

Crossings

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal
875 Cotton Street, Shreveport, Louisiana
September 29, 2021

Services

(until further notice)

Please see calendar.

The Vestry

David Richard, Senior Warden
Ginger Paul, Junior Warden
Mike Wilkerson, Secretary
Donna Neal, Co-Secretary
Georgiana Gleason
Rick Hadwin
Marshall Middleton
Reid Raymond
Jackie Songy
Monty Walford, Treasurer
(non-vestry)

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Please visit our website

www.holycrossshreveport.com

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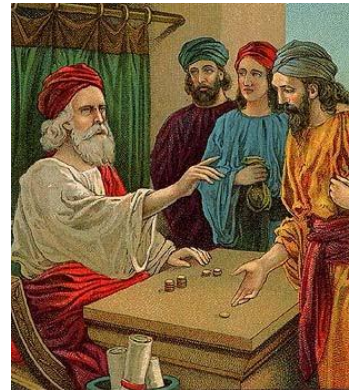
Church of the Holy Cross
Shreveport

Contact the Editor

Please send material for articles,
along with ideas, suggestions,
or complaints to
lynn.walford@lsus.edu

The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

Luke 16 begins with the Parable of the Dishonest Manager (or Dishonest Steward in some translations). This parable has been a cause of great confusion for many, but with a little context, it becomes much more understandable and very interesting.



Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. **2** So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” **3** Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. **4** I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” **5** So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” **6** He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” **7** Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” **8** And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. **9** And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

10 “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. **11** If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? **12** And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? **13** No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

In the ancient Roman world, there existed something known as a patronage system. In this system, wealthy members of the society (patrons) would give money and other material goods to clients who in turn would do favors or work for the patron.



The system continues to some extent today, as a wealthy person or organization might be a patron of the arts, where the patron gives money to an artist or group so that they can make their art. In Christianity, the liturgy is an example of patronage. The word *liturgy* means “a public work done at private expense.” It is something that’s for everyone, but the cost is borne by certain people, in this case tithers. However, one does not need to pay to participate in the liturgy, so it is a public work.

In the parable, Jesus is describing a dishonest manager who is to be fired, so he goes through and starts cancelling debts so that once he’s fired he’ll have friends to fall upon. The manager is in a sense buying patronage from his master’s debtors. The manager did not come upon this wealth by any honest means, as he is stealing from his master to cancel those debts. But the dishonest manager is commended for his shrewdness.

In our own lives, most wealth should be considered ill-gotten gains. Money that is earned in interest (usury) or appreciation of assets is not money for which one has labored. Wealth that is accumulated over a lifetime or multiple lifetimes usually comes at the expense of the laborers who must take less pay in order to pass the profits up the chain to investors and owners.

But Jesus offers us a way to use our wealth rather than letting our wealth use us. He tells us to be like the dishonest manager. He wants us to take our ill-gotten gains and use them to make friends with the poor. The idea here is that the master (God) is going to fire us. That is, we are going to die. And so before we’re fired, before we die, we’re to use this dishonest wealth to buy favor from the poor so that we may call upon the poor to help us in the age to come. Remember, in Luke’s version of the Sermon on the Mount, the Kingdom of God belongs to the poor.

Furthermore, Jesus asks us that if we can’t be trusted to use our dishonest wealth to better the lives of the poor, who will trust us with the true riches of the Kingdom? If we’re unwilling to use something as worthless as money and material comfort to ease the burdens of the poor and the sick, why would God trust us with the far more valuable gifts of his Kingdom? If we can’t be faithful with the gifts we’re lent now, how can we expect to be faithful with the true gifts we will be given then?

He concludes the parable with a stern warning. We can’t serve two gods. We have to pick. Will we serve God or will we serve our own wealth? As St. Chryostom reminds us, “The rich are given for the sake of the poor. And the poor are given for the salvation of the rich.”

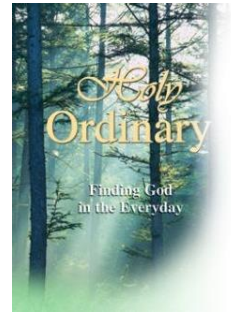
The Rev. Garrett Boyte

Notice

There will be no issue of *Crossings* on October 13. The next issue will appear on October 20. Watch for news of the transformation of the Education Building and the Undercroft!

Holy Ordinary

Finding God in the Everyday



Real choices

(1 Corinthians 4:8-21) *But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of those arrogant people but their power. For the kingdom of God depends not on talk but on power. What would you prefer? Am I to come to you with a stick, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?*

Years ago, a coworker was “offered” a new job in our division and strongly urged by our boss to take it. My friend said, “It’s as if my momma said ‘Do you want to get punished and then go to bed like you’re supposed to, or do you want to just go to bed?’”

Very often a choice is no choice at all. God does give us a very real choice in whether to seek God or not. When I choose to reject God, I may feel liberated and self-important momentarily, but I am eventually trapped by my errant choice.

Paul told the Corinthians of the human choice to emphasize self over God. He said, “I will find out not the talk of those arrogant people but their power.” He knew that people who value earthly power love to talk of their own importance, but find that importance paling in the light of eternity. He contrasted human ways with divine ways, saying, “. . . the kingdom of God depends not on talk but on power.”

And the kingdom of God is a choice—a true choice—given to us human beings. God comes to us not with “a stick,” but “with love in a spirit of gentleness.” God does not threaten us, but *invites* us. The question is always out there.

But we really do have a choice. . . .

Carol Mead is priest-in-charge at St. Peter’s-by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in Brandon, Mississippi. You can learn more about Carol and her journey to Holy Ordinary on her website: www.holyordinary.com.

Prayer List

Steve Abramson
Wanda Allen
Ellen Dunlop Belote
Mary Berth
Margaret Boudreaux
Gabriella Braden
Martha Brotherton
Marci Brown
Corinne Campbell
Robert Cangelose
Mikey Carlisle
Julie Coyle
Sarah Lou Coyle
Drew Dodson Family
Jean Dooley

Addylaide Evanson
Joe Bob Evanson
Ann Falter
Floyd “Buzzy” Farrar
Robin Foster
Maggie Fowle
John August Gianforte
William Godfrey
James Edward Griffith
Richard Hadwin
Sandra Hadwin
Charles Hall
Jerry Harper
Josh Harrel
Barbara Hughes

Elizabeth Ingram
Robson Jenkins
Linda Jordan
Justin
Peggy Kirkland and family
Maureen Locke
Mim McCoy
Della McCranie
Elyane Mergey
Theresa Mormino
Patsy
Juanita Peterson
Brady Sessions
Mary Ann Shemwell
Linda Sirman and family

Angela Smith
Catherine Spaht
Paul Spaht
Robert Todd
Cynthia Walker
Louis Wallace
David Walsh
Connie Wiggins
Curtis Williams
Bill Wright
Mary Wright
Sheryl Wright

We pray for those who serve and are served by The Renesting Project.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for the Bishop, Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D. (Joy); for the Bishop's staff: the Rev. Canon John Bedingfield (Donna), Katie Chapman (Daniel), the Rev. Annie Etheridge (Jim), the Rev. Christie Fleming (Scott), the Rev. George Gennuso (Grace), Joy Owensby (+Jake), Kathy Richiey (David), Holly Windham (Jared); for Deacons: Archdeacon Lois Maberry (Ron), Kay Hunter, Rita Jefferson, Bette Jo Kauffman, Michael Parham; for the Standing Committee; for the Diocesan Council; and for Postulants: Katy Campbell, Cindy Robertson, Benjamin Thoms.

Calendar for October

Saturdays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Sundays	Morning Prayer, Rite II	9:00 am	Chapel
	Coffee and Catechesis	10:00 am	Library
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11:00 am	Nave
Mondays, Tuesdays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Wednesdays	Book Club	10:30 am	Library
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Noon	Chapel
	Evening Prayer, Rite II, followed by	6:00 pm	Nave and online
	Path Bible Study		
Thursdays, Fridays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Tuesday, October 12	Vestry meeting	5:30 pm	Library

Lay Ministries

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: October 3

Lectors: Pembroke Roeder, Mike Wilkerson
Prayers of the People: Mike Wilkerson
Eucharistic Minister: Herschel Richard
Acolyte: Aaron Horton
Ushers: Carolyn Mahlen, Laura Wilkerson
Altar Guild: Ginger Paul

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: October 10

Lectors: David Richard, Herschel Richard
Prayers of the People: David Richard
Eucharistic Minister: Sr. Cecilia Horton
Acolyte: Herschel Richard
Usher: Bill Richard
Altar Guild: Becky Snodgrass

Happenings at Holy Cross

We all know that because of the ongoing pandemic, many activities and events have been curtailed. But even in these difficult times, good things have been happening and will continue to happen at Holy Cross. Here's a sampling:

Bishop's Visit

On September 12, the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby visited Holy Cross to baptize and confirm new members. Bishop Owensby is now in the tenth year of his episcopate, and this was his first confirmation visit since 2018.

Brad Evans was baptized, and being an adult, his baptism also counts as a confirmation since it was the bishop who performed it. There were also five confirmations: Kay Adkins, Kim Adkins, Kirk Fontenot, Lyman McKellar, and Josh Harrel.

Brad's sponsors for baptism were Bruce Power and members of the Holy Cross choir, with whom he has been singing since coming to Holy Cross. Mike and Laura Wilkerson, as well as Carolyn Mahlen, also served as sponsors for our confirmands.

The bishop had many good things to say about Holy Cross, and was impressed by our updates to the campus and our efforts to continue growing the parish. This was the largest group to be confirmed in at least a decade, and there are yet more waiting to be confirmed. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, some have opted to wait until another visit.

Those interested in being confirmed at the next episcopal visit should make sure to let Father Garrett know so that he can schedule confirmation classes. Confirmands should be sixteen years old or older, and commit to attending the seven-week class on Confirmation.

The next date for public Baptisms is November 1, All Saints' Day. If you or someone you know would like to be baptized, please contact the office to speak with Father Garrett. Holy Cross has had two baptisms so far this year. There is no age limit on Baptism, but adult candidates should prepare to commit to the seven-week class for Baptism. Younger candidates, or their parents or godparents, should prepare to attend a shorter class on the responsibilities of raising Christian children.

Baptisms are done at Holy Cross, per the prayer book, on five days throughout the year: All Saints' Day (November 1), The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (January 9), The Easter Vigil (April 16), Pentecost (June 5), or the Bishop's visit (TBD).



Reece Middleton Memorial Bench

During his visit to Holy Cross, the Bishop also dedicated a new bench in our Rose Garden to the memory of beloved member Reece Middleton. The bench was donated by his widow, Marshall Middleton. Reece, who passed away in 2020, was a former senior warden of Holy Cross, Diocesan Convention delegate, General Convention delegate, choir member, lector, and faithful member of Holy Cross for decades.

We miss him dearly, and hope that all will find comfort visiting his resting place in the Holy Cross Rose Garden, where we can now sit on the bench dedicated to his memory. Father Garrett would also like to remind everyone that we are nowhere closer to our beloved dead than in the Holy Eucharist, where we join with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.



“Mr. Skinner”

Our organist/choirmaster Bruce Power writes:

This past Sunday and perhaps for another two Sundays, we will use our harmonium (pump organ) in lieu of our Skinner organ. The replacement of the *brains* of the organ is underway by our most capable and qualified organ curator, Bob Gladden of Robert Gladden and Associates of New Jersey.

Without becoming too technical, let me explain that the computer system of the organ was failing due to a battery. Batteries are no longer needed to support the memory of the system. The system we were using is actually no longer supported by the company, as the technology has vastly evolved since the eighties. Think in terms of your eighties' computer versus your current computer. The eighties' installation also did not *hook up* some of the organ console's (where the organist sits) functions. The console was still using some of the working components from the 1920s.

A hearty thank-you is extended to Father Garrett and the Vestry for studying and later approving of this much-needed work.

In a previous issue of *Crossings* I gave a brief history of our pump organ, sometimes referred to as a harmonium or reed organ. In different countries there can be subtle differences between the workings and various names of a pump organ, but the basic design and function are the same. Composers such as Dvořák, Rossini, and Liszt were quite fond of harmoniums and wrote for the instrument. Berlioz commented that it “is a servant of incontestable value to composers and music lovers.”

Our pump organ was designed for a home, as it employs a cabinet on top of the actual organ. The pump organs without the high cabinet were used in more utilitarian settings, particularly places of worship.

Father Garrett adds:

The organ's updates will make our organist's job much easier, as he has been having to compensate for the computer's loss of memory and other issues. That few have noticed this is a testament to Bruce's skill at his craft.

The updates to the organ were made possible by a generous legacy gift to Holy Cross by Patricia Peyton. If you are interested in leaving a legacy gift to the church, please contact Father Garrett at the church office.

As the Book of Common Prayer reminds us, all Christians have a duty "to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses" (BCP 445).



Church of the Holy Cross
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Return service requested

Mission Statement: *The Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport, Louisiana, strives to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond, through worship of Almighty God, open inquiry, sharing fellowship, valued diversity, genuine inclusiveness, and servant leadership—encouraging all to exercise God's gifts and calling as we share the Gospel of Hope in programs, to serve without regard for religious affiliation, race, or economic status.*



Hope House: There is an ongoing need for coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry detergent **pods**, disposable razors, and personal-size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) Please take your donations to 762 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for **October** and **November**, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rev. J. Garrett Boyte, M.Div.
The Rev. Mary Richard
The Rev. Kenneth W. Paul
The Rev. Donald D. Heacock
Mr. Bruce Power
Mrs. Laurie Connell
Mr. Charles Alford
Mr. Brian Jackson

XXVII Presiding Bishop
IV Bishop of Western Louisiana
Rector
Rector Emerita
Rector Emeritus
Director, Holy Cross Child Placement Agency
Organist-Choirmaster
Office Administrator
Sexton
Assistant Sexton