

**Holy Cross Church
Anglican
January News**

From the Interim Rector

Writing this note almost got lost in the end-of-year things that did not seem like end-of-year things and certainly did not seem like “winter” things. I bought a new snow blower this year with the idea that if I do that, it may not snow. So far, so good!

This will be a busy month getting everything in order for annual reports and planning for the new year. The pledges have come in rather well, but we have not heard from everyone yet. Please let us know your pledge intentions so that the vestry can have the final figure for the budget meeting this coming week. The nominations committee also will be seeking out candidates for vestry positions, the election of whom will take place at the annual meeting at the end of the month. Our vestry consists of two wardens and six vestry members, and, of course, the rector. If you would be willing to serve please contact either warden: John Ayres or Betsy Crist.

The annual meeting of the parish will convene right after the 9:30 am Eucharist on January 29. Even if the meeting runs VERY long, it will not interfere with NFL football because this is the off weekend before the SuperB. At this meeting we hear reports from every organization and each reporter should submit a written version of the report for the permanent record. We will elect a new warden and vestry members. I am not quite sure what we will do about reporting these elections to the diocese. Since we did not get admitted as a parish we function in the diocese as a mission. However, our incorporation papers and bylaws are set up under the title of “Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Holy Cross Church-Anglican.” They call for more vestry members and a different structure than the canons of the diocese require for a mission. It will be interesting to see how this is handled. It may be that only one warden and three vestry members will be appointed to the Bishop’s Committee, the equivalent governing body for a diocese of Quincy mission.

Finally, because New Year’s Day is traditionally the time to make resolutions, I ask that each and every member of Holy Cross resolve to bring at least one new person to the church during the new year.

Blessings,
RAC+

News and Calendar Notes

- ❖ **Soup-er Bowl Lunch at the Annual Meeting:** The Body Builders group is organizing a parish luncheon in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. As the name suggests, please bring your favorite soup to share (we can keep everything warm in crockpots during the service) or some sort of side dish (salad or bread) or dessert. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the next week or so.
- ❖ **Soup-er Food Pantry Collection:** And as long as you’re thinking about soup, we’re planning a mini two-week food pantry drive from the day of the Annual Meeting to Super Bowl Sunday: Cans of soup! It should be easy to remember. We’ll send everything we collect to the St. Patrick’s food pantry.
- ❖ **The Holy Cross Pantry:** The Holy Cross pantry are getting a little bare too, so please think of us when you’re doing your shopping. We could use regular coffee, toilet paper, paper towels, and bottled water. Thanks for your help in keeping us stocked up!
- ❖ **Body Builders Meeting:** The next Body Builders meeting will be Saturday, January 14, at 10 am. We’ll be planning the Soup-er Bowl lunch for the Annual Meeting as our main priority. We’re continuing to work on welcome bags for the church and will be thinking about Lenten and spring activities. You are welcome to join us—we’d love to have new ideas and input.

- ❖ **Youth Group Homeless Outreach:** Thank you to everyone who has donated items of clothing and money for McDonald's gift certificates for our annual homeless outreach in downtown Chicago. The trip is planned for Saturday, January 7. You won't want to miss church on Sunday, January 8, because we'll be reporting on our trip. Every year the high school class meets many unforgettable people and experiences miracles, and I'm sure this year will be no exception.
- ❖ **Healing Ministry Service:** Healing services are offered the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 pm. The next service will be January 12. Please invite someone in need of healing of an illness or healing of memories to come for prayers and anointing. The music, candlelight, and short service provide a peaceful atmosphere for healing and miracles. Coffee and snacks are provided after the service. Your H.I.M. (Healing In Ministry) team appreciates your presence and your prayers. If you are feeling led to volunteer to support this ministry, please see John Ayres or one of the other team members.
- ❖ **Women's Study Group:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 24, at 7 pm at the church. We'll be trying something new this month: studying the life of a saint. We drew the names of women saints from a basket, and Joan of Arc's name was chosen. Our plan is to keep a focus on Joan of Arc throughout the year, so come and learn all about her. Our 2012 reading and study schedule is posted on the front bulletin board if you want to start planning and finding copies of the books.
- ❖ **Word-Sharing Groups:** Several groups meet regularly at Holy Cross to share the weekly words from Jesus sent out by the Words of Blessing Ministry. The evening word-sharing groups meet on Monday nights at 7 pm on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Mondays (January 16, 23, and 30). The women's daytime group will be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday, January 10, at 9:30 am.
- ❖ **Men's Group:** The men's group is meeting for fellowship and breakfast at 8 am on Saturday, January 21, at Panera, 254 East Rollins Road, Round Lake Beach.