

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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PARISH INTERN

We welcome Mike Canon to our staff for the next six months as he lives and works among us as a parish intern. Mike is a member of Christ Church and is in the process of discerning a call to the priesthood. In the same way that our current seminarian, Kristen Pitts, spent six months in another church prior to leaving for seminary, Mike is working with us in hopes of going to seminary in the fall of 2015.

His work will be in the area of evangelism and outreach. As a follow-up to our conference in March, we are exploring ways that we can reach out into the community of the Golden Strip and do ministry among the people. Mike will be helping with the process of discerning what ministries we might consider along with a leadership team. The intent is to initiate a new ministry and then evaluate at the end of his time with us.

It is my sincere hope that this effort will help us create a new way for us to Make Christ Visible in God's Community. In turn, we will invite others to join us in our effort, and in the process have an opportunity to talk about why we are doing the ministry we do.



Our world has changed, and so has the way folks approach church. No longer can we assume that there are people out in community searching for a church home or struggling to find the right place to worship on a Sunday morning. Many of our young adults grew up not attending church on a regular basis. One study claimed that 50 percent of adults under 30 in the United States had never been to church for any reason. (Funerals are being held at mortuaries and at graveside; weddings are being done in other venues.)

So, how do we bring them in? The good news is that although our young adults have little exposure to church and many are even disenchanted by what they see and hear about Christians, they are very interested in ministering to those in need. They have not lost their altruism or their spirituality, only their faith in the church as an institution. Thus, the institution has to get out into the community and do those things that Jesus did – Heal the sick, feed the hungry, console the afflicted, raise the dead.

Holy Cross' effort to reach out into the community to do those things will hopefully encourage some to ask us, "Why are you doing this?" It is then that we can tell our story of how God has touched us in this community of faith and how our hearts have been changed by the Christ we encounter among the people of Holy Cross.

I am grateful that we have Mike Canon among us as we seek to discern God's will and God's call for us as Mike continues to discern God's call in his life.

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

OUR CORE VALUES – THE LOCAL CHURCH IS GOD'S BEST PLAN FOR TRANSFORMING THE WORLD.

I have over the past several months been exploring the Core Values of our parish, those values which are the guiding principles foundational to who we are as a community of faith, and which guide our decision making, our daily actions, and our goal setting. The sixth and last one is: The local church is God's best plan for transforming the world.

In the Nicene Creed we confess our faith in "the one holy catholic and apostolic Church." The Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 854) explains: "The Church is one, because it is one Body, under one Head, our Lord Jesus Christ; the Church is holy, because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's work; the Church is catholic, because it proclaims the whole Faith to all people, to the end of time; and, the Church is apostolic, because it continues in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles and is sent to carry out Christ's mission to all people."

James Griffis, author of *The Anglican Vision*, suggests that "just as the outward and visible signs of water, bread, and wine [in the sacraments of baptism and Holy Eucharist] are ordinary, fragile, and ambiguous signs of God's presence with us, so too the church, composed as it is of ordinary, fragile, and ambiguous human beings, is the outward and visible sign of God's presence with us. To put it another way: what we say and do as a church is both a sign of our ordinariness, fragility, and ambiguity and a sign of God's saving presence among us in the power of the Holy Spirit. The church itself, in other words, is the sacrament of God in Christ." (p.119)

We, you and I, are the church, and the church, James Griffis would have us understand, is a sacrament - an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as a sure and certain means by which the world receives God's grace. In our ordinariness, our fragility, and our ambiguousness, we gather in Christ's name and become signs of God's love to one another and to the world. As we are drawn together by God to encounter Christ through word and sacrament, to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's body in the world, we become the church. We gather for worship, prayer, study, encouragement, fellowship and personal transformation, and then we are sent out to live and to witness to our new life in Christ, proclaiming and demonstrating God's love to others within our sphere of influence whether within our family, our circle of friends, our work place, or the local grocery

God said to Moses at the burning bush - "I have observed the misery of my people ... I have heard their cry Indeed, I know their sufferings" (Ex 3.7)

store. And, when we gather as the church, we pool our spiritual gifts and resources to effect change in the world beyond our immediate borders, to strive for freedom, justice, and peace among all people, and to effect God's reconciliation in the world.

The late Verna Dozier was a leading theologian and lay preacher in the Episcopal Church. A biblical scholar, a church consultant, and an advocate for the authority and ministry of the laity in religious communities, she authored a number of books, but the one that most influenced me was *The Dream of God: A Call to Return*, published in 2006. In it Dozier writes to the church recalling us to our original purpose – to love and serve the world that God loves. She concludes with these words:

"The people of God are called to a possibility other than the kingdoms of the world. They must be ambassadors—...St. Paul's word—to every part of life. They witness to another way that governments can relate to one another, that money can be earned and spent, that doctors and care-givers and engineers and lawyers and teachers can serve their constituencies, that wordsmiths and musicians and artists and philosophers can give us new visions of the human condition. That is the ministry of the laity.

"All of them need the support system of the institutional church. There must be those resting places where the story is treasured and passed on in liturgy and education. There must be those islands of refuge where the wounded find healing; the confused, light; the fearful, courage, the lonely, community; the alienated, acceptance; the strong, gratitude. Maintaining such institutions is the ministry of the clergy.

"We have all failed the dream of God. The terribly patient God still waits."

The local congregation is, as they say, where the rubber meets the road. We provide the structure, facilities, and programs for worship and formation, for care for one another and for fellowship. It is here, within our community of fellowship that we engage the Word in conversation, where we share our stories of God's presence (or sometimes seeming absence) in our lives, where we learn to love and to be loved, where we find hope, encouragement, and transformation. As vital as all that is, however, it is but the beginning not the end. It is here, within our Christian community, that our hearts are set on fire with love, where we discover that our lives are beacons for God's love, where we are empowered to go and be Christ's hands and feet in the world. The local congregation can, and should be, the most influential form of the church in our lives and in the lives of those whom we touch, as we work together to achieve God's dream for the world, as we pray and work for God's will to be done "on earth as it is in heaven."

The local church is God's best plan for transforming the world.

I leave you with this prayer from Paul to the church at Ephesus:

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.... And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1.17-23)

Linda+

Jesus said to his disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:34-35)

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.*

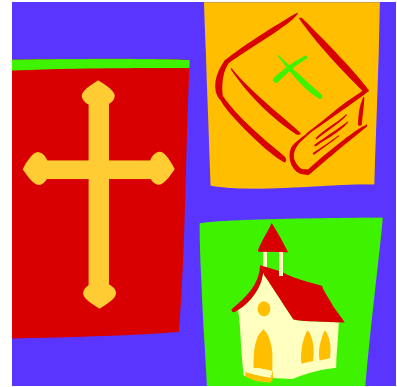
CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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



MAY YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL YOUTH YARD SALE: MAY 17TH!

Youth will host their annual yard sale from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Pavilion at Holy Cross. This is a fundraiser for youth mission trips and retreats, and they appreciate your support!

Parent volunteers needed: We need at least two parents to work the yard sale from 6:30 – 10 a.m. and two parents from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please let Mother Susan know if you are willing to help. Thank you!

MEALS NEEDED FOR YOUTH FOR LOCK IN & YARD SALE

We need someone to cook or sponsor dinner Friday, May 16 and lunch Saturday, May 17 for the youth for the lock in and yard sale. Contact Mother Susan at email: susanhardaway@gmail.com or text [864-483-2250](tel:864-483-2250) if you can help.

YOUTH SUNDAY REHEARSAL

Youth Sunday rehearsal: Saturday, May 17 at 12 p.m.. Everyone with a speaking part on Youth Sunday needs to be here for practice. Those helping with the yard sale will go in and practice, then return to the yard sale. Youth Sunday is May 18.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINED ADULT CHAPERONES NEEDED:

Chaperones needed for Youth Ropes Course Weekend at Camp Gravatt August 22 - 24. Please speak to Mother Susan if you are willing to serve.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend youth group each Wednesday night from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact Mother Susan at email: susanhardaway@gmail.com or text [864 483-2250](tel:864-483-2250)

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

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

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS MINISTRY?

MEET LYNDA CLARK, MEMBER OF THE VESTRY

Lynda Clark is in her second year of serving on the vestry, and she is involved in redesigning and updating the Holy Cross website, as she is especially interested in how the vestry communicates their ministry and mission.

Over the years, Lynda has taught Sunday School and worked with the Vacation Bible School. Currently, she serves on the Altar Guild, volunteers at the Project Host Soup Kitchen and meets on Sunday evenings with a small convent group called the Dissident Daughters.

Lynda is a doctor of audiology and works at Hearing Healthcare Centers in Greenville.

Lynda was born in Toronto and baptized in the Anglican Church. She grew up in the Episcopal Church after her family moved to Virginia when she was five years old. As a youth and throughout college, she was involved in diocesan events, summer camp and conferences in the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

“A pivotal moment in my Christian development was attending Happening in the Diocese of Eastern Tennessee and returning to serve as the rector for Happening #1 in southern Virginia,” she said.

Lynda earned degrees from San Francisco State University and Salus University in Pennsylvania. She and her husband Roger have been married for 17 years and have two children, Nolan and Peyton, who are involved in youth group. Lynda grew up in southern Virginia and moved to Simpsonville in 2006 after having lived in California, New Jersey, Maryland, Texas and Minnesota.

Lynda found Holy Cross on the Internet when the family moved to Simpsonville. She visited Holy Cross first “and as it was the closest and after the first visit, I knew I had found a church home,” she said. “I knew from the warm welcome I received that I didn’t need to look further.”

Lynda attends either the 9:00 or 11:15 service but prefers the 11:15 style of worship. “Since my family enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and mountain biking, attending the early service fits our lifestyle better,” she says.

Lynda works full time as an audiologist and spends much of the rest of her time driving the children from one activity to the next. She is especially happy that her parent moved from Florida to Simpsonville last summer.

Lynda can be reached at e-mail l1c143@charter.net

~ Lucy Ackerman, contributor





FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Learning to Walk in the Dark

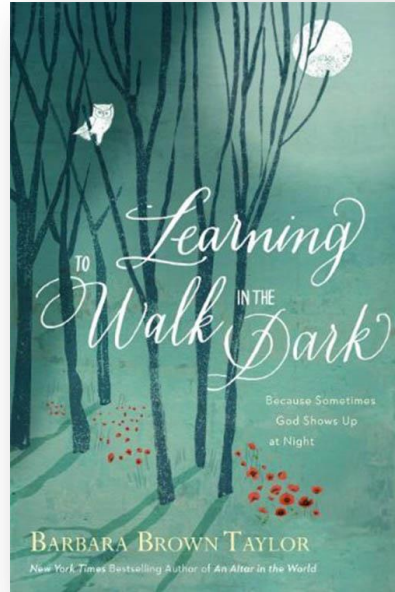
by Barbara Brown Taylor

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark* provides a way to find spirituality in those times when we don't have all the answers.

In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.

~ 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

