

Parish Profile  
*for*  
Church of the Holy Cross, Trussville, Alabama



*March 2022*

Welcome to Church of the Holy Cross, an Episcopal Community, at this time of renewal and transformation.

90 Parkway Drive

Trussville, Alabama 35173

Tel: 205.655.7668

[www.holycrosstrussville.org](http://www.holycrosstrussville.org)



## Who We Are

We are happily coming out of the pandemic beginning to adjust and reconnect. We had online services every Sunday from March 2020 until the summer of 2020 when we met outside to the pleasure of most. In September we returned indoors with all safety protocols in place.

We have always been a worshipping, caring, and serving Christian church. We pride ourselves on being welcoming and friendly. Though we may differ in our opinions, we seek common ground, and along the way have found many gifts among us. Through prayer, study, and fellowship we laugh, listen, and help each other. We are young and old, local and transplants, often from other denominations, but bound by our common faith in Jesus Christ

Now mask free, we feel rejuvenated and energized to not just go back to old ways, but to think ahead to new ideas and new people. With a strong vestry and lay leadership, we are well served. Knowing there are challenges ahead, we remain optimistic. Our church is blessed.

With God's help we hope to find a new priest who will lead this vital family of faith.

Together we are the Church of the Holy Cross.

## Where We've Been

In 1942 a small group of Episcopalians began to meet in Trussville, holding their first service in April at Mt. Nebo Presbyterian Church, now the First Presbyterian Church of Trussville. The following month, 15 of the group petitioned Bishop Charles Carpenter to allow the formation of a mission congregation. After favorable response, an



organizational meeting was held on May 31, which elected officers and chose the name Mission of the Holy Cross.



During the next 13 years, the mission's members met in the Presbyterian Church, at members' homes, in the Community Center and in the high school. Trussville was still a small town then, with a population of about 2000, and those early years were challenging.

Land was purchased, and worship space (now known as the Genesis Room) plus some adjoining smaller rooms were erected in 1955. Used bricks were donated for that first construction, and parishioners cleaned them by hand. The first service in the new building was held by candlelight (electricity not having been turned on yet) on Christmas Eve of that year.

For many years the church shared the services of various vicars or rectors with other small congregations in the area. It was not until 1980 that the Church of the Holy Cross, by then a parish church, acquired its first full-time Rector, the Rev. Ronald DelBene. Four years later the church built its current worship space and additional rooms

## Where We Are Located



**The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** is in the heart of downtown Trussville, Alabama at the intersection of Main Street and Parkway Drive. With a population of 26,123, Trussville is the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Alabama. High quality public schools, a thriving economy, excellent recreational activities, excellent health care availability, and a sense of community pride have driven rapid growth. In just ten years the population grew by 31.1%. This trend continues and city government and the city school system are implementing plans to accommodate growth while maintaining the quality

of life for all residents. Opportunities abound here!

Demographically, Trussville is not an average Alabama city. The median household income is \$97,226, as compared to \$62,843 for the state. Over 90% of housing is owner-occupied compared to 60.4% statewide. The median home price is \$255,100. Approximately 45% of persons over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, almost 1 ½ times the statewide rate.

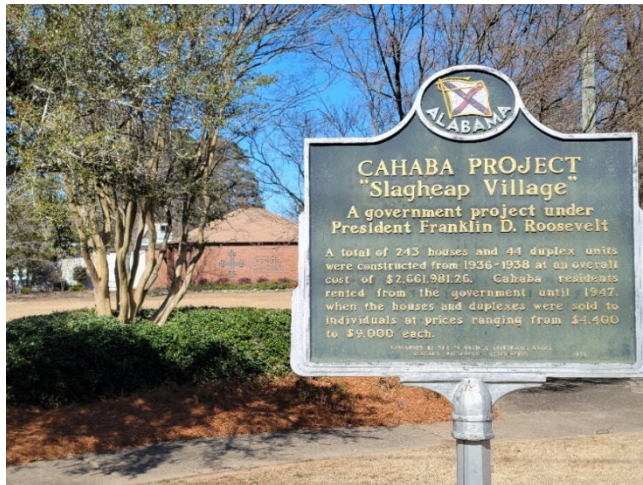


**Trussville City Schools** are among the best in the state. In 2022, *Niche* ranks the Trussville City School system number seven of 137 in the state. Hewitt-Trussville High School serves approximately 1,530 students. About 1,149 students attend sixth through eighth grade at Hewitt-Trussville Middle School. Grades kindergarten through fifth learn



at three elementary schools: Cahaba, Magnolia, and Paine, whose combined student population is approximately 2,129. A fourth elementary school is in the planning stages.

**The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** is at 90 Parkway Drive, immediately alongside the main entrance to the ***Cahaba Homestead Village*** neighborhood. Locally known as “The Project”, and sometimes referred to as “Slagheap Village”, this



neighborhood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As a new deal project under the Roosevelt Administration, a planned community was built between 1936 and 1938. This community became a point of pride with residents and served to help people recover from the great depression. Today, the well-preserved homes are highly sought after. Treelined streets with sidewalks, picturesque homes, and excellent park facilities are throughout the neighborhood, making it a popular

area for walkers and bikers. The excellent Trussville Public Library is a short walk from Holy Cross.

## What We Value

**Worship** is the center of our life together as the body of Christ in the world. Holy Cross uses the Episcopal liturgies for Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (Rite I and Rite II). A service of Rite I is at 8:00 a.m., followed by Rite II at 10:30. Each

week, Alter Guild sets the Lord's table and Flower Guild enhances our sanctuary.

An informal Eucharist, with anointing for healing, is held each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. We celebrate not only with the Eucharist but our continued renewal of the relationship that binds us to each other knowing that God is present in our lives.



The Holy Cross parish family is a very musical family. We value



music that enhances our worship service, but the pandemic virtually stopped our typical music service in its tracks. The choir, typically 9 members, was put on a 2-year hiatus. Now we are getting back to our regular service habits that will include congregational singing and the return of the choir. At various time in our history, music enhanced our worship service in the following ways: on-staff organists, Alleluia 3 song book tunes sung during communion; musical specials for Christmas, Easter, and other occasions; children's choir; contemporary services once per month, with guitar and percussion; occasional a Capela songs; and occasional bag-pipe accompaniment for Good Friday services.

**Christian formation** is important for the spiritual development of Holy Cross members. Long lived are the Tuesday Morning Bible Study and the Friday Morning Men's Breakfasand Bible study, each led by parishioners.

Before the pandemic, the children and EYC ministries were active. While small, these groups met regularly for Sunday school and Wednesday night fellowship. In addition, Children's Church met during the 10:30 service each week. Finally, Holy Cross held Vacation Bible School every summer. While the EYC is still active, and Children's church is beginning again, we want to add additional offerings for children and youth. We hope to grow and prioritize Christian formation for our youngest members and attract additional families and children to our parish.



**Fellowship** is the mortar that binds our parish together. At Holy Cross, we have many opportunities to gather in small and large groups, both at the church, in the diocese, and in the community.

The ECW is a very active group who meet monthly. They gather for learning, fellowship, and fundraising.

Our garden ministry will soon become active once again.

A long tradition at Holy Cross is Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Easter

Brunch on Easter morning between the two services. The EYC conducts a traditional Easter egg hunt on the church grounds.

Before the pandemic, many parishioners attended “The Small Parish Retreat,” a weekend held at Camp McDowell for parishes too small to have individual retreats. We hope to attend retreats in future years.

**Outreach** is a priority for Holy Cross. Holy Cross was instrumental in organizing the first food pantry and clothes closet in the City of Trussville. This flourishing charity, called TEAM (Trussville Ecumenical Assistive Ministries), now occupies its own building, and receives support from a variety of area churches as it continues to serve the Trussville community. Holy Cross regularly supports this ministry by providing canned or packaged food, clothing, diapers, toiletries, volunteers, and financial support.

For twenty years, teams from Holy Cross have supported Meals on Wheels sponsored by Jefferson County Council on Aging. Dedicated volunteers for this ministry deliver meals five or six weeks a year.

Our lay Pastoral Care teams visit and take meals to sick, injured or bereaved parishioners and/or family members. From this group has arisen an active prayer team which receives and acts on prayer requests by email.

We help support (and sometimes volunteer at) The Loveladies Center, Graceworks, 3 Hots and a Cot and our own Angel Tree.

We also contribute snacks, drinks, and financial assistance to Sawyerville Day Camp, operated by the Diocese of Alabama in an economically impoverished area of the state.



# Where We Want to Go

As we look to the future, our parish family is seeking with God's grace:

- **Christian Formation:** To further develop and enhance our Christian Formation, specifically in our children's and youth ministries. From a recent parish survey, numerous parishioners stated their desire to attract and minister to children, youth, and families with children, along with continuing to educate and provide spiritual growth to our current younger parishioners ranging from nursery to high school. The children of our parish *are* the future of our parish.
- **Growth:** Holy Cross is a loving spirit-filled parish; however, we are challenged in our ongoing effort to attract and retain new members to our parish. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this challenge. The decline in church participation is a broad nationwide phenomenon. Still, the city of Trussville is a growing and vibrant city, and therefore remains a very fertile ground for spreading the Gospel and reaching out to new arrivals as well as long-term residents here and beyond.
- **Stewardship:** From a recent parish survey, parishioners have a desire to remain financially sound. Although we hold an annual campaign, we are striving to ensure intentional and proportional giving, with individuals faithfully and prayerfully giving to the Glory of God. An important aspect of our stewardship mission is asking parishioners to aspire to give to one's capacity as part of spiritual growth and, most importantly, to further God's kingdom. To intentionally reflect God's blessings is a means to grow in our faith, show our gratitude, and secure the legacy of the parish. We will continue to encourage all to experience the joy giving financial resources, time, and talents to the work of the gospel.
- **Worship:** As a church we want to continue to embrace our past while stepping into the future. We enjoy the link that using both Rite I and Rite II gives us to our past while also exploring services that are newer to the Episcopal tradition. We enjoy teachings that center on the Gospel and as a smaller church can work well in an intergenerational setting. We see music as an important part of our worship experience and would like to build back to a strong choir and music program.



Most of all we want to continue to share Christ's message and love both within our congregation and with the community around us.

## Who Will Lead Us?



As a community of friendly and welcoming people of varying ages and stages of life, we have common goals in the type of Rector we would like to select.

In addition to the normal duties of the Rector as detailed in the by-laws of the church including administrative and fiscal duties, there are areas where the Rector's qualities and leadership are desired, as informed by our parish survey conducted in 2021:

- Biblically knowledgeable and deeply respects Episcopal liturgy, style, and traditions.
- Ability to preach the Gospel in ways that people find engaging and relevant to our lives and the life of the church.
- Ability, enthusiasm, and personality to provide pastoral care in good and bad times.
- Help attract, nurture, and retain new members.
- Work with our Director of Music to support and enhance this important part of our worship service.
- Help develop and grow our Christian Education programs for all age groups.
- Participate in our growing community to enhance the identity of our church.
- Effective in communicating innovative ideas and sensitivity to differing opinions.
- Enrich existing ministries while promoting outreach.
- Teach us how to deepen our faith, understand scripture and to live better Christian lives.
- Bring joy and enthusiasm as we share the gospel.



# Parish Administration

Our Vestry consists of nine members who are elected for a three-year term in staggered groups of three at the annual November meeting. Officers of the parish are the senior warden and junior warden. Vestry meetings are held monthly year-round, and the January meeting is held as a “Vestry retreat.” The senior warden and junior warden are elected each year at the Vestry retreat. Outreach administration is served by committee.

The Rt. Rev. Glenda S. Curry - Bishop of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior - Assistant Bishop

## Holy Cross Staff

Sabrina Salisbury - Parish Administrator

Tom Meacham – Organist and Music Director

The Rev Susan Southwick – Deacon

## Vestry Members

Serving through December 2022:

Julie Barnard

Laurie Nabors-Senior Warden

Roy Wood

Serving through December 2023\*:

Michael Alexander

Carol Crews

\*Vacant Position

Serving through December 2024:

James Patterson-Junior Warden

Inga Strickland

Cindy Wester



## **Search Committee**

The Reverend Geoff Evans

Canon to the Ordinary

521 North 20th Street Birmingham, Al. 35203

(205) 715-2060, ext. 9227

e-mail: [gevens@diola.org](mailto:gevens@diola.org)

Michael Alexander – Chair

Sue Peterson—Co-chair

Anne Amick

Carol Crews

Dan Dollar

Heather Johnson

Mac McQueen