It is Finished! The great 40 days have ended, and we turn our attention to the empty tomb! The familiar words of Easter morning resonate through the halls of the church and in the hearts of the people… “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” The angel was proclaiming new life. Jesus was no longer dead but ALIVE! Mary couldn’t believe her ears when she heard these words and she couldn’t believe her eyes as she gazed upon the tomb that once held the body of Jesus. Only three days prior she had seen things that could not be erased. Now, to know the one she cared so much about was living! He did promise that this would happen, but it seemed so impossible, yet so worthy of rejoicing in the moment.

The Easter season brings dead things to life. Jesus said in John 10:10, “I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly.” Notice that Jesus’ desire for us as his children is not just to experience life, but to experience it with abundance! This kind of life is not at all boring, but rather a life full of the Holy Spirit working in, and through us, enabling us to be joy-filled Christians that the world views as light. Living the abundant life means we seek to experience Jesus in all his fullness and in all of his living glory.

I want to encourage you this Easter season to embrace life, life worth celebrating and even more worth celebrating when found in the living, risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Live into the abundant life God has called you to, and embrace the fact that you are one of Christ’s own, called by God for a purpose.

Faithfully Yours,

Fr. Wes +
The children of Holy Cross are collecting money in their “Hope Chests” for the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. Their goal is $805.00. This will enable them to purchase two goats and clean water for two families and to provide care for two newborns and their mothers. We welcome ALL donations -- make checks payable to Holy Cross, indicating in the memo line, for Hope Chest Project. As of this writing the children have raised $242.97. For more info see Susan Southwick.

Mark your calendars and bring a friend as we introduce our Ancient Meal-time! We meet every 5th Sunday in 2018. Our first service of this style will debut Sunday, April 29th at 10:30am.

Newcomers, staff, and Vestry enjoy food and fellowship at the Newcomers’ Dinner, graciously hosted by Bob & Sue Peterson. March 18.

RETREATS OFFERED AT CAMP MCDOWELL
Mother/Daughter Retreat “Beloved” April 6-8
• Ages first grade and older
• Low key and lovely
• Saturday night PJ dance for daughters & social time for adults

The Ultimate Parish Weekend April 27-29
• Lodging assigned on first-come basis
• Friday night dance with live old-time music
• Pasture, hayrides, bonfire
• Hiking, canoeing, fishing, paddle-boatting

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. See Bonnie Powers for more info on these two retreats.

ECW SPRING CONVOCATION
Saturday, April 7th 10:00 am
Grace Episcopal in Woodlawn
For more info contact Fran Bramblette at 937-4437.

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UNITED THANK OFFERING
INGATHERING!
Our Spring UTO Ingathering will be on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 13th. Please bring the contents of your blue boxes (or check) for our Ingathering! These offerings are a visible sign of thanksgiving for our blessings, and they support worldwide outreach missions.

Ladies’ NIGHT OUT
Ladies’ Night Out will be held on Thursday, April 26th at 6:30 pm at the Olive Garden in Trussville. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

EYC Three-Mile Hike
The youth of Holy Cross are going on a three-mile hike next Sunday, April 8th in Red Mountain Park. We will meet at the church at 1:15 pm to caravan to the park. Please bring snacks, water, and friends. Wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing.

May 20th at the 10:30 service
We will have three planning meetings with Justin Finch after the 10:30 services on April 15th, April 22nd, and May 6th.

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SR. WARDEN’S CORNER
As I write this April Pathway message, I can’t help but feel Holy Cross, like Christ, has come through Lent and risen to begin anew! I am excited about our future and much of that enthusiasm/ optimism comes from the new church members who have decided to make Holy Cross their home. Our Newcomers’ Dinner was a delight! It gave everyone a chance to meet and talk at length in a relaxed home environment. I enjoyed meeting each and every one of them! If you have not had an opportunity to talk with these new members, please take the time. They are a very interesting and diverse group of individuals with some life stories and experiences you wouldn’t believe! I want also to acknowledge and thank Bob and Sue Peterson for opening their home for the evening and providing us with a delicious meal.

As last month, I am pleased to report this month that we are still on an upward swing financially with both plate and pledge donations. Our Jr. Warden, David Meadows, is moving ahead with building improvement projects. The kitchen is on his list and we should see more changes and improvements in the weeks ahead.

This month I want to spotlight another church volunteer, Phillip Johnson, who has stepped up and taken on the responsibility of our Communications Media Specialist. Phil is doing a great job of keeping us informed about church functions and integrating it all seamlessly across various social media platforms such as Facebook, our web page, and others. I understand that some of you may be a little camera-shy. If that is the case, please feel free to let Phillip know and we will respect your privacy by keeping you out of any pictures that may be used on the Internet or in other media/stories or events. And, finally a reminder for my fellow Vestry members: Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the annual meeting for Wardens, Treasurers and New Vestry members on April 14th at Church of the Ascension. It’s from 9:00 am to 12 noon.

Roy Wood
Sr. Warden

P.S. Just one more thing. Let’s continue to help Susan and the children with their Goat Fund! I understand we are half-way to reaching the goal to purchase two goats. For your convenience we have set up a GoFundMe “Loose-Change Counter” and a bucket for checks and paper money in the narthex, should you like to contribute to the cause. Every little bit helps!

JR. WARDEN’S CORNER
During the next couple of months, we plan to continue painting the interior of the church. We will also begin the renovation of the Library/Vestry Room sometime after Easter. We should be able to complete this project by the end of May. Plans to renovate the kitchen are to follow. Please lift these things up in prayer so that we may accomplish them to the glory of God.

David Meadows
Jr. Warden