

Profile of Our Parish

HISTORY

The Church of the Heavenly Rest was founded more than a century ago in 1868 and was located on Fifth Avenue near 45th Street until the move to our present church building in 1929. At about that time it merged with the Church of the Beloved Disciple which had been incorporated about 1878 and had occupied a church building on 89th Street near Madison Avenue (now the Roman Catholic Church of St. Thomas More). Our Church has had six rectors since its founding, our present Rector, Dr. J. Burton Thomas, having come to us in 1962.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our parish is generally thought of as covering the area bounded by 86th and 96th Streets and Third and Fifth Avenues. Of course, a number of our parishioners come from outside those boundaries.

Based upon the 1970 census of the Carnegie Hill District (86th to 96th Streets, 5th to Park Avenues), about 42% of the population in our community is male and 58% is female. The population according to age in our community would appear to be approximately as follows: Under 20 years of age, 22%; between 20 and 44, 34%; between 45 and 60, 20%; over 60, 24%; and the population over 20 years of age according

to marital status would be about as follows: single, 27%; married, 59%; widowed, 10%; divorced, 5%.

People who live in our community are mainly apartment dwellers, either in large apartment houses, many of which are cooperatively owned, or in converted brownstones. The 1970 census indicates that in the Carnegie Hill District 59% rent and 41% own their homes. In a recent survey in the Carnegie Hill District, more than half of those questioned had lived in the District more than 10 years and 56% indicated an intention or desire to live there permanently.

Economically, most families in our parish probably fall within the upper middle income to well-to-do range and most heads of families are probably professional or business people.

In addition to neighborhood shops, art galleries, doctors' offices and banks, our community includes four other places of worship, two public schools, fourteen private schools including our own Day School, a public library and three museums.

In 1971, our Vestry looking ahead ten years thought the end of this decade would find our community with fewer Christians and Protestants, smaller families, smaller housing units, more professional and diplomatic people, and more families spending weekends out of town.

OUR PARISHIONERS

62% of our communicants are women and 38% are men. 72% are married, 11% are widowed, 10% are single and 7% are divorced. 36% are between 20 and 45 years of age (but less than 1% are between 20 and 30); 34% are between 45 and 60; and 30% are over 60. The comparable figures for our community are 20-45, 44%; 45-60, 25%; and over 60, 31%.

In 1972, a questionnaire was circulated among members of the parish. Out of some 450 communicants, 253 responded, although not all answered all of the questions. Our answers revealed the following about ourselves:

1. The average age for persons replying was 51.
2. Our personal incomes are substantially above average for the City. Some 65% of those responding had incomes in excess of \$20,000, with 24% having incomes in excess of \$50,000. But some 8% had incomes of less than \$5,000 and 17% had incomes below \$10,000.
3. 53% indicated that they participated in some aspect of community or civic activities.
4. Persons responding spent an average of 32 Sundays in the City. When in the City, 45% came to church every Sunday, 21% twice a month, 10% once a month and 19% came rarely.
5. 43% of those responding had attended the Heavenly Rest for more than fifteen years and almost 80% had attended for more than five years.
6. 70% attended the 11 o'clock service, 21% the 10 o'clock service and 4% the 8 o'clock service.

7. 57% thought no changes in our form of Church services were necessary while 26% felt some changes were needed, but 42% were in favor of continuing the trial use of the new liturgy while 45% were opposed. 67% thought the Christian Church and its teaching should "always be in a process of development" while 11% thought they should "be firmly settled and unchanged". 77% favored clergy of other faiths preaching from our pulpit. (We have extensively used the new liturgy, particularly at the 10 o'clock service, and have also had two or three folk masses. We have lay readers at both the 10 and 11 o'clock services and a Worship Committee. In the last year, a Roman Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi have preached from our pulpit.)

8. 92% read the Disciple (our weekly bulletin, a sample copy of which is attached), and 76% thought they were adequately informed about parish activities. Only 43%, however, thought their opinions were represented in the running of the Church while 34% thought they were not.

9. Asked to choose among the following descriptions of our Church, 44% thought it a "friendly church", 23% thought it a "neighborhood church", 12% an "affluent church", 11% a "society church", and 7% an "unfriendly church". In another related question, 26% thought Heavenly Rest a church for "average, contented people", 23% for the "well-connected and influential", 12% for "successful achievers", 30% for "all of the foregoing". Only 4% thought it a church for "people outside the mainstream of life in the City".

10. When asked to list in order of importance their reasons for involvement in our Church, most parishioners answered "a strong belief in the teaching and worship of Christianity" with such reasons as fellowship with others and liking a clergyman being given a rather distant second place. These answers seemed confirmed by answers to another question which asked parishioners to list in order of importance their reasons for going to the Heavenly Rest. Most voted for Worship, Communion, Spiritual Peace and Sermons in that order. And when asked to list in order of importance given aspects of worship, parishioners listed Communion, Prayer, Sermons, Music and Bible Reading in that order. 44% of those responding wanted to receive communion once a month, 16% twice a month and 24% once a week.

11. When asked whether the Church should stick to traditional worship and not concern itself with social or economic problems, 65% answered yes, while 25% answered no. But 84% thought it proper for the Church to encourage parishioners to study civic issues of local and national importance, 66% thought our Church should cooperate with nonchurch groups in civic and social problems, and strong majorities favored the clergy speaking out on questions like birth control,

race, busing and Vietnam. Only 53%, however, thought the clergy should speak out on "political issues", and 56% thought it was not proper for the Church to encourage members to engage in political action.

12. 73% thought the Church had power to influence people on social and economic issues, but most thought that "contacts with people" and "newspapers" had more influence on their ideas and opinions than sermons or "going to church".

13. When asked to list the three most important attributes of a Rector for our Church, "personal ministry" and "effective preacher" were thought the most important and given almost equal weight (mentioned by 75% to 77% of those responding) with "administrator" being listed third (mentioned by 54%), "community leader" fourth (32%) and "fund raiser" last (4%).

14. 39% thought that the Heavenly Rest's official assessed contribution for 1972 of \$37,300 to the Episcopal Church and missions outside of our parish was the right amount, 27% thought it too much, and 4% not enough, but 30% had no opinion. (We have now paid our "missionary quota" or assessed contribution in full for a number of years. Our assessment for 1974 is \$39,300.)

15. A very substantial majority thought that the Christian Education of children should be carried on by participation in regular worship and in a traditional Sunday School. (An Education Committee has recently been formed to work with the clergy and Director of Religious Education.)

16. 59% of those responding believed that the Day School (see Activities below) should be an integral part of the church family. 40% thought the Day School should contribute to the financial support of the Church while 24% thought the Church should contribute to the School, and 36% had no opinion.

Although the questionnaire may be criticized in some details, it would seem to give a reasonably accurate picture of ourselves. In summary, we would appear to be somewhat older and economically more affluent than the average person in our community, and more of us are married. We would appear to be rather conservative so far as religious matters are concerned; yet we seem to be open to new ideas. Many of us feel more parochial than evangelical about our faith, and one word which, when coupled with the Church, seems very definitely to bother some of us is "politics".

Some additional statistics:

Communicants

Communicants as set forth in the Diocesan Report:

1971-474 1972-453 1973-435.

Church Attendance

If attendance in July and August is eliminated from our computations, average total attendance at the 10 o'clock

and 11 o'clock services has been: 1967-260 1968-294
 1969-238 1970-222 1971-197 1972-176 1973-170.

Parish Pastoral Statistics

	<u>1973</u>	<u>'72</u>	<u>'71</u>	<u>'70</u>	<u>'69</u>	<u>'68</u>	<u>'67</u>	<u>'66</u>	<u>'65</u>	<u>'64</u>	<u>'63</u>
Baptisms	14	17	25	21	36	35	42	37	33	42	42
Candidates Confirmed	9	15	13	16	22	23	18	41	24	44	23
Received By Transfer	7	7	2	5	11	21	21	24	33	27	32
Removed By Transfer	20	15	27	20	18	22	16	30	37	24	46
Marriages	6	7	8	15	14	10	15	10	6	16	13
Burials	23	23	40	34	40	36	25	23	48	34	37
Memorial Services	3	1	2	4	3						
Clergy Hospital Calls	180	140	137	223	228	260	218	178			
Clergy Parish Visits	315	420	462	524	529	669	599	374			

CHURCH STAFF

In addition to the Rector and his Assistant, the staff consists of a recently employed full-time Director of Religious Education, a Sunday School Assistant, the Rector's secretary, a parish secretary, an organist and assistant organist, a business manager (who is a volunteer and receives only very nominal compensation), a sexton and verger (who lives in a parish house apartment), and three porters.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Most of our parish activities can, perhaps, best be described by reference to the Reports of Church Organizations for the year 1973 as submitted to the Annual Parish Meeting held on January 8, 1974. A copy of that Report is annexed as well as a brochure entitled "Our Church" which has recently been prepared by a parishioner.

Certain organizations or activities which are not referred to in the Report or require further comment are discussed below:

The Vestry

We have a rotating vestry. Members are elected for a term of three years and are eligible for one additional term of three years. A member must then stand down for at least one year. Wardens may be elected for three two-year terms before stepping down. The average member of the vestry is between 45 and 50 years of age.

The vestry holds regular meetings once each month except in July and August. Meetings generally are held on Monday evenings at 8 p.m.

A copy of the By-laws of the parish is attached.

Church of the Heavenly Rest Day School

The Day School is an eight grade school with a nursery school and a kindergarten and has some 300 students, most of whom are not children of our parish. The annual budget of the School is now approximately \$600,000. The

School is separately incorporated and has its own Board of Trustees. By its By-laws three of its Trustees must be members of the vestry and two-thirds of its Trustees must be Episcopalians. The Rector is responsible for religious education in the School. He is also the Chairman of the Board and, as such, presides at meetings of the Board held three times a year and also appoints the Nominating Committee. Thomas Mansfield, an educator by profession, is the present Headmaster of the School. The Day School owns a brownstone on 92nd Street, but the greater part of "its plant" is located in the parish house and undercroft of our church building. The Church does not provide any direct financial support to the School, but the School presently reimburses the Church for its share of light, heat, supplies and services. Such reimbursement will amount to \$31,000 in 1974.

For some years there has been only a very minimal religious education program in the School. With the employment of a Director of Religious Education, an attempt is now being made to develop such a program.

FINANCES

Comparative Operating Statements and 1974 Budget

	<u>Actual 1972</u>	<u>Actual 1973</u>	<u>Budget 1974</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
<i>Church Work</i>			
Diocesan Assessment and Designated Funding	\$ 32,380	\$ 33,967	\$ 39,300
Extra-Parish Programs	4,000	3,700	2,000
Religious Education	—	—	2,500
	<u>\$ 36,380</u>	<u>\$ 37,667</u>	<u>\$ 43,800</u>
<i>Salaries</i>			
Clergy	\$ 28,500	\$ 30,998	\$ 32,500
Staff	47,122	53,140	63,700
Music	20,643	21,884	23,000
Benefits	18,734	21,072	22,900
	<u>\$114,999</u>	<u>\$127,094</u>	<u>\$142,100</u>
<i>Administration and Operations</i>			
Telephone	\$ 2,989	\$ 3,195	\$ 3,500
Advertising, Printing, Postage	9,623	8,657	8,900
Music	1,931	1,610	1,500
Altar Guild	2,059	723	1,000
Miscellaneous	6,691	6,440	6,700
	<u>\$ 23,293</u>	<u>\$ 20,625</u>	<u>\$ 21,600</u>
<i>Facilities Maintenance</i>			
Fuel, Light, Power	\$ 17,170	\$ 25,496	\$ 27,000
Repairs and Supplies	14,705	15,803	18,000
Clergy Housing and Incidentals	14,191	14,868	15,100
	<u>\$ 46,066</u>	<u>\$ 56,167</u>	<u>\$ 60,100</u>
<i>Audit, Insurance, Banking Services</i>			
	\$ 16,122	\$ 18,727	\$ 20,300
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$236,860</u>	<u>\$260,280</u>	<u>\$287,900</u>
<u>OPERATING INCOME</u>			
Pledge Receipts and Donations	\$ 93,369	\$ 96,774	\$ 94,000
Plate and Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings	18,990	12,578	12,300
Investments, Estates and Trusts	68,526	75,673	81,000
Day School	15,000	21,333	31,000
Women of the Church	8,400	7,750	6,400
Miscellaneous	11,989	8,465	8,000
<u>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</u>	<u>\$216,274</u>	<u>\$222,573</u>	<u>\$233,500</u>
Operating Deficit (1972 and 1973)	\$ 20,586	\$ 37,707	
Additional Income Needed (1974)			\$ 54,400
Less: Deferred Income from Expected Legacy			22,500
			<u>\$ 31,900</u>

Pledges and Donations

At the present time our parish consists of some 280 families or pledging units. Pledges and donations over the past four years are set forth below:

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Pledges or written commitments (at year end)	217	222	242	263
Pledge receipts	\$ 85,184	\$ 77,594	\$ 83,975	\$ 84,246
Donations (excluding capital improvements)	18,952	29,657	27,512	38,004
Plate offerings	<u>5,214</u>	<u>5,108</u>	<u>5,832</u>	<u>7,328</u>
	<u>\$109,350</u>	<u>\$112,359</u>	<u>\$117,319</u>	<u>\$129,578</u>

Pledges for the year 1973 as compared to the year 1970 may be broken down as follows:

	<u>1973</u>		<u>1970</u>	
<u>Weekly Pledge</u>	<u>% of all pledgers</u>	<u>% of total amount paid</u>	<u>% of all pledgers</u>	<u>% of total amount paid</u>
0-\$4.99	50	14	60	19
\$5-\$9.99	29	25	23	24
\$10-\$14.99	7	12	8	15
\$15 & up	14	49	9	42

Our largest pledge is \$3,552 a year, followed by one pledge of \$3,000, one of \$2,100, one of \$2,000, one of \$1,820, and two of \$1,800.

RECTORY

The rectory is located in a cooperative apartment on the 15th floor of 2 East 93rd Street overlooking Central Park. It consists of a living room, dining room, three bedrooms (one of which presently serves as a library) with baths, a servant's room and bath, and a kitchen. As indicated above, maintenance charges and expenses of upkeep of the apartment are paid for out of a trust fund.

CONCLUSION

In preparing the foregoing Profile, we have tried to be as factual and succinct as possible, neither overstating our strengths nor glossing over our problems. The picture would not be complete, however, if we did not note, if only in passing, the hard core of dedicated parishioners at our Church and the many changes for the good which have occurred under the leadership of our present Rector, Dr. Thomas.