



CROSSWAYS

"Making Christ Visible in His Community."

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VOLUME 21, ISSUE 7

JULY 2015

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LET'S TALK ABOUT GOD FOR A CHANGE

I feel as if our current circumstances as a community have caused me to focus on things like same-sex marriage, General Convention and a capital campaign. All of these topics are important, but only in regards to how they relate to our relationship with God.

It is so often that we get caught up in the whirlwind of life's activities and become convinced that it is all up to us. One author refers to this as "functional atheism." We say that we believe in God, but we act in such a way that we are doing everything in our power to control the world and be the god of our life.

Here at Holy Cross we say that our mission is "Making Christ Visible in God's Community." We are devoted to being Christ to those we encounter by loving one another as Jesus loved us. Sometimes the work is easy, sometimes it is difficult. But I invite us all to not underestimate the power of loving actions.

The recent tragedy in Charleston has been a glowing example of the power of love in action. The young killer sought to start a "race war" by the brutal slaying of nine African Americans in their own church during a bible study. Instead of starting a riot, the families of the victims stated publicly that they forgave him for his actions. Enough people gathered within a few days that they were able to line the Ravenel Bridge from Charleston to Mount Pleasant three abreast as a tribute to the fallen victims.

Love has power. As Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) Those who gathered, those who prayed, those who ministered to those families laid down a piece of their lives for their friends and showed great love. As they loved, they made Christ visible.

God's promise to us is a promise of love. In Jesus Christ, God loved us directly as one of us and made his love a part of our new commandment. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

In the midst of our call to love one another as Jesus loved us we will need to deal with General Conventions, same-sex marriages and capital campaigns, but ultimately we deal with those things in order to love as Jesus loved us. Just as love changed the circumstances in Charleston from tragedy to community, perhaps our church can in some small way change the culture of our surroundings by loving as Jesus loved.

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

2 Corinthians 1:4

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

THE RT. REV. ANDREW WALDO
EIGHTH BISHOP
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA

Grace, Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

I'm writing to you from Salt Lake City, Utah, during the first day of the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. During the next eight days, the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies will consider many important matters. There will be critical mission initiatives, the election of a new Presiding Bishop, and conceptual plans to restructure our governance to make more resources available for mission across our Church. We will also consider proposals to change the marriage canon, including granting permission to clergy in states where same-sex marriage is legal to solemnize and bless those marriages within the canons, as well as to authorize provisional rites for that purpose.

I am especially excited about efforts to strengthen our Your Adult Service Corps and mission activities. I am also sponsoring a resolution to gain support for a church-wide resource organization for congregations and dioceses that are engaged in public education initiatives, like our South Carolina Bishops' Public Education Initiative. The Reverend Susan Heath, coordinator of our bishops' initiative, spoke yesterday to those gathered for a pre-Convention day on the growing ecumenical movement in our state to support stronger and more nurturing public learning environments for our most impoverished children.

The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the 27th Presiding Bishop has presented an excellent slate of four nominees whose bios may be found on our diocesan website. I ask for your prayers as the House of Bishops votes on, and the House of Deputies confirms, that election.

The Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church has submitted a number of important proposals to streamline future General Conventions, as well as the day-to-day operations of The Episcopal Church. These proposals seek to focus our resources more squarely on our mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to seek and serve all God's people more effectively. These discussions will be critical to the long-term vibrancy of The Episcopal Church's witness to God's continuing presence in our midst.

In early May last year, the Bishop's Task Force on Unity of this diocese released its report, creating a process of study and reflection by which congregations seeking permission to bless (not solemnize) same-sex relationships could receive it. Few indeed within Upper South Carolina imagined that same-sex marriage would become legal in this state for a generation, much less within a few months, as did occur. As General Convention prepares to address this issue canonically and liturgically, I offer a few thoughts.

My own study and reflections in preparation for last year's report persuaded me that it is indeed time for the church to experience and embrace the fullness of covenanted, monogamous same-sex relationships, even as our theology and ritual practice continue to develop and unfold.

It remains critical to me, however, that in addition to the well-established rite of priestly discretion in solemnizing *any* marriage, bishops retain discretion in how many provisional rites authorized by this Convention will be used in a given diocese. With the provisos in place – as they currently are in proposals submitted for consideration – I will vote in favor of the necessary canonical changes at this Convention. The process put in place a year ago in our diocese will be essentially the same in this scenario, except that permission will be granted to solemnize same-sex marriages to congregations that have engaged in the required discernment and dialogue.

I recognize that deep differences on this question exist within our diocesan community. I remain committed to ensuring that there is a place at the table in this diocese for everyone, people of all perspectives. My hope is for a conversation within the church of a deeper, less divisive, and evolving nature, even as decisions are being made. It is clear to me that theological resolution will elude us for the foreseeable future. Early in the last century, Bishop William Guerry of the Diocese of South Carolina wrote that

We should strive for unity, not uniformity. Uniformity is mechanical, barren, unfruitful and unprofitable. Unity is organic, living, and capable of endless growth. If we are to be truly catholic, as Christ himself is catholic, then we must have a church broad enough to embrace within its communion every living human soul.

Such unity is most deeply formed in a forge that makes an alloy out of seemingly incompatible elements, and it virtually always involves heat. In my five years serving as your Bishop, I have seen this at work in a godly determination to stay and work together that pervades this diocesan community. As St. Paul reminds us, we are to “Bear with one another and

if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you are called in the one body. And be thankful.”

I am indeed thankful, for we have been blessed in this diocese with an abundance of missional opportunities that continually energize, unite, and send us into our Lord’s service.

With longing for your prayers and grateful hearts, I remain yours in Christ,

The Rt. Reverend Andrew Waldo

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION –
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ADULT – DRAYTON GAILLARD WHDGAILLARD@CHARTER.NET



JULY YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH ROPES COURSE WEEKEND The Ropes Course Weekend will be held at Camp Gravatt in Aiken, S.C., Thursday, August 13 through Saturday, August 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. The total Cost of the Ropes Course Weekend is \$140. **The good news is we have some money in the Youth Budget to help cover the cost of the trip. Thanks to Holy Cross, the cost for our youth will be \$70 each!** 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? Contact Mother Susan at 864-483-2250 or susanhardaway@gmail.com.



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

ON BEHALF OF THE WELLNESS COMMITTEE, HAPPY SUMMER!

What Can I Do to Reduce My Risk of Skin Cancer?

Protection from ultraviolet (UV) radiation is important all year round, not just during the summer or at the beach. UV rays from the sun can reach you on cloudy and hazy days, as well as bright and sunny days. UV rays also reflect off of surfaces like water, cement, sand, and snow. Indoor tanning (using a tanning bed, booth, or sunlamp to get tan) exposes users to UV radiation. The hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Daylight Saving Time (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. standard time) are the most hazardous for UV exposure outdoors in the continental United States. UV rays from sunlight are the greatest during the late spring and early summer in North America.



CDC recommends easy options for protection from UV radiation—

- Stay in the shade, especially during midday hours.
- Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs.
- Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade your face, head, ears, and neck.
- Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block both UVA and UVB rays.
- Use sunscreen with sun protection factor (SPF) 15 or higher, and both UVA and UVB protection.
- Avoid indoor tanning. (http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/indoor_tanning.htm)

Sun Safety

The sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays can damage your skin in as little as 15 minutes. Follow these recommendations to help protect yourself and your family.

Shade

You can reduce your risk of skin damage and skin cancer by seeking shade under an umbrella, tree, or other shelter before you need relief from the sun. Your best bet to protect your skin is to use sunscreen or wear protective clothing when you're outside—even when you're in the shade.

Clothing

Clothes made from tightly woven fabric offer the best protection. A wet T-shirt offers much less UV protection than a dry one, and when possible, long-sleeved shirts and long pants and skirts can provide protection from UV rays. Darker colors may offer more protection than lighter colors. Some clothing certified under international standards comes with information on its ultraviolet protection factor. If wearing this type of clothing isn't practical, at least try to wear a T-shirt or a beach cover-up. Keep in mind that a typical T-shirt has an SPF rating lower than 15, so use other types of protection as well.

Hat

For the most protection, wear a hat with a brim all the way around that shades your face, ears, and the back of your neck. A tightly woven fabric, such as canvas, works best to protect your skin from UV rays. Avoid straw hats with holes that let sunlight through. A darker hat may offer more UV protection.

If you wear a baseball cap, you should also protect your ears and the back of your neck by wearing clothing that covers those areas, using sunscreen with at least SPF 15, or by staying in the shade.

Sunglasses

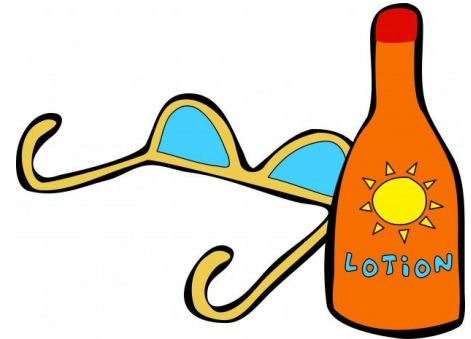
Sunglasses protect your eyes from UV rays and reduce the risk of cataracts. They also protect the tender skin around your eyes from sun exposure. Sunglasses that block both UVA and UVB rays offer the best protection. Most sunglasses sold in the United States, regardless of cost, meet this standard. Wrap-around sunglasses work best because they block UV rays from sneaking in from the side.

Sunscreen

Put on broad spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15 before you go outside, even on slightly cloudy or cool days. Don't forget to put a thick layer on all parts of exposed skin. Get help for hard-to-reach places like your back. And remember, sunscreen works best when combined with other options to prevent UV damage.

How sunscreen works

Most sun protection products work by absorbing, reflecting, or scattering sunlight. They contain chemicals that interact with the skin to protect it from UV rays. All products do not have the same ingredients; if your skin reacts badly to one product, try another one or call a doctor. SPF: Sunscreens are assigned a sun protection factor (SPF) number that rates their effectiveness in blocking UV rays. Higher numbers indicate more protection. You should use a broad spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15. Reapplication: Sunscreen wears off. Put it on again if you stay out in the sun for more than two hours and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off. Expiration date: Check the sunscreen's expiration date. Sunscreen without an expiration date has a shelf life of no more than three years, but its shelf life is shorter if it has been exposed to high temperatures. Cosmetics: Some makeup and lip balms contain some of the same chemicals used in sunscreens. If they do not have at least SPF 15, don't use them by themselves.



PET REMEMBRANCE

We will be having a pet remembrance service
at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 19.

If you have a pet that has been cremated
and would like to inter the ashes in our garden,
please let Jennifer or Mother Linda know.

You can make a page of pictures/scripture or any other remembrance
to go into the book that is a permanent record of the church.

If you have any questions please e-mail Deb Flanagan at
cdrflan@gmail.com.





FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

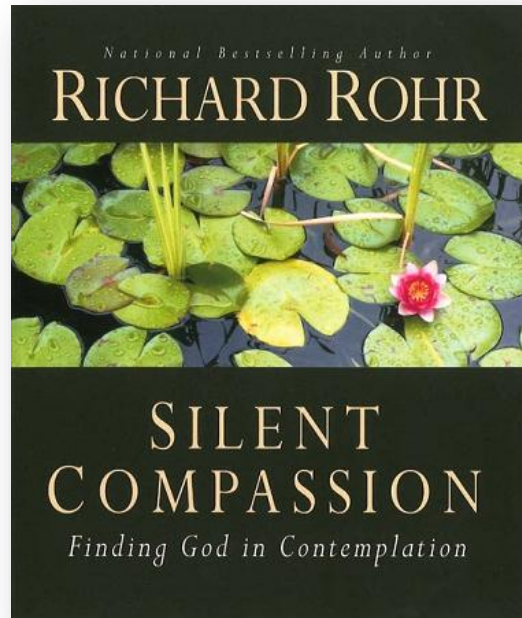
*Silent Compassion:
Finding God in Contemplation*

by Richard Rohr

In *Silent Compassion: Finding God in Contemplation*, Rohr focuses on finding God in the depths of silence and shares that the divine silence is more than the absence of noise. That silence has a life of its own, in which we are invited into its living presence, wholeness of being, and peace it brings. This silence can absorb paradoxes, contradictions, and the challenges of life, he says, connecting us with the great chain of being. Rohr adds that while different faiths use different languages and different words, all major religions have come at the mystery of God as a dynamic flow—God as communion, God as relationships. Silence then becomes that common place for all.

~ 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
Pastoral counseling	(888) 293-7585
Church website	www.holycrossep.org
Diocesan website	www.edusc.org
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