

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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THE 78TH GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This summer your church will meet as a body to deliberate the needs and concerns of our denomination. The gathering began in 1789 and is known as "General Convention."

General Convention meets once every three years for a period of 10 days. During this time period resolutions and legislation are passed that shape the larger church and give our denomination a trajectory for the future.

General Convention is structured much like our Congress (recall that we are in many ways a product of the American Revolution) in that we have two houses, a House of Bishops and a House of Deputies, who meet separately for most of the convention and deliberate matters separately. Both houses must concur on a resolution in order for it to pass.

The House of Bishops consists of all bishops of the church, both active and retired. The House of Deputies consists of elected deputies from each of the 99 U.S. dioceses and the 10 dioceses that are outside of the U.S. A diocesan deputation has four clergy and four lay deputies and one lay and one clergy alternate. At last count, the House of Deputies numbered a little more than 860 deputies.

The term "deputy" is used rather than "delegate" in order to underline the fact that deputies are elected by their dioceses to come to convention, hear the details of the issues of the church and vote based on their informed conscience. Deputies are not representatives of their respective dioceses, but rather trusted stewards of the church.

This year, there are three major matters that will come before General Convention. The first, and least well understood, is the election of a new presiding bishop. Our church elects a presiding bishop to serve for a nine-year term. Our current presiding bishop, the Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori, retires this year, and we currently have four candidates who have been chosen by the Nominations Committee. The list can be found at the GC website, here (<http://www.generalconvention.org/pbelect>).

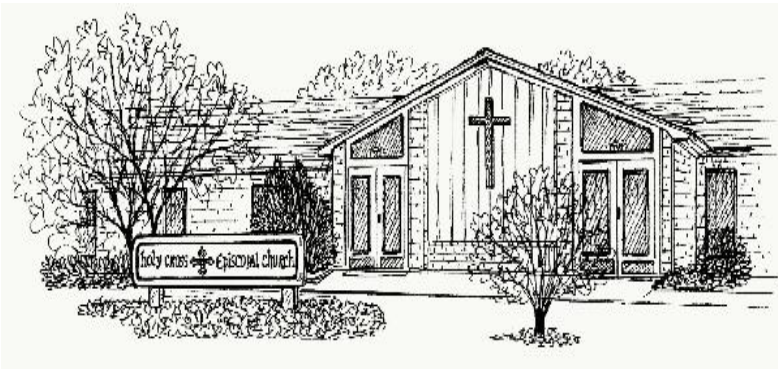
The second matter that will be of great importance is the restructuring of the Episcopal Church. At our last convention, a resolution was passed – unanimously – to begin a process of exploring ways that we can reduce our bureaucracy and give the national structure more flexibility for ministry and mission. A Task Force on Reimagining the Episcopal Church (TREC) was formed, and they have produced a lengthy report with a number of proposals. In particular, one proposal recommends that our current bicameral (two houses) system be replaced with a unicameral (one house) system. This would mean that bishops and deputies would meet together throughout the course of the convention and vote concurrently on resolutions. The complete report can be found here – (<https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/12478.pdf>).

Finally, we will be looking at the report of the Task Force on the Study of Marriage. With the recent changes in our country regarding same-sex marriage, we have discovered that our canons (church rules and regulations) do not allow for conducting a "marriage" for a same-sex couple. Our current rite only allows for the blessing of a marriage that has already been performed by a civil authority. The conversation thus led the task force to study the theology of marriage and the changing norms of marriage in our country. The result has been an interesting series of essays on marriage and some proposed canonical changes to allow us to move forward. See <https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/12485.pdf>.

I am grateful to have been elected as a deputy to convention and will be traveling to Salt Lake City in late June to participate. Our diocese is sponsoring several opportunities to hear more about our upcoming convention from your bishop and deputies. Pre-convention meetings will be held at Church of the Advent, Spartanburg at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 31; at Trinity Cathedral, Columbia at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 7; and at Christ Church, Greenville at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 14. For more information visit our diocesan website at www.edusc.org.

I ask that you keep me and our entire deputation in your prayers as we travel and deliberate the affairs of our Episcopal Church.

Mike+
rector@holycrossep.org



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

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

JUNE YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY CROSS YOUTH ROPES COURSE WEEKEND

The Youth Ropes Course Weekend will be held at Camp Gravatt in Aiken, SC, from Thursday, Aug. 13 through Saturday, Aug. 15 for grades 6-12. We will complete a service project for Camp Gravatt, enjoy the high ropes course, swim in the lake, and other favorite camp activities. Please let Mother Susan know if you would like to attend. Cost is \$140. Money is due by July 19. Make checks payable to Holy Cross with "Youth Ropes Course" on memo line and place in Mother Susan's mail box in the church office. Contact Mother Susan if you would like your teen to use their mission fund or if you need scholarship assistance. Questions? [864-483-2250](tel:864-483-2250) or susanhardaway@gmail.com.

Watch your email for Holy Cross Youth Outreach/Mission day projects this summer! We will be helping with several local outreach projects this summer. Projects and dates to be announced soon. Also youth volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School, June 21-25.



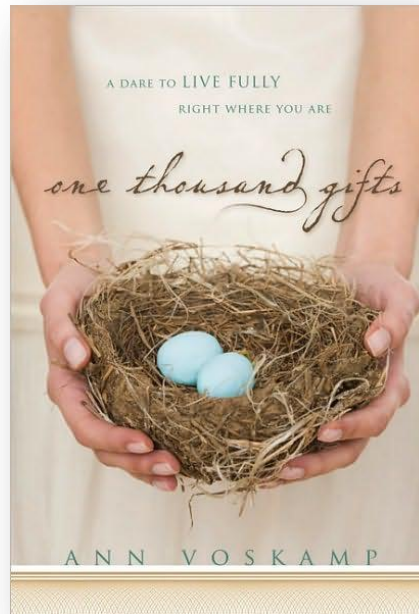
FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

One Thousand Gifts:
A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are
by Ann Voskamp

In *One Thousand Gifts*, Ann Voskamp invites you to embrace everyday blessings and embark on the transformative spiritual discipline of chronicling God's gifts. It's only in this expressing of gratitude for the life we already have, we discover the life we've always wanted ... a life we can take, give thanks for, and break for others. We come to feel and know the impossible right down in our bones: we are wildly loved — by 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	swarden@holycrossep.org

