



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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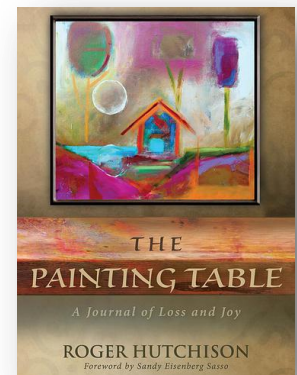
HOW IS YOUR RULE OF LIFE GOING?

As you know, we challenged our members to spend 2014 living our rule of life: Pray daily, Worship weekly, Read the bible, Serve others, Share your story, and Give freely. One of the ways we encouraged this was through our "Read the New Testament in a Year" challenge, where we read through the New Testament over the course of this year, completing our reading by Christmas. If you have not started, there is still time to begin. We are currently in Mark's gospel.

Worship weekly can be accomplished by coming to church each Sunday and/or gathering with us on Wednesday nights during Lent to participate in our "Rules for when life gets messy" program. It is interactive and lively and offers ways to worship and pray that add a little fun into the process. April 2 will include a presentation by Roger Hutchison, the author of "The Painting Table: A Journal of Loss and Joy." Roger will lead us through an exercise with the painting table and show us how we can create and pray at the same time. Roger's book can be found on Amazon. He would be happy to sign it that night.

The next opportunity to serve will be here soon as we begin to prepare for our Habitat build. The house will be a little farther away this year (Taylors), but we will be working with other churches and have specific days when we will be the lead church for the build. It is an exciting time to see a family get a home they could not afford any other way. Opportunities to serve include not only hammers and nails, but also food service, administrative duties (signing folks up) and donations of in-kind gifts. Tim Sullivan will be our Congregational Representative this year, and you will be hearing from Tim about your opportunities give your time and talents.

Share your story by joining a small group and grow closer to one another through a time of studying about faith and sharing your joys and your struggles. Ask anyone who is in a Life Group or other small group about their experiences; they will be happy to share their story!

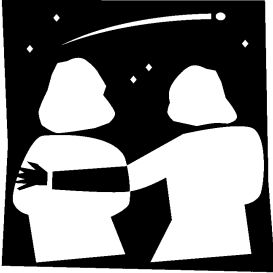


The Painting Table
by Roger Hutchison
Available on Amazon at
http://www.amazon.com/The-Painting-Table-Journal-Loss/dp/0819229059/ref=sr_1_1?e=UTF8&qid=1395511236&sr=8-1&keywords=roger+hutchison

Give freely. You will soon see a survey in your email about the future of Holy Cross and how we can move forward together. When you see it, please click on the link and answer the questions to the best of your ability. Your answers will assist us in making critical decisions about the future of Holy Cross and our ministries here. In August we hope to gather as a parish for an old-fashioned pig-pickin so that we might celebrate together our progress in growing deeper in Christ Jesus by living our Rule. It is indeed our “pathway to a deeper relationship with Christ.”

May this Lenten season draw you closer to Christ Jesus that you may fully celebrate his resurrection this Eastertide.

Mike+
rector@holycrossep.org



Comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

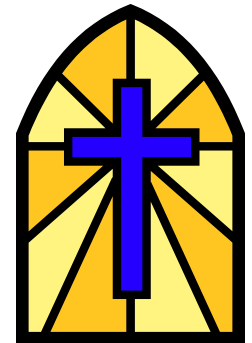
KRISTEN PITTS

PRACTICING THE FAITH — GIFTS OF THE DIVINE OFFICE

Virginia Theological Seminary has a short January term, during which students are encouraged to engage in cross-cultural immersion experiences. I chose to create an independent study in Benedictine spirituality and spend my January term with the sisters at the Order of St. Helena in Augusta, Georgia. It was a remarkable experience that has very much changed my daily practices and perceptions. The article below was written in the final few days of my three weeks there and was originally published in the convent's newsletter. You can learn more about the Order of St. Helena at www.osh.org.

I hear that it can take years for sisters to grow comfortable with — or even learn to like — the Daily Office. While I don't always enjoy the Office, as I near the end of my three weeks of independent study with the Order of St. Helena, I have begun to recognize some of its gifts.

At my seminary, there are typically three chapel services each weekday, and students are expected to attend at least one. There are days when it feels like a hassle to go to chapel, and occasionally an entire day goes by in which I have not worshiped with my community. Somehow, at least in my own mentality, chapel can feel like an unwelcome interruption, less vital and urgent than writing papers and eating dinner with friends.



Here, though, I have settled into a different rhythm, one in which the Daily Office is the most life-giving and important element of the day. Meals, work, and meetings are all clearly secondary. When I hear the bell ring, calling us to worship, I don't think, “I should probably keep working” or “I don't really have time for that,” as I too often do at seminary. Here there is no such thing as not having time for the Daily Office. Certainly I've missed a few services in three weeks, but because I've needed rest or private prayer, not because I felt too harried and stressed to go.

Of course, the Office is not without its stresses. Not being much of a singer (and quite self-conscious about this fact), I have struggled mightily with the Gregorian chant used in services. For the first few days I sat mute in the back, wide-eyed and frozen, but the chant was beautiful, and my soul needed to do more than just listen. One of the sisters kindly worked with me to explain the breviary and the tones and even helped me begin to sing a bit. Chesterton wrote, “If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly,” and indeed, though my singing leaves much to be desired, I have gained so much from participation in the chant, a clarity and contemplation in worship that I have rarely experienced elsewhere.

Sometimes too, there are hiccups in the Daily Office, and I could not be more grateful when they occur. They reveal the humanity behind the liturgy and remind me that it's ok to participate imperfectly, that neither God nor the community will scorn me for it. It is part of living in community, embracing the hiccups and letting God work through them.

I hope to carry these gifts with me as I return to my more hectic life. Realizing how much more balanced my day is when grounded in the Office, and wanting to maintain that spaciousness when I return to seminary, I plan to observe Morning, Noonday, and Evening prayer, either in chapel with my community or alone with my BCP. I've also found that I am able to focus much more deeply when I intentionally limit my interactions with technology. While at the convent I've turned off email notifications on my phone, and I've begun to plan times for checking email and social media (two to three times a day), which allows me to engage in other endeavors without the continual disruption of non-urgent messages. I will continue in these two efforts, and hopefully find other beneficial practices as well. My goal is to use my time not necessarily more productively, but more intentionally, as the rhythm of the Daily Office has taught me to do, instead of feeling like the day has gotten away from me because I constantly let myself be distracted by things that are of no real benefit.

I hope too to carry with me the ability to grant myself—and others—permission to be human and blissfully imperfect. In a society in which imperfection is equivalent to failure, it is a blessing to feel deeply welcomed with all my fears and flawed performances. Though it might not often be thought of in this way, for me the Divine Office is a great expression of hospitality, an invitation to the authentic self to enter into this community and to find and be found in God through the liturgy. Even in such a short time, my spirit has been made more open and hospitable through the hospitality I have received from the Divine Office and the sisters who pray it. I pray that as I seek to keep the Office in my daily practice, I will be enabled to offer such generosity to those I encounter on my journey.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CHRISTIAN FORMATION, ADULT, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION – SUSAN LOUITT HARDAWAY
YOUTH@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES – SHELLEY ALLEN
ACADEMYDIRECTOR@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES – LESLIE DONAHUE
CHILDREN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

PROGRAM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
ADULT – DRAYTON GAILLARD WHDGAILLARD@CHARTER.NET



APRIL YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP DURING LENT

Wednesday night youth group is participating in the Lenten Program from 6 - 8 p.m. on Wednesday nights through April 9. Come join in the fun as we explore "Rules for when Life Gets Messy"... different activities each week! For more information, contact Mother Susan at susanhardaway@gmail.com or text 864 483-2250. No Wednesday youth group on April 16 or 23.

NEW BEGINNINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

Registration will be on-line beginning in April!

Cost: \$105

Dates: May 2 - 4

Location: Camp Gravatt

Speak to Mother Susan if you want to use money from your Holy Cross Mission Fundraiser accounts to help cover registration costs. For more information, contact Mother Susan at susanhardaway@gmail.com or text [864 483-2250](tel:8644832250).

CANDY NEEDED FOR EASTER EGG HUNT!

Please donate small, individually wrapped candy for our Easter eggs by Sunday, April 6. No lollipops or chocolate, please. Please bring your candy to Mother Susan's office.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINED ADULT CHAPERONES NEEDED FOR 2 FUTURE EVENTS:

1. Youth Lock In on Friday, May 16.
2. Youth Ropes Course Weekend at Camp Gravatt, August 22 - 24.

Please speak to Mother Susan if you are willing to serve.

The next Safe Church training is Sunday, April 6 from 2:30 – 6 p.m. The cost is \$15.

STORAGE PODS ARRIVING!

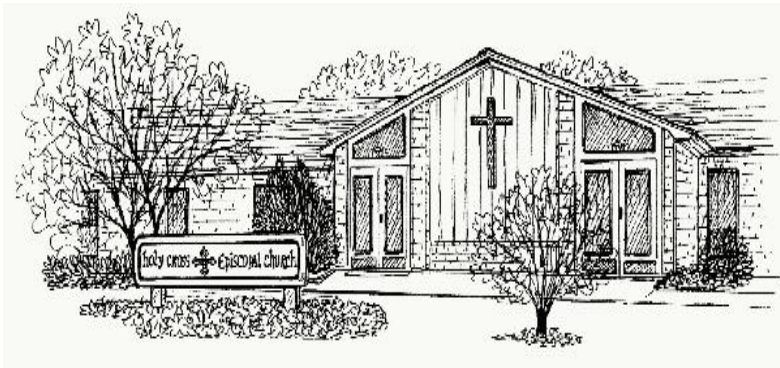
The storage pods will arrive at Holy Cross on Monday, April 21 to hold items donated for the May 17 youth yard sale. As you “spring clean,” please remember that all proceeds from the yard sale will help fund our youth mission trips. Thanks for your help!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in Bible lessons/discussions during Youth Sunday School on Sunday mornings from 10:15 – 11 a.m. in the Meeting Hall. For more information, contact Bonnie Schmidt at 270-0341 or bonnie1870@gmail.com.

HELP WHILE YOU SHOP

Support our youth by shopping at BiLo! BiLo boostersplus cards are now available on the credenza in the Narthex. Take one card to your local BiLo 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 BiLo card for the next year, the youth group will receive a donation from BiLo. For more information, email youth@holycrossep.org.



LORD'S RESOURCES

ADMINISTRATION, STEWARDSHIP, BUILDING & GROUNDS

SENIOR WARDEN – GREG FARLEY

SRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

JUNIOR WARDEN – JUDY WORTKOETTER

JRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

STEWARDSHIP – DAVE GEISLER

STEWARDSHIP@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – TOM JONES

JONE63194@GMAIL.COM

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Asa Connor Larry Urbanowicz Mark Williams | 17 | Lanny Montgomery Mac Clarkson Charlotte Bell |
| 2 | Mike Guarino Aaron Kelley Stanlee Love Colby Fletcher Charlie Ganner | 18 | Ann Leone Gowan Lancaster |
| 3 | Myrtle Crisp Albert Sanders Louis Phelps | 20 | Kenn Farrell Lauren Schmidt |
| 4 | Christina Randall Stephanie Brandeth James Forrester IV | 22 | Pat Farrell Campbell Manning |
| 5 | Jennifer Hallmark Jameson McGuire <i>Lynn and Richard Knox</i> | 26 | Lauren Forrester |
| 6 | Eric Young Tobby Fields | 27 | Charia Lockaby Aden Connor |
| 8 | Jim Perry Liz Cockrill | 28 | Daniel Bell Will Bryson |
| 9 | Lisa Carter Noah Cecil <i>Heather and Matt Devine</i> | 29 | Colleen McEachren |
| 10 | Betsy Lancaster | | |
| 13 | Delores DelPriore | | |
| 14 | Kenneth Wood Mike Fleming Jennifer Storch | | |
| 15 | Amanda Storch | | |
| 16 | Charlene Wells <i>Bonnie and George MacDonald</i> | | |

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.*



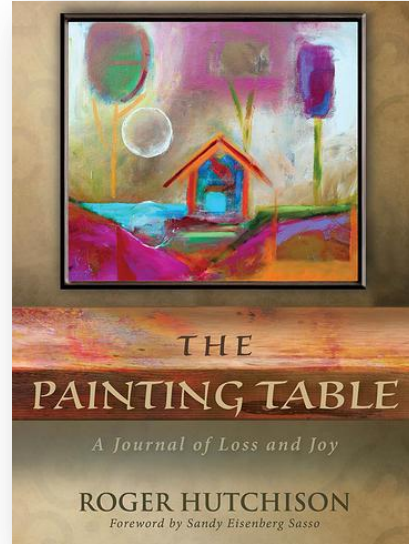
FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Painting Table

by Roger Hutchison

"It was a simple oak table adorned with plain dishes and a bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables." So begins Roger Hutchison's book *The Painting Table: A Journal of Loss and Joy*, a combination storybook and guide, inspired by a table left to him by his grandmother. Readers are invited to paint while they explore grief, loss and relationships. The gift of the table is one that Hutchison, canon for children's ministries at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Columbia, South Carolina, passes on to people of all ages in schools, churches and community groups. - *The Christian Century*

Send an email to kclconnor@gmail.com if you have a book, music, or movie that has been a special part of your spiritual journey.



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 | swarden@holycrossep.org |

