The Day of Forgiveness

If I’m being honest, I have a love/hate relationship with Lent. Sure, I know the purpose and I know that it is a good purpose. We all need seasons in our life to focus on repentance, reconciliation, and restoration…but man, is it hard work! I would so much rather skip the penitential season for a season of celebration and joy and I’m guessing most of you have that preference as well. Nonetheless, we are in the penitential season and while we sit in the midst of it we find ourselves looking face to face with the challenges of forgiveness and reconciliation.

With those thoughts in mind, I want to gently encourage us all to go deeper than the chocolate we’ve been able to resist (or whatever else you might have given up) and take an authentic look at our relationships. Not merely the outward appearance of relationship, but the heart behind them. I had a friend who told me recently, “It is easy to love the people we are most like, but often it is more Christ-like to love those we are least like.” When he told me this I admit I said a verbal “ouch.” Since I’ve already been honest about Lent, I’ll be honest here as well…that statement is true in my life. Those less like me require more intentional relationship building, because it does not come easily, but Godly love and reconciliation call me to hard relationships. Jesus forgave the ones hanging him on the cross and then extended salvation to the one least like him, the thief on his right. That is our challenge, both in the close relationships and the “neighbor” we are to love.

The hard work we do during this Lenten season will indeed bring us a more joyful Easter season, so let me encourage you to put in the work of forgiving and accepting forgiveness so that reconciliation is indeed the result. I can assure you that on that Easter morning when people are dressed in their brightest Easter colors and the fruit of reconciliation is upon us, we can indeed rejoice with the heavens for the wonderful work that Christ has done in our lives. So in the words of Paul, “Press on that we might run the race and obtain the prize that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

I pray we all experience a penitential and fruitful Lenten season.

Faithfully Yours,

Fr. Wes +
We have new friends and some new neighbors in our family, but we have also taken a deep breath and a leap of faith and asked God for guidance. It has been a heck of a journey but comers’ welcome this great opportunity. Invite a friend. You don’t want to miss one inspired to write it.

**Guest Speaker**
March 11th at 6:00 pm

The author and teacher of *The Crucified Life*, The Rev. Charlie Holt, will be in Birmingham. Charlie will be joining us Sunday evening March 11th at 6:00 pm for a time of worship and teaching, as well as questions you might have from the study itself. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear in person and in depth about *The Crucified Life* from the one inspired to write it.

Invite a friend. You don’t want to miss this great opportunity.

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**ECW**

ECW will meet Wednesday, March 21st at 11:15 am. Ladies please come as we must discuss Lent’s Holy Week luncheon to be served on Monday, March 26th. Bring your sandwich and the chips; dessert and drinks will be provided.

**Easter Vigil**

Saturday, March 31st
6:00 pm Service

Our traditional Easter Egg Hunt will replace the children’s 9:15am Sunday school hour on Easter Sunday. Please help us fill the baskets of the Holy Cross children! Donations of candy-filled plastic eggs will be accepted in a drop-off box in the narthex, beginning Sunday, March 11th through Palm Sunday, March 25th. This is a very fun-filled event for the kids and we encourage any community youth to join in, so let’s make sure we have plenty of eggs.

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**Events**

**Sunday, March 11**
Terrie Percy will lead the youth on a hike. Look in Sunday bulletins for more details.

**Save-the-Dates**

*Mother & Daughter Retreat*  April 6-8 at Camp McDowell
Ultimate Parish Retreat  (formerly known as the Small Parish Retreat)  April 27-29 at Camp McDowell

If you have a name tag and are willing to wear it during the Sunday services, please do so. It would help our visitors in getting to know those around them.

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**Sr. Warden’s Corner**

A few weeks ago the Rev. Wes Sharp asked me to consider taking on the position of Senior Warden. After some prayerful thought I accepted. I am humbled by the faith and trust Wes has placed in me for it. But I took a deep breath and a leap of faith and asked God for guidance. It has been a heck of a journey but here we are today with a new Pastor and spiritual leader, our financial prayers answered so I can be available for a Lenten Taizé Service this Sunday, March 4th at 6:00 pm. This will be an evening prayer service of meditative music, scripture and silence.

Please join us for a Lenten Taizé Service this Sunday, March 4th at 6:00 pm.

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**Birthday**

Andrea Mathews  2
Bryce Lewis  2
Mark Baraszek  2
Betty Thompson  4
Conley Franks  4
Brady Franks  4
Rayna Walczuk  7
Kendra Rushing  10
Annie Cole  13
Robert Davis  13
Doug Grove  15
Charlotte Scarborough  17
Bonne Powers  17
Davis Perry  20
Lily Johnson  21
Emily Rushing  24
Ian Jarnagin  25
Nash Amberson  28
Brian Hall  30
James Tindill  31

Please note: If your birthday is missing, please call the church office. We have new software that “drops” those for whom we have no listing.

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**Bistro**

*Mexican Grill* in Trussville.

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**Easter Egg Hunt**

Our traditional event for the kids and we encourage any community youth to join in, so let’s make sure we have plenty of eggs.

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**Young Adults’ Retreat**

*March 8* at Camp McDowell – 8 at Camp McDowell

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**Sr. Warden: Please note:**

- Andrea Mathews
- Bryce Lewis
- Mark Baraszek
- Betty Thompson
- Conley Franks
- Brady Franks
- Rayna Walczuk
- Kendra Rushing
- Annie Cole
- Robert Davis
- Doug Grove
- Charlotte Scarborough
- Bonne Powers
- Davis Perry
- Lily Johnson
- Emily Rushing
- Ian Jarnagin
- Nash Amberson
- Brian Hall
- James Tindill

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**Small Parish Retreat**

*April 27-29* at Camp McDowell

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**Supper School**

Tuesday, March 21
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

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**Ladies’ Night Out**

Saturday, March 24
at the Casa Fiesta Mexican Grill in Trussville.

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**Sr. Warden’s Corner**

A few weeks ago the Rev. Wes Sharp asked me to consider taking on the position of Senior Warden. After some prayerful thought I accepted. I am humbled by the faith and trust Wes has placed in me as well as the full support of the Vestry.

I am pleased to be able to step into this leadership position at a time when we, as a church, have weathered some tough times. Just two years ago, when I was elected to serve on the Vestry, we were faced with some daunting obstacles. We had lost Father Aaron, Father Joe, and Father Steve; we were facing financial issues; plus the task of finding a new permanent pastor. At that time I had no idea of what I was doing or how I was going to do it. But I took a deep breath and a leap of faith and asked God for guidance. It has been a heck of a journey but here we are today with a new Pastor and spiritual leader, our financial prayers answered (pledges and plate combined are up), the Cathedral Church of the Advent’s help has been incredible, and we are growing! We have new members and in the weeks ahead we will have a Newcomers’ Dinner to welcome them officially into the Holy Cross Family.

There have been a number of changes – many are the result of the efforts of our Junior Warden, David Meadows. I can’t say enough about David’s dedication and craftsmanship. The Sunday school classroom, the office, the playground, the new storage building and there is even more to come, so stay tuned! David, thank you!

I’m one of those 8 o’clockers so I’m not always that noticeable. However, I am planning to make myself more visible at the 10:30 service when possible, so I can be available to everyone’s Sr. Warden. Even you 10 o’clockers……(smile)

Roy Wood
Sr. Warden
**Easter Potluck Brunch**

The Easter Potluck Brunch will be held in the Genesis Room on Easter Day at 9:15 am. Please bring an item from the list below based on the first letter of your last name.

- A-F: Pastries and Sweets
- G-L: Breakfast Casseroles
- M-R: Breakfast Meats (Sausage, Bacon, Ham)
- S-Z: Fresh Fruit

Please have your items plated and ready to serve. Coffee, juice, and milk will be provided. Remember to pick up your serving dishes following the 10:30 service.

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**The Cross Walk**

**THE CRUCIFIED LIFE Study for Children**

The Cross Walk is an exciting new children’s curriculum that combines games, crafts, and hands-on activities with solid Biblical teaching. Perfect for Sunday school or mid-week gatherings, this brand-new resource is designed for Grades K-5, large group or small group sessions. What makes The Cross Walk unique is its parallel to the themes the adults are exploring in The Crucified Life study series, making for a powerful entire-family teaching experience.

Join us each Wednesday night through Lent at 6:15 pm for this educational and fun time together.

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**Welcome to Holy Cross!**

Would you like to be part of a team of two to say these words to newcomers?

Then, we need you!

It has become apparent that we need folks to be at our front door to greet people and make them feel welcome! Only by extending genuine warm welcomes will we be able to grow our membership and extend our love of Christ to all.

We need volunteers for the 10:30 am service. Couples are fine and so are singles! Contact Fr. Wes if you are interested. We think we are a friendly congregation so let’s be sure others agree when they come to visit! Thanks for your help!

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**Holly Week**

On Monday, March 26th ECW will prepare and serve lunch after the noon service at First Methodist Church in Trussville.

Fr. Wes will preach the noon service at First Methodist on Good Friday, March 30th.

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**Easter Lilies**

Easter is fast approaching and it’s time to sign up for lilies to decorate our church and to honor our loved ones. The sign-up sheet is on the Ministry Table in the Narthex. Please indicate the number of lilies you wish to donate ($15.00 each). Print the name(s) of persons you wish to honor with a memorial or with Thanksgiving.

Please put your checks in the offering basin and mark them, for “Easter Lilies.” Thank you for helping to make our worship spaces beautiful for Easter.

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**Newcomers Dinner**

Many have asked the question, “I’m new to the church, how do I become a member?” If that is you, we want to get to know you and your family. We want to tell you more about what it means to be part of our church family. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others who are new to the church and to hear more about the vision of Holy Cross as well as the various ministries the church has to offer.

We hope you can join us for our Newcomers’ Dinner on March 18th at 5:00 pm at the home of Bob and Sue Peterson. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there.

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**Landscape Additions**

Two beautiful “October Glory” maple trees and a white “Natchez” crape myrtle were recently planted in memory of Anne Henderson. The trees and installation expenses were given from the Anne Henderson Memorial Fund. In addition, some overgrown shrubs have been removed and five large “Ruby” loropetalum bushes were planted in front of the church. Many thanks to Laurie Nabors and the ladies of the Grounds Committee for the TLC they give our grounds here at Holy Cross!
## SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 26</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>ECW to serve lunch at First Methodist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 27</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Tuesday Morning Bible Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Eucharist &amp; Healing Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 29</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Service</td>
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<td>Friday, March 30</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Fr. Wes to preach at First Methodist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Good Friday Service</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 31</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Easter Vigil Service</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 1</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Easter Service – Rite I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Easter Brunch &amp; Egg Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Easter Service – Rite II</td>
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## FLOWER CROSS

Again this year we plan to create a beautiful Flower Cross. Children, please bring a flower to church on Easter morning. These flowers will be put on the cross.

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The Maundy Thursday Service will be held at Holy Cross on March 29th at 6:00pm.

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Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God’s creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = O E = I O = U A

“L__RD, ____r L__rd, h__w
m__j__st__c s y__r
n__m__ n__ll th__
__rth!”
Ps__lm 8:1, N__V
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"I dyed your scrambled eggs for Easter."