



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
DECEMBER 20, 2017

Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 9:30 and 11:00 AM
Saturday: 5:00 PM

Book Study and Eucharist

Wednesday: 11:00 AM

Nursery

Sunday
9:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday: 9:45 AM

Sunday School

Sunday: 10:00 AM

The Vestry

Reece Middleton, Senior Warden
Gerry Brooks, Jr. Warden
Steve Snodgrass, Secretary
Shirley Enani
Maggie Fowle
Jo Ann Horton
John Hughes
Meredith Lucius
Ginger Paul
Monty Walford, Treasurer
(non-vestry)

Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325

Fax: (318) 681-9506

Email:

office@holycrossshreveport.com

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

In 1916, [E. M.] Skinner created and patented the “Orchestrator,” “Player-Relay” mechanism, which stands directly as one of the forerunners of the modern computer. It was not until the 1980s,



when one of his Player-Relays was discovered and reverse-engineered by organ builders, that it became apparent just how far Skinner had actually

progressed beyond his contemporaries in the development of “Mechanical Intelligence” (Wikipedia).

In this time of instant messages and communication, a time of short memories, a time of neglected and destroyed historical artifacts, one must remember all the hands that touch, read, and digest the words of our Prayer Book and Hymnal. Visitors and parishioners—these all touch our Prayer Book and Hymnal in public and private worship. But alas, these books must be discarded and updated for the changing needs of new generations in an ever-changing world.

In three years, our E. M. Skinner organ will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Holy Cross’ contract signing for the building and installation of Opus 306. “Boston organ builders furnished all of the organs that have been used in this building beginning with a hand-pumped tracker organ built by the firm of Hook and Hastings in 1894. This instrument was moved into the present structure when it was built in 1905. The organ had been used in the previous building located at the corner of Market and Fannin streets and served the parish until a new organ was purchased from the Hutchings Organ Company in 1911. Unfortunately, the Hutchings instrument had a relatively short life as it was destroyed by a fire in 1919.” (*drawn from writings of Ronald E. Dean, Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus*)

The signing of our E. M. Skinner organ contract took place in the spring of 1920. The instrument’s installation was completed in the early part of 1921, and our organ was first used in April of that year. It is interesting to note that Mr. Skinner worked in the organ shop of George Hutchings, our previous organ’s builder.

In a brief research project in which I studied the E. M. Skinner list of organ installations nationally, I found some interesting information: we seem to possess the oldest playable and most intact E. M. Skinner organ in this part of the country. this distinction certainly applies within the state, and seems to apply to most of the southwest portion of the United States. More investigation is needed on my part. While some updating and restorative work was done in the early 80s, and tonal modifications to the instrument were made in 1949, the majority of working parts and pipes are original and untouched. More detailed information about our organ

may be found on our website; this information was researched and written by Ronald E. Dean.

E. M. Skinner



Last year we finished restoring mechanical parts of the instrument. It is worthy to note that this work was the updating and replacement of parts originally built and installed in 1921. In this day of quick fixes and ten-year warranties, a product (an

artistic product) which has worked continuously with no malfunction for almost one hundred years is commendable, if not extraordinary. This long endurance speaks highly of the quality and craftsmanship of previous generations of organ building.

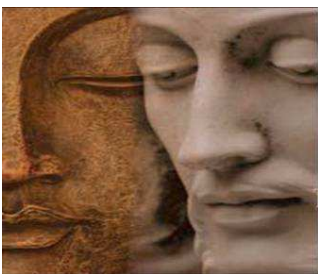
Nothing to the tonal palette of our instrument is being touched, as we are simply trying to keep the instrument in good working condition. Holy Cross has an historical and beautiful treasure in our organ. The instrument should never be tonally altered or updated, with the exception of mechanical upkeep. Certain tonal additions to the instrument could take place and would be most welcome, but this work should only be in the historical style of our organ, with vintage, period pipework if available. These additions should be “sounds” built by this builder, many of which are kept in storage for future buyers. A wealth of stored instruments of historical and artistic value is in storage for future use, having been salvaged or bought from institutions which no longer exist or which wish to acquire new organs.

In the early fall our Orchestral Oboe was restored. This is a signature rank (sound) of Mr. Skinner’s work. Two more ranks (sets of pipes) built in 1920/21 need our attention. We need to have the two ranks restored for easier tuning and maintenance. Ninety-seven years of service is not a bad track record of performance.

As our Prayer Book and Hymnal have been used by previous and current generations and shall be in the future, Holy Cross’ organ has sung for the ears of countless worshippers; we must provide for its continued voice to the generations which follow us in this place. If you are interested in having a part in continuing the voice of our beautiful organ for more generations, please contact Priest Mary or Bruce Power. A plaque in our nave commemorating a complete or in-part gift is a lasting tribute in memory or honor of a loved one.

Bruce Power, Organist and Choirmaster.

Interfaith Friendship Jesus and Buddha



In his book *Jesus and Buddha*, New Testament theologian Marcus Borg (1924-2015) highlights numerous sayings in the teachings of Jesus that are strikingly similar, if not identical, to the teachings of the Buddha, who lived some six centuries earlier. There have been some attempts to explain these similarities through historical access, which is a remote possibility. Borg suggests a more meaningful view: that Jesus and the Buddha had both discovered the same spiritual goal and destiny, or I would say *the one Holy Spirit*, that is guiding all of history. The Jewish Kabbalah, Muslim Sufism, and the teachings of the Tao also reveal a map toward non-dual consciousness and oneness.

Let me share just a few of the parallel teachings Borg gathers in his book, and you will see how they are coming from the same non-dual perspective.

Jesus says, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31). The Buddha says, “Consider others as yourself” (Dhammapada 10.1).

Jesus says, “If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other one also” (Luke 6:29). The Buddha says, “If anyone should give you a blow with his hand, with a stick, or with a knife, you should abandon any desires [to hurt him] and utter no evil words” (Majjhima Nikaya 21.6).

Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me” (Matthew 25:45). The Buddha says, “If you do not tend one another, then who is there to tend you? Whoever would tend me, he should tend the sick” (Vinaya, Mahavagga 8.26.3).

Jesus and Buddha diagnose the human dilemma similarly. Our suffering is primarily based on ignorance. The vast majority of humanity lives in blindness about who we are and where we are going. Jesus and Buddha both speak about anxiety, attachment, grasping, craving, and self-absorption.

Marcus Borg



Unfortunately, Christianity became so concerned with making sure everybody believed that Jesus was God (faith *in* Jesus) that we largely ignored his teachings on detachment, simplicity, nonviolence, and anxiety (the faith *of* Jesus). Our Buddhist brothers and sisters can help us remember these teachings at the core of our faith; they can help us be better, truer Christians. And we can help them, or *at least give them very few reasons to dislike us!* Why not try this novel idea?

On many levels, Jesus and Buddha talked about the same experience of transformation. In the end, all spirituality really is about transformation, dying before we die and being reborn as our True Selves in Love.

Gateway to Silence: ***We are already one.***

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

“Make his paths straight.” . . . The image of straightening a path was clear to the people of the first century. When a king was about to come into a land, the road-like paths would be cleaned up and straightened in preparation for his royal majesty’s entrance. So it was at the coming of the King of the universe. The prophet would prepare for the coming of the Christ onto the earth and into our lives.

Edward Markquart

Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year A

Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012



FEASTING
on the **WORD**™

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B December 24, 2017

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 ✎ *Luke 1:47-55*
Romans 16:25-27 ✎ *Luke 1:26-38*

(*Romans 16:25-27*) It is important not to confuse joy and happiness. The New Testament says a great deal about joy and very little about happiness. The root of the word happiness is *hap*, which means *chance* (as in *happenstance*). Happiness is a mood, an emotion that changes as circumstances around us change. It is like a thermometer that goes up and down as it interprets the events around us, making us vulnerable to happiness one minute and despair the next. Joy, on the other hand, sets the temperature of our environment, rather than responding to it.

Cathy F. Young

The First Sunday after Christmas, Year B December 31, 2017

Isaiah 9:2-7 ✎ *Psalm 96*
Titus 2:11-14 ✎ *Luke 2:1-14*

(*Isaiah 9:2-7*) This passage from Isaiah challenges us to push a few inches beyond the comfortable picture of the nativity tableau. The child whose birth we attend tonight was born into a world painted not in pastels but in dust and blood. This incarnation is not a spiritual, otherworldly concept, but the mystery of God present in a real human child, welcomed into a real world with all its agonies and ambiguities and challenges and joys.

Linda Lee Clader



Calendar for December and January

Thursdays	Bible study	1:30 PM	Fairmont Apartments Community Meeting Room
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
Sundays	Holy Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden*
	Nursery	9:30 AM – noon	Education Building
	Sunday School	10:00 AM	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist	11:00 AM	Nave
Sunday, December 24			
The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Holy Eucharist	11:00 AM	Nave
Christmas Eve	Music for organ, harpsichord, violin	4:30 PM	Nave
	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Nave
Monday, December 25			
Christmas Day	Coffee and breakfast	9:00 AM	Sidewalk or Narthex*
	Holy Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden/Chapel*
Wednesday, January 3	Book study resumes	11:00 AM	Undercroft
Saturday, January 6	The Feast of the Epiphany, Evening Prayer	5:00 PM	Nave
Sunday, January 7	<i>The Continuing Feast</i>	after the 11:00 service	Undercroft
	Recognition of our new members		
Sunday, January 21	Annual parish meeting	after the 11:00 service	Nave

*Depending on weather

Prayer List

Wanda Allen
Debbie Atwood
Michael Atwood
Claudette Branson
Michael Breedlove
Tommy Breedlove
Cary Rhea Brooks
Evelyn Corley
Hugh Coyle
Ron Dean

Shirley Enani
Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar
Ed Finuf
Christine Hennigan
Don Jamerson
Kenneth Jordan
Doris Lewis
Flo Little
Mim McCoy
Pat McCoy

Jim McCranie
Allison Moncla
Bob Morris
Jim Santa Ana
Brady Sessions
Mary Ann Shemwell
Tommy Simrall
Jack Theuerkauf
Sonny Thomas
Kim Tobin

Robert Todd
Sara Townsend
Laura Wilkerson
Mike Wilkerson
Michael Winburn
Bill Wright
Larry Wright
Mary Wright

We pray for those who serve and are served by Hope House;
for all who live in the devastation of hurricanes and fires, and for those who will rebuild;
for the people of our country, that we may work with renewed purpose to overcome our fears and prejudices;
for law enforcement officers and the people they serve;
for people in all places where there is war and fear, and for those who seek peace;
and for the leaders and the people of our country, that a spirit of hospitality and respect for all people
may lead us to enact laws that serve those who are most vulnerable.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Episcopal Church Women, Shetwan Robinson, President; for Diocesan Altar Guild, Sandy Young; for Daughters of the King, Judy Bordelon; for Non-Parochial and other Clergy, the Rev. James Bennbrook (Becky), the Rev. John Campbell (Sarah), the Rev. Stephen Caudle, the Rev. Andrew Comeaux (Eydie), the Rev. Sally Fox, the Rev. Jon Roberts (Lynne), the Rev. Don White (Kathryn), and the Rev. Kenneth White.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for Yola (Jos, Nigeria), the Rt. Rev. Markus Ibrahim;
and for Zululand (Southern Africa), the Rt. Rev. Monument Makhanya.

Dear God, challenge us daily to see your image in every human being. Amen.

The Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 21st

In the nave after the 11:00 service

We will elect new Vestry members. Please call the church office (222-3325 if you would like to serve on the vestry or nominate someone to serve.

Say Ministries

The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2017

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lectors: Reid Raymond, Jo Ann Horton

Prayers of the People: David Richard

Eucharistic Ministers: Aaron Horton, Ginger Paul

Acolyte: Herschel Richard

Ushers: Steve Snodgrass, Bill Richard

Altar Guild Sat. 5:00 PM: June Kirkland, Margaret Heacock

Altar Guild Sun. 11:00 AM: Becky Snodgrass

Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 PM:

Lectors: Maggie Fowle, David Richard

Prayers of the People: Melissa Fowle

Eucharistic Ministers: Kendall Raymond, Herschel Richard

Acolytes: Aaron Horton, Joe Bob Evanson, Hannah Wallace

Ushers: Edward Cloyd-Baldwin, Tommie Sue Brooks

Altar Guild: June Kirkland, Tommie Sue Brooks

The First Sunday after Christmas December 31, 2017

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lectors: Reid Raymond, Melissa Fowle,

Maggie Fowle, the Rev. Kenneth W. Paul

Prayers of the People: Herschel Richard

Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Paul, Jo Ann Horton

Acolyte: Herschel Richard

Ushers: Becky Snodgrass, Steve Snodgrass

Altar Guild Sat. 5:00 PM: June Kirkland, Margaret Heacock

Altar Guild Sun. 11:00 AM: Becky Snodgrass, June Kirkland

Service Music

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 24

Introit: *O come, Desire of nations* Plainsong, Mode I

Mass: *Trisagion* S 102 Archangelsky, Schubert, and Hurd

Canticle: *Magnificat* R. N. Kennedy

Anthems *The Angel Gabriel* Basque carol, Edward Petman, harm.; *Gabriel's message does away* anon. 16th century melody

Hymns: 66 Stuttgart 276 Rustington 81 *Es ist ein Ros* 56 *Veni Emmanuel*

Organ: *O come, O come Emmanuel* Sowerby *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming* Brahms

Magnificat 1, Op. 18 Dupré *Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733* J. S. Bach

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve

4:30 PM: Music for Violin and Organ. Mary Eileen Grant, Violin

Rhapsody on Noels Gigout

When Jesus was born; Where are these happy shepherds going? Balbastre

Meditation, Op. 32 Glazunov

Pastoral R. Milvord

Pastoral Dance on Christmas Night Milford

Praeludium and Allegro Kreisler

5:00 PM: The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Introit: *Light shall shine today upon us*, Tone VII.2

Mass: *Hymn of Praise* 96, Schubert and Hurd

Psalm 96: R. L. Simpson

Hymns: 83 *Adeste fideles* 107 *In dulci jubilo* 115 *Greensleeves* 111 *Stille Nacht* 87 *Mendelssohn*

Anthems: *Torches* Joubert *On Christmas Night* anon. English carol, arr. Manz *Invitation to the Manger* Ledger

Carols by the Children of Holy Cross

Violin: *It came upon the midnight clear* R. S. Willis

Organ: *From heaven above to earth I come* Pachelbel *God among us (The Nativity)* Messiaen

The First Sunday after Christmas: December 31 Christmas Lessons and Carols with the Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Mass: Schubert and Hurd

Hymns: 102 Irby 115 *Greensleeves* 94 *Winchester Old* 100 *Antioch* 99 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
95 *God Rest You Merry* 112 Cranham

Anthems: *Torches* Joubert *On Christmas Night* anon. English carol, arr. Manz *Invitation to the Manger* Ledger

Organ: *Venite adoremus* anon. English/Italian carol *In dulci jubilo* J. S. Bach and Sowerby
God among us (The Nativity) Messiaen *Ode to the New Year* W. Selby



Mary Eileen Grant plays violin in area symphonies and ensembles. With her husband Zack, she is co-owner of *All Strings for Granted*. Ms. Grant, a Shreveport area native, is the part-time music teacher at Ascension Classical School, and a full-time mother.

Ms. Grant graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Music Therapy. She worked as a music therapist across the country prior to returning home in 2008, and then worked at Willis Knighton Hospice until the birth of her first child.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

This is the Sunday that pops up every few years when we have a quick transition from Advent 4 to Christmas, all in 4-5 hours. Dizzying, but fun. Our regular Eucharist at 11:00 this Sunday will complete our Advent journey. Advent lessons, Advent music, Advent prayers and sermon. I encourage you to continue the quiet of Advent as far into the afternoon as you can. A quick nap or quiet prayer time would be good before Christmas comes in full glory in our 5:00 service.



For the past few years it has been our custom to include our children in the procession at the beginning of the service on Christmas Eve. When they come to the chancel steps they will sing their Christmas hymns and then sit with their parents. All children are welcome—the hymns are familiar: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and *Away in a Manger*. Parents may bring their children to the entrance of the Nave and are welcome to process with them and take them to the pews where you will sit during the service.

We have not had a Christmas Day service at Holy Cross, but this year Charles Alford, our Sexton, offered to meet me here for the usual Sunday coffee and donuts (9:00 AM) and Eucharist (9:20) on Christmas Day. Our neighbors will like that, we think. If you would love to worship and receive Communion on Christmas Day, please join us. It's a great time to visit with our neighbors, share breakfast, and you'll be home by 10:00 for the rest of Christmas Day.

Epiphany Gets Lost

The Three Wise Men have been a prominent part of every nativity scene I've ever seen in public places and churches—except at Holy Cross, of course. Somehow, through the ages, the kings or the magicians or wise men were incorporated into the Christmas story, probably because their visit to Jesus' family would require an entirely new setting: a house in Nazareth rather than a stable in Bethlehem; a toddler rather than a newborn infant. The messages of Christmas and Epiphany are different. Jesus is born into a Jewish family, fulfilling promises of salvation God had been making for centuries to the Jewish people. The Wise Men stand in for people of all cultures, nationalities, faiths, and times who believe the gift of God's Son was given to all people the world over. Two different messages. One can get lost in the glory of the other.

And so at Holy Cross we arrange our crèche with the figures of the Christmas Story alone. No Wise Men. The three of them, with their camels, wait patiently beside the font for twelve more days. We bring them to the manger on January



6, the Feast of the Epiphany.

I was taught that *epiphany* means *manifestation*, or *showing*—the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. And in that epiphany is the realization of the true meaning of the event: that God, from the beginning of Creation, before time, planned to redeem not a part but the whole of Creation from the sinful fixes we get ourselves into.

This is why we wait until January 6 to bring the Wise Men with their camels to the Christ Child. This is why we give them their own time in the limelight. If we don't, they get lost in the glory of the Christmas story.

So come to Evening Prayer on Saturday, January 6 at 5:00. The Epiphany story is beautiful, recorded by Matthew but probably conceived as a revelation of God's purpose as Jesus became known as the Son of God, as his story was told over and over between the time of the Resurrection and the time Matthew wrote it down. The story holds all the elements of drama: mystery on many levels, the age-old struggle between good and evil, an evil king and a glorious angel. Not to mention beautiful music and hymns written through the centuries to give the Epiphany story its own glory. Our children will process carrying the Wise Men and their camels (parents—help, please!), the story of Epiphany will be told with the appearance of evil King Herod and the angel, and we'll sing the beautiful hymns of Epiphany.

A Special Continuing Feast



Our *Continuing Feast* is always special, but we'll do something new in January. We'll recognize our new members of Holy Cross. Last year nine people came into our part of the Body of Christ! It may be that not everyone has had a chance to become acquainted with all of them, and that all our new members have not been able to get to know those of us who have been here for a few (or many) years. We'll have name tags to make things easier. Please plan to come so we can all know one another better as we

continue the feast we began in the Eucharist and celebrate the fellowship of Holy Cross.

In the Narthex:

Advent materials from Episcopal Relief and Development: It's never too late to give an alternative gift—we celebrate Christmas for twelve days! Episcopal Relief and Development is still giving aid to people suffering from natural disasters. A gift to this arm of our church will help in their ministry.



ERD's ministry is not limited to disaster relief, however. This arm of our church goes into underdeveloped places with resources and teaching to lift people out of poverty and starvation. Domesticated animals of all kinds, sizes, and costs can be bought with your gift to provide people with husbandry skills and knowledge that can improve the lives of many others in their village. Giving a gift of this kind is a great way to teach children and grandchildren about the needs of people in other places and how we can share with them. Please take a gift catalog and envelope home and consider how you might support ERD's ministry.

Pledge cards and ministry sheets are coming in! If you have not returned yours, please either mail them to Holy Cross or place them in the offering plate. If yours are buried in Christmas cards or have somehow been shuffled around and disappeared, more are provided on the tables in the Narthex and Undercroft. We will be working on the church's budget for 2018, and having your pledge will be a great help. Thanks!

Hope House T-Shirts

New fall T-shirts in bright blue are available to order in the church office! At \$15 these will make great Christmas gifts. Please buy some and help spread the good news of Hope House's ministry far and wide.

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E-mail: office@holycrossshreveport.com

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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.). Please take your donations to 762 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

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



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