



NEWSLETTER

The Crucifer

From the Ground Up

- by Isabelle Peterson

This summer, while I was in South Carolina for my studies, the choir and I chose “The Universal Christ” by Richard Rohr for our annual summer book study. While we only got through part one of the book, it was deeply meaningful to me, and I’d like to share my big takeaway with y’all: Everything is a gift. I’m sure we’ve all heard this at some point in our lives, but the Richard Rohr approach helped me see *how* to view everything as a gift.

In my life, the small blessings that surround me every day often get overshadowed by the busy-ness I create for myself. It’s easy to become consumed by all sorts of things - achievements, material possessions, or even staying organized and doing good work. But, truly, spiritual growth and a deeper connection with God can be found in the most unexpected places—in the humblest and simplest moments around us. Richard Rohr writes about **The Great Chain of Being**, using some of the teachings of St. Bonaventure, a Bishop, Cardinal, and scholar in the 1200s who taught that *to work up to loving God, start by loving the very humblest and simplest things, and then move up from there:*

“Let us place our first step in the ascent at the bottom, presenting to ourselves the whole material world as a mirror, through which we may pass over to God, who is the supreme craftsman. The Creator’s supreme power, wisdom, and benevolence shine forth through all created things.”

Reading this made me reflect on the last time I stepped away from a textbook, my phone, or my never-ending to-do list to appreciate something small: the sound of frogs in the backyard of the room I was renting when I came home each night, the noises of my host family cooking dinner in the other room, or one of the many neighborhood cats pausing to meow a hello. Honestly, it had been a while since I’d paused to appreciate anything other than a completed assignment or a good grade. This book encouraged me to try cultivating gratitude for these modest gifts to open my heart

to a deeper appreciation of God's presence in my life and see each moment as an opportunity to connect with the Divine.

Richard Rohr writes that Jesus is *the gift that honored the gift*. “From the first moments of the Big Bang, nature was revealing the glory and goodness of the Divine Presence; it must be seen as a gratuitous gift and not a necessity. Jesus came to live in its midst and enjoy life in all its natural variations, and thus became our model and exemplar.” Rohr challenges the reader to start at the bottom, literally, and to love rocks and elements first, then trees, then animals, then humans, encouraging us that “angels will soon seem like a real possibility, and God is then just a short leap away.” I didn’t like this at first. Growing our love of God from the literal ground up instead of starting at the top with the one who loved us first. It felt wrong. But then I read what followed, “how you do anything, is how you do everything.” This really spoke to me and drew me to the importance of allowing our love for God to extend to all of the things he has created.

The Apostle Peter reminds us of the magnificent gifts we have already received in 2 Peter 1:3-4: “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” God has already provided us with everything we need for a godly life.

By recognizing and appreciating the simple gifts around us, we tap into this divine power and begin to understand the depth of God's love and provision. In the simplest things, we find the greatest gifts. And in those gifts, we find the path to loving God more deeply and living the godly life He has called us to embrace. I hope my sharing this with you blessed you as it did me!

Sunday Worship

8:00am – In Person Worship & Live Stream
10:30am – In Person Worship & Live Stream

Library Hours

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:30pm
Sundays: 9:15 - 12:15pm
Wednesdays: 9:15am - 6:00pm

Sunday Classes

9:25am – Nursery
9:25am – Children’s Ministry
9:30am – EYC Sunday School
9:35am – Exploring Trinitarian Spirit (Lanier)
9:35am – Music Reading (Nave)
9:35am – Romans (Holy Cross Rm)
9:35am – Women’s Book Study (Chapel)

Wednesday Nights

5:30pm – Church Dinner
6:00pm – Nursery
6:15pm – Adult Class
6:15pm – Youth Group - EYC
6:15pm – Children’s Ministry

September

2024

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 <i>Labor Day</i> Office is Closed 4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society 5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group	3 6:15pm - AA	4 9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar’s Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes	5 5:30pm - Handbells 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	7 10:00am - Heavenly Handmade 10:00am - Prayer Shawl /Knitted Knockers (Holy Cross Rm)
8 <i>ECW Spaghetti Orders (before & after 8 & 10:30)</i>	9 5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group	10 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	11 9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar’s Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes	12 <i>ECW Spaghetti Order Pick-Up</i> 4:30pm - Spaghetti Order Pick-up 5:30pm - Handbells 6:15pm - AA 6:00pm - Neighborhood Watch	13	14
CLASSES: See Above Outreach Focus: Feed My Sheep 8:00am - Worship 8:00am - ECW Spaghetti Orders 9:00am - Breakfast 10:30am - Worship	16 4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society 5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group	17 <i>Awareness Tuesday ECW Lunch & Bunce</i> 11:30am - ECW lunch at Mason’s 5:30pm - Bunco 6:00pm - Awareness Tuesday 6:15pm - AA	18 9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar’s Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes	19 5:30pm - <u>NO</u> Handbells 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - <u>NO</u> Choir Rehearsal	20 <i>Happening #62</i>	21 <i>Happening #62</i> <i>ECM Monthly Meeting</i>
15 <i>JUST Pensacola</i>	23 5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group	24 6:15pm - AA	25 9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar’s Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes	26 5:30pm - <u>NO</u> Handbells 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - <u>NO</u> Choir Rehearsal	27	28
CLASSES: See Above 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Hot Delicious Breakfast 10:30am - Worship	30 5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group					
22 <i>Happening #62</i>						
CLASSES: See Above 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Hot Delicious Breakfast 10:30am - Worship						
29 <i>Dr. Stemen Concert</i>						
CLASSES: See Above 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Hot Delicious Breakfast 10:30am - Worship 3:00pm - Board Games 5:00pm - Piano Concert						

OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Spaghetti Walk-Up

Dinner for 1 - \$10.00
Meat or Veggie
Includes: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread and Dessert



Take a break from making dinner, stop at the Spaghetti Walk-Up!

The Holy Cross Episcopal Church Women will begin taking orders for delicious spaghetti dinners on *September 1st*.

Order by phone:
Lorrie Wilkinson (850) 206-8374
Holy Cross Office (850) 477-8596

Order In-person:
September 1st - before and after the 8:00 & 10:30 services
September 8th - before and after the 8:00 & 10:30 services

Pickup is *September 12th*: 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Please make checks payable to Holy Cross with ECW Spaghetti in the memo line.
Limited availability so order early!



JUST Pensacola

Justice United Seeking Transformation

MONTHLY MEETING

Sept. 15th after 10:30am Worship

The Justice Ministry at Holy Cross


is a group of individuals committed to promoting social justice and advocating for marginalized communities. This meeting is an opportunity for anyone interested in joining the Justice Ministry to learn more about the group's mission and upcoming events.

HOLY CROSS PRESENTS

AWARENESS TUESDAY

September 17th @ 6pm
7979 N. 9th Ave Pensacola, FL 32514

Join us for Awareness Tuesday to hear from local experts about human trafficking, its impact on our community, and how you can help.



Volunteer Now!

Holy Cross Episcopal Church
7979 North 9th Avenue, Pensacola

Arts & Crafts Festival

Saturday, October 5th
9:00am - 3:00pm

CA*CH THE SPIRIT

Everything Handmade

Jewelry, Fine Art, Textiles, Wreaths, Baked Goods, Food Court and so much more!

Holy Spirit Christmas

Signup Sheet in Narthex!
We need you!!

Please contact Jean Gibson @ (850) 293-0975 or jean.h.gibson@gmail.com for more info.



September Birthdays

- 01 - Susan Karl
- 01 - Evan Lands
- 02 - Brandi Love-Spain
- 03 - Nell Landrum
- 04 - Richard Bleecker
- 05 - Susan Bell
- 05 - Jen Brennan
- 05 - Steve Lukow
- 05 - Grace Mims
- 06 - Cynthia Zelius
- 08 - Chris Dake
- 08 - MJ White
- 10 - Kathy Bleecker
- 10 - Susan Martin
- 12 - Michael Hitchcock
- 12 - Ellie Peacock
- 12 - Sheldon Rahn
- 17 - Chip Lands
- 17 - Lorrie Wilkinson
- 19 - Laurie White
- 20 - Larry Chambers
- 20 - Kara Killam
- 20 - Lavonne Thomas
- 21 - Gwynneth Brockbank
- 21 - Jackie Lanier
- 21 - Warren Post
- 23 - Paul Wallis
- 24 - Madelyn Hitchcock
- 24 - John Mankelwicz
- 24 - Beth Marshall
- 25 - Robyne Peacock
- 26 - Tracey Hotopp
- 27 - Donovan Chau
- 28 - Gretchen LeGrand
- 28 - Marilyn Pruitt
- 30 - Mary Bruce
- 30 - Aaron Wimmers



September Anniversaries

- 02 - Stephen & Susan Bell - 34 Yrs!
- 06 - Hunter & Pam Walker - 44 Yrs!
- 14 - Andrew & Sasha Gregg - 1 Yr!



Holy Cross Episcopal Church Women

ECW MEETING—SAT., SEPT. 14TH AT 10:30

COME HELP US PLAN FUTURE EVENTS!!

ECW HEAVENLY HANDMADE CRAFTS

TO FOLLOW AT 11:30

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF MAKING SOMETHING NEW!

HOLY CROSS YOUTH

Car Wash

WE WASH WHILE YOU WORSHIP

SEPT 8TH
9AM-12PM



ALL DONATIONS GO TOWARD THE HC YOUTH GROUP

September 20-22nd



HAPPENING IS HAPPENING HERE

A weekend retreat led by youth for youth.
CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Let's do it Yes, I'm in



Holy Cross Episcopal Church
7979 N. 9th Avenue
Pensacola, FL 32514
(850) 477-8596

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US POSTAGE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.holycrosspensacola.org

www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEpiscopalPensacola

Holy Cross Music Ministry Presents

DR. MEREDITH STEMEN AND FRIENDS

Piano Concert

Sunday Sept 29th at 5pm
Holy Cross Episcopal Church
7979 N 9th Ave, Pensacola