HOLY CROSS
Episcopal Church

CROSSWAYS

"Making Christ Visible in His Community."

The Reverend Michael P. Flanagan, Rector of Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Simpsonville, SC 864-967-7470

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New Beginnings

Resolutions are a part of every new year. We make plans to change some life behaviors that keep us from becoming the whole person we are created to be. Our "Biggest Giver" challenge is one example of beginning again to give our excess weight away to God and reach out for a healthier lifestyle.

At Holy Cross we have lots of opportunities for new beginnings or for beginning again in the month of January. On Sunday, January 1st, we will be renewing marriage vows at our 9am service. Any married couples who want to renew their vows will be able to come forward after the sermon, gather at the altar rail and recommit themselves to their partner.

On Wednesday, January 4th, we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany (2 days early) by featuring an evening with Fran McKendree. Fran is a local singer and song writer who has led our evening Epiphany services for the last 2 years. It is an experience of music, quiet, poetry and prayer that opens us up to see the Christ who is revealing himself to us in so many ways. The service begins at 7pm and is followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

On Saturday, January 21st, we will be having our Annual Meeting (5pm) followed by our annual Chili Cook-off. The annual meeting will be a chance to meet and vote for our new Vestry members and to review our ministries for 2011. We will celebrate all we have done in the name of Christ and look forward to another year of discipleship and ministry in his name. Following the meeting we will gather in the Parish Hall for our annual Chili Cook-off where our newly elected Vestry members will be the judges of the best Hot and Spicy and Tame and Mild chilies. Additionally, we will all have a chance to vote for the "People's Choice" award chili. This is always a fun time of fellowship and camaraderie.

Then, the very next Saturday, January 28th, we will gather again in the Parish Hall for a workshop with Mark Tidsworth of Pinnacle Leadership Associates on Disciple Development Coaching. It will be an opportunity to learn how to determine your own gifts as a minister in the church and how to help others find their gifts as well. The event will be from 9am to 4pm and will include lunch. Registration is $15 and we are accepting registrations right now.

January will indeed be a month of new beginnings. May we all be resolved to participate fully in these opportunities to grow deeper in Christ and grow closer to one another that we may be able to go forth from this place to serve the world in Christ's name.

God's peace,
Mike+ rector@holycross

reflections on Faith and Life

The Reverend Linda Gosnell,
Assistant Rector for Pastoral Care

Practicing our Faith – An Invitation and Challenge for 2012

You are invited – to join me in reading scripture daily in 2012. Let's read the Bible again (or for the first time). I plan to read the whole Bible. You may join me with the same intention, or if that seems too daunting, plan to read the Old Testament or the New Testament. And, let's do this in community.

"Why?" you might be asking…and though there are many reasons, my first answer is this: reading the stories of God and God's people in biblical times can help us see how our stories and their stories of struggle, rebellion, return, and grace are similar. Learning about God's love and presence in the lives and events of ancient Israel can help us see more clearly God's love and presence in ours and in the world around us.

So, let's read the Bible together. That's the invitation and the challenge. We can do this! And here's how:

1) Sign up – on the bulletin board in the narthex or email me: assistantrector@holycrossep.org.
2) Read selected passages of scripture daily (in a Bible, or on your phone app, or on-line, etc.). I will print copies of the schedule I will be using for reading the Bible in a year, though you may choose from many one year plans that are available. As you read, pay attention to the story of God's interaction with God's people. Keep a notebook, journal, or text document for the year in which you record the significant things you've learned, any surprises you encounter, and any questions raised for you.
3) Meet on a regular basis (weekly or biweekly) with 2 or more people to discuss what you've read. Invite others to join you in this challenge and sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. I'll help you form a group if you like. Gather regularly in your group (over breakfast or lunch, for coffee or other beverage, in a home or restaurant, or at church – whatever meets your group's needs). If you are a part of a group that already meets

regularly ask if they want to take the challenge and include your Bible discussion in your regular time together. In your discussions share what you've read, what you've learned, what concerns or questions the reading raised for you, what relevance the story has for you. Encourage one another.

On January 1, look in the narthex for a printed copy of the first month of my reading schedule. (you can download it at http://thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org/read-the-bible-in-a-year/) I'll provide later months' schedules a couple of weeks in advance and will also post weekly schedules in the e-blast. This particular schedule includes hearing the Sunday lessons, so our actual reading can begin on January 2, and it allowa Sundays for catch up reading when daily life gets away from us.

Does it matter what Bible you read? The one you have will be fine. (If you don't have a Bible, let me know and I'll find one for you.) If you have more than one version, try each one and see which is best for you. A study Bible is helpful because of the notes that accompany the text. If you decide you want to get a study Bible, the New Oxford Annotated Bible is good, and there are several others available as well.

I plan to be available for conversations about the readings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Bring members of your group and share with me your journey through the scripture, and we can discuss what you are learning, questioning, or any difficulties you are having. I'll bring my commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and atlases for reference. In addition, you can email me your thoughts and questions any time.

Life in today's world is increasingly complex and places many demands on us and on our use of time. And we are often presented with situations that can challenge our faith and our understanding of God. The Bible contains profound and living truths for our lives – the Holy Spirit lives in it and breathes in us through it. Our understanding of its meaning changes, deepens, expands with each reading. Its message challenges us, calls us to wrestle with our faith and our understandings of God and life, calls us to growth and transformation.

That's it. That's the challenge. No test, no reports, no presentations. Just read scripture and talk about it.

Happy New Year! Happy reading!!

Blessings, Linda+
assistantrector@holycrossep.org

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(composed – in old English - by Thomas Cranmer for his 1559 *prayer book; 1979* BCP p. 236)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CHRISTIAN FORMATION, ADULT, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION – KELLIE WILSON
YOUTH@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION – SHELLEY ALLEN
CHILDREN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

VESTRY REPRESENTATIVE – HEIDI PAYNE
CHRISTIANEDUCATION@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

PROGRAM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:
ADULT – DRAYTON GAILLARD WHDGAILLARD@CHARTER.NET
YOUTH – KRISTIN BEAL MYSTIFLUTE@CHARTER.NET
CHILDREN – AMY GILES AGGILES@CHARTER.NET

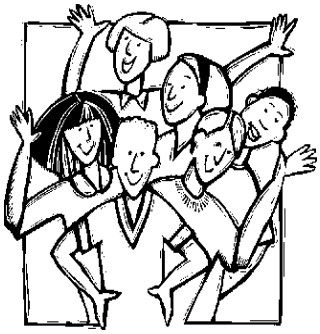
CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

As I sit at my computer to write this article, we are a little more than a week away from Christmas Day. So I wonder what it is that I would want to read about in January, after the hustle and bustle of Christmas and the festivities of New Years'. I can tell you that my heart and soul are filled with great anticipation as we; the people of Holy Cross enter into another year of ministry together. There are challenges that we are facing and will continue to face.

As we move toward the Epiphany season, I invite you to wait, watch, listen, follow, and participate in this journey. The angels told the shepherds that Jesus was born and the wise men followed a bright star and brought gifts to Jesus who was lying in a manger. I wonder what I would do if a choir of angels came to tell me that a new baby king had been born and I needed to travel to go see Jesus. I can tell you that I would probably be really frightened and then I would be really worried about what to wear, what to bring, and how in the world was I going to get there. The truth is that it doesn't matter what we wear or what we bring. Jesus meets us where we are and we offer Him all we have every day. Some days that is a little tough. We go forth, knowing that Jesus walks with us on our journey, and we need not be frightened. Jesus was God's promise born for us, a gift to all people. Together let us wait, watch, listen, and follow!

Peace,
Shelley M. Allen, Associate in Ministry

A BIG thank you to Rebecca Barnes, Amy McGrail, and Heidi Payne for coordinating the Christmas Pageant this year. Thank you to the children and parents who helped the tell The Christmas Story!



JANUARY YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

E.D.G.E. YOUTH GROUP

Any youth in grades 6th - 12th are invited. Youth group is held **Wednesday nights in the Parish Hall from 6:30-8pm**, unless otherwise specified. Dinner will be served. For more information, please contact Kellie Wilson at 967-7470 or youth@holycrossep.org .
January activities/topics include:

• **Jan. 4th**: Epiphany worship service. Youth will meet for dinner in the Meeting Hall then go to the Sanctuary to attend the service together.
• **Jan. 11th**: "Alone."
• **Jan. 18th**: "Who are the least of these anyway?"
• **Jan. 25th**: Rocks and Ropes. Youth will meet at the church at 6pm and travel together to "Climb at Blue Ridge". Cost is $14 per person. All participants must wear tennis shoes or climbing shoes and bring a signed waiver. Waiver can be downloaded at http://www.rocksandropes.net/custwaiv.pdf. NO DINNER will be served this night. Bus will leave promptly at 6pm and return to the church at 8pm.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth in grades 6th - 12th are invited to participate in Bible lessons/discussions with Bonnie Schmidt on **Sunday mornings from 10-11am in the Meeting Hall**. For more information, contact Kellie Wilson at 967-7470 or youth@holycrossep.org. January topics will be based on "Smart Decisions."
• **NO Sunday School on January 1st**

MISSION TRIP MEETING - MANDATORY!

Meeting for ALL 2012 mission trip participants will be held in the **Reception Hall on Sunday, January 15th from 12:30-2:30pm**.

ACOLYTE TRAINING AND PIZZA PARTY

ALL current and new acolytes will be meeting at Holy Cross on Saturday, **January 21st at 10:30am** for training. This is training for new acolytes as well as a "refresher" for current acolytes and is a MANDATORY meeting. Training will last for 1 1/2 hours and then everyone will have a pizza lunch together. For more information, contact Lianne Thompson at thompson_smp@charter.net.

YOUTH LEADER WORKSHOP

Disciple Development Coaching One Day Workshop at Holy Cross on **Saturday, January 28, 2012, from 9am-4pm**. ALL YOUTH LEADERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!!

SOUP KITCHEN

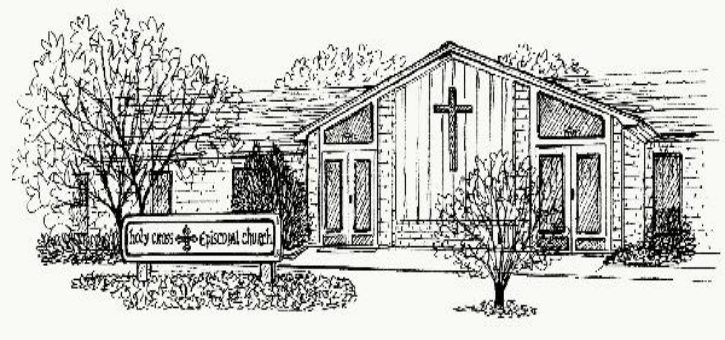
On Sunday, January 29th, youth will attend the 8:00 am service together (required!) and then go to the Project Host Soup Kitchen to prepare and serve lunch. Afterwards, we will go to Fuddrucker's, and return to the church by 3pm. Please bring money for lunch. All participants must have an Individual Registration Form on file. Forms may be downloaded at www.holycrossep.org. To participate, please contact Kellie at 483-1160 or youth@holycrossep.org.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH BY VISITING GREAT CLIPS!

Great Clips at the corner of Hwy 14 and Main St. supports our youth. When you go to Great Clips and mention our youth group, you receive a $1 discount AND our youth group gets $1. It's a Great deal for a Great haircut! For more information, contact Kellie at 967-7470 or youth@holycrossep.org.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH BY SHOPPING AT BILO

Bi-Lo boostersplus cards are now available on the credenza in the narthex. Take one card to your local Bi-Lo store (even if you have done this in the past, please get a card because a new card needs to be scanned each year). The store needs to scan the card one time and then every time you use your regular Bi-Lo card for the next year, the youth group will receive a donation from Bi-Lo. For more information, contact Kellie at 967-7470 or youth@holycrossep.org.



LORD'S RESOURCES

Administration, Stewardship, Building & Grounds

Senior Warden – Sara Swartz
srwarden@holycrossep.org
Junior Warden – Greg Farley
jrwarden@holycrossep.org
Stewardship – Mark McGrail
stewardship@holycrossep.org
Building and Grounds –Tom Jones
Jone63194@gmail.com

Legal Documents Everyone Needs

Studies have been done to show how many adults do not have a will. An astonishing 55% do not. Many people think they don't need a will, which is the furthest thing from the truth. In the event of an untimely demise, the last person(s) you want to handle your affairs is the country in which you live. Every adult should have the following four documents: a will, a durable power of attorney, a health care power of attorney and a living will. A will is a road map of what you want to happen after your death, and can likewise be simple or very complex. Some important items to consider for your will are the personal representative/executor, guardians for minor children, ultimately beneficiaries and charitable requests (such as Holy Cross). A durable power of attorney is a document in which you (the principal) authorize someone (known as an agent or an attorney-in-fact) to act on your behalf for critical financial and personal decisions. A health care power of attorney is similar but pertains to medical decisions. A living will gives guidance to your family and doctors regarding life-prolonging medical treatment. These are not complicated documents, but are still extremely necessary.

Mark McGrail, stewardship representative

Do you know about this ministry?

Darlene Sullivan has been the Parish Nurse for three years. So, what exactly does the volunteer position entail?

The "PN" fosters physical, emotional, spiritual and social harmony leading to healthy and healing relationships with God, family and faith communities.

Darlene, our Parish Nurse, and her husband Tim

They are advisors, educators, advocates, liaisons to community resources, volunteers and developers of support groups and healers of body, mind and spirit.

Darlene hopes for the program to grow and meet the needs of Holy Cross with more volunteer nurses in the congregation to assist with needed education and programs for the parish.

Darlene is a nurse at St. Francis Hospital in downtown Greenville. She and husband Tim live in Simpsonville with their two labs Beau and Scott and grand puppy Murray. Their son Neil will graduate from Clemson later this month.

They enjoy the 11:30 AM service and the wonderful music. Darlene is an avid gardener and enjoys reading. They are huge Clemson football fans.

As Parish Nurse, Darlene has assisted parishioners with referrals to community resources and answered health questions and issues. She can be reached at 864-962-5532 or e-mail nursedar@charter.net

Lucy Ackerman, contributor

Are there other ministries at Holy Cross that you would like to know more about? Are you involved ministries at Holy Cross that other Holy Cross members may not know about? Let us know! Send information or questions to kwhitmir@hotmail.com

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st Linda Clark
Michael Fulton
Sophie Kee
2nd Gary Dicer
Daniel Leone
5th Greg Christy
6th Bill Wais
7th Becky Hamor
Michele Hawkins
Mary Houtz
Mark McGrail, Jr.
Ryan McGrail
Andrew Moore
8th Charles Evans
Greg Farley
Bonnie Schmidt
9th Aziz & Louise Tajuddin
Erin Busch
Monte Drinan
Jonathan Lisi
10th H.D. Blackwood
Michelle Shadoan
11th Brennan Licata
Connie Rice
Sue Whitmire
12th Tim Sullivan
13th Pam Garrett
Matthew Gilmour
Patsy Gove
14th Michelle Brewer
Ralph Bush
Kimberly Fields
15th RJ & Carolyn Brown
16th Nancy Matthews
17th Zoe Gallagher
Paul Gunter
19th Jackie Darrington
20th Jill Swinden

22nd Elinor Wicks
23rd Dick Humphrey
Annalyse Burgess
24th George Bauer
Abby Goodis
Darlene Sullivan
26th Megan Flanagan
27th Karen Wareing
30th Tony & Jeannie Grady

Births: *Mya Catherine Learmonth*, daughter of Daniel & Deanna Learmonth; *Julianna Grace Bidwell, granddaughter of Sally Wilcox*

Deaths: *Emslie Donboch*, daughter of Stephen & Quentin Donboch & granddaughter of Dan & Jackie Donboch*; Sid Porell*, husband of Leslie Porell*; Curtis Shula*, brother in-law of David Jackson

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O, gracious and everliving God, look mercifully upon these your servants as they celebrate the anniversary of their marriages. Grant them your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

If you would like birthday/anniversary to appear here, contact us at secretary@holycrossep.org or 967-7470.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Cloud of Unknowing
by Anonymous

Some things never change, including the human need to connect with our creator. Prayer and meditation on the divine are techniques that have been used for millennia to grow in the knowledge of God.

Cloud of Unknowing documents techniques used by the medieval monastic community to build and maintain that contemplative knowledge of God.

Scholars date the anonymous authorship of *Cloud of Unknowing* to 1375, during the height of European monasticism. Written as a primer for the young monastic, the work is instructional, but does not have an austere didactic tone. Rather, the work embraces the reader with a maternal call to grow closer to God through meditation and prayer.

Send an email to kwhitmir@hotmail.com if you have a book, music, or movie that has been a special part of your spiritual journey. Book information is obtained from Amazon.com

Holy Cross Library News

During the past year Holy Cross Library has accumulated several books on various topics from fiction to spiritual to children's books. Many popular authors continue to find their way to our shelves. Among them are C.S. Lewis, Henry Nouwan, Barbara BrownTaylor, Sue Monk Kidd and Mac Lucado, to name a few.

We continue to accept donations (there is a box marked for them) of books in good condition and that meet the library mission statement. We also still have a wish list if you would like to make a monetary donation. Contact Kathy Cobb @ 293-6688 if you have any questions.

REMINDER: please use the AMAZON link on Library page at www.holycrossep.org. We receive a portion of the sales placed through this link which in turn helps support the library.

HOLY CROSS CONTACT INFORMATION

Items for newsletter:	newsletter@holycrossep.org
Bulletin announcements:	secretary@holycrossep.org
Parish office	(864) 967-7470
Fax	(864) 967-0393
Mailing address	PO Box 187, Simpsonville, 29681
Holy Cross Academy	(864) 963-5986
Pastoral counseling	(888) 293-7585
Church website	www.holycrossep.org
Diocesan website	www.edusc.org
Office	secretary@holycrossep.org
Rector	rector@holycrossep.org
Assistant rector	assistantrector@holycrossep.org
Youth ministry	youth@holycrossep.org
Children's ministry	children@holycrossep.org
Senior warden	srwarden@holycrossep.org