



EPISCOPAL
CHURCH *of the* 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: Tom Meacham

Children's Minister: Heather Johnson

Student Minister: Jason Varnadore

Parish Administrator: Janice Ridgeway

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AUGUST
2020

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

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: We pray for our Parish Family: For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially: **Diane Adams, Bill Wester, Hilde Davis, Gailya Sargent, Donica Creasy, Mary Allen, Dale Burch, Rosie McKinney, John Carlisto, Karen Bain, Tom Kinstler, Joan DaLee, Jean Barron, Jane Kerr, and Greg Wynn.** We pray for our Extended Parish Family: **Becky Varnadore** (Jason Varnadore's mother), **Lisa Phillips** (Catherine Proctor's sister-in-law), **Margo Lacy** (Catherine Proctor's sister), **Dakota Clark** (Dianne Adams' grandson), **Ryan Kemp & family** (Julie Barnard's nephew), **Terry Tranchina Travirca** (Inga Strickland's friend), **Ann Rogers** (Inga Strickland's friend), **Greg Wooten** (Anne Mayo's friend), **Layne Ross** (Laurie Nabors's friends), **Stoney Dawe** (Dale Burch's friend), **Linda Williams** (Karen Bain's friend), **David & Anna Marie Schaefer** (Dianne Adams' son and daughter-in-law), **Rusty Smith** (Gloria Smith's son), **Sybil Lewis** (Mark Lewis's mother), **Anthony Turner** (Susan Southwick's grandson), **Rick Nail** (Louise Wood's friend), **Pat Daniel** (Fran Bramblette's stepmother), **Cheryl Bannister** (Karen Krueger's friend), **Lindsey Lanning** (Catherine Proctor's friend), **Tara Harvey Kenney** (Inga Strickland's friend), **Brian Limbaugh** (Fran & Gracie Bramblette's friend), **Cindy & Jim Clark** (Dianne Adams's daughter and son-in-law), **Melissa Kuehn** (Inga Strickland's niece), **Rich Lakin** (Mike Rohr's friend), **Joyce Odewahn** (Anne Amick's mother), **Willy Holub** (Tom Kinstler's nephew), **Grace Calton** (Donica Creasy's daughter), **Laura Reichert** (friend of Laurie Nabors & Rosie McKinney), **Jan Plan** (Susan Caraway's friend), **Joseph Kahler, II** (Jennifer Bodnar's son), **James McIntyre** (Anne Mayo's friend), **Logan Keating** (Mary Allen's grandson), **Michael Lombardo & family** (Fran Bramblette and Stephanie Daniel's friends), **Pat Benefield** (Joan Brooks' friend), and **Brooks Caudle** (Camille Turner's great-nephew).

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:

A Final Farewell

Matthew 13 - "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear."

I've never been much of a gardener. In fact, no one has ever described me as having a "green thumb." About five years ago, I built some planter boxes and let the kids pick what they wanted to plant. Watermelons were the crowd favorite and knowing nothing about how to grow watermelons we planted them along with various other fruit and vegetable seeds. Let me tell you those watermelon seeds quickly sprouted up and grew so much that they took over every part of the planter boxes. There was no doubt in my mind we would eventually have watermelons. I'm convinced that if those vines could have talked, they would have shouted out their excitement to the heavens about their growth. Unfortunately, the other seeds in the planter boxes did not fare so well. While they were planted in the same good soil and had the same amount of water as the watermelon seeds, they grew best in a different growing season and required deeper soil than the planter box provided. My error was planting all these seeds together.

When we read the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13, Jesus speaks about sowing the seeds of the gospel and the fact that we never know when we plant these seeds if they will take root and grow in the heart of the hearers. My calling as a Rector is to plant the seeds of the Good News and provide the proper seasons for growth which I have done at Holy Cross for almost four years. I've had the great joy of watching some of these seeds grow and "bear fruit." My parting prayer is that by God's grace, the remaining seeds will continue to be watered and produce a bountiful crop.

May the Lord bless you all and keep you, make His face to shine upon you and give you His peace.

In Christ,

Father Wes

Wes +



SUSPENSION OF INDOOR FACE TO FACE WORSHIP:

Bishop Sloan has extended the suspension of inside face-to-face worship to **August 17, 2020**. We will keep you posted if anything changes.

TEAM UPDATE:

The TEAM office remains open each Monday and Friday from noon until 2:00pm. While, the building is still closed to the public, TEAM members will take food orders from clients in their vehicles and then bring the groceries out to them. We do not expect any changes in this arrangement until the beginning of 2021. At this time food donations are not needed since our client base is down, but we will let you know if things change. Please keep TEAM in your prayers as we do the best we can to help those in need during this difficult time.

-Courtney Dollar



TREASURER'S REPORT

There has certainly been a flurry of activity affecting the parish and many have contacted me regarding the financial situation of the Church. I will try to briefly go over where we are financially, and where we can expect to be in the future.

First, I think it is important that we are reminded of the overall parish budget, and the sources of revenue which support church operations and activities. Here are the total budget amounts for the previous three years:

2017:	Expenses -	\$239,900.95	Tithes and Offerings -	\$140,409.84
			Advent Contribution -	\$85,000.00
			Other Misc. Income -	\$5,252.92
			Total Revenue -	\$230,662.76
		Deficit - \$9,238.19		
2018:	Expenses -	\$252,352.93	Tithes and Offerings -	\$178,677.21
			Advent Contribution -	\$85,000.00
			Other Misc. Income -	\$3,549.01
			Total Revenue -	\$267,226.22
		Surplus - \$14,873.29		
2019:	Expenses -	\$270,688.34	Tithes and Offerings -	\$178,721.89
			Advent Contribution -	\$72,500.00
			Other Misc. Income -	\$3,552.28
			Total Revenue -	\$254,774.17
		Deficit - \$15,914.17		

Without the generous financial support received from the Cathedral Church of the Advent, it would have been impossible for Holy Cross to operate over the last several years without drastic reductions in expenses. That financial contribution was a temporary agreement, set to decline each year before being eliminated after 2022. The 2020 contribution was to have been \$60,000.00, 2021 - \$35,000.00 and 2022 - \$15,000.00. **(Continued on next page...)**

When preparing the 2020 budget, knowing that the Advent contribution was dropping by \$12,500.00 and that pledge commitments were down from the previous year, it was apparent that church expenditures must be reduced significantly. The Vestry chose not to adopt a full year budget, but instead passed a minimal three-month budget, in hopes that tithes and offerings would increase to allow more church activities to be fully funded later in the year.

In March, the Vestry extended that minimal budget by one month. All church expenditures except for personnel costs had been cut to the lowest possible amounts. With May approaching, the Vestry was faced with the responsibility of ensuring that the church remain solvent. Reluctantly, the decision was made to adopt a budget which reduced salaries for all personnel by 25% for the remainder of the year. The total annual budget amount for 2020 is \$215,509.85.

Many have asked if the suspension of services due to the pandemic has been the cause of financial distress. This is not the case, in fact, average weekly giving during the time since services were cancelled has been quite a bit higher than it was in the first part of the year. Tithes and offerings for 2020 are only moderately less than they were at this point in 2019.

Personnel costs, primarily the salary, housing, and benefit package of the Rector, is by far the largest expenditure of the church each year and is a high percentage of the total parish budget. That salary and benefit package has totaled as follows:

2017 - \$107,794.65	2019 - \$113,500.79
2018 - \$110,817.64	2020 - \$100,226.32*

*2020 figures are the annual budgeted amounts and include the May through December salary reduction. These figures represent what would have been paid out had the Rector continued employment for the full year as provided for by the Vestry.

Upon Father Wes' resignation, The Cathedral Church of the Advent gave notice that no further financial support would be forthcoming. While this is a significant reduction for this year, the overall expense reduction due to the resignation, coupled with Janice's retirement, more than compensates for that loss. At this point, barring any unforeseen major expenditures, I project that the church will finish this year within budget, despite the elimination of the remaining \$30,000.00 contribution from the Advent.

I am confident that the parish will be able to adjust and move forward in much stronger financial health. The generous giving of our parishioners will allow us to employ clergy to meet our spiritual needs, while maintaining an operating budget much more in line with what is appropriate for a church of our size. I feel certain that we will be able to once again support the ministries which are so dear to our hearts and important to our community.

JAMES PATTERSON

Treasurer



AUGUST

Anderson Pitts	3rd	Grady Lancaster	11th
Grace Pate	6th	Brody O'Donnell	12th
Jacob Rushing	8th	Dave Jamieson	15th
Victoria Lewis	8th	Mark Strickland	21st
Sarah Pate	8th	Mac McQueen	28th
Peggy Nguyen	9th	Michael Turner	31st