



# The HOLY CROSS WORD

Words of news, information, humor and inspiration from Holy Cross

MARCH 2015

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LVIII, NO. 7

## THOUGHTS FROM OUR VACANCY PASTOR

**Like winter, Lent must be "endured," so that we can reach Easter joy and hope**

March: this is not only the name of a month. It is a verb, a word of movement. "Forward, march! Get moving!"

March is a good name for this month, whose weather is so greatly changeable as we move toward and into spring. I don't know about you, but I can't wait for March and the arrival of spring with its warmer weather. Be gone, winter, with your grey and gloomy skies, your cold, and your snow! Welcome, spring, with your longer, brighter, and warmer days and blooming flowers! It's great to have you here!

It's easy to feel the same way about Lent, with its somber music, its focus on cross bearing and suffering, and especially its conclusion with the crucifixion of Jesus. Enough of the sadness! Come, Easter, with your beautiful flowers, joyful hymns, and comforting news of the resurrection of Jesus! Oh, that you were here!

And it will be. But, first, we must go through Lent, that blessed season of focusing on the suffering and death of Jesus and its meaning for our lives. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians: "When I came to you, I did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the mystery of God. But I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:1-2).

Why did Paul only want to speak about the crucifixion of Jesus and what it meant for them? "So that your faith might not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:5). Now, Paul, of course, did speak of other things to the Corinthians. Chapter 15 of his letter to them, for instance, is a lengthy discourse on the resurrection of Christ and what it means for us. But, he spoke of the resurrection on the basis of the crucifixion. "I want to remind you of the Gospel I preached to you...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve" (1 Cor. 15:1, 3-5).



*"Thoughts from..." continues on Page 3*



## Lenten Fellowship:

### Soup Suppers and Midweek Lenten Services

Enjoy great soup in the Fellowship Hall, and close out the evening in the sanctuary, meditating on God's Word, through our Lenten theme, "Psalms and Penitence for Lent."

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25

Suppers at 6:15 p.m. ❖ Holden Evening Prayer at 7:30 p.m.

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please take a turn at providing a pot of soup or a plate of finger desserts. Look for a sign-up sheet for each week on the narthex table. A free-will offering will be collected.



### Tuesday, March 3

5:00 p.m. – Holy Cross serves Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport

### Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25

6:15 p.m. – Lenten Soup Suppers  
7:30 p.m. – Lenten Midweek Service

### Saturday, March 7

5:30 p.m. – Chili Cook-Off (*Inclement weather date is Saturday, March 14*)

### Sunday, March 8 – Daylight Saving Time Begins

### Thursday, March 12

7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

### Saturday, March 21

6:30 p.m. – Wine Tasting

### Saturday, March 28

9:00 a.m. – "Deep Cleaning" Altar Guild cleaning in the sanctuary

### Sunday, March 29 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

### Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

### Friday, April 3 – Good Friday

Noon – Midday Service  
7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

### Sunday, April 5 – The Resurrection of Our Lord: EASTER

7:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
8:30 a.m. – Easter Breakfast (immediately following the early service)  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

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## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Office Phone: 203-268-4555; Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555

Church Office E-mail: [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com) FAX: 203-268-5499

Website: [www.holycrosstrumbull.org](http://www.holycrosstrumbull.org)

Christian Preschool Phone: 203-268-6471 E-mail: [mglennonhccp@mindspring.com](mailto:mglennonhccp@mindspring.com)

**Worship Services** – Sunday: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
First and third Mondays of the month: 7:00 p.m.

**VACANCY PASTOR:** Rev. Robert Beinke (*from St. Peter Lutheran-Norwalk*)  
203-847-1252, [stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com](mailto:stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Michael J. Gilbertson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT:** Kerry Geffert

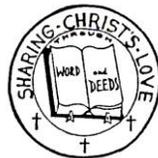
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VICE-PRESIDENT:** Michele Van Wart

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SECRETARY:** Jeannie Mones

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' TREASURER:** Greg Dowling

**NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR:** Cliff Schrock

**NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:** Mary Schrock



### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Holy Cross congregation is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20). We will share the love and forgiveness of Our Lord Jesus Christ with one another, our community and the whole world so that we can take part in the joyous privilege of "making disciples of all nations" through the power of the preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering His Sacraments, and joining together in service fellowship according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church (Article III).



## Like Holy Cross on Facebook!

*After you "Like" us, you'll see postings of upcoming events, pictures from events and other notices.*



### WORDS ABOUT PRAYER

**By poet and hymn writer,  
James Montgomery—from  
his poem, "What Is Prayer?"**

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,  
The falling of a tear,  
The upward glancing of an eye  
When none but God is near.

*---Reprinted with permission from  
The Newsletter Newsletter © 2006*

### NEWSLETTER NOTES

#### **Our next deadline is...**

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the April edition. The deadline for all articles is Sunday, March 15.

Please turn

in your article(s)

to the newsletter mailbox, located outside the church office, or send them via e-mail to:

[holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com).



Unless you have a lengthy article, we encourage you to use the "Information Form," located in a box on the narthex table. You may use this form to submit details for upcoming events, the "We Are Family" and "Thank You" columns, and other short items. After filling it out (please sign your name), put it in the newsletter mailbox.

**“Thoughts from...” continued from Page 1**

It is because of the crucifixion of Jesus that we can look forward to our own resurrection to eternal life in heaven. If Jesus had not died for us and then been raised, we would still be in our sins. Then, when our own resurrection from the dead came, we would face God’s judgment as sinners. Hell would be our eternal dwelling! But, because Jesus took upon Himself our sins and their judgment we are forgiven and free. In Christ we are children of God, and we can now look forward to living forever with Him in heaven!

Lent lays the foundation for this Easter hope, just as here in the Northeast winter lays the foundation for a beautiful spring. We need the snow to fill the lakes and reservoirs and raise the water table, so that life may burst forth (making golf courses nice and green). And, so that we may burst forth with joyful praise and beautiful lives of faith, we need to know that Christ died for us for the forgiveness of our sins and receive that forgiveness in His name.

So, forward into March! Forward into Lent and the message of Christ crucified! Come, hear and receive the news of your Savior and His sacrifice for you, “so that your faith might not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” and your life may burst forth with joy when we celebrate His resurrection from the dead!

In Christ our risen Lord,

---PASTOR ROBERT BEINKE

St. Peter Lutheran-Norwalk and Vacancy Pastor-Holy Cross

**For the church president’s  
monthly commentary,  
turn to Page 11.**

**WINE-TASTING EVENT**

**Event benefits Preschool painting...and your palate**

Sick of this weather? Why don’t you *WINE* about it!

Please join us for a wine-tasting event at 6:30 p.m., on Saturday, March 21, in the Fellowship Hall. We will be sampling a wide selection of wine, with appetizers and desserts being served as well.

The price is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors over 65. All proceeds will be directed to the Preschool painting fund. Sign up in the narthex following the early and late services on March 8 and 15. You may also RSVP via e-mail (no later than March 18) to [christina.batoh@gmail.com](mailto:christina.batoh@gmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you there! Let’s usher in spring with some *spirited* fellowship.

---TINA BATO

Education Commission Director



*“I’m getting red fruits, earth tones, and oak. Amen”*

**ALTAR GUILD**

**A place of deep meaning – the altar – needs cleaning**

By the end of this month we will be getting ready for Easter. Let’s not forget to include “helping at our church” on the to-do list. The Altar Guild invites you to help with deep-cleaning the sanctuary at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 28. What do we need? **YOU!** Everything else will be provided. See you then.

---LYDIA STRUZIK

Worship Commission Director



**Take Note**

**DURING OUR PASTORAL VACANCY** anyone in need of spiritual care may contact Rev. Robert Beinke, our Vacancy Pastor, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Norwalk, 203-847-1252, [stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com](mailto:stpeterlcpastor@yahoo.com). You may also phone Kerry Geffert, Board President, 203-925-8341; Gary Messerschmitt, Head Shepherd, 203-220-8580; or the Church Office, 203-268-7555 (*office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.*).

# Our Lenten theme is: "Psalms and Penitence for Lent"

Our Wednesday Evening Midweek Services are at 7:30 p.m., and our liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer



March 4: "The Disposition of the Penitent" with a focus on Psalm 38

March 11: "The Penitent Prays for a Purified Heart" with a focus on Psalm 51

March 18: "The Afflicted Penitent Hopes in the Eternal Lord" with a focus on Psalm 102

March 25: "The Penitent Waits Patiently on the Lord" with a focus on Psalm 130

## COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

### **Easter basket project ongoing this month helps children feel God's love**

As this article is written in mid-February, with snow on the ground, near-zero temperatures and wind chills below zero, I want you to think about SPRING, and specifically our next project to support children in need through the Covenant to Care for Children program – the annual Easter Basket project.

With Easter falling on the first Sunday of April, this project is now underway. Our church's "adopted" DCF social worker, Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard, currently has 32 children in her caseload and my plan is to deliver a basket for each child to



Mimose by the fourth week of this month. The Easter Basket poster was put out in the narthex at the end of February, filled with egg and bunny tags with the names, ages and genders of these 32 children. By the time you are reading this article, hopefully all the tags have been signed out to folks who are willing to put together a basket for a child. Each filled basket should be in the \$25 to \$30 price range, covered in cellophane and brought to the church by March 22.

If you are unable to put a basket together, but would like to make a donation, you can help fund this gift-giving project by making out a check to Holy Cross and designate "CTC Fund" in the memo line. You can personally hand your check to me or place it in the Covenant to Care mailbox outside the church office. Your gift will then be used to purchase a basket(s) and goodies to go in it.

If you have any questions, please speak to me. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help young people in our community who are in crisis and need and, more importantly, taking the opportunity to share God's love with these children through something as simple as an Easter basket.

Yours in Christ,  
---MARY SCHROCK  
Covenant to Care for Children Liaison

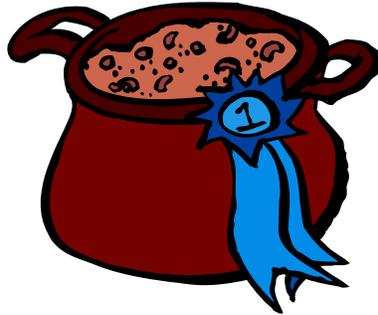


***Don't Forget...Spring Ahead!***

**Daylight Saving Time  
begins on March 8**

**Turn your clock forward one hour before  
going to sleep on Saturday, March 7.**

# Chili Cook Off



Saturday, March 7

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

*Snow date March 14*

Froehlich Fellowship Hall

*Enter your Chili, be a judge or just come for the FUN!*

Tickets on sale now & available at the door!

**Suggested donation**

Adults \$10.00 ♦ Children (ages 6–12) \$5.00

Children under 5 free

*To benefit our Parsonage Fund*

**LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

Chili fixin' bar, corn bread, veggie & cheese platters

Hot dogs & mac 'n' cheese for the kids

**BYOB – Adult Beverage**

For more information contact Lorraine Finch or Cindy Ciccio

## THE WRITER WITHIN

### **Is your heart growing fonder for your church, Holy Cross, or are you experiencing a case of “out of sight and mind”?**

I am a big fan of old sayings and adages...as long as they have more than a shred of truth to them. For every “an apple a day keeps the doctor away,” which has a lot of validity to it, there is an “early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.” I love the flow of that one and the rhyming, but what about the meaning? Disciplined sleeping hours will help you feel good and thus aid brain function, but will that really make you rich? I suppose it depends on how well you use that energized brain power.

A couple of sayings that do strike true to me are “absence makes the heart grow fonder” and “out of sight, out of mind.” (Neither one, by the way, according to my research comes from Ben Franklin, who is probably the master of wise sayings.) Though contradictory and dissimilar in nature, the two sayings work perfectly for the crux of my column this month about a church that is functioning without a full-time pastor, which is, of course, what Holy Cross is doing.

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder” is mostly used to describe the time away and distance apart from a romantic interest. And “out of sight, out of mind” refers to the easy way we can forget about something when it’s tucked away or hidden and not in direct view. With those definitions in mind, consider how they relate to you and our pastoral vacancy. In the absence of a full-time pastor, has your heart grown fonder for God, for your church, for your fellow believers, who are your Christian “romantic interests?” If you’ve been paying attention to our weekly worship attendance figures in the Sunday bulletins since last summer, you would feel that isn’t the case. Instead, “out of sight, out of mind” seems to have taken over. With no regular pastor in sight, church and all its facets have been put out of mind.



I’m no sociologist, but how it works that being away from something you feel close to increases your level of attachment seems pretty simple. If you are separated from the thing you love, the void you feel only intensifies your desires, thus making you long for it even more. I would suspect that most of us long for a pastor, since we don’t have one and feel things are under control when we do, but in an odd twist, because we’ve been without a pastor for two-thirds of a year, he’s been out of sight and what he represents—God’s church—is being put out of mind. I can only assume this to be the case since we have not done an every-member poll to determine everyone’s state of mind and only God knows each person’s heart. But the good news, and unspoken element of these sayings, is that there is eventually a connection. In the case of an absent love interest, there is ultimately a reunion, and for the object we no longer see before us, we eventually stumble upon it. At some point, we are rejoined and all feels right and good.

We know that eventually we will have a pastor again. As I write this in mid-February, a call has been made to a pastor, who has gone through our process and been unanimously approved. When a new pastor comes, we will all have the chance to act upon the fondness of our heart toward what was absent. Will our hearts be even more strongly attached to Holy Cross and a Christian life, having grown fonder for what we missed? Or will we still be putting the church out of our minds, like a married couple that no longer has feelings toward each other because of years of being disengaged in each other’s life? The longer we keep the church out of our sight, the tougher it is to reconcile.

So let’s all have fond hearts so that we can live by one of Mr. Franklin’s adages: Think of three Things—whence you came, where you are going, and to Whom you must account.

---CLIFF SCHROCK,  
Holy Cross Word Staff

## Easter Breakfast



## E A S T E R BREAKFAST

**Sunday, April 5  
at 8:30 a.m.  
in the  
Froehlich  
Fellowship Hall**

Please join your  
Holy Cross family and  
friends for this annual  
fellowship tradition.

Worship with us at the  
7:00 service and stay  
for breakfast

**or**

Come for breakfast at  
8:30 and worship with us  
at the 10:30 service

***If you plan to attend,  
please sign up  
in the narthex.***

Breakfast casseroles, muffins,  
bagels, baked goods and  
fruit salad are needed.

If you can provide any of these  
items, please indicate this  
on the sign-up sheet.

## COMMUNITY SUPPER

### **Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal**

Enthusiastic and determined – that was Diane Hintz Schyhol, who as a Thrivent member, put together a Thrivent Action Team to help finance the February Community Supper. She filed an application early in January. A number of weeks later, she received a “community impact” Visa credit card from Thrivent to use as seed money to buy the groceries, as well as Thrivent Action Team T-shirts for all the volunteers to wear at the Feb. 3 supper. Then it became an “adventure.” Normally, groceries are bought at Costco. However Costco wouldn’t accept the Visa card. Then she inquired at BJ’s. They *would* accept the card. However, not being acquainted with BJ’s produce, she went days earlier to scope out its offerings. Finally, she accompanied us on Tuesday to make the shopping decisions. When you see Diane, give a big shout-out of thanks for her donation of time and dedication to a new way to access monetary support from Thrivent Financial. Plus, now we know better how to access this support from Thrivent Financial.



The February cooks were Helen Harper, Anna Schaaf, Diane Hintz Schyhol (all from Grace Lutheran-Stratford) and Holy Cross member Nancy Sabol. Diane and Anna stayed the entire afternoon and helped these servers: Anna Mae Berger, Lorraine and Jim Finch, George Hermes, Jim Leslie, Gail Rice and Savi Semon (Grace-Stratford). These volunteers served 87 people on this chilly Feb. 3 evening.

As you know, Holy Cross is responsible for buying the food, preparing and serving the meal on the first Tuesday of the month at St. John’s Episcopal. The next community supper for which Holy Cross is responsible for cooking and serving is on Tuesday, March 3. If you can volunteer your time, please put your name on the sheet found on the narthex table.

---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER



**Community Supper 101—  
Cooking, preparing, serving!  
That’s Jim Finch at far left  
slicing one of four hams.  
At immediate left is David  
Schiller, who is ready to  
pour the steamed broccoli  
and corn into the serving  
tray, as Anna Schaaf  
prepares to stir in the butter.**



**Proud to wear the T-Shirt! Showing off the Thrivent Action Team T-shirts before serving the supper are four of the 13 Feb. 3 volunteers: (left to right) Gail Rice, Diane Hintz Schyhol, Jim Leslie and David Schiller.**



**Ready, Set, Serve! From left to right are some of the evening’s servers: Savi Semon, George Hermes, Jim Finch, Anna Mae Berger, Lorraine Finch, Anna Schaaf and Mary Ann Schiller.**

## OUR FLOCK

### **Christian caring and praying at Holy Cross**

This is the Shepherds' Commission's "FYI" column letting our members know for whom we have prayed during our recent worship services. Please continue to remember these people in your prayers.

We remember our members: **Doris Bernt**, recovering from knee-replacement surgery; **Anita Beer**, who broke her hip and is recovering from surgery—prayers for a healthy recovery; **Ron Dietman**, recovering from a heart attack and quadruple bypass surgery—prayers for a healthy recovery; **Laura Dowling**, recovering from surgery; **JoAnne Meyer**; **Clinton Peterson**, who has undergone surgery for stomach hernias, prayers for successful surgery and minimal pain; **Barbara Schneider**, for a complete recovery from her recent surgery; **Anita Schoch**, recovering from heart-valve replacement surgery; **Bob Solaz**; and for our homebound members – **Kay Dubin**, **Emma Fengler**, **George Morris** and **Harvey Pomerenk**.



We prayed for our family and friends: **Gail Agria**, recovering from cancer surgery; **Amy Alfano**, daughter of a friend of Audrey Paray, who has stage 3 ovarian cancer; **Hayley Annino**, friend of Kathryn Struzik, at home following a stem-cell transplant; **Penny Dalrymple**, friend of Paul Hagberg, for healing; **Linda Desabella**, friend of Patty Peterson, battling cancer; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed; **Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister recovering from cancer surgery; **Kay Geffert**, Kerry's mother, suffering from essential tremors; **Walter Geffert**, brother of Nancy Sabol, recovering from colon surgery; **Janet Gibson**, Mary Schrock's sister, undergoing radiation for breast cancer; **Abby Haggerty**, 9-year-old student at Christian Heritage school, recovering from successful brain surgery; **Cindy Keegan**, a teacher at Christian Heritage School, going through chemo to treat pancreatic cancer, prayers of thanksgiving that tests have shown that the chemo is working to shrink the tumors; **Mary Koch**, niece of Ron Froehlich, who has finished her chemo treatments; **Ramona Kondracki**, wife of a co-worker of Jim Leslie, who has begun chemotherapy for cancer in her sinus cavity; **Ed Lavin**, friend and neighbor of the Van Wart and Jim Atkinson families, for speedy healing and good health; **Eleanor Lynn**, friend of Effie Solaz, experiencing paralysis following a stroke; **Jean Matthews**, Chris Matthews' mother-in-law, following open-heart surgery.

During the past month, we also prayed for these family members and friends: **Elaine McClennan**, friend of the Van Wart family, who fell and broke her hip and is recovering from surgery; **Janet McGuirk**, mother-in-law of Manfred Schlaich, for a healthy recovery and increased strength following a heart catheterization; **Edgar Meyer**, Don's brother, who has pancreatic cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy; **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, in rehab following knee-replacement surgery; **Kylie Middlemass**, Anita Beer's granddaughter, responding well to various therapies as she works through the difficulties of autism; **Gertrude Moran**, friend of Anita Schoch, going through treatments for lymphoma; **Patrick Murphy**, Pat Peterson's brother, diagnosed with liver cancer and recovering from surgery; **Chris O'Brien**, friend of Mary and Otto Atkinson, paralyzed as a result of an accident; **Joseph Parker**, Julianne Nyitrai's father, who underwent triple-bypass surgery; **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, who had a lung transplant; **Dagmar Rosenberg**, Ingrid Leibold's sister, recovering from surgery to remove a tumor from her pancreas; **Ryan Rubega**, grandson of Audrey Paray, recovering from eye surgery he had in early February; **Lois Sanders**, daughter of Ron Froehlich, who had breast cancer surgery and has completed chemo treatments; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **David Sochacki**, friend of Nancy and Jerry Sabol following brain surgery; **Lorraine Tamas**, neighbor of the Leslie's, who suffered a stroke; **Rick Thomas**, father of Jennifer Deloge, recovering from carotid artery surgery; **Andy Turnbull**, Scott's brother, in remission from leukemia; **David Van Wart**, Kimberly Atkinson's dad and Rick Van Wart's brother, prayers of comfort and healing for David, and peace for his family (just prior to this newsletter being printed, David was called home to the Lord, on Feb. 25); **Craig Wilson**, son of friends of the Deloge's, recovering from tongue cancer surgery; and the anonymous people including Dawn.

Other prayers were for: Protection for all those serving in the military, including **Michael Collins** USMC; for **Rev. Eric Wismar** to be guided by the Holy Spirit as he and his family make a decision about the Pastoral Call that Holy Cross has extended to him; for the **Rodriguez Family** upon the death of Donna's father-in-law and Marissa and Alexis' grandfather, Rafael Rodriguez.

If your friend or family member is on this list, be sure to keep us updated on his or her progress. When you have prayer requests, you can phone the church office at 203-268-4555 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays or e-mail [holyrcss@mindspring.com](mailto:holyrcss@mindspring.com) anytime for prayers to be included in our worship services, and the Shepherds' Commission will include the requests in this monthly report. If you would like to be included in our e-mail Prayer Circle, please provide your name and e-mail address to the church office.

---GARY MESSERSCHMITT  
Shepherds' Commission

## THRIVENT FINANCIAL

### **Changing company has new rules for passing along money; upcoming meeting and dinner will explain the changes**

While this article is meant primarily for Thrivent Financial members and their families, it has ramifications for the entire congregation. Over the past few years Holy Cross has been receiving, in one way or another, approximately \$7,000 a year from Thrivent. When you consider our total budget, \$7,000 isn't that much. But when you also consider only discretionary spending, particularly the work of the Social Ministry Commission, \$7,000 is no small amount. The problem is that as of July 1, 2015, the "ball game changes big time." If we don't change with it, we can expect only a fraction of that amount each year.

Some of Holy Cross' Thrivent members are already aware of the "new rules," and a few may even know the details of these rules, but there is a good chance most of you don't, and, honestly, perhaps don't care that much in the big picture of ministry here at Holy Cross.



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

The Western Connecticut Chapter of Thrivent Financial will sponsor a dinner at Holy Cross to which all Holy Cross Thrivent members and their families are not only invited – but urged – to attend. The catered dinner is *tentatively set* for noon on Sunday, March 22. Representatives from Thrivent including Kent Tedford, Community Engagement Leader for Thrivent, will be there to educate and motivate us for supporting the "new rules, which reward a congregation primarily on the number of members and supporters who participate in an activity, rather than a given activity itself. These "new rules" will be discussed at the meeting with basic planning for the second half of 2015 to follow. Watch and listen for more information, especially for a verification of this March 22 dinner.

---DON MEYER

Thrivent Congregational Advocate

## PRESCHOOL

### **2015-2016 school year registration ongoing**

Preschool registration is ongoing for the 2015-2016 school year.

Just as a reminder, we offer



programs for 3- to 5-year-old children, including a Pre-K class. We offer both

part-day and full-day programs that run during the school year, as well as the summer. Church members receive a 10-percent discount on monthly tuition. If you are interested in scheduling a visit and/or registering your child, phone or e-mail me at 203-268-6471, [mglennonhccp@mindspring.com](mailto:mglennonhccp@mindspring.com).

---MICHELE GLENNON

Preschool Director



***Please take special note...***

### WINTER-WEATHER NOTICE

If snow and/or icy conditions "spring" upon us on a March Sunday or a Wednesday evening, please remember—

WE INTEND TO **ALWAYS** HAVE A 10:30 a.m. SUNDAY SERVICE.

Before you venture out, look/listen for a possible cancellation via:

- If you signed up for the "e-mail blast" system, check your e-mail;
- If you are on Facebook, look for a posting;
- WICC radio (AM 600);
- [www.wicc600.com](http://www.wicc600.com) (under "Public Organizations"); or
- WTNH-TV or WSFB-TV.



## WORSHIP

### **Remember this change to our Monday worship schedule**

Our Monday night services are held on the first Monday and the third Monday of every month. On the third Monday of the month, the service will include Holy Communion.

Please note that in April, there will NOT be a Monday service the day after Easter, April 6.



**TAKE  
NOTE**

**IN THE MAILBAG****From Griffin Hospital***(received in November 2014)*

This will be my last letter of thanks to you but I truly hope not the last opportunity to thank the Dorcas Guild at Holy Cross for its prayer shawls and lap robes for our patients at Griffin Hospital. Myrtle [Anderson] and Anita [Schoch] were in a few weeks back to bring the bounty of their talents and offer their ministry. We went to the chapel and participated in a blessing of the shawls and especially for the members of the Guild who make such beautiful creations that our patients and family members are always so touched to receive. Truly the gift of comfort and care provided by this ministry is so important, and we at Griffin thank you.



It is such a wonderful way in which the church offers a ministry of healing and comfort. Patients are surrounded by God's love when they receive the blanket. Please know that in our experience at Griffin the women in the Dorcas Guild are providing an important and meaningful ministry for the patients at Griffin Hospital.

I will be leaving Griffin [due to retirement] and moving back to the south. Please convey our thanks to them and to your congregation for the work that is being done. Please also let Myrtle know I have appreciated knowing her and the gifts of her ministry. We continue to offer our thanks and gratitude for the work this group does in its ministry.

Blessings,

---THE REVEREND JO CLARE WILSON

[Former] Director, Pastoral Care and Education



**Coming Soon!**  
**The first day of SPRING is March 20!**



## **CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS**



- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>MARCH 1:</b> LINDA LIGOURI    | <b>MARCH 13:</b> CHRISTOPHER DANNE  |
| <b>MARCH 2:</b> VALERIE HUYDIC   | GABRIELLA ELY                       |
| <b>MARCH 3:</b> VANESSA BOGLE    | JAMES ELY                           |
| CAITLYN DALE                     | <b>MARCH 15:</b> GARY JACKSON       |
| LORALAI DALE                     | RYAN VAN WART                       |
| KARL DALE                        | <b>MARCH 16:</b> DJ SENFT           |
| <b>MARCH 4:</b> DON MEYER        | <b>MARCH 17:</b> GARY MESSERSCHMITT |
| <b>MARCH 5:</b> CHARLES CARROLL  | <b>MARCH 20:</b> SUZANNE DANNE      |
| JOY COCCHIOLA                    | <b>MARCH 23:</b> RON DIETMAN        |
| <b>MARCH 7:</b> JULIE SJOBLUM    | ANDREA MEYER                        |
| <b>MARCH 9:</b> NICOLE BENSON    | <b>MARCH 24:</b> DANNY NYITRAI      |
| <b>MARCH 10:</b> ANNA MAE BERGER | <b>MARCH 25:</b> PARKER DELOGE      |
| Laura Dowling                    | <b>MARCH 26:</b> NICOLE RAMIREZ     |
| DONNA RODRIGUEZ                  | <b>MARCH 28:</b> BARBARA MORRIS     |
| <b>MARCH 12:</b> TAYLOR VAN WART | ANDREW STRUZIK                      |
|                                  | <b>MARCH 30:</b> VICTORIA FERNOUS   |

## THANKS A BUNCH!

This column recognizes the gifts of time and talent our church members provide to do God's work in our church and community. If you have an item to include in this monthly "thank you" column, please jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox.



To **John Roman** and **Julianne Nyitrai** for shoveling snow that had drifted from snow banks across our front walkway and driveway entrance on a particularly windy Sunday morning.

To the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the February 3 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Anna Mae Berger, Jim and Lorraine Finch, George Hermes, Jim Leslie, Gail Rice, Nancy Sabol, and David and Mary Ann Schiller.**

To **Linda Suhr** for serving as the church office volunteer, helping out one morning a week.

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

### **Your stewardship is needed in all aspects during our Pastoral vacancy**

Snow day. Two words that bring great joy to school-age children. For parents it means implementing contingency plans. But when our state was shut down for a day, I wondered about the economic impact. And when we cancel a Sunday service, I worry about the economic impact. Holy Cross has many dedicated members who meet their stewardship commitments regardless of the weather. However, we still take a hit when a service is canceled. And quite honestly, when giving for the first month of 2015 was at only 70 percent of budget, that additional reduction in giving has an impact.

During this time of vacancy and severe weather, Holy Cross needs you more than ever. We need your attendance and we need your stewardship!

Notice that it's your stewardship, not just your funds (though, yes, funds are important). We have a talented membership as recently demonstrated by Dave Bogen's *Now the Feast* guitar debut. So I would like to present these other opportunities where you can share your talents. I am looking for members to either coordinate or be involved in the following:

**Audit Committee** – Three individuals with financial experience needed to perform an audit of Holy Cross' 2014 books. Time required – one or two audit sessions and participation in writing the report.

**Feeding Children Everywhere** – Building on the success of last November's Breakfast & Artists, we can host a meal-packing event this spring. A coordinating committee is needed to work with the national organization and perhaps local congregations.

**Family Night** – How about another family movie night? Or some other family event? Be creative!

**Adult Fellowship Night** – A theme party? A progressive dinner? Maybe a welcome party for a new pastor? Let's come together.

Imagine if God's love and forgiveness were as discretionary as our worship, our children's Sunday School attendance or our stewardship! If any of these opportunities have piqued your interest, please get in touch with me. Holy Cross is your church.

---KERRY GEFFERT  
Holy Cross President



*And lo,  
I am with you  
ALWAYS...*  
--Matthew 28:20

## CHURCH CHUCKLES



"We're hoping it will increase our giving."