

# 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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## WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO GROW?

The question above is one I ask myself on a regular basis. Some would ask the question, "Why is it necessary that we grow at all? Aren't we big enough already?" Of course, there is no commandment in scripture that we add numbers to our churches, but the Great Commission in Matthew's gospel clearly is a call to go out into the world to preach and to teach and to baptize. Our mission is to "Make Christ Visible in God's Community." That mission is one in which we are invited to seek out the places in our environments where God is needed and find a way to make God present in those places where God is absent.

In Simpsonville, South Carolina, that will include reaching out to those new families and singles who are seeking a relationship with God and with a faith community. In our location, new folks are arriving every day, and our role is to be open to those new folks in a way that invites them in and includes them in our ministry. Simpsonville and the surrounding area are still growing - and so should we. And yet, 2013 marked the second year in a row that our average Sunday attendance has dropped. We were 299 in 2011, 275 in 2012 and 264 in 2013. That marks a clear trend of negative growth. So what do we need to do in order to get back on "track" with our church attendance? One writer asks the question this way: "What do we need to do in order to make space for the next 50 people who come through our doors?"

Holy Cross has a great legacy of being generous to those in need and in working together to minister to those in need. Our pumpkin patch is specifically focused on meeting the needs of children and families in the state of South Carolina. We support mission work in Quito, Ecuador and Cange, Haiti. We are replenishing the clergy by sending seminarians to school to become priests. We minister to one another through our flower ministry, card ministry, Eucharistic Visitor program and our Parish Nurse program (we are currently seeking a coordinator!). Our Life Groups, covenant groups and Christian Formation offerings for all ages provide opportunities for spiritual and personal growth.



How do we make space to include new members in these ongoing ministries and be open to new opportunities that may be brought to our attention by those folks who join us? Our primary work is that of openness and innovation. God has a program in the world that God is carrying out. Our role is to pay close enough attention to what God may be doing and to join God in that work.

So what are some specific steps that we can take? First of all, join us in the Rule of Life challenge this year. Our rule is a means by which we can be sure that we are growing deeper in Christ daily. Participate in our bible challenge to read the New Testament in a year. It is not too late to begin now. Reading two chapters a day for the next month will have you caught up by the end of March.

On March 29 we will be hosting a congregational development seminar at Holy Cross. The cost is \$20, and it includes lunch. The seminar will be led by Mark Tidsworth of Pinnacle Leadership Associates and will include time to process the information together as a church so that we can apply the ideas quickly in our specific context. If you are involved in any aspect of parish life, it would be a helpful day and money well spent. If the cost is an issue, please contact me, and we will provide a scholarship.

Finally, keep praying about who you might invite to worship with us. 85% of new members come to a church because they were invited by a friend. And you might be surprised at how many of your friends do not attend church anywhere. And, oh yes, we want you to be with us on Sundays and feast days as we worship together. There is a difference between being a member and being a disciple. Faith is a lifelong learning and growing experience, and our church depends on each of us to do our part in order for everyone to grow.

May 2014 be a year of growth, as disciples, and as a community.

Mike+

[rector@holycrossep.org](mailto:rector@holycrossep.org)



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

**2 Corinthians 1:4**

*Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God;  
But only he who sees takes off his shoes,  
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.*

~ Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Aurora Leigh, Book 7

I recently read a blog written by a young man explaining why he no longer goes to church. His primary reason was that worship "is nothing more than a talk and some music." Then he added that he finds it hard to focus on the talk and he is not moved by the music.

One of Holy Cross' Core Values concerns the importance of Sunday worship. In fact, we believe that Sunday worship is the foundation of our community experience with God. This is true for us because, while words and songs are important, worship is much more than that. Liturgy means "work of the people," and when we gather for worship we are called upon

## REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

THE REVEREND LINDA GOSNELL,  
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE

## PRACTICING THE FAITH — OUR CORE VALUES: SUNDAY WORSHIP IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE WITH GOD

to invest ourselves together in engagement with God through God's word in scripture and sermon, through participation in prayer, through our interactions with the community of God gathered in relationship with one another. In worship we open ourselves to the presence of Christ in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and to the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Baptism and in community.

In our worship together on Sundays we have occasion to come together before God to celebrate God's creation and gifts, to share our joys and also our sorrows, to express our doubts, our fears, our regrets. We come to confess our failures and to receive absolution. We lament and find consolation. We open our hearts and lives to the work God is doing in us and in others, and over time, we find ourselves being transformed. Shaped by liturgy, word, and sacrament, we move ever closer to living in God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Our weekly practice of worship forms and shapes us to be more Christ-like.

Amy Sander Montanez, in her book *Moment to Moment: The Transformative Power of Everyday Life*, writes: "Good worship is designed to create Holy Ground. It is designed to heighten our senses, open our minds and hearts, and focus our thoughts on the God of Creation. We are to be reminded of the infinite paradoxes of life during worship. We are to be strengthened to cross the bridge back into the world in which we live and to do the work we feel personally called to do. In this way we participate in the Kingdom of God in the here and now. We worship with other people to remind us that we are on this journey together. Sometimes, while worshipping, we have a holy experience. The most inspiring worship is transformative."

"Sometimes," Montanez writes, "we have a holy experience." Sometimes, however, we don't experience the holy, we merely wait upon God. Sometimes we offer our prayers with great intention, and other times we let others pray for us. Sometimes we know, we experience, the presence of Christ in the sacraments; other times we receive in faith, believing Christ is "with us and in us" even when we don't have what we'd call a "holy experience." Always, however, by our very presence and participation, God is actively working in us, transforming us more and more into the Christ-like persons and community we are created to be.

The Christian community gathered is always more than a collection of individuals because this is a place where we encounter the living Christ. In Matthew 18.20 we read, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." When we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist, to sing, to pray, to give thanks, to engage the scriptures, to laugh and to cry, to offer ourselves and our lives to God, we become the Body of Christ, transformed, nourished, strengthened, and prepared to go forth as Christ's light for the world, to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Everything, every place, has the potential to reveal God – to be sacramental – however, Sunday worship is a time and place we are most open to God's revealing of Self. On those occasions when we gather in community for worship, when we offer ourselves and open ourselves to God's presence and activity in our midst, we see God, we know God, we are recipients of God's grace. As Elizabeth Barrett Browning says, "Earth is crammed with heaven ... afire with God ... we take off our shoes" no longer "sit[ting] round pluck[ing] blackberries."

See you in worship next Sunday.

Linda+  
[assistantrector@holycrosse.org](mailto:assistantrector@holycrosse.org)

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## *Holy Eucharist*

*"Jesus told his friends to do this and they have done it ever since. Was ever another command so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacles of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth. There has been found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the wisdom of a parliament or for a sick old woman afraid to die... One could fill many pages with the reasons why this has been done, and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of each continent and country, the pastors have done this to make the plebs sancta dei - the holy common people of God."*

*~ Dom Gregory Dix*

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*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.*

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## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION, ADULT, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH**  
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION – SUSAN LOUITT HARDAWAY  
[YOUTH@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG)

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES – SHELLEY ALLEN  
[ACADEMYDIRECTOR@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG](mailto:ACADEMYDIRECTOR@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG)

COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES – LESLIE DONAHUE  
[CHILDREN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG](mailto:CHILDREN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG)

PROGRAM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE  
ADULT – DRAYTON GAILLARD [WHDGAILLARD@CHARTER.NET](mailto:WHDGAILLARD@CHARTER.NET)



## MARCH YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PROJECT HOST SOUP KITCHEN

Teens and their parents are invited to help cook lunch at Project Host Soup Kitchen on Sunday, March 30. Questions: contact Lizzie Berry Clark at [lizziebphat@live.com](mailto:lizziebphat@live.com).

### NEW BEGINNINGS SPRING RETREAT

Middle School Students and parents, please mark your calendars for New Beginnings (a Spring Retreat for grades 6 - 8) at Camp Gravatt in Aiken, SC, from May 2 - 4. Cost, chaperone and registration information will be available in April.

### YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday will be May 18. Watch for more details!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP DURING LENT

March 5th: NO youth group. Teens and parents are encouraged to attend one of the Ash Wednesday services at Holy Cross that day. During Lent, the youth group will be participating in the Lenten Program on Wednesday nights. Parents and siblings are invited to join us as we explore our Rule of Life in creative, energetic and sometimes messy activities. Dinner at 6 p.m., Lenten Program from 6:30 - 7 p.m.

For more information, text or call Mother Susan @ [susanhardaway@gmail.com](mailto:susanhardaway@gmail.com) or text 864-483-2250.

### PANCAKE SUPPER

Teens need to be at the church by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4. We will cook, serve and clean up. We will serve dinner from 6 - 8 p.m. We need four adults to help with this event and three vacuum cleaners from home to use during clean up. Thank you! This is a fundraiser for the mission trips. You must sign in and out with Jill Swinden. Contact Jill with questions @ [hswinden@peoplepc.com](mailto:hswinden@peoplepc.com).

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to participate in Bible lessons/discussions 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](mailto: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](mailto:safarley23@gmail.com) or text at [864-230-6207](tel:864-230-6207).

## 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](mailto:youth@holycrossep.org).



## LORD'S RESOURCES

### ADMINISTRATION, STEWARDSHIP, BUILDING & GROUNDS

SENIOR WARDEN – SHARON PUTMAN

[SRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG](mailto:SRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG)

JUNIOR WARDEN – JUDY WORTKOETTER

[JRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG](mailto:JRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG)

STEWARDSHIP – DAVE GEISLER

[STEWARDSHIP@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG](mailto:STEWARDSHIP@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – TOM JONES

[JONE63194@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JONE63194@GMAIL.COM)

## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN –

Your Holy Cross vestry spent a beautiful weekend in the mountains of North Carolina. It was a great time for us to get to know one another and build a strong team for the year ahead. We accomplished so much. Most of all, I really enjoyed getting to know my sisters and brothers in Christ a little bit better.

Our primary task for the weekend was setting our goals for 2014. I'd like to share with you what we have outlined for the year ahead. The text immediately after the goal indicates what area of our rule of life this goal addresses, and the names in parentheses indicate which vestry members are championing this goal. Please feel free to contact me or any of our vestry members if you have any questions.

## VESTRY GOALS FOR 2014

- Launch a new website to reach out to those who are not yet members of Holy Cross and to communicate with our current members. Serve Others, Share Your Story (Lynda, Michelle, Sharon)
- Host and participate in a congregational development seminar for clergy and lay leaders to understand and respond to the changing role of church in society. Serve Others (Father Mike, staff)
- Develop a written communication plan for internal and external media, encompassing newsletters, bulletin boards, e-blasts, TV, radio, newspapers, and social media. Serve Others, Share Your Story (Lynda, Kenn, Shelley, Anne)
- Purchase and install interior signs for church campus. Serve Others (Mike N., Jim)
- Research, purchase, and install shades for the sanctuary windows. Give Freely (Mike N., Jim)
- Install the lily pond. Serve Others (Mike N.)
- Develop and publicize a written program for planned giving. Serve Others, Give Freely (Dave)



- Conduct a capital campaign to pay off a sizable amount of our current debt, and develop a list of additional needs to be included in this campaign. Give Freely (Dave, Father Mike)
- Launch one or more new Life Groups (10-12 people). Worship Weekly, Read the Bible, Share Your Story (Father Mike, Mother Linda)
- Develop a written plan for an annual scholarship for one family in need at Holy Cross Academy. Serve Others, Give Freely (Dionne, Anne, Shelley)
- Conduct a pledge campaign for the 2015 operating budget. Give Freely (Dave, Jim)

~ Sharon Putman

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS MINISTRY?

Do you know what the Vestry does? The Vestry, elected by the church membership, is responsible for the financial and temporal matters of Holy Cross. It oversees the budget process to ensure the church is financially sound, and it creates and adopts church policy. The Vestry does long-range planning, and the Program Council has assumed responsibility for the day- to- day matters that were overseen by the Vestry. Thus, the Vestry functions more efficiently. The Vestry meets twice a month with a spiritual meeting and a business meeting.

## MEET THE SENIOR WARDEN

Sharon Putman is the Senior Warden and is in her second year on the vestry. As Senior Warden, she administers the temporal affairs of the parish and oversees the vestry.

Over the years, Sharon has been president of the DOK (Daughters of the King) chapter, editor of the church newsletter, Pumpkin Patch coordinator and a member of the Dissident Daughters small group. Also, she has helped with Adult Forum, Vacation Bible School and served on several Discovery Weekends and two discernment committees.

Sharon was asked to consider running for vestry three times and declined. "Life was simply too busy – working two jobs, raising two kids, going back to school to earn my master's degree," she said. But about a year and a half ago, she decided "it was my turn ... I haven't regretted stepping up to serve for one minute. Being on vestry has been a joy."



Sharon has worked for Strategic Work Systems as an online sales manager and technical editor for about 20 years and recently took an additional job as a freelance editor for A. T. Kearney, a management consulting firm based in Chicago. Sharon was born in Michigan and moved to Simpsonville when she was 12. She began attending Holy Cross in the mid 1980's. As a teenager, she was involved with the youth group, Happening and the Diocesan Youth Council.

Sharon has a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communication and a master's degree in library and information science from University of South Carolina. She and her husband Eric have two children – Savannah (15) and Jessica (11).

Sharon was born and raised Episcopalian. Her maternal grandmother and great grandmother were Anglicans who came here by way of Canada.

Sharon is an avid reader and is working on one of the kneelers for the altar. "By sharing my gifts, I hope to help Holy Cross grow and also grow more fully into who God wants me to be," she said.

Sharon attends the 11:15 service primarily because of the music and says she was drawn to that service because of "laziness and the draw of my morning cup of coffee enjoyed at home without having to dash out the door."

Sharon can be reached at e-mail [sharonwputman@cs.com](mailto:sharonwputman@cs.com).

~ Lucy Ackerman, contributor



## FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

*Not By Bread Alone*

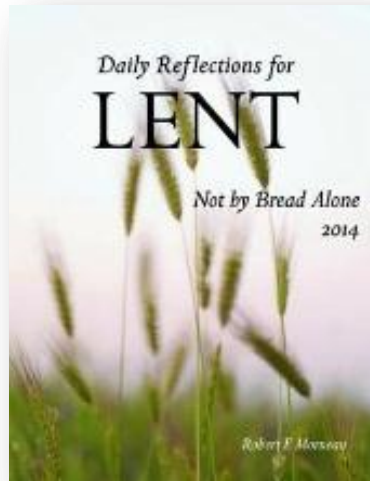
by Bishop Robert Morneau

Prayerfully journey through Lent with Bishop Robert Morneau's deeply meaningful, day-by-day reflections.

In just minutes per day, the insightful meditations of *Not by Bread Alone* can deepen your experience of this solemn season of prayer and penance and prepare you to participate more fully in the joy of the great Easter mystery.

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



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## HOLY CROSS CONTACT INFORMATION

Items for newsletter: [newsletter@holycrossep.org](mailto:newsletter@holycrossep.org)  
Bulletin announcements: [secretary@holycrossep.org](mailto: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](http://www.holycrossep.org)  
Diocesan website [www.edusc.org](http://www.edusc.org)  
Office [secretary@holycrossep.org](mailto:secretary@holycrossep.org)  
Rector [rector@holycrossep.org](mailto:rector@holycrossep.org)  
Assistant rector [assistantrector@holycrossep.org](mailto:assistantrector@holycrossep.org)  
Youth ministry [youth@holycrossep.org](mailto:youth@holycrossep.org)  
Children's ministry [children@holycrossep.org](mailto:children@holycrossep.org)  
Senior warden [srwarden@holycrossep.org](mailto:srwarden@holycrossep.org)

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