learn and engage. This after-church time seems to be a preferred time for adult formation, which I will continue to utilize this year.

I thank God for how happy I am here with you at Holy Spirit, and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us for this year, and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Julie A. Carson, Rector

WORSHIP LEADERS 2025

Eucharistic Ministers*

Debbie Achilles
Pat Ainsley-Baker Marialyce Worden
Alice Ploysungwan
Holly Dolan Rebecca Takis-Smith

Eucharistic Visitors*

Pauline Johnston
Pat Ainsley-Baker
Alice Ploysungwan

Lay Preacher*

Ray Connolly

Altar Guild

Marialyce Worden Deb Fiore
Becky Augustus Marsha Hudson
Lisa Stejskal Nancy Falcone

Tech Team

Phil St. John Dan Fiore
Bob Perkins Tim Woodcock

Ushers

Sandy Piscitelli Bob Perkins
Deb Fiore Pat Ainsley Baker

Elizabeth Klisiewicz Steve Klisiewicz
Marialyce Worden Nancy Falcone
Holly Dolan Patty Kelly-Bedard
Rich Bedard

Worship Leaders*

Holly Dolan
Pauline Johnston Bill Johnston

Readers

Bob Perkins Jim Stejskal
Brian Yacino Deb Fiore
Ray Connolly Elizabeth Klisiewicz
Holly Dolan Marialyce Worden
Alex Woodcock Dave Seifert

Counters

Sandy Piscitelli Marialyce Worden
Alice Ploysungwan Michelle Gagan
Deb Fiore Lisa Stejskal
Holly Dolan Rebecca Takis-Smith
Tim Woodcock Jean Bruce-Wiegersma
Lee Williams Nancy Falcone

* = licensed ministry

THE WARDENS REPORT 2025

As 2025 fades into the rearview, we celebrate another year as a committed community of faith. Our congregation is all the richer for the time spent together in worship and fellowship.

Your vestry held its annual all-day offsite meeting at the Millbury Credit Union community space on March 22, 2025. Roles and responsibilities were reviewed, goals and areas of focus for 2025 were discussed, and vestry members agreed to a ministry for which they would serve as liaison. During 2025, and aligned with internal audit findings, several procedures and policies were written / updated: Counting procedure (entry of all pledges / donations into our accounting software), Safe Church (outlining the standard of behavior for relationships with children and youth and vulnerable adults), Financial Policy and Procedure Manual, and Altar Guild procedures. A Disaster Recovery procedure was started, and evaluation of our IT programs and software for consolidation, cost savings and control of access (passwords) was also undertaken. Your Wardens and Rector attended a Diocesan forum encouraging cooperation, communication, and sharing of resources among the Worcester corridor. Being the Church is changing, and we all need to be aware of our strengths and consider how we can utilize them in the years ahead.

The close of 2025 marks 2 full calendar years with Pastor Julie as our Rector, and we've found a comfortable rhythm of services, special events, in-gatherings, outreach, and also for forums that stretch our boundaries as we strive to be a truly welcoming community. The use of a wide range of Episcopal resources for music and liturgy, and the addition of healing prayers has enhanced our worship. New members were welcomed and although we said goodbye to a few, our core has remained strong. Baptisms were celebrated several times over the year, and we welcomed Bishop Fisher in July, for his last time with us, for confirmations. In November, Holy Spirit's convention delegates met candidates and participated in the exciting election of our next Bishop, the Very Rev. Miguelina Howell.

We've held several educational events Sunday after church which were well attended: Welcome as a Verb (about expansive welcome, in 2 parts) and Spotting Internet Scams. Outreach is important to us and is an area in which God feels alive at Holy Spirit. Your generosity has been evident as the wagon was always quickly filled when donations were requested – for school clothing and supplies for school nurses' offices, soup, diapers, birthday bags, Thanksgiving donations for local food pantries – and generous cash donations were received for Thursday Café, for fuel assistance, and as well as to support the cost of flowers for Easter and Christmas. Thanks to the Altar Guild and all the parishioners who helped with the decorating and cleanup. Our Community Garden was bountiful, and all hands have helped prepare lunches for Worcester Fellowship. During the

year, there were many well attended opportunities for fellowship breaking bread together – Epiphany potluck, Shrove Tuesday pancakes, special coffee hours, Maundy Thursday Agape meal, and the Parish picnic.

We thank the many individuals that have volunteered their time over the past year and encourage all of you to consider how you can be involved during 2026. Be engaged in all the good things happening! The Vestry needs your help and support. Sign up to host a coffee hour. Prayerfully consider leading a project or event, be part of a task force with a shorter duration, suggest new ideas for Sunday forums, attend special Lenten / Holy Week services, pledge! Together God has great things in store for us!

Respectfully submitted: MaryAlice Worden, Alice Ploysungwan

THE MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2025

SENIOR CHOIR REPORT

2025 – Check! Another great year in the books! As I write this report and look back at the year, I feel so blessed to be part of such a special group of people. The choir continues to amaze me with the energy, dedication and joy they bring each week to our rehearsals and church services. There are times when I would like to stay home on a Thursday night, after working all day, or if the weather is not pretty but, when I get to the church, and all my “Holy Spirit Peeps” are there waiting for me, I come away feeling rejuvenated and so thankful.

We said our official “farewell” to Bishop Fisher this summer, after having to postpone in February due to a snow storm. It was a wonderful service with the choir in full complement, sending him off in true Holy Spirit fashion.

This year, we were excited to take the opportunity to work with our young people! With the start of a monthly Sunday School, we decided to see if we could coordinate a Children’s Choir on that same Sunday. It’s been a little stop/start, but we’ve had a few very successful opportunities for them to sing, and it’s been so much fun! Who can’t smile and take joy watching our littlest angels making a joyful noise!

The choir got a great opportunity for some Christmas Caroling to two of our longtime members, visiting with June Lufkin and Ethel Johnson. We were so excited to spend some time with June and Ethel and sing “Merry Christmas” in person!



We are blessed to have such a wonderful spirit and energy that fills this church and the people in it and the music ministry at Holy Spirit plays an integral part to the life of our worship service.

Please take some time and reflect on joining us. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7PM-8:30PM. And remember, all voices are welcome to share the word of God, even if you only want to share once in a while!!

Lynn Ljunggren,
Music Director

TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

Through our normal sources of revenue, as detailed in the accompanying budget spreadsheet, we recorded an operating deficit of \$5,433 for 2025. This figure does not include a \$15,000 draw in July from our endowment fund with the Trustees of the Diocese that was used for operations.

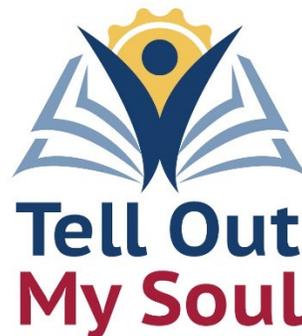
Overall, this represents a meaningful improvement over recent years. In 2024, excluding a \$23,000 endowment draw for operations, we had an operating deficit of \$25,689. In 2023, the deficit was \$48,557. One contributing factor to the improvement is that our Diocesan loan has now been fully paid off. In 2025, we spent \$4,516 to fully amortize the loan—approximately one-third of what we had been paying annually in recent years.

Looking ahead to 2026, the number of financial pledges has declined from 52 in 2025 to 42 for the coming year. This decrease is partly due to changes in life circumstances, such as members moving out of the region. Encouragingly, the 42 pledges for 2026 include three new pledges.

Finally, our financial position remains strong. As of December 31, 2025, our net assets, after liabilities, totaled \$951,573. This information is documented in the balance sheet included with this report.

Thank you for your continued support of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church!

Sincerely,
Timothy Woodcock



Holy Spirit Budget 2026

	Category: Revenue or Expense	2025 Actual: Revenue	2026 Budgeted: Revenue	2025 Actual: Expense	2026 Budgeted: Expense
1	Pledged offerings: Revenue	\$ 129,600	\$ 124,000		
2	Non-pledged offerings: Revenue	\$ 12,186	\$ 12,000		
3	Loose-plate offerings: Revenue	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,000		
4	Christmas offerings: Revenue	\$ 304	\$ 300		
5	Easter offerings: Revenue	\$ 125	\$ 100		
6	Coffee-hour donations: Revenue	\$ 116	\$ 100		
7	Rectory rent: Revenue	\$ 30,830	\$ 33,600		
8	Endowment Fund interest: Revenue	\$ 34,624	\$ 34,000		
9	Easter-flower donations: Revenue	\$ 668	\$ 600		
10	Christmas-flower donations: Revenue	\$ 463	\$ 400		
11	Mission-outreach donations: Revenue	\$ 863	\$ 800		
12	Community Breakfast: Revenue	\$ 1,231	\$ 1,200		
13	Chain of Lights: Revenue	\$ 4,860	\$ 5,000		
14	Holy Spirit contribution to Diocesan work: Expense			\$ (18,195)	\$ (18,195)
15	Clergy salary & housing allowance: Expense			\$ (83,121)	\$ (85,615)
16	Clergy FICA: Expense			\$ (6,359)	\$ (6,550)
17	Clergy pension: Expense			\$ (16,106)	\$ (16,106)
18	Clergy continuing education: Expense			\$ (210)	\$ (500)
19	Clergy supply (fill-in clergy): Expense			\$ (600)	\$ (600)
20	Music-director salary: Expense			\$ (18,141)	\$ (18,685)
21	Secretary salary: Expense			\$ (9,160)	\$ (9,435)
22	Sexton salary: Expense			\$ (4,820)	\$ (4,965)
23	Music dir./secretary/sexton FICA: Expense			\$ (2,457)	\$ (2,531)

	Category: Revenue or Expense	2025 Actual: Revenue	2026 Budgeted: Revenue	2025 Actual: Expense	2026 Budgeted: Expense
24	Music supply (music director fill-in): Expense			\$ (375)	\$ (500)
25	Workers' compensation insurance: Expense			\$ (627)	\$ (627)
26	Insurance for the church structure: Expense			\$ (6,004)	\$ (6,388)
27	Office expenses & supplies: Expense			\$ (1,236)	\$ (1,300)
28	Accounting software (Realm): Expense			\$ (1,693)	\$ (1,693)
29	Online offering fees (Tithely): Expense			\$ (1,131)	\$ (1,200)
30	Computer hardware: Expense			\$ 0	\$ (500)
31	Computer software: Expense			\$ (304)	\$ (400)
32	Copier lease: Expense			\$ (2,470)	\$ (2,500)
33	Copier usage/total page cost: Expense			\$ (1,269)	\$ (1,300)
34	Email-distribution (Constant Contact): Expense			\$ (297)	\$ (300)
35	Telephone & Internet (Verizon): Expense			\$ (2,792)	\$ (2,800)
36	Electricity (National Grid): Expense			\$ (4,082)	\$ (4,200)
37	Heating oil: Expense			\$ (5,014)	\$ (6,000)
38	Oil burner service & maintenance: Expense			\$ (680)	\$ (500)
39	Fire alarm monitoring & service: Expense			\$ (3,463)	\$ (3,000)
40	Sewer for church & rectory: Expense			\$ (1,180)	\$ (1,200)
41	Water for church & rectory: Expense			\$ (520)	\$ (600)
42	Repairs & maintenance for church: Expense			\$ (2,946)	\$ (3,500)
43	Repairs & maintenance for rectory: Expense			\$ (2,723)	\$ (5,000)
44	Landscaping for church property: Expense			\$ (8,100)	\$ (7,000)
45	Snow removal for church driveway/lot: Expense			\$ (5,400)	\$ (5,000)
46	Trash service for church: Expense			\$ (1,088)	\$ (1,200)

	Category: Revenue or Expense	2025 Actual: Revenue	2026 Budgeted: Revenue	2025 Actual: Expense	2026 Budgeted: Expense
47	Organ & piano maintenance: Expense			\$ 0	\$ (400)
48	Music costs & usage permissions: Expense			\$ (789)	\$ (800)
49	General worship-support costs: Expense			\$ (863)	\$ (1,000)
50	Easter-flowers purchases: Expense			\$ (417)	\$ (500)
51	Christmas-flowers purchases: Expense			\$ (112)	\$ (200)
52	Christian-formation costs: Expense			\$ 0	\$ (200)
53	Food preparation permit for kitchen: Expense			\$ (90)	\$ (90)
54	Coffee-hour costs: Expense			\$ (279)	\$ (300)
55	Chain of Lights costs: Expense			\$ (665)	\$ (700)
56	Diocesan Convention costs: Expense			\$ (693)	\$ (200)
57	Outward communications costs: Expense			\$ (266)	\$ (300)
58	Connect Africa contribution: Expense			\$ (1,000)	\$ (1,000)
59	Worcester Fellowship contribution: Expense			\$ (1,200)	\$ (1,200)
60	General mission outreach: Expense			\$ 0	\$ (500)
61	Pastoral-care costs: Expense			\$ 0	\$ (500)
62	Stipend to auditor: Expense			\$ (400)	\$ (400)
63	Loan payments to Diocese: Expense			\$ (4,516)	\$ 0
	Total	\$ 218,420	\$ 214,100	\$ (223,853)	\$ (228,180)

Note: \$218,420 - \$223,853 = \$(5,433), net loss for 2025.

Also: \$214,100 - \$228,180 = \$(14,080), projected net loss for 2026.

**** Important: In addition to our normal revenue streams as documented above, a \$15,000 withdrawal was made in July from our endowment fund with the Trustees of the Diocese and deposited in our operating account at BankHometown, after the balance in the operating account dropped below \$8,000.**

Holy Spirit Balance Sheet, 12/31/2025

	Account (Asset, Liability, or Grant)	Asset Value	Liability Amount	Grant Balance
1	Operating Account at BankHometown: Asset	\$ 21,811		
2	Memorial Fund at BankHometown: Asset	\$ 26,772		
3	Rector's Discretionary Acct. at BankHometown: Asset	\$ 3,743		
4	Rectory Security Deposit Acct. at BankHometown: Asset	\$ 2,803		
5	Rectory Last Month Rent Acct. at BankHometown: Asset	\$ 2,802		
6	Repairs Acct., vested, with Trustees of Diocese: Asset	\$ 32,166		
7	Support Acct., vested, with Trustees of Diocese: Asset	\$ 92,864		
8	Holy Spirit Acct., vested, with Trustees of Diocese: Asset	\$ 774,217		
9	Rectory security deposit to be repaid to occupant: Liability		\$ 2,803	
10	Rectory last-month rent to be credited to occupant: Liability		\$ 2,802	
11	Sunday School in a Bag (\$5,185 paid out on 2025): Grant			\$ 2,130
	Total	\$ 957,178	\$ 5,605	\$ 2,130

Net assets and liabilities: \$957,178 - \$5605 = \$951,573

COMMITTEE REPORTS 2025

MISSION & OUTREACH

We continued to find opportunities to come together and engage in mission and outreach this year:

- In January we collected 2 pairs of snow pants, 2 pairs of boots, 72 pairs of socks, 56 clothing items, 14 pairs of mittens/hats, and 136 pairs of underwear for Grafton Public Schools nurses to have in their offices for students in need.
- In February, for “Souper Bowl Sunday” we collected and distributed 118 cans of soup.
- For March we collected 26 packages of diapers and 34 packages of wipes for Grafton and Sutton food pantries.
- Our April collection was for Thursday Cafe. We gifted this ministry 67 large reusable bags and 70 rolls of toilet paper.
- Once again in May, to celebrate our birthday at HSEC, we assembled 22 birthday bags for the Sutton food pantry.
- During the spring and summer we created and cared for a Good News Garden. Parishioners took turns weeding, watering, and harvesting. We harvested over 14 pounds of food! The food pantries in Sutton and Millbury as well as community refrigerators in Worcester were thrilled to receive fresh produce during the summer and into fall.
- In the fall, when SNAP benefits were rescinded, we filled our wagon every Sunday and delivered items to our local food pantries.
- For the months of November and December, we started an ongoing collection of financial gifts for the Worcester Community Action Council, which offers fuel assistance to residents in Worcester County. Federal support of this program has dropped by over 50%. These gifts will help meet the needs of our neighbors and keep people warm through the winter.
- “Attic Treasures” during “Chain of Lights” saw continued success in December, raising \$400 by offering a range of gifts and household items priced at \$1.00. Folks were lined up for the “fill a bag for \$5.00” at the end of the day!

Each month we make lunches for Worcester Fellowship (WF). We have several families engaged in making the 50+ lunches that we donate. Our lunch bags are known to be the fullest and much appreciated by the WF community. Annually, we commit to sending \$1000 to CONNECT Africa and monthly we send \$100 to Worcester Fellowship. We also

partner with local community agencies and Diocesan projects doing great work when we donate both our Easter and Christmas offerings.

A big THANK YOU for all you have done to support these efforts that make a difference to so many!

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Dolan

PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral care committee in 2025 was composed of dedicated members who worked together to provide ongoing care and support to fellow parishioners and the wider community. The committee members were Pauline Johnston, Pat Ainsley-Baker, Jean Bruce, Cyndi Davis, Patty Kelly-Bedard, Heather Lukas, Hue Kimble, Alice Polysungwan, Rebecca Smith, Meri-Lynn Banton and the caring and gracious support from Pastor Julie.

Activities:

- Monthly communion visits were made to homebound parishioners. Christmas and Easter flowers were included in the visits during the church holiday seasons.
- Healing prayer and intersession has been made available every second Sunday of month during communion by Jean Bruce and assisted by various committee members.
- Meals and medical visit transportation were made available to church members. Pastor Julie and Cyndi Davis coordinate the program and committee members provide meals and transportation.
- Greeting card ministry was supported by Pauline Johnston and her beautiful cards throughout the year.
- A pastoral care table is maintained that makes available various items such as pocket prayer shawls, reading material, and various handmade items.
- Provided monthly support for the after-church coffee.

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

Members are: Pat Ainsley-Baker, Alice Polysungwan, Marsha Hudson, Pauline Johnston, Patty Kelly-Bedard, Ann Laliberte, Donna Donovan, prayer support by Jean Bruce, and the caring support by Paster Julie

The committee embarked on several projects in 2025, including both in-parish and community projects. In church projects included Bishop Fisher's retirement gift of a handcrafted blanket, baptismal blankets, pocket prayer shawls and winter hats. Community projects donated were winter hats for Worcester Fellowship (in progress) and infant carriage blankets for Pernat Family Services in Worcester.

Many thanks to the members of the Needlework Group and members of the parish who donated their time and materials to help support our mission.

May we be able to walk in Christ's love,
Sincerely,
Pat Ainsley-Baker

CHAIN OF LIGHTS

(Saturday, December 6, 2025)

Chain of Lights is Sutton’s kickoff event of the holiday season that occurs on the first Saturday of December each year. Various participants throughout town display their sites during the day from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This event is Holy Spirit’s signature fundraising event with proceeds funding some of our mission outreach. The day is also an opportunity for visitors to see and feel the welcoming hospitality of our church.

Again, this year, we had the leadership of the following people: Lynn Ljunggren-Cookie Walk, Holy Dolan-Attic Treasures, Brian Yacino-Music, Cyndi Davis-Raffle Baskets, Pam Houghton-Kitchen, Kate Johnson-Children’s Craft and new this year, Alice Ploysungwan-Sweets and Treats. The congregation once again came through by baking cookies, making delightful dishes for the kitchen, making canned goods and treats, putting together raffle baskets, giving to the Attic Treasures, and singing during the day! Thank you to each and every person who helped out, you are truly a gift to Holy Spirit!

The day of the event didn’t seem as busy as last year, but our parking lot was pretty full most of the day. Visitors seemed to enjoy their experience at the church and we saw a lot of smiling faces as they left. Our gift was being able to show the light of Christ to those who came and hope that they return as fellow parishioners one day. Again, thank you to all who participated in one way or another!

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Perkins, Chair of Committee

Cookie Walk	\$1,086.50
Attic Treasures	\$390.00
Sweets and Treats	\$962.00
Raffle Baskets	\$1,737.00
Kitchen	\$661.00
Children’s Crafts	\$23.00
Total	\$4,859.50
Expenses	\$665.43
Net Total	\$4,194.07

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Initially supported by a Congregational Development Grant from the diocese, our Community Breakfast has been continuously serving members of the surrounding community since May of 2012. It continues to serve as a monthly social event rather than just a meal, as most of the group arrives before we start serving at 8:00, and they stay seated and talking well beyond



9:00 when we stop serving. In addition, many of the patrons have visited our church for other functions such as Chain of Lights, and the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

Our volunteers do the monthly planning, cooking, and serving. In total, we served 290 meals over 11 months (we did not offer breakfast in July, since the first Friday of the month fell on July 4th).

Although attended mostly by retired non-parishioners from local towns, the meal is open to everyone, and we now have several of our Holy Spirit members attending. A \$5 donation per person is suggested. Financially, the ministry is self-sustaining. This year, thanks to the generosity of the attendees, we contributed \$1331 to HSEC.

Submitted by Brian Yacino

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

In 2025, we formalized a Properties Committee and held our first meeting on August 17. We are a small group of dedicated parishioners doing small repairs as needed to the church and the rectory. We have a phone chain in place when the need arises.

During the year many repairs were made. As we know there was a real need for our sound system to be replaced and for the new system to be fine tuned. Our electrician was very busy this year - he upgraded the exhaust fan in the kitchen, replaced the sanctuary chandelier dimmer switches to be LED compatible which corrected the “flickering” issue, and discovered the issues with our emergency lights in the sanctuary and corrected this as well.

As part of regular inspections and maintenance, a defective wire in the church alarm system was replaced, and the elevator / lift underwent several repairs. One of the toilets in our restrooms was constantly running water and has been replaced and upgraded to comfort height. This was installed by our contracted plumber.

The gutters on the church had not been cleaned for some time and they unfortunately overflowed and flooded Lynn's office. They have now been cleaned. We learned the gutter size is too small for the church roof and therefore will be having our gutters replaced in 2026.

The parish hall dehumidifier was replaced with a more efficient one.

A component of a motor that maintains proper airflow for the HVAC system in the rectory stopped working and required replacement. The installed system is no longer manufactured for home use but fortunately the heating vendor was able to source replacement part, avoiding a more costly repair

We had a wonderful community garden with lots of veggies being distributed to local senior centers in Millbury, Sutton and Grafton. Our team of folks watering our garden was key to success.

Bob McAllister replaced two leaky faucets, built a cover for our new kitchen exhaust fan, and painted the Rector's office - a big thank you to Bob for his dedication and expert work in repairs for our church, saving us a lot of money!

Many hands make light work! Thank you for the many that have helped over the past year! Please reach out if you would like to consider this as part of your ministry to Holy Spirit!

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Ploysungwan Co Warden
MaryAlice Worden Co Warden

FORMATION

In January an Inquirer's class was held for those who were interested in being confirmed or received. An Epiphany Potluck and Hymn sing was joyful and well attended after Sunday service. Other teachings in early 2025 included Morning prayer livestream led M-F by Pastor Julie during Lent and a Forum for Lenten devotion. During the forum Pastor Julie included ideas for devotions, books and resources for creating a Lenten discipline.

Tuesday 10 AM Bible study was busy and met regularly in 2025. For the first part of the year through May, the group finished "Evolution of the Word" by Marcus Borg. After a summer break the new reading was "The Bible with and without Jesus", by Levine and Brettler, completing 13 chapters.

Welcoming all to Holy Spirit was an educational focus for 2025, with a potluck for those interested in being involved. Subgroups were formed, a Welcome statement was drafted (today's vote at annual meeting). We enjoyed the first 2 talks of a 3-Part series- "Welcome is a Verb" and "Uncovering Internal Bias" led by guest speakers.

Other educational talks after Sunday worship included Funeral and Estate planning and an Online Safety presentation.

Children's formation included continued participation with Sunday school in a bag (8 children) with partner parishes in the deanery. This fall a core group met the last Sunday of the month in person to work together.

Respectively submitted,
Rebecca Takis-smith

WELCOMING/NEWCOMER COMMITTEE

In 2025, we continued to welcome many newcomers to Holy Spirit. Welcome Bags are always available in the Narthex for distribution by the ushers, Pastor Julie, or a member of the Welcome Committee. Great news is that we often need to replace the bags as they are given out to anyone visiting our church for the first time.



Respectfully,
Michelle Gagan

EXPANSIVE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Encouraged by a desire to show welcome to all our neighbors and to be sure that our congregation is prepared and confident in our ability to show hospitality, a group of parishioners gathered to share our stories and create a plan. We began with a larger meeting of interested folks who were eager to show welcome to the LGBTQ+ community, people of color, immigrants, and people with disabilities. After a potluck supper, the larger group divided into smaller groups to work on processes and learning opportunities to better welcome our community.

One group began work on drafting a Statement of Welcome, which will anchor us in our commitment to showing hospitality as a act toward following Jesus. This group created a statement, which we will vote to approve at this year's annual meeting. The statement will be published in our bulletins, our website, and all our social media.

Other groups started conversations on how to welcome people of color and immigrants, people with disabilities, and people in the LGBTQ+ community. Adult formation programs through the Fall focused on examining our own internal bias, trans youth, and being an ally to the LGBTQ+ community.

After the Statement of Welcome is approved, the Vestry will begin to accept suggestions for an outside symbol of welcome. A symbol will be chosen at the March vestry meeting and will be debuted on Easter day.

This work continues and we have much to learn, but as loneliness and isolation continue to effect our world, we continue to follow to call to welcome all and create a space of fellowship and inclusion.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Julie Carson

The Expansive Welcome team includes:

Holly Dolan, Elizabeth Kliesiwitz, Charlie DeVane, Rebecca Takis-Smith, Cyndi Davis, Elizabeth & Tim Hardin, MaryAlice Worden, Deb Fiore, Jim & Lisa Stejskal, Hue Kimball, Patty Kelly-Bedard, Cheryl DiCaccio

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED POSITIONS 2026

Officers (Annually renewable)

Co-Warden	Alice Ploysungwan (2 nd year)
Co-Warden	Nancy Falcone (1 st year)
Treasurer	Sandy Piscitelli (1 st year)
Clerk	Deb Fiore (1 st year)

3-year Vestry term ending in 2027

Rebecca Takis-Smith Heather Lukas

3-year Vestry term ending in 2028

Jean Bruce Wiegersma Patricia Kelly-Bedard

3-year Vestry term ending in 2029

Vacancy Alexander Woodcock

Appointed by the vestry:

Assistant Treasurer Dan Fiore (1st year)

Two Delegates to Diocesan Convention (one year term)

Brenda Marshall Michelle Gagan

Two Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention (one year term)

Cyndi Davis Alice Ploysungwan

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee;

Michelle Gagan
Lee Williams
Ellen Brown
Alice Ploysungwan
MaryAlice Worden
Tim Woodcock
Rev. Julie Carson