

Are you raising a grandchild.... or other relative?

Do you need support, information or resources? If so...join us at one of our "Family Friends" group meetings!

Grandparent and Relative Caregivers
Northland Support Groups
(All groups are confidential and free of charge.)

Daytime Group:

2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month
11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
North Cross United Methodist Church
1321 NE Vivion Road
Kansas City, MO 64118

Evening Group:

4th Monday of every month
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Platte Woods United Methodist Church
7310 NW Prairie View Road
Platte Woods, MO 64151

Contact Persons:

Lynn Vanderweel
816.415.4144 or 816.868.7241
"Family Friends" program
Children's Mercy Hospital
Northland Task Force on Grandfamilies

Diana Milne
816.407.3490
University of Missouri Extension
Clay, Platte, Ray Counties
Northland Task Force on Grandfamilies

Christmas Store Walk-a-Thon

Donna and Charles Maysent will be collecting donations for the Christmas Store Walk-a-Thon at a table in the entry this coming Sunday. All money collected helps feed hungry people in our community.

Liberty Hospital Hospice is in need of volunteers

Carmella Kovach, the volunteer coordinator for Liberty Hospital Hospice in Liberty, is seeking volunteers to work with patients in a 30-mile radius of Liberty Hospital.

Volunteers provide a variety of services: visiting patients, relief for caregivers who need to run errands or keep appointments. The time commitment is flexible, based on your availability. Other volunteers work in the office. Volunteers report gaining as much as they give.

In order to volunteer, you must be at least 18 years of age. You will receive 17 hours of training, and the next volunteer training will be conducted on three Saturdays. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

- Saturday, September 12, 2009
from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 19, 2009
from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 26, 2009
from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Please RSVP by September 1st. Attendance at all three sessions is required, and training will be held at the Liberty Hospital Hospice Office, 1134 W. Kansas Street, Liberty, MO.

For more information or to sign up, you may call Carmella Kovach or Sandra Thibodeaux at 816.407.2200.

Volunteers are angels with hands, instead of wings.

Monday morning prayer

The alarm clock has wakened me, dear God, but I want to talk with you before it rings again. I need to thank you for this comfortable bed and a good night's sleep, for good health and strength, for an enjoyable weekend, for a wonderful church and worship service yesterday, for friends and family who dare and love, for you and all that you bring to our lives, for the opportunities to serve you.

Be with me throughout this day and the week ahead. Let me do my work honestly, willingly and responsibly. As I meet people, help me to see them as your children and your loved ones.

I know you will lead me in whatever circumstances this day holds. I look forward to the adventures you and I will share together. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Peggy Ferrell, from *Prayers, Hymns and Poems*

Coming This Week...

Thursday, July 30

6:00 a.m. Tai Chi
11:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Friday, July 31

7:00 p.m. Concerned Care

Saturday, August 1

8:00 a.m. Mid-West Institute
9:30 a.m. UMW Board
7:00 p.m. Over 55 Dance

Sunday, August 2

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Coffee time in kitchen
11:00 a.m. Worship
2-5 p.m. Super Sale Drop-Off

Monday, August 3

9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Super Sale Drop-Off
11:00 a.m. Tai Chi
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, August 4

9:00 a.m. TOPS
5:00- 9:00 p.m. Super Sale
5:30- 7:30 p.m. Spaghetti Supper &
other items, too
6:30 p.m. Financial Peace Class

Wednesday, August 5

9:00 a.m - 8:00 p.m. Super Sale
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch
5:30-7:30 p.m. Spaghetti Supper &
other items, too

Thursday, August 6

9:00 a.m.- Noon Super Sale
1:00 p.m. Clean-Up

Sermons now on Web Site

Our Sunday sermons are now available on the web site. Go to www.northcrossumc.org and look along the left side for *Audio Sermons*. Click and listen.

Also on the left side the Upper Room is listed. Just click and read your daily Upper Room devotional. Check out our website for lots of information!

You're invited to a Painting Party!!

As many of you have noticed, some of the rooms and hallways in the basement of North Cross are in need of a new coat of paint. We're going to have a "Paint Party" to freshen up those rooms and hallways.

If you know of someone who likes to paint or someone who just likes to have a good time, be sure to invite them to join us. The more help we have, the less work it will be, and the quicker we can finish.

The party is scheduled for Friday, August 7th, from 6 pm. until ???

We will be painting the basement of the Education wing, Preschool rooms, hallway and bathrooms, Nursery and Sunday School rooms 151 and 154, and the Parent's Day Out rooms.

Pizza will be available for dinner (free-will donation to cover the cost.)

Please RSVP to Stephanie Gray so enough pizza can be ordered for everyone. You may contact her at 420.8459. Also, let her know if you will need childcare.

Bring any painting equipment you have on hand - we will need brushes, rollers, drop cloths, trimmers, tape, paint trays, etc.



Whatever your hand finds to do,
do with all your might.

The Pastor's Corner

This past March I had the pleasure *and the discomfort* of meeting Rev. Paul Nixon, a United Methodist pastor, author and speaker. I say it was a pleasure because that is the appropriate thing to say about someone who wrote a thought-provoking book about being a pastor in a local church. I say discomfort because he had some things to say that were hard to hear.

Things like... "More than half of the congregations that call themselves United Methodists... will likely disappear sometime in the next half-century." That the United Methodists have "reported a net membership loss for the thirty-seventh consecutive year." And one more, that the "United Methodists saw an unprecedented loss of 150,000 people in worship over just three years." (2002 - 2004)

I do not say this to suggest we should abandon ship. But rather to suggest that we should do something about it. I thought he had a great title for his book: "*I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church.*"

While I am happy to report that I have found North Cross to be alive and thriving, I also found myself wondering what North Cross will be like in another fifty years. Once again, I would reiterate that it is our responsibility to pass on the faith to the next generations.

Paul Nixon suggests that a church has six vital choices to make. I've made these choices myself as a United Methodist pastor and as your new Senior Pastor at North Cross. I invite you to join me in making the following choices:

- Choosing life over death
- Choosing community over isolation
- Choosing fun over drudgery
- Choosing bold over mild
- Choosing frontier over fortress
- Choosing now rather than later

Pastor Neal

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Hospitalized: No known at time of publication.

- I want to express heartfelt thanks for the many cards, thoughts, prayers, visits and food during my recent hospital stay and since my return home. Your kindness and concern mean more to me than you'll ever know.
Don Shortess
- Thanks once again for your prayers and cards during my second knee surgery. I appreciate my North Cross family.
Jan Braker
- The Wesleyan Women's group will *not* meet for the month of August. September 10th will be the next meeting.
- *The Shack* book study will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 13th.

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

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Send email to mamorrissey@northcrossumc.org

Visit our website at www.northcrossumc.org

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