



NEWSLETTER

The Crucifer

What Happened in Guatemala?

My overarching question for our trip to Guatemala this summer was: "Is this mission a good fit for Holy Cross' long list of ministry opportunities?" Obviously, time will tell us the answer to that; but let me share with you a little about our time there this July.

Thankfully, safety was never a major concern. We were, of course, very careful. We kept a close eye on one another and maintained good boundaries. However, compared to other countries I have visited that are typically considered unsafe – such as Bulgaria in the 90s, Northeastern Brazil, San Pedro Sula in Honduras, and Piedras Negras on the Mexican border – Guatemala felt much friendlier and safer. The people we met were fantastic, always friendly, and eager to help us in any way they could.

While there, we built (to completion) two houses for two families - taking their beds out of the mud floors of shacks with no doors or windows and welcoming them into nice, dry homes with two windows and a metal door that locks. There simply are no words. It leaves me speechless to think about.

The food was also good, and the sleeping arrangements were ample – much like a rustic church camp only with better mattresses.

Also, while we were there, we hosted around 50 children for Vacations Bible Study. The families who attended joined in joyfully with dance and song and answering Bible questions. The message: *your hands are the hands of God and were created to do meaningful and good things*. VBS seemed to us to be a thrill, but little did I realize at the time that the resident leader - Margarita - hosts these families and more (around 75-100 children) every week of the year. She also organizes and distributes food for over twenty families, each of whom are sponsored through people here in the US.



To me, of all of the meaningful and life impacting moments of this trip, one of the most important came during a wedding that Fr. Matt had agreed to officiate over while we were there. Honestly, between the language and culture barrier, and with a torrential rain storm pounding on the tin roof as we tried to listen to Matt speak, the wedding was a bit...umm...*confusing*.

However, after Matt pronounced the final blessing of God on the marriage, the couple did something strange. They refused to leave the altar. Instead, they turned and faced Matt. Then someone got Vicki (Matt's wife) and pushed her to the front by his side. Then they began to speak - it was the couple's turn to pronounce God's blessing! They thanked and blessed Matt and Vicki with all of their hearts, not just for sponsoring their family for the last decade, but also for all of the good that this mission has done and is doing in their community.

Maybe the profundity of this memory doesn't communicate to you here. Maybe you had to be there. But when that couple turned to bless them, then the entire wedding made sense and the difference this missionary work makes was undeniably clear. They were there because of the love God had sown in their lives through this Guatemala mission.

Oh, the boy, Keven, in this picture with the kitten. He was one of the three children who now will live in the house I spent most of my time working on. He sort of took to me while I was there, and, truth be told, I took to him too. People kept pointing out how he watched me all the time. Keven is a sweet kid; and, he needs a sponsor. I am unsure if this will be a long-term good fit for our ministries, but, if it is up to the four of us from Holy Cross that went this summer, it sure would be a good fit for us to go back again next year! And some of you may hit choose to join us.

Expect a presentation from our mission group very soon during Sunday breakfast. Tentative date: August 25th.

In Christ,

Rob

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
9:30 am - EYC Sunday School
9:35am - Contemporary Explorations (Lanier)
9:35am - The Wisdom Group (Holy Cross Rm)
9:35am - Children's Ministry

Wednesday Nights

ON SUMMER BREAK, EXCEPT FOR YOUTH GROUP
**BEGINS: August 28, 2024
5:30pm - Church Dinner
6:00pm - Nursery
6:15pm - Adult Class
6:15pm - Youth Group - EYC
6:15pm - Children's Ministry



2024

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	10:00am - Heavenly Handmade 10:00am - Prayer Shawl Ministry (Holy Cross Rm)
4 <i>Jazz Concert</i>	5	6	7	8 <i>ECW Dinner</i>	9 <i>Youth Luau Lock-in</i>	10
CLASSES: See Above Outreach Focus: Feed My Sheep 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Breakfast 10:30am - Worship & Summer Kick-off 3:00pm - Board Games 5:00pm - Jazz Concert	5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar's Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Youth Group Only 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes on break for the summer	6:00pm - ECW Dinner @ Miller's Ale House 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall) 6:00pm - Youth Luau Lock-in	8:00am - Brotherhood of St. Andrew (Lanier Hall) 9:00am - Daughters of the King (Holy Cross Rm) 11:00am - We Care (Holy Cross Rm)
11 <i>Blessing of the Backpacks & Teachers: Reading Awards; & Rally Day Planning Meeting</i>	12 <i>First Day of School</i>	13	14	15	16	17 <i>ECM Monthly Workday</i>
CLASSES: See Above 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Breakfast 10:30am - Worship 10:30am - Blessing of the Backpacks & Teachers: Reading Awards 11:45am - Rally Day Planning Meeting	4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society 5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar's Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Youth Group Only 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes on break for the summer	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	8:00am - ECM Monthly Meeting/Workday
18 <i>Rally Day! Fall Sermon Series Car Wash</i>	19	20 <i>Bunco</i>	21 <i>Wednight Kick-Off!</i>	22	23	24
CLASSES: See Above 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Car Wash 9:00am - Breakfast 9:30am - Rally Day 10:30am - Worship	5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group	5:30pm - Bunco 6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar's Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Youth Group Only 5:30pm - Kick Off: Dinner & Classes	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	11:00am - We Care (Holy Cross Rm)
25 <i>Sunday School Fall Kick-Off!</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31
CLASSES: See Above 8:00am - Worship 9:00am - Hot Delicious Breakfast 10:30am - Worship	5:30pm - Depression Support Group 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 10:00am - Worship 10:00am - Hagar's Basket (Rm 3) 5:30pm - Youth Group Only 5:30pm - Dinner & Classes	5:30pm - Handbells 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm - ACA Group (Lanier Hall)	


JOIN US!
AUGUST 18TH
9:30-10:20AM

COME CELEBRATE THE IMPACT OF OUR TIME AND TALENT

RALLY DAY
POTLUCK BRUNCH
 RAFFLES * LIVE MUSIC
 FUN * FOOD

HOW TO WIN RALLY DAY RAFFLE TICKETS

1	ATTEND!
DOUBLE TICKET TIME	PARTICIPATE 9:30-9:40AM
3	COME DRESSED IN SUPERHERO THEMED CLOTHES
6	COME DRESSED AS A SUPERHERO
5	CONTRIBUTE TO THE POTLUCK
1	ASK A QUESTION AT A MINISTRY TABLE




August Birthdays

- 01 - Tam Lee
- 02 - John Turner
- 03 - Margaret Mayes
- 06 - Philip Iversen
- 08 - Stefanie Hibschman
- 09 - Tiffany Washington
- 11 - Jonathan Simpler
- 12 - Kala Bloxham
- 12 - Houston Brabham
- 12 - Herman Stuebing
- 13 - Barbara Coats
- 15 - Kirt Wilson
- 16 - Erica Dake
- 16 - Tony Kimmons
- 19 - Genevieve Simpler
- 20 - Lucy Brabham
- 20 - Karen O'Brien
- 21 - Jan Lovett
- 22 - Margaret Heatherington
- 22 - Lafe Parsley
- 24 - Eden Craig
- 27 - Clay Coleman
- 27 - Noah Entrekin
- 27 - Steve Gough
- 28 - Lois Heffernan
- 28 - Chelsea Hotopp
- 29 - Beth Ramirez
- 30 - Curtis Entrekin

DURING THE 10:30AM SERVICE

BACK to SCHOOL BLESSING

BRING YOUR BACKPACKS!
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH

HOT BREAKFAST & SUNDAY SCHOOL ARE BACK!

AUGUST 25TH 9:00AM
LANIER HALL

Hey Kids! Remember, all reading cards must be turned in by July 28th. Awards will be given on Sunday, August 11th!

Summer Reading Program
 for Children and Youth
 May 26th - July 27th

KICK OFF

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER IS BACK
AUGUST 21ST 5:30PM
LANIER HALL
 CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!



August Anniversaries

- 02 - Rob & Lucy Brabham - 10 Yrs!
- 02 - John & Rachel Holder - 11 Yrs!
- 05 - Dan & Cindy Corritore - 41 Yrs!
- 07 - Ken & Rena Killam - 26 Yrs!

Holy Cross Episcopal Church
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HOLY CROSS MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS
Sunday, August 4th at 5pm
7979 N 9TH AVE

**AN EVENING OF
JAZZ**

FEATURING
ANDREW GREGG
Piano

JAKE BOYER
Drums

CARLOS SORIANO
Bass

ISABELLE PETERSON
Mezzo-Soprano

POST CONCERT RECEPTION
HOSTED BY THE HOLY CROSS CHANCEL CHOIR
JOIN THE HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY AS WE
WISH ANDREW GREGG FAREWELL