

THE CROSS PROJECT

April 4, 2021



I've always loved symbols. The idea that an object can represent or stand for something else ... something bigger, deeper, and more significant ... what an artistic, awesome, mystical and sometimes fun way to express something. There is power in a symbol because it can communicate so much on so many levels all at once.

Take for example, the cross. We are all familiar with the fact that Christians use the cross to symbolize our faith. People wear them on necklaces and bracelets, on tattoos, bumper stickers, license plates. It's a way of letting the world know more about you without saying a single word. But what does the cross really mean?

Our Lenten focus has engaged us in what we have called the Cross Project. Each member of our church family was invited to, and encouraged to create a cross. Any size. Any material. We hoped that folks would embrace the challenge and put together a cross that reflects who they are. What matters to them. Inspiration could be drawn from a beloved hobby, a passion, a special memory, or *in memory* of someone special.

We have been doing a lot of thinking about crosses, and studying the Cross, and many people made crosses and brought them in for the project. This booklet gives you the opportunity to check them out and ponder them. There are crosses made of wooden, shells, fabric, and a whole host of materials. The Cross Project was an invitation to be creative, to express yourself, to experiment and to participate. But underneath it all it was much more. It was a way to focus during Lent in a new way. To focus on the cross, what it means, the sacrifice Christ made, and the hope that the cross holds for us today.

So back to my original question...What does the cross really mean? Jesus was pretty much a master of turning ideas and feelings upside down; so it should really surprise us that while the cross was originally a tool of torture in its day, it has now come to symbolize so many good and powerful things in our lives as Christians today.

What does the cross really mean? It means you are loved, you are forgiven, you are a child of God. It means so many wonderful, magnificent, humbling things. So when you see those crosses hanging from necklaces, or on bumper stickers...don't simply think, "Oh, look, there's a Christian." Remember Christ and all he did for us. Find peace in knowing the truth of the resurrection. Think of Him, and, as we get to the other side of this COVID crucible.

Remember Easter 2021. Be filled with gratitude that we are all created individually like these crosses; but we are all loved unconditionally by our mighty God, who sent his son to die...on a cross.

In faith

Jeffrey

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey D. Weenink
Interim Pastor - Palms Presbyterian Church

Made by: Bob Zielske, Jeffrey Weenink and the people of Palms.

Title: The Good Friday Cross 2021

Materials Used: This cross contains a mosaic of tile chards, glass fragments, and sea shells.

Inspiration: The aggregates in the cross represent the broken fragments of our lives, all bound and mended by Our Lord Jesus Christ. The sea-shells are symbolic of our baptism. The clay faces represent us, God's covenant children created in the image and likeness of God. Those who participated in the Good Friday Stations of the Cross experience were given a little bit of clay for them to fashion into their own likeness. Those clay representations are included in, "Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64.8 (NRSV)



Name: Sonja Rodgers

Materials Used: Cord, beads, cross

Inspiration: The knots at the top are sins, the beads blessings, the red beads the twelve disciples and the cross the Lord's forgiveness.

Name: Leslie Moeller

Materials Used: Table runner from years gone by– Applique materials from quilting stash

Inspiration: Faith, hope, love quilt pattern to do cross pattern.





Name: Ken Dixon

Materials Used: Wood

Inspiration: A gift from the Session of Hickory Street Presbyterian on the occasion of his retirement as clerk of Session where he served for 17 years.

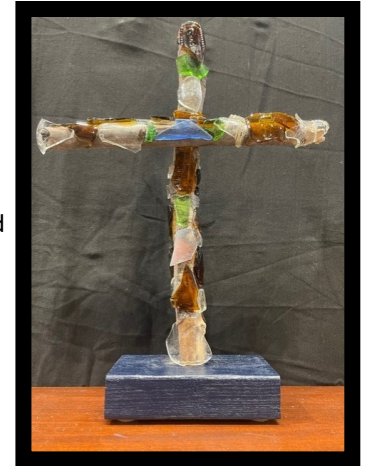
The Seal of the Presbyterian Church, USA

- Cross— most ecumenical symbol of the Christian church
- Book— the role of scripture as a means for knowing God’s word
- Descending Dove—symbol of the Holy Spirit
- Pulpit— symbolizes that preaching is an important role
- Flames— implied triangle which is a traditional symbol of the Trinity

Name: Elaine Mann

Materials Used: Wood from the banks of the Suwanee River and broken glass from Haiti

Inspiration: The Suwanee River is my sanctuary. I especially feel God’s presence and peace there. The wood for the cross came from the banks of the Suwanee. The broken glass was collected during our first trip to Haiti in 2012. We visited a remote village where fill had been brought in, so as you walked you saw lots of broken glass, dead batteries and rusted wire. As I was walking with the children, I picked up a piece of glass as a reaction to “someone is going to cut his foot” and then realized it was a hopeless venture, but I kept it in my possession, rather than throw it back down. The kids saw me and thought I wanted to collect glass so they all started gathering glass and giving it to me. After a short time, I couldn’t hold any more, so a young man handed me a plastic water bottle with the top cut off in which to collect it. It filled up quickly and they continued to hand me broken glass. What a precious gift! *For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have —2 Corinthians 8:12.* They gave what they had to give to a stranger and no words were necessary for this giving and receiving. Somehow, I got all the shards of glass through customs.



These broken pieces represent broken lives. We’re all broken. In Haiti, the system is also broken— corrupt government, almost non-existent public education, hunger, gangs and violence, kidnappings, lack of quality medical services, inferior housing, and the list goes on. But in that broken system, the people remain faithful and hopeful. Their faith strengthen my faith because they do believe that God is Lord of our future and that it is through the cross and divine guidance that the pieces of our lives are put back together.



Name: Justine Ness

Materials Used: Wood

Inspiration: Good friend brought cross from Jerusalem.



Name: Holly Jolles

Materials Used: Wooden Cross with Milagro Charms

Inspiration: Made in Mexico. Folklore says if you put a milagro charm on a sacred object, a miracle will occur.



Name: Martha McNulty

Title: Interfaith Family Cross

Materials Used: Wood and cardboard

Inspiration: In honor of my daughter's interfaith family.

The Cross

Out of an olive tree came this cross.

Just as out from under an olive tree came the one to be put on it

The Father is joined to this cross

The Mother is there too

Along with every Son and every Daughter

The Spirit encircles it all

Birth

Life

Death

Resurrection

Mystery threading its way through this wood

God reigning through this wood

The One

The LOD

The Word

The Almighty

Mightier than anything else visible and invisible

Able to hold all the individual pieces of this wood together

Look ever so closely to this piece

Many pieces yet one

Love weaving its way

Having its way

Listen ever so closely to this piece

Silent yet resounding

Mercy echoing its way

Speaking its way

May this cross have its way with me





Name: Carol Barbour

Materials Used: Clay

Inspiration: Palms flourish in “dry” times and have a large number of roots that help palms withstand strong winds. Palms are a symbol of victory and goodness. When Jesus rode/walked on palms, he was challenging the accepted world order on his way to the cross. So too are we, as followers of Jesus and as Palms, to turn away from worldly values and walk toward the peace of the cross.



Name: Wonderful Wednesday Small Group

Materials Used: 2x4s and assorted materials (nails, hardware, etc...)

Inspiration: The Old Rugged Cross



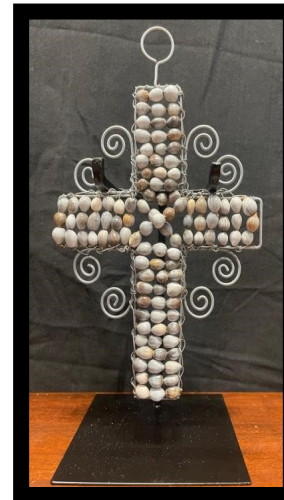
Name: Palms Preschool Children

Materials Used: Paper and paint

Inspiration: From the hands of children who painted the colorful panes in hearing the story of God’s love. The pieces were then cut and blended together to create this stained glass cross.



Name: Mary Alexander



Name: FloAnne O’Brien

A South African artisan and gifted to us by the Waggoners of our Affordable Medicines For All Foundation (AMFA) ministry.

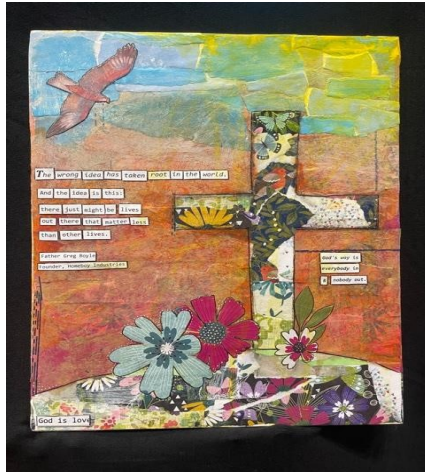
Materials Used: Seeds from the lush grass Job’s tears. These seeds naturally have a hole through them and have been used for rosaries for centuries.

Inspiration: This cross was given to us as we departed South Africa. It hangs in our home by our bathroom door reminding us of our enriching week studying leadership side by side members of the Delft community and other disadvantaged communities of Capetown and it reminds us of how as we should live as we go into our home and the world.

Name: Sallie Gipson

Materials Used: Canvas, paper, paint

Inspiration: The cross is probably one of the most recognizable Christian symbols. To me, the cross represents renewal, life, forgiveness, LOVE, new beginnings, and hope. Sadly, I think one of the things that keeps us the most separated from God and from living into God's great commandment, is the quote I included in my project.



Matthew 22:37-40 (The Message)

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

Name: CAMP Choir

Materials Used: Wood, glue, paint, glitter, beads, and paper

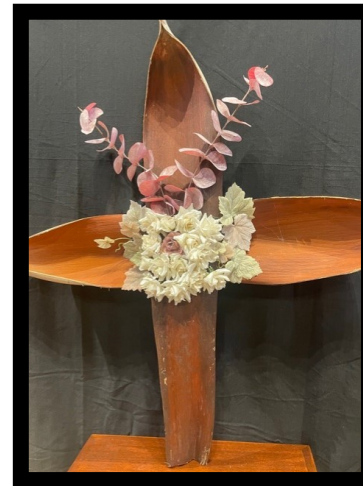
Inspiration: The children were inspired by all the wonderfully diverse crosses.



Name: Liz & Jake Reber

Materials Used: Dried husks off the seed pods from our palm tree.

Inspiration: My wife Liz



Name: Unknown Alaskan woodcarver
donated by Coralie Williams

Materials Used: I found this in the gift shop of the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Sitka, Alaska (which was the capital of Alaska when in Russian hands).

Inspiration: The cross of Jesus is artfully combined with elements of the remembrance of His sacrifice— winecup and bread loaf.





Name: Carolyn Dickson

Materials Used: Paper, glue, milfile pearl stickers

Inspiration: During the pandemic, I discovered quilling. When someone said, "Cross Project," I thought of quilling a cross. Crosses remind me of God's love!



Name: Carolyn Dickson

Materials Used: Paper, glue, paint, cardboard, jewel stickers and gold string for hanging

Inspiration: During the pandemic, I discovered quilling. When someone said, "Cross Project," I thought of quilling a cross. Crosses remind me of God's love!



Name: Carolyn Dickson

Materials Used: Paper, glue, cardboard backing, pearl stickers and silver thread hanger

Inspiration: During the pandemic, I discovered quilling. When someone said, "Cross Project," I thought of quilling a cross. Crosses remind me of God's love!



Name: Dana Riley

Materials Used: Those found in nature

Inspiration: The cross as a symbol of hope and horror. Inspiration = James Cone, "The Cross and the Lynching Tree"



Name: Bill Keller, Brother-in-law of Sue Anne Dixon

Materials Used: Paper

Inspiration: He took up origami as a craft during COVID and sent these crosses to us as his "Easter Craft."



Name: Holly Jolles

Materials Used: Scrap fabric, yard stick, modge podge, sewing machine, stones and vase

Inspiration: My mask making scraps!



Name: Sylvia and Phil Hammond

Materials Used: Wood, wallpaper, shells

Inspiration: Beach/ocean. God's beautiful creation.



Name: Don and Gwyn Booth

Materials Used: Oak and Cedar (Both mentioned in numerous Bible verses)

Inspiration: The Celtic Cross is said to be representative of knowledge, strength, and compassion. As we journey toward the cross with Jesus, he teaches us all three. This cross reminds us of the Palms reformation journey to Scotland and the Isle of Iona in 2015, and the nearby Isle of Islay from which Gwyn's ancestors emigrated in the 1800s to eventually settle in the Carolinas.



Name: Bob O'Brien

Materials Used: Concrete, reinforcing steel, pottery shards, seashells, mails, small crosses, rock, miniature symbols, coin, 2x4 wood sealant.

Inspiration: The challenge of the Cross Project reflecting who I am, a special time in life, a moment in my faith rattles around in my brain, so unable to separate one from another, I decided to create all the factors that made up my faith journey.

Center—Christ Centered

Left Arm—The Church

Upper Arm—Family

Right Arm—Service

Lower Base= Work



Name: Bill and Maureen Wildey

Materials Used: Photos and cardboard

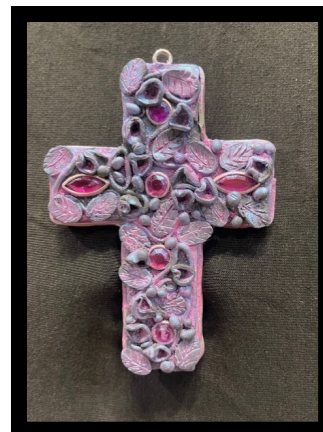
Inspiration: The cross reminds us of the resurrection and God's love for all people. We have met everyone pictured on our cross and could see the love of God in each of them.



Name: Lesley Hunter

Materials Used: Watercolors

Inspiration: Each heart is a representation of the different family and friends in my life. Each unique. Each loving and supportive. My hearts help me to hold onto my love and faith.



Name: Ginny Baldwin

Materials Used: Polymer clay

Inspiration: Drawing some ideas from YouTube videos, I was able to create this Eater Cross out of polymer clay. Isaiah 64:8



Name: Palms Staff Members

Materials Used: Wooden crosses filled with mosaics.

Inspiration: Each staff member was given the same materials. As a result, each cross was just as unique as the person making it.



Name: St. Joseph Boys Home, Haiti

Materials Used: Metal

Inspiration: For visitors to Haiti



Name: Laurie Furr-Vancini

Materials Used: Clay

Inspiration: God created all living things for good. This includes trees. The cross is a human made distortion of God's good creation fashioned into a device of torture and Capitol Punishment. This cross is my re-visioning of the cross as a tree of life; giving life, air, and energy to the world.



Name: Suneeta Chanan-Khan

Inspiration: This cross is a good depiction of me and my faith. I was born and raised in Pakistan and first learned the Lord's prayer in Urdu. My parents taught it to me in the first few years of my life. Then they taught me the English version as well. I drew a heart in the center as I know that God's love is at the center of the cross.



Name: Juliet Johnson (age 7)

Materials Used: Wood cross, sea glass

Inspiration: "The cross reminds me of Jesus and the windows in the Sanctuary."



Name: Neva Blackstock

Materials Used: Yarn, knitting needles

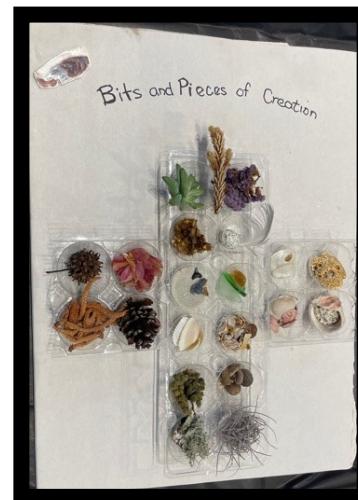
Inspiration: Methodist hymn, The Old Rugged Cross. This cross is plain, rough textured and imperfect. It represents the brutal reality of Christ's death. The softness of the yarn demonstrates Christ's constant love and forgiveness.



Name: PW Crafters

Materials Used: Palms

Inspiration: 110 Palm Crosses were made for distribution on Palm Sunday.



Name: Sandra Burnaman

Materials Used: Picked up from ground as I took my morning walks.



Name: Arie and Dave Hammers

Materials Used: All shell collected on Ponte Vedra Beach

Inspiration: Being on the beach and enjoying all of God's beautiful creations.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13



Name: Scott, Meredith & Leighton Matthews

Materials Used: Found shells and sea glass from our treasured sunrise mornings at the beach.

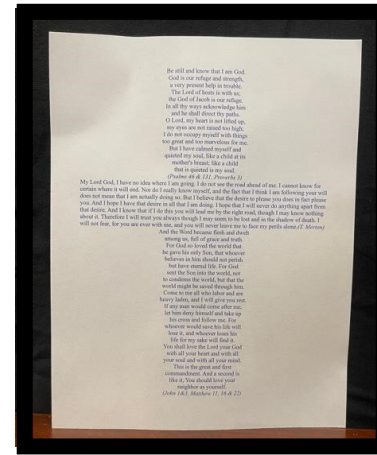
Inspiration: Matthew 6:21- For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



Name: Lyle and Dottie Harper

Materials Used: Tree Branches

Inspiration: "I cherish the old rugged cross... despised by the world... a wonderous beauty I see."



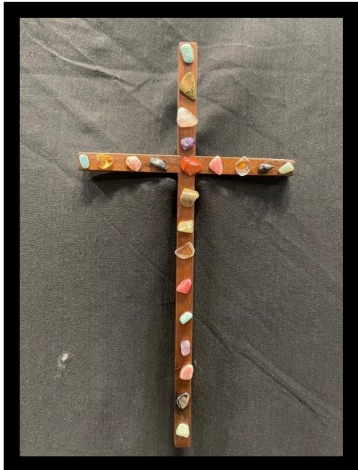
Name: Elizabeth Sams

Materials Used: Words and paper

Inspiration: I'm a writer by training and inclination and not good with crafts— so I used words to make my cross. The top vertical is Old Testament verses that have always spoken to me— The bottom verticals equally essential New Testament quotes. And the horizontal arm between them is a Thomas Merton prayer that expresses my personal faith better than anything I've ever written myself.



Name: Name was not known at the time of printing.



Name: Katrina Delude

Materials Used: Wood and polished stones from Arizona

Inspiration: Cross made by George Poorman, former member of Palms. Stones from the earth.



Name: Ben Allard (age 7)

Materials Used: Wood cross and paint

Inspiration: Christmas!



Name: Dee and Van Begarly

Title: Seaside Cross

Materials Used: Intra-coastal driftwood; sea glass from Cuba; base from grandmother's wardrobe.

Inspiration: Beauty within imperfection



Name: Howard Baldwin

Materials Used: A 1250 year old white oak barn beam from a farm established in the 1820s in Mendon, NY. The tree dates back to the time of the Reformation.

Inspiration/Reformation: Two old barn beams were used to form a suspended cross for the new sanctuary at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Jacksonville Beach in 1987. A friend from Rochester, NY donated the cross and gave me the left over pieces.



Name: Ginny Baldwin

Materials Used: Yarn

Inspiration: As part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, I thought I would attempt to embed a cross in some of the prayer shawls. This is a practice piece, but could be a wall hanging.



Name: Sally Baldwin

Materials Used: Camera

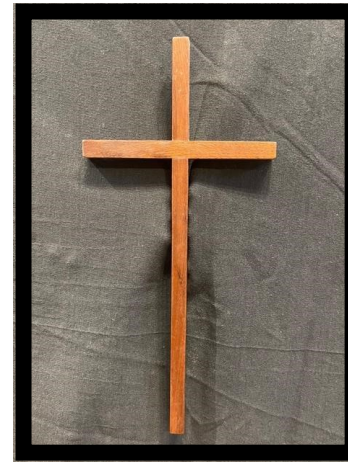
Inspiration: Very inspiring to me. I took this picture on a wonderful trip with my husband Jim Baldwin



Name: Clara (age 5)

Materials Used: Fabric and paper

Inspiration: The cross reminds Clara of Jesus and how Jesus loves everybody.



Name: Kathy Prosser

Inspiration: In 2012, Palms disciple George Poorman (now deceased) made a cross for each of us in our Sunday school class.



Name: Kim Gossett and Olivia and Evy Derechin

Materials Used: Plywood, newspapers and word beads with glue

Inspiration: As a preschool Sunday school teacher, we are always working on the message of love God and love one another. This is exactly what we love about our church and this theology. We are all God's children and our mission is to love one another as he loves us. All are loved.



Name: Name was not known at the time of printing.



Name: Preston (age 3)

Materials Used: Pompoms and glue

Inspiration: The cross reminds Preston of Easter and Easter reminds him of colored eggs.



Name: Eleanor Hughes

Inspiration: Given to me Christmas by S. F. Stepdaughter

Name: Lori Blevins-Brim

Materials Used: Scallop shells, reflection mirror and wooden cross

Inspiration: My cross reminds me of my many walks on the beach collecting shells. It was peaceful hearing the ocean and the waves crashing. The mirror in the middle of my cross is the one we received in church for reflection. I wanted to add that on because I think its important to be able to look at one self and be more aware of how we can be reflected on others and also it's a good size to even check out your smile.☺

I made Carol DiGusto a cross almost just like mine for her retirement and in her thank you card she wrote about how the scallop shell was adopted as an emblem of Pilgrims to several shrines such as Mont Saint Michel. It was to become uniquely associated with pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.



Name: Jeff Ritchie

Materials Used: Presbyterian Hymnal and piano; 4"x4"x8' post

Inspiration: I love music as a way to speak to, and be spoken to by, God. So for my "Cross Project" I went through the Presbyterian Hymnal and located several hymns, mostly from the section on Jesus' Passion, that particularly inspired me. I have been playing them throughout Lent and have meditated on their words.

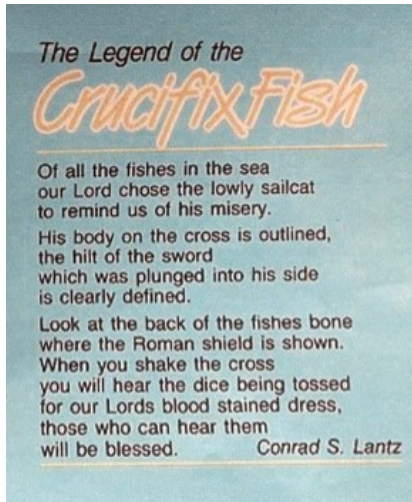
222 "Rejected and Despised"—a reflection on Isaiah 53 that shares the insight that Christ continues to be present in the "victims of our age" (stanza 2).

224 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"—always a favorite of mine, but I meditated on it as I played a tune (Rockingham) different from the one I grew up singing (Hamburg). It was a fresh experience of the deeply moving words.

225 "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"—a 6th century hymn that was new to me. From the notes at the bottom of the hymn page: "...an enduring and profound meditation on the mystery of the cross."

268 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"—stanza 2 especially moving this year: "Crown him the Lord of love, behold his hands and side...."

Then, in the last week, I got some building materials and, with the help of grandsons Alex and Matthew Ryder, built a cross.



Name: Ann VanDenBerg

Inspiration: This is a Crucifix Fish. It is the skull bone of a Sail Cat Fish and depicts Jesus on the cross. I found two of these on Ponte Vedra Beach on Easter weekend sometimes in the 1990s while looking for shark's teeth. A stranger on the beach told me it was a nice find so I kept one all these years.

Upon researching it I found the Legend of the Crucifix Fish. Before that I had believed the rattle to be doves of peace. Either way I feel very blessed to have found it. Now that you have seen one you may also enjoy the search for this treasure.

Name: Laurel Richardson

Inspiration: Hello Church, I've missed you. I watch and listen each Sunday, but yearn for the old days.

I've enjoyed hearing the Cross Project submissions and was frustrated that due to my job, doing people's tax returns, I've been unable to get anything together to submit. Today, my cross fell into my lap so to speak.

I turn 65 years old tomorrow (3/16/2001). I felt the need to go to the cemetery and spring clean the grave markers of my Mom and Dad and both Grandmothers. It was sort of a thank you gesture to the folks that birthed me and the folks that birthed them.

In my gardening gloves, with my clippers and broom... I unearthed my Cross submission. Here it is as I found it...dirty, not a beautiful project, nothing to do with my personal history but full of meaning.

My Parents and Grandparents as the source of my faith. They are the people who taught me about God, Jesus and the Bible. Here I was, giving love and paying tribute to these very dear relatives and they were still encouraging my faith.

I do not know who bought this cross, who took it to the cemetery and which grave it was lovingly placed on first. How it came to be buried between my Mom and Dad, I'll never know but when I saw it, I knew this was my submission. Given with a humble and grateful heart for our God, for my upbringing and for the gift of Jesus, my Savior.

