



EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

90 Parkway Drive | Trussville, AL 35173

205.655.7668 | [www.holycrosstrussville.org](http://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

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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Trussville, AL 35173  
PERMIT NO. 52



NOVEMBER  
2018

*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**

As my three-year term on the vestry winds down, I marvel at the progress made during this time. This vestry worked diligently seeking out and hiring a new rector, budgeting and overseeing the completion of several church renovation projects, and initiating new outreach programs.

One of these programs that has been so successful is our Halloween alternative--Trunk or Treat. Last year's turnout was so large it caught us off-guard, and this year surprised us again with between four and five hundred participants. A big thanks to all who opened their trunks as well as those who helped grill hotdogs and worked in the kitchen. Well done, Holy Cross!

We are pleased to announce that we have a new Director of Youth Ministries, Jason Varnadore, who comes to us from Beeson Divinity School. This past Sunday Jason met with many church members, especially those with children, to answer questions and outline some of his goals for our youth. If you've not already been introduced to Jason, please give him a Holy Cross welcome and make him feel at home. We look forward to seeing our Youth Ministry grow under his direction.

**VESTRY ELECTIONS ARE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH:** Three vestry positions are up for election this year. If you are interested in putting your name forward for serving or for more information and detailed list of qualifications and duties, contact me at [rwood9876@yahoo.com](mailto:rwood9876@yahoo.com) or Fr. Wes at the church office.

Roy Wood / Sr. Warden

**THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF CHRIST**

For months now you have heard me preach and teach on how Jesus longs to change the heart of who we are into a heart that is more like his. This is relevant to the new believer, the longtime faithful believer, and all who fall in between. The evil one will often convince believers that there is no need to "read, mark, and inwardly digest," God's word in such a way that it changes the way we live. This lie told by Satan is one that breeds contentment in the life of the believer and ultimately within the church. We simply cannot be content with mediocrity in our Christian faith. The Great Commission calls us to discipleship, and Revelation 7 gives us the end product of living a life worthy of the call. Growth and change are essential in the life of a Christian but these two areas can be costly. The Gospel calls us to get out of our comfort zone and reach into the depths of the community and culture so as to invite others to join in the change. It calls us to be convicted of our pride, our prejudices, and our comfort in such a way that those convictions begin to shape the way we do things, our practices.

Because of the convictions, as your priest and pastor for people to be in a growing relationship with Christ, I have invited a group of people from within our church to engage in the next small step to begin the conversation of convictions and practice. This group will focus our attention on the call from Colossians 1 where Paul writes, "28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me."

This group, called The Vine Project Team, is made up of young and old, vestry and non-vestry, staff and non-staff in order to get the most comprehensive understanding of our church. We will be looking at how to best guide our church into the vision of "Transforming the hearts of people for the Glory of God." I believe the Lord has given us a harvest field and I want to see Holy Cross embrace what it looks like to see Trussville reached with the Gospel of Jesus.

For some, this may bring a bit of anxiety as transformation often brings change. The goal is to equip everyone in such a way that the Gospel changes the practices of home life, work life, small groups, and even the way we approach worship on Sunday. When it does so we begin to bring others along in the journey of faith. For those who may be curious to learn more of an overall understanding of The Vine Project, I would encourage you to ask me questions. You can also be assured that as we pursue the overall goal of discipleship and evangelism that you will be informed throughout the process. As the Holy Spirit leads we will communicate!

Finally, I would ask that you keep The Vine Project Team in your prayers as we move through the process. Those who are part of the team are: Susan Southwick, Julie Barnard, Cindy Wester, Heather Johnson, Jason Varnadore, Phillip Johnson, James Patterson, and Mac McQueen. I know each of them covet your prayers as they do not take lightly this call to participate in this important task ahead of them.

In Christ,

*Wes* +  
Wes



# what's **HAPPENING?**

- **ADVENT FAMILY WREATH MAKING** The flower guild will be hosting an Advent wreath making clinic on Wednesday, November 28th, at 6pm in the Genesis Room. All supplies needed for you and your family to make your own Advent Wreath will be supplied for \$12 per family. We will serve a meal between 5:30-6:00pm, catered by Costa's Mediterranean for only \$5 per person. Plan to join us as we kick off the Advent season as a church family.
- **A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be offered on Sunday, December 2 (the first Sunday of Advent) during the 10:30 service. In a world where Christmas decorations appear at Halloween, and the hustle of the holiday season has already begun, we will take the time to pause and reflect on the meaning of it all — the birth of a little baby, not in the glorious majesty worthy of the King we know him to be, but in a dirty Bethlehem stable. We will prepare ourselves also, that he might be born in us so that we might proclaim his message of love and peace to the world so desperately in need of Him. We hope you will join us as we listen, sing, and pray for his coming. (Note - This service will not include Holy Communion, but will feature different readings and a different homily from that of the 8:00 service. If you normally attend the 8:00 service, it would not be redundant to come to both services on December 2.)
- **HOLY CROSS YOUTH (EYC):** A message from our Youth Minister...Greetings Church of the Holy Cross! I have had the chance to meet several of you at this point, and I look forward to growing in community with the whole church. My wife (Jenna), daughter (River), and I recently moved from Greenville, SC so that I could attend Beeson Divinity School. I have worked with youth for nearly five years, and I strongly believe that youth ministry should center around relationship, both with each other and with God. Our gatherings will consist of a meal, Bible study and time of prayer. Additionally, we plan to hold a quarterly youth event involving either recreation, community service or a cooperative gathering with other churches. On Wednesday, November 7 at 6pm we will hold a youth dinner at the Church. Please let me know of any youth who plan to attend. For our first meeting, Jenna and I would like to prepare a dinner consisting of the various favorite foods the students may have. Adults are welcome to attend! Just let Jenna and me know so we can plan accordingly. We, the Varnadores, are thrilled to be serving at Church of the Holy Cross.

-Jason

HAPPY  
**Birthday**  
TO YOU!

## November

|                    |    |             |    |
|--------------------|----|-------------|----|
| Jon Williamson     | 2  | June McKaig | 29 |
| Jack Brannan       | 2  | Edra Perry  | 30 |
| Molly Gossage      | 8  | Billy Perry | 30 |
| Jack Wood          | 9  |             |    |
| Mary Brooks Browne | 10 |             |    |
| Katie Amberson     | 22 |             |    |
| Elliot Sharp       | 24 |             |    |

# what's **HAPPENING?**

- **MOVIE ON THE LAWN:** *The Star (The Story of the First Christmas)* will be our next movie scheduled for **Saturday, November 17th**. A small but brave donkey named "Bo" and his animal friends become the unsung heroes of this animated film about the first Christmas. Food trucks will be on-site, beginning at 5:00pm. The movie will begin at dark.
- **ECW LUNCHEON/REPORT:** ECW this Fall has been great! Our rummage sale brought in \$1,051. Thanks to all who worked Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and to all who contributed sale items. We also want to thank the Lovelady Center for their prompt response to take off our hands all unsold items. Our monthly luncheon is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 28th** at 11:15am in the Genesis Room (bring your own sandwich) during which time we will finalize Christmas party plans and our "Soups and Sweets Sale" for the 2019 Super Bowl Sunday.
- **LADIES' NIGHT OUT** is scheduled for Thursday, November 29th, at 6:30pm at The Olive Garden in the Trussville Pinnacle. We will not carpool but meet in the restaurant parking lot.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** 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!
- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY RESCHEDULED:** Due to inclement weather, our scheduled October 20th workday for the home located at 4829 Avenue E, Ensley was canceled and rescheduled for **Saturday, November 3rd**, from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Volunteers should sign up at the ministry table in the Narthex.
- **RWANDA MISSION INFORMATION:** On **Sunday, November 11th**, following our 10:30am service, we will meet to provide details and answer questions regarding our **July 2019 mission trip to Rwanda**. If you are interested in joining our mission team or would like to hear more about our ministry to this country, we encourage you to attend this meeting.
- **MINISTRY TO DEPLOYED MILITARY:** Holy Cross will begin a new ministry to support and bless our deployed military. If you have family or friends in the military who are currently deployed, please let us know by signing up at the ministry table. We will be sending Christmas cards and care packages, as well as other items throughout the year. If you would like to assist in this ministry, contact Dianne Adams at [dianne1205@gmail.com](mailto:dianne1205@gmail.com).
- **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** Those interested in knitting or crocheting prayer shawls should email Camille Turner at [melebug@charter.net](mailto:melebug@charter.net). Please leave your name, contact email address and cell phone number, with the most convenient evening time (except for Tuesdays and Wednesdays) for you to meet at the church for fellowship and knitting. Our goal is to meet one weekday evening a month or every other month (at a date and time determined by you!) Don't know how to knit or crochet? Come anyway—we'll teach you!