

Cross Current



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The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

Father Patterson



game, and I love to watch him enjoy it

Interestingly enough, he hasn't yet grasped the concept of being behind or down in a game. He has a hard time understanding that "being down", with time still left on the clock is not losing. When his team is in a crunch, it makes him uncomfortable and naturally he "jumps ship" because being down, to him, evokes the same disappointing feeling as being defeated. As a parent, I am keenly aware that, if not careful, this kind of approach can be dangerous.

Now, some of us have been around long enough to know that "being down," for those that have prepared and put in the work, is not the end, but is an opportunity to adjust. We've watched it happen time and time again throughout history.

The great among us attack those moments of adversity and rely on muscle memory to see them through.

We live in a world plagued by nihilism, feelings of inadequacy, fear, and incompetence. People that are merely down, for some reason or another, have been convinced that the game is over. In Jesus, there is always time left on the clock. There is always time to adjust and change our trajectory.

Thankfully, in life, we are given more than 48 minutes to get it right, we have been given every moment that we are allowed to breathe. Every day is an opportunity to move toward what God has for you however big, or small.

So, take a second... breathe... and shoot!

Sports and faith have a lot in common!

One of my greatest joys is watching basketball with my son. He's developed quite a passion for the game. At any given period, he loses himself in the battle between teams often yelling and screaming at the television, or the players on the court. He loves the

Forward Day by Day

Every quarter, the Episcopal Diocese publishes *Forward Day by Day*, in the forms of a pocket-sized booklet with regular print and a full size booklet with large print. The magazines are displayed on a stand in the Narthex. A nominal con-

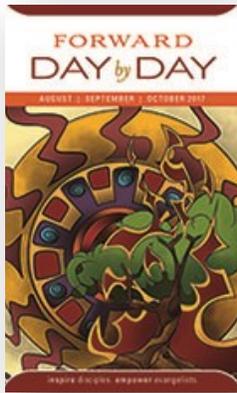
tribution is required to support the publication, *Forward Movement*, in its mission.

As a daily reader of the magazine, I connect with the writers in various ways, based on the context. I am also aware

that other readers are connecting, similarly. Thus, there is a common bond. Each day's text ends with a prayer for specific Dioceses and the caption: "*Moving Forward*" that gives the reader a good-deed MESSAGE or TASK to perform.

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Forward Day *by* Day (cont.)

Holy Cross has been, for the past fifteen months, “moving forward” day by day, by week, by month. Five initiatives were developed from the retreat in January, and various activities have been presented and promoted. Leaders have reported on their individual, specific progress, and indications are that Holy Cross’ “movement” is on track. The congregation is consistently being encouraged to become involved in their special interest and support its mission. Spiritual engagement also plays a significant part in our successes. The overall prevailing theme and aim are to aspire to a Higher calling in service for Him.

May Holy Cross keep “Moving Forward, Day by Day, by Week, by Month, by Year.”
God Bless Us All in Our Efforts.

“WE ARE HOLY CROSS. ONWARDS AND UPWARDS!”.

~Cecily A. Morgan

Vestry Updates

Holy Cross continues to progress as the year advances, thanks to the work of the many saints in our parish. Here is a summary of recent achievements.

Through the first half of this year, we continued to experience more stability and excitement in the worship experience, spiritual growth and lay leadership, resulting from the work of our new Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Dennis Patterson, together with the vestry and membership. Since Rev. Patterson’s start in January on a very limited basis, several members of the parish have stepped up to sustain the day-to-day operations of the church and there are many signs of vitality at Holy Cross:



- Holy Cross revenues through June, 2017 have run 3.7% above forecast. Church income through June was \$156,551, \$5,500 above forecast.
- Church expenses through June have run 5.3% below our budgeted forecast.
- The Vestry took a leap of faith, and appropriated \$6,000 for the second half of the year to expand our worship experience and to include new and alternative music and liturgy.
- We continue to be current on our financial obligations, including our 2017 Diocesan Assessment and the Diocesan Foundation loan payments.
- The Vestry and membership continue to engage in Let’s Talk sessions where a two-way dialog regarding church progress and plans occurs.
- The five initiatives, begun after the January, 2017 church retreat, have introduced new ways to engage our membership (Casual Sundays, Prayer Conference calls), broadened our spirituality (additional opportunities to pray, plans for a new Adult Sunday School class to begin in September), helped us to greet each other and newcomers (name tags), and worked to strengthen avenues of communication within the church and with the community (Facebook, website updates, etc.). Our Reconciliation Initiative is revving up, and with support from the Diocese, we will define how to move forward. There is more to come in all of these.

There are several activities in motion going forward.

- First, in July, the Vestry voted unanimously to allocate funds to request the Bishop’s approval to amend Reverend Patterson’s contract from one-third part-time to one-half part-time effective immediately, which will allow a more balanced approach to improving our Lay Home Eucharistic Ministry, Lay Leadership development and overall spiritual support. That request was approved by Bishop Wright, and is effective August 1.
- Secondly, there is renewed commitment to establishing a mentoring program for children ages 6 through 12 called the 4E’s (Engage, Empower, Enhance and Explore), led by the Engagement Initiative.
- Thirdly, Holy Cross has begun a new journey with the Diocese in a partnership to support our discipleship experience in the *Circle of Stewardship*.

Vestry Update (cont.)

- Lastly, new focus on the physical plant of the church has surfaced urgent repair needs. The current projection for those repairs is \$31,000, needed in the next 6 - 12 months. We have also identified the need to replace the A/C in the sanctuary, estimated at another \$49,000.00. Our Buildings, Grounds & Equipment Committee, skilled with seasoned architects, engineers and business professionals, guides us on this journey.

For a volunteer army of saints, Ephesians 6:10-20 reminds us to put on His armor, and we have. We understand this journey and we are committed. We continue to pray for the Lord's direction and strength. He's never failed us yet.

We believe that it is through the Lord's providence that Holy Cross has been selected to be one of the sites of an upcoming motion picture production. This venture is exciting and represents another opportunity to expand our Mission and Ministry and especially to share our beautiful campus.

Production activity will occur into mid-October. We will have our Sunday worship services throughout this time period as previously scheduled, and our sanctuary will be untouched. Our nursery will be closed until the filming has ended and the Parish Planning Council has worked diligently to shift dates of other events to ensure that we have what is needed.

While construction and filming are expected to take place Monday through Friday and on some Saturdays, we ask that you minimize your presence on the church grounds during this time. Please contact the church office if and when you feel the need to visit the church office or convene organizational meetings, so we can determine whether we can make it happen and where it would be safe. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this period.

Let's continue to prayerfully move forward. Thanks be to God !!

~Holy Cross Vestry

Michelle Ware



As a member of the "Sandwich" Generation, it makes perfect sense for Michelle Ware to be Director of Christian Education and the President of Young At Heart here at Holy Cross.

Michelle was born in Buffalo, New York and grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. She obtained her BS in Human Development from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. She received her MS in Teacher Education from the Bank Street Col-

lege of Education in New York, New York. She subsequently accepted a position with West Georgia College (now University) teaching in the Education and Humanistic Psychology Departments as well as conducting evaluations of Head Start Programs throughout west Georgia. Later, she moved into Atlanta where she worked for the City of Atlanta, initially in the Office of the Mayor and most recently in the Department of Human Resources. Her faith has always been an integral part of her life; it's been consistently her anchor, her sustenance.

She was received into the Episcopal denomination at St. Timothy's where she married, had her babies baptized and later confirmed, taught Sunday School, facilitated the youth group, served as an acolyte,

was active with Episcopal Church Women, served on the Vestry and held both the Junior Warden and Senior Warden positions.

She followed her mom to Holy Cross where she's actively involved in Christian Education and Young At Heart. She is also active with other Church Ministries and outside organizations including AARP, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Social Action Committee of the Decatur Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated, a public service sorority.

She wants to be consistently ever representative of both parts of the cross; "the vertical part showing my love for God and the horizontal part showing my love for my brothers and sisters. I enjoy being me and knowing that through God, the best is yet to be."



Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry, will visit the Diocese of Atlanta, October 11 – 13. As our Chief Evangelist, Bishop Curry will bring his passion for the Jesus Movement to Atlanta. These events are open to the public.

Candler School of Theology Public Lecture by The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

This event will include a keynote address by the Presiding Bishop on “Racial Realities and the Beloved Community.” There will also be a panel discussion including the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; Bishop Wright from the Diocese of Atlanta; The Rev. Dr. Robert M. Franklin, Jr. from Candler School of Theology; and The Rev. Kim Jackson, Associate Rector at All Saints, Atlanta. This event is open to the public, with registration required by Oct. 9.

- 7:00 p.m. Keynote address: “Racial Realities and the Beloved Community”
- 7:45 p.m. Panel Discussion
- Venue: Candler School of Theology at Emory University, 1531 Dickey Drive, Atlanta, GA 30322

Choral Evensong and Homily

Thursday, October 12, 2017

7:15pm 8:15pm 19:15 20:15

Cathedral of St. Philip

Everyone is invited to attend a Choral Evensong at the Cathedral of St. Philip on Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 7:15 pm. The Right Reverend Keith Whitmore will offer the homily.

We are very fortunate; the service will be sung by the exceptional Cathedral Schola under the direction of Canon for Music, Dale Adelman, Ph.D. This group and the Cathedral Choir have performed at such prestigious venues as St. Paul’s in London and Canterbury Cathedral. They recently returned from a pilgrimage to Salisbury Cathedral and Durham Cathedral this summer.

This service will be hosted by the National Vergers’ Guild of the Episcopal Church as an offering at the 29th Annual Conference held in the Diocese of Atlanta.



Choir members and their directors and organists from around the Diocese are cordially invited to join a Festival Choir for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry at the National Vergers' Guild Conference.

We invite you to purchase and bring socks for the homeless to this service. These will be presented at the altar during the service and then given to Crossroads Community Ministries which serves those who experience homelessness on the streets of Atlanta.

- Festival Eucharist
- Friday, October 13 at Noon
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church. [See map.](#)
- (Complimentary parking at the church)

Repertoire

- Malcolm Boyle, Thou, O God, Art Praised in Sion (Paraclete Press)
- Dale Adelman, Steal Away to Jesus (Paraclete Press)
- Arlan Sunnarborg, Shalom, Salaam, Peace Be with you
- Service Music from Lift Every Voice and Sing
- Hymns from The Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing, and Wonder, Love, and Praise

Requirements

- Some previous choral experience
- The ability to match pitch
- The ability to read music (I.e. to find your own part in a mixed rehearsal)

Rehearsals

Must attend at least one of the first two rehearsals and the Friday rehearsal:

- Tuesday, October 10, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 11, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Friday, October 13, 10-11:30 a.m.

Attire

Wear the vestments you customarily wear on Sunday morning in your own church or cathedral. Those who do not customarily wear vestments, please wear a black or white shirt or blouse, black skirt or pants.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

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"Being a Christian is not essentially about joining a church or being a nice person, but about following in the footsteps of Jesus, taking his teachings seriously, letting his Spirit take the lead in our lives, and in so doing helping to change the world from our nightmare into God's dream."

~MICHAEL CURRY

CRAZY CHRISTIANS: A CALL TO FOLLOW JESUS

holy-cross.org



The following fellow parishioners are in rehabilitation centers or nursing homes and would love to have visitors.

Ella Seate
Briarwood Rehabilitation
3888 LaVista Road
Tucker

Bernice Smith
Traditions Nursing Home
2816 Evans Mill Road
Lithonia