

WELCOME

Our parish family welcomes you here to The Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans, Massachusetts. We are an Episcopal Church, having our historical roots in the Church of England (Anglican Communion), and thus are a branch of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

WE WELCOME all people who seek to love and serve Christ and each other, and, "greet everyone who enters our doors as Gods guests".

WE BELIEVE in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and our Faith as expressed in the historic Creeds, Sacraments and Holy Scripture of the Church, living out that Faith through love and kindness towards one another and the surrounding community.

WE STRIVE to be one family, emphasizing what we have in common and accepting our differences, so that our belief in God is manifested in our love and caring for each other.

WE CELEBRATE our liturgies in traditional ways that are both catholic and evangelical, striving to create a living worship experience that is in turn joyous, dignified and solemn.

The founder of our parish, the Reverend Richard Kimball, came to the Lower Cape seeking spiritual refreshment and a new home, first as a visitor and later as a resident. He first ministered as a layman, but a few years later was ordained to the Diaconate and then to the Priesthood. Many of those who live here now and worship with us were drawn by the same spirit of mission for the world so evident in the life and work of this parish.

As the disciples of Jesus, meeting on the Day of Pentecost, were formed into a remarkable community of faith and love by the action of the Holy Spirit, so also has the Spirit of Jesus fashioned such a community here.

Share with us in our community of faith, with our Lord Jesus as its Center and Life. Our front door is never locked, nor are our hearts, Come and be one with us, as together we seek to be one with Jesus, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

CHURCH HISTORY

The original building that was the Church of the Holy Spirit, eighteen feet by twenty-four, was described by its founder and first Rector as, "small, rude, rough, rambling, obviously homemade". It was fashioned from beams taken from the old Chequessett Inn in Wellfleet which had been severely damaged during a storm. The front door, which has never been locked, came from Chelsea, Massachusetts, and the latch on it from Pennsylvania. One of the members gave a fanlight from a mansion demolished on Boston's Beacon Hill to be used over the door, as well as handmade cypress shingles from South Carolina. It was truly a church created by the love, dedication and the hands of its founders.

Richard Kimball and his wife Florence were among the original group of seventeen. He was a writer who had moved to Orleans from New York City and he conducted those early services as a Licensed Lay Reader and after study was ordained a priest in 1940 at age 62. His charming book, "The Story of a Church", describes in detail the early years of the parish. A more recent history, "The First 50 Years", was written to commemorate the parish's 50th anniversary. Both are available in the Galley West Shop.

Mr. Kimball was Rector until his death in 1950. Under his leadership the church was built in 1935, a parish house added in 1937 (now the Reception Room) and a memorial Chapel of the Way (East Transept) added in 1949. During those years Mrs. Kimball established the Galley West Shop and a Craft Guild. Both of the Kimballs are buried just outside the front door, as is the Reverend S. C. Vern Bowman, who became the second Rector in 1951.

Under Fr. Bowman's guidance the church drew up by-laws, compiled permanent records, established a church office with a parish secretary, and the monthly newsletter, TOGETHER, was first published. Electric lights were installed in the church and an Altar Guild formed. In 1956 Fr. Bowman resigned to become an editor for the Seabury Press. He died in 1961.

The Reverend Lewis B. Sheen assumed the duties of Rector on January 1, 1957. The church was consecrated by Bishop Frederick Lawrence in 1958 and a new Parish House built in 1959 to accommodate the growing Church School and other parish activities. It was dedicated on April 30, 1961, by Fr. Sheen, at the time Archdeacon of Southeastern Massachusetts. He was assisted by the Reverend James Babcock, the fourth Rector. Fr. Babcock died in November of 2005.

The parish continued to grow and in 1966 the West transept and Narthex were added and the Nave widened providing seating for 230. A Columbarium was also built and these additions were dedicated on the Day of Pentecost, 1966.

The Reverend G. David White was elected Rector in July 1966, and served until his retirement in 1993. He was made Rector Emeritus in January 1999. Following the retirement of Fr. White, the Reverend Marston Price was called to be the sixth Rector in 1994. He left in 1998 to pursue other ministries. In January 1999 the Reverend Dr. David Angelica became the church's Chief Pastor, and then was elected and instituted as seventh Rector in June of 2000.

In June 1999, work was started on the new Parish Center, which included a new Parish Hall, improved Church School facilities, meeting rooms, a new North Transept to the Church and provisions for handicapped access throughout the church's buildings. The completed Parish Center was dedicated in September of 2000, and the North Transept and completed building project was blessed and dedicated on Pentecost of 2001 by the Right Reverend Morgan Porteus, Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

OBJECTS OF INTEREST

The Church of the Holy Spirit has been described as a "hand-made" church, and in truth, much of it is. The church contains many objects of interest, a good many hand-crafted by parishioners and others who have had a love of this place of worship. One of the original seventeen who gathered at the first service on Whitsunday, 1933, was Vernon Smith, a recognized Orleans artisan. Many of his works are seen throughout the church, a number given by his descendants who are current members of the parish.

CHURCH BUILDING - On the right side of the main entrance are the burial sites of Richard Kimball, first rector of The Church of the Holy Spirit and his wife Florence. Together they were the founders of the church. On the left side is the burial site of S. C. Vern Bowman, second rector. Over the front door, the Fan Light is from a demolished mansion on Beacon Hill.

NARTHEX - (Entrance lobby) - Above the doors is a primitive Christus Rex, a first carving by a Job Corps student, Darnell Clark. On the front wall to the right is a Sailing Dory which is over 250 years old, originally from a church in Holland. It was made by a fisherman as a thank-offering for deliverance from a storm. It was a gift from a church in Antwerp.

NAVE - (Center of church) - The Altar Piece over the main door was started by Vernon Smith and completed by his grandson, Dan joy, and given by Vernon Smiths family. The Old Candle Coronas were made by parish craftsmen. Electricity was not installed in the Church until 1953. The Sconces were made by Vernon Smith and the "St. Cecilia" Sconce by Carleton Litchfield. The Pew Carvings are by Vernon Smith and other parishioners. These are also found in the North and West Transepts and the Way (East Transept). Several of the Stained Glass Panes were made by The Very Reverend Paul Roberts who retired as Dean of St. Johns Cathedral in Denver. Other panels were created by a summer parishioner, Dr. Stuart Winning.

SANCTUARY - (Altar area) The original Altar is the nucleus of the present freestanding Altar. The oak inlay is from St. Peters Church in the Forest of Arden (1662). The Lectern was designed and made by Vernon Smith. The Hanging Dove in the Nave Crossing was made by Boogar of Provincetown, and is a hanging Pyx in the German tradition. The needlepoint cushions at the main Altar were made by Carleton Litchfield. The Sanctus Bell at the entrance of the East Transept (the Way) was made by Boogar. The tone is the same pitch as the fog-warning bell in Provincetown. Its twin is at St. Mary-of-the-Harbor, Provincetown. The large Alms Basin was made by the original Craft Guild and the smaller made by the Kimball Memorial Guild. These are used during Services but not otherwise left on display. The Kneeling Cushions at the main Altar Rail were made by the Parish Needlepoint Guild under the direction of Helen Vancil and designed by Barbara Blackledge-Miller. A newly-completed set of North Transept kneelers were added in November of 2005. These are used only during Services.

WEST TRANSEPT (Left of Altar): The Three-Masted Schooner over the pews in the West Transept was made by the first Senior Warden, Richardson Wright, when a boy. The HEED Window, in memory of Walter E. Morgan, was made by Ronald Hyslop, a parishioner. The Sconces, depicting Gospels and other religious symbols, were made by members of the Kimball Craft Guild. On the rear walls the carving depicting Jesus in the tomb and the painting depicting Ruth in the Field were done by Vernon Smith. [Above the west entry door is a Dove Window from St. Johns Church, Jamaica Plain, which was torn down about 150 years ago. The window was found in an antique shop.]

EAST TRANSEPT (The Way -- Right of Altar): The Memorial Chapel is in memory of a parishioner killed in World War II and subsequently in memory of all young men and women of the parish in service. The rail was done by Carleton Litchfield. The Baptismal Font by the carved exit doors of the East Transept was made by the Kimball Craft Guild. The Needlepoint Cushions (used during Services) were designed by Barbara Blackledge-Miller, executed by the Parish Needlepoint Guild, and depict Gods Covenant with Humankind. The Clyde MacKenzie Memorial Doors were made by Vernon Smith as was the Abstract Carving over the door to the Reception Room. Over the Reception Room door is an Anchor Window, also from St. Johns, Jamaica Plain, and found in an antique shop.

OTHER ARTIFACTS On the right side of the inner Altar area is a Bench made by Wesley and Peter Kuntz. On the upper wall of the North Transept entrance is an Organ Screen. This was originally to be a memorial reredos, but was changed to accommodate the organ pipes. The design was made by Clyde MacKenzie and the screen by William Anderson. The Kimball Craft Guild made the Tongues of Fire. The primitive Crucifix hanging on the rear right wall of the North Transept was made by a blind Italian laborer. The Bishop's Chair which rests in the lower Crypt Chapel (Saint Dunstan's Chapel) was made by Vernon Smith as was the Madonna in the North Transept ambulatory to the left.

RECEPTION ROOM (Original Parish House): Over the doors is a portrait of the Reverend Richard Kimball, painted by John Crosman. On the bookshelves by the outside exit door are carved figures by the same blind Italian laborer who carved the Crucifix in the North Transept.

OUTSIDE BELL - Given in loving memory of Private James Grant Barklie, killed in action

December 20, 1944, age 19.

GALLEY WEST SHOP - The original Kimball residence. The Galley (rear room) was taken from the clipper ship Orissa which foundered off Nauset Beach. The Mural in the galley is by Vernon Smith.

KIMBALL HOUSE - The original rectory.

SAINT FRANCIS SHRINE - In memory of the pets who were loved and served the members of the parish.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rite I, said)

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rite II, choral)

Sunday 11:15 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Rite I, choral) - 1st, 3rd & 5th

Morning Prayer with Holy Eucharist - 2nd & 4th

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – Church School, Nursery & Pre-school

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with the Rite of Healing

Wednesday 7:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (Breakfast follows)

GALLEY WEST SHOP: Open daily in summer--Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 1 pm., Sunday 10:15 to 11 am. (From October through May, the hours are Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am and Mondays 10am-1:00 pm.) Many articles on sale in this gift shop have been handmade by members of this parish. The articles include Prayer Books, hand sewn items, fine hand-wrought aluminum for which the shop is widely known, and many other crafts.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

If you would like to become a member of the parish, please just come to church and join us in worship!

Requirements for church membership are as follows:

1. Regular attendance at our worship Services;
2. Contributing financially to the support of the church;
3. Taking an active role in the ministries by volunteering and supporting our parish programs.

If you have further questions about the church or would like a visit from the clergy or a lay person, speak to the Rector, an usher or greeter or complete one of the Visitor Information cards found in each pew. We'll be happy to tell you more about this unique parish family.