



# Crossings

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal  
875 Cotton Street, Shreveport, Louisiana  
July 6, 2022

## Services (until further notice)

Please see calendar.

### The Vestry

David Richard, Senior Warden  
Ginger Paul, Junior Warden  
Becky Snodgrass, Secretary  
Tommie Sue Brooks  
Georgiana Gleason  
Lyman McKellar  
Marshall Middleton  
Reid Raymond  
Jackie Songy  
Monty Walford, Treasurer  
(non-vestry)

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<https://churchholycross.org>

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Church of the Holy Cross  
Shreveport

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## *The Book of Common Prayer: Communion without Baptism*

In the last issue of *Crossings*, we looked briefly at the development of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. I mentioned in that article that this article would examine Communion without Baptism (CWOB).

I've not been able to find when was the first time a resolution came to General Convention seeking to eliminate the canon that requires Baptism before Eucharist. But even in 2009, it was referred to as a "long-standing issue."

For those who might be new, General Convention is the final authority in The Episcopal Church concerning doctrine or canon law. It's comprised of hundreds of members from all over The Episcopal Church. Its House of Deputies is made up of laity and clergy, and its House of Bishops is made up of, well, bishops. Canon law is the law that governs the Church, its clergy, and its members.

At any rate, this remains a popular issue with a minority of people within The Episcopal Church. But let's look at why.

Proponents of CWOB claim that offering communion to all people, regardless of their baptismal status, is welcoming, hospitable, and inclusive. There are also those who argue quite compellingly about the very moving experience of receiving communion. People like Sara Miles in her book *Take This Bread* recount their unbaptized encounter with the Eucharist as the moment their faith took root.

Additionally, there is a concern that by not allowing the unbaptized to receive communion, we are somehow excluding them from worship or from encountering God. One argument that is commonly employed is the accurate reminder that it is not "our" table but the Lord's table. Also, this most recent



proposal hits on the invitation to communion when the priest says, “The Gifts of God for the People of God.” Proponents argue that all people are “the People of God.”

Recently, my former theology professor, the Rev. Dr. Robert MacSwain, penned a letter to the committee reviewing the resolution, advocating for the canon to remain as it is, and addressing the theological issues raised. The letter was also signed by almost all the faculty of my seminary, in addition to many other noted theologians in the Episcopal Church today.



This letter draws attention to the moniker “The People of God” and breaks down exactly what we mean by that phrase. I think it’s relatively easy for Christians to see a phrase like that and think it applies to all people. All people are created by God and in that sense are children of God, his people. But the prayer book uses this phrase in a more theological and historical sense. Specifically, it means a people bound together in a common faith in Christ.

The idea here is not to exclude non-Christians, but rather not to force those who would not agree with Christian concepts, ideas, and theologies to be included in something they don’t want to be a part of. Additionally, in an interfaith setting, it is very presumptive on the part of Christians to think that everyone wants what we’re having. Contrary to our good intentions, many non-Christians would feel rather uncomfortable with a Christian insistence that they can or should come up and receive the body and blood of our Lord and Master.

While we might mean to be inclusive, opening communion to everyone regardless of Baptism is fraught with deeper implications inherited from Christendom. *Of course everyone wants this, because we want this.* To be inclusive is quite noble, but the Eucharist is not the sacrament of inclusivity. It is the sacrament of Christian unity. Baptism is the sacrament of inclusivity. All people are invited to Baptism. The Church is invited to Eucharist.

Some have pointed to the current practice in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches of “closed communion,” where only Roman Catholics or Orthodox may receive the Eucharist in their respective churches. Those of us who have visited these churches and been barred from receiving will know the pain that comes with that. And proponents of CWOB point to that as a reason to allow CWOB. But the very reason that denial is so painful is that *I am baptized*. This is why the Episcopal Church adopted “open communion” as a statement of Christian unity in baptism. (N. B. Open communion is not CWOB, but the invitation to *all the baptized* to receive Eucharist.)

*But it’s not our table; it’s the Lord’s.* As I mentioned, this is accurate. But if I’m going to dinner at someone else’s house, I’m not going to invite more people to a table that isn’t mine. That’s just bad manners. That it is the Lord’s table means that it’s not my table. Christ is the host. The Lord commanded his Church to receive the body and blood. And so who am I to offer it to those who are not members of his body?

Now, I do not want to diminish the very real spiritual effect that some have expressed upon receiving the Eucharist when they weren’t baptized. That is real. And it’s good. But personal experiences are not the ground upon which this Church bases its normative theology. And that’s what we’re talking about here. What is The Episcopal Church’s theology around Baptism and Eucharist? That’s the question being considered.

I know of no priests, myself included, who would ever turn away someone with outstretched hands at the altar rail. No one, myself included, is checking Baptismal cards at the rail. But those sorts of occasional and non-normative encounters are not what’s being addressed by General Convention.

Pastorally, I have found that inviting the baptized to communion while also inviting the non-baptized to Baptism to be an effective way of welcoming Christians from other traditions to the table and encouraging those who are not baptized to join us in our life in Christ. At this parish alone that specific invitation has resulted in no fewer than four baptisms in the last two years.

Some have expressed to me a desire to invite all people, regardless of their baptismal status, to receive communion. And I’ve heard of a person, I’m not sure who, who felt unwelcome because of the Church’s teaching around Baptism. It is regrettable that someone should feel unwelcome at an invitation designed to welcome all into a deeper relationship with Christ, either in Eucharist or first in Baptism.

And while I'm more than happy to discuss the Church's teaching on this, I do not have the power to contradict the teaching of the Church. In fact, for any single priest, bishop, or deacon to take it upon ourselves to know better than General Convention, the prayer book, or canon law, is but another expression of clericalism, to say nothing of a violation of the vows we made at ordination.

Suffice it to say, I know that some will not like my position on this. Others will applaud it. But my hope is that all of us will have a better understanding of the Church's teaching on this matter. And I hope that we will all endeavor to welcome *all* people into our community of faith, remembering that Baptism is full initiation by water and the Spirit into the Church, the body of Christ. And Eucharist is the holy food for the disciples of Jesus for the sustaining of our life in him.

*The proposal for CWOB at this year's General Convention was voted down in committee last month. It is expected that the House of Bishops will concur with the committee vote when the convention convenes in Baltimore this month.*

**Fr. Garrett Boyte**

### Calendar for July

Saturdays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Sundays	Morning Prayer, Rite II	9:00 am	Chapel
	Parish Choir rehearsal	9:45 am	Nave
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11:00 am	Nave
	Children's Sunday School	10:00 am	Education Building
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	6:00 pm	Nave and online
	Bible Study	6:30 pm	Library
Thursdays, Fridays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Sunday, July 10	The Continuing Feast	after the 11:00 service	Undercroft
Tuesday, July 19	Vestry meeting	6:00 pm	Library

## Prayer List

Steve Abramson  
 Stella Rhea Bergman  
 Ellen Dunlop Belote  
 Mark Boydston  
 Nikki Brown  
 Mary Berth  
 Margaret Boudreaux  
 Sara Lou Coyle  
 John Craig  
 Drew Dodson Family  
 Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar  
 Maggie Fowle  
 John August Gearhart  
 John August Gianforte

Austin Gleason  
 Richard Hadwin  
 Sandra Hadwin  
 Josh Harrel  
 Mike Hathaway  
 Zoe Hathaway  
 Ann-Marie Henderson  
 Robert Henley  
 Kay Hunnel  
 Kay Hunter  
 Elizabeth Ingram  
 Peggy Kirkland and family  
 David Lewis  
 Richard Liles

Maureen Locke  
 Mim McCoy  
 Della McCranie  
 Michael McKenzie  
 Sammy Mears  
 Jesse Paul  
 Kelly Rutz  
 Brady Sessions  
 Mary Ann Shemwell  
 Wade Shemwell  
 Linda Sirman and family  
 Angela Smith  
 Paul Smith  
 Jay Sokolowski

Catherine Spaht  
 Paul Spaht  
 Robert Todd  
 Cynthia Walker  
 Louis Wallace  
 David Walsh  
 Connie Wiggins  
 Bill Wright  
 Mary Wright  
 Sheryl Wright  
 The people of Ukraine  
 Survivors of gun violence

We pray for those who serve and are served by Providence House.  
We also pray for Camp Hardtner: Mid-High campers, staff, and counselors Stephanie Kay, Avery Landry,  
and Annabel Partington; and Primary 2 Campers camp staff,  
and counselors Alex Melcer, Emma Cook, and Fiona Doran.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Christ Church, Bastrop, the Rev. Gregg Riley;  
for St. George's, Bossier City, the Rev. Terry Deokaran, the Venerable Lois Maberry (Ron);  
and for Trinity, Cheneyville and Holy Comforter, Lecompte, the Rev. André Bordelon (Rose).

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## Lay Ministries

### The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: July 10, 2022

Lectors: Kirk Fontenot, Pembroke Roeder  
Prayers of the People: Pembroke Roeder  
Eucharistic Ministers: Robert Henley, Herschel Richard  
Acolyte: Sr. Cecilia Horton  
Ushers: Carolyn Mahlen, Donna Neal  
Altar Guild: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson

### The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: July 17, 2022

Lectors: Carolyn Mahlen, Steve Snodgrass  
Prayers of the People: Steve Snodgrass  
Eucharistic Ministers: Robert Henley, Carolyn Mahlen  
Acolyte: Steve Snodgrass  
Ushers: Bill Richard, Becky Snodgrass  
Altar Guild: Becky Snodgrass, Tommie Sue Brooks

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## Service Music

### The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: July 10, 2022

**Mass:** 421 Decius, Proulx, and Hurd  
**Psalm 25:1-9** Robert Knox Kennedy  
**Anthem:** Bread of Heaven—Heinlein/Dornel; arr. B. Power  
**Hymns:** 7 Ratisbon; 551 Festal Song; 314 Adoro devote; 390 Lobe den Herren  
**Organ:** Organ Book (excerpts)—Dornel; Petite rapsodie improvisée—Tournemire/Durufilé;  
Prelude in B—Saint-Saëns; Sortie in Gm—Lefébre-Wély

### The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: July 17, 2022

**Mass:** 421 Decius, Proulx, and Hurd  
**Psalm 15:** Metrical: St. Agnes  
**Hymn Concertato:** Great God, your love has called us here—K. Miller  
**Hymns:** 401 Leoni; 489 Tallis' Ordinal; 677 London New; 423 St. Denio  
**Organ:** Sonata II in C minor—Mendelssohn; Communion—Purvis;  
Dialogue in C—Marchand

# The Continuing Feast: Sunday, July 10

Some years ago, when the Holy Cross kitchen was being remodeled, we asked people to bring cold dishes to the feast, since we had no way to heat food. As usual, our cooks outdid themselves with their creativity, and we had a delicious array of salads, sandwiches, cold cuts, and other goodies. We'd like to revive that tradition during these hot summer months, so we ask that you use your imagination and contribute cold dishes to the feast. Remember that if you aren't a cook, store-bought is just fine.



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## Holy Cross ECW: Tradition and Change

Did you know that the National Episcopal Church Women (ECW) has been active since 1871? Did you know that every woman who is a church member is also a member of ECW? Did you know that every penny of the money Holy Cross ECW makes from its activities goes to fund a variety of social programs? For many years **Margaret Heacock** has chaired the Holy Cross ECW, and has been tireless in organizing and overseeing Soup Days, the Fall Festival, and the making of the famous Holy Cross Pickles. Now, she has decided that it's time for her to step down. Taking her place as chair is **Marshall Middleton**, with **Tommie Sue Brooks** as co-chair.



### Holy Cross Pickle-making

The first project they will oversee is the making of the pickles on Wednesday, October 12 at 10:00 am in the Undercroft. Volunteers are needed and welcome! Also, if anyone has the wide-mouth pickle jars left over from last year, they ask that you please take them to the church.

### Fall Festival

The Fall Festival will be held Saturday, November 5, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. More information will be forthcoming about the need for baked goods and soup. Meanwhile, it isn't too early to gather up new or gently-used items to donate for the bazaar. They include:

Jewelry	Table linen	Scarves	Nicknacks
China	Flatware	Yard art	?????
Crystal	Pictures	Handcrafted items	
Books	Purses	Christmas decorations	

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*Next issue: Photos and stories of Kendall and Will Raymond's adventures in Moldova. Stay tuned!*

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/holycrossdowntown](http://www.facebook.com/holycrossdowntown)

**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 July and August, 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