

North Cross Spirit

. . . telling the news of North Cross Church

January 11, 2010

...coming up in Worship...

January 17th

“A Little Bit of Vision”

Someone once defined vision as a picture of our preferred future.

What does that picture look like for North Cross?

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: *“Demonstrated in Acts of Healing”*
Bill Overbey

Good News: Room 206

Lesson: *“Lost in Translation”* Jim Funk

Friendship: Room 202

Lesson: *“Demonstrated in Acts of Healing”*
Marcia Browning

Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall

Lesson: *“World Religions: ‘Hindu’”*
L. D. Herman

FaithWorks: Room 207

Lesson: *“Attitude is your Paintbrush - It Colors Every Situation”* Becky Batchelor

Pathfinders: Room 200

Lesson: *“If God is Your Co-Pilot, Swap Seats”*
Randy Young

Contemporary Conversations: Lounge

Lesson: *“Transforming Congregations into*

It's time for a new picture directory!

Sign-ups have started for our new pictorial directory! Sign up today while there is still a good selection of appointments. To sign up online, please call Patsy at 452.2939 to receive the password. If you sign up online, you will receive a confirmation e-mail soon afterwards.

Each household that comes for photography and portrait viewing will receive a complimentary directory and 8x10 Custom Color Portrait. Additional portrait options will be available for purchase. Please participate—it won't be complete without you!

Here's how it works...

Step 1 - Select a day and time that works best for you. Arrive 10 minutes before your appointment time to make last minute preparations. Schedule sessions with young children for as early as possible. Avoid wrinkles and spills by bringing your children's outfits with you.

Step 2 - Please provide your name, contact information, and number of family members. You will have the opportunity to choose separate poses for children, large family groups, and generational portraits in a variety of styles.

Step 3 - Take a reminder card and brochure with you. Immediately after your sitting you can preview your portraits on our imaging system. Choose the portrait you want included in the directory and your complimentary 8 x 10. You'll want to share your portraits with family and friends. Special discounts will be offered. Once the directory is complete, you will receive a complimentary copy.

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

2010 UMW Reading List

Nine books have been added to the UMW reading library. The program this year will include books from the years 2005—2010. A brief summary follows:

Growing Friendships: Connecting More Deeply with Those Who Matter Most - Tracy Kiehn, 208 pages

God offers friendships as a lifeline for women, but like flowers they must be handled with care. This book offers excellent advice for finding new friendships, nurturing old relationships and adjusting as friends grow apart. (Nurturing for Community)

Where Mercy Fails: Darfur's Struggle to Survive - A Bonus Book (counts as 2) - by Chris Herlinger and Paul Jeffrey, 150 pages
Where Mercy Fails documents one of the greatest humanitarian crises of our time now underway in Darfur, Sudan. Veteran journalists Chris Herlinger of Church World Service and Paul Jeffrey, a United Methodist missionary and senior correspondent for United Methodist Women's Response magazine, show the conflict is political, environmental and intimately personal. (Education for Mission) This book can count as one book in Education for Mission and as one book in Social Action.

My Tummy Talked in Church Today and 51 Other Humorous Poems and Devotions for Adults Who Love Children - Christy Colby Heno, 128 pages.

These poems, scriptures, reflections, and prayers will bring joy and understanding to you and the children in your life. Read, laugh, share and celebrate your faith with your children as you read together. (Spiritual Growth)

What About Religion and Science? A Study of Reason and Faith - Paul E. Stroble, 112 pages.
How can we remain secure in our faith as we grasp and appreciate the discoveries and advances of science? Explore how religion and science relate to each other and give meaning and value in our lives. (Social Action)

(Continued in next column.)

(Continued from column 1)

Bless This Food - Adrian Butash, 192 pages
Sharing food and giving thanks for food are universal cultural experiences, connecting people to one another. This book gathers 160 timeless mealtime blessings, prayers, and ancient traditions to use, keep and share. Prayers from a variety of religions, ancient traditions and visionary authors—with background on the prayers and the traditions they represent. (Spiritual Growth)

Too Many Irons in the Fire and They're All Smoking - Cynthia Bond Hopson, 112 pages.
This little book offers a month's worth of wisdom, advice and encouragement for women in the form of 31 short daily meditations. (Nurturing for community)

The Other Game - A Bonus Book - Phil Dahl-Bredine and Stephen Hicken, 192 pages
Readers learn about democracy, economic well-being, the environment, and cultural and spiritual values from Mexican campesinos, while visiting villages that have existed for thousands of years. These villagers' way of life, work and families reveal alternatives for creating a sustainable future for all on the planet. (Social Action)
This book counts as one book in Social Action and one book in Education for Mission.

A Monk in the Inner City: The ABC's of a Spiritual Journey - Mary Lou Kownacki, 156 pages.
Centuries ago the ancient Desert Fathers and Mothers moved into the wilderness to leave the pressures of life and to draw near to God. For Mary Lou Kownacki, a Benedictine nun and peacemaker, the wilderness is the inner city of Erie, PA, surrounded by families surviving and keeping hope alive amid despair. (Spiritual Growth)

Christians in Conflict (Large Print) - by Everett Leedingham and Thomson/Gale, 208 pages.
Christians in Conflict examines a biblical understanding of conflict and provides the tools needed to resolve issues in a Christ-like way, finding "peace in the midst of the storm." (Spiritual Growth)

Submitted by Ann Ousley
UMW Reading Resource Secretary

Anyone may check out books from the UMW Library cart; however, please keep in mind that UMW members are reading these books for a UMW program. If you wish to read one of the books they are on a book cart which is in the hall across from Room 215. Be sure to fill out the card inside the book and leave it in the box on the cart.

Coming This Week...

Thursday, January 14

6:00 a.m. Tai Chi
11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Wms. Circle
4:30 p.m. 4-One Band Practice
6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Unit Mtg.

Friday, January 15

4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Blue Grass Bands

Saturday, January 16

2:00 p.m. Marie Giar Funeral

Sunday, January 17

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

Monday, January 18

11:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. UMW Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Seekers Circle
7:00 p.m. Cub & Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. Job Club

Tuesday, January 19

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. Trustees
6:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge
7:00 p.m. Wood Carvers

Wednesday, January 20

5:30 p.m. Supper
6:00 p.m. Clay County Justice Bd.
6:30 p.m. Youth
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 21

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

Alpha Dinner Party

January 28th, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Ever regret missed opportunities? Well, due to the inclement weather, the Alpha Dinner Party has been rescheduled. The course meets on Thursday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m.; the evening begins with a catered meal, a couple of jokes (designed to unite the participants in "group groaning"), a couple of songs (led by Jason Parman of the 4 One Band), a video teaching by Nicky Gumbel (founder of Alpha), and a time of small group discussion. The Dinner Party offers a "no obligation" look at Alpha with the opportunity to register for the course at the end of the evening.

The schedule for that night is:

6:00 p.m. Catered Meal
6:45 p.m. Welcome (and hilarious joke)
6:50 p.m. Singing
7:00 p.m. "Alpha Bits" (facts about the Alpha Course)
7:45 p.m. Opportunity to Register for the Course
8:00 p.m. Close

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 24th. 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.

Nineteen bags for the children are missing

As children enter the church service each Sunday, they can pick up a denim bag containing crayons and a page to read and color. At the end of the service, the bags are to be returned to the basket, so children will have them the next Sunday. Nineteen of the thirty bags are missing. Please check at home or in your car to see if you might have accidentally taken a bag out of church.

XYZs

The next meeting of the XYZs will be held on Tuesday, January 19th, in Fellowship Hall. We'll meet at 11:30 a.m., and lunch will be served at noon. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks will be provided.

Richard Hackaday, violinist, will entertain us following the meal. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us.

2010 Contribution Envelopes were mailed bulk rate on December 23, 2009. If you have not received your envelopes, please call the church office and leave your name and current address. You may pick up another set, which will be placed on the table inside the office door.

Jackie Whiston, North Cross Business Manager

The Pastor's Corner

The other day I was out in the bitter cold weather trying to shovel one more drift of snow off the driveway. I bundled up with multiple layers, along with a coat, hat, scarf and gloves. It was not more than 60 seconds after I stepped out of the garage when my glasses not only steamed up from my breath, but the moisture froze on the lenses and I could barely see. I took my glasses off, set them inside and went back out to shovel. Since I have 20/200 to 20/400 vision without my glasses, everything was blurred at best.

First Corinthians 13 is often known as the love chapter, and in my experience is the most popular wedding scripture, without a doubt. However, if we are predisposed to look at this chapter with weddings in mind, we are likely to miss other truths and applications.

Consider I Corinthians 13:12 which says: "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." (NRSV)

Even more thought provoking is *The Message* version of the verse which says: "We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing Him directly just as he knows us!" (MSG)

Oh to know God that well! Oh to see God's direction for our lives and for our church so clearly. I don't claim to have a clear vision of the future for North Cross, but after six months and a lot of discussions, I believe I have a glimpse. I plan to share that on Sunday in a message titled: "A Little Bit of Vision." I hope you can be here and I welcome your insights as we strive to move forward together.

In Christ,

Pastor Neal

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Hospitalized: Donna Cutitta, NKC

Menu for January 13th: *Chili Pie, Corn, Fruit Salad, Corn Bread*

Menu for January 20th: *Barbecue Pork Chops, Applesauce, French Fries, Rolls*

- The church office will be closed on Monday, January 18th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.
- The North Cross Job Club will now meet on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be February 1st. Please call Steve Lindsay at 816.682.4304 with any questions. The meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Publication Deadline: Wednesday at noon
Spirit Editor: Mary Alice Morrissey

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Visit our website at www.northcrossumc.org

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