

North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

January 18, 2010

...News Flash...

*What can you do to help
after the earthquake
in Haiti?*

See article on page 5.

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: "Declared in Prayer" Ginnie Collins

Good News: Room 206

Lesson: "The Bible: Irrelevant or Invaluable?"
Bryce Strong

Friendship: Room 202

Lesson: "Declared in Prayer"
Glenn Whiston

Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall

Lesson: "World Religions: Buddhist Faith"

FaithWorks: Room 207

Lesson: "The Attitude of Gratitude"
Deborah Mason

Pathfinders: Room 200

Lesson: "The Priority of God's Three Ways of Acting"
Ken Williams

Contemporary Conversations: Lounge

Lesson: "Transforming Congregations into Communion" Pt. 2 Prof. Robert Martin

BUILDING on our PAST while CHARTING our FUTURE CASE STATEMENT

It is with joy that I serve God in ministry as your relatively new Senior Pastor. We are off to a great start, but must be intentional if we are to have a healthy, thriving future for years to come. It is now clear to me, after only a few months as your Senior Pastor, that three key movements must converge in 2010.

1. Ministry Vision for the 21st Century

How will we make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ responsibly and effectively in the 21st Century? The groundwork to answer this question has already begun. A small group met with me during the summer to study the book *Recreating the Church*. What happened next exceeded all my expectations. During the fall, the first half of our *Simple Church* book study involved over 60 people in four sessions as we read, reflected, taught, and struggled. We are beginning to get a glimpse of what the future might hold for North Cross. The second half of this study will continue in 2010 with an open invitation for additional people to get on board. It is an exciting time to be at North Cross.

Let me make a few observations. I believe we need to play to our strengths while we move into the future...

Strengths... Our heritage has built a foundation that continues to include great Traditional Worship, a strong Chancel Choir, seven Adult Sunday School classes, long-lasting friendships, our property and highly-visible facility. We also continue to have a strong youth program. A large number of people have been here a long time and have invested generously with their lives, time and money. The love, memories, and lasting commitments to one another and the church have given North Cross with a warm and welcoming heart.

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

Fear... Look around and ask, "Who will be here in 15 years?" This question has the potential to strike fear in our hearts. But rather than fear, let it be a healthy anxiety that moves us forward.

Future... We need to recover not just strength, but critical mass when it comes to young adults and children. This is essential for the future of North Cross.

Steps Forward... Contemporary Worship has been redesigned to be substantially different from our Traditional Worship. We must continue to make this more attractive and meaningful for young adults, youth and families. Growth of numbers and energy in this service is important. Intentional outreach that brings new people to North Cross is a must, not so much for the survival of North Cross, but for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20).

Next steps include discernment of God's desire for us related to a clear, *simple discipleship process*, which is true to North Cross and effective in forming and growing Disciples of Christ. This will emerge as we continue our *Simple Church* study and meetings during the spring. We need to make North Cross more visible and inviting to potential new people by the use of direct mail, as well as other advertising and publicity. We need to provide tools for our people to invite others effectively. Special events that are attractive and meaningful will also help. We need to be more intentional about encouraging those who already use our building (preschool, PDO, Scouts, community groups, etc.) to consider worship, Sunday School and other regular church activities. Finally, we must follow-up with those who visit. Our 'Mug Ministry' is already off to a good start, but more will be needed to intentionally connect new people to North Cross as Disciples of Christ.

2. Facility Vision for the 21st Century

We have become technically debt free. However, over the years the wear and tear has essentially created a new debt. The 50-year-old boiler is no longer an asset, but a liability. The Cross Tower, dedicated in 1957, is a symbol of our identity. It looks worn, and on closer observation the deterioration becomes yet more troublesome. Does this reflect the heart and soul of North Cross as well? I pray NOT! Yet the same is true of much of our dated infrastructure. The result has become a drain to our operating budget that ties our hands financially in a way that restricts ministry, not to mention causes anxiety in our hearts. During the past four years we have averaged over \$16,000 per year in repairs, just to our church heating and cooling systems. When will the next big thing break? To free us up to move boldly into future ministry, we must be proactive rather than reactive.

Fortunately, our Trustees had the foresight to anticipate this day. The *Look Ahead* report was prepared after careful evaluation and research. The *Friends of Sacred Structures* organization was consulted. Smaller items that could be taken care of were done as funds were available, including the replacement of stair treads, some flooring improvements, replacement of the sanctuary lighting panel, and repair to the front entry canopy.

Now is the time to move forward boldly to complete the *Look Ahead* agenda. With this in mind, a Building Committee was formed by Church Conference vote on May 12, 2009. The Building Committee was charged with refining the *Look Ahead* program and especially to develop detailed plans, including a time line to implement the replacement of existing HVAC units with a geothermal system and accompanying work.

Proposed work includes the following, shown with updated estimates.

- a. \$750,000. Geothermal System to replace all the heating and air conditioning systems in our facility, using wells to be drilled in the back parking lot. Deteriorated pipes from the old system, along with the room unit ventilators and systems for larger spaces, would be replaced.

- b. \$40,000. There will be associated repair work to walls and ceilings following the removal of old equipment and the installation of new pipes and equipment.
- c. \$80,000. Repair the parking lot from drilling, including repaving the portion not paved during the *Pave the Way* project. This would bring the rest of the parking area up to the same standard.
- d. \$165,000. Window replacement in the education building and offices to further improve energy efficiency, comfort and appearance.
- e. \$55,000. Reconstruction of the Breyfogle Cross Tower, the symbol of North Cross.
- f. \$40,000. For other significant maintenance including:
 - Upgrading the east exterior end of Fellowship Hall
 - New flooring in Fellowship Hall
 - Repainting the Sanctuary walls and ceiling
- g. \$70,000. Contingencies and loan interest

Total Estimated Cost: \$1,200,000

NOTES to put the cost in perspective:

- If we do not install a geothermal system, then at a minimum we would still need to replace the boiler, piping, thermostats and blower units in the education wing. The estimated cost to do just this much is \$460,000. Once this was done, it would no longer be practical to install a geothermal system.
- Replacement of the Fellowship Hall and Undercroft heating and cooling systems would cost \$86,000.
- Replacement of the rest of the heating and cooling units in the church would add \$155,000 more.
- Total to replace all this with new conventional systems: \$701,000.
- Associated repair work of the walls and ceilings would also be required if we take this approach for an additional \$40,000.
- Our average Gas and Electric bills over 2005-2008 are \$33,742 per year. We project savings of \$10,000 - \$13,000 per year due to geothermal system efficiency.
- Our average heating and cooling systems maintenance costs over 2005-2008 are \$17,370 per year. Most of this would be saved.

NOTES on timing:

- Our goal is to complete a. & b. above in such a way that the bulk of this work is completed over the summer to minimize disruption to the preschool and other activities.
- Item c. will need to be completed as soon as possible after the wells are finished in order to provide adequate parking.
- The timing of item d. should be carefully coordinated with a. due to needed holes to the exterior for fresh air vents.
- Timing for e. & f. are more flexible.
- Two more church conferences will be required: First to approve the preliminary design and preliminary finance plan; and finally, following competitive bids, to approve the detailed design and detailed finance plan before signing any contracts.

3. BUILDING on our PAST while CHARTING our FUTURE

2010 is our 60th anniversary. We should celebrate this. We should remember the past in a way that helps us get in touch with our core identity as a church. What is North Cross really all about at the core? Our core values have served us well. It is a time to rediscover these values and build on them for the future.

CONCLUSION: As these three movements converge in 2010, we have some choices to make. Will we boldly move forward into our future? Will we do what it takes to bring our facility into the 21st century? What will North Cross look like 15 years from now, not just from the perspective of our facility, but even more importantly, from the perspective of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ?

I, as your Senior Pastor, along with your Building Committee, believe we need to move forward boldly. To that end, a special called Church Conference on November 9, 2009, strongly endorsed the decision that we enter into a capital stewardship campaign with RSI acting as our consultant for the campaign. While not offering guarantees, it has been the experience of RSI that a \$1.2 million campaign is reasonable and achievable for a church of our size. This approach will challenge us to invest in our future, not mortgage our future. The Capital Campaign Leadership Team has been working hard since December. The intensive phase of the capital campaign will be completed around Easter, with pledged funds to be given over a three-year period. While the current economy is cause for some concern, at least some of this should be offset by lower construction costs. Further delay will continue to cost us significantly without really solving the problems the Geothermal System is designed to address for the long term. Please begin praying now for the future of North Cross and the success of this campaign. I challenge you to join me in praying this prayer with an open heart: *“Lord, what would You do through me to accomplish Your will in our church?”*

Capital Campaign Leadership

Program Leaders:

Jay & Cara Terrell, Tom & Jane Brown

Advance Commitment Leadership:

Brian & Jan Hall, Tommy & Jaccy Stehle

Administrative Leaders:

Joyce Singley & Joyce Raney

All Church Event Leader:

Meredith Bentson

Bridge Leader:

Bob Diehl

Children's Activity Leaders:

Emily Brown & Glennetta Miller

Financial Reporter:

Jackie Whiston

Involvement Leaders:

Meredith Bentson & Deborah Mason

Information Distribution Leader:

Rita McCall

Information Presentation Leader:

Larry Wickham

Information Meeting Coordinators:

Stephanie Gray & Louise Overbey

Major Gift Leaders:

Jan Kauk & Bill Reynolds

Prayer Leader:

Marge Strong

Print Leader:

Ron Winans

Response Leaders:

Marianne Horned & Janet Headrick

RSI Partner:

Dustin Cooper

Senior Pastor:

Neal Lassinger

Shepherd Leaders:

Mike Young, George Greer,
Charles Weems and Don Rose

Student Leader:

Vickie Linch

Video Leader:

Tom Schmutz

Web Leader:

Megan Robertson

UMCOR responds to the earthquake in Haiti

Millions of people are affected and thousands are feared dead. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief agency for The United Methodist Church, has close ties with the Methodist Church in Haiti, and is responding to the devastating earthquake with funding, material resources and prayers.

If you wish to help, you can donate by check to North Cross UMC and designate it "UMCOR—Haiti" or go online at <http://tinyurl.com/umcorhaiti> to donate. Online, North Cross will get credit if you select the Missouri Conference, Heartland District, and North Cross UMC. The Office of Creative Ministries is working to coordinate with UMCOR regarding other supply needs, but financial assistance is the most critical at this time.

Young Adult Invitation

A young adult social has been planned for Sunday, January 31st from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event is an opportunity for young adults and parents of young children to meet and get to know one another outside of the typical church setting and to help grow and build the young adult group here at North Cross.

Jason and Lynn Parman are hosting the social at their home. They will provide chili and drinks. You are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. You are also encouraged to bring your friends, co-workers, or neighbors. Please contact Vickie Linch at 452-2939 or by email at vlinch@northcrossumc.org, if you are planning to attend (so we have an accurate count for food), have any questions or are unable to attend and would like to be notified of future events. It is our goal that this be the first of many more young adult activities to come.

Job Club

Things are changing a little for the North Cross Job Club! We have been able to help some people find work, but we know there are many more people out there who are still looking for work. Meeting every week may be hard for some, so the Job Club will meet on the *first Monday* of each month. We will continue to work on networking, resumes, interviewing skills, and many other things related to searching for employment.

If you are looking for work, or know of anyone looking for work, please stop by the North Cross Job Club on the 1st Monday of each month, @ 7:00PM. *Our next meeting is Feb. 1, 2010.* Call Steve Lindsay (816.682.4304) with questions. All are welcome. You do *not* have to be a member of North Cross to meet with the Job Club.

Coming This Week...

Thursday, January 21

6:00 a.m..... Tai Chi
9:00 a.m..... UMW Quilting & Sewing
10:00 a.m..... Mommy & Me
11:30 a.m..... Tai Chi
4:30 p.m..... 4 One Band Practice

Friday, January 22

9:30 a.m..... Line Dancing

Saturday, January 23

Sunday, January 24

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
4:30 p.m..... Handbell Practice
6:30 p.m..... God and Country

Monday, January 25

11:00 a.m..... Tai Chi
1:00 p.m..... UMW Bible Study
6:30 p.m..... Administrative Council
7:00 p.m..... Cub & Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m..... Republican women

Tuesday, January 26

9:00 a.m..... TOPS
10:00 a.m..... Paint for Fun
10:30 a.m..... O.P. Bridge
6:30 p.m..... Duplicate Bridge
6:30 p.m..... Daisy Scouts

Wednesday, January 27

11:00 a.m..... Grandparent Support
5:30 p.m..... Supper
6:15 p.m..... Kidzone
6:30 p.m..... Youth
6:30 p.m..... Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 28

6:00 a.m..... Tai Chi
9:00 a.m..... Preschool Donuts w/Dad
11:30 a.m..... Tai Chi
4:30 p.m..... 4 One Band Practice
6:00 p.m..... Alpha Dinner

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Hospitalized: Kenny Bell, NKC

Menu for January 27th: *Cheeseburger Macaroni Casserole, Green Beans, Onion Rings, Biscuits*

- Please bring all of your catalogs, office/school papers, magazines, newspapers, and mailers to our Paper Retriever Bin in the back parking lot of the church. With the money we receive from your recycled items, we earn money for wells in Mozambique!
- The North Cross Kids will be taking on the challenge of "Memory Verses" this year. Please feel free to stroll down and view their accomplishments hanging just outside the Children's Ministry Office. They would appreciate any words of encouragement and congratulations throughout their journey, so feel free to express your support and inspiration as you see them throughout the church and community.

Publication Deadline: Wednesday at noon

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Visit our website at www.northcrossumc.org

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