NEWSLETTER

The Crucifer

Freedom through Connection is so much more than our annual theme.

From the very beginning, Jesus let it be known that his *mission* was to set people free, and his *means* was connection.

The first thing Jesus did, when it came time for him to begin his earthly ministry, was to begin going from town to town in the region of Galilee. Why? In his own words to his disciples, he was "fishing for people," gathering them, connecting them.

While in one of those small Galilean towns, he explained why more explicitly, using the words of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for I have been anointed to bring good news to the poor, *freedom* to the captives, sight to the blind (more freedom), *freedom* to the oppressed, to announce the year of the Lord's favor." The "year of the Lord's favor" is a reference to the Year of Jubilee, from Leviticus. This was the year when all slaves were to be set free, all debts forgiven, all land returned to owners, and everyone would have a clean start. Freedom of all kinds, for all people. *That* was his mission.

Freedom was his mission, and the way he worked to accomplish it was to go from village to village connecting God's people with God, with each other, and with themselves (their true identity). Even when he healed and forgave sins, he was enabling people to reconnect with their community who once had shunned away from them.

Freedom was his mission. **Connection** was his means. More specifically, now, *our* freedom is his mission. And, therefore, *our* connection is the true and lasting means of his church – connection to God, neighbor, and self.

Tremendously simple. Tremendously true. But allow me to flesh this out a little more.

Why would God want to bring more freedom to our lives? Well, the symptoms of his freedom tend to be inner peace, inner strength, fulfillment, courage, joy, hope, love, and the like. Is there *really* even a question here? God knows what we need, and God cares. In fact, if he does indeed care about us at all, then how could God *not* want to give us freedom?

And connection really is, in fact, his way of bring it to us. If you do not believe the teachings of our faith on this; or your own experience of how you are set free by



connection with God, neighbor, and self; then consider the science. The longest, most in-depth study of human happiness and health in the history of the world was started over 80 years ago at Harvard University and is still going today. It is truly a remarkable work of science that literally involves studying the

lives of thousands of people for over eight decades.

And what did all of this effort, study, and science find? Well, simply put, it found that Jesus really knew what he was doing. It proved for the world that, overwhelmingly, the most important thing a human being needs to live a blessed, healthy, and happy life, the thing that is clearly the most accurate indicator of whether someone will have a "good" life is... (drum roll) ...connection! Relationship.

Because God loves us, he sent his son to set us free – free of the consequences of sin and of all things that *disconnect* us from himself, each other, and our true identities. And just as Jesus did when he began his earthly ministry, he continues to call his church to do forever.

Freedom through Connection—connection to God, neighbor, and self. It is not just our annual theme. It is God's rescue mission, and it is our life together! My hope and prayer is that you will take a few minutes to discuss the ideas behind Freedom through Connection with those you love, and that you will decide to deliberately prioritize connection in your life this year. I also hope you will allow us to be a part of it!

In 2023, we will connect with God, self, and neighbor in renewed and awesome ways — weekly worship; group studies of bible & theology; prayer (i.e. our new Centering Prayer Group); mission opportunities like Guatemala; monthly churchwide fellowship events like the Progressive Dinner & the Kite Day at the Beach; monthly *musical* events; a new men's fellowship group; an inaugural *Arts and Crafts Festival*; a 2024 trip to Israel, and all sorts of other connection opportunities.

Freedom through Connection! It is way more than our annual theme; it is our calling and joyful permission to join together to create a good, healthy, blessed living for ourselves and for as many others as we can. It is fishing season, and we are pumped about 2023 at Holy Cross! How about you?

Sunday Worship

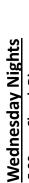
10:30am - In Person Worship & Live Stream 8:00am - In Person Worship & Live Stream

Sunday Classes

9:30 am - EYC Sunday School 9:30am - Nursery

9:35am - Contemporary Explore - Curtis Entrekin 9:35am - Women's Studies - Melodie Rowland 9:35am - Traditional Exploration - Tom Bossa

6:15pm - Adult Class



5:30pm - Church Dinner 6:00pm - Nursery

6:15pm - Children's Ministry - Sea Stars 6:15pm - Youth Group - EYC



1SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Centering Proyer	3	4
				12:00pm - Centering Prayer 6:00pm - ACA Group 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		9:00am - 12:30pm: Library Open 10:00am - Prayer Shawl Ministry
5 Cello Recital	9	7	&	6	10	11 Progressive Dinner Brotherhood of St. Andrew
WORSHIP & CLASSES: See Above 9:00am - Delicious Breakfast 9:15am - 12:15 pm: Library Open 11:45am Coffee & Treats 3:30pm - Volleyball 5:00pm - Cello Recital	4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm Wednesday Dinners **Wednesday Night Supper & Classes **Details above* Confirmation	12:00pm - Centering Prayer 6:00pm - ACA Group 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		8:00am - Brotherhood of St. Andrew 9:00am - Daughters of the King 9:00am - 12:30pm: Library Open 11:00am - We Care 5:30pm - Progressive Dinner
12 Baptism of Julian Vversen	13	14	15	16 ECW Vinner	17	18 EUW Card Making
CLASSES: See Above 9:00am - Delicious Breakfast 9:15am - 12:15 pm: Library Open 10:30am - Baptism of Julian Iversen 11:45am Coffee & Treats 3:30pm - Volleyball 5:30pm - Youth Superbowl Party	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm Wednesday Dinners **Wednesday Night Supper & Classes **Details above* Confirmation	12:00pm - Centering Prayer 5:00pm - Handbells 5:30pm - ECW Dinner - Council on Aging 6:00pm - ACA Group 6:15pm - AA		8:00am Church Grounds Workday 9:00am - 12:30pm: Library Open 10:00am - ECW: Iris Fold Cardmaking
19 Blood Drive	20	21 Shrove Tuesday	22 Ash Wednesday.	23	24	25
CLASSES: See Above 9:00am - Delicious Breakfast 8:30am - Blood Drive 9:15am - 12:15 pm: Library Open 11:45am Coffee & Treats 3:30pm - Volleyball	4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - ACA Group	5:30pm - Pancake Dinner 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	12:00pm - Imposition of Ashes 6:00pm - Imposition of Ashes (full se rvice) No Church Dinner or dasses 9:00am - Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open	12:00pm - Centering Prayer 5:00pm - Handbells 6:00pm - Vestry Meeting 6:00pm - ACA Group 6:15pm - AA		9:00am - 12:30pm: Library Open 11:00am - We Care
26	27	28				
WORSHIP & CLASSES: See Above 9:00am - Delicious Breakfast 9:15am - 12:15 pm: Library Open 11:45am Coffee & Treats 3:30pm - Volleyball	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm -AA				Please Note: The calendar is subject to change at ANY TIME to fit the needs of the Church. For updates, please see our website, www.holycrosspensacola.org.

OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES









Bright Bridge

MINISTRIES

Gentlemen of Holy Cross:

You are invited to the next meeting of The Brotherhood of St Andrew on

Saturday, February 11th @ 8:00am

Along with breakfast and a Bible study, our guest speaker,
Dr. Henry Roberts will share with us the work being done by
Bright Bridge, a local ministry dedicated to feeding and housing
the homeless. Bright Bridge volunteers serve meals to hundreds
of people each day, and they need our help. Dr. Roberts will

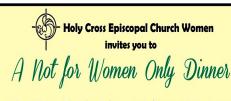
share with us ways that we can participate in the program.

Please join us.

Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.







When & Where: Thursday, February 16th @ 5:30pm in Lanier Hall Menu Choices: Fried Chicken or Caesar Salad w/Chicken



Our guest speaker, Emily Echevarria, Marketing Communication Director for the Council on Aging will share the Council's available resources with us.

RSVP via the signup sheet in the narthex or email Lorrie Wilkinson at lorriewilk@cox.net. Be sure to include your food choice.

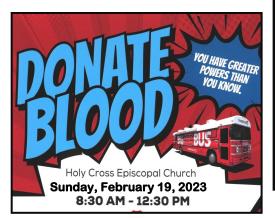
All donations collected will given to the Senior Chill Out



February 22nd

Service Times

12:00pm Imposition of Ashes *6:00pm Imposition of Ashes *(full service)





February Birthdays

- 02 Maria Bradley
- 03 Kathy Steenland
- 05 Rick Hardcastle
- 05 Pam James
- 07 Caiti Bollette
- 07 Aileen White
- 07 Gene Press
- 08 Jerry Robbirds
- 10 Ben Boyer
- 12 Zach Dake
- 12 Jerry Stoner
- 14 Johnny Armstrong
- 14 Israel Entrekin
- 14 Jerry Holzworth
- 14 Ed Hume
- 14 Ann Jewett
- 18 Michael Bellucci
- 19 Rachel Holder
- 19 Nate Winn
- 20 Tom Bossa
- 20 Frank Calhoun
- 20 Manuel Kimmons
- 20 Jemison Mims
- 21 John Holder
- 25 Isabelle Peterson
- 26 Fr. Rob Dixon
- 27 Ronda Hutchison
- 27 Diane Rickman-Buckalew



February Anniversaries

06 - Michael & April Schantz 13 Years

08 - Steve & Camille Lukow 20 Years!

19 - Jeffrey & Amy Simpler 12 Years! Holy Cross Episcopal Church 7979 N. 9th Avenue Pensacola, FL 32514 (850) 477-8596 NONPROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID NO. 400 PENSACOLA, FL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.holycrosspensacola.org

www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEpiscopalPensacola

Total Number of People Served
YTD: 727

Holy Cross Food Pantry 2023 800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 0 Apr-23 Jan-23 Feb-23 Mar-23 May-23 Jun-23 Jul-23 Aug-23 Sep-23 Oct-23 Nov-23 Dec-23 Jul-23 Jan-23 Feb-23 | Mar-23 | Apr-23 | May-23 | Jun-23 Aug-23 Sep-23 Oct-23 Nov-23 Dec-23 ■ Age 0-18 230 **■** Repeat Recipients 169 ■ Age 60+ 265 Number in Household 727 Axis Title