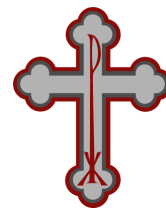


Cross Current



Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2016

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

From the Vestry

Greetings Parishioners,

We welcome the resumption of the Cross Current, and want to thank Stephanie Seate and her team for all their work in making this happen.

As you know, the Vestry has had the full responsibility for managing the affairs of Holy Cross since January. During this transitional period, we are intent on transparency with the congregation, and persistent to following up on commitments to Bishop Wright and his Staff. We have shared updates with you on a regular basis during our Sunday announcements and through email and phone tree communication outlets, and have provided opportunities for interaction and feedback with our Let's Talk sessions. We are open to suggestions for other ideas to keep the lines of communication open.

While these are challenging times for us, we have been able to keep things as "normal" as possible during this time. Our regular Sunday Services have continued as usual. During the first half of the year, the able work of supply priests Canon Jeffrey Cave, Mother Kim Jackson, and Father Harold Lockett has made the difference in this area. We are working to strengthen our pastoral care services by including the Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors as providers. In addition, we have added a regular Wednesday night activity by extending Wonderful Wednesdays past the regular Lenten period. We have a group of faithful parishioners attending the Wednesday night bible study. As part of our regular offerings, we've added the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University. Open to the public, nearly half of the latest class was included participants from the outside.

As of the end of August, our year-to-date actual income has exceeded our budgeted income, and our year-to-date expenses have been less than budgeted. We have begun to pay on Diocesan obligations and are working to do more in that direction. We realize that we are able to stay on budget because of savings in the personnel area. Our most significant challenge has been managing the organization without a consistent spiritual leader.

We heard from many of you about your concerns in that arena. We have learned from the first six months of the year, and have made adjustments to have a more consistent presence in the pulpit. Father Dennis Patterson has led us in worship frequently in the last few months, and will continue to do so as often as he is available. Canon Cave will continue to serve as supply on those Sundays that Father Patterson is not available.

In July, 2016, Choir Director, Organist and part-time Administrator, Vince Evans left us to answer the call as Music Minister of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. This left a gap in our music ministry and in the office. We have since hired a part time administrator, Ms. Laura Barnes, allowing us to have the church office open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Tuesdays through Fridays. Parishioners are welcome to assist by volunteering to extend those hours. We are actively seeking a choir director and organist for the church. More on this search elsewhere in this newsletter.

- Vestry News
- Financial Update
- Reflections by Allison
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- Free Little Library

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From the Vestry (cont.)



We are still working to understand your desires as we move forward. We have heard your requests to know more about the financial position of the church and are working on ways to share that information. We are looking forward to future Let's Talk sessions where we can further discuss the desires of the parish, especially as highlighted in the Parish Survey. It has been the Vestry's practice to meet two times each month, the third Tuesday and first Sunday; however, during the summer with the altered worship schedule (8:00 and 10:00), there was not enough time between the two services to meet. We are resuming our normal Vestry schedule in October, beginning on the first Sunday (October 2) between services. Parishioners are always welcome to attend Vestry meetings as observers.

During his September visit to our Parish, Bishop Whitmore celebrated at our Feast of Title on Holy Cross Sunday. He interacted with parishioners and met with the Vestry. We shared where we were with keeping our commitments to the Diocese and meeting the needs of the congregation. He provided us with insight on how to manage the affairs of the Church and how to work with the Diocese in achieving our goals. He committed to being available to us as needed.

This transition has been both challenging and rejuvenating. We are thankful for the support and the feedback from the members of this community. We appreciate all of you who continue to pray for and keep Holy Cross in your thoughts.

Sincerely,
The Vestry

Dr. Jennifer Friday, Sr. Warden
Dr. Marcia Daley
Ms. Evelia Hinds
Dr. Paula Krueger
Mrs. Bevely Willabus

Mr. Richard Thorpe, Jr. Warden
Mr. Willard Fey
Mr. Larry Hunt
Ms. Andrea Pinder-Jack
Ms. Karen Williams

Expecting Good Things



I found this article online last month and it truly gave me a good shot in the arm. I felt how applicable and appropriate it would be to share this with my fellow parishioners at this time. Enjoy!

Last fall, I was shopping at a store where they sell everything in bulk. I can never think rationally in those types of stores. "Why buy one jar of mayonnaise, when I can buy ten?" I ask myself. The reasonable answer is because our family of three cannot possibly consume ten jars of mayonnaise before they expire. Yet invariably, I will buy ten jars of mayonnaise.

As I entered the store that day, immediately in front of me were bags of flower bulbs. They had bags of 25, 50 and 90 bulbs. You wouldn't believe it, but the bag of 90 bulbs cost only \$15. I could not pass up that deal. When I got home, my husband said to me, "That's great, but now you have to plant all those bulbs." Admittedly, that hadn't factored into my thinking when I bought the bulbs.

Four backbreaking hours later, I had planted 90 tulip bulbs. And then I waited. For months. Every so often, I would look outside and ask my husband, "Do you think they are going to come up in the spring?" He would answer, "Of course. That is what bulbs do." But I didn't really believe him.

Then one morning this March, my husband said, "Come with me. I have a surprise for you." Lo and behold, little tulip shoots were coming out of the ground. I rarely have been so excited (we obviously live very simple lives). Now my front yard looks like Holland in the springtime.

Expecting Good Things (cont.)

Why didn't I simply expect the tulips to come up out of the ground? I spent the entire winter questioning something that science already has determined will happen. You put a bulb in the ground, and a plant inevitably will grow.

I didn't expect the bulbs to grow, for the same reason that many of us don't expect God to be good to us. We hope that God will be good to us, but we don't *expect* it. We don't have faith that God will take care of us. Why? I think faith is hard because we don't want to be disappointed. So we give God 50% faith. Our attitude is, "Well, it would be nice if God takes care of me and my family, but if He doesn't, that's OK too."

We've all had disappointments in life. Some of them may have been big – perhaps a divorce or the death of a loved one. Others may have been small – not getting a job or failing at a test. But once you've gotten some disappointments under your belt, you develop ways of protecting yourself from the feelings of hurt and sadness that come along with that.

Faith demands that we don't protect ourselves. Faith demands that we stand completely naked and defenseless before God, and say, "I give you my life. I trust you to take care of me. I believe you will make sure that my life is blessed with good things." And you say all that to God without reservation. Faith means that you don't doubt God, like I doubted my tulip bulbs.

Letting go of all the ways that we protect ourselves and trusting God is hard. We protect ourselves by trying to control our children instead of letting God take care of them. We protect ourselves by worrying about our finances or our health instead of being faithful that God will resolve all matters for our good. We protect ourselves by giving up on the dreams that God has placed in our hearts, instead of giving God the time to make those dreams come to pass.

But when we are truly faithful, when we submit our lives to God, He can make our lives something incredible. If we act as He would like us to act, and if we try to be the type of person He asks us to be, doors open, and opportunities arise that are beyond our wildest dreams. But that takes complete faith.

This week, think about the areas in your life where you may have doubts. Are there areas where you doubt God's goodness? Pray that God might give you the faith to *know* that He will take care of you. Believe that He is blessing you constantly throughout the day. Be on the lookout for the good things that He is trying to do for you. Like my tulips, those good things will come up when you least expect them to.

"Letting go of all the ways that we protect ourselves and trusting God is hard."

Food Pantry Monthly Report

The Sam Brown Holy Cross Food Pantry completed its annual site visit from the Atlanta Community Food Bank. I am

pleased to announce that our visit was successful. We met all the criteria on the checklist.

I am grateful to all who have contributed to our success, especially our



volunteers and our congregation who continue to give of their time and their resources.

We are still in need of volunteers. Our volunteers assist in sorting and packing food, registering participants, loading cars, and helping to manage people and the process.

We will be providing the necessary training for interested persons. You will be needed one week-end a month, on Friday evenings when we pack

when we distribute.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the Food Pantry, please contact: Jennifer Friday 770-482-6781.

Thanks for your continued support.

Jennifer Friday

September Distribution

Households Served:	85
Persons Served:	250
Children Served:	79
Seniors Served:	69
Pounds of food Distributed:	4008

Food Needs this Month:
Sugar, Flour, and Cereal

Financial Recap

Please note that our annual budget this year has a **deficit of \$32,271**, which means that our budgeted expenses for the full year are \$32,271 higher than our budgeted income. The Vestry monitors our monthly financial posture closely. As of August 31, here is where we stand on this budget.

Holy Cross is focused on maintaining our 2016 budget. Here are some of the details of where we stand through August.



	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual
Total Income	\$191,466.72	\$210,940.59
Total Expenses	\$174,499.74	\$212,980.88



Meet Evelia



A very good Episcopalian friend from another parish introduced me to The Order of the Daughters of the King. She painted this picture of the order that aroused my curiosity. The following year I attended the annual retreat at Camp Mikell, only to realize that there was a large and active group in attendance from Holy Cross, St Mary and Martha's Chapter of The Daughters of the King. This occurrence highlighted the fact that even though we are a quiet ministry, we still need to evangelize what we do, because what we do, is done for His Sake. Thanks to previous and current officers and members of our chapter for taking heed and not haste to correct this. Although we are still a quiet ministry we are more visible today.

What attracted me most to the order is the study of the bible and the opportunity for fellowship through bible study, and strengthening my commitment to the importance of prayer and service. To be surrounded by a community of women who support and care for each other like sisters. God commanded us to, "love each other as He loved us". The scripture simply says in 1 Corinthians 16:14 - Let all that you do be done in love.

Today I do not profess to be an expert or skilled at reciting bible verses, but I am more comfortable in navigating through the bible, finding and reading scriptures with a better understanding of the message.

As Daughters we commit to a lifelong program of prayer, service, and evangelism.

This is almost my tenth anniversary as a Daughter, I can feel the spirit moving in me to rise from that quiet place and be a servant of Christ. Most recently I was elected to the Vestry. My service at Holy Cross involves being the lead for one of the Altar Guild teams, support to the finance team counting our contributions on Sundays, and serving as an usher. My nursing skills are often put to work when our parishioners encounter ill health at church. I invite the women and young ladies of Holy Cross to join us anytime we meet, to gain a better understanding of what we do. We meet every 2nd Saturday morning from 10 – 12 noon in Royal Hall except July, Aug, Dec and Feb. You do not need to announce your coming, **Just come.** We welcome your visit.

Holy Cross Organist Search

The Holy Cross Vestry is actively working on hiring an organist and choir director for the parish. Since Vince Evans' departure, we have had a variety of organists working with us to conduct our services. As you may recall, our choir was on its annual vacation for July and August, returning to the choir loft in September.

Some of those who have provided music during this time have applied for the position, and some are not planning to do so. We are working to hire someone for this role by the end of October.

As always, your input is welcome. Please provide any comments to members of the Vestry. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank yo.



Journey to Discipleship

As Christians all we know that all we have is a gift from God, who has entrusted humanity with the care of creation and each other. God's greatest gift, of course, is the love and grace shown to the world in Jesus Christ. Such "wondrous love" calls us to discipleship—to strive to live as he showed us how.

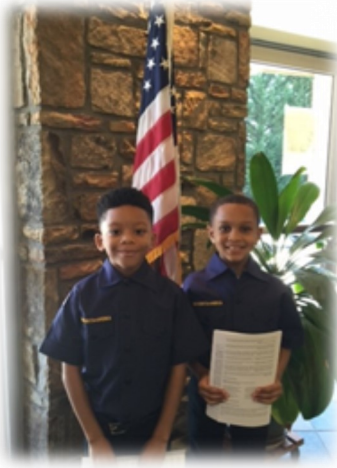
This year, as the Church of the Holy Cross considers our stewardship of God's gifts to us as a parish, the Stewardship Team invites each member of our community on a **Journey to Discipleship**. More than the completion of a pledge card to communicate how we will support our parish financially, the team sees stewardship as a deepening of our commitment to follow our Savior. All along this journey, we believe, our dependence on a gracious God will free us to give of ourselves in many ways, through many forms of ministry in addition to giving of our financial resources.

Thinking of stewardship as discipleship calls us to renew our awareness that we are here on earth to live like Christ, to be the children of God who carry God's love to the needy and heartbroken, the lonely and forsaken, the hungry and the sick. Stewardship as discipleship us to renew our awareness that we are here on earth to live like Christ, to be the children of God who carry God's love to the needy and heartbroken, the lonely and forsaken, the hungry and the sick. Stewardship as discipleship calls us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Journeying to a more vital discipleship means living in greater harmony with God, developing that way of life that reflects the love of Christ, giving of our resources, our time and ourselves in response to God's love.

Over the next months, the Journey to Discipleship will lead Holy Cross in considering the many ways our parish is empowered to minister uniquely to our larger community. We hope you will join prayerfully in considering where this journey might be taking you



Cub Scouts at Holy Cross



2015 was a good year for scouting at Holy Cross. We welcomed the boys at Canby Lane Elementary to our newly formed Cub Scout pack. We started with a vibrant group of 20 boys in Grades 1-5.

We were lucky to have a friend of our church Mrs. Michele Rasmussen a former professional scoutmaster to come in as our first cub master. Paula Murray Krueger is committee chairperson and Charter organization representative. We meet on Saturday afternoons for 1 ½

hours every other week. The boys this year went out to a concert to honor veterans. The concert was put on by the VA and featured the Miracles. The boys were able to meet with veterans as well as were able to meet and greet with the Miracles and with the shows emcee Ms Monica Kaufman.

They participated in the district pine wood derby races in February and did well. We will need volunteers to help them build their cars later on this year. It's not as hard as

you think and the boys like interacting with adults.

Our boys also came to church on Scout Sunday and helped Willard Fey pass out the bulletins. They looked so sharp in their uniforms. Scout Sunday is the day that the scouts can show the reverence that is one of the tenets of the scout law.

We have been blessed to have some of our members step up to help with the cub scouts. We thank Ms P. J. Smith and one of our vestry members for their generous donations to the pack.

Reflections

By

Allison

Fodderingham

PENTECOST

Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead.

He appeared to many, as before his death he said.

He would remain in the grave for only three days,

And then his heavenly Father would raise

Him back to his heavenly home where he,

Would spend the rest of eternity

In Heaven to plead for the ones he had saved

That they would one day join him and have

Eternal life that was promised to all,

Who obeyed him and answered the call

He walked forty days among them, and he

Told them of some of the things that would be.

He told them not to leave Jerusalem.

His Father had a special gift for them.

That John the Baptist with water baptized

Those who would repent when they realized

They had to be cleansed from the ills they had done

But Jesus when he returned to his Home

Would send the Holy Spirit to descend upon them

If they all waited, as promised in Jerusalem.

On a day when they were all at one place,

Together with people of every race,

Devout Jews from as far away as Rome

They all heard the sound like a mighty wind come

Down from heaven, and sat on the head

Of the twelve who Jesus,

on earth had led.

They were suddenly able to speak to all there

In their language, so they could easily hear

And understand, and not get confused.

Peter, in a speech was able to diffuse

The fear that began to rise in their heart.

He explained that this was a part

Of what Joel the prophet said would be.

In the last days, God said that He

Would send his Spirit upon all

His people who obeyed his call

He told them of Jesus, whom they crucified.

How he did not remain in the grave when he died

PENTECOST (CONT.)

But was made Lord and Christ by His Father, God

And now is in Heaven, at God's right hand.

They were, very scared and asked what they should do.

Peter told them, "Repent, be baptized that you

Will receive the Holy Spirit too."

More than three thousand believed and were baptized.

The Young At Heart

present their
Annual Christmas Luncheon
&
Dance

Music, Food, Entertainment & Prizes

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
2005 Columbia Place
Decatur, GA 30032

December 10, 20016
1:00 ~ 6:00 P.M.

Donation:
\$45.00

WMD Expressions



**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED
HOW BIG WAS NOAH'S ARK?**

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
2005 S. Columbia Place
Decatur, GA 30032
Phone: 404-284-1211
Fax: 404-284-7706
Email: office@holy-cross.org

Vision and Mission Statement

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is a multi-national, multicultural congregation, grounded in tradition, blended with contemporary style, working to restore all people to unit with God and each other in Christ. We joyfully give of our time, talent and resources, committing our lives to God's service, through individual and collective actions, in the community and the world, seeking and serving those in need and sharing with them the gospel of Christ.

www.holy-cross.org

It's a Mailbox...It's a Birdhouse...No wait, It's the Holy Cross Free Library



A simple idea to house free books in quirky little buildings on posts is bringing neighborhoods together and enhancing literacy around the world. The Holy Cross Little Free Library aims to promote literacy and the love of reading through free book exchanges in our surrounding community. It is an accessible book exchange box right in front of our parish. (Take a book, return a book.)

The Little Free Library has a unique, personal

touch and there is an understanding that we are sharing our favorite books with the community. Children's books, teenage themed books, biographies, mysteries, historical publications, even comic books, and copies of the constitution can be placed and exchanged in our free library.

As a Little Free Library owner, we hope to soon be able to purchase a charter that puts our library in the Little Free Library organization's

database that will expose us to discounts and information about keeping, maintaining and promoting our library.

Our library is not only open to our neighbors in the community, we also can use it ourselves. So please, bring books that you loved and wish to share and see what's in the library for you to read.