

# Parish Notes



## Church of the Holy Cross + Episcopal +

Newsletter

February 2012

### Supporting African Missions

For the third year we will be providing the opportunity for you to support African Team Ministries, which help fund orphanages and refugees in East Africa.

Items handcrafted by African artisans will be available at Holy Cross Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. For sale will be jewelry, soapstone items, carved animals and more. All proceeds go to help orphans and refugees in East Africa.

### Believe It or Else: It's Almost Lent

Ash Wednesday and Lent are Times of Self Reflection in preparation for the Time of Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We commemorate not only the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but also our own journey where death and resurrection are metaphorically constant features of our personal spiritual lives.

On Ash Wednesday ashes are placed on our foreheads to remind us our mortality: remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. We also are invited to ask the Holy Spirit to join us during the 40 days of Lent as we examine our lives. We ask ourselves with the discerning power of the Holy Spirit where God would direct us to begin new lives with new directions and repent of our old ways.

Repentance does not mean feeling guilty about ourselves, beating ourselves up or even, saying we are sorry. Repentance in the New Testament means radically changing the direction our lives and minds have taken. The Greek word from the New Testament that is generally translated as repentance is "metanoia". Metanoia literally translates as "after mind". The words actually mean to turn one's life, to change one's mind, to move in a new direction, to know something new, to choose a new way of being.

Lent is a time of gestation where with God's guiding we can grow to deeper awareness of God's presence in our lives and actually make changes in our lives. On Easter we give birth to our new selves as we emerge from the "womb of the tomb." This deeper relationship with God is what we yearn for so deeply: to emerge from the shadows of Lenten doubt into the brightness of Easter faith.

God bless!

*Fr. Raymond+*

### Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday services with imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist will be at 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Holy Cross on February 22.

If you cannot attend Holy Cross, please visit another Episcopal Church.

### Why It's Important to Observe Holy Days

Liturgical Christians, such as Episcopalians, follow the church calendar of Holy Days and Seasons. That's why the dates on the liturgical calendars change colors, and why we have different colors at different times of the year. This changes of seasons reflects the life of the church as it follows the life of the Messiah from anticipation of his birth to his ascension and the birth of the church at Pentecost.

In many ways, our own cycle of life follows that of the church. If we attend the Holy Days and Seasons of the Church, we provide a model for our personal growth through the trials,

tribulations, glories and celebrations of our lives: from birth to life to growth and beyond.

If you do not attend church regularly, I urge you to consider adopting a regimen this church year of attending the first days of the church seasons. For the upcoming season of Lent, I ask that you attend Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent. Then for Holy Week, I ask you to attend Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday before Easter Sunday. I believe this will provide an anchor for your personal growth this year. Thank you for your consideration.

## Annual Meeting Report

The members of Holy Cross gathered this past Sunday to conduct the business of the Parish at the annual meeting.

The meeting ratified the changes to the Bylaws approved by the Vestry in December in keeping with the changes enacted by General Convention 2006 and 2009, and changes enacted by Diocesan Convention 2011. The changes:

- lower the age of participation in the governance of the Parish to 16 from 18;
- specify the process for selection of a new rector as that set forth by the Bishop; and
- removed the requirement for confirmation to be a voting member of the Parish and to serve on the Vestry.

Elected to the Vestry were: Dan Bergman and Carol Smith. Being as no third candidate was forthcoming, the Vestry will seek to appoint a member to fill the position until the next annual meeting.

Elected to be delegates to Diocesan Convention and Deanery were: Vic Rizzo and Sydney Doughty. Claudia Gonzales was selected as alternate.

The Parish voted to institute a summer schedule of one service at 9 a.m. The schedule will start on the Sunday after Trinity (June 10<sup>th</sup>) and run through the Labor Day weekend. The two-service schedule will resume on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Signs will be posted and advertisements changes to announce the change. The services will alternate between spoken services and sung to provide a mix of the 8 and 10 a.m. services.

The budget for 2012 was presented, and will be posted on the bulletin board.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Chile Cookoff Winners

Nine competitors plied the Parish with Chiles after the annual meeting. All were judged excellent. Tasters voted for their favorite with ballots and dollars. Voted favorites were: Susie Fordyce and John Rose, who received certificates and hand-blown glass chiles for prizes. Vic Rizzo's chile raised the most dollars for the hospitality fund, and he received a chef's apron from Hell's Kitchen of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## Prayers for volunteers

We all need to pray that those who are so called and so talented step forward to assist Holy Cross in the ministries that are vacant to serve the community.

### **NEEDED:**

#### **TWO VESTRY MEMBERS**

We have two positions open for the Vestry to serve for 2012.

#### **A CLERK FOR THE VESTRY**

A volunteer is needed to attend Vestry meetings to take notes and assemble minutes as the Clerk of the Vestry. The Vestry meets once a month for approximately 90 minutes, and will adjourn at 1 p.m. at the latest. This is an opportunity for someone who is interested in the business of the church, but does not desire to serve on the Vestry.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED** please contact Father Raymond personally, by email, or by phone. Email: [raymondraney@usa.net](mailto:raymondraney@usa.net) or by cellphone: 505-934-6213.