

North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

...coming up in Worship...

Anticipation!
The Advent Season Continues...

This week's message:
**"Christmas through
the Eyes of the Shepherds"**

Check out Luke 2:8-20

Join adults in Sunday study: 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to share in study and fellowship with these classes this Sunday:

Wesleyan Class: Room 215

Lesson: "Prophets Foreshadow
Messiah's Birth" Ginnie Collins

Good News: Room 206

Lesson: "Step Aside" Jim Funk

Friendship: Room 202

Lesson: "Prophets Foreshadow
Messiah's Birth" Marj Strong

Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall

Lesson: "My Favorite Christmas Story"
Class Members

FaithWorks: Room 207

Lesson: "Advent" Helen Foster

Pathfinders: Room 200

Lesson: "Methodist Beliefs: We Believe in
the Cross" Faye Moore

Contemporary Conversations: Lounge

Lesson: "The Ethics of Health Reform"
Linda Ward

December 7, 2009



Check out Christmas at North Cross

December 20th—Christmas Sunday

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

'Tis the Season

A drama starring members of the New Life Players and featuring the Chancel Choir, Sanctuary Bell Choir, Singing 4 God and 4-One Praise Band.

The cast of a church's living Nativity scene is hauled off to jail because of a herd of uncooperative livestock. A down-on-his-luck Santa becomes the unsuspecting target for "good will toward men."

December 24th—Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Candlelight with 4-One Praise Band

9:00 p.m. Candlelight with Chancel Choir

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion with Choir

December 24th and 25th

Church Office closed

December 31st, 2009 and January 1st, 2010

Church Office closed

Transformed by Christ's love to make disciples and serve others.

Alpha Dinner Party January 7th, 2010

On Thursday evening, January 7th, you will have an opportunity to take a “no obligation” look at the Alpha Course by attending the Alpha Dinner Party. The catered meal begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by a hilarious joke, a couple of songs, a brief description of the course, and a teaching session by Alpha’s founder, Nicky Gumbel. At the end of the evening, you may look over the Alpha Course schedule for the Winter Session (sessions will be held on Thursday evenings, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.) beginning January 14th and decide if you would like to register for the course. *(Please let Dennis Stone know if you’d like to attend the Dinner Party by calling the Church Office or e-mail dstone@northcrossumc.org by Sunday, January 3rd.)* You may also sign up after the Worship Services at the Alpha Table in the Entry Area. Alpha Alums bringing a guest are asked to pay for those they bring; the cost will be under \$10 per person. Those signing up for the Party may make a donation.

North Cross has offered seven Alpha Courses in the past with 192 people taking the class. The course is eleven weeks (Thursday nights) with one Saturday, which allows for an extended time of teaching and fellowship. Each night begins with a catered meal followed by announcements, a joke, a couple of songs, the teaching session, and a small-group discussion time. The relaxed, casual atmosphere of Alpha provides a great backdrop for people to get acquainted with one another, find some answers to faith questions, and have fun! Overwhelmingly, people have felt that God has worked in their lives through the course, . . .and they made some new friends. The cost? The Alpha Course Manuals are \$4.00; the meal cost will be around \$6-\$7 and is on a donation basis.

Have questions? Just call the Church Office (452.2939) and ask for Dennis. . .he’ll be glad to talk with you about the Alpha Course.

Wednesday Dinners Resume Jan. 6th

After a brief holiday break, the youth-sponsored Wednesday dinners will resume January 6th. The Youth Group looks forward to serving our loyal “regulars” and extends an invitation to those who have not participated in the past. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:15. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children 2 to 11, and free for under 2. All of the monies raised from the dinners help to pay for the youth’s mission trip each summer.

As of our last dinner on November 18th, the youth served 12 dinners to approximately 744 persons. This is an average of 62 persons each week. These 744 persons have helped to raise \$1,175.63. This is enough money for four youth to pay the full amount of their mission trip expenses. We average 17 youth who help cook, serve, and clean each week. In addition to the monies earned, the dinners provide a wonderful fellowship opportunity. Families, couples, singles, seniors, youth, and children can come together for a good meal and a chance to meet new people and develop new friendships. If you would like to join us on Wednesday, January 6th or any other Wednesday, simply call the church office at 816-452-2939 by Tuesday afternoon and place your reservation. And as an old show used to say – Ya’ll Come Now!!

Things are happening in the Job Club!

One person started working last week, and another had an interview just a few days later! Now is when many employers are gearing up for hiring new people to start their new year (and new budgets). If you are looking for work, please consider coming to the Job Club on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in room 202. Keep your job leads coming in. It is much easier to work on your job search with a little help from friends!

We’re still looking for the following positions:

1. A job in accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable or bookkeeping.
2. Work painting heavy equipment. Applicant has a Class “A” CDL license, is knowledgeable about tools, and would consider a delivery driver position.
3. Applicant is an experienced computer programmer and is working on completing a Medical Transcriber’s Certificate.
4. Applicant has experience in shipping/receiving, as well as general office work.
5. Applicant has current warehouse experience and is an experienced software programmer.

Coming This Week...

Thursday, December 10

- 11:00 a.m. Wesleyan Circle at
Mimi's Café in Zona Rosa
4:30 p.m. 4-One Band Practice
5:30 p.m. Contemporary Conver-
sation's Caroling Party at Sandra Aust's

Friday, December 11

Saturday, December 12

- 8:00 a.m. UMMen/Brkfst/Denny's
12:30 p.m. Christmas Play Practice
1:00 p.m. DAR
6:30 p.m. Good News Party

Sunday, December 13

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Children's Music
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Coffee always in the kitchen
11:00 a.m. Contemporary
Worship
2:00 p.m. Piano Recital
3:00 p.m. Leadership Training
4:30 p.m. Handbell Practice
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Monday, December 14

- 11:00 a.m. Tai Chi
6:30 p.m. Preschool Program
7:00 p.m. Christmas Play Practice
7:00 p.m. Cub & Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 15

- 9:00 a.m. TOPS
10:00 a.m. Paint for Fun
10:30 a.m. OP Bridge
11:30 a.m. XYZ Potluck
6:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge
6:30 p.m. Preschool Program
7:00 p.m. GeoThermal Meeting
7:00 p.m. DAR
7:00 p.m. Wood Carvers

Wednesday, December 16

- 6:00 p.m. Clay County Justice Bd.
6:30 p.m. Youth
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
7:00 p.m. Leadership Meetings

Thursday, December 17

- 6:00 a.m. Tai Chi
9:00 a.m. UMW Sewing/Quilting
10:00 a.m. Mommy & Me
11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
2:00 p.m. Northland Families
4:30 p.m. 4-One Band Practice
6:00 p.m. Mommy & Me Party

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

(Continued from page 4)

- The *North Cross Spirit* will not be published the weeks of Christmas and New Year's.
- Paolo Alexander Pasamonte Vitug, who was born on December 8, 2008, was baptized on Sunday, December 6, 2009. Paolo Alexander is the son of Phillip and Maria Vitug and grandson of Jerry and Lucy Young.
- A sincere "Thank you" to the following young men from North Cross who gave of their time, muscle and vehicles last Thursday to bring two thousand rolls of paper towels to North Cross for the Northland Christmas Store. The men in the group were: Bill Reynolds, Larry Sandridge, Don Rose, Raymond Hughes, Marvin Thiel, Robert Lynch, Roger Henderson and Bill Chastain. A special "thanks" to Sheli Irwin for obtaining these towels at a special price and to each of our North Cross family who gave a donation or purchased and brought towels to church. Thank you all for caring and sharing.
- Orders for poinsettia plants will be accepted through December 20, 2009. Cost of the plants is \$12 each. You may take your poinsettia after the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 27, 2009. Order forms may be found on the table outside the church office. Please put "*poinsettia*" on the memo line of your check.
- *The Discipline*, a book of daily devotions for the entire year, is now available. Several copies are in the church office, and the cost is \$12 per copy. Call the church office at 452.2939 to reserve your copy.
- Childcare workers needed from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. for the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Please call the Church office at 452-2939.

XYZs schedule December luncheon Ken and Lenora Remmert to present entertainment

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the December meeting of the XYZs. On Tuesday, December 15th, a Potluck luncheon will be held. Meet at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be served at noon.

Ham and drinks will be furnished. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Ken and Lenora Remmert will entertain you following the luncheon. You don't want to miss this! Mark your calendar now and join your friends for good food, good company, and a wonderful program.

Memories & Reflections

submitted by *Vickie Lynch*, Youth Director

Yesterday, several other people and I were asked to write down some favorite "North Cross" memories. When we were done, we shared our memories with each other, and as story telling goes, one story led to another that led to another. I think we could have shared memories all night long.

In reflecting on these stories, I realized the great impact church, specifically North Cross, has had on so many individuals and families over the years. There were stories about the Super Sale or its predecessor the September Sale, the preschool program, Sunday school classes and teachers, youth group, mission trips, worship, pastors, making new friends, marriages, births, and on and on. The common thread to these stories - RELATIONSHIPS: helping others find a relationship with Christ, building the relationships of friends and family, growing relationships with the young and old, creating relationships with the community, and offering relationships to visitors.

It is funny that most persons didn't even realize they had such an impact on others until the stories were shared. It is often the little things - a smile, a hug, a meal brought to a home, a willingness to listen, or sharing a laugh or two - that make North Cross feel like home and family.

I grew up at North Cross, and I most certainly call North Cross home. I feel that I am a part of a huge family in Christ. I remember the little things... "Hoppy" children's stories; hugs and smiles from Mrs. Bird; support and kind words from Mr. and Mrs. Tweeddale; the many adults who weren't parents of youth, but who gave their time to teach and sponsor youth events; the congregation who participated with joy in some of the worst Youth Sundays North Cross has ever seen; and the sound effects Roger Arbuckle spontaneously added to the worship services.

So, what is the point of this whole article? Relationships! As we anticipate and look forward to Christmas, consider giving a different gift this year. Give the gift of a relationship. Teach a youth or children's Sunday school class. (Don't worry about the lesson. Remember it is the relationship that is important.) Join an adult Sunday school class; welcome a visitor; give a hug or smile to a stranger; call someone you know who hasn't been attending for awhile and see how they are doing; participate in a small group experience (Alpha or a Bible study); or better yet, invite a neighbor, friend, or coworker to participate with you. Give the gift of Christ at Christmas, the gift of YOU!

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Hospitalized: Ed Bird, Howard McKinney, NKC; Joyce Roach, St. Luke's North, Robert Taylor, Veteran's Hsptl.

- We wish to thank everyone for their calls, cards, thoughts, prayers, presence, and other acts of kindness during the illness and death of Don. We really appreciated the delicious lunch served to the family after the service. It feels really good to have the support of North Cross. *LeVeta Crowley & Family*
- Thank you so much for your love, support, and prayers as we grieve the loss of Jenny and Maggie's father, Jeff Nolan. We all four love our church family so much. A special thanks to the youth group, who have rallied behind and are lifting up the girls with their prayers and love. We are truly blessed to be a part of this church. With love, *David and Becky Batchelor, Jenny and Maggie Nolan*

(Continued on Page 3)

Publication Deadline: Wednesday at noon
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