

HOLY CROSS CHRONICLE

Holy Cross Church

ADVENT 2015

www.holycrossrocks.org

"For behold a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace".

What a tall order for such a little baby! But that is the wonder of our God. Jesus Christ fulfills our every need, and all we need do is ask and believe that "all will be well." At Holy Cross we are very busy preparing for one of the holiest days of the year. The decorations made of beautiful greens, the crèche, and Advent wreath will soon make the sanctuary a magical place.

All of us must try to take the true Christian message to heart by giving in a special way always keeping in mind that Jesus is the reason why we celebrate. It is not simply a winter holiday, or the anticipation of Santa Claus, or trying to snag the most popular toy of the year for our little one. That is the message that gets more and more publicity.

This is the time of year we should look at what we have and give special thanks. This is also the time of year we should look around and see those individuals, those families whose Christmas will be far from jolly.

There are several things that we are doing here to help alleviate that want. We are collecting toys and donation for Empty Stocking Fund. Even the name of that charity is heartbreaking. There was more need than anticipated so please bring a toy or monetary donation by December 13th.

The church is sponsoring two families this holiday providing gifts as well as dinner supplies. We did the same for the Thanksgiving celebration. We are sending over 25 Christmas goodie boxes to our college kids, those in the military, and individuals who cannot leave their homes. The parish was also generous in supplying boxes to the seafarers that are full of doodads that will hopefully bring a little comfort to those far from home.

The parish has a few activities you should definitely attend!!! Please mark your calendars.

Dec. 6: College boxes will be packed after/during fellowship

Dec. 11: Christmas decorating party - pizza provided - please come help decorate our church

Dec. 19: Cookie baking at 9:30 a.m. - cookie dough donation appreciated; bring on prior Sundays

Dec. 21: Senior lunch

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service begins at 6:45 p.m.

Dec. 27: Lessons and Carols at 9:30 a.m.

Have a very blessed holiday season. Give the Holy Family some extra thought this season. Light your Advent Wreath daily and give thanks to God for the gifts of His Son and the message of love and forgiveness.

And may Almighty God bless and keep each one of you as the apple of His Eye.

In Christmas joy and peace,



PEACEABLE KINGDOM

One in a series of 61 scenes, sometimes used on cards during the holiday season. The artist was Edward Hicks, a Quaker who lived in Bucks County in the early 1800's. Hicks illustrates these verses from Isaiah Chapter 11:

6. *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*
7. *And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.....*



Edward Hicks, *The Peaceable Kingdom* (1826), National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC



The Empty Stocking fund has been raising funds at Christmas for those in need for over 25 yrs. This 501©3 non profit last year assisted Santa in buying presents for over 800 children. This year they went over their goal by 80 families.

Unwrapped toys can be purchased and left at Holy Cross Church or check made out to Empty Stocking Fund, P.O. Box 189, Bel Air Md 21014. All donations are tax deductible. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

The gifts are needed by Dec 13th and check mailed until Jan 1, 2016. I thank you, empty Stocking thanks you but especially the most vulverable children in this county appreciate your donations.

God Bless, Pat Harkins

Christmas Thanksgiving / Memorials – 2015

Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

Thanksgiving for: _____

If you wish to place a Memorial or Thanksgiving donation, please complete and return to Holy Cross Church, P.O. Box 103, Street, Maryland 21154, or place in the collection plate by December 15 if you want it printed in the Christmas bulletin.

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”
Luke 2:11-14

Senior Warden’s Notes -Winter 2015

This year, Holy Cross has been doing well financially. The Advisory Board elected not to do a Fall Envelope Fund Raiser this year since we have many other Christmas and Holiday donation requests for shoebox goodies, toys, gifts and meal items for the less fortunate in our community. Instead, the Board decided to do this type of Fundraiser in the first quarter of 2016. (Theme to follow) Your generosity is sincerely appreciated in all of our Outreach efforts and projects.

Let’s not forget about the Delta Community Center Greens Sale this year! Our elves have been steadily working their elf fingers to the bone preparing Christmas decorations for sale for the Guild’s winter fundraiser. **Delta Greens Sales on Saturday, December 5th, 8:30 a.m. –2:00 p.m.**

Rev. Martie has agreed to continue her service at Holy Cross through the 2016 year. Halleluiah!! Contract terms are being finalized at this writing. We all agree that her work with us as our Spiritual Leader has been invaluable. Thank you Martie!

After the Advent, Christmas and New Year’s holidays, we will be looking forward to our 2nd annual, “Now you have it, Now you don’t” gift exchange coffee hour party. The tentative date for this event will be 1/31/16 subject to weather conditions. Come and have a nice lunch and bring a “re-gift” (a treasure in your home that you know someone else will re-treasure). Last year we had a lot of fun and fellowship.

Please have a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

God bless,
Chip

Parish Family Profile – Arlene & Wayne Townsend

Arlene & Wayne started attending Holy Cross in May, 2015 and previously attended St. Benedict’s Episcopal Church in New Freedom, PA until it was unfortunately closed by the Diocese of Central PA. They live in the White Hall area on five acres, approximately 12 miles from Holy Cross and have been there since 1977. As a hobby they started breeding, raising and showing dairy goats in 1978 and still have them at present. While a hobby, it does require a lot of time and effort. In addition to the goats they have two dogs, two cats and a few chickens for eggs. Both are retired and have two sons and a grandson that is a senior at North Harford High School.



Eucharistic Minister Matt Wilson, Debbie Rose & Sam Jones paid a visit to Jean Streett & her son Jim on Sept 16. We shared many fond memories of Holy Cross Church. Jean will be 98 years young next March and has been a devoted church member longer than any of us can remember.

Along with Rev Martie is Rev Charles Cloughen, Director of Planned Giving, Stewardship & Development for the Diocese. He was our guest preacher in October.



September 21 was Men's Night for the men of Holy Cross. We had dinner at the Manor Tavern and everybody had a great time.

Saturday, Dec 5, Greens Sale, Delta Senior Center

Friday, Dec 11, 6PM Christmas Party/Church

Decorating

Thursday, Christmas Eve, 6:45PM



Editor's note:

In 1987 the Centennial Committee of our church made plans to celebrate our 100th anniversary. An outgrowth of this observance was the *Holy Cross Chronicle*. Articles, mostly from church members, kept us abreast of congregational, community and diocesan activities. Anyone wishing to contribute to this newsletter should contact the editor any evening at (410) 838-7950 or atlantic@iximd.com -*Samuel W. Jones*