

# 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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OCTOBER 2014

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## ORDINARY TIME

In our liturgical year, we are currently in the longest season of all – the Season after Pentecost. In some traditions it is known as "Ordinary Time." In many ways, the name fits the season well because it is that time of year where nothing of significance is happening from a liturgical standpoint. Easter and Pentecost have come and gone and the next noteworthy season is the season of Advent as we begin to prepare for our Christmas celebration. The readings for "Ordinary Time" are readings about the day to day life of Jesus and the disciples as they go out teaching and preaching and healing. The green hangings are reminders that the journey of faith is a slow, organic journey that takes a long time. Hopefully we grow deeper roots in Christ Jesus and reach out and up into the world to provide shade and protection for those in need.

However, an ordinary time on the liturgical year does not necessarily mean that ordinary things will be happening around Holy Cross. This month is Pumpkin Patch month, and we have begun that ministry with a bang! The patch is fully stocked and sales are humming along. Each week, one of our Holy Cross Ministry Partners will be at the patch to allow us to focus on their ministry as we sell pumpkins. At the unloading, I was fortunate enough to work alongside members of the Synergy Garden. These folks raise crops nearly year round on the property of the Center for Community Services (another Holy Cross Ministry Partner) and give the food away to the poor. As you know, fresh fruits and vegetables are expensive and usually the last things a family on a tight budget will pick up. Anita and Stephanie told me about the beginnings of the garden and invited us to bring the kids from Holy Cross Academy down to spend some time exploring the garden.

It was an ordinary conversation in ordinary time, but the result is anything but ordinary. It was as our bishop has quipped at one time, "extraordinarily ordinary." Holy Cross is beginning to not only fund local ministries through the Pumpkin Patch, but to also interact directly with those ministries to serve those in need. Beginning in January we will also have our Ministry Partners come to our Adult Forum and tell us about their specific ministry. We will include that ministry in our Prayers of the People for the entire month and hopefully do a hands-on project with them at the end of the month.



We have 12 more opportunities to serve Christ in the world thanks to our Holy Cross Ministry Partners program. We have 12 more ways to grow deeper in Christ during this ordinary time in which we currently “live and move and have our being.”

Introduce yourself to our Ministry Partners when you work the patch. Join us for Adult Forum and learn about why we believe this is an inherent part of our journey of faith. Familiarize yourself with these important ministries and be proud of your church that supports them in so many ways.

Our Ministry Partners are:

Habitat for Humanity of Greenville, Safe Harbor, The Synergy Garden, Center for Community Services, FIKE (Fountain Inn Kids Experience) Center, Little Steps, The James Monroe Mission House, Kairos Outside, Santa Cruz, HCA Scholarship Fund, Upstate Warrior Solutions

These are ordinary people during ordinary times making an extraordinary difference in the world. We partner with them – in Jesus’ name.

Mike+

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

## REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

THE REVEREND LINDA GOSNELL,  
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE

### PRACTICING THE FAITH – RETREAT

There are different kinds of retreats – let me describe several for you.

**Working Retreats** – The vestry goes on retreat one weekend and one Saturday every year. These are working retreats where strategic plans for Holy Cross are discussed and short- and long-range goals are created and evaluated. There is also opportunity to pray and worship together, to get to know one another better and to share our lives, hopes, and dreams in ways that can only happen when enough time is set aside.

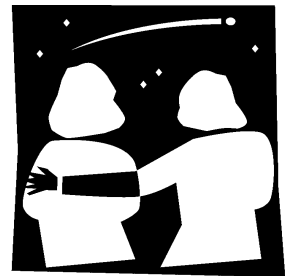
**Conference Retreats** – The Holy Cross Women’s annual retreat is this kind of retreat – a retreat with a particular focus or theme for the program and the worship.

*The Same Kind of Different as Me* is a non-fiction book about the growing friendship between a homeless man, Denver, and a millionaire art dealer, Ron, whose wife volunteers at a downtown mission and encourages their relationship. After being invited to attend a church retreat, Denver explains a retreat in this way: “It’s some religious thing where you go off someplace lonesome and talk and pray and cry all weekend.”

Our eighth annual women’s retreat was just held at Kanuga Conference Center in the beautiful mountains of Hendersonville, NC. While Kanuga is not a “lonesome place,” it is a sacred place, and we do talk, and pray, and some cry cathartic tears, but we also laugh and play.

A team of women headed by Louse Tajuddin plan and make our retreat happen. Their mission statement for planning is this: The Holy Cross Annual Women’s Body and Soul Retreat is a God-centered weekend away from daily obligations to rest, reflect and nurture body and soul, renew friendships, enjoy fellowship and worship together.

Our weekend officially begins with dinner on Friday evening and ends on Sunday with lunch. The time in between is filled with grace. On Saturday, Anne Smith offered our noon day reflections and said, “We are here this weekend on retreat for



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

2 Corinthians 1:4

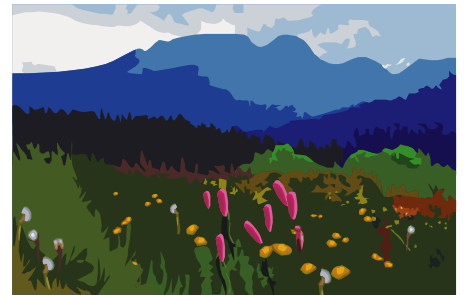
many reasons ... the weekend away allows time to escape our hectic schedules and busy lives, time to spend quietly seeking and communicating with God and one another, and allows us many opportunities to worship and be thankful for our many blessings.” She ended with “true faith and peace come ... when we look for God, and when we trust that in our everyday lives, in work or in play God is seeking us out, waiting for the moments that we are ready to connect to him, and to each other in love.” Such moments were found this weekend.

Another blessing this year was our presenter, Amy Sander Montanez, who offered three sessions (one per day) on experiencing God in the moments of our lives and invited us to identify the “mustard seed miracles” that help us focus on the little joys in life. To hear more about Amy and other blessings of our weekend, just ask any of the 60 women who attended. We are all bubbling over and eager to share.

A third kind of retreat is one of silence and solitude.

In Mark 6:31-32, Jesus says to his disciples, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.”

Parker Palmer, in his book *A Hidden Wholeness*, compares the soul to a wild animal that is essentially shy. To see a wild animal, he says, “the last thing we should do is run crashing through the woods screaming for it to come out .... Instead, we must walk quietly into the woods, sit at the base of a tree for a long while sometimes, breathe with the earth, and eventually this precious wild thing we seek may put in an appearance.”



I’ve often said that I go on solitary retreats to allow my soul to catch up with my body (a phrase I read somewhere and appropriated). Palmer’s analogy of the soul as a shy wild animal fits with my experience. Too often, I allow the business of life to overtake my quiet time with self and God, and I become depleted. I’ll be taking a week this month for a solitary retreat by the ocean. I will turn off my phone and disconnect from email. While I will take some photos and perhaps read a book or two, mostly I will rest and walk and pray and journal. I will sit quietly staring at nothing and allow the Holy Spirit to breathe in me and fill me up again.

You do not need to take a week, though I certainly encourage it. Set aside a few hours in a space that is holy to you and sit quietly, breathe with the earth, and wait expectantly for the appearance of the Holy. Do this at regular intervals and see if you are not blessed.

Linda+

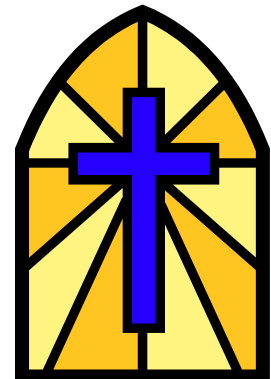
## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**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)



## OCTOBER YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in Wednesday night Youth Group meetings every Wednesday night from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by Bible study and games. For more information, text or call Mother Susan at 483-2250 or email her at [susanhardaway@gmail.com](mailto:susanhardaway@gmail.com).

**Oct. 8:** Pizza & Pumpkin Patch work (wear clothes that can get dirty). Parents drop off and pick up from Pumpkin Patch!

**Oct. 15:** No youth group – Greenville County Schools fall break

**Oct. 22:** Youth meet in Parish Hall for regular youth group night

**Oct. 29:** Youth meet in the Pavilion to assist with Trunk-or-Treat from 6 - 7:30 p.m. (parents note change in pick-up time)

### SUNDAY YOUTH FORMATION

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](mailto:bonnie1870@gmail.com).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL RETREAT AT CAMP GRAVATT

Nov. 1 - Nov.2 (6th-8th graders) **registration deadline is Oct. 9.** Cost \$85. Register and pay online. For more information, and to register go to <https://uppercsc.wufoo.com/forms/s7x0p9/>

If you want to use your teen's mission fund to help pay please email or text Mother Susan at [susanhardaway@gmail.com](mailto:susanhardaway@gmail.com) or 864-483-2250 for amount and special registration instructions.



## LORD'S RESOURCES

### ADMINISTRATION, STEWARDSHIP, BUILDING & GROUNDS

SENIOR WARDEN – GREG FARLEY

[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)

## WELLNESS MINISTRY

October 5 is "Pink Sunday." It is a day in the month of October to highlight the importance of Breast Cancer Awareness. Norma Perry is gathering information for our community to take home.

We have purchased Purell Hand Sanitizers to help reduce the incidence of colds and flu. They are placed outside the sanctuary entrances. Good hand sanitization and getting your flu shot will help with the "herding" event to prevent spreading the flu and putting someone at risk for a potential deadly illness.



During Advent in December we will be having a speaker to talk about Mental Health issues. The holidays can be very sad and lonely for some, and we want to provide information for those in need of help getting through.

Stay tuned for February, which is "Heart Health Month." We are working on providing CPR training for our entire church community in cooperation with Spartanburg Regional's Congregational Ministry.

Coming soon we will be having more information on our Website regarding our Wellness Ministry. Any questions, ask Deb Flanagan 288-4716.





## FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

*A Hidden Wholeness:  
The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*

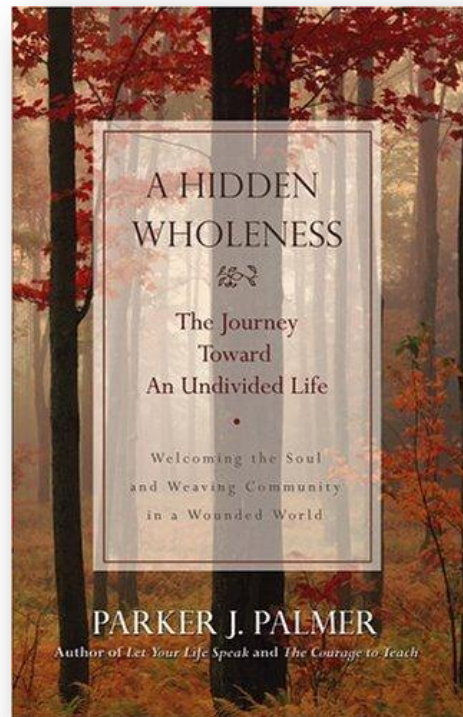
by Parker Palmer

In *A Hidden Wholeness*, Parker Palmer reveals the same compassionate intelligence and informed heart that shaped his best-selling books *Let Your Life Speak* and *The Courage to Teach*. Here he speaks to our yearning to live undivided lives—lives that are congruent with our inner truth—in a world filled with the forces of fragmentation.

Mapping an inner journey that we take in solitude and in the company of others, Palmer describes a form of community that fits the limits of our active lives. Defining a “circle of trust” as “a space between us that honors the soul,” he shows how people in settings ranging from friendship to organizational life can support each other on the journey toward living “divided no more.”

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

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:	<a href="mailto:newsletter@holycrossep.org">newsletter@holycrossep.org</a>
Bulletin announcements:	<a href="mailto:secretary@holycrossep.org">secretary@holycrossep.org</a>
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	<a href="http://www.holycrossep.org">www.holycrossep.org</a>
Diocesan website	<a href="http://www.edusc.org">www.edusc.org</a>
Office	<a href="mailto:secretary@holycrossep.org">secretary@holycrossep.org</a>
Rector	<a href="mailto:rector@holycrossep.org">rector@holycrossep.org</a>
Assistant rector	<a href="mailto:assistantrector@holycrossep.org">assistantrector@holycrossep.org</a>
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Children's ministry	<a href="mailto:children@holycrossep.org">children@holycrossep.org</a>
Senior warden	<a href="mailto:srwarden@holycrossep.org">srwarden@holycrossep.org</a>



