

The Sancta Crux

March 2009 Newsletter

Church of the Holy Cross, Stateburg, SC
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Volume II, No. 3

Published monthly by the Church of the Holy Cross, Stateburg, SC



Louis Jackson, Jr. Warden, and Boykin Sanders, Sr. Warden, sure look happy about something!!!! Oh, probably because the BIDDING has BEGUN!!!

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FORWARDING AND ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Dear beloved Parishioners,

Jesus' words in the Parable of the Son (Luke 15) demonstrate God's love for the sinner. How fitting this is for the season of Lent as we continue to self-examine ourselves in light of the holiness of the Blessed Trinity.

Lent can be arduous at times. Reflecting upon our sin is not exactly a "pick me up" or an exciting thing to do. However, it is quite liberating when one thinks of how much God's mercy is greater than the offense. The Parable of the Son is told by Jesus and is a moving example of someone recognizing their selfishness, ungratefulness, and unwise decisions. It was so bad that he no longer has a right to be called a son. He will go to his father and tell him, "I have sinned...make me as one of your hired men." What a change in this young man. How penitent he has become. This is Lent in true practice and what we witness in this parable is liberating.

Jesus said, "Whoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34). How many times have we thought about lashing out at someone who did us wrong? Or spreading falsehood about someone to get even because they did us wrong? What's so liberating about this parable is the father's response: his heart went out to his erring son who had repented. This truly reflects the character of the God we serve. The saint is capable, as Dostoevsky said, of loving others even in their sin. For what he sees in all things and in all men is the object of the divine compassion. Thomas Merton says, "Becoming a saint is not just a matter of picking out a suitable recipe and cooking up the various ingredients of the Christian life according to a formula which pleases our own taste...No simple and efficacious formulas exist except in the Gospel, where they are not the words of man but the words of God" (Merton, *Life and Holiness*).

This Lenten season can be very refreshing for the whole parish. I would invite you to read the words of Jesus this season. Simply read his parables and meditate the way he interacts with us. What is our Lord speaking through the Scriptures? What is he conveying to us, the Church?

How is God taking possession of you this Lenten season? Are you making yourself available? Are you attentive to

your spiritual condition? May you see our Heavenly Father as having an infinite loving and compassionate concern for us. Fanny Crosby, blind at six weeks old, penned the famous hymn *Blessed Assurance* and she reminds us, "This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long." May the story of the Parable of the Son in Luke 15 live in and through you all your days.

A Prayer for Lent

O God, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive; receive our humble petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of thy great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. Amen.
1928 Book of Common Prayer, 63

Fr. Tommy

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Rite I
9:50 a.m. Sunday School

*11:00 a.m. Holy Communion Rite I (Sung)

*Nursery provided for birth to 5 year olds for Sunday School and 11:00 service

MID-WEEK SERVICES

(Tuesday through Thursday)

Morning Prayer: 8:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer: 5:00 p.m.

Holy Communion Rite I:

Wednesdays at 12:00 noon

(with Uncion last Wednesday of the month)

The Rt. Rev. Mark J. Lawrence, XIV Bishop of South Carolina
The Rev. Thomas W. Allen, Rector
Jane Luther Smith, Pianist
Amber Harres, Parish Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
 WITH LOVE FROM YOUR
 HOLY CROSS FAMILY

*If your birthday is this month and not listed here,
 please contact the church office.*

March 7 -	Joseph McCown
March 9 -	James Donelan
March 9 -	Spencer McCann
March 10 -	please contact the church office.
	Molly McCarthy
March 13-	Fr. Tommy
March 19 -	Ava Elmore
March 22 -	Andrew Tormenti
March 26 -	Judy Brown



Welcome to the Holy Cross family! Frank Medley, Charlotte Gartland, Alice Medley, Chris & Jill Matula, Kayleigh & Aubrey Matula

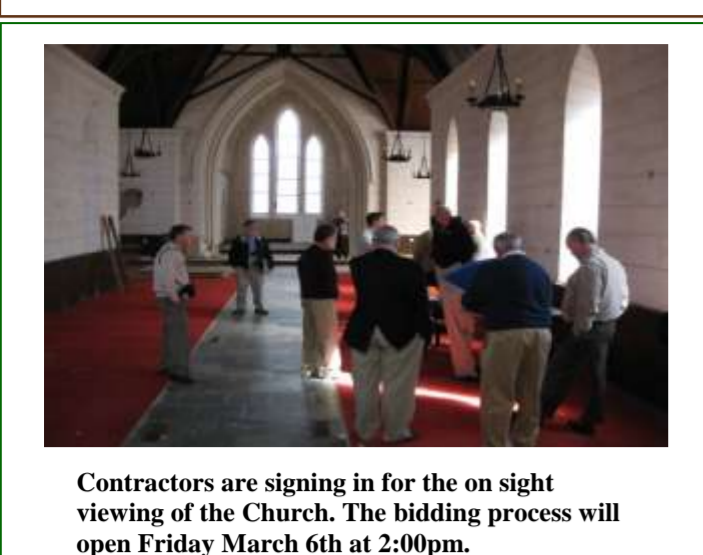
Recently baptized:
 Charlotte Gartland
 Alice Medley
 Kayleigh & Aubrey Matula

Join us for Sunday School @ 9:50 a.m.

Adults join Fr. Tommy for study on *Evil* with N.T. Wright Jr. & Sr. High with Laura Burnett/Kimberly Allen (*The Case for Christ* study)

Eight-to-ten year olds with Miriam Crowson

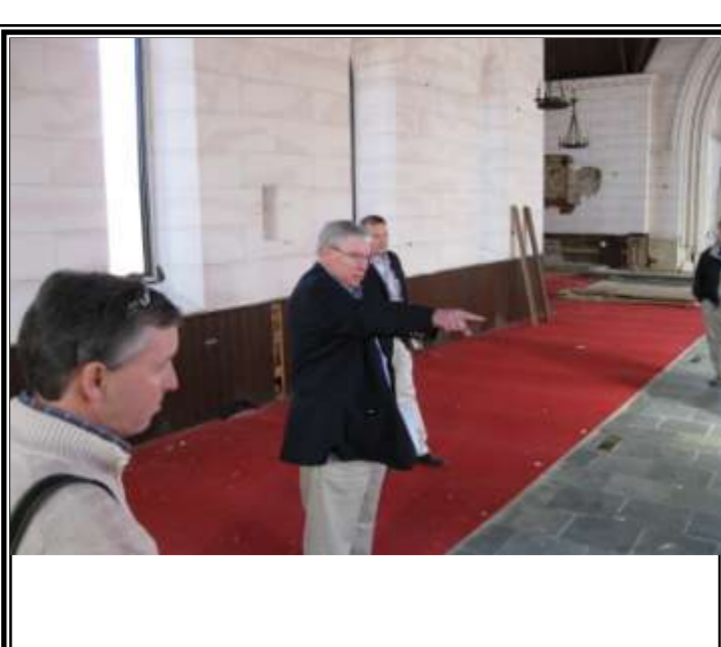
Three-to-Six year olds with Kristen Hackett



Contractors are signing in for the on sight viewing of the Church. The bidding process will open Friday March 6th at 2:00pm.

Pot-Luck Dinner (Lunch)
Immediately following 11:00 service March 15. Purpose is to fellowship and to familiarize the parish with the bidding progress!

Rector's Reading Group
Will resume: March 26th @ 6:00pm
 continuation of [Beyond Smells and Bells](#)



Stations of the Cross
 Every Sunday in Lent after services. Our stations are in the churchyard and offer a very prayerful and meditative environment

Christian Classics and Inspiration

Fanny Crosby
 (1820-1915)

This Remarkable woman composed more than 8,000 hymns in her lifetime. Born Frances Jane Crosby in Putnam County, New York, she lost her sight when only six weeks old. She was never bitter about her blindness, however, once saying, "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life...I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me."

Fanny honed and refined her other senses and developed a prodigious memory. Surviving testimonies indicate that she had memorized most of the Pentateuch, the four Gospels, Proverbs, and portions of many other books of the Bible.

Many of her early years were spent in the New York Institute for the Blind, first as a pupil and then as a teacher. In 1858 she married fellow teacher Alexander Van Alstyne, and they had one daughter, who died in infancy. In memory of her daughter, she wrote "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" and dedicated it to all mothers who have lost children. In her later years, she dedicated her life to serving the poor, using her meager earnings for hymn writing to help others.

Fanny wrote hymn lyrics so prolifically that she was obliged to use pseudonyms so that her name wouldn't dominate hymnals. Among her most famous hymns are "To God Be the Glory," "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," and "Blessed Assurance." One other of her hymns follow.

Sing Unto God

"Sing unto the Lord, all the earth." (Psalm 96:1)

Sing unto God, our Hope and our Deliv'rer;
 He is the Lord, the mighty theme prolong;
 Pour out your hearts in music's sweetest numbers,
 Pour out your hearts in melody and song.
 Seek ye the gates, the lovely gates of Zion,
 Now let His courts with holy rapture ring;
 Wake, wake again, the silent harp of Judah;
 Break forth ye hills, and let the desert sing.
 Sing unto God, our Hope and our Deliv'rer;
 He is the Lord, the mighty theme prolong;
 Pour out your hearts in music's sweetest numbers, Pour out your hearts in melody and song.

Sing unto God, for He alone is worthy,
 Sing unto God, for He alone is King;
 Come, O ye lands, and trusting His Salvation,
 Sing unto God, in grateful chorus sing.
 Great is the Lord, and wonderful His mercy,
 Strong is His love, abiding evermore.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Congratulations to Steve & Nan Windham at the birth of their 4th grandchild! Kristine and Justin Kohl are truly blessed by the Lord at the safe delivery of Cameron Wynan Kohl weighing 7 lbs. and 2 oz. and 20 1/2 in. long and she is absolutely beautiful!

Prayer for a new youth director

O God, in your gracious love and care; your children await for a new leader. Give us the patience of Christ that we may so be guided by the Holy Spirit in all word and deed. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Update: Fr. Tommy is speaking with Elizabeth Wilson (Sewanee) about a student internship!

Youth Xtreme Bowling night at Shaw AFB!

Always a good time!!!



COME JOIN US FOR Youth Sunday School @9:50 am every Sunday

Jr. & Sr. EYC with Laura Burnett & Kimberly Allen (The Case for Christ study)
8-10 year olds with Miriam Crowson
3-6 year olds with Kristin Hackett

ECW Prayer

Almighty God, bless we pray, our working mission and ministry in the world and make us so thankful for the precious gift to your beloved Son, that we may pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known throughout the world the redeeming love of our Savior. Amen.

For Today:

O God, give me the strength to live another day. Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties: Let me not lose faith in other people: Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery or meanness: Preserve me from minding little slings or giving them: Help me to keep my heart clean and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity: Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things: Grant me this day some new vision of truth: Inspire me with the spirit of joy and goodness: and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls: in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Praise and Prayer Corner....

- Praise**
- ◆ Praise for Gus Blue arranging another fabulous bowling night on base!
 - ◆ Praise for those who generously help with Coffee Hour each Sunday.
 - ◆ Praise for the men who cooked all the tasty food on Shrove Tuesday!
- Prayer**
- ◆ For Retta's continued recovery
 - ◆ Prayer for Tom's continued recovery
 - ◆ Prayer for Yonko's recovery
 - ◆ For all who are ill or experiencing a hardship we may not be aware of
- Ladies...send me your "praise reports" and other news you'd like to share in the newsletter. You may email me at allenkmail@yahoo.com or call my cell phone 803-406-9369, or you may simply leave a note at the office.

Dear Ladies,

Another Ash Wednesday has passed and another Lenten season is upon us. I hope you have a reflective and blessed Lent, which will conclude with our Lord's resurrection. Spring will be blooming all around us—and I (and Tommy) will especially look forward to the fruits of all those fabulous gardeners at Holy Cross!

Our next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM Saturday, March 21st. We will have fellowship (a game or two) and a short meeting. Coffee and pastries will be provided. I hope to see you there!

If you are interested in traveling to Charleston for the **ECW Deanery Gathering on March 14th, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Mission**, please see the information on the bulletin board for registration information, or call Barbara Braithwaite at 843-406-9385. The fee for food is \$ 7.00.

Also, the **DOK's Spring Retreat will be Friday, March 27th-Sunday, March 29th at Camp St. Christopher.** Allison Lawrence will be the Retreat Leader. Registration is due March 11th.

Love and prayers,
Kimberly

