


Explore the Bible

Join Members of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross on the

Holy Land Classic

Feb. 19 - 28, 2019

10-day, All-Inclusive Trip to the Holy Land
Sail across the Sea of Galilee
Visit the Mount of the Beatitudes
Tour Cana, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and many
other places where Jesus walked



For More Info, contact Karen Williams,
FreeBird Travel, 678-640-5512

Contact Us

Holy Cross
2005 S. Columbia Pl.
Decatur, GA 30032

Phone: 404.284.1211
Fax: 404.284.7706
Email: office@holy-cross.org
Website: holy-cross.org
Facebook: facebook.com/
HolyCrossDecatur

Office Hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday to Friday:
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Regular Worship Schedule

8 a.m. Spoken Eucharist
with music

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist with
full choir

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

CROSS CURRENT

The Newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

February 2018

Message from the Rector

Holy Cross is Alive, Indeed!

37 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. **2** He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. **3** He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." **4** Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5** Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath[a] to enter you, and you shall live. **6** I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath [b] in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

The setting takes place in the 37th chapter of Ezekiel. The situation looks grim for the Israelites. They are not sure what will happen to them next. They are questioning the promises of God, and the resurrection of their nation. Will it come together? They're asking, will we live to see a better day; a better time in the life of our community.

God, in the midst of their condition, poses Israel (Ezekiel) a question. It's a question that highlights our independence, and at the same time, points to our dependency on God. It's a question that reminds us of our partnership with God. God asks, "Mortals, can these bones live?"

As we look back over our time together, I dare say that you've wondered and, I've certainly wondered (and not from lack of faith) can these bones live? We've asked, can these bones live with so many of our charter and long term members passing away? Can these bones live in the midst of debt and limited resources? Can these bones live when relationships still need to be mended? Well, we asked and over the past year we have received our answer. Yes, these Holy Cross bones can live!

The worst of our challenges have been stabilized and the best of what God has in store for us lies ahead. Although we're not out of the rain completely, we find comfort in the shelter God has provided as a result of our collective efforts. TBTG!

That was merely the first step in the process. The next step comes in the form of a directive and verb. It is just as, if not more, crucial to achieving the life that God wants to give. The Lord says, "Prophecy to these bones..."

God empowers the prophet to call into being the life necessary to make Israel live.

Our ability as people of God, to speak things into existence is not some far fetched, unrealistic, and unachievable dream, but it does call us to cast a vision and intentionally participate in what God is calling us to be. Yes, thoughts do become things, and what becomes of those "things" have yet to be revealed but I believe, will soon be. Holy Cross is, indeed, alive! Now what will we do with the life that we have been given? Remember, God ain't through with us yet!

God's Peace,

Dennis

*"God empowers
the prophet to call
into being the life
necessary to make
Israel live."*

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MUSAC

MUSAC House of Caring would like to thank all members who came out and sent donations to our recent Family Christmas Gala on December 23, 2017 at the Southland Golf & Country Club.

We appreciate your support over the years and want you to know the children at the orphanage continue to do well. You will be pleased to know we are now in the process of purchasing the land to build this year, so we will no longer have to pay rent, therefore accomplishing another goal we have had since the orphanage's inception.

We look forward to your future support at upcoming events, and invite you to visit our website at:

www.musackids.org.

MUSAC House of Caring, Board of Directors

Inspiration from Allison

Our Church, God's Church

The Church of God can never fail
It's built upon a Rock
And so it will always prevail
Our God will guide His flock

Believers meet in church each week
They read and sing and pray
But sometimes they lose what they seek
And then they go away

To where, the grass looks green
But God is everywhere
He will not ever go between
For everyone He cares

He is so merciful and kind
His patience never wavers
God's Holy Spirit will always find
The one who strays and saves her

Or him, it can be anyone,
They feel it's best to change
And find a church they're not alone
They feel they won't have to change

To get the blessings they are sure
The Father to all gives.
That is His promise to us and more
Just look to Him and live

After all, no one ever hated his own body but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church, for we are members of His body.

Ephesians 5: 30

IRS Tax Tip 2018 (cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

services, long-term insurance and bills for medical related home improvements such as ramps and railings for people with disabilities.

- Summary of cash and noncash contributions to charity
- Property tax bills paid during the year (frequently shown on mortgage statement).
- Records of unreimbursed business expenses related to your job or expenses related to your investments.

Health Insurance

- 1095-A forms if you purchased insurance through the Marketplace (Exchange)
- 1095-B/1095-C forms (optional)
- Any exemption correspondence from the Marketplace (if applicable)

Credits

- Dependent care provider information: name, address, telephone number and employer ID or Social Security number and amount paid to provider
- 1098-T form for education expenses plus
- Statement of account from the educational institution showing tuition and fees actually paid and scholarships, grants, etc. received. Also bring a summary of any other education expenses.
- 1098-E form for student loan interest

Privacy Information

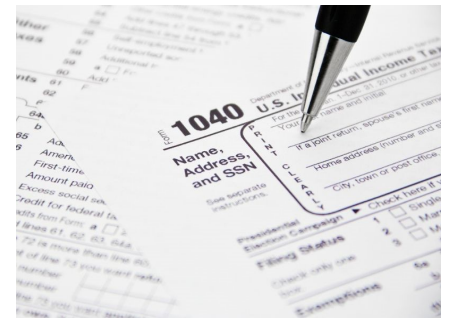
AARP Foundation operates the AARP Tax-Aide program under a cooperative agreement with the IRS. To help you complete your tax forms, AARP's trained and IRS-certified volunteers will see personal information that you give them about you and your finances. This information is strictly confidential. We will not share your information with anyone except as necessary to accurately file your tax returns or as otherwise required by law.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide keeps different types of information about you, and for different periods of time, depending on the services you ask us to provide you.

If you ask us to file your return electronically, we keep your return information temporarily so that we can electronically process your return, ensure acceptance by the IRS and forward your information as required by the IRS, as well as any state taxation authority (state regulations may vary).

Your return information will generally be turned over to the IRS or otherwise disposed of by the end of April of the year in which we file for you. If you are e-filing, we retain aggregate data (such as city, state and ZIP code information, and return information collected at the site level, such as total returns by filing status or total Earned Income Tax Credit payment) for program analysis. This aggregate data do not include names, Social Security numbers or other personally identifiable information about individuals.

We also keep general, personally identifiable information (such as your name, address, birth date, identification numbers and employer address) for use with next



year's filing. The personally identifiable information AARP Foundation Tax-Aide keeps for you will be kept confidential and will not be sold, given away or used for commercial purposes.

In all cases, we take reasonable measures to help ensure that only AARP Foundation Tax-Aide staff and volunteers who need access to your information for the purpose of helping with your tax preparation and filing will have such access. We maintain reasonable policies and procedures intended to protect the confidentiality of your information.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact us at taxaide@aarp.org.

Debbie Harris

Events (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

Please stay after church and socialize with your fellow parishioners. Bring a dish to share.

THE ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK (ACFB) HUNGER WALK 2018—The 2018 Hunger Walk will be held **Sunday, February 25 at 2 p.m.** starting from the Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young Int'l Blvd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30313. Funds raised are used to purchase food for the Food Pantry. Contact Jennifer Friday for team info and pledge cards starting **Sunday, January 21**, and register online at acfb.org under Holy Cross #E4200.



EVENT	DATE	TIME
Cross Making	3/24	10 a.m.
Palm Sunday	3/25	10 a.m.
Maundy Thursday with Agape Meal	3/29	7 p.m.
Good Friday	3/30	12 noon & 7 p.m.
Easter Egg Hunt	3/31	12 noon—2 p.m.
Sunrise Vigil	4/1	6 a.m.
Easter Solemn Mass	4/1	11 a.m.



Mentorship at Holy Cross

Train Up a Child In the Way He Should Go

The mentoring committee at Holy Cross Decatur under the leadership of Evelia Hinds meets weekly to mentor community elementary students. The students are from surrounding Holy Cross Decatur community. The parents, grandparents, or guardians escort their students to meet with these mentors who are Ayoka Allen, Linette Francis, Sandra Roberts, Ira Williams, and Roland Wallace.

The mentoring program is aligned with Holy Cross' mission statement:

"We joyfully give of our time, talent and resources, committing our lives to God's service, in the community and the world, seeking and serving those in need and sharing with them the gospel of Christ."

Our mentoring program's mission is to equip at-risk kids with the social and emotional skills to succeed in school, stay in school, and thrive in life.

The Mentoring Program was designed to help our community children to become a high achiever and to excel in life. The tenets of the program are the 4Es: Empower, Expand, Engage, Enhance. We currently have 5 enrolled, eager, enthusiastic and regularly attending students, ages 7-9.

Our prayer is: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart ..." Proverbs 22:6

The program structure has a daily routine: welcome time, snack time, homework time, recreation time, reading time. During one Q & A session students expressed what they enjoy about the mentoring program including reading, playing games, and eating snacks.

Some benefits of our mentoring program:

- Healthier relationships and lifestyle choices
- Better attitude about school
- Higher educational aspirations
- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improved behavior, both at home and at school
- Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers
- Improved interpersonal skills
- Decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use (MENTOR, 2009; Cavell, DuBois, Karcher, Keller, & Rhodes, 2009)

A few weeks before Christmas one of the students very casually said, "We should call this program, Holy Cross Elementary School." This sentiment suggests that we are truly serving those in need.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Cecily Morgan

IRS Tax Tip 2018

AARP Tax-Aide: Important Information to Bring

The checklist below includes items you'll need when you visit an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide site for help preparing your tax return.

- Previous year's tax returns
- Social Security cards and/or ITIN notices/cards or other official documentation that show the taxpayer identification numbers for every individual on your return.
- Photo ID for each taxpayer
- Checkbook if you want to direct deposit any refunds or direct debit any amounts due.
- Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) for each individual, if applicable.

Income

- W-2 from each employer
- 1099-G form for unemployment compensation or state/local income tax refunds.
- SSA-1099 form showing the total Social Security benefits paid to you for the year, or RRB-1099, Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits form.
- 1099 forms (or other statements) reporting interest (1099-INT), dividends (1099-DIV) and/or proceeds from sales (1099-B), plus documentation showing the original purchase prices if you sold stocks or other assets.
- 1099-R form if you received a pension, annuity, or IRA distribution
- 1099-MISC, 1099-K, or other 1099 forms
- If you have a business, bring a summary list of all your income (cash and non-cash) and all business-related expenses.
- Information about any other income of any form including cash or other than cash.

Payments

Records of any federal and/or state and/or local income tax paid (including quarterly estimated tax payments) if not shown on income documents.

Deductions

Most taxpayers have a choice of taking either a standard deduction or itemizing their deductions.

If you have a substantial amount of deductions, you may want to itemize. If so, bring the following information:

- 1098 form showing home mortgage interest
- A summary list of medical/dental/vision expenses including doctor and hospital bills and medical insurance premiums, prescription medicines, assisted living

(Continued on page 11)

Reminder

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 11.



Get Physical



LET'S GET PHYSICAL!!— Holy Cross supports your 2018 health and fitness goals. The Zumba Group meets every Monday at **7 p.m.**, in Royall Hall. Contact **Eunice Warren** for details.

Also, a Stone Mountain Walk/Run/Hike group meets every first Saturday at **9 a.m.**

Contact **Dennis Austin** for details.



Photo courtesy Frank Durant

Shades of Yale

On January 7th, Shades of Yale, an a Capella group from Yale University blessed us with their presence and songs during our worship service and a mini-concert afterperformed for the late Nelson Mandela, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and President Barack Obama wards. Founded in 1988, the group performs music from the African Diaspora and African-America tradition.

The talented students hail from all over the United States and connected through their love for music. Over the years, the group has toured both domestically and internationally and and First Lady Michelle Obama. The Holy Cross family and guests were honored to have this group of young people in our midst and their rendition of Boyz II Men's "One Sweet Day" lifted us in spirit.

The Feast of Absalom Jones



Takes place on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 4 p.m. at the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, 807 Atlanta Student Movement Blvd., SW Atlanta, GA 30314.

The Rev. Dennis Patterson, Jr., Preacher
 The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Swanson, Celebrant
 The Clark Atlanta University Choir
 Directed by Dr. Curtis Powell

www.centerforracialhealing.org

Current Events

THANK YOU—A heartfelt thank you to the many willing hands who volunteered at coffee hour for Bishop Wright.

RECONCILIATION TEAM—The Reconciliation Initiative Team is forming now. If you would like to participate in helping our church resolve past wounds, contact Karen Shropshire or Karen Williams. We welcome you to the team.

AMERICAN HEART AWARENESS CELEBRATION PRAYER BREAKFAST—This event will be held in Royall Hall on Saturday, February 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Contact Linette Francis for details.

Also, in recognition of Heart Awareness Month the congregation is asked to wear red on Sunday, February 4.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)—The ECW's first bake sale of 2018 will be on February 4 in Royall Hall following the 11 a.m. service.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Instructors will meet on Sunday, February 4 in Royall Hall following the 11 a.m. service.

THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (DOK)—The DOK will hold classes for admission into the Order starting on Sunday, February 10 at 9:30 a.m. in Royall Hall. The classes are an hour long and will last for six weeks. Contact Leonie Bundy, or any DOK member, if you are interested in attending the classes.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH—Our observance of Black History Month will be on Sunday, February 18. Contact Karen Shropshire to assist with finalizing/ implementing plans for this event.

Additionally, in celebration of February as Black History Month, there will be a Literary Parlor in Royall Hall Saturday, February 24. Contact Monica Foderingham for details.

BIRTHDAY COFFEE HOURS—On Sunday, February 18, we will celebrate January and February birthdays; and on March 18, March birthdays.

(Continued on page 11)

Calendar

Monthly Meetings

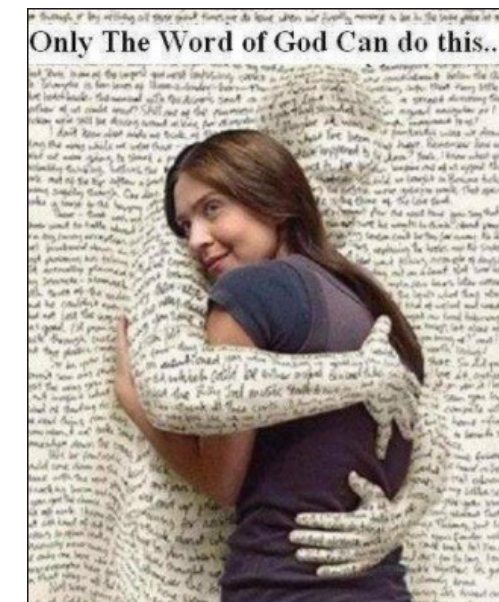
EVENT	DATE	TIME
Daughters of the King	12/9	10 a.m.
Young @ Heart	12/9	1 p.m.
Finance Committee	12/10	12:30 p.m.
Food Distribution Prep	12/15	4 p.m.
Food Distribution	12/16	8 a.m.
Youth Group	12/16	4 p.m.
Vestry Exec Meeting	12/17	1:30 p.m.
Vestry Meet-	12/19	7 p.m.

Special Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME
ECW Women's Weekend	2/3— 2/4	
Youth Outing	2/11	
Ash Wednesday Service	2/14	12 noon and 7 p.m.
Stations of the Cross	2/16— 3/23	7 p.m.
Wonderful Wednesdays	2/21— 3/21	7 p.m.
Literary Parlor	2/24	
Hunger Walk	2/25	
DOK Installation and Corporate Communion	3/4	
Sip and Paint	3/10	
Altar Guild Corporate Communion	3/11	
Acolyte Training	3/17	11:00 a.m.
Men's Day and Corporate Communion	3/18	

Taste and See

We Are Commissioned and Committed to Follow Him



"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, the goodness of the Lord." hymn #154 in the Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) supplementary hymnal is one my favorites. Whenever it is sung, the lyrics and the accompanying music always play a significant part in setting the appropriate mood for my participation in the worship service. *Psalm 34:8* also reminds me, "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusted in him."

TASTE, a very important sense among the five God-given senses, reminds me that I am blessed with an innate gift to partake of and enjoy food. That ability is *secular*, or basic in its creation. If it were not available,

we would probably eat a meal in a totally different way. From the *sacred* perspective, we are challenged to make a distinction or decision on what suits or is a comfortable fit for our spiritual palates. We are called and even compelled to enjoy the awesome greatness of what God has provided to enhance the process of our spiritual growth. I can attest that participating in the experience has been gratifying. I continue to be satisfied with my **TASTE**.

SEE, another God-given sense, allows me to attach meaning to my mental perception of physical and tangible evidence. However, understanding of the image is helped by the information I bring to what I see. The lack of or amount of knowledge I possess can sometimes distort the true meaning of the message. I have frequently experienced that. As I become introspective, I have the opportunity to reflect on the mental image and get a better and clearer understanding. It is usually an "epiphany." As we consider the ordinary times of our current liturgical "season" of the *Epiphany*, we focus on the main events of: the visit by the Magi; the baptism of Jesus; and, the wedding feast at Cana. We are now asked to *taste and see* as we communicate our requests to God; our use of a "blind" faith guides our petitions. Responses may have an answer of "Yes," "No," "Wait, not now," or "Are you kidding me?" (Smile) Nonetheless, we persist with a faith-filled passion.

We are commissioned and committed to follow Him. My and your mission is to: "Taste and see that God is good, (all the time) in Him we need put all our trust." Hymn 154, v. 3. May we all embrace and enjoy His continuing Grace, as we grow spiritually for 2018.

Cecily Morgan

THE SUGAR CANES
Presents
It's Annual Folk Concert
*A Jamaica We Come From -
A Kultural Konnection*
Saturday, MARCH 3, 2018
at 6:00 p.m.
At St. Timothy United Methodist Church Hall
5365 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Sponsored by:
Tower Isles Patties Ltd.
718-495-2626
www.TOWERISLESPATTIES.COM

Contribution:
\$25
per person
Children 12 years old
and under **\$10.00** ea.

SPARTAN
678-866-1600
For Tickets & Information Call:
770-484-5359; 770-808-5101
Refreshments will be served
PART PROCEEDS IN AID OF A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Sugar Canes Inc. is a non-profit organization

AARP Tax-Aide Locations

February 1 until April 17, 2018

Clarkston Library
951 N Indian Creek
Drive
Clarkston, Ga. 30021
Mon, Tues noon-4pm

**Stone Mountain
Library**
952 Leon St
Stone Mtn, Ga. 30083
Tues, Thur 10am-2pm

Decatur Recreation Center
231 Sycamore St
Decatur GA 30030
Tue, Thur 10am-2pm

Stonecrest Library
3123 Klondike Rd
Lithonia, GA – 30038
Tue, Thur, 10am-2pm

Northlake Library
3772 LaVista Rd
Tucker, Ga. 30084
Mon, Thur 10:30am-
2:30pm

Toco Hill Library
1282 McConnell Dr.
Decatur GA 30033
Wed, Fri 10am-1pm

Scott Candler Library
1917 Candler Rd.
Decatur GA 30032
Tues., Thur. 10am 2pm

ECW Events

Greetings and happy new year to all!

The Executive Board of the Episcopal Church Women expresses grateful thanks for your ongoing support of sponsored events. To those who attended the post-Christmas luncheon on Sunday, January 7, at Marlow's Tavern, we say "thank you" for making the event a marvelous one for breaking bread in fellowship, making merriment, and also for enjoying the service of others, after a hectic holiday season.

Here are some upcoming events that have been discussed at meetings.

February 24 – Literary Parlor
March 10 – Sip and Paint

We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Vestry News

Hail...and Farewell

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the departing members Marcia Daley, Andrea Pinder-Jack, and Karen Williams.

We warmly welcome Frank Durant, Monica Foderingham, Erica Morgan and Karen Shropshire and ask you to pray with us that they will be empowered to help guide the vestry activities.

The Bishop's Visit

On January 28, Bishop Wright visited our parish and delivered a stirring sermon followed by a "Let's Talk" session and an equally stirring discussion with the vestry - helping to craft foundational strategies for serving Holy Cross.

Don Bennett

Feed Your Soul

Hot Cross Buns



Ingredients

- 3/4 cup warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon instant powdered milk
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 3/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 egg white
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon active dry yeast
- 3/4 cup dried currants
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons milk

Directions

1. Put warm water, butter, skim milk powder, 1/4 cup sugar, salt, egg, egg white, flour, and yeast in bread maker and start on dough program.
2. When 5 minutes of kneading are left, add currants and cinnamon. Leave in machine till double.
3. Punch down on floured surface, cover, and let rest 10 minutes.
4. Shape into 12 balls and place in a greased 9 x 12 inch pan. Cover and let rise in a warm place till double, about 35-40 minutes.
5. Mix egg yolk and 2 tablespoons water. Brush on balls.
6. Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 20 minutes. Remove from pan immediately and cool on wire rack.
7. To make crosses: mix together confectioners' sugar, vanilla, and milk. Place glaze in a piping bag or a sandwich bag with the corner snipped off; pipe a cross onto each roll.

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Our own Mr. Carlton Carew (second from left), 96, and Mrs. Juanita Stewart (center), 92, who are members of the Lou Walker Senior Center, were recognized along with fellow nonagenarians on December 13, 2017.

Mr. Carew and Mrs. Stewart along with other nonagenarians from senior centers across DeKalb County were featured at a separate event hosted by Commissioner Kathie Gannon. Mr. Carew was one of three people featured on a video, sharing history spanning over nine decades.

Former acolytes (l-r): Neeron Jack, Kittrell Robinson, Omari Grant-Joseph, Aaron Ware

Vestry members share a holiday meal. Left to right: Richard and Samilla Thorpe, Melanie Wilson, Fr. Dennis Patterson, Karen Williams, Roland Wallace

Vestry members (l-r): Monica Forderingham, Dorothy Day, Erica Morgan-Gillead, Debbie Harris, Don Bennett, Bishop Robert Wright, Evelia Hinds, Fr. Dennis Patterson, Karen Shropshire, Frank Durant, Richard Thorpe



Holy Cross youth

Willard Fey recognized by his Holy Cross family and his children.

Surrounded by family (l-r): Lem Ward, Leanne Fey-Ward, Willard Fey, Lorene Fey.

Recent confirmands with Bishop Wright.

Photos courtesy Stan Fisher