

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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HOLY CROSS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Some of you have heard that we are in the process of exploring a capital campaign to reduce our building debt. Thus far it has been a quiet process and will continue as such for another month or so, as we identify and orient volunteers and implement a communication strategy. I wanted to share a little bit of the process with you so that you are aware of how we are proceeding with this important effort.

Our capital campaign exploration process will consist of three distinct phases:

Phase one is Discernment, which has begun. We will solicit input from everyone in the church, asking for ideas about our hopes and dreams for the future of Holy Cross. Our Dream Wall is one of the places where we are gathering ideas. Additionally, Sarah Swartz Beattie is talking with members of our Program Council and other leaders of specific ministries to get their input. She will be catching those dreams and recording them. At the end of January we will have those dreams distilled into a coherent report, which we will offer to the congregation at our annual meeting.



The second phase is the Feasibility Study. We will take the information we receive and create a tentative Case Statement about our needs as a parish. Toward the end of February, we will survey the entire congregation to determine the priorities of our congregation and the level of financial support that is possible. Our consultant will come and do a few personal interviews, followed by a parish-wide survey to get input from everyone who cares to respond. This will help us determine what we can accomplish as a parish toward retiring our debt and sustaining future ministry.

Based upon the results of this important study, we would get all hands on deck to move together into a Solicitation Phase to realize our dreams soon after Easter (Apr. 5). It is our hope to conclude a successful campaign with a celebration toward the middle of June, so that there is minimal effect on our operating budget and we can refinance our loan in 2016.

Right now we are in the midst of the Discernment process. Our consultant is working with volunteers who will be soliciting ideas and dreams for the future of Holy Cross from our congregation. It is our hope that we can discover and respond to some great ideas for improving Holy Cross that are quickly and easily implemented, in the process. Small changes can sometimes have a big impact on how we appear to newcomers as well as how we feel about ourselves.

Ultimately, this campaign would give us the ability to continue to service our mortgage out of our Building Fund and thus keep our Operating Budget freed to maintain the great mission and ministry we do in the world, while being responsible stewards of the beautiful campus we utilize to do the God's work here at home.

Please join us in this effort by providing your input on our dream wall, responding to Sarah when she asks about your ministry needs, saying "yes" when invited to participate - and praying for this important endeavor over the next six months. With God's help we will be able to continue the good work begun among us and be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Mike+
rector@holycrossep.org



REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

THE REVEREND LINDA GOSNELL,
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE

PRACTICING THE FAITH – ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING

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

2 Corinthians 1:4

Many times through the years I have heard people say something like: "2014 has been a terrible (difficult, exhausting, tiring, painful) year. I am so ready for it to be over." We typically think and live our lives in a linear fashion; therefore, many facets of life seem to have a beginning and an end. It makes sense that we see time and life that way, and the hope of a new beginning and the prospects of improved circumstances buoys our spirits.

Though the seasons of our worship are cyclical, here we also observe an ending and a new beginning each year. That occurred for us in late November with the ending of the season of Pentecost and the beginning of Advent. In addition to Advent, we also find new beginnings in many places in our life of faith.

Baptism is a sacrament of new life in Christ, and every time we participate in the renewal of our own Baptismal Covenant, we reaffirm that new life and have an opportunity to begin once again. We aren't limited to the occasional baptism, however. Every Holy Eucharist offers us a new beginning. Having received the sacrament of Christ's presence with us and in us, we depart from worship forgiven, fed, and sent forth to be Christ's presence in the world.

Every Holy Eucharist offers us a new beginning.

Our Book of Common Prayer (p. 855) defines the mission of the church as restoration of "all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In the BCP (beginning on page 446) we find a Rite for The Reconciliation of a Penitent. This rite provides for a personal new beginning for anyone who needs it to be freed from sins troubling to the conscience. This rite is available for anyone who requests it of the clergy.

On Dec. 31, the "dropping of the ball" in Times Square will herald for many a new beginning. Many, perhaps you, will make resolutions to do things in the new year that will improve health or life or, conversely, resolve to stop doing things that are harmful. While it may not be true for you, for many the same resolutions are made year after year with no significant lasting effect. Perhaps the first resolution we all should make is to do it differently this time.

Janus – the Roman god with two faces who looks both backward and forward at the same time – is the namesake of the month of January. We can take a tip from Janus, and review the past year before rushing head-long into the new one. Ask of yourself a few questions:

- How have I been faithful to God and to myself this year?
- What activities, attitudes, behaviors in my life have revealed to myself and to others my beliefs, my core values, my personal integrity?
- How can I continue to focus my intentions and behaviors to the fulfillment of God's purpose for me?
- What practices of prayer, worship, giving, sharing, serving, and study will support my growth in the coming year?
- Where can I get the support I need for lasting change?

The answer to the final question may be Holy Cross. Incorporate another aspect of our Rule of Life into your daily and weekly practice. Sign up for a Life Group. Investigate and get involved in one of the ministries of the parish.

Blessings for new life and spiritual growth in the coming year!
Linda+

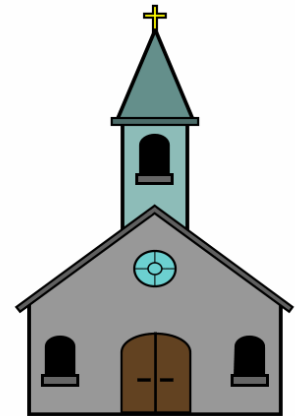
CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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



JANUARY YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday, Jan. 7: Youth will have dinner in the Meeting Hall at 6 p.m. Youth will then participate in the Fran McKendree Epiphany Service at 7 p.m. in the church. Parents and siblings are encouraged to attend the service, which includes prayer, scripture, and song for all ages. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. For more information, text or call Mother Susan at 483-2250 or email her at youth@holycrossep.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER SIGN-UP

Sign-up sheets for winter and spring are on the bulletin board. Please plan to cook or bring carry-out for 30 people. If you can also sponsor a dinner with a donation of \$75, Mother Susan will shop and cook.

SENIOR HIGH WINTER EVENT

The Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) will be at Camp Bob, Kanuaga Conference Center in Hendersonville, N.C., from Jan. 30 – Feb. 1. Cost is \$126. Register online at www.edusc.org/youth by Jan. 9. Topic: Race Reconciliation "Talk the talk before you walk the walk" with worship, games and more. Special guest: Dr. Millicent Brown, the once little girl from Brown v Board of Education, which led to the desegregation of public schools. Two Safe Church trained Adult chaperones are also needed. Talk with Mother Susan for more information at 483-2250 or email her at youth@holycrossep.org.

CHILI COOK-OFF!

The Chili Cook-Off and Annual Meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 24. This is our next youth fundraiser! Watch for more details. Four adults are needed to help plan, and four adults are needed to work the event with Mother Susan. If you can help, please contact Mother Susan at 483-2250 or email her at youth@holycrossep.org.



LORD'S RESOURCES

ADMINISTRATION, STEWARDSHIP, BUILDING & GROUNDS

SENIOR WARDEN – SHARON PUTMAN

SRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

JUNIOR WARDEN – MIKE NICHOLS

JRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

STEWARDSHIP – DAVE GEISLER

STEWARDSHIP@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – TOM JONES

JONE63194@GMAIL.COM

PASTORAL CARE

Holy Cross has a very active Pastoral Care ministry or Caring Connection, as we like to call ourselves. Some of you have been touched by this ministry and may not even know it. We are a ministry of people helping, caring for, and praying with our congregation. We celebrate births, pray for recovery, feed with food and communion, provide transportation, provide information for wellness, and offer flowers and cards to brighten days. Our newly formed Health Ministry has been formed to help bring preventative information and assistance to you. The hand sanitizers are the first of the visible offerings. Dr. Jeffery Smith's presentation at the adult forum was another. While our clergy and staff are our primary source for your requests, we need the eyes and ears of the entire congregation. If you are going through a medical procedure or if you are celebrating a birth, mourning a death, or are unable to come to church and would like communion brought to you, please let us know. If you know of someone else who may need such let us know. If you would like to be a part of this ministry please let us know. Step up. There is a place for all. You may contact me via email at pastoralcare@holycrossep.org. Thank you, Marcia Jones

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Did you know that you don't need to speak a foreign language to teach someone English as a Second Language at the Center for Community Services? Did you know that you don't need to be a veteran to help veterans at the Upstate Warrior Solution? These are two of our eleven Ministry Partners that have an ongoing need for volunteers.

Almost all of our Ministry Partners rallied volunteers to help unload our pumpkins and greet customers at our pumpkin patch this year. So we want to get the word out to our church membership that our partners can use our help during the year. Maybe you would like to help a kid with his or her homework? That's something that gets done at the FIKE Center in Fountain Inn. Many of our church members know that you don't need to have a lot of construction skills to help build homes with Habitat of Humanity.

Most opportunities are geared to your own time limitations. Whatever time you can donate will be appreciated, just as it is within Holy Cross when you help out here. And the whole time, everyone will know that you and Holy Cross are reaching out to our community and making Christ visible. You can do it.

There are many different opportunities for each partner. We will be posting and talking about them at the Adult Forum on the first Sunday of each month and on our bulletin boards. Watch for something that will interest you, and please attend all the presentations so you can learn about the different partners.

Any specific questions? Please contact one of the following Ministry Partner liaisons:

Habitat for Humanity – Tim Sullivan

FIKE – Cindy Smith

Holy Cross Academy – Austin Bishop

James Monroe Mission House – Mike Guarino

Kairos Outside – Gail Randall

Center for Community Services – Brown and Pam Garrett

Little Steps – Jackie Donboch

Safe Harbor – Dionne Sandiford

Santa Cruz Mission – Fr. Fred Gonzalez

Synergy Garden – Dennis DeFrancesco

Upstate Warrior Solution – Dan Donboch

~ Dan Donboch, Volunteer Coordinator



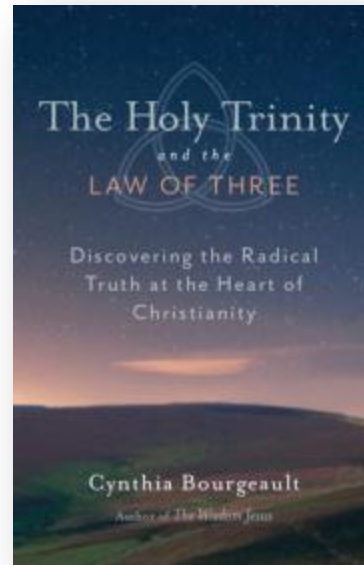
FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Holy Trinity and the Law of Three
by Cynthia Bourgeault

Just as she's done in her previous books, Cynthia Bourgeault asks us to take a look at an idea from traditional Christianity — this time the formula of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — as though we're looking at it for the first time. And as usual, she reveals it to be something we hadn't expected at all. She finds in the idea of the Holy Trinity a striking vision of the nature of reality. What she claims, in a nutshell, is that embedded within this theological formula that Christians recite mostly on autopilot lies a powerful metaphysical principle that could change our understanding of Christianity and give us the tools so long and so sorely needed to reunite our shattered cosmology, rekindle our visionary imagination, and cooperate consciously with the manifestation of Jesus's "Kingdom of Heaven" here on Earth.

www.randomhouse.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

