



CROSSWAYS

"Making Christ Visible in His Community."

The Reverend Michael P. Flanagan, Rector of Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Simpsonville, SC 864-967-7470

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2015

CONTENTS

Father Mike

Holy Cross Academy - Ministry or Business? 1-2

Practicing the Faith -

Holy Living; Holy Dying Part 2 2-3

Christian Formation

3-4

Our Lord's Resources

5

Miscellaneous

Holy Cross Contacts 6
Food for the Journey 6

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY – MINISTRY OR BUSINESS?

Many have asked, "How did we come to have a pre-school as part of our church? What is the story?"

In 1994, the building next to our sanctuary was owned by Ann and Joe Schofield and was named Palmetto Academy. In the summer of 1994, the main building burned to the ground leaving only the half gym (the concrete block section of our current structure). Ann and Joe were active members of Holy Cross, and the current interim rector had been encouraging our members to create a ministry relationship with Palmetto Academy. In August of 1994, the Vestry agreed to take over the clients of Palmetto Academy with Ann as the director. Ann's office was at the end of the hall where Mother Linda now resides. The children were housed in the rooms down the hall and napped in the Reception Hall.



After nearly a year of this arrangement, plans were made to rebuild what was now Holy Cross Academy on its former site. The Vestry agreed, and the diocese gave us permission to build with the concept that we would generate enough income to pay the mortgage payments on the loan needed to purchase the property (about \$325,000) and the cost to rebuild the building (another \$300,000+). Thus the Academy began servicing a \$625,000+ loan out of its proceeds.

In 2008, when we were ready to finance our new building, there was a balance on the loan of \$300,000, which was rolled into the loan for our new building. Our bank was not willing to keep the two loans separate. Today, Holy Cross Academy continues to cover \$4,500 per month of our overall loan cost (a little less than half!). Our budget now refers to this as a "building usage fee" similar to what a day care would be charged to lease a building. So in that regard Holy Cross Academy is a business.

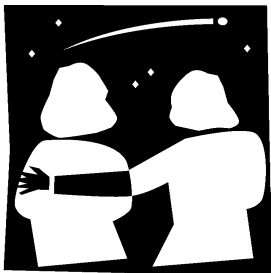
When we accepted the offer to take over the Academy, we knew that there were local parents with no place to take their children while they worked. We knew that Miss Ann's care and oversight of these children was of high quality, and we knew that some of those children would not have the opportunity to be prepared for school without us.

Today, our Academy parents boast of the fact that when they go to public schools to meet with the teachers for their first time, they can check off all of the skills expected of children entering kindergarten. Each week, the children come to chapel in the church and learn about God and the bible with the help of Leslie Donahue, our Children's Ministry Coordinator. So Holy Cross Academy is a ministry.

When asked about what they like about Holy Cross Academy, most parents mention the staff. They appreciate their personal care for the children. Families entrust us with their most precious possession – their children. It is a great responsibility and a great honor to serve them well so that they can go to work and earn the salaries needed to raise their children and provide them with a future.

Holy Cross Academy is "Making Christ Visible in God's Community" by serving the children and families of the Golden Strip. They prepare their children for school, help them grow and learn, and love them in the name of Christ. Yes, we charge for the service, and yes, Holy Cross Academy pays its own way, but Shelley Allen and her staff are worth so much more to those families than the weekly charge. So yes, Holy Cross Academy is a business and a ministry, and I am grateful for their ministry among us.

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,
ASSOCIATE RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE**

PRACTICING THE FAITH – HOLY LIVING; HOLY DYING PART 2

Lent is drawing to a close; Easter is upon us. We have before us a season of acknowledgement that Jesus' death has destroyed death and Jesus' resurrection provides us with the gift of new life in Christ. It is a season of celebration and joy. And so we also acknowledge that, though we are mortal and life as we know it on this earth will end, our life will continue beyond this sphere in the nearer presence of God.

I somewhat regret writing that I would complete this two-part series this month, but perhaps there is no better time than Easter to talk about ending one life and beginning a new one. In last month's article I focused on the spiritual, addressing how living holy lives utilizing our God-given talents and gifts in service to God and others prepares us for holy deaths. This month's topic is more practical – planning for the ending of our earthly life.

First, we'll look at what is most important emotionally, at what matters most when you or a loved one is approaching death. Dr. Ira Byock, a leading figure in palliative care and hospice, says that dying well requires getting one's relationships in order. He advocates the use of four short sentences to guide the process: "Please forgive me." "I forgive you." "Thank you." "I love you." There are only eleven words here, however their use can create an opportunities for healing and for expressing how important our loved ones are to us. Giving a loved one permission to die – explaining that those who remain behind will be okay, that family members can and will take care of one another – is often an important gift. And when it is possible for the person who is dying to express a sincere desire that loved ones continue to live and enjoy their lives, that, too, is a blessing.

Henri Nouwen, in *Bread for the Journey*, offers eleven "Ways to Prepare for a Graceful Transition:"

1. Face and talk about death openly, with courage.
2. Connect with the beauty in everything.
3. Know the Love who you are.
4. Express gratitude and joy whenever possible. Laugh often!
5. Trust the process; remain centered in the Divine.
6. Release the past – and all judgment.
7. Cultivate your inner life.
8. Honor the Interconnectedness of All.
9. Nurture and follow your spiritual path.
10. Give permission to grieve.
11. Find tools to help you relax and stay calm.

The second aspect of planning for the ending of earthly life has to do having our affairs in order so that our wishes are known and can be followed as closely as possible and so that those we leave behind will have ready access to the documents and other information they will need. Our plans should include a number of important documents. Writing a will, making financial provisions for family and/or friends, endowments and charitable contributions, and distribution of property and special gifts is part of your legacy and your responsibility. Having an advance medical directive and assigning a health care power of attorney assures you that your medical care providers and your loved ones will know of your wishes concerning treatment and care should you later be unable to make decisions for your own care. Preparing your own funeral instructions (your clergy will help you) gives you the opportunity to make choices that reflect your spiritual values as well as lifting one burden of decision-making from your loved ones. It is advisable to begin making these plans long before one anticipates needing them.

There are a number of good resources available. I've provided links to two. The first is an article by Carolyn Chilton in which she lists personal information, legal documents, and financial records that we should all have in order.

<http://www.buildfaith.org/2012/02/13/a-lenten-resolution-discipline/>

The second is a document - Faithful Stewards of Your Good Gifts - that is downloadable from the Episcopal Church Foundation. It includes information about writing a will, setting up advance medical directives, etc.

http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/uploads/pages/files/End_Of_Life_Booklet.pdf

I have in my office forms for planning a funeral and some SC Advance Directives forms. If you are unable to access either of the two links above, let me know and I'll print a copy for you.

Some people have already given Father Mike or me completed forms indicating their funeral requests. We keep those in a locked file cabinet, and they can be reviewed and changed whenever desired.

One last note: Our *Book of Common Prayer* includes a service of Ministration at the Time of Death that can be said by a priest or other persons when death is imminent (page 462). Your clergy want to be present, whenever possible, at the time of death so that we can offer these prayers and provide support and assistance to the family. Please call one of us.

If you have questions, email associaterector@holycrossep.org or call [864-967-7470](tel:864-967-7470).

Blessings,

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



APRIL 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- * 5th Grade Bridge Retreat, April 11-12, grade 5
- * New Beginnings, May 1-3, grades 6-8 (registration due by April 10)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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!

ST. FRANCIS REMEMBRANCE GARDEN

There will be a service to inter pet remains for anyone interested on Sunday, April 26 at 12:30 p.m.

If you are interested, please contact Jennifer or Mother Linda. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Flanagan at cdreflan@gmail.com.





FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

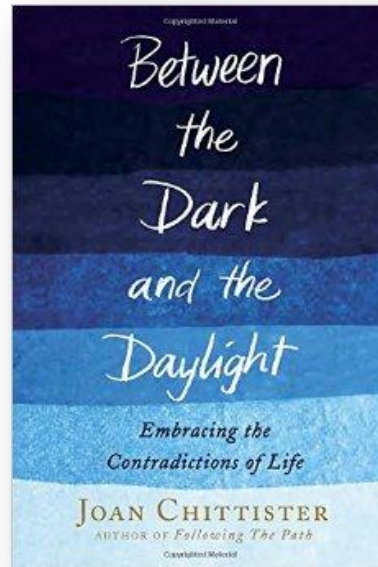
Between the Dark and the Daylight
by Joan Chittister

In words as wise as they are inspiring, *Between the Dark and the Daylight* explores the concerns of modern life, of the overworked mind and hurting heart. These are the paradoxical—and often frustrating—moments when our lives feel at odds with everything around us.

Only by embracing the contradictions may we live well amid stress, withstand emotional storms, and satisfy our yearnings for something transcendent and real. By delving into the chaos, this book guides us through the questions that seemed easier to avoid and enlightens what has been out of focus.

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

