MESSAGE FROM THE RECTORS:

COMING TOGETHER AS ONE!

Growing up I remember hearing of this “Rock Band” from the 60’s that changed the face of music as we know it. They had longer hair, louder guitars, and people went crazy where ever these four rabble rousers went. You might have heard of them, they were a small band called “The Beatles.” Their “hair-raising” music and different style took the world by storm producing more than twenty “Number One” hits, which, to this day is still the record for the most “Number One” music billboard hits.

One of those hits in 1969 was a song called, “Come Together,” in which part of the lyrics read, “Come together right now, over me.” While I do not think the Beatles had in mind any theological or Christological meaning to their encouragement to “come together,” the church has been encouraged to do so for centuries. One instance occurs in 1 Peter 3:8, “Finally, all of you have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”

At the root of Peter’s encouragement, we find unity, a coming together as believers in Christ. There is something very special that happens when the church comes together to be one body. We learn from the New Testament that the entire church across the world couldn’t physically come together but those who could were encouraged to do so even if it was only for a time. That time was meant to be used to strengthen, encourage, and love one another with tender hearts and humble minds.

Beginning May 26th (Memorial Day weekend), we, as a church, have an opportunity to “Come Together.” The leadership and Vestry recently made the decision to move everyone to one service at 9:30am for the summer months in an attempt to come together as one body through worship and fellowship. So, for eight weeks we will try something new…something together. Those from the 8:00am service and those from the 10:30am service will unite as one body in worship. Throughout these 8 weeks we will also have the occasional after-service potluck meal and other fellowship opportunities for the church to be as one. In the spirit of coming together, I am asking that everyone who calls Holy Cross their church home to try our 9:30am service and trust that the Lord has something good in store for all of us.

As we approach this summer change, you may find the following collect from our prayer book to be most helpful in guiding your prayers. It is one I pray often for our church:

“Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”

May God bless our coming together and bind us in love and obedience to Him.

For the unity of His Church,

Wes

senior WARDEN

Holy Cross is dedicated to raising up faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, committed to genuine Worship, loving Fellowship, and passionate Mission.
ECW CONVOCATION
Saturday, April 27th at 9:00am at ST. STEPHEN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (3775 Crosshaven Drive, Vestavia Hills 35223)
Speaker: Claire Cotton
Topic: Sawyerville Day Camp and Literacy Program

HOLY CROSS ECW LUNCHEON MEETING – NO APRIL MEETING

HOLY CROSS EASTER SCHEDULE

Holy Week and Easter Services
April 14th: Palm Sunday 8:00am
April 15th: Maundy Thursday 6:00pm
April 16th: Good Friday 11:00am
April 20th: The Great Easter Vigil 9:00pm
April 21st: Easter Day 8:00am
Easter Breakfast 9:00am
Easter Egg Hunt 9:15am
Easter Rite II 10:30am

EASTER BRUNCH
A Holy Cross tradition you do not want to miss! All are welcome to join us for Easter Brunch at 9:15am in the Genesis Room. Please bring a dish of your choice to share with everyone as we celebrate the risen Savior.

Holy Cross children’s ministry is accepting donations of individually wrapped candies or pre-stuffed Easter eggs for our annual Easter egg hunt. Please bring donations by Sunday, April 14th. For additional information please contact Heather Johnson at heather@holycrosstrussville.org.

Bring your children and join us on Easter Sunday, April 21st for our Easter Eggstravaganza, Easter egg hunt. There will be age-appropriate egg hunts for children, toddler to 12 years of age. The hunt will start at 9:15 a.m. Your little bunnies are sure to get more eggs than they can carry in their basket!

Easter Eggstravaganza

APRIL
Jenna Varnadore April 5th
Kaylee Rose Perry April 6th
Isaac Okoro April 8th
Chuck Ferry April 8th
Louise Wood April 9th
Ginger Meadows April 9th
Lee Amerson April 11th
Lee Jones April 12th
Matt Mathews April 15th
Mark Lewis April 17th
Elaine Tindall-Bobh April 18th
Regina Lewis April 19th
Susan Southwick April 21st
Jennifer Bodnar April 22nd
Joy O’Donnell April 24th
Joan Brooks April 29th
John Carlito April 29th

MOVIE ON THE LAWN
Saturday evening, April 13th. Holy Cross will present the movie Peter Rabbit. Food trucks arrive at 6:00pm and the movie begins at dusk. Peter and his three sisters, Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail, enjoy spending their days in Mr. McGregor’s forbidden vegetable garden. One day, a relative of Mr. McGregor moves in and is less than thrilled to find the rascally rabbits in the garden. A battle of the wills soon breaks out among this delightful cast of characters.

PARISH CLEAN-UP/WORK DAY – COME ONE, COME ALL
and help with our Spring Cleaning and the beautification of our church grounds on Saturday, April 13th at 9:30am. If you have yard tools and gloves, bring them, or just bring yourself to spruce up things in preparation for Easter Sunday (April 21st). If you have any questions, contact Reese Booth at 205-276-4727 or by email at ReeseBooth@gmail.com.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT 2019 LENTEN WEEKDAY PREACHING SERIES
(continuing through Good Friday, April 19th) Services are from 12:05 to 12:30pm with Lenten lunch following until 1:00pm. Father Wes will be the speaker on Friday, April 5th.

COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND LUNCHEONS AT TRUSSVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:
On Monday, April 15th through Good Friday, April 19th. Holy Week services begin each day at noon with a sermon, followed by lunch at 12:30pm. Holy Cross ECW is scheduled to provide the meal and host the luncheon on Monday, April 15th. Volunteers who can help cook and serve on that day should contact Alice Dini at 205-937-4436 or Laurie Nabors at 205-902-8944. Father Wes is scheduled to give the sermon on Good Friday, April 19th.

LENTEN STUDY: Weekdays, April 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 6pm, we will continue to meet for a fellowship meal followed by the third of three of our five-week study series of the powerful Book of Acts. It’s not too late to participate. Sign-up sheets for these Wednesday night Lenten studies are in the Narthex on the ministry table.

HOPE ON A THOUSAND HILLS, GASABO DIOCESE, RWANDA
I hope you were able to hear Matthew Vonherbulis when he visited Holy Cross in 2017. He described a wonderful ministry restoring agriculture and spreading the Gospel in Rwanda. Hope on a Thousand Hills ministers through evangelism, education, nutrition and agriculture. The local church is central to all these facets. Children are educated and receive nutritional support at church-based schools. The work of the agriculture program is spread through the parishes; the priests and lay pastors of the diocese seek to plant new churches. The mission provides scholarships for these pastors and also supports programs to teach and support women caring for their families in poverty. Father Wes and members of Holy Cross are considering a visit to Rwanda to learn more about this mission this summer and will be making final decisions and plans this month. Please pray for these decisions. You can learn more at www.hopeonathousandhills.org and give a Gift of Hope to support any of the ministry areas.

CROSS LIFE UPDATE
It’s been an eventful month for Cross Life (ECY)! We are getting deeper and further into the book of John, but we’ve taken a break to join the rest of the church in its study of Acts during Lent. We were also blessed this month with a free group bowling certificate from Becky Weiter; the youth had a great time! The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a smashing success. We are so grateful for all those who came and donated to the youth fund. Additionally, Cross Life is setting up a Facebook page that will be available to the church soon. Coming up in April, Cross Life will be participating in a walking tour of downtown Birmingham put on by the Civil Rights institute. It is free and all are welcome to attend (see Jason for more details). Now that Spring is upon us we are also planning to go on hikes and help plant a small garden at the church. Thank you again to everyone for your continual support and encouragement!