

# CAROLINAS DEANERY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

This report acknowledges the difficulty and even deficiency of “measuring” the health or sanctity of a local parish in numbers. In our Deanery, Fr. Edward Rommen, Fr. John Parker and others are working on ways to present this type of information. Still most churches/missions of the Carolinas deanery offer a similar liturgical cycle (Vespers on Wednesday and Saturday) and Divine Liturgy on Sundays, Major Feasts, and usually some weekday service and class. Some have instituted daily services during Lent. Outdoor Theophany Blessings have become popular outreach events. We also see various active charity programs, guest speakers, adult and children education, inquirer classes and festivals for outreach. Page one and two will present the numbers we have and page three is a brief summary of the innovative particularities of each location.

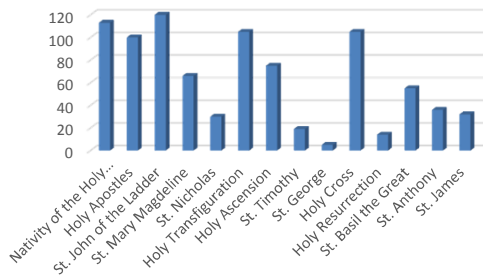
MISSION	PRIEST	STATE	CITY	METRO REGION	2010 POP	2014 POP	POPULATION INC/DEC.	ESTAB.	ATT '14	ATT '13	ATT '12	MEM. '14	MEM. '13	MEM. '12	CAT. INQ. '14	CAT. INQ. '13	CAT. INQ. '12	BAP. CHR. '14	BAP. CHR. '13	BAP. CHR. '12
Nativity of the Holy Virgin	Mills	NC	Charlotte	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia NC/SC	2,217,012	2,380,314	163,302	1980	113	95	85	80	68	60	3	11	0	10	4	5
Holy Apostles	Moore	SC	Columbia	Columbia SC	767,598	800,495	32,897	1982	100	100	100	85	85	75	5	5	5	9	10	8
St. John of the Ladder	Burch	SC	Greenville	Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin SC	824,112	862,463	38,351	1986	120	115	130	100	90	94	9	12	5	12	5	10
St. Mary Magdeline	Bohman	GA	Rincon	Savannah	347,611	372,708	25,097	1988	66	62	N/A	62	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
St. Nicholas	Winters	NC	Fayetteville	Fayetteville, NC	366,383	377,939	11,556	1994	30	30	27	41	15	15	5	0	3	1	4	8
Holy Transfiguration	Rommen	NC	Morrisville	Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill NC	1,634,847	1,785,684	150,837	2000	105	90	86	120	103	108	7	7	4	7	10	4
Holy Ascension	Parker	SC	Mt. Pleasant	Charleston-N. Charleston SC	664,607	727,689	63,082	2002	75	65	60	75	65	65	3	3	1	4	9	7
St. Timothy	Kulp	GA	Toccoa	City of Toccoa	8,470	8,370	-100	2002	19	18	18	26	23	23	2	0	2	1	0	0
St. George	Churchill	NC	Edenton	Edenton (Town of) NC	5004	4915	-89	2003	5	6	5	3	6	5	6	4	4	0	0	0
Holy Cross	Foley	NC	High Point	Greensboro-High Point	723,801	746,593	22,792	2006	105	110	108	95	68	60	12	25	20	11	23	11
Holy Resurrection	Baldwin	SC	N. Augusta	Augusta-Richmond, Co.	564,873	583,632	18,759	2007	14	14	15	11	10	20	0	0	3	0	0	1
St. Basil the Great	Robichau/Yates	NC	Wilmington	Wilmington NC	254,884	272,548	17,664	2007	55	50	35	51	43	30	4	2	4	3	2	3
St. Anthony	Coats/Horstman	SC	Rock Hill	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia NC/SC	2,217,012	2,380,314	163,302	2010	36	30	28	51	33	31	0	3	3	4	1	2
St. James	Bozeman	SC	Beaufort	HHI-Bluffton-Beaufort SC	187,010	203,022	16,012	2012	32	22	20	22	17	19	1	0	0	8	3	2

## CAROLINAS DEANERY SUMMARY REPORT DEMOGRAPHICS

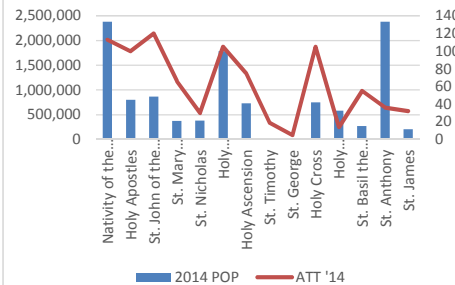
**Attendance:** Average Sunday attendance in the deanery tops out around 120, and the general trend is that the oldest parishes and missions have the highest attendance (which is to be expected with established communities). Of note are Fayetteville and Aiken (which have historically struggled to maintain resident clergy, though they both have a priest at present). Edenton, NC, which has a resident priest, is in a geographically isolated area with a very low population, and membership reflects this.

**Attendance and Metro Regions:** There is a strong correlation between metro. population and attendance. With this in mind, we should take population in a region as an opportunity to set goals for growth (there is certainly room for more than 120 souls in some of our larger cities). Chart (B) confirms this general correlation, while chart (C) highlights that there are some opportunities for improvement in communities that fall "below the trend line" (allowing for several missions that are "new" or in very small, isolated towns).

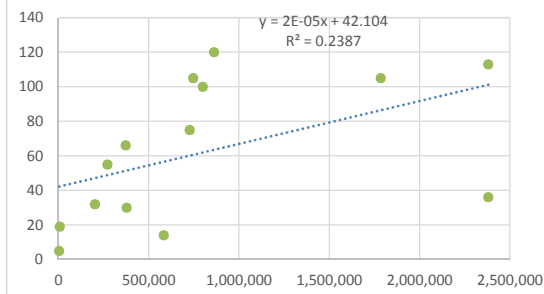
(A) CURRENT ATTENDANCE OLDEST TO NEWEST



(B) Attendance Relative to Metro. Population



(C) Metro Population (2014) vs. Attendance



# CAROLINAS DEANERY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION	GEN. FUND INCOME '14	EXP. '14	SURP/DEF. '14	GEN. FUND INCOME '13	EXP. '13	SURP/DEF. '13	GEN. FUND INCOME '12	EXP. '12	SURP/DEF. '12	BUILD FUND \$	Property Debt.	OWN/RENT	LAND ?
Nativity of the Holy Virgin	\$107,000	\$102,000	\$5,000	\$93,000	\$96,000	(3,000.00)	\$76,000	\$96,000	(\$20,000)	N/A	\$0	OWN	
Holy Apostles	\$169,694	\$169,128	\$566	\$212,698	\$207,147	5,551.00	\$157,114	\$162,996	(\$5,882)	N/A	\$199,803	OWN	
St. John of the Ladder	\$190,004	\$155,706	\$34,298	\$163,134	\$148,664	14,470.00	\$156,416	\$143,564	\$12,852	\$300,000	\$0	OWN	YES
St. Mary Magdeline	\$61,540	\$56,097	\$5,443	\$57,560	\$54,125	3,435.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$87,000	OWN	
St. Nicholas	\$44,305	\$36,469	\$7,836	\$28,274	\$25,853	2,421.00	\$23,507	\$22,361	\$1,146	\$33,956	\$0	OWN	
Holy Transfiguration	\$154,868	\$129,951	\$24,917	\$141,247	\$124,558	16,689.00	\$132,710	\$130,206	\$2,504	N/A	\$538,000	OWN	YES
Holy Ascension	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$0	\$180,000	\$190,000	(10,000.00)	\$182,450	\$184,674	(\$2,224)	N/A	\$920,000	OWN	
St. Timothy	\$55,312	\$55,569	(\$257)	\$67,548	\$43,207	24,341.00	\$61,765	\$56,396	\$5,369	N/A	\$0	OWN	
St. George	\$20,876	\$20,876	\$0	\$12,900	\$12,900	0.00	\$12,600	\$12,600	\$0	N/A	\$0	RENT	
Holy Cross	\$100,273	\$90,670	\$9,603	\$90,459	\$87,526	2,933.00	\$95,735	\$93,525	\$2,210	\$49,000	\$0	RENT	YES
Holy Resurrection	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$0	\$26,500	\$26,500	0.00	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$0	\$0	\$99,750	OWN	
St. Basil the Great	\$80,700	\$78,474	\$2,226	\$78,473	\$69,306	9,167.00	\$70,000	\$67,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$205,000	RENT	YES
St. Anthony	\$71,475	\$71,475	\$0	\$57,760	\$81,030	(23,270.00)	\$35,000	\$51,000	(\$16,000)	N/A	\$22,934	OWN	
St. James	\$71,383	\$57,574	\$13,809	\$51,987	\$42,031	9,956.00	\$58,793	\$54,268	\$4,525	\$35,021	\$50,000	RENT	YES
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,316,430</b>	<b>\$1,212,989</b>	<b>\$103,441</b>	<b>\$1,261,540</b>	<b>\$1,208,847</b>	<b>52,693.00</b>	<b>\$1,088,090</b>	<b>\$1,100,590</b>	<b>(\$12,500)</b>		<b>\$2,122,487</b>		

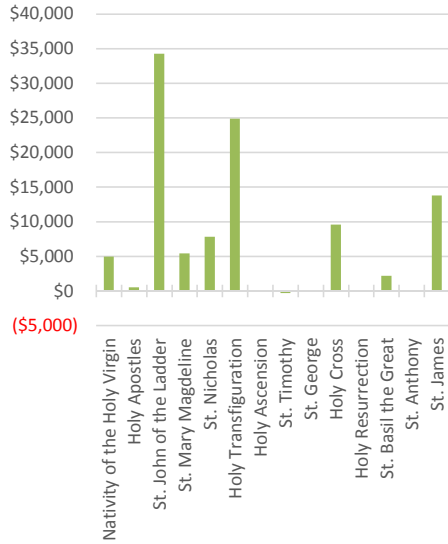
## CAROLINAS DEANERY SUMMARY REPORT FINANCIALS

**Operational Budgets:** For the missions and parishes in the Carolinas Deanery, operational fund giving has kept pace with expenses (with negligible surpluses or deficits in Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro and Beaufort). Of note, Greenville, SC and Raleigh had a substantial surplus and increase over previous year giving.

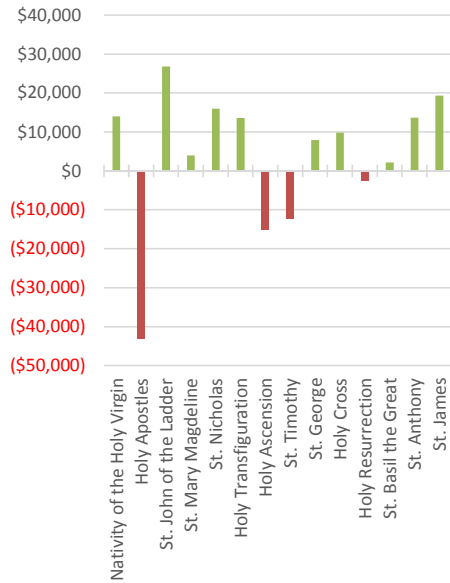
**Giving Trends:** Giving was also steady and consistent (2013-2014) in all parishes and missions throughout the deanery. While three communities saw significant decreases in 2014 giving, none were impacted in operations.

**Building and Land:** Five parishes or missions have purchased land, and are in the process of (or anticipate) building.

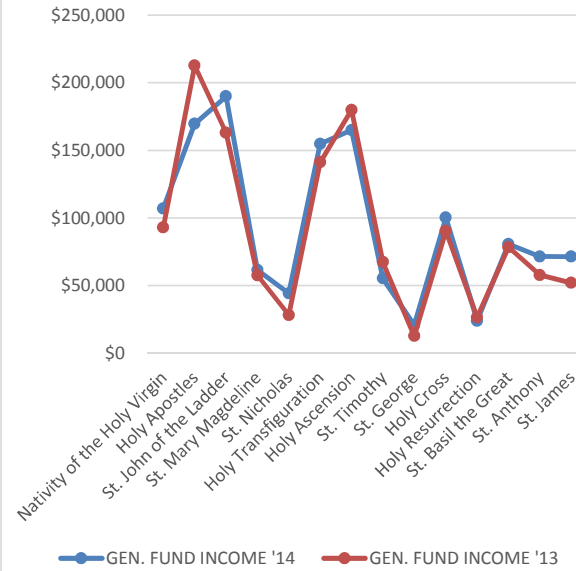
Operational Surplus or Deficit 2014



Change (2013 to 2014)



Giving Trends 2013 v. 2014



## CAROLINAS DEANERY REPORT 2015 (Ministries and other Activities)

1. **Nativity of the Holy Virgin, Charlotte, NC:** hot lunch local men's rescue mission, can goods for Loaves/Fishes, OCMC Lent collection, children's items to the Florence Crittendon home for teen mothers, back to school back-pack program, Christmas Angel Tree Program.
2. **Holy Apostles, Columbia, SC:** annual camping trip, IOCC emergency responder, USC class, daily NA/AA meetings, Trail Life program, OCMC coin boxes, St. Nicholas festival for local charities: food bank, women's shelter, pet shelter, ramp builders,
3. **St. John of the Ladder, Greenville, SC:** Annual Camping Trip, Choir Retreat, Retreat w/ Abbot Sergius. Mentoring program; Fr Nicholas Roth transitioned to Alpine, TX Mission in Feb 2015; Summer Interns: Fr Joshua Trant (2014); Andrew Cannon (2015); Fr Davide Wooten (Assistant starting July 2015) Plans for new temple complete
4. **St. Mary Magdeline, Rincon, GA:** Sisterhood works with a nearby home for boys, Food Pantry program with the local Roman Church, Russian Festival, support and aid the St. James Mission in Beaufort, SC, and they us.
5. **St. Nicholas, Fayetteville, NC:** Building bell tower and expanding hall.
6. **Holy Transfiguration, Morrisville, NC:** Liturgy after the Liturgy, a series of bible/book studies, teaching at Duke, food collection for Durham rescue mission, contributions to our St. Nicholas Box to help the needy.
7. **Holy Ascension, Mt. Pleasant, SC:** Retreats with Fr Josiah Trenham, Fr Arkady Russian Choral Concert. AA, SA weekly, Anon twice per month, Semi-Annual collections of food and gifts for ECCO (local outreach) and Florence Crittenton, a home for pregnant teens.
8. **St. Timothy, Toccoa, GA:** Articles in papers, OCMC, OCEC, OCPM, St. Vladimir's Seminary donations, presentations at Toccoa Falls College, Harvest Festival
9. **St. George, Edenton, NC:** Prison ministry, 4 sessions on early church history after Wednesday Vespers before Lent this year, other topics to be offered in the fall.
10. **Holy Cross, High Point, NC:** feeding homeless, Sisterhood, Men's Group, working concessions as a fundraiser
11. **Holy Resurrection, N. Augusta, SC:** Articles in papers, Yard sales
12. **St. Basil the Great, Wilmington, NC:** Phase I of new building est. completion late summer/early fall, multiple outreach and charitable efforts with local GOA parish, local hospital chaplaincy, plans for a community focused ministry from the new property.
13. **St. Anthony, Rock Hill, SC:** campus ministry at Winthrop University, Project Hope food pantry, collection for Pilgrim's Inn women's shelter, Monthly men's breakfast
14. **St. James, Beaufort, SC:** Annual St James Festival, food for local charity, good deal of press coverage (newspapers and video)

The tables, and services provided give us a glimpse of the growth of our Deanery.

Overall several lessons seem apparent and positive:

1. Given the steady presence of a priest a parish will grow.
2. Our clergy are providing liturgical, charitable, and educational opportunities.
3. The demographics of our missions/parishes offer the promise of more growth.
4. It takes at a minimum a parish of 75 or more to fully support programs and clergy.
5. All of our parishes and missions seem to plateau at 125 members or less, but several are building new and larger buildings assuming more space will encourage new members.

I have several cautious concerns.

1. Some have a large debt to income ratio, without corresponding membership to compensate.
2. There seems to be an assumption that building bigger churches is an answer to grow parishes, yet there are some large beautiful Orthodox churches that are closing. What would make our future different?
3. In some places there appears to be a cycle of mission, growth, priest, parish, building programs, stability, decline. Clearly a large beautiful church is not enough. What can we learn from them?
4. I have a serious concern that given the recent SCOTUS ruling we may have to start paying property taxes. What would that do to our current properties and building programs?