MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:

I recently read an article about a seminary that engaged their students in an activity of repentance. Sounds like a good discipline for seminarians who will potentially be the pastors of the future, right? The article goes on to state that the students were encouraged to repent of the way they have mistreated creation and not cared for it as God intended. Still good so far, but then it takes a turn for the worse. The students then proceeded to confess these sins to the plants themselves. Yes, you read that correctly. They began to pray to the plants for forgiveness for the way they have treated them and their fellow vegetation. What is going on here?

The reality we live in is that more and more people are seeking to find God. They realize there is a God-shaped hole inside of them, and they’re trying to fill it with everything but Yahweh. As people seek the truth, they often go to great lengths to create a false god that makes them feel as though they are doing the right thing. The real tragedy in the story is that this is a seminary, one of the places you expect Truth to be proclaimed.

If we dig just a bit deeper, we find that this kind of idolatry that has been permitted and even encouraged, is in direct opposition to the first commandment, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3).” If that was not enough, which IT IS, the practice also directly contradicts Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:6, “… who hunger and thirst after righteousness.” If you’re like me, you have read that and thought that Jesus was talking about really strong and successful Christians. How many times have I gone through my day never hungering for righteousness and even going the opposite direction of pursuing unrighteousness? Thomas Cranmer said of this pursuit of Jesus, that hungering for righteousness is something only unrighteous people feel, precisely because they don’t have it.

Jesus taught us in this passage that to hunger and thirst for righteousness is to actually hunger and thirst for Him! Righteous hunger, as Canon Zac Hicks so very well stated, is not a picture of good people desiring goodness, but bad people desiring Jesus. This righteous hunger does not come from a confession to plants, but from a desire to know Christ and make Him known. It requires recognizing our idols that stand in the way of our worship and relationship with the Lord and putting them to death. What are things that have captivated your heart that are not of the Lord? What are the things that need to be crucified so that you might have abundant life in relationship with Christ? I pray for more of Jesus, and less of me!

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” - Matthew 5:6

In Christ,

Fr. Wes
**HURRICANE DORIAN**
If you would like to know how to respond to the devastation caused by this hurricane, go to: https://www.episcopalrelief.org/

**ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE (MONTH OF OCTOBER)**
The month of October is our annual stewardship pledge drive. The Lord has certainly used the tithes and offerings of Holy Cross to bless many this year and to accomplish much for His Kingdom. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to use your resources for 2020.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**
During the month of October (6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th), Dale Ridgeway will fill in for Fr. Wes and discuss: "The Paul I Never Knew." All adults are encouraged to take this opportunity to learn some interesting and insightful facts about the Apostle Paul and his transformation from Saul to Paul.

**HOLY CROSS MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP MEAL & TEACHING**
will be Wednesday, October 16th at 6:00pm. More details upcoming.

**TRUNK OR TREAT**
Sunday, October 27th * 6:00-8:00pm * Holy Cross parking lot
- Event set-up begins at 5:15pm.
- Food, hayrides, fun, and lots of candy! Hot dogs, chips & drinks while they last.
- Movie on the Lawn: It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!
- Donations: money, candy (and lots of it), bottled water, and small bags of plain Lay’s chips
- Community participation has increased every year, and we need volunteers to bring their cars (trunks) and help monitor traffic and the hay rides. Trunk Sign-up Sheet is on the ministry table in the Narthex.

**GRACEWORKS HOSTS "CATFISH AND KARAOKE"**
Saturday, October 5th from 1-5pm at Willow Park Recreational Center in Birmingham. Eat, sing, and play. All proceeds will benefit Graceworks. Learn more at www.graceworksbham.org

**A Study Through the Book of James – Part 2 –**
Wednesday, October 16th, from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The book of James is full of practical wisdom for everyday living. Genuine faith will manifest itself in righteous acts that come out of a pure heart. This study will take a close look at how our faith is worked out in everyday life.

**LNO – LADIES NIGHT OUT**
is resuming Thursday, October 24th, 6:30pm. All Holy Cross ladies are invited to treat themselves to dinner and a night of companionship at Casa Fiesta Mexican Grill at 5084 Pinnacle Square, Birmingham 35235. Please plan to join us and celebrate back to school, the fall season, cooler weather, and the joy of fellowshipping together! Please sign the attending sheet (on ministry table in the Narthex), as a reservation will be made.

**ANNUAL EFAC CONFERENCE**
( Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion) will be hosted by Cathedral Church of the Advent, beginning Tuesday, November 5th through Friday, November 8th. This year’s theme is The Word of God Does the Work of God and the keynote speaker is Vaughan Roberts, Rector of St. Ebbe’s Church (Oxford, England) and author of God’s Big Picture and several other books. Registration information is online at: efac-usa.org.

**UNITED THANK OFFERING FALL INGATHERING**
will be on Sundays, November 17th & 24th. Please prayerfully consider your thanks for the blessings in your life and the success of our UTO Fall Ingathering.
what's HAPPENING?

ECW

ECW SOUPS & SWEETS SALE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20th — What could be better than homemade soups and desserts?! Our home-prepared dishes are made with lots of love and will be on sale Sunday, October 20th between and after the services.

ECW LUNCHEON/BUSINESS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23rd AT 11:15AM — GENESIS ROOM. Bring your own sandwich and the sides, beverages, and desserts will be provided. Results/reports will be given on the October 20th Sunday “Soups and Sweets Sale” and the October 11th & 12th ECW Diocesan Conference.

3 HOTS AND A COT
ECW has placed a donation box on the ministry table to collect money for gift cards to give the veterans in residence at 3 Hots and a Cot, in observance of Veterans’ Day, November 11th. Help us show these veterans how much we appreciate their service to our country.

ECW FALL CONFERENCE
will be at the beautiful Noccalula Falls (pavilions #7 and #8) in Gadsden the weekend of October 11th - 12th. Guest speaker is the Reverend Mary Bea Sullivan of Birmingham. Cost for both days is $40 plus additional fees for the workshops. For more information, visit www.alabamaaecw.org

what’s HAPPENING?

A PLEA FROM YOUR LOVING CHURCH MOUSE...
It has come to my ears that our Meals On Wheels ministry is desperate for drivers. If we are to keep our commitment in Trussville service, we must have more volunteers. At least four people (two teams—more fun to work in pairs!) from our parish are needed to commit two hours per day for Five days during the year! Next to the TEAM ministry, this is the most vital mission we serve-reaching out to approximately ten house-bound people for our meals during the year. Frequently, the Meals on Wheels drivers are the only persons these people see all week.

PLEASE PRAY ABOUT DONATING YOUR TIME TO THIS MINISTRY.
Contact the church office at 1-205-655-7668.

A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
To commemorate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Friday, October 4th) Holy Cross will offer a Blessing of Animals service on Sunday, October 6th at 4:00pm. This informal service will take place on the parish grounds and is a fun and meaningful way to acknowledge and give thanks for the creatures of God who have become important parts of our lives. Please come and bring your pets!

CONFORMATION CLASS BEGINS SUNDAY, OCT 6
For Adults and Youth. Those who wish to participate should register (see sign-up sheets) at the Ministry Table. Contact Fr. Wes for more details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

October

Dennis Rushing 1  Heather Johnson 20
Reese Booth 1  Juli Fyfe 23
Sydney Bodnar 2  Joe Daniel 24
Laurie Nabors 10  Lleyton Sharp 26
Mary Allen 12
Sue Peterson 13
Dave Perry 16
Nell Bell 17
Abigail Williamson 19
what’s HAPPENING?

ADVENT SCHEDULE FOR ALTAR GUILD TEAMS

- Dec. 1st – Team 2 - Laurie Nabors, Sue Peterson, Deanna Booth
- Dec. 8th – Team 3 - Cindy Cole, Camille Turner, Andrea Mathews
- Dec. 15th – Team 1 - Charlotte Scarborough, Chris Patterson, Jo Grove
- Dec. 22nd – Team 2 - Laurie Nabors, Sue Peterson, Deanna Booth
- Dec. 23rd – Team 3 – Cindy Cole, Camille Turner, Andrea Mathews
- Dec. 29th – Team 3 – Cindy Cole, Camille Turner, Andrea Mathews

ON SEPTEMBER 15TH, WE CELEBRATED HOLY CROSS SUNDAY WITH A POTLUCK FRIED CHICKEN LUNCHEON AFTER OUR 10:30 AM SERVICE. MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH SET-UP, CLEAN-UP, AND TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL COOKS WHO BROUGHT THEIR DELICIOUS SIDE DISHES AND DESSERTS. IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY A MEAL TOGETHER AND CATCH UP WITH OUR HOLY CROSS FAMILY.

FATHER WES WILL HOLD A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 6TH AT 4:00PM. I HOPE YOU WILL BRING YOUR FURRY FRIENDS AND SUPPORT THIS SPECIAL SERVICE FOR OUR BELoved pets.

HOLY CROSS WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT SUNDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 27TH AT 6:00PM. YOU CAN HELP BY SIGNING UP YOUR CAR TO BE ONE OF OUR HALLOWEEN DECORATED “TRUNKS” AND/OR DONATING HALLOWEEN CANDY FOR THIS EVENT. WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO BE GREETERS, GIVE OUT FREE HOTDOGS, AND ASSIST WITH THE HAYRIDES. PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR A SPOOKY GOOD TIME!

OCTOBER

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1:00-5:00pm</td>
<td>Graceworks hosts “Catfish &amp; Karaoke”</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Fall Confirmation Classes Begin</td>
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<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Blessing of the Animals</td>
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<td>11-12</td>
<td>Fri-Sat</td>
<td>ECW Fall Conference @ Noccalula Falls</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Monthly Fellowship Meal/Teaching</td>
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<td>Holy Cross Kids: A Study Through the Book of James – Part 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>before &amp; after service</td>
<td>ECW Soups and Sweets Sale</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11:15am</td>
<td>ECW Luncheon/Business Meeting</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>LNO- Ladies Night Out @ Casa Fiesta Mexican Grill</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>6:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>Trunk or Treat</td>
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NOVEMBER

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<td>Tue-Fri</td>
<td>Annual EFAC Conference @ Cathedral Church of the Advent</td>
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<td>17</td>
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*A NOTE: THIS IS NOT A FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS, ONLY EVENTS MENTIONED IN THE PATHWAY ARE LISTED*