



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 9:30 and 11:00 AM
Saturday: 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 12:15 and 6:00 PM

Nursery

Sunday
9:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Choir Practice

Sunday: 9:45 AM

Sunday School

Sunday: 11:00 AM

The Vestry

Ginger Paul, Senior Warden
Gerry Brooks, Jr. Warden
Becky Snodgrass, Secretary
Monty Walford, Treasurer
Melissa Fowle
Stephanie Hamblin
Robert Henley
Christine Hennigan
Kendall Raymond

Contact Information

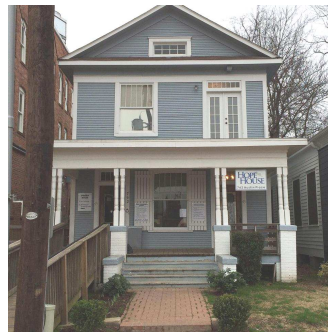
Telephone: (318) 222-3325
Fax: (318) 681-9506
Email: holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net

Please visit our website
www.holycrossshreveport.org

Deadline

Material for *Crossings* must be received by **12:00 Wednesday**.
Please send to
lynn.walford@lsus.edu

Hope House: COFFEE continues to be our greatest need



*When you go to the grocery store please remember to buy some coffee for our neighbors. Coffee is served every morning at Hope House until noon. You may take it directly to Hope House at 762 Austen Place, or place it in the baskets in the Narthex at Holy Cross. **Thank you!***



Advent: The Church's New Year

Sometimes it's hard to remember that the days of November are leading us into a new year. Christmas decorations, music, and advertisements before Thanksgiving, even before Halloween; making sure we've bought gifts for everyone on our lists; seasonal programs at schools, and seasonal shopping events even at churches distract us from the "end time" lessons of late Pentecost in preparation for Advent's anticipation of God's coming kingdom. We really have to set our minds to keeping our focus on the Church Year and the blessings it brings us in observing its rhythms.



God's Kingdom was promised to Israel long before Jesus was born. Even in the older versions of Creation in Genesis 2 we see the sign of redemption as God makes clothes for Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness as they leave the garden. And there are God's covenants with Abraham, with Noah, with Israel at Sinai. Israel understood that her salvation lay in God's faithfulness.

The Resurrection is the great event that fulfilled God's promises and began the growth of the Church. But Christmas, the beginning of the life of the One who would offer himself in fulfillment, is celebrated in the Church as just that: a new beginning to anticipate the Great Beginning of Easter. Advent prepares us for that beginning, and Advent, from ancient times, has marked the beginning of the Church Year. In years past, this first season in the Church required four weeks of penitential preparation. Today, Advent is a season more of anticipation, of keeping in mind God's promise that we are not condemned to suffer the bonds of our failings and sins, but that we rejoice as we remember God's promise of loving forgiveness that brings new life.

Each year on the First Sunday of Advent we begin a new cycle of lessons prescribed in our Lectionary. Each year celebrates one of the three Synoptic Gospels, with intermittent readings from John's Gospel. This year, Year C, we will read from the Gospel of Luke. Church tradition tells us that Luke was a physician, not one of Jesus' closest disciples; in fact, Luke may not have known Jesus personally. As a physician, Luke shows concern for the sick, for the "underdogs," for women. He is very methodical, stating his purpose in the beginning of his Gospel: "to set forth an orderly account" of Jesus' life, teaching, death, and resurrection. Apparently, after some forty or fifty years of oral preaching, when Luke wrote his account, variations of the story were circulating.

The second book of Luke's writing is The Acts of the Apostles, his account of the beginnings and amazing growth of the Early Church, with credit given to the Holy Spirit. We see when we read both accounts together some of his methodical mind: It's important to Luke that there be continuity between God's promises made to Israel and God's fulfillment of the promises in Jesus. Key characters in the beginning of the Gospel parallel key characters in the ancient Hebrew stories. The Gospel begins and ends in Jerusalem, and Acts begins in Jerusalem—as Jerusalem, to the Jews, is the center of God's actions and promises with Israel. In Acts the Gospel spreads outward from Jerusalem into the far parts of the Mediterranean world, as Jesus foresaw.

Finally, Luke gives us some of our best-loved stories of Jesus, stories of healing and, most notably, the "birth narrative." While parts of the Christmas story do not agree with historical record and so cannot be considered to be factual, Luke's beautiful language and composition represent Truth of faith that is only to be understood in story. Angels, God's messengers; shepherds, lowly, despised, yet most honored as Jesus' first invited visitors; the Holy Family for whom there was no room except where hearts were seeking them.

Advent is the beginning of the beginning of our Salvation. We will read with wonder and awe God's promises to us as we prepare.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year B

Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012



The Last Sunday after Pentecost: The Reign of Christ Proper 29: November 22

2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

(*2 Samuel 23:1-7*) On the cusp of a new Church Year it seems fitting to utter the best words we can, those truest, noblest, cleanest, and closest to the heart. Such words are wide and hold open the door to the wideness of the mystery being born.

G. Malcolm Sinclair

The First Sunday of Advent November 29

*Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21: 25-36*

(*Luke 21:25-36*) Luke wrote with a deep and growing sense that Christian discipleship is a kind of living in between—aware of Jesus, waiting for Jesus, and coming to know this Jesus for whom we wait in the midst of an eventful, unpredictable, tumultuous world, waiting to stand before him, yet not always knowing where he is.

Wesley D. Avram

The Second Sunday of Advent December 6

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4 & Cantic 16: The Song of Zechariah & Philippians 1:3-11 & Luke 3:1-6

(*Malachi 3:1-4*) Malachi has some good questions for our day. His very use of questions as a means of prophetic revelation counters the unthinking certitude of much so-called religious conviction. “Who can endure the day of his coming?” (3:2) Who will be “pure and blameless” in the day of Christ? (Phil.1:10) Who will prepare the way by repentance and forgiveness? (Luke 3:1-6) Advent questions!

Debora A. Block

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song.

Maya Angelou

Seasonal Offerings in the Convocation

This is a busy season in churches everywhere! Some of the Episcopal Churches of our Convocation have asked us to share their schedules of special services, concerts, and celebrations:

St. George's

Masterworks Series: The I-49 Brass

Sunday, November 29, 2:00 PM at St. George's, Bossier City

Flyers with details are available on the table in our Narthex

St. Paul's

Spiritual Gifts Seminar

Friday, November 20, 6:00-9:00 PM (dinner provided) and
Saturday, November 21, 9:00-2:00 PM (light breakfast and lunch provided)

Ladies' Christmas Luncheon: Guest Speaker Joy Owensby

Saturday, December 5, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Both events at St. Paul's, Shreveport

St. Mark's

Weekly Services of Choral Evensong with St. Mark's Boys' and Girls' Choir
Every Sunday 5:15 PM

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols as sung at King's College, Cambridge, England

Sunday, December 20, 4:00 PM

Both events in the Cathedral

. . . and at Holy Cross

A Festival of Lessons, Readings, and Hymns

This Sunday, November 22nd, 11:00 AM in the Nave

The Cooking Garden Event

Friday, November 23, 3:00 PM in the Education Building

The LSU Extension Service leads us in cooking and sharing a healthy dish of vegetables currently available in our garden, followed by planting a new crop and learning about the care that results in the best harvest!

Soup Days

December 2, 9, and 16, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM in the Undercroft

Please help by making vegetable beef soup or a dessert, or by coming to help serve.

Christmas Eucharist

Christmas Eve, 5:00 PM

Music for Organ and Violin, 4:30 PM in the Nave



Calendar for November and December

Wednesdays	Holy Eucharist (Enriching Our Worship)	12:15 PM	Chapel
	Supper, Eucharist, and study	6:00 PM	Undercroft
Thursdays	Holy Eucharist	11:00 AM	Hope House Back Yard
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Choir Practice	9:45 AM	Nave
	Nursery	9:45-AM-12:15 PM	Education Building
	Sunday School	11:00 AM	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist II	11:00 AM	Nave
Second Sunday each month	Morning Prayer	11:00 AM	Nave
Friday, November 20	Garden Cooking Event	3:00 PM	Education Building
Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9, 16	Soup Days	10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Undercroft
Sunday, December 6	Continuing Feast	after the 11:00 service	Undercroft
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Eve Eucharist	5:30 PM	Nave

Prayer List

Bill Alexander
Wanda Allen
Margaret Boudreaux
Jim Boyd
Barbara Campbell
Charlie Campbell
Jay Colvin
Patricia Conly
Laurie Connell
Evelyn Corley
Ron Dean
Jean Dooley
Elizabeth Eglin

Shirley Enani
Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar
Lady Martha Garner
Austin Gleason
Kenneth Jordan
Elizabeth Joyce
George Love
Mim McCoy
Paige McCranie
Marie Nanco
Trish Peyton
Ila Riggs
Laura Rhoades

Sandra Robinson
Brady Sessions
Jack Theurerkauf
Gary Thomas
Jane Thompson
Robert Todd
Cliff Townsend
Mattie Washington
Charlotte Webb
Bill Wright
Larry Wright
Mary Wright

If you would like to request an addition to the Prayer List, please call the church office, 222-3325. Our practice is to keep names on the list for six weeks. If we have an update at that time requesting that we continue to pray for the person, we will leave the name on the list. If not, we will remove it. You can always call if you would like us to add it again.

We pray for those who serve and are served by the Caddo Council on Aging; for all who are homeless or hungry; for the people of Mexico, the Middle East and Ukraine; for migrants in Africa and Europe; for those in Mexico recovering from the hurricane, and in Afghanistan and Pakistan recovering from the earthquake; for the victims and perpetrators of the violence in Paris; for people in all the places where there are war and tension, and for all who seek peace; for the people of our country, that we may find together the way of compassion and peace from our prejudices and racial tensions; for law enforcement officers and the people they serve; and for our President and Congress, that they may work together to pass legislation to lessen the danger of violence and injustice in our country and provide for the needs of the most vulnerable. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Postulants Frank Fuller (Jane) and Lois Maberry (Ron); and for Candidates Michael Bordelon (Lauren) and Seth Donald (Amy).

The world may be cruel, we may suffer, but we take heart! Your gracious hand, O God, is upon all those who commit themselves to the common good. *Amen.*

Day Ministries

The Last Sunday after Pentecost November 22, 2015

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector and Eucharistic Minister: Larry Wright
Sun. 11:00 AM:
Lector: Lynn Walford
Prayers of the People: Becky Snodgrass
Eucharistic Ministers: Reece Middleton, Kendall Raymond
Acolytes: Steve Snodgrass, Hannah Wallace, Aaron Horton
Ushers: Herschel Richard, Bill Richard
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: June Kirkland, Jo Ann Horton

The First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2015

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector: Stephanie Hamblin
Sun. 11:00 AM:
Lector: Nathaniel Means
Prayers of the People: Reece Middleton
Eucharistic Ministers: Nathaniel Means, Ginger Paul
Acolytes: Herschel Richard, Aaron Horton
Ushers: Tommie Sue Brooks, Gerry Brooks
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Jo Ann Horton, Tommie Sue Brooks

The Second Sunday of Advent December 6

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector: Trish Peyton
Sun. 11:00 AM:
Lector: Steve Snodgrass
Prayers of the People: Becky Snodgrass
Eucharistic Ministers: Fred Ogunyemi, Kendall Raymond
Acolytes: Hanna Wallace, Herschel Richard
Ushers: Herschel Richard, Bill Richard
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Jo Ann Horton, June Kirkland

If you wish to donate altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Laurie, 222-3325, and tell her. This is a beautiful way to contribute to the beauty of our worship and give to the glory of God!

Joy in the Journey

Diocesan Recovery Retreat
December 4-6

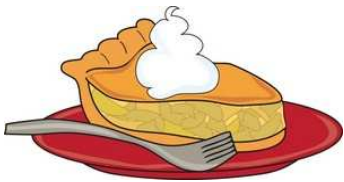
Retreat Master: Fr. Eugene McReynolds
of Fr. Flanagan's Boys' Town in Nebraska

Flyers and registration forms are in the church office and in *Alive!*



Holy Cross ECW Soup Days

A longstanding tradition at Holy Cross, Soup Days are held on Wednesdays during Lent and Advent. For only \$4.00, the women of Holy Cross ECW, with the help of volunteers, serve a delicious lunch of homemade vegetable beef soup and homemade desserts. Our Soup Days have become famous locally, and you can often find downtown business and professional people in the Undercroft, enjoying lunch and conversation together. This year, Advent Soup Days will be held on December 2, 9, and 16 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, so mark your calendars!



Usually up to a hundred people—sometimes more—attend each Soup Day. That means the ECW women have to make a lot of food, and it also means that they greatly appreciate help from our parishioners. If you'd like to help them, make some soup to contribute to the pot (you can make it ahead of time and freeze it), or make a pie or cake for dessert. You can take your frozen soup to the church anytime, but please take your desserts on the Tuesday before Soup Day—that is, on December 1, 8, or 15. If you're not a cook, come help serve the lunches. When you do, take a peek at our beautiful, newly remodeled kitchen!

***Crossings* will be on vacation the week of Thanksgiving**

The next issue will be published on December 2

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Don't forget your pledge for 2016! You can mail the form to the church, or put it in the offering plate.

MY PLEDGE OF THANKSGIVING

In gratitude for God's blessings, I pledge support for the ministry of the Church in 2016 through the Church of the Holy Cross:

Total for the year _____

I will make payments: _____ *one donation enclosed* _____ *weekly* or _____ *monthly*

Please _____ *provide* _____ *do not provide me with offering envelopes*

_____ *I do not wish to pledge at this time*

Signature

Date

The Texas Avenue Makers Fair . . . and Holy Cross

The Texas Avenue Makers Fair has been growing each year, and has now become a real presence in our neighborhood. This year it was better than ever! The artists and craftspeople offered truly original creations, food vendors had mouth-watering items that made it hard to choose what to eat, and even the weather cooperated with a cool, sunny November day.

This time, Holy Cross added to the day by opening the church to fairgoers. Priest Mary gave tours of the Nave and Chapel, and Bruce Power and "Mr. Skinner" offered beautiful organ music. Throughout the day, nearly 150 people came into the church and marveled at its beauty. Many stayed to enjoy this place of peace and serenity amidst the noise and bustle of the fair.

By offering their entire Saturday to this effort, Mary and Bruce not only ended up with sore feet (and in Bruce's case, fingers)—they let the people of our community know that The Church of the Holy Cross is, and will continue to be, a vital part of the project to renew the Texas Avenue area and turn it into the vital heart of downtown that it should be.



Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal

P. O. Box 1627

Shreveport, LA 71165-1627

Website: www.holycrossshreveport.org

E-mail: holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage

P A I D

SHREVEPORT, LA

Permit No. 1197

Return Service Requested

Mission Statement: *The Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport, Louisiana, strives to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond, through worship of Almighty God, open inquiry, sharing fellowship, valued diversity, genuine inclusiveness, and servant leadership—encouraging all to exercise God's gifts and calling as we share the Gospel of Hope in programs, to serve without regard for religious affiliation, race, or economic status.*

Hope House: There is an ongoing need for coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry detergent, disposable razors, and personal size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.). Donations can be taken to 762 Austin Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for **March and April**, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.

If you cannot get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion or a visit at your residence or the hospital, please call the church office at 222-3325, and Communion will be brought to you.

Crossings is now also available via email. Simply send or call in your email address to the office.



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ph.D.
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rev. Mary B. Richard
The Rev. Sally M. Fox
The Rev. Kenneth W. Paul
The Rev. Donald D. Heacock
Mr. Bruce Power
Mr. Ron Dean
Mrs. Laurie Connell
Mr. Charles Alford

XXVII Presiding Bishop
IV Bishop of Western Louisiana
Rector
Assisting Priest
Rector Emeritus
Director, Holy Cross Child Placement
Organist-Choirmaster
Organist Choirmaster Emeritus
Office Administrator
Sexton