MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:

Every year as September approaches, all too quickly, I realize that summer is over, the kids are back in school and our church activities are coming back into full swing as we kick off the Fall. I get excited about Fall, not just because I like football, but also because I love the fall weather. When the cool evenings come, I feel like more energy starts coursing through my body; but as quickly as that energy comes, I tend to use it on what often comes with the Fall season…busyness, and if we are being honest, a bit of chaos as well. I found a quote last year around this time by Dennis Swanberg that continues to stick with me, “One reason so much American Christianity is a mile wide and an inch deep is that Christians are simply tired. Sometimes you need to kick back and rest for Jesus’ sake.” I wrestle with that, especially right now as I, along with many of you, often say “I am so busy!”

We can fill our Fall with a lot of good things, but they can also be exhausting, and not in a good way. I often find myself in a place where I’m busy but I’m not productive. Maybe you are there too, or if you’re not, you may certainly find yourself there soon. I have tried this year to take into consideration Dennis’ words of “kick back and rest for Jesus’ sake.” You may remember Jesus actually encouraged His disciples in Matthew 11, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.” There is no special ceremony or prayer needed to find rest in Jesus, but it does require some intentionality. As with every good intention, if we do not plan to make it happen then something else will surely get in the way. Intentional rest in Christ, coming to Him, is essential to accomplishing the Great Commission. At first thought those may seem to be opposite, however, rest in Christ shows we trust in Christ to accomplish his great work in us.

For many of us being productive may actually mean refining and cutting out the things that are not helping us to accomplish Christ’s overall purpose. Rest helps us to gain clarity in what we often need to stop doing in order to accomplish what we need to do.

I want to encourage you, in what is often the busy season, to step back and: (1.) Rest in Jesus, (2.) Revisit His Great Commission for us, and (3.) Stop doing the things that do not help us pursue one and two.

This Fall, join me in enjoying Christ’s presence and pursuing His Great Commission of kingdom ministry (Matthew 28:19-20), and then let’s watch the Lord work in miraculous ways personally and in our church.

Matthew 28:19, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

In Christ,

[Signature]

Holy Cross is dedicated to raising up faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, committed to genuine Worship, loving Fellowship, and passionate Mission.
what’s **HAPPENING?**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND RECTOR’S FORUM**
will resume September 8th at 9:15am. The Rector’s forum will begin a 4-week study on Christianity and other religions/beliefs during which we will compare the Christian faith to Atheism, Scientism, Pluralism, Jehovah’s Witness, Mormonism, and others. Please plan to join us in what will be very enlightening and informative discussions.

**MEN’S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY**
is beginning the study of 1st Samuel. It meets each Friday morning –6:30 to 7:30am, in the Genesis Room. Breakfast (bring your own) is during the first half hour with Bible study during the second half hour. Newcomers are welcome!

**FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE AT HOLY CROSS**
On Sunday, September 15th from 9:00-10:30am. Trussville’s own Carroll Pharmacy will be offering flu shots to those interested. Major insurance cards are accepted as well as out-of-pocket payment for just the vaccine. Costs will vary based on type of insurance and age of recipient as dosage requirements vary for specific age ranges. Stay tuned for additional information in our weekly bulletin.

**FALL CONFIRMATION CLASSES**
Eight-week session (Adults and Youth) begins Sunday, October 6th.

Those who plan to attend these classes should register (see sign-up sheets on the ministry table in the Narthex) in advance so we have enough material for each participant.

**Why Do I need to be Confirmed?** Confirmation is considered one of the five “other sacramental rites” (BCP p860) of the church, in addition to the two primary sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. Confirmation is a time in the life of the baptized Christian to express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. In the class, we will look at the catechism of the church and the scriptures that warrant those statements of faith.

At the conclusion of the eight-week session, each participant will kneel before the bishop and the church on January 26th at the 10:30am service to affirm their commitment to Christ and his teachings and be confirmed in the Episcopal church.

**upcoming ****EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Healing Eucharist Resumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Sunday School &amp; Rector’s Forum Resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9am-3pm</td>
<td>Journey Day Workshop at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9-10:30am</td>
<td>Flu Shots Available at Holy Cross</td>
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<td>After 10:30 service</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Monthly Fellowship Meal/Teaching - Spiritual Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>ECW Dinner Meeting (bring your own dinner)</td>
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**OCTOBER**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Fall Confirmation Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<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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**NOVEMBER**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Fall United Thank Offering Ingathering</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Monthly Fellowship Meal/Teaching</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Holy Cross Kids: What are we thankful for? A night of worship &amp; praise praise!</td>
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*NOTE: THIS IS NOT A FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS, ONLY EVENTS MENTIONED IN THE PATHWAY ARE LISTED*
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY NIGHTS (6:00PM) THIS FALL:

September 18th – A Study Through the Book of James – Part 1. 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.

October 16th -- A Study Through the Book of James – Part II.

November 20th – What are we thankful for? A night of worship and praise!

December 12th – Family Fun Night – Christmas Caroling

HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES FOR CHILDREN

Nursery is provided for all children, birth until 5 years of age, every Sunday from 9:00 until 12:00. Our nursery is more than just a babysitting service. We believe that early childhood is the perfect time to begin teaching the word of God. Children will enjoy a Bible story, as well as engaging activities and crafts.

Children’s Sunday School is offered for children, ages 5 through 12, on Sunday mornings from 9:15 until 10:15. Sunday school is a time for children to be active participants in our Bible lesson. We keep our school-aged children interested and engaged with Bible lessons, games, songs, crafts, and much more. This year we will be studying the Heart’s Alive Curriculum.

Children’s Church is offered for children, ages 5 through 12, during the 10:30am service on Sunday mornings. Children’s church follows along with the scripture readings and sermon topics of the adult church service but is presented in a more age appropriate manner. Children are encouraged to actively participate in and lead the children’s church worship service in ways that are meaningful for him or her.

Volunteers Are Needed for all children’s ministries listed above. If you feel led to serve our children, contact Heather Johnson at heather@holycrosstrussville.org.

REALM CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you have not responded to our invitation to join the OnRealm software, consider creating your user name and password today. Access to this database gives you the opportunity to search for other parishioners (most with pictures) as well as your own personal, up-to-date giving statement, recent vestry minutes, and other church/community news. If you have trouble creating or logging into the OnRealm software, contact the church office for assistance.

HOLY CROSS MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP MEAL/TEACHING

begins Wednesday, September 18th at 6:00pm – Genesis Room. Fr. Wes will be teaching on the spiritual gifts that will include a time to explore and determine your own spiritual gifts. Please join us and learn how your spiritual gift(s) might be useful in your own life and in the life of the church!

HEALING EUCHARIST

resumes Tuesday, September 3rd at 11:30am

CROSS LIFE (EYC) UPDATE

A big thank you goes out to James, Christina, and Gracen Patterson for hosting our Back to School Bash! We had a great turnout and are very excited to see our youth ministry grow both spiritually and in number. After a short break Cross Life is reconvening to begin a new school year. We will continue our study in the book of John where we learn the identity of Jesus and the nature of the kingdom he came to establish. - Jason

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Jeff Rotenberry  2  Terrie Percy  19
Thelma Carlisto  2  Catherine Mize  19
Alison Sharp  5  Rachel Grove  19
Elaine McLendon  7  Deanna Booth  21
Sarah Rushing  7  Gailya Sargent  24
Joanne Carnes  13  Hilde Davis  26
Brenda Jean  14  Fran Bramblette  26
Jan Carlisto  16  Gloria Smith  28
Jeannine Siezmore . 19

SEPTEMBER
THE JOURNEY DAY WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 14th, 9:00am to 3:00pm
At St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.
Workshop Sponsored by the Dept of Recovery Ministries of the Diocese of Alabama
Keynote Speaker Lila Graves, Alabama Artist.
Cost is $20 per person.
Register online: BIT.LY/JourneyDay or get tickets at the door.

DINNER MEETING

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will have an evening dinner meeting on Thursday, September 19th at 6:00pm. Bring your own “dinner” sandwich or salad and the beverages, sides, and a dessert will be provided. After dinner, there will be a short meeting to discuss plans for our “Soup & Sweets Sale” (scheduled for Sunday, October 20th), our UTO Fall Ingathering, and the fall Diocesan Conference. The evening will end with fun and games!

DONATION BOX for 3 HOTS AND A COT

ECW has placed a donation box on the fellowship 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.

FALL UNITED THANK OFFERING INGATHERING

will be on Sundays, November 17th & 24th. Please prayerfully consider your thanks for the blessings in your life and the success of our Fall United Thank Offering Ingathering. More details to come.

MISSION SPOTLIGHT - GraceWorks

GraceWorks is a ministry of Grace Episcopal Church in Woodlawn and is one of the mission partners of Holy Cross. GraceWorks provides a seven-week program for inner city children, providing the opportunity to learn skills and gain confidence through “work, worship, play and adventure.” This program has a place in the heart of Fran Bramblette, who maintains much of our contact with GraceWorks. GraceWorks is experiencing growth blessings and is working on renovation of additional space to serve the community. We will invite GraceWorks to speak with us one Sunday this September (to be announced.)

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