



EPISCOPAL
CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

90 Parkway Drive | Trussville, AL 35173

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Rector: The Rev. Wes Sharp

Deacon: The Rev. Dn. Susan Southwick

Organist & Director of Music: Justin R. Finch

Children's Minister: Heather Johnson

Student Minister: Jason Varnadore

Parish Administrator: Janice Ridgeway

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DEC 2018
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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.

a message from our

senior **WARDEN**

The Vestry election is complete and we now have four new members. Congratulations to Reese, Fran, Louise, and Jo. I am sure they will all do a wonderful job as we continue to move Holy Cross forward. I also want to say it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as a member of the Vestry these past three years. In closing, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and don't forget our Contemporary Worship Service on the 5th Sunday, December 30 at 10:30am. God bless and a Happy New Year!

A THANK YOU AND A WELCOME – It is with heartfelt gratitude that we say “good-bye” to vestry members Dave Meadows, Mike Rohr, and Roy Wood. We sincerely appreciate all your hard work, dedication, and many hours spent in service to Holy Cross. We also welcome our incoming members as follows: Reese Booth (3-year term), Fran Bramlette (3-year term), Louise Wood (3-year term), and Jo Grove (1-year term). Thank you for volunteering your time and talent in service to our parish.

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:

Well, here we are again, on the heels of Christmas entering into the Advent season. It is truly one of my favorite times of the year. A time for families to be together, meals to be shared and, most importantly, for Christ to be honored. Christ being honored is indeed the most important and often the most forgotten, at least in the craziness of the world around us. Stores are crazy, and people often get that way as well, as they look for the best deal that cannot be found at any other time of the year, or at least so they think. Often, the anticipation is not as much for Jesus, as it is for the gifts under the tree or time to spend with family. Don't hear me wrong, those are wonderful things to anticipate and to celebrate, but they really are not the “reason for the season.”

The Advent season exists to increase in our hearts the anticipation of Christ's birth. His birth would literally change the course of history and bring redemption to a lost world. Now, that is certainly something to anticipate and to get excited about! I had a priest friend say it like this, “I can't wait to get the Advent candle up so that I can wait for Christmas.” Admittedly, that made me smile, as very few would express the anticipation quite like that, but it is so true. That little Advent candle reminds us of what is to come: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace all through Christ the King. A 19th century bishop named J.C. Ryle is quoted as saying “Live for eternity, seek a portion of something that can never be taken away from you.” Advent reminds us that we live for something more than what this earth has to offer.

Are you at the “can't wait” stage in life that seeks Christ above all things? I believe to fully get to that place, it does require us to be disillusioned with what the world has to offer. Jesus spoke of this to his disciples, who often worried about various things when he said in Matthew's Gospel, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these other things will be added to you.” (6:33) This Christmas, strive to seek the Kingdom of God first and trust He will add to you the things which you need. May you experience the Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace of Christ this season and every season.

Joyfully Yours,

Wes +
Wes



what's **HAPPENING?**

- **THE ANGEL TREE** at Holy Cross is assisting six Trussville community families who are undergoing hardship this Christmas season. Many angels have been taken but many are still left on the tree. If you haven't already, please select at least one angel, replace it with an ornament, and sign off on the master sheet indicating the angel(s) you chose. Then return your wrapped gift(s) with the corresponding angel attached on the outside and place the item(s) under the tree no later than Tuesday, December 18th. Cash donations are also thankfully accepted. Other opportunities to participate in this ministry are shopping for food items or delivery of gifts to one of the families.
- **POINSETTIA ORDERS** A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for Poinsettia orders. The cost is \$15 each and 25 plants are available. Checks should be made to Holy Cross indicating "poinsettia."
- **JENNIE JUNE CROLY STUDY CLUB:** invites all Holy Cross parishioners to their Annual Christmas Coffee on Thursday, December 6th, 11:00am to 2:00pm, at the Trussville Civic Center. Please come and bring your family and friends.
- **ECW/LADIES' NIGHT OUT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12th at 6:30pm in the Genesis Room. Come in your lovely Christmas red, green and glitter finest to celebrate the Season Blessed wishes with each other. Check the Sunday bulletin for further details.

ECW annual dues of \$12.00 are due for the upcoming year (2019). Checks should be made payable to Holy Cross ECW and placed in our mail slot or given to Karen Bain. This money helps with the many projects ECW does for Holy Cross and other ministries. Thank you.
- **A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be presented at Holy Cross on Saturday, December 15th at 6:00pm. In this historic service, we hear the whole story of our disobedience in the Garden of Eden, on through to the glorious act of redemption brought to us by the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, told in song and scripture. We hope you will make plans to attend.
- **HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CAROLING:** Join us on Wednesday, December 19th, for a night of Christmas fellowship and fun! We will begin at 5:30pm with dinner. Then, we will go Christmas caroling in the neighborhood surrounding the church. Finally, we will return to decorate and eat Christmas cookies. Hope to see you there!

HAPPY
Birthday
TO YOU!

DECEMBER		JANUARY	
Karyn Jones	2nd	Sean O'Donnell	2nd
Nance Wynn	2nd	Alyce Daniel	6th
Thomas Mann	2nd	Bill Fyfe	15th
Melissa Williamson	5th	Mike Rohr	20th
Jo Grove	5th	Faye Kinstler	23rd
Ethan Williamson	11th	Camille Turner	25th
Aiden Johnson	16th	Mary Mize	26th
Nolan Amberson	17th	Marilyn Sibley	27th
Courtney Dollar	18th	Gracie Bramblette	31st
David Meadows	29th		

what's **HAPPENING?**

- **THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH** will be held on Sunday, December 23rd after the 10:30 service. All serving on the Flower and Altar Guilds need to attend and others are welcome to lend a helping hand if they would like and are available.
- **CONGRATULATIONS TO ISAAC & GEORGINA OKORO** who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary December 23, 2018!
- **MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY** is beginning use of the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy as its study topic. It meets on Friday mornings, 6:30-7:30am, in the Genesis Room. Breakfast (BYO--"bring your own") is during the first half hour. Bible study is during the second half hour. Newcomers are welcome!
- **PARISH FAMILY BINGO NIGHT AND FUN** is scheduled for Friday, January 18th at 6:30pm. Those interested in planning this event should meet in the Genesis Room, Tuesday, January 8th at 2:15pm.
- **ECW MEETING:** The first ECW meeting of 2019 will be Wednesday, January 23rd at 11:15am in the Genesis Room. We will develop plans for the Super Bowl Soups & Sweets Sale for Sunday, February 3rd.
- **LADIES' NIGHT OUT** will meet at The Palace, Thursday, January 24th at 6:30pm celebrate the Chinese New Year! A sign-up sheet will be in the Genesis Room. For questions, contact Karen Bain @ 205-612-9833.
- **TRUSSVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE** is scheduled for Saturday, December 8th beginning at 3:00pm. Holy Cross will serve hot chocolate to the chilly Christmas Parade watchers and need at least eight to ten volunteers to help. We also need several hot-beverage dispensers. Please contact Mike Rohr at (205) 907-2797 to volunteer.
- **MISSION PARTNER UPDATE:**
Hope on a Thousand Hills Rwanda continues to thrive in the ministry of sustainable agriculture and the planting of the Gospel for local residents of more than 10 parishes. The VonHerbulis family is doing incredible work through the Lord's strength and, with the help of other missionaries, will assist more than 400 new farmers in the coming year. Please pray for their continued health, for the Lord's strength to sustain them in this upcoming year of new ministry growth, and for the Holy Spirit to continue to change hearts and lives of farmers and their families.

If you are looking for gift ideas for Christmas, and a way to support their ministry, please be sure to check out their "Gift of Hope" magazine and consider giving a family in Rwanda a few rabbits, goats, or a variety of other possibilities.

