

CROSSWAYS

"Making Christ Visible in His Community."

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

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014

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HAVE YOU BEEN TO CURSILLO?

Some of you may have been asked this question from time to time, and if you answered "no," you may have done so simply because you have no idea what Cursillo is. The word "Cursillo" is Spanish for "little course." It has been called a "short course in Christianity." It occurs over a three-day weekend and is intended to assist the participant in developing a regular rule of life that includes piety (personal and corporate worship), study and action. The tenants of the Cursillo movement match up nicely with our Rule of Life here at Holy Cross and are helpful in growing in our relationship with Christ.

The Cursillo movement began in Spain in the Roman Catholic Church. Men returning from the war needed a place to reconnect with their faith. These men began meeting in small groups and holding each other accountable for their faith journey. Together they developed a deep trust for one another. When new members were introduced into the group, they found that it took some time to develop the trust and common language that characterized their group. Thus, they created the three-day weekend in order to "bring the new guys up to speed" before bringing them into the group. The technique worked well, and the movement began to grow.



Eventually Cursillo came to the United States, and eventually the Episcopal Church began holding Cursillo weekends with the permission of the Roman Catholic Church. We still call our weekends Cursillo weekends because we have maintained the foundational concepts of the original movement. In other denominations the weekends are called Walk to Emmaus and Via de Cristo so that they could adapt the movement to their particular expression of faith. Cursillo has been held in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina since 1989, and we are currently preparing for Cursillo weekend #127.

The weekend consists of 15 talks, 5 meditations and Eucharist every day. Each talk is intended to build on the previous one so that the participant gains a bigger picture of his/her faith journey and how it relates to God's work within oneself and in his/her circle of influence. After each talk there is time to discuss the content in a small group to enhance learning. The talks cover topics like Ideals, Faith, Grace, Sacraments,

Obstacles to grace, Christian Community in action, Piety, Study, and Christian Life. Most of the talks are done by lay people (we clergy only get five) and often contain great examples of ministry in action right here in our own back yard.

The intent of the Cursillo movement is to send the participant back to his/her church with a deeper sense of purpose and a vision and plan for continuing spiritual growth. Cursillo's mission statement is "Growing Christ-Centered Leaders." It has been my experience that most folks return from their Cursillo weekend energized to do God's work in their lives, and they find where their gifts can make a difference in the world in Christ's name.

The next Cursillo weekend is scheduled for June 12-15, 2014 at the Gravatt Conference Center in Aiken, SC. Ask me or anyone who has attended a Cursillo weekend about becoming a "Cursillista."

Mike+

rector@holycrosse.org



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

2 Corinthians 1:4

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

THE REVEREND LINDA GOSNELL,
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE

PRACTICING THE FAITH — OUR CORE VALUES: OUR TRINITARIAN GOD REMINDS US THAT DIFFERENCES ARE WHAT MAKE COMMUNITY

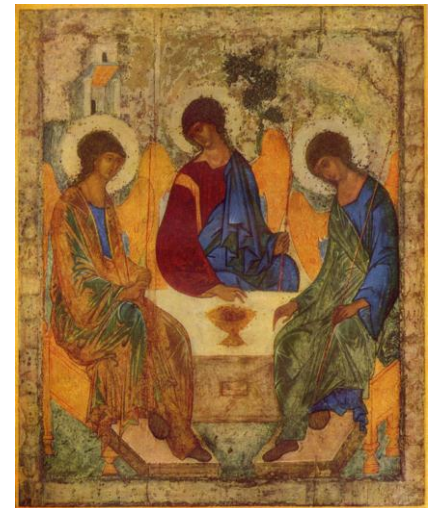
Among the major beliefs (doctrines) that set Christians apart from other world religions is the belief that our one God exists as a Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier/Comforter. The names we call God may vary, however, our belief in the Trinitarian God has great import in how we live our faith. That God is "Three in One" means for us that the living God, who is love, exists as a Communion of Persons, as community within God's self. God has revealed this nature to us in the person of Jesus and through the activity of the Holy Spirit. Our reflection on this mystery of love in relationship among the persons of God is founded in both scripture and experience. While it remains beyond our full comprehension, we believe that God seeks to share that divine love with all persons and has demonstrated this in the grace and redemption of humankind through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, because of this grace, we believe that we become more complete in our humanity as we learn to live in communion with Christ and with all others in a bond of mutual love.

Jesus was the flesh and blood manifestation of the Trinitarian life, the self-giving life of God. As Jesus lived, he invited the widest variety of persons into participation in a common life of healing and redemption – a Samaritan woman, tax collectors, lepers, children, a rich young ruler, beggars, and Gentiles. The Kingdom of Heaven had come near, and all were invited to participate.

St. Sergius of Radonezh (Russian Orthodox) is said to have written in the 14th century, "Beholding the unity of the Holy Trinity we seek to overcome the hateful disunity of this world."

Calls for us to live in such a community in harmony are found in many passages of scripture. Among them are these:

All of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.... Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like



Andrei Rublev, 15th century icon
Note there is space at the table for you to participate in the communion of the Holy Trinity.

good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Pet 3.8, 4.8-10

We are members of one another.... Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Eph 4.25b, 32

Catherine LaCugna, in her book "The Trinity & Christian Life," has written: "... sometimes the church is referred to as an icon of the Trinity, a visible image that represents in concrete form the ineffable and invisible mystery of triune life. Inasmuch as the members of the church exist together ... in mutual giving and receiving, without separateness, or subordination, or division, the church is an icon of the Trinity. And inasmuch as the church has saving significance, it is an icon of God's saving and healing love."

How do we at Holy Cross live to best enjoy and model for others the Trinitarian nature of our life in God? How do we reveal God as Love that invites, includes, embraces, heals, and transforms?

We begin by fully accepting all persons as beloved children of God, by acknowledging that all have a place and God-given gifts to offer, and by recognizing that the differences among us are important to our being the body of Christ. Our lives together are to be characterized by love, peace, justice, kindness, joy, charity, generosity, compassion, reconciliation, humility, discernment, healing, and forgiveness. That is a tall order. We only accomplish it through intentionality and by God's help; however, we seek to make Christ known in our own community as well as in God's community around us.

Being made in the image of God, it is natural that we seek to know God as God was revealed in Jesus, and as the Spirit guides us, to live transformed lives so that we become more and more what God is – persons in a community of love, in relationship with God, with others, and with all of creation.

Linda+
assistantrector@holycrossep.org

Our Holy Cross Core Values:

- *Everyone matters.*
- *Every member is a minister.*
- *We are a community that serves one another, yet exists for the benefit of those who are not yet members.*
 - *Our Trinitarian God reminds us that differences are what make community.*
 - *Sunday worship is the foundation of our community experience with God.*
 - *The local church is God's best plan for transforming the world.*

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



FEBRUARY YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in Wednesday night Youth Group meetings every Wednesday night from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by Bible study and games. For more information, text or call Mother Susan at 483-2250 or email her at susanhardaway@gmail.com.

• Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26: Regular youth group meetings in the Parish Hall from 6 – 8 p.m.

MONTHLY ECUADOR MISSION TRIP MEETING

The February Ecuador mission trip meeting will be held during regular youth group time on Feb. 12. All Ecuador participants should plan to attend. Contact Mother Susan with questions at 483-2250 or susanhardaway@gmail.com.

TUBING DAY @ MOONSHINE MOUNTAIN

Youth Day Trip - Snow tubing at Moonshine Mountain, 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, **Feb 8**.

Drop off and pick up at Holy Cross.

Total Cost of trip: \$65 (\$50 for 4 hours snow tubing, \$15 for lunch and snacks)

Moonshine Mountain is a cash-only facility ... no checks, credit or debit ... you must bring cash and release form with you that day!

Sign up with Mother Susan no later than Wednesday, Feb, 5 at email: susanhardaway@gmail.com or text [864 483-2250](tel:8644832250).

CONFIRM NOT CONFORM CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The February meeting for the Confirm Not Conform confirmation class will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Youth are invited to come at 6 p.m. and enjoy dinner with the youth group. For more information, you may email Anne Smith at bamaanne@aol.com.

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.

YOUTH EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/TEXT UPDATES:

If there is anyone that wishes to be added to or removed from the youth group email announcements and/or text announcement lists, please contact Sara Farley @ safarley23@gmail.com or text at [864-230-6207](tel:8642306207).

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

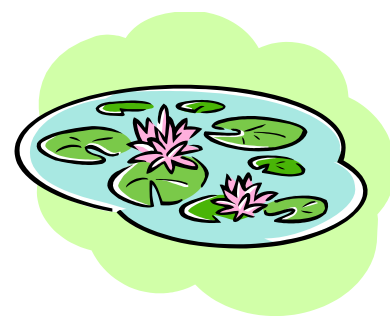
STEWARDSHIP@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – TOM JONES

JONE63194@GMAIL.COM

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN –

In July 2011, Deanna Darnell, a parishioner of our church, expressed interest in providing funding for landscaping the grounds of Holy Cross's Campus. The Landscaping Committee, consisting of Drayton Gaillard, Tom Jones, Dennis DeFrancesco, Jerry Kelley and Greg Farley, decided that the first step was the development of a master plan for the landscaping of the campus grounds. The plan would include a proposed planting plan incorporating the existing landscape features into the plan, beautifying the retention pond, including a sitting area around the pecan tree, and designing a path with benches that would include Stations of the Cross around the memorial garden and detention pond. In 2012, Jeff Hensley, Landscape Architect, was hired to prepare a concept plan for new walkways and bench location and a general planting design. In further discussion with Ms. Darnell, a request to include a lily pond into the plan was made. This year progress was made on making this request a reality. Mr. Hensley completed the campus landscape master plan incorporating the lily pond into that plan. A concept plan locating the lily pond adjacent to the Pavilion was approved by the Vestry. A request for quotes with specifications for a 16' x 8' lily pond with a cascading waterfall and associated landscaping, irrigation and lighting was developed. Quotes were obtained, and the low bid was approved by the Vestry with the stipulation that the cost of the project not come from the operational budget. Ms. Darnell has generously donated the needed funds in memory of her mother, Doris Darnell, to complete this first phase of the landscape plan. Work on the lily pond will start as soon as we get dry enough weather to begin excavation. I look forward to completing the lily pond construction and being involved in the next phase of the landscape plan by beautifying the detention pond.



~ Judy Wortkoetter

Pastoral Care, or Caring Connection as we like to call it at Holy Cross, is the ministry of caring for each other in times of illness, death, and birth. We cook, send cards, deliver flowers and prayer shawls, bring to church or take communion to those not able to come to church.

Everyone has a gift.

If you would like to share your gift using this ministry, please let me know.

Also, we will be holding a meeting on Feb. 17 at 6 p.m.

Come join us.

~ Marcia Jones, 987-0368

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1	Susanne Whiddon Leola Wood	14	Tom Lanford Jack Rogers
2	Martha Batten Camden Frasier	15	Rick Whitmire
3	<i>Ennis & Susanne Whiddon</i> Matt Devine Jax Kennedy Norma Perry	17	Bob Shumaker
4	Janie Decker	18	Anne Brown
5	<i>Jerry & Kerry Kelley</i> Jerry Kelley	19	<i>Bob & Sharon Shumaker</i>
7	Cody Allen Leslie Clayton Frank Kravarik David Whitt, Jr.	22	Roy LImpitlaw Rick Muller Heidi Postich
8	Shelley Allen Richard Holford Barry Mayfield	23	Paul Trebing
9	Lizzie Berry	24	Bob Greenwell
10	Luke Houtz Richard Kirby	26	Roger Clark
11	<i>Reggie & Holly Warren</i> Leslie Donahue	27	Robby Wareing
12	Toi Eubanks Tammy Gillespie Smitty Smith Suzanne Storch-Whitt	28	Frank Glover
13	George MacDonald Alexandra Moore	29	Kevin Prince

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

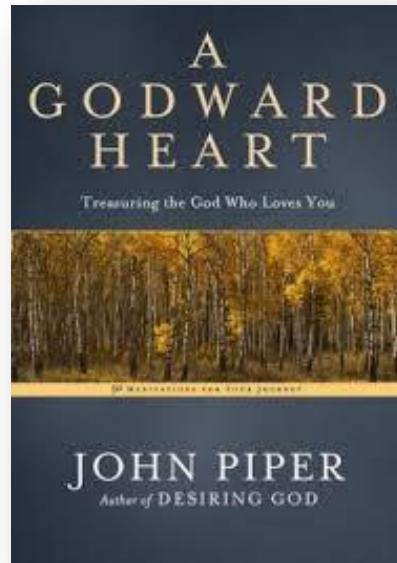
*A Godward Heart:
Treasuring the God Who Loves You*

by John Piper

John Piper invites you to experience deeper intimacy with God through these thought-provoking and soul-enriching meditations. Whether you are just discovering the divine richness of Scripture or have long been a passionate student, you'll find a deeper understanding of God and renewed insight for your journey.

www.amazon.com

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	srwarden@holycrossep.org

