

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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CHANGES IN OUR MINISTRY TO OUR HISPANIC COMMUNITY

For the past three years Robert Taylor has led our ministry to the Hispanic community in the Golden Strip. He has worked very hard to build a congregation while also carrying a heavy counseling load and serving as priest in charge at two other Hispanic congregations. On September 7, Fr. Taylor will no longer be leading the ministry here at Holy Cross and will get a break from this extra piece of his responsibilities.

Robert is able to do this because we are fortunate to be getting our own Assistant for Hispanic Ministries here at Holy Cross. On September 14, the Rev. Alfredo (Fred) Gonzalez will begin working with us and our Hispanic congregation. Fred comes to us from St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Columbia where he has led Santa Maria, the Hispanic congregation at St. Mary's.

Fred has family here in Simpsonville and is excited about the opportunity to serve here and be closer to his son and daughter-in-law, Joey and Dawn Gonzalez, and grandson, Marc Gonzalez. Fred will be here on our campus sharing an office with Walter Hundt. Fred will be working 30 hours per week and his primary role is to reach out to the Hispanic people here in the Golden Strip and to help this congregation grow.

We give thanks for the ministry of Fr. Taylor, and we look forward to the ministry of Fr. Gonzalez. These two Spanish-speaking priests will be working together and supporting each other as we move forward to continue our important work of ministry in the Hispanic community.



To mark these transitions, we will be having a reception on September 7 for Fr. Taylor at 2:30 p.m. after our 1:30 service, and we will have a reception for Fr. Gonzalez on September 14th at our Holy Cross Day picnic.

Since Fr. Gonzalez will be here nearly full-time, we will include him in all of our special services, and he may help cover for us when Linda or I are away. Fred's wife, Louisa, is a Daughter of the King and has high hopes of including more of our Hispanic members in the DOK here at Holy Cross.

Please help me make Fred and Louisa welcome as they become a part of this wonderful ministry at Holy Cross. Also, please thank Fr. Taylor for his ministry among us for these past three years.

I am grateful for this ministry that is currently being supported 100% by the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. No Holy Cross operating funds are being spent in order to provide for Fred's presence here with us – as it was with Fr. Taylor as well. If you ever wonder what happens to that money we send to the diocese – all I need say is take a look at our Hispanic ministry. We are blessed to have a diocese that is committed to Hispanic ministry and is willing to support it financially. By God's grace, many new lives will be blessed by this important work.

Peace,
Mike+
rector@holycrossep.org

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

THE REVEREND LINDA GOSNELL,
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE

PRACTICING THE FAITH – PHYSICAL SELF-CARE

I thank you, High God – you're breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am marvelously made!
I worship in adoration – what a creation! (Ps 139.14, *The Message*)

This verse of Psalm 139 challenges us to look at ourselves, our bodies as well as our souls, as beautiful, amazing, wonderful creations of our loving God. Stop reading. Go look in the mirror. Smile! Celebrate and praise God for the creation that you are!

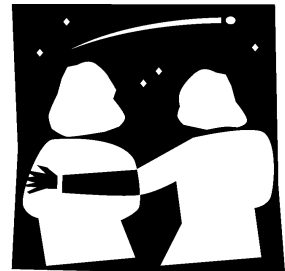
Now that you've done that, I have some reflections and questions for you to consider.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he poses this query: "You realize, don't you, that you are the temple of God, and God himself is present in you?" (1 Cor 3.16, *The Message*)

You are the temple of God! How does that make you feel? God dwells within you, in your very body. God delights in you. You are God's prized possession. Your very life is a gift of God, and how you live your life and care for yourself is a gift to God. How do you care for prized possessions, for cherished gifts? Care for your own body in that very same way. While self-care certainly has other dimensions than the physical, i.e. the mental, the social, and the emotional, today my focus is on care of our physical self as a spiritual discipline.

Perhaps you don't have this problem. I, however, struggle with getting regular exercise. I financially supported our local Y for almost 2 years and managed to use their excellent facilities only rarely. The problem was my lack of commitment. I have, since letting go that membership, found that a morning walk is, if not adequate, at least a good starting place. Even that requires a level of dedication that is sometimes challenging. How easy it is to think, "Not today. Today I'll sleep that extra 40 minutes." I bemoaned this state of affairs at my last spiritual direction session and was challenged to see this time of exercise as a spiritual discipline. Rather than ask myself when I wake whether or not I'll get up and walk, I am to offer this activity and time to God. This simple change of focus has made all the difference to my way of thinking and to my level of activity.

My body is God's temple, and the decisions I make affect it. We all must listen to our bodies as well as our minds. What does your body tell you? Do you need more rest? More exercise? More hydration? Better food choices? Less caffeine or alcohol or sugar? Less work and more play? Less time sitting before computer or TV? A massage? A check-up?



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

2 Corinthians 1:4

How can you better love yourself as God loves you? How is God calling you to better care for the body you've been given? How can you better cooperate with God in making your body a temple for the holy?

This time of year is often a busy one. Take time to listen to your body and respond with love for God and for yourself.

Parker Palmer wrote in *Let Your Life Speak*, "Self-care is never a selfish act — it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer others."

Blessings,
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



SEPTEMBER YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

September 7: youth meet in parish hall for Ecuador presentation

September 14: youth meet in the meeting hall

September 21: no youth formation

September 28: youth meet in the meeting hall



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

A Message from the Parish Nurse

The cold and flu season is quickly approaching us. The viruses will find us despite our best efforts to stay well. However, there are things we can do to try to avoid them as best as we can to keep ourselves and fellow parishioners healthy.

Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with warm water and soap, especially after using the bathroom, shopping, and pumping gas. Use hand sanitizer when you can't wash. Keep a bottle in your car/purse. Wash your hands prior to church service and use hand sanitizer. Use the sanitary wipes to wipe the grocery cart handle.

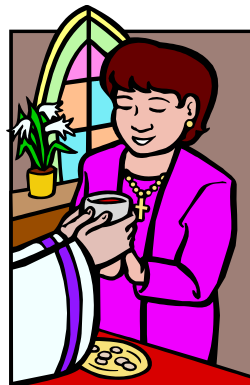
If you are over 6 months old and don't have a medical reason to exclude you, get the flu shot. It is a "herding" event to protect yourself and others. Flu still kills every year.

Communion: If you are sick don't drink from the common cup. Instead, intinc (dip) the wafer. Please don't dip your fingers into the wine. Help your children so they don't get their fingers in the wine.

If you have any questions please call or email Deborah Flanagan at Cdrflan@gmail.com or 288-4716.

Have a healthy and happy day! Let us love one another by practicing healthy habits.

"Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." 1 John 4:21



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 |



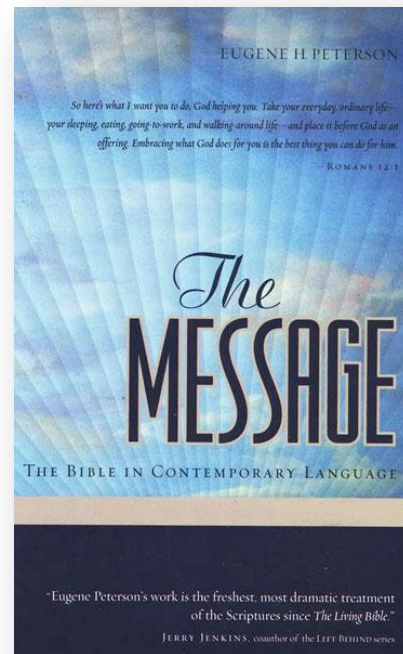
FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

*The Message: The Bible
in Contemporary Language*

by Eugene Peterson

Readers who have either found the Bible to be an intimidating proposition or who are so familiar with it that the words have lost their meaning will discover that Eugene Peterson's *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* is a welcome way to read and reread one of the best-loved books of all time. It's directly translated from the Greek and Hebrew texts and is intentionally designed to be a reading Bible rather than a study Bible. Each of the 66 books has an introduction by Peterson, and there are no verse numbers to interrupt the flow of the passages.

The vibrant flavor of the text is evident from the opening verses of the book of Genesis: "First this: God created the Heavens and Earth -- all you see; all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness."



There's renewed vigor in some of Jesus' most well-known words of the New Testament in John 3: "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again."

Whether it's the poetry of the Psalms, the thundering tirades of the Old Testament prophets, or the ageless words of Jesus, Peterson breathes new life into timeless passages in this fresh-voiced paraphrase. - *Cindy Crosby*

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.

