



EPISCOPAL
CHURCH HOLY CROSS

90 Parkway Drive | Trussville, AL 35173

205.655.7668 | www.holycrosstrussville.org

Rector: The Rev. Wes Sharp

Deacon: The Rev. Dn. Susan Southwick

Organist & Director of Music: Justin R. Finch

Children's Minister: Heather Johnson

Parish Administrator: Janice Ridgeway

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Trussville, AL 35173
PERMIT NO. 52



AUGUST
2018

the **PATHWAY**
CHURCH of the HOLY CROSS NEWSLETTER

HEARING GOD IN THE SILENCE

I don't know about you but there have been times when I have struggled to connect with the Lord, and certainly times where I cannot hear his voice. The Psalmist said in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." The reality of that action is really challenging when life is happening at lightning speed all around us. We are part of clubs, groups, sports, bible studies, and a host of other things. These are not bad things at all, in fact, they are very good things to be involved in, but sometimes they add to the craziness that is "Life." In the midst of that craziness it becomes increasingly difficult to stop and spend time with God, and even more challenging to hear a "still small voice." Nevertheless, I do believe the Psalmist was on to something that is necessary. BE STILL!

It is critically important in the life of a Christian to spend time daily with the Lord studying his word, praying, and engaging in worship. We need all those things to have a healthy relationship with God and not just a Sunday morning rendezvous. When we spend time with the Lord daily, our Sunday worship becomes even more rich and engaging.

You may be reading this and saying, "Well sure the priest is supposed to have time with the Lord daily, it's his job." Okay, all my cards are on the table... there are days that the craziness of life gets the best of me and my time with the Lord is compromised or neglected. You see, I'm as human as the next and I have to work at my relationship with the Lord just as you do, but even when it doesn't come easy, we can't give up and hope to grow in our relationship with Him by happenstance. Imagine what my relationship with my wife would look like if I said, "Let's talk for one hour a week and not spend any other time together and see how it goes." Married or not, you know exactly how that is going to go, yet we sometimes treat our relationship with God the same way.

What do we do with this thought?

You might be saying, "My personal time with the Lord is dry, stagnant, or non-existent and I want it to change." First it requires the commitment to say I'm going to make it a priority to spend time with the Lord. It can be difficult to just dive right in at times, especially when my heart is not ready. I find it helpful to begin my time in prayer or the study of the word by easing in and setting the tone. I personally will listen to something worshipful to get in the right frame of mind. Dean Pearson, Advent Cathedral, says of this practice "one has to be careful not to let that which is meant simply to prime the pump to become the main thing. The whole point is to hear God speak through his word plainly... these tools can be windows, but they should never be the focus of our spiritual attention." This is wise advice as we need to hear God's word. We must not substitute it with something else.

Today. This week. This month. I want to encourage you to engage with God daily. Be consistent and, if it doesn't come easy, be patient and wait on the Lord. Let us join with the Psalmist in being still (Ps 46) and waiting for the Lord (Ps 130).

Faithfully Yours,

Wes +

Psalm 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.



Holy Cross is dedicated to raising up faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, committed to genuine Worship, loving Fellowship, and passionate Mission.

a message from our

senior **WARDEN**

I hope everyone is enjoying this summer and having fun on their vacations! Our junior warden, David Meadows, is back from his vacation and ready to get back to work on several projects. He recently held a meeting of his kitchen remodeling committee and is preparing to get started on that project. During that meeting we discussed a lot of issues that the current budget will not cover.

During our last Vestry meeting an idea was floated to ask members of the church to help fund various projects. This is not a specific fund raiser but a way for members to help fund a project they support, such as the kitchen or the conference room. We are also going to need help to fix the repeated flooding issues in the narthex and we are currently talking with a several contractors for bids. If there is a specific project you'd like to help fund let us know or make a dedicated contribution to that project. Every little bit helps!

The most recently completed project is the Sacristy which has new cabinets. Some repairs have been made to the plumbing and hot water heater. Next time you are at Holy Cross, feel free to take a look at the excellent work that has been done.

In others news, Bonnie Powers resigned from the Vestry in June leaving a vacant spot on the vestry. Because Bonnie was in her last year on the Vestry we have decided to leave the seat vacant until the upcoming election in October. The vestry will function with eight members in the interim. Bonnie will be missed, but we wish her and her family many blessings in their journey ahead.

Roy Wood / Sr. Warden

what's HAPPENING?

- **Sunday School Resumes** - The Rector's Forum and Children's Sunday School will resume on August 12th at 9:15am. The Rector's forum will begin with a three-week series on "The Creeds of the Church." We will take a look at the two major creeds of the church: The Apostles and Nicene as well as brief look at the Athanasian Creed found in the BCP on page 864. Grab a cup of coffee and plan to join us.
- **Wednesday Night Teaching** - The Discipleship Committee is making the final plans of putting together our Fall Wednesday night program. Starting September 5th we will be offering several different adult classes along with activities for children as well. Check our website and Facebook for information on topics and times.
- **Worship Team Training** - On Saturday, August 25th from 9-11am, we will have a worship team training for all existing and new members who serve as part of our weekly worship team. That means if you are interested in being a LEM, Acolyte, Usher, or Greeter, or Lector/Reader please plan to attend. If you already serve in one of these positions please plan to attend to hear of some of the new changes we are making to help communication go much smoother.
- **A New Ministry** - Starting this fall we will begin to implement a new ministry called Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) into the life of Holy Cross. This is a ministry that practices being the "hands and feet of Jesus" in particular to our shut-in and home-bound members. These trained volunteers will take communion to the shut-ins on Sunday after church and visit with them as a representation of Christ and His church. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please plan to attend the Saturday, August 25th meeting from 9-11am.

what's HAPPENING?

- **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)** - Summer is almost over, so it is time to gather and share our summer adventures. ECW will meet Wednesday, August 22 at 6:30pm in the Genesis Room. Bring your sombrero. The plans and meetings for the fall will be discussed. After the business agenda is completed the "hat dancing" entertainment will start. See you on August 22nd.
*A taco dinner will be provided after the meeting.
- **Call for Directory Updates** - The next printing of the Holy Cross directory will take place in September. We are in the process of updating our online database to have an accurate printing. If you have changed addresses or phone numbers recently, please contact Janice in the church office to let her know of the change. Also, if you prefer not to have your information printed publicly please inform the office as soon as possible. We are in discussion with several companies concerning an upcoming pictorial directory. Stay tuned for dates and details.
- **Holy Cross Choir** - Choir rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, August 7th at 6:30pm. The choir rehearses each Tuesday evening and meets at 9:30am to warm up and to rehearse on Sunday mornings. If you're interested in joining the choir, please contact Justin Finch (justin@holycrosstrussville.org).
- **Meeting the needs of the Hungry** - TEAM has a new location, located at 147 N. Chalkville Road, Trussville, Alabama 35173. Each week we continue to accept donations at Holy Cross for the TEAM ministry in our community. Next time you are at the grocery store, pick up that extra non-perishable food item and bring it by the church. We'll make sure it gets into the hands of the right people to help those in need.
- **Ladies Night Out** is scheduled for Thursday, August 30th (not our regular night) at 6:30pm at The Filling Station, located at 5524 Crestwood Boulevard, Birmingham. We will meet at Holy Cross @ 5:45pm, and the car pool will leave for the restaurant at 6:00pm. Contact Karen Bain at 655-9283 or 612-9833 if you have any questions. Bring your suggestions for September's night out.

HAPPY Birthday TO YOU!

August

		Dave Jamieson	15
		Noel Cain	16
		Karen Mann	18
		Helen Perry	19
		Mark Strickland	21
		Adeliz Smith-Duran	21
		Will Mize	22
		Tina Willis	25
		Mac McQueen	28
		Michael Turner	31
Grace Pate	6		
Jacob Rushing	8		
Victoria Lewis	8		
Sarah Pate	8		
Peggy Nguyen	9		
Grady Lancaster	11		
Brody O'Donnell	12		

FEEDING AMERICA: BY THE NUMBERS*

41,200,000

AMERICANS ARE FOOD INSECURE.
(Meaning they don't know when or how they'll get their next meal)

WANT TO DO SOMETHING?
One way to stem the tide of hunger is via neighborhood food banks. They need three things: money, your time, and food. If you plan on donating food, here are the nonperishable items food pantries need most:

- Applesauce
- Boxed meals
- Canned beans
- Canned chicken
- Canned chili
- Canned fish (tuna, salmon)
- Canned meat (Spam, ham)
- Canned vegetables
- Cooking oils
- Crackers
- Dried herbs and spices
- Fruit (canned or dried)
- Granola bars
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Nuts
- Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Rice
- Shelf-stable milk
- Soup
- Stew
- Whole-grain cereal

(Note: Avoid items with glass or cellophane packaging because they can be broken in transport. Pop-top cans are a plus—no opener needed.)

13

MILLION AMERICAN CHILDREN FACE HUNGER—THAT'S 1 IN 6 KIDS.

1.5

MILLION veterans receive food stamps.

18.7%

of Mississippians are food insecure.
(Highest rate of all states)

5.4

MILLION senior citizens currently face food insecurity in America. Lack of transportation, functional limitations, and health problems are major factors.

8.7%

of Hawaiians are food insecure.
(Lowest rate of all states)

\$1

donated to Feeding America will buy 10 meals for people facing hunger in America.

*Trusted Media Brands—Reader's Digest's parent company—has become an official media partner of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief charity. See how you can help our efforts at feedingamerica.org.