

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 11

NOVEMBER 2015

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OUR WORK IN A NEW WORLD

In a recent article from Mark Tidsworth of Pinnacle Leadership Associates, he writes the following: "In an age of Twitter, selfies, and YouTube, truth is sought in visual, immediate, disconnected accounts that weave a broadly shared web of ever-morphing reality. We live in a world that is 'all about us' and our mutation.

The Church clings to an alternate narrative that says that it is all about God. Fair enough! But few find God in the 'shalts' and 'shalt nots' of a previous age. Tom Ehrich cautions, "too many churches are trying to be memorials to yesterday. Leaders keep the past alive and hope that others will find it engaging."

Missional churches seek to engage the future by seeking God's whereabouts outside church walls. They take the question, "What would Jesus do?" seriously.

Four missional realities:

- People are broken souls whom God seeks to bring close. The measure of a church's work is transformation of lives, not perfect attendance at worship.
- A community is a family bound to each other and commissioned to change the world.
- Churches are called to prepare people for ministry in the world, coaching them to become vibrant disciples of Christ who seek to become like him.
- It's all about Jesus and not about denomination. God's guidance is available for transforming lives. The discipline of discipleship is daily seeking that guidance in order to follow Christ's example.

We are doing the work and ministry of Jesus Christ in a very different world than even 10 years ago. The changes we are experiencing have a tendency to "set us on edge" because we cannot do church as we've always done it. The invitation of today's reality is an invitation to relevance and action. Seekers are now asking the question, "What are you doing in the world in the name of Jesus?"

Our work in the Pumpkin Patch and with our Holy Cross Ministry Partners is the means by which we reach out into the world in the name of Christ and make a difference.

Our Rule of Life encourages us to "Pray Daily, Worship Weekly, Read the Bible, Serve Others, Share your Story and Give Freely." Following these basic principles will lead us into a deeper relationship with Christ and thus into a deeper relationship with our community and the world. The degree to which our world is transformed by God is directly proportional to the degree to which we have been transformed.

May we be willing to allow God to change us more and more into the Christ-followers we

are called to be. Then may we be willing to go out into the world and seek out those places where God is at work and join with God in the ministries that are "Making Christ Visible."

Mike+

rector@holycrossep.org

REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND LIFE

THE REVEREND LINDA GOSNELL,
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR PASTORAL CARE

PRACTICING THE FAITH – WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

Aren't we fortunate to have a yearly reminder in November to be grateful for all that God has given us? As I think about all that I have to be thankful for, my thoughts immediately turned to you, Holy Cross. It is always a dangerous thing to begin listing the people and ministries of a church because no list can be complete, nor do I expect this one to be; therefore, I will not name individuals. However, I will be praying prayers of thanksgiving for each of you and your ministries throughout this month, though, truly, this is a prayer that is ongoing.

For all those who attend to worship from week to week, who pray, sing, give, and commune, I am grateful. For all whose ministries make worship a holy experience: for our Eucharistic Ministers, our acolytes, musicians, choir members and singers, and our audio team, I am grateful; for our altar guild and those who assist them with special seasonal preparations, for our greeters, our ushers, nursery workers, and needle-pointers, I am grateful.

For all who are involved with the Pumpkin Patch - those many committee members who work year round in preparation for the sale in October, for the Vaughn family and the space and other assistance they provide, for all who have worked at the patch, all who have purchased pumpkins, and all who have provided prayer support, I am grateful.

For the Holy Cross Academy and its ministry to the children and families of Simpsonville, for the staff and teachers, for the parents and the children who attend; for our other ministry partners, for the way their ministries touch lives; for the numerous other outreach ministries our parish supports and all those who make them happen, I am grateful.

For our pastoral care team and its many ministry leaders and ministers who provide Eucharistic visits, cards, flowers, meals, transportation, hospital gift bags, prayer shawls, grief support, and visits; for our wellness ministry and their contributions to a healthier congregation, I am grateful.

For our hospitality team and its ministry leaders who provide beverages, various foods, and decoration for receptions and special events that offer opportunities for us to gather and grieve or celebrate together, I am grateful.

For our membership ministers: greeters, welcome center volunteers, coffee and conversation leaders, name-tag stitchers, and for all that is done to invite and make guests and new members welcome at Holy Cross, I am grateful.

For our Daughters of the King and their ministries of prayer, encouragement, and service, I am grateful.

For all whose ministry is keeping our buildings and our grounds safe, functional, and beautiful, I am grateful.

For all who are engaged in spiritual formation with any age whether in Sunday morning formation, Wednesday evening youth and other offerings, in Life Groups, Cursillo activities, book groups, prayer groups, covenant groups, and the Women's Retreat, I am grateful.

For all of our leadership: for the members of the Program Council; the Vestry, our Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and treasurer; for our staff, for their dedicated ministries, comradery, energy, and encouragement; for our Rector, for both his spiritual and practical leadership, I am grateful.

For all individuals and groups who make Holy Cross a church making Christ Visible in God's Community, I am grateful.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving! Linda+



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

2 Corinthians 1:4

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 –
FRAN STYRON
CHILDREN@HOLYCROSSEP.ORG

PROGRAM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
ADULT – DRAYTON GAILLARD WHDGAILLARD@CHARTER.NET



NOVEMBER YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a lot for children to do at Holy Cross in November! Christmas Pageant rehearsals begin in November, so please sign up in the Narthex if your child is interested in participating. The pageant will be Dec. 20.

It's time for a Pray & Play favorite ... an afternoon at the Cassidy-Groves Pond Property! Join us from 3-5 p.m. on Nov. 15 for fishing and horse rides. Bring a snack to share, chairs and fishing gear. S'mores and water provided. Horse rides are free!

There are Advent activities for all ages during the Christian Formation hour on Nov. 29 in the Parish Hall. Thanks to everyone who makes this ministry happen.



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

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

After the shootings at the AME church in Charleston, there were requests for training to potentially protect ourselves if this ever happened to us. Cpl. Justin Chandler with the Simpsonville Police Department will offer an Active Shooter Training session from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 21. This is not a session on how to use handguns to protect ourselves but a program to help us be aware of our surroundings and know what to do in case of emergency. This program has been presented to almost every daycare in Simpsonville, including Holy Cross Academy, and many churches as well as my work place, The Greenville Free Medical Clinic. If anyone needs CEUs for DSS, this will count for two hours. Please join us for this important and informative program. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex so the presenter will bring enough handouts.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Flanagan, cdrflan@gmail.com.

WELLNESS MINISTRY

WELLNESS FOR NOVEMBER: MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage has been practiced around the world for thousands of years, perhaps not in the form we now know it, but the Bible has more than a hundred references to uses of oil. Some is for cooking or lamps, other times it is for anointing. “Anoint” refers to rubbing (or massaging) a person with oil, often infused with spices.

Today’s massage therapy can be seen as a healthy part of your wellness practice. It is not a cure or substitute for regular medical care. The most frequent use of massage is for back pain, and many people find it as or more effective than other remedies, including muscle relaxants or chiropractic care, or use it in combination with other care. Most massage is to help with soft tissue (muscle) problems, and a massage therapist does not focus on adjusting bones and should stay away from pressure directly on the spine.

If you have any concerns about massage, please realize that you are in control. You are the paying customer, so it is your choice as to how dressed or undressed you are (most of my clients leave underwear on). Please let your therapist know if the pressure is too light or too deep and also if the table temperature is too hot or too cold. If you feel uncomfortable for any reason, speak up, and end the session if necessary.

Some conditions require finding a therapist with specialized training, especially if you are pregnant (find a therapist certified in pre-natal massage) or have a history of cancer (find a therapist trained in oncology massage). Cancer survivors even year out can have long-term effects such as risk of lymphedema or neuropathy. An oncology massage therapist can modify the massage to keep it safe and comfortable.

Please make sure your therapist has a current SC license! All are required to have the license at their place of business. You might also wish to ask how long the therapist been in business and about any specialized training she/he may have. All of the major massage associations—AMTA, ABMP, NCBTMB, and S4OM (for oncology) have Find a Therapist locators on their websites.

Most folks who have had a massage can tell you how much better they feel after. Please feel free to contact me if I can help with any questions or concerns about massage.

Lucy Allen,
Board Certified Massage & Bodywork Therapist, SC Lic 4348
Certified Healing Touch Practitioner, Oncology Massage Instructor for Greet the Day

Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh 500 shekels, and of sweet-smelling cinnamon half as much, that is, 250, and 250 of aromatic cane, and 500 of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hint of olive oil. And you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

Exodus 30:23-25

He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

Luke 10:34



FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Two-Lane Theology
seeking fresh faith on the road

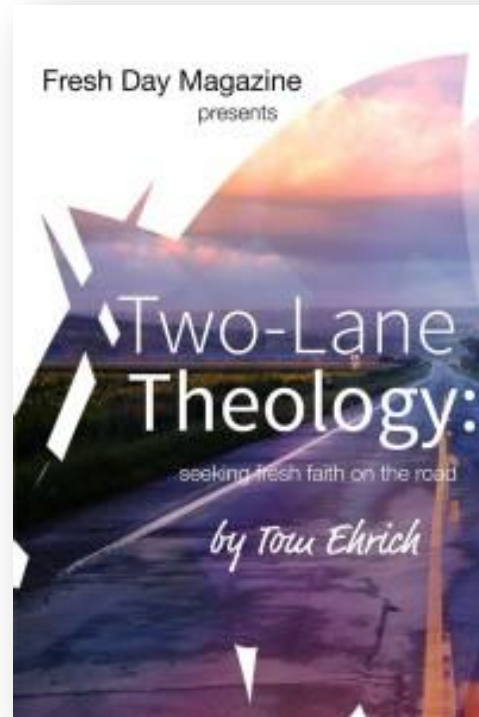
by Tom Ehrich

"Two-Lane Theology" answers the question: If I took a slow drive across the U.S. and looked for God along the way, what would I see? Don't pretend to be John Steinbeck "searching for America." Just be myself, meandering some days, stopping here and there, going random. All in a fresh search for God.

All searching for God becomes personal and unique. My searching has value for you if it encourages you to do your own search for 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
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	associatetrector@holycrossep.org
Youth ministry	youth@holycrossep.org
Children's ministry	children@holycrossep.org
Senior warden	swarden@holycrossep.org

