



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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YOUR VESTRY AND OUR GOALS FOR 2015

Your Vestry spent a weekend together at Kanuga in order to prepare ourselves for the upcoming year. Our new Vestry members have bonded well with our existing team, and we are excited about our plans for the future of Holy Cross. Christ is being made visible in God's community in so many different ways. Below is a list of our goals for 2015. If any of these interest you, please contact me or Sharon Putman, our Senior Warden, and we will connect you with the Vestry member responsible for overseeing the work.



- Develop a Holy Cross International Ministry Partners program.
- Get an estimate on enclosing the pavilion to be used for youth space and winter events.
- Launch a new website for Holy Cross Academy to serve existing clients and reach out to new ones.
- Recruit a Life Group coordinator to oversee the program's growth and incorporate into the CCB database.
- Develop an Adopt-a-Highway program for Holy Cross.
- Create parish hall storage areas.
- Purchase and install external two bilingual signs: corner of Main and College Streets and corner of Hunter Avenue and Jonesville Road.
- Purchase Church Community Builder software, migrate the Holy Cross database from ACS, go live on the HC and HCA websites, and promote its use by the parish.
- Launch a Holy Cross online store for parishioners to purchase promotional materials.
- Conduct a capital campaign to pay off a sizable amount of our debt and address other needs as identified in the feasibility study.
- Implement a fall oyster roast as a sustainable fundraiser for outreach.
- Develop a partnership between Holy Cross youth and another church youth group to encourage racial diversity.
- Participate in the bishop's Bible challenge
- Launch one or more new Life Groups.
- Hold an event to introduce a program for planned giving to Holy Cross.
- Develop a written plan for an annual scholarship at Holy Cross Academy (application and selection process).
- Conduct a pledge campaign for the 2016 operating budget.

Hopefully, your reaction to this list is the same as ours – Whew! If we can accomplish all of these plans over the course of 2015, we will be in a great place to really serve God and God’s community as the Body of Christ.

If there is a goal that excites you or stirs your interest, let us know and we can help you plug in. Each of these goals is connected to our Rule of Life and has a timeline. We look forward to serving this church as your Rector and Vestry, and we believe that God has great plans for us in 2015 and beyond.

Mike+

rector@holycrosse.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,
ASSOCIATE RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE

PRACTICING THE FAITH – HOLY LIVING; HOLY DYING

The season of Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday liturgy in which we are encouraged to seek reconciliation with God and others through self-examination and repentance, and in which we receive an imposition of ashes with the reminder of our mortal nature – we are dust and to dust we shall return.

One’s own mortality is not an easy subject for most of us, and we would much prefer to talk about other things. It is, however, an important topic with both spiritual and practical dimensions. This month I’ll look at the spiritual; next month, the practical.

I have, over the years, been privileged to accompany a number of people in their journey toward death and, on some extraordinary occasions, have been blessed to be present in the moment of death. On every such occasion, I have felt the presence of God and known again the joy of our faith: that life is changed, not ended; that loved ones are received into the nearer presence of God; that God’s love and grace are present and available to the bereft.

“Death is not the going out of this world, but the manner of going.”

Jeremy Taylor, *Holy Dying*, III.1

Not every death is peaceful, graceful, and beautiful, and I don’t mean to imply that. Tragic accidents happen. Many illnesses cause deep physical distress. Sometimes lives are cut short leaving unfinished work, unresolved issues, and unmet dreams, and the dying person fights death to the end. Just as I’ve known many Christians who were ready and embraced death, so, too, have I known several Christians who were fearful of death. A couple of those were harboring unexpressed or unresolved sins and found release from their fear in confession; a couple of others were unable to articulate the basis for that fear. At each end, however, if there was a perceivable change in expression at the moment of death, it was one of peace and on a few, a true smile. Nothing in my experience with the dying has caused me to question the presence of a loving God on this side of death and on the other.

Theologians through the years have examined the spiritual needs of life and death, and in more recent years, social scientists have as well. Jeremy Taylor, a priest in the Church of England and a chaplain to King Charles 1, is one such theologian. Taylor lived in the time of civil war in England (1645-1660), a time in which, under Oliver Cromwell, England was ruled as a Puritan state and Anglicanism was out-lawed. Several of Taylor’s friends were beheaded and Taylor was imprisoned for a time. Taylor is known today for his prolific writings. In 1650 and 1651 he published two works: *The Rules and Exercises of Holy Living* and *The Rules and Exercises of Holy Dying*. [I cribbed my title from his.] These works provided his readers with manuals of Christian practice for prayer and worship, for virtuous living and achieving a holy death in a time when corporate worship and the Eucharist were prohibited.

He begins his *Holy Living* with these words: “It is necessary that every man should consider, that since God hath given him an excellent nature, wisdom, and choice, an understanding soul, and an immortal spirit ... he hath also appointed for him a work and a service great enough to employ those abilities, and hath also designed him to a state of life after this, to which he can only arrive by service and obedience. And, therefore, as every man is wholly God’s own portion by the title of creation, so all our

labours and care, all our powers and faculties, must be wholly employed in the service of God, and even all the days of our life; that this life being ended, we may live with him for ever.”

For Taylor, faith is a life lived in worship as a means of framing our lives as directed toward and offered to God, and in living in such a way that life is daily given spiritual meaning. Thus one’s identity is not threatened by death, nor is life’s finality menacing. Taylor’s understanding that a life well lived is a life in which love and worship of God encourage the utilization of the abilities and gifts God has given; a life well lived is a life of wholeness and meaning. Such a life prepares one for the passage of death.

Social scientists, especially those in the hospice community, have in recent years echoed these sentiments. Kenneth J. Doka, a Senior Consultant for the Hospice Foundation of America, stated in an article, “Understanding the Spiritual Needs of the Dying,” that specific spiritual needs arise as individuals become aware of their finitude. Among these are an affirmation that the individual’s life has had meaning and finding a hope beyond the grave.

Over the years I’ve been at Holy Cross, and notably several times in just this past year, we’ve given into God’s keeping loved ones for whom holy lives were shining examples of preparation for holy deaths. We can readily identify lives in which God given gifts and abilities were used in service to God and in love for neighbor, lives that had meaning then and continue to have meaning for us today, lives lived in affirmation of the hope of eternal life.

As we reflect this Lent on our mortal nature, let us also reflect on the lives of the saints in God we have known who have shown us how to live, day by day, holy lives that prepare us for holy deaths.

Linda+
associaterector@holycrossep.org

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



MARCH 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 youth@holycrossep.org.

SUNDAY YOUTH FORMATION

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in Bible lessons/discussions during Youth Sunday School on Sunday mornings from 10:15-11am in the Meeting Hall. For more information, contact Bonnie Schmidt at 270-0341 or bonnie1870@gmail.com

DESIGN TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

Design team members (who plan and staff the event) are needed for 2 upcoming Diocesan Youth Events: New Beginnings and a new 5th Grade Bridge Retreat. Youth also needed to serve on the Diocesan Youth Leadership Team for 2015-2016. We will send registration information about the events closer to the event itself.

CHAPERONES NEEDED FOR CAMP GRAVATT!

Two chaperones are needed for a Spring Middle School Youth Event. We need 1 male chaperone and 1 female chaperone for the New Beginnings Weekend at Camp Gravatt, May 1-3. Chaperones must be Safe Church trained. Housing will be in tents on platforms or screened cabins. Please speak to Mother Susan if you are willing to help (483-2250 or youth@holycrossep.org).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 1) Happening #73, March 20-22, grades 10-12
- 2) 5th Grade Bridge Retreat, April 11-12, grade 5 (registration due by March 20)
- 3) New Beginnings, May 1-3, grades 6-8 (registration due by April 10)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Our First Communion Class will be Sunday, March 22 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Mother Linda will lead a communion class tailored toward helping children both understand and respond to the Eucharist. The class is designed for children who already receive, as well as those children who will truly be participating in their first communion. Please sign-up in the Narthex.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Children's Sunday will be April 12 at the 9 a.m. service. Children will sing the offertory and lead other parts of the service. Please let Leslie Donahue know if your child would like to participate. There is a role for everyone!

EASTER

Egg hunt!

VBS

Make plans now to attend Vacation Bible School – we are going on a Cross Cultural VBS to Ecuador! We are excited to present the wonderful world of faith beyond our own backyard. VBS is June 21-25, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. You don't want to miss the Fiesta on the last night! Please register your children early. And adults, please consider volunteering your time to make Christ visible to our youngest parishioners.

Contact Leslie Donahue at children@holycrossep.org if you have any questions about these programs.





LORD'S RESOURCES

ADMINISTRATION, STEWARDSHIP, BUILDING & GROUNDS

SENIOR WARDEN – SHARON PUTMAN

SRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

JUNIOR WARDEN – MIKE NICHOLS

JRWARDEN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

STEWARDSHIP – JIM WEBB

STEWARDSHIP@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – TOM JONES

JONE63194@GMAIL.COM

SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, April 19, 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The funds raised from the Silent Auction provide scholarships to enable all women to experience this wonderful weekend.

Retreat Dates: Friday, Sept. 18 – Sunday, Sept. 20

Registration for the retreat begins May 17.

We will be collecting donations for the silent auction through April 12. Please leave any donations in the church office with a note on them or contact Lianne Thompson (Thompson_smp@charter.net or 421-2560).

Suggested donation items include:

- o Do you own your own business? Can you donate a good, service, or gift card?
- o Are you part of a direct sales company? (Pampered Chef, 31, Jamberry, Tupperware, Origami Owl, etc.)
- o Bottle of wine or gift basket.
- o Tickets to plays, movies, events, etc.
- o Consider asking your cosmetologist, favorite restaurant, etc. for a donation.
- o Gift Certificates – massage, facials, haircut, stores, restaurants, golf. Do you have a gift card in a drawer you will never use?
- o Did you get a Christmas gift you are never going to use?
- o Handmade items, including jewelry
- o Do you have a talent? Do you play an instrument, knit, crochet? Are you willing to give lessons to someone who would like to learn something new?
- o Lastly, we would love a donation from every small group and life group in the church! A suggestion is a themed gift basket. You can either collect money or items and we can package them. Ideas would be cooking theme, game night, movie night, Clemson, USC, reading, children themes (for example: princesses, Legos or trucks).

We will gladly accept any donation you are willing to give! We will have donation receipts for tax purposes. If you are uncertain about an item, please contact Lianne Thompson. Thank you!

GENTLE MASSAGE FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE AND THEIR CAREGIVERS: SIMPLE INSTRUCTION FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This two-hour workshop, presented by Lucy Allen, will give both the caregiver and the person with challenges — cancer or other medical conditions, new tools for gentle, compassionate touch while going through treatment and beyond. Many want to help when someone is in treatment, but are not sure how. The workshop will include some background material on precautions and encouragement and then will go into some hand-on techniques. The work is based on the Touch, Caring and Cancer program developed by William Collinge, Ph.D., and copies of his video will be available for purchase. Although the workshop is free, pre-registration is requested so we can be prepared. For each pair of people attending, please bring one blanket or throw, four regular pillows, and four bath towels (regular size, not bath sheets).

Please contact Lucy Allen at lucyvalle@gmail.com for more information.



FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

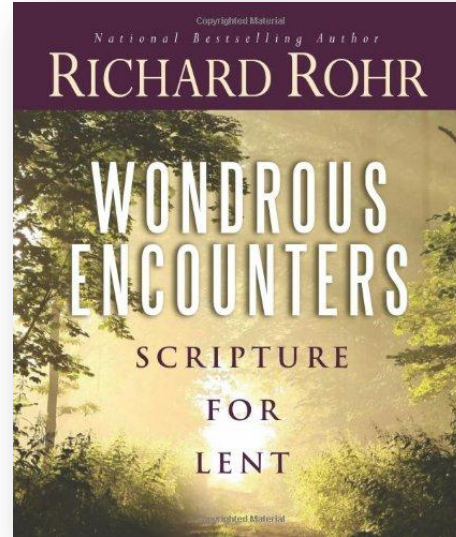
*Wondrous Encounters
Scripture for Lent*
by Richard Rohr

"During these forty days of Lent, let's allow ourselves to be known! All the way through. Nothing to hide from, in ourselves, from ourselves, or from God."

Richard Rohr, one of today's most prophetic voices, invites us to self-disclosure and to enter the wondrous divine dialogue with clarity, insight, and holy desire! These daily meditations for Lent are his gift to us for our transformation into our original image and likeness, which is the very image of God.

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
Academy director	academydirector@holycrossep.org
Pastoral counseling	(888) 293-7585
Church website	www.holycrossep.org
Diocesan website	www.edusc.org
Office	secretary@holycrossep.org
Rector	rector@holycrossep.org
Associate rector	associaterector@holycrossep.org
Youth ministry	youth@holycrossep.org
Children's ministry	children@holycrossep.org
Senior warden	srwarden@holycrossep.org

