

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 7

JULY 2014

CONTENTS

Father Mike

The Is and Isn't's of Stewardship 1-2

Assistant Rector

Under Construction 2-3

Christian Formation

3

Our Lord's Resources

3

Miscellaneous

Food for the Journey 4

Holy Cross Contacts 4

THE IS AND ISN'TS OF STEWARDSHIP – SUMMER IS HERE!

As we move into the summer months, it has become obvious that it is all too easy for many of us to allow our gifts to the church to go on vacation when we do. Our pledge income has been below normal for the past two months, and I wanted to offer some thoughts on tithing and stewardship. However, I realized that we have an amazing organization in the church that can state the need and significance of tithing and pledging so much better than I am able to on my own.

The article below comes right off of the Episcopal Network for Stewardship website. It is short and concise and is a wonderful invitation to remember why we give. May God bless you as you retreat and renew yourself and your families this summer.

"What Is Stewardship? Stewardship is ... Everything I do after I say, 'I believe.' God calls us to share in God's mission of caring for the world, using all the gifts God has given us. We are stewards, caretakers of God's gifts. Everything we have was a gift from God, and God asks us to use it all for God's purposes. Generosity flows naturally out of our gratitude for the gift of love, family, and life itself.

In the church, we are stewards of the good news of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. We are called to share that good news with new generations. But we live in a world where sharing that news is becoming ever more challenging. In order to share the good news, we need financial and other resources.

Our worries about stewardship tend to focus on money. But stewardship is all about mission. Convince people that the church is doing God's mission and that it will truly transform our lives and our communities ... and each of us is an integral part of that mission ... heart, mind and body ... and the money will follow.

Stewardship isn't ...

- + Fundraising.
- + Paying the light bills or maintaining a building.
- + Paying a decent staff.
- + Meeting the budget.
- + Keeping the church alive.
- + Paying our fair share of the dues.
- + Passing on a legacy to our children.

Stewardship is ...

- + Sharing in God's mission with a glad, generous and grateful heart.
- + Transforming lives in our community.
- + Prayerfully responding to God's call.
- + A deeply spiritual matter.
- + Something that blesses the giver more than the receiver.

Stewardship is discipleship; it is a complete reorientation of our lives toward God, who calls us through Jesus Christ. Stewardship is ... Everything I do after I say, 'I believe.'"

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

<http://www.tens.org/>

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

**THE REVEREND LINDA GOSNELL,
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE**

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

You may have noticed the landscaping work being done behind the church just in front of the pavilion. A lily pond is being constructed there. The planning and preparation have been on-going for quite a while with several people working diligently behind the scenes to make it a reality. You may have anticipated the pond's construction from reading past articles by former Junior Wardens Greg Farley and Judy Wortkoetter, and now it is a reality. Let me remind you of how it has come to be.

While our sanctuary provides us beautiful and holy worship space, there is also holy space at the rear of our property. Numerous people find peace and comfort in the nearness of God's presence sitting in our Memorial Garden, walking our labyrinth, and at our St. Francis garden. One of them is parishioner Deanna Darnell. In July, 2011, Deanna expressed an interest in enhancing that part of our property and offered funding for some landscaping of the grounds. She specifically requested the construction of a lily pond. In 2012, the Holy Cross Landscaping Committee, consisting of Drayton Gaillard, Tom Jones, Dennis DeFrancesco, Jerry Kelly and Greg Farley, outlined the need for a master plan for our Holy Cross property, and Jeff Hensley, Landscape Architect, was hired to prepare a concept plan for new walkways and bench location, a general planting design, and the proposed lily pond. The master plan was completed in 2013, and a concept plan locating a 16'x8' lily pond adjacent to the Pavilion was approved by the Vestry. This plan calls for a cascading waterfall, associated landscaping, irrigation and lighting. Deanna has generously provided all the funding for this project in memory of her mother, Doris Darnell.

Thinking of this lily pond project under construction has caused me to also reflect on the "construction" of our spiritual lives. All aspects of our lives are constantly growing and/or changing, including our spiritual lives. Our vision may be both expanding outward and turning inward. We listen for God speaking through others as often as not, and we listen to our own intuition and desires and seek to discern what of that is of God and what is ego. When we are called in a new spiritual direction, we sometimes must take courageous risks. We respond to an inner urging, a yearning that won't leave us be. Responding to such a yearning can take time and may require planning, flexibility, and the participation and cooperation of others. Our inner, spiritual, projects may, like the construction of the lily pond, necessitate tearing up our inner environment and making a mess before new beauty is revealed and experienced. All changes come with costs, requiring an investment of resources – sometimes monetary, sometimes of time, sometimes in understanding of ourselves, our current life's purpose, and of who God is to us. Others may be required to support our journey and may need to bear some of the costs with us.

If you can relate to these similarities between our lily pond construction project and your spiritual life, share it with someone – your Life Group, your spiritual director, a friend. The discomforts of change can be well worth the investment!



Thank you, Deanna Darnell, Greg Farley, Judy Wortkoetter, Jerry Kelly, and all others who have worked behind the scenes to make this project a reality. I pray that it, too, will become holy space for many in the years to come.

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



JULY YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH ROPES COURSE WEEKEND: Mark your calendars! There will be a Holy Cross Youth Ropes Course Weekend at Camp Gravatt August 22-24. This will include Middle School and High School Students. We will do a service project for Camp Gravatt in addition to the Ropes Course activities. Cost \$120 per person. A \$50.00 deposit is due to Mother Susan by July 13 with \$70.00 balance due to Mother Susan by August 10.

Make checks payable to "Holy Cross Episcopal Church" with "Youth Ropes Course" on the memo line.

Youth can use money from their Mission Fund to help pay for their weekend. Check with Mother Susan to see how much you have in your Mission Fund from our fundraising events.

We will stay at Camp Gravatt. We will experience the Ropes Course and complete a service project for Camp Gravatt. Come join in the fun as we kick off a new year of Holy Cross Youth Group. We will leave after school on Friday, August 22 and return the afternoon of Sunday, August 24.



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



FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Crazy Busy

by Kevin DeYoung

“I’M TOO BUSY!” We’ve all heard it. We’ve all said it. All too often, busyness gets the best of us.

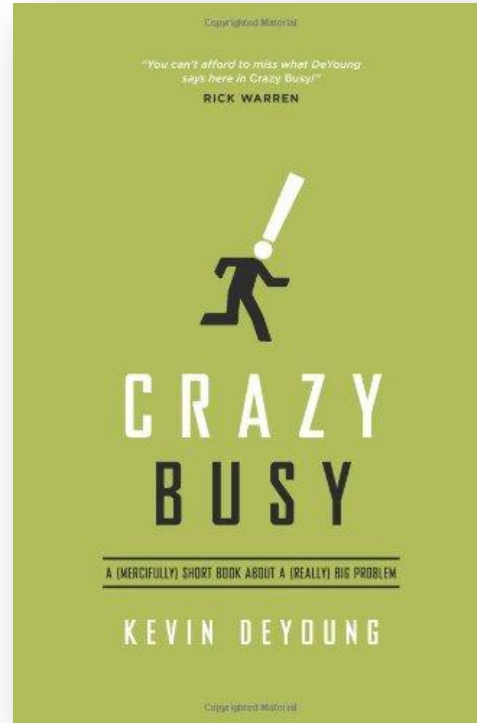
Just one look at our jam-packed schedules tells us how hard it can be to strike a well-reasoned balance between doing nothing and doing it all.

That’s why award-winning author and pastor Kevin DeYoung addresses the busyness problem head on in his newest book, *Crazy Busy* — and not with the typical arsenal of time management tips, but rather with the biblical tools we need to get to the source of the issue and pull the problem out by the roots.

Highly practical and *super* short, *Crazy Busy* will help you put an end to “busyness as usual.”

~ 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

