MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:

Muraho (That is Rwandan for Hello),

I’m writing this as we finish another day of ministry in the Gasura Parish of Rwanda. What an experience this has been for our team. The Sowers of Hope ministry has such a huge impact in Rwanda and now has more than 600 farmers that have come through their program to make a difference in their community. Don’t worry, we have taken a ton of pictures and will have many stories to tell when we return.

One of the biggest things we have all been encouraged to do, is observe and learn from this culture, and to think through the impacts the Rwandan culture can have in Trussville. If you are like me, you might be thinking there is a big gap. We are more than 5000 miles apart, and their culture has some stark differences. Their ways of driving would make any American crazy. So, what could we learn?

One of the greatest characteristics of Rwandans is the idea of “we.” After experiencing a genocide 25 years ago that took the life of more than 800,000 Rwandans, all at the hands of fellow countrymen, the country took on the identity of “We.” We are Rwandans and we are one. What runs even deeper in Rwanda is that we are one body in Christ. The Anglican church is stronger than ever as they walk through the healing process with so many. The beautiful thing is that the Anglican roots run all over the world as we say in one accord when we worship, “We believe…” Know that when we say the words of the Nicene creed, the “We” represents the entire body of Christ around the world.

So, one of the many things I will take away from our time in Rwanda, is that we are never alone in the faith. The saints around the world join together as one church to worship the one, true, and living God. Our Anglican roots give us the incredible privilege of a common prayer book that joins us in one voice to worship and proclaim the transforming power of Christ in our lives. We are all one!

I look forward to sharing more of our experience with you. Until our return, “amahoro n’umugisha” (peace and blessings).

In Christ,

[Signature]

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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**

It’s summertime and Holy Cross has been buzzing with activities! The Johnson and Sharp families spearheaded a very successful rummage sale, Saturday, June 29th. Thanks to parishioners who donated and priced items and worked the day of the sale. The team also sold BLTs. Janice and Dale sold their homemade ice-cream as Mike Rohr smoked 30 Boston Butts. All proceeds were donated to the Rwanda Mission trip.

Other summer activities included our Fourth of July dinner in the Genesis Room which featured Mike Rohr’s tasty smoked pork and Father Wes’s perfectly cooked hot dogs. Forty parishioners and guests enjoyed this delicious meal followed by festivities on the Trussville Mall, concluding with a beautiful fireworks display.

On July 7th and 10th, Alex Nabors (Laurie’s son) conducted a three-hour CPR and AED class in the Holy Cross Genesis Room. Twenty-nine people were trained and now we are ready to install our AED defibrillator. On Saturday evening, July 31st, we had our Movie on the Lawn, complete with food trucks and toe-tapping music provided by the Mobile Home Boys band. On Sunday, July 21st following the 10:30am service, Faye and Tom Kinstler generously hosted a very special send-off for our Rwanda Mission Team who departed that afternoon.

I feel so blessed to be a member of such an active and giving church as Holy Cross. At every turn, I witness parishioners lovingly volunteering their time and talents—hosting our coffee fellowship hour on Sundays, working with the Altar and Flower Guilds, singing in our choir, serving in various capacities during our worship services, folding our Pathway monthly newsletters, repairing and remodeling our church building, and the list goes on. Again, thank you Holy Cross!

May we continue to grow in peace and love as we serve each other and Christ our Lord!

Cindy Wester
205-706-7187
what’s HAPPENING?

YEEHAW- VBS - FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 & 3
Saddle up for a trailblazing weekend of fun! Kids will kick up their heels at Yee-Haw VBS as they stampede through the wild frontier and celebrate the greatest truth of all — God is good!!! (Ages 3 to 12). The weekend schedule is: Friday — 5:30pm to 8:00pm and Saturday — 9:00am to 1:30pm. To register online, go to onealm.org.

A GATHERING OF ELDERS WEEKEND RETREAT SEPT. 6TH- 3:00PM TO SEPT. 8TH – 11:00AM
Presented by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, this relaxing weekend is for you if you are 65 or older. Come to Camp McDowell this fall and discuss what is important in your life; share stories, fun, and prayers with friends — old and new! Cost is $360 per couple, or $178 if you share the room. Scholarships will be available. Registration continues through Friday, August 16th with a $50 deposit per person to hold the reservation. The rest is due the first day of camp. If you have further questions, contact Susan Southwick at smartsue@juno.com.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
Our next luncheon meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28th at 11:15am. Bring your own sandwich and we will provide sides, drinks and desserts. Heads-up for those ladies who have a daytime job. ECW will have an evening dinner meeting, on Thursday, September 19th beginning at 6:00pm. After dinner, there will be a short meeting to discuss plans for our “Soup & Sweets Sale” (scheduled for Saturday, October 20th) and a date for our UTO Fall Ingathering. The evening will end with fun and games.

CROSS LIFE UPDATE
Back to school is right around the corner! The easy living of summer time is almost over. Cross Life is excited to welcome back Aiden and Davis as they return from a mission trip to Rwanda. Trips like this are formative in a young person’s life, and we can’t wait to hear how God has impacted Aiden and Davis through their experiences! Additionally, we will have a Back-to-School Bash on August 7 from 5-8pm. We’ll play games, eat good food, and have a great time! Then, we will take a two-week break (Aug. 14 & 21) and reconvene on Wednesday, August 28th. -JASON

TWO THUMBS UP TO HEATHER JOHNSON!
HEATHER is among those selected for the 2019-2020 class of Alabama Schweitzer Fellows by the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama. The new fellows will continue ASF’s mission to prepare the next generation of professionals to serve and empower vulnerable people to live healthier lives and create healthier communities. Congratulations, Heather!

AUGUST
Grace Pate August 6 Grady Lancaster August 11
Victoria Lewis August 8 Brody O’Donnell August 12
Sarah Pate August 8 Mark Strickland August 21
Peggy Nguyen August 9 Mac McQueen August 28

what’s HAPPENING?

A BIG thank you to...

Robert Davis and David Meadows, who worked hard on their hands and knees removing the old tile in the parish office hallway to prepare for the new flooring.

Everyone who put in countless hours to make the rummage sale and B&J sale a successful fundraiser for our Rwanda team. This fundraiser allowed all the team to reach their financial needs to make the trip. All funds raised have gone to cover flights, travel in Rwanda, food during our trip, and educational materials for ministry training prior and during our mission. Again, thanks to everyone who contributed with your time and finances to make this mission trip a reality. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you, as well as many pictures, when we return. Sincerely, Father Wes, Aiden, Carol, Davis, and Tyler

TREASURE’S REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2019
I was able to give a very positive report following the first three months of 2019. Tithes and offerings had exceeded expectations by more than 21%! At the end of the second quarter, the financial news is not as encouraging. While overall, year-to-date contributions have totaled slightly more than was projected in the budget, the last three months have been significantly different than the first three. I am sorry to report that after exceeding our pledge commitments by 3.7% in the first quarter, in the second quarter we fell short by just over 12%. Fortunately, second quarter plate contributions, from those who made no pledge, exceeded budget expectations by over 25%. Even so, overall tithes and offerings for the second quarter fell short of expectations by 3.5%. Halfway through the year, donations to the parish remain 2.78% ahead of budget projections.

Expenses during the second quarter have been significant, exceeding budget allocations by over 9%. With this being offset by savings in the first quarter, year to date expenses have exceeded budget projections by 2.5%. I feel certain that the staff and vestry can adjust in the remainder of the year bringing total annual expenses in line with budget allocations.

Revenue

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Net

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Net + $6,411.43

I am confident that God will continue to provide for the Church of the Holy Cross. I believe that through focused prayer, increased membership, and faithful giving, the fiscal needs of the Church will be met as we make disciples and “Transform Hearts for the Glory of God”.

-JAMES PATTERSON

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