

Report to the 2009 Diocesan Convention
The Girls' Friendly Society/Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania (GFS/PA)

The Girls Friendly Society in the Diocese of Pennsylvania (GFS/PA) is part of an international Christian, nonprofit, parish-based organization for girls and women, and is affiliated with the Episcopal Church. GFS/PA believes in the value of each human being and the richness of a diverse community. GFS/PA welcomes all girls and women of any age, race, religion and nationality.

Corporate Address:

Girls' Friendly Society/Diocese of Pennsylvania
c/o Grace Church and the Incarnation
2645 E. Venango Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134 www.gfspa.org

The purpose is to provide girls with programs that support and help them grow and mature into healthy and productive adults. The programs activities and events focus on worship, community outreach, study and recreation. The GFS program places special emphasis on spiritual growth, enables members to seek and find God in their daily living and know what it means to be a Christian. GFS leaders are in a unique position to offer girls and young women the opportunity to build true friendships in a Christian fellowship that stresses the importance of respect and love for one another.

Branches and Contact persons:

African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19151, 215-473-3065.
Branch Advisor: Nikkol Simms

Christ Church, Pottstown, 316 High Street, P.O. Box 252, Pottstown, PA 19464, 610-323-2895. Branch Advisor: Janice Morris.

Grace Church and the Incarnation, 2645 E. Venango St., Philadelphia, PA 19134, 215-423-5851. Branch Advisor: Janet Miller

Holy Apostles and the Mediator, 51st and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-472-3000. Branch Advisor: Angela Harris-Thompson.

Incarnation, Holy Sacrament Church, 3000 Garrett St., Drexel Hill, PA 19026, 484-461-6498. Branch Advisor: Suzanne Depue

St. James' Church, Perkiomen, 3768 Germantown Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426, 610-489-7564. Branch Advisor: Vicki McMEnamin.

St. Luke's, Bustleton, 1946 Welsh Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115, 215-969-3645. Branch Advisor: Llyn E. Carter.

St. Luke's Church, Germantown, 5421 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144. Branch Advisor: Lydia Rawlins.

Trinity Church, Oxford, 6901 Rising Sun Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136, 215-745-6114. Branch Advisor: Dorothy S. Orr.

Trinity Church, Ambler, 708 S. Bethlehem Pike, Ambler, PA 19002, 215-646-0416. Branch Advisor: Pamela Olshefski. Opening in 2010.

Angie Myshko, President GFS/PA

The Rev Elizabeth W. Colton, GFS/PA Chaplain

Holiday House-GFS/PA Retreat House
644 Hughes Street, Cape May, NJ 08204
Email: gfs holiday@yahoo.com Website: www.gfspaholidayhouse.org

Holiday House (HH) is a Christian Retreat House

With leadership by Nancy Myshko, House Chair the season was busy with guests from PA, NJ, NY, MD, DE, MA, CT and some small contingents from other states. Guests included choirs, vestries, youth groups as well as a week with GFS Junior Girls (ages 9 to 14) from PA branches followed by a week with the NJ branch Juniors in the month of July. A sampling of guests groups that filled the house for a week at a time include: St. Peter's Choir, Philadelphia, New Jersey Choir, Trinity Princeton Choir, St. John the Divine Choir. Other groups came for extended weekends included GFS/USA Board/Strategic Planning meeting, Reunion Groups, families and churches, vestries and youth groups. Occupancy by individual guests continues to grow.

Maintaining HH depends on GFS/PA Sponsors' and individual donations. Both are necessary for the maintenance of the building and grounds. GFS/PA Sponsors' Chairs Julie Almont and Colleen Anderson fundraise throughout the year as well as GFS branches and individuals who raise funds.

Volunteers are the backbone of keeping the house going during the open season. Working Associates (WAs) volunteer their service by sweeping, making beds, vacuuming and generally assisting with maintaining the House. These individuals volunteer their time, labor and skills in exchange for room and board. Year after year Holiday House is supported by WAs who are couples, families, siblings, friends and organizations who want to give back to the community. Youth groups such as the Boy Scouts and High School Seniors about to graduate have used HH to meet their community service credit.

A paid staff consists of a Manager, Assistant Manager, Cook as well as our branch GFSers from age 14 to 18 as cleaning and service staff. All adult staff must take Safe Church Training.

Respectfully submitted by:
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