



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 MEMBERS OF THE STAFF – NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE WORLD

We are about to experience changes in our staff once again as our Parish Secretary, Kayla Massey, leaves us in order to accept a call to serve with the Young Adult Service Corps. She will be traveling to the Philippines to assist in administration of micro loans to small business owners in the area. She will work with YASC for one year before returning back to the U.S.

We have just extended an offer to Jennifer Hellams to serve as our new Parish Secretary. Jennifer has an Associate Degree in Business and has owned and operated her own business for the past 3 years. Her office skills, organizational skills and communication skills are well-suited for our needs. We are excited to have her join our team.



Kayla and Jennifer will work together for the first week of June and then Kayla will be leaving on June 10 to prepare to leave for her training in New York. Please keep Kayla in your prayers as she undertakes this important work of the national church. (She is accepting donations for her venture. Call Holy Trinity, Clemson for more information.)

Additionally, we currently have a Parish Intern working with us for the next six months. Mike Cannon is a member of Christ Church, Greenville, and is discerning a call to the priesthood. Our process of discernment includes a six-month internship at a church other than your home parish. This is the same process that our seminarian, Kristen Pitts, experienced before leaving for seminary.

Mike will be with us until December of this year working on a project to increase our awareness of and participation with our Holy Cross Ministry Partners, who are supported by our Pumpkin Patch. It is our hope that with Mike's help, we can set up an organization that communicates the work of these ministry partners to the congregation and offers opportunities to join them in their ministry as volunteers. By reaching out in this way we are putting "hands and feet" to the message of the gospel.

One presenter recently told us that in today's society, time has become more precious than money. Thus, to give of our time is a greater sacrifice than writing the check. That is not to say that the funds we supply are not very important to these ministries, but we now have a chance to offer a complete relationship with money and volunteer support. God is blessing us richly, and I am grateful for all the ways we are "Making Christ Visible in God's Community."

Mike+
rector@holycrossep.org



REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

THE REVEREND LINDA GOSNELL,
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE

UNPLUGGED – BANE OR BLESSING?

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

2 Corinthians 1:4

A few weeks ago I went on a retreat. I camped alone for a week in a state park on a site without electricity. I had no internet connection and very limited cell-phone service. I was able for that week to be quiet and still, to pray and listen, to read, to journal, and to sit and stare at waves with no conscious thoughts. It was a blessed, peaceful, and rejuvenating time.

This past week lightning interrupted the normal routine and function of our lives as a parish staff. We had no internet, no Wi-Fi, no phone, printers didn't work. Being unplugged in the work environment, however, was anything but peaceful and graced. Many people have spent hours getting us plugged back in, and much of the down time was an exercise in frustration. I've repeatedly picked up the phone to call someone and been reminded by the absence of a dial tone that it doesn't work without a connection. I've needed to get up from my desk and walk to someone's office to communicate with them. Some emails could be handled on my cell phone, but others, requiring more than a simple response, have had to just sit in my inbox.

The difference between these two experiences lies in my intentions and expectations. On retreat, I had purposefully set time aside to be non-productive and detached from day-to-day responsibilities. This week I had a long list of tasks I'd hoped to complete and felt frustrated by my inability to accomplish many of them. And, those tasks that have been accomplished have required much more time and energy than anticipated.

Usage of and dependency on technology is ever-growing, and it is difficult to manage. We need it in the work place. It has a relevant place in our social lives. I do believe, however, that occasionally being unplugged is beneficial to us. Choosing to be unplugged is something I try to do regularly and encourage others to do as well. Being plugged in all the time means constant interruptions, multiple demands on our time and attention, being always available and, frequently, an inability to prioritize. Being plugged in limits our ability to be fully present to ourselves, to others we're with, and to God.

Explore your life – how much of your time do you actually spend at a computer or other screen? Create more face-to-face opportunities. Turn off the phones, etc., that interrupt meals and conversations. Do something active, outside if possible. Set and stick to specific times for checking and replying to emails.

*"Spaciousness is
always a beginning,
a possibility,
a potential,
a capacity for
birth."
~ Gerald May*

Set aside regular, uninterrupted, quiet time for God. My experience with the dial-tone-less phone this week is a reminder to me that just as a phone doesn't work without a connection, our relationship with God doesn't either, and that connection is dependent on our being available.

Give yourself the gift of uninterrupted quiet; give others the gift of undivided attention; give God the gift of presence. You will benefit greatly.

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



JUNE YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTER NOW FOR VBS! We are headed on a Wilderness Escape, where God Guides and Provides. The dates are June 15-19, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., ages 3 years through 5th grade. We are asking for a \$5 registration donation per child, \$15 maximum per family. Registration is open and can be accessed through our website, www.holycrossep.org. Forms are also available at church. If you would like to make a donation toward VBS, please see Leslie Donahue.

VBS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Family Group Leader (small group guide)
Family Group Assistants (great job for teens who need service hours)
Campground Craft Assistants (great job for teens who need service hours)
Games - great place for teens to help

VBS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION:

If you are volunteering during the week of VBS, please attend ONE of the Volunteer Orientation sessions. Please sign up in Narthex.

Wednesday, June 4 at 6:30 - 8:00 pm (childcare provided)

Wednesday, June 11 at 9:30 - 11:00 am

Wednesday, June 11 at 6:30 - 8:00 pm (childcare provided)

SPECIFIC ITEMS NEEDED FOR VBS!

Cookies - we serve cookies every night for dessert. They can be brought to the kitchen starting June 12. Please mark "VBS."

Water toys and sponges - We need plenty of water toys for our final night!

Two large blue tarps - to create water walls leading to Moses tent.

VBS TEE SHIRTS ON SALE NOW. Tee shirts are \$10 each. This year, we are hoping volunteers will wear the VBS tee shirts instead of biblical garb. See Leslie Donahue.

LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP IS JUNE 4TH!

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. (Youth can use the money from their Mission Fundraiser accounts.) Registration information to follow soon.



LORD'S RESOURCES

**ADMINISTRATION, STEWARDSHIP,
BUILDING & GROUNDS**

SENIOR WARDEN – GREG FARLEY

SRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

JUNIOR WARDEN – JUDY WORTKOETTER

JRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

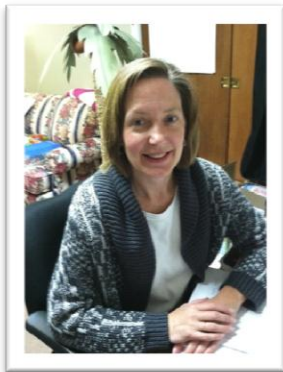
STEWARDSHIP – DAVE GEISLER

STEWARDSHIP@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – TOM JONES

JONE63194@GMAIL.COM

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS MINISTRY? MEET LESLIE DONAHUE, MEMBER OF THE VESTRY



Leslie Donahue has been the children's ministry coordinator for a year. She coordinates Children's Christian Formation, Vacation Bible School, Backpack Blessings, Pray & Play, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Programs, Children's Sunday, the nursery and many other programs. Over the years, Leslie has volunteered as a Christian Formation teacher and Christmas Pageant leader.

Leslie is a life-long Episcopalian and grew up attending Holy Cross. She was confirmed here, married here and her two children were baptized here. "Growing up, the youth group was a very important part of my spiritual journey and I loved the retreats at Camp Gravatt – especially Happening," she said.

Leslie attended Clemson University. She and her husband John have been married for 16 years and have two children, Lauren and Jamie. Leslie goes to either the 9:00 or 11:15 service and really enjoys the music at the 11:15 service.

Leslie says she is still getting to know everyone, and she appreciates all the support the congregation gives Children's Ministries. "The children are a joy. They never cease to amaze me with their straightforward comments and insightful observations," she said.

A new program, Movin' On Up, has been designed to help the 5th graders transition to Youth. Leslie says there has been tremendous support for the program and that "Holy Cross has such a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere."

She reminds everybody that Vacation Bible School is right around the corner (June 15-19), where the congregation "will help make Christ visible to many children – many from Holy Cross, but many others from our community. It's an exciting week and I hope everyone gets an opportunity to participate, if they feel called."

Leslie can be reached at e-mail leslie.donahue@gmail.com.

~ Lucy Ackerman, contributor



FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

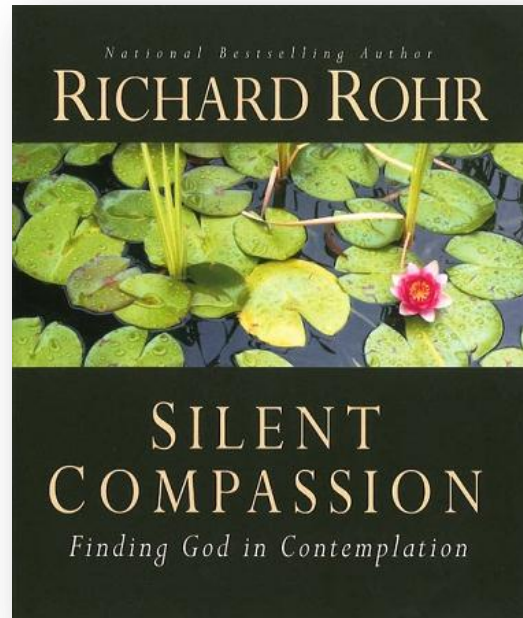
*Silent Compassion:
Finding God in Contemplation*

by Richard Rohr

In *Silent Compassion: Finding God in Contemplation*, Rohr focuses on finding God in the depths of silence and shares that the divine silence is more than the absence of noise. That silence has a life of its own, in which we are invited into its living presence, wholeness of being, and peace it brings. This silence can absorb paradoxes, contradictions, and the challenges of life, he says, connecting us with the great chain of being. Rohr adds that while different faiths use different languages and different words, all major religions have come at the mystery of God as a dynamic flow—God as communion, God as relationships. Silence then becomes that common place for all.

~ 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

