

Faith in the Furnace

Unpublished update through 2010

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The sesquicentennial celebration continued into **1983** under Father Shaffer's leadership. A new cornerstone was placed along the walkway to the church entrance engraved "Christ Jesus our Cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20); the inside of the church was painted; a pair of famous silver cruets were purchased through the sesquicentennial fund: the ladies of the church embroidered a superfrontal depicting scenes from the mid nineteenth century when the iron furnace was in full blast and Harriet Chapel was constructed; and "Faith in the Furnace", a history of the first 150 years of the church was published in hard cover and sold. The church had some extra visitors for the sesquicentennial year...a colony of bats moved into the belfry and were gently persuaded to move elsewhere.

While Harriet Chapel celebrated 150 years, the state of Maryland celebrated the 350th anniversary of the landing of the Ark and Dove on March 25th.

Harriet Chapel commemorated the day as Clem Gardiner rang the bell for ten minutes.

Following the excitement and energy spawned by the sesquicentennial, Harriet Chapel began **1984** with a spirit of outreach that continued for several years. Food was regularly sent to the new food bank in Thurmont; money was sent to South Africa's St. Barnabas College School, to the victims of floods in West Virginia, and to the Seton Center in Emmitsburg to help children with rickets. Even the church school children participated by sponsoring a Filipino child. Improvements and upgrades to Harriet Chapel continued as the vestry looked forward to the next 150 years. For example, the chimes were refurbished and refinished, and the chapel and parish house were repaired and redecorated. There was still time for some R & R with visits to the Air & Space Museum and an Orioles game. A wonderful luncheon was held to honor parishioners married 50 or more years. Finally, as a continuing part of the sesquicentennial celebration, the annual Christmas pageant was based on the history of Harriet Chapel.

In the immediate preceding years, many parish resources had been devoted to building improvements and commemorative projects, **1985** brought renewed outreach both near and far. The Vestry looked beyond itself to minister to others in a myriad of ways. The Vestry Conference decided to

sponsor the Skopek family, a Czechoslovakian family of 4 seeking asylum in the United States; money was sent to help with tuition to black South African students; a Vestry motion introduced by Betty Anderson and David Sweeney to divest from all holdings that did business in South Africa was passed; gifts were made to assorted hospitals, hospices, and other funds; and parishioners participated in "Hands Across America". 1985 saw continued sesquicentennial follow-up: the parish history book "Faith in the Furnace" written by Betty Anderson was distributed to area libraries and sold at Mountain Gate, area bookstores and at all church activities; the parking lot at the church was paved; general repairs were made to the church buildings and Pizza Hut participated in a cleanup of church land adjacent to their facility.

Service to the local community and the larger world were themes throughout **1986**. Local chapters of Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous began using the parish house for their meetings; parishioners sent sheets and blankets to a leper colony in Panama; funds were sent to "Free Czechoslovakia"; and monetary donations were also sent to Bible translators working with Kuna Indians in Panama. After months of preparation, the Skopek family from Czechoslovakia arrived in March to a fully furnished house in Frederick. The church community was kept busy with routine

tasks for the Skopek family such as rental payments, as well as unusual matters such as translation of their Czech transcripts and diplomas. Within a short time, the Skopek family was thriving with jobs and with Jurina Skopek playing violin in the Frederick Community Orchestra.

A myriad of parish talents were evident in a parish cookbook, in a beautiful quilted patch made by Harriet Gardiner for the Diocesan Quilt and in the commissioning of the new docile curtain designed and woven by artist Katherine Roe of Michigan. Combining sky, water, and earth tones, the custom made one of a kind docile curtain complimented the stone work in the historic chancel. Building improvements around the parish continued with the installation of air conditioning in the church and parish house; refinishing of the pews; and restoration of the historic wall lights. During this busy year, parishioners still found time to make the famous hand made ice cream for Colorfest.

1987 was a quiet year after the flurry of activity surrounding the sesquicentennial. A mouse extermination contract was signed and a copier was purchased for the church office. The old ice cream freezer and cider belt were both sent to Frederick. Fr. Shaffer continued to serve as pastor.

During **1988** the Parish Vestry minutes note the church had so much money in the checking account that some funds were transferred to an interest-bearing account. It is not surprising that the church vestry minutes are filled with outreach: Money was given to a needy local resident to pay a car insurance bill and money was given to another local resident to pay rent. Donations from the church were given to the local Crisis Pregnancy Center, to a Youth Literacy Center, \$1600 was given to a family to make a delinquent house payment; 100 gallons of fuel, food, clothing was given to other local families in need, a donation was made to Wycliffe Bible Translators, scholarships were given to young people who wanted to go to various Bishop Claggett Center conferences, an emergency allocation of \$500 to help fight hunger in Panama, monetary donations were made to Hartley House and Crisis Pregnancy Center, a Campus Crusade member was sponsored, books were sent to Cross-City Correctional Institution, a \$500 donation was made to the Tractor Project, rent, clothes, insurance, and \$1000 was sent to Gail House for drug-addicted mothers. The vestry was politically active: voting unanimously against selling The Bishop Claggett Center, restricting smoking on church properties, opposing the sale of Zion Church property in Urbana, Betty Anderson ensured that the church vestry signed a letter to try to stop the KKK from marching through Thurmont;

Rev. Shaffer presented a petition to stop local theaters from showing *The Last Temptation of Christ* ; and the vestry approved a plan to give \$10,000 to Crossroads over five years. Building improvements included the installation of a Memorial Board in narthex; installation of rosy-hued carpet selected by Harriet Gardiner and Julie; and replacement of guttering. There was a myriad of parish entertainment: Betty Anderson gave a slideshow of her trip to Hungary and Czechoslovakia; Gov. Schaefer visited Catoctin Furnace and Harriet Chapel in July and received a copy of "Faith in the Furnace"; a covered dish dinner with "The Sound of Music," a craft night, bowling and Halloween parties. Fr. Shaffer pronounced Colorfest 1989 as the "best Colorfest he'd been involved with in terms of cooperation." There were so many people at Colorfest that the kitchen ran out of food before closing; Barbara Shaffer's Colorfest apple theme including themed crafts proved very popular; and the Jack Shaw Ministries, gospel singers at Colorfest were a huge draw. Elva "Boots" Sweeney donated a new freezer to the church kitchen. The Rev, Errol Narain, a South African priest; as well as the chaplain at St. Paul's School, held services at Harriet Chapel as visiting priests.

During **1989** Harriet Chapel continued outreach programs while instituting new traditions. The new tradition was a dinner during which the parish men served the parish women dinner! The diocese began the search for a new suffragan bishop and Norm Wilkinson served as the delegate from Harriet Chapel. Parishioners attended a rally against apartheid in South Africa and observed the national day of prayer for AIDS on October 15. The vestry sent funds to the American Bible Society; to Africa for the purchase of earth-tilling tools; to Michelle Dobson to continue in Campus Crusade; and to victims of Hurricane Hugo. Harriet Gardiner ordered fair linens and purificator for the church. The Colorfest committee discussed making sugar-free apple butter. Parishioner Ann Boyd began teaching a class on relationships.

1990 marked the 15th year of Father Shaffer's ministry at Catoctin Parish and a 15 year plaque was presented to him during the Easter service. The year began with the accidental destruction of the church sign. The church school staff decided children would stay in church for the entire 10.30 service instead of going back to the parish house for Sunday School. The vestry continued to subsidize Michelle Dobson's Campus Crusade and also provided funds to Danielle Wilkinson for the Youth Ministry and Hostel in

Amsterdam. A new washer and dryer were purchased for the rectory and there was discussion of expected furnace problems. The church began a transition on April 18th, when Bishop Eastman visited in response to requests for assistance. The bishop submitted Father Shaffer's name to a church in Hamden. While the church was in transition, there were several visiting priests: St. Barnabas College Headmaster Michael Corke spoke at both services on April 8, 1990 – he was given flight and expenses plus an honorarium; Philip Weeks spoke on Friday, May 11, 1990. The vestry discussed the planned interior decorating of parish house and put advertisements in Frederick Magazine to try to boost church attendance. Stewardship activities included sending money to Central America, to American Indians, and passing resolutions on environmental action. In May, the parish adopted a section of Route 15 from Route 806 to Cunningham Falls State Park and kept it clean. The road adoption program included a sign identifying Harriet Chapel as the sponsor. A parish directory with pictures was published. The church organist resigned on June 28th to become a preacher. The parish hosted a Love Connection puppet show; sent unused linens to New Brunswick; purchased a new Canon copier; hosted GED classes; held a fundraiser food auction for a family leaving for Korea; and began a "Did You Know That?" section in the parish newsletter.

Parishioners were characteristically generous: the Gardiner family gave new fair linens to the parish in honor of Ms. Louise McPherson and Mrs. Margaret Donaldson; parish young people decorated blackboard frames; donated money, furniture, linens, and dishes to Trina; made cookies for the prisoners at the local detention center; and presented the annual Christmas pageant. Indicative of the turmoil during the latter part of the year the church did not participate in Colorfest.

1991 marked the end of the ministry of Father Shaffer at Harriet Chapel.

The year began with an evaluation of the rector, the vestry, and the congregation. Fr. Shaffer and his wife went on a personal retreat to Ocean City. The Bishop suggested a timetable for Fr. Shaffer's resignation be set and not put in public records and on April 2, Fr. Shaffer resigned after "prayerful consideration." On June 16th a farewell dinner for Fr. and Mrs. Shaffer was held in the parish house. There were a number of resignations concurrent: Cindy Jonathan, Donald Dobson. During this time of transition the vestry and parishioners began to reestablish latent programs and began new ones to reinvigorate the parish: prints were made of the chapel; the men of the parish gave a Mother's Day Dinner for parish women, the church hosted a Community Lenten Service on March 4th; the church was included

in a Historic Country Churches article; a Pentecost Picnic was held; the Rev. Anne Weatherholt revamped the church school to make it more lively and interesting and it soon had 40 children and young adults as well as a full set of teachers; a Strawberry Brunch was held in June; the *Chimes* started in June (Betty Anderson picked name); participation in Colorfest was reinstated; Ann Boyd was hired as the organist; parishioners began picking up and bringing lunches to Boots Sweeney; a coffee hour after the 10:30 service was instituted; Education for Ministry classes started in October; Bea Vito was given a letter and beautiful cross in appreciation of her many years of service as treasurer; a parish covered dish dinner was held and parishioners participated in the the greening of the church in December. After the departure of Fr. Shaffer, Jacob Beck was hired as interim priest (Betty Anderson introduced motion).

1992 began with a highly successful parish vestry retreat. The vestry wanted more young people, good sermons, the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the use of incense, Rite I at both services to name a few. Father Beck arrived and immediately got to work rejuvenating the church. For example he presented Kate Anderson and numerous other children for confirmation. In May the vestry called Father Beck to serve for 3 years with a possible

renewal of another 3 years as interim rector. Also during 1992, North Carolinians donated the baptismal shell. Other articles used in services were also donated.

1993 saw the church reinstating old programs and beginning new ones: a new ECW held officer elections and instituted its own treasury. Father Beck donated a votive candle holder to the parish.

Under Father Beck's guidance, **1994** was a year of rebuilding and renewal at Harriet Chapel. The vestry encouraged Mark Wassler's interest in becoming an Episcopal clergyman; bought new vestments, including a white set from Belgium; and ordered and sold 200 Cat's Meows of Harriet Chapel. Petty crime occurred when the Maryland and American flags were stolen from church by group of kids and then were recovered from the woods on Blacks Mill Road. In the larger community, the Episcopal diocese decided to build a retirement center put on the grounds of Bishop Clagett Center.

1995: In January, a descendant of the Johnson family from Orinda, California donated \$100 to the church (The Johnsons operated Catoctin Furnace in the early 1800s). The vestry voted to merge a \$127,000 account

with Diocesan Investment Account at First Mercantile in Baltimore. Two parishioners progressed along the path to priesthood: the diocese declared Mark Wassler worthy of being a priest and a group from Harriet Chapel traveled to Bucknell University to watch Marcia Wilkinson ordained deacon.

By **1996** Harriet Chapel was regaining its vibrancy under the leadership of Father Beck. Unfortunately, he became ill, went on disability and resigned as of May 31. A retirement brunch was held for Father Beck and he was presented with a scrapbook of his tenure at Harriet Chapel. On May 31, Rev. Thomas Staup came to Harriet Chapel as the interim rector and a welcoming breakfast was held for him in August. Throughout these changes the renewed and rejuvenated parish was busy with activities and outreach at home and afar: the church instituted a recycling program; held a skating party in January; published a parish directory; the ECW held a dinner at Mountain Gate Restaurant; the parish served a Shrove Tuesday Supper (\$4 for adults, \$2 for children); a seder feast was served; an Easter Egg hunt was held for the children of the church; parishioners served homemade soup during Lent at "Soup and Stations"; the Youth Council sold Joe Corby pizzas (profit of \$810) and held a car wash at Pizza Hut; the annual summer festival was reinstated. Other church committees were very active: the

vestry sent Candy Napier to a Conference on Child Abuse; David Sweeney was granted an Emergency Lay Eucharist Minister license so that he could take Easter Communion to shut-ins; the outreach committee sent money to Catoctin High School's "Safe 'n Sane"; a Mother's Day Dinner was served; a yard sale made \$969.04; a mulch sale made \$900; EFM graduates for 1996 were honored at a reception; a Father's Day Dinner was served; money was sent to St. Barnabas College in South Africa; Colorfest included the apple butter boiling but the apples were pitted and expensive, so, ever resourceful, the apple butter was started with applesauce instead! Parish personnel included hiring Floaty Riggs as a part-time secretary to handle correspondence, *Chimes*, and extra office work; Jimmy Martin made video on parish activities; Kate Anderson, church babysitter for several years, left for college.

Other activities included Harriet Chapel as a feature on the tour of Historic Homes and Churches at Christmas; money sent to various charities, including burned churches; designing and selling of t-shirts and golf shirts with Episcopal church logo; ECW bought a new refrigerator/freezer; the Altar Guild donated used vestments to charities; three gift baskets were sent to shut-ins; Mother's Day flowers and crafts from the Youth Activities Committee were sent to nursing homes. Donations to the church included a

wrought-iron Advent candle stand in memorial of Guy and Mary Martin from the Sweeney Family.

In **1997** Fr. Staup continued as the interim rector while the church searched for a permanent rector. A number of applicants were considered and on September 2 the Rev. V.F. Stanford (Fran) was hired to begin her ministry on November 1. Fran was the first woman and the first lesbian clergy person at Harriet Chapel. In November, a farewell lunch was held for Fr. Staup and a welcoming reception was held for Rector Fran Stanford. The rectory had been rented to a family starting a Baptist church in the area. When Fran Stanford was hired they vacated the rectory and the Grounds Committee installed a dog fence, did the necessary repairs and painted the walls and cupboards. This in-house effort saved the parish a lot of money. Harriet Chapel participated in many activities such as the “Thurmont United in Love” put on by Thurmont Ministerian on June 8th ; the Youth Group took a trip to King’s Dominion; Jerry Anderson and group started updating the Altar Guild room; funds were sent to a charity helping graduates of the juvenile justice system; the summer festival made money; new bulletins with larger print inserts were procured; and the Church school kids sent Christmas cards to troops serving in Korea.

1998 began with the formal installation of Rector Fran Stanford on January 4. The parish continued fundraisers such as a Longaberger basket raffle. Carla Beck sent the silver flagons to be repaired – interiors stripped, polished, resilvered, and marked “water” and “wine;” the parish picnic was reinstated on the grounds of the church after a hiatus; Margaret Reed donated a window for the north side of the narthex in memory of Clifford Reed, to match one on other side. In order to help parish visitors feel more welcome, nametags were made for Sunday morning greeters, pew cards were printed and a welcoming document suitable for mailing was printed. A parish phone tree was revived. Rector Fran wanted to limit fundraisers so the summer festival was cancelled. EFM ended as well. Rector Fran attended the Small Church Leadership Conference in North Carolina. Historic Harriet Chapel was included in the Frederick County Historic Sites Consortium tour of “Churches by Candlelight,” and Harriet Chapel hosted a reception afterwards. Helen Carbaugh suggested an old Advent wreath-holder be donated to a mission church. Plans began for the 165th Anniversary Celebration of Harriet Chapel with David Sweeney as chair. Rector Fran held the first blessing of the pets at Harriet Chapel on October 4 and the first St. Nicholas’s Day observance on December 6. Carla Beck

resigned as editor of *Chimes* and Fran Stanford took over editorship. Donna Clabaugh's request to run for-profit business out of the kitchen was refused and the superintendent of the Church School and the Youth Group resigned.

1999 began with a significant increase in pledges over 1998. Parishioner generosity was further evident in a generous donation which enabled the purchase of new Eucharistic candles. In turn, the vestry gave Sam Littell money for his volunteer trip to Honduras. Harriet Gardiner touched up creche figure paint and Orville Sharee began to edit *Chimes*. On March 12, Mark Wassell was ordained and Harriet Chapel hosted a reception on June 13 during which Mark preached and served as a deacon. The parish presented him with a stole. Joel Hill served as a Deacon at Harriet Chapel for six months. The vestry sent a donation to the cancer treatment fund set up for the weaver of the docile curtain. The parish ordered an urn hall for cremations and oxblood silk Holy Week hangings – the set included a frontal, a pulpit fall, bible markers for the lectern, chasuble, veil, and burse; and purchased a safe to protect parish records from fire. Mildred Martin donated a set of candlesticks and candle savers in memory of her sister Kathleen Peters and brother-in-law Donald Peters. Rev. Stanford took a trip

to Korea to attend a bioethics conference in October and met with Canon Kitegawa later in the year.

Under Rector Fran's leadership in **2000** many programs continued: "Soup and Stations" during Lent and the Church School continued with "Godly Play" Program. Rector Fran requested that the rectory be rented as she was planning to move to Linganore and did not wish to live in the rectory any longer. On June 25th, the 50th anniversary of beginning of Korean War, a worship service at Harriet Chapel was celebrated by Rev. Norman Ford, former Army chaplain. \$1000 was given to the church in memory of Dolores Devilbliss and placed in the outreach fund. The church bought a mid-sized silver plate Home Communion Kit, started a website; printed a new Harriet Chapel brochure (designed by Ann Valen); and put ads in paper, including on sports page to attract more parishioners. In light of limited funds, the vestry requested a reduction in it's pledge to the diocese. The parish sponsored a trip to "Miracle of Christmas" in Strausborg, PA.

2001 activities included a Lenten Mystery Walk, modeled after Stations of the Cross, lead by the Youth group; a well attended concert and supper with Six Standard Deviations playing, and the installation of a new visitors sign

in July. Parishioner Ann Boyd was supported and endorsed by Harriet Chapel as she was accepted into the Committee for Exploring Ministry, a discernment process and the subsequent step— “Finding Our Way.” Harriet Chapel adopted new mission statement on September 10: “The mission of Harriet Chapel Catoclin Episcopal Parish is to be a haven within a busy world where anyone can come to seek God, to experience the love of God, and to find a place of spiritual refreshment. We do this by helping people to know Christ, worship in the Episcopal church tradition, encouraging lifelong growth and faith, keeping the doors of Harriet Chapel open at all times for prayer and meditation, and seeking and serving those in need.” Autumn church activities included a Potluck Fellowship Dinner in October to celebrate the 168th birthday of the parish and a memorial service for all who died in attacks of September 11, 2001, on the Sunday following the attacks.

2002 was a year full of church activities old and new. In April the church held a mulch sale and for several weeks parishioners helped fund and build a Habitat for Humanity house in Adamstown. A new thurible and boat were purchased as a memorial. The annual Blessing of the Pets was held in the autumn.

2003 brought the installation of a new, stylish church sign to replace the sign destroyed by a tractor trailer in the parking lot. The new sign was placed back further from the road. In June Harriet Chapel participated in a retreat at the Bishop Clagett Center entitled “Celebrating the Small Church.” Church activities included the annual spring mulch sale. In May, a “Memorial Committee” was formed to plan a Memorial Garden in the churchyard with Nancy Anderson and David Sweeney as co-chairs. The Memorial Garden was envisioned as a memorial to the departed and as a resting place for ashes and was founded in memory of twelve-year-old Sarah Chandler. In September the garden site was surveyed and plantings were chosen. Following a rental turnover, the rectory need extensive repairs including water and sewer line repairs. Funds for this work were borrowed at 1% interest from St. David’s Church in Baltimore.

While **2004** began uneventfully major changes were underway by years end. In June, the vestry signed Ann Boyd’s application for ordination to the diaconate and gave Ann a Home Communion Set when she was ordained in the summer. Rebecca Pearl, a local artist, was commissioned to paint a picture of Harriet Chapel for sale, with funds benefiting Memorial Garden and in particular for the restoration of the stone fence. In November, a vestry

committee decided that under present circumstances the rector could not lead the parish where it needed to go and on December 26, Rector Stanford sent a letter to the vestry acknowledging the vestry committee's decisions, announcing her search for a new position and expressing her desire to continue serving the parish until she found a new position.

After seven years of faithful service to Harriet Chapel, on February 6, **2005**, Dr. Stanford was honored at a reception in the parish house. The vestry began hiring supply priests in March – Father Staup in March, Father Francis in April, Father Wickizer from April 17-24. The vestry continued searching for an interim rector. Work continued on the Memorial Garden and the successful “Sarah’s Garden Social” brought in income for the garden to finish the wall on the north side of Memorial Garden, establish flowerbeds and plant bulbs.

In early **2006** Father Staup was still serving as an interim priest while the search continued for a permanent rector. On May 3, Pastor Sally Joyner-Giffin and Senior Warden David Sweeney signed a letter of agreement stating that she would become Harriet Chapel's rector effective July 9th, 2006 and would serve as the elected rector until the understanding is

dissolved by mutual consent. Church activities included a second Memorial Garden Social on May 13th, with a memorial quilt, needlework display, tours of church, and sale of baked goods, hot dogs, birdhouses, ornamental utility trays, plants, and prints of Rebecca Pearl's painting of Harriet Chapel. Renovations to the rectory in advance of the Rev. Sally Joyner-Giffin arrival included replacing doors, painting and tile work. Other parish activities continued with seven children expressing an interest in church school. Outreach activities at Montevue, Heartly House, Hospice, ERD, and Heifer International continued. The official installation of the Rev. Sally Joyner-Giffin took place on October 29, 2006 and a painting of Harriet Chapel was given to Father Staup as a going-away present. New parish and community activities such as painting lessons were presented in the parish hall. Karl Kaefer was vetted as the new organist in November. Ads were placed in local papers to advertise the Christmas services and attract new people.

2007 was the Reverend Sally Joyner-Giffin's first full year at Harriet Chapel as the rector. Music became a new emphasis for the church: an electric piano was purchased and the parish contracted with Karl Kaefer to begin as music director on January 17. Pastor Joyner-Giffin led a successful mission

trip to Honduras in June with young people from the area, the first in a series – the group rebuilt parts of a school and taught children English and religious songs as well. Work began to stabilize the historic sycamore tree in the churchyard. A celtic cross placed in Memorial Garden and was subsequently blessed by Bishop Rabb. A sound system with speakers and microphones was installed in the parish house in December, as well as new heating and air conditioning.

2008: In April, the McGill family, relatives of former Rector Rev. Ernest McGill, gave the parish a Bible and silver pitcher that belonged to him. Rector Sally led another mission trip to Honduras during the summer. The altar was refinished. On October 26th, the 175th Anniversary service was held at Harriet Chapel. The celebration began with a brief Moravian service presided over by Pastor Sally, Bishop Rabb, and a Moravian clergyman complete with Moravian love cakes donated by the Moravian church as part of celebration. At Colorfest time, Clem and Harriet Gardiner donated their copper apple butter kettle to the parish, after having lent it to the church for boiling apple butter for years.

In **2009** Harriet Chapel borrowed \$10,000 from the Robert Ihloff Fund for Congregational Development to fund a two year focus on developing the music ministry and increasing attendance to the church. The Memorial Garden committee edited and sold 160 Harriet Chapel cookbooks in a very successful fundraising effort. The Memorial Garden committee installed an antique chestnut wood plaque in the narthex. The names of the two individuals interred in the memorial garden were written in gold on the plaque. Pastor Sally led the yearly mission trip to Honduras. The parish hall was used by community organizations such as Weight Watchers. The memorial garden replaced a resin statue of St. Francis in the Memorial Garden with a stained concrete version which would age better. Mary Lou Barrett led a committee that produced an Alleluia banner for the church.

2010: A painting by contemporary Russian artist A. Reverman, “In the Doorway, 1993,” was donated to the church by Ms. Gail Transeau. The church is attempting to sell the painting at a fine arts auction house in Rockville with the minimum set at \$1000. A Hood College graduate in the Diocesan discernment program, Ashley Miller, is deciding if she will be called to seminary and become an Episcopal priest. Pastor Sally led the annual mission trip to Honduras and the Fallfest was very successful with

apple butter boiling. Ashley Miller began parish work on July 1 with Pastor Sally and is receiving some scholarship funds from the church. During the 4 sale days of the household items at Auburn parishioners sold food and drink to the attendees.

The enormous sycamore tree that stood by the church door for nearly a century was taken down in October after it was discovered that the tree was diseased and unsafe. Parishioners kept pieces of wood to make commemorative items.