Recently the vestry and the staff of Holy Cross gathered for a day-long planning retreat at which time we looked at our overall goal and direction for the church particularly focusing over the next year. We talked about having 20/20 vision for the year 2020, meaning clarity is critically important. One of the discussions led to a slight change in our vision statement in an attempt to clarify the goals we want to accomplish.

You may know from seeing it in various publications that our vision statement reads “Captivating the hearts of people for the Glory of God.” After discussion it became clear that we could better state our goal of people ministry by revising our vision to say “Transforming the hearts of people for the Glory of God.” You may be asking: Why the change? Does it really make a difference?

First the change. While I believe it is important to be captivated or in awe of the Lord it first requires a transformed heart. This transformation is at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus came into the world to transform lives and when he left us the Holy Spirit it was a continuation of transformation. The truth of the matter is that our pursuit of holiness and the transformation to be more like Jesus is a never ending pursuit. Praise the Lord that our transformation is complete when we enter into glory, but it should never stop our pursuit in the present.

Does that make a difference, you might be asking? Yes, the sharper our vision, the clearer our vision. When we know that we are pursuing transformation it motivates us to invite others to go along in that process. When we experience Christ and all that he has, we want others to have the same experience. Who among us would get the most incredible gift of all time and want to keep it to ourselves? And why should we share the gift? To give all the glory to the one who has given it to us…God!

This fall, I want to encourage you to prayerfully ask the Lord to transform your heart, mind, and soul into his likeness. As he responds and peels those layers off one at time to make you more like him, let us rejoice and give him the glory.

Faithfully Yours,

Psalm 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HOLY CROSS CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS can be scheduled online by scanning the code with your smartphone, or visiting booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y294mh8q/. The dates are Monday, October 15th and Tuesday, October 16th from 2:00pm to 9:00pm. For more details, see our Facebook Page or contact Phillip Johnson at 205-960-4031 or at petrusj229@gmail.com. Assistance with registration is available in the narthex.

ECW DIOCESAN CONFERENCE is scheduled for Friday through Saturday, October 5th and 6th and will be hosted by the Montgomery Convocation. Scheduled speakers are Catherine Marks Woodson and Dorothy McDaniel. For complete details and online registration, go to alabamaecw.org/ecw-events. If you plan to attend, contact Inga Strickland at 985-640-5179 or at estrickland@uno.edu. We hope to have a large representation from Holy Cross.

ECW LUNCHEON is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24th at 11:15am in the Genesis Room. Bring your own sandwich. Our agenda will include a rummage sale report, Christmas party plans, and possible Super Bowl soups and sweets sale. Ideas for future ECW-sponsored projects are welcomed!

ECW RUMMAGE SALE - Friday, October 12th – 8:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday, October 13th – 8:00am to 2:00pm. Here is the perfect opportunity to declutter and reorganize your garage, attic, storage room, etc. by donating “stuff” you no longer need or use. Check-lists of items needed are in the Genesis Room. ECW will begin receiving donations, as well as preparing items for the sale, on Tuesday, October 9th from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

LADIES NIGHT OUT is scheduled for 6:30pm, Thursday, October 25th at The Shrimp Basket located at 7756 Crestwood Boulevard, Birmingham 35210. Carpool will leave Holy Cross parking lot at 6:00pm.

SAVE THE DATE: Join us on Wednesday, December 19th for a night of Christmas fellowship and fun! We will begin at 5:30 with dinner. Then, we will go Christmas caroling in the neighborhood surrounding the church. Finally, we will return to the church to decorate and eat Christmas cookies. Hope to see you there.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Sunday, October 21st - 6:00-8:00pm — Holy Cross Parking Lot
- Food, Hayrides, Fun, and Lots of Candy! Hot Dogs, chips, and drinks while they last!
- Donations needed*: hotdogs, individual-sized bags of chips, bottled water, canned sodas, and of course, we need lots of candy. Money is also accepted. Volunteers are needed to cook and prepare the hotdogs.
- Decorate your trunk and be part of the fun! Sign-Up Sheet is on the Ministry Table in the Narthex. For additional information, contact heather@holycrosstrussville.org.

*Last year we had over 250 children attend this event and this year might even be bigger.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY broke ground for the 2018 Birmingham Convocation Habitat for Humanity Build on Saturday, September 22nd. The home is located at 4829 Avenue R in Ensley and will take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete. Volunteers are needed for build days each week for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Workday for Holy Cross and Cathedral Church of the Advent volunteers is Saturday, October 20.

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 5:30pm. The movie will begin at dark.

WEDNESDAY EVENING DISCIPLESHIP DINNER & CLASSES
- Dinner is at 5:30pm — cost is $5.00 per person. The following classes begin at 6:00pm:
  - SERMON ON THE MOUNT October 3rd and 10th - Doug Webster of Beeson Divinity will present the two concluding messages of this four-week series. Come and hear Jesus’ words while on the Mount of Olives like you’ve never heard them before.
  - BIBLICAL PARENTING October 3rd, 10th and 17th - Fr. Wes Sharp continues with this powerful teaching. Raising children is hard work, and our greatest call as parents is to raise disciples who love the Lord. Our challenge is to love them, embrace who God has created them to be, and last but not least, train and discipline them to become responsible adults. Don’t miss these classes as we discuss and learn from one another what it is like to have a vision for your child and how, on a daily basis, you can guide them in practical ways toward the fulfillment of that vision.
  - HOLY CROSS KIDS - October 3rd, 10th and 17 (children ages 5 – 12)
    It is not too late for your children to join us for Wednesday nights at Holy Cross:
      - October 3rd—Hex Nuts – With this experiment kids will balance hex nuts in a seemingly impossible way. Kids will learn that when we put our faith in Jesus, the impossible becomes possible. Matthew 14:22-36, Jesus Walks On Water
      - October 10th—Potato – With this experiment kids will learn that even an object as simple as a potato can possess power. Kids will learn when we rely on Jesus he will give us the power to do great things. Acts 5:1-10, Peter Heals A Crippled Beggar
      - October 17th – Pizza Party and Movie Night—Come celebrate the conclusion of the Bible Science study.

For additional information, please contact heather@holycrosstrussville.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Rushing</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reese Booth</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney Bodnar</td>
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<td>Ford Rotenberry</td>
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<td>Dwight Percy</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie Nabors</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Allen</td>
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Sue Peterson  13
Dave Perry     16
Nell Bell      17
Abigail Williamson 19
Heather Johnson 20
Juli Fyfe      23
Joe Daniel     24
Lleyton Sharp  26

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