After so many months (years?) of silence, I think it is time to surface again. A service held this past Ascension Day (and too late for me to write about it last month’s Pathway) really got my attention. This was the Taizé service given to us by Justin and our choir. The third time we have had this service – unfortunately, I had been unable to attend the others. But I hope we have them more often that I can get to every one.

That day had been one from the nether regions. For two cents I would have stayed home once again – but I had been wanting to attend a Taizé for so many years – ever since I first heard about it, I felt I simply could not miss another. And let me say right here – by the end of that thirty or so minutes, I felt so peaceful I hope to never miss one again. The wretched day had faded away.

It is a rather solemn service of chants set to music. The only spoken words were the day’s Collect and The Lord’s Prayer. The choir was spread throughout the congregation. Justin spoke for a few minutes before the service began to tell us a bit of what to expect. From that moment on it was just Peace. With each chant one could almost feel the day’s tensions going away.

So PLEASE, the next time Justin and the choir give us the opportunity, do your best to attend. I think you will be very glad. And thank you so much, Justin!

Is it really that important to make disciples?

I had a mentor in college who said something that has stuck with me for years; and that phrase was, “Every Christian should have a Paul and every Christian should have a Timothy.” What he meant by that was that we should each have someone who invests in us spiritually and someone we invest in spiritually. Jesus, as he left the disciples, issued a call to action: “Go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

It requires that we do something with the vision of growing the kingdom of God. Each time we go out and make a disciple, the kingdom grows by one more! Imagine if you spent your life, in the midst of all the things that will demand your time and keep you busy, investing in one person each year. Think about what would happen if you invested in three, five, or even twelve (I know we are getting crazy now, right?). The call to make disciples is the most critical call that impacts the Kingdom of God, and yet few Christians actually respond to that call.

I’m a firm believer that if each of us found a Timothy to invest in for two years and did that just three times in life, teaching each Timothy to do the same, it would impact the Kingdom of God in a way not seen since the movement in Acts. If multiplication doesn’t deceive me, in less than 40 years we would have the opportunity to lead every human being on earth to Jesus. (Go ahead. Do the math… it really will work.)

It is the mission of the Church of the Holy Cross to “raise up disciples of Jesus Christ” for the sake of the Kingdom. Is it a big goal? YEP, and only God can give us the strength and ability to accomplish it. This fall we will begin to help equip each and every person to carry out the great commission as we continue to work to launch a brand new discipleship format for Wednesday nights. From children all the way to adults, it is our goal to raise up Timothys to become the Pauls – in our community and in our world.

Is it really that important to make disciples? YES IT IS and we can be part of that call.

Prayer: “God, would we dare to do something so great for the Kingdom of God that if you are not in it, it is destined to fail. To God be all the Glory. Amen.”

Fr. Wes


**75th Anniversary under the Big Tent**

Plan now to attend the 75th Anniversary celebration of Holy Cross. The festivities will take place on the grounds of Holy Cross on Saturday, August 26th from 3:00-5:00 pm. There will be a commemorative presentation starting at 3:00 pm, at which time we will honor past priests and local dignitaries. We are looking for old photos or memorabilia. Anyone who might have such items is asked to submit them to the church office. We will see that they are returned safely to you.

Cake and games will follow the presentation. Bring your lawn chairs and visit with friends and fellow parishioners under the Tent. There is rumor of a dunk tank...so you just never know who you might be cooling off.

Further details will be published in the bulletins as they become available.

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**Vestry Meetings**

The July meeting will be held on Monday, July 31st at 6:00 pm.

The August meeting will be held on Monday, August 28th at 6:00 pm.

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**Coming This Fall...Wednesday Night Family Discipleship!**

Join us this Fall, starting August 30th, when we launch our Wednesday Discipleship Nights. There will be something for every age group as we fellowship over a meal together, learn and grow in our faith together, and strive to live and serve the Lord together. Truly, we are Better Together!

For more information on upcoming programs visit our website and Facebook.

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**Mission Trip**

Holy Cross will join with other area churches for a local family mission trip this summer to the Woodlawn area of Birmingham, July 24th-27th. This opportunity allows your whole family to serve the Lord through various ways. The mornings, beginning at 8:00 am, will consist of manual labor ranging from yard work, scraping and painting houses, to light carpentry and other such tasks. The afternoon sessions, beginning at 1:00 pm, will give the opportunity to join backyard Bible clubs, prayer ministry, or prayer walking. Serve all week, just one afternoon, or anything in-between. Monday and Thursday nights will include a community-wide worship time for all surrounding areas. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

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**The Eucharist**

Our Tuesday Morning Healing Eucharist will take a break for July and August. Stay tuned for a date when we will resume the fall. If a personal healing prayer need arises prior to September, please contact Fr. Wes to schedule a healing prayer appointment.

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**Flower Guild Members**

Please remember to turn in your receipts for reimbursements. It is very helpful to know, for budget purposes, the amount spent on flowers. Thank you so much for your devotion to creating beautiful flowers for our altar.

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**Easy - Safe - Secure**

Many of you have asked when Holy Cross would have the ability to take online donations. The wait is finally over. Beginning July 15th, you will be able to give your tithes and offerings online via our website. You will have the option to give a one-time gift or a recurring gift, depending on your preference. The process is safe, secure and very easy to do. Stay tuned to our website for more details coming soon.

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**EYC News**

On Monday, July 17th and on Wednesday, July 19th, from 9:00am-2:00pm, our EYC group will join GraceWorks in creating an outdoor mural at Grace Episcopal Church in Woodlawn. All supplies are provided. The Holy Cross parish is invited to attend each event. For more info please contact Susan Caraway at 999-1346 or at susanncaraway@hotmail.com.

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**Ladies’ Night Out**

Ladies’ Night Out will continue over the summer. Mark your calendar for Thursday, July 20th. We will make a return trip to The Filling Station on Crestwood Blvd. See you at 6:30 pm at the restaurant.

August Ladies’ Night Out will be at 6:30 pm (as usual) but on Thursday, August 24th. Hopefully our families will have the school schedules in place so let’s fiesta. Let’s go to Casa Fiesta, in the Pinnacle Shopping Center, to celebrate the start of a new school year, fall, or football season, or you fill in the blank! See you at 6:30 pm at the restaurant.

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**ECW News**

On Wednesday, July 26th at 11:45am, we will be hosting an open meeting with a speaker to learn about the WellHouse, a place of grace for trafficking victims. The speaker will be Carolyn Potter, Executive Director of the WellHouse. A light lunch will be served and all ladies of Holy Cross are welcome to join us.

We hope you will invite your friends and neighbors to attend, as this concerns an increasing danger to many even in our area. We will learn how we might help with the victims, as well as increase our knowledge and awareness of the dangers and we will learn of the help provided by this organization.

There will be no meeting of the ECW in August; however we will resume on our regular day, in September. Looking forward to seeing all of you on July 26th.

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**JULY Birthdays**

Tessa Luttrell 7
Richard Turner 11
Gwen Proctor 12
Karen Bain 12
Greg Wynn 17
Harold Jones 18
Caroline Underwood 19
Becky Wester 20
Matthew Pate 21
Randy Malchus 23
Keith Bain 26
Chris Crawford 26
Justin Finch 27
Kate Proctor 29
Eva Cate Underwood 30
Conrad Crews 31

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**All Children’s Church**

All children, ages 5 through 12, are welcome to attend Children’s Church. We will meet in the Genesis Room at the beginning of the 10:30 service. We will conclude and join our families at the Peace.

Ulterra will meet at 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 23rd for a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Bonnie Fowers at 500-9238.