

North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

July 6, 2009

...coming up in Worship...

The Royal Fool?
Rev. Neal Lassinger

You're Invited... Staff Parish and Church Family Life invite you to an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 19th, at 6:00 p.m. to welcome Neal, Lori and Natalie Lassinger, our new pastor, his wife and daughter. Come and enjoy all the ice cream and toppings you want. All you bring is your lawn chair. If the weather is too hot or rainy, we will meet in Fellowship Hall. Come and celebrate with us.

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: "God Calls People to Remember"
Deborah Mason

Good News: Room 206
Lesson: "Just Come!" Jim Funk

Friendship: Room 202
Lesson: "God Calls People to Remember"
Bill Reynolds

Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall
Lesson: "Hope House—a Ministry about Human Trafficking" Carrie Bachmann

FaithWorks: Room 207
Lesson: "God Calls People to Remember"
Betty Greiner

Pathfinders: Room 200
Lesson: "Jonah's Christmas Tree"
Ken Williams

Contemporary Conversations: Lounge
Lesson: "Managing our Miracles—Healing in the Time of Christ and Today" Linda Ward

Camp E.D.G.E. starts Sunday!

Welcome to Camp E.D.G.E., where you and your children will experience and discover God everywhere! This creative, Bible-based program will bring your children closer to God when they discover that God is with them at all times, in all places, and in all circumstances, ready to help them and guide them. They will also come to know Jesus as their friend and Savior who went to the extreme for them. Each day our campers will learn an E.D.G.E. pledge, a statement of faith followed by an active response of faith. Come join the adventure and live on the E.D.G.E. starting Sunday, July 12th at 5:55 pm. through Thursday, July 16th. This is for children 4 years old to 5th grade. We will start in the Fellowship Hall with a light supper for all children and volunteers. Please register now online at www.northcrossumc.org. Grab your camping gear and let's go!

Harvester's workday scheduled

A Harvester's workday has been scheduled for Saturday, July 18th, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Volunteers will be sorting and repackaging items donated to the organization.

Harvesters is a food distribution agency that supplies many other agencies with food items for feeding the hungry. The work at Harvesters consists of sorting and repackaging items donated to their organization. The nature of the work requires that you wear comfortable clothing and closed-toed shoes. Volunteers must be at least six years old, and a parent or youth sponsor must accompany anyone under 16. This is a great opportunity for families to share in a project together. Please do not bring cell phones with you.

We ask that each person participating bring a can or two of food to help out Harvesters. If you would like to carpool, please meet at the recycling bins in the south parking lot of the church. We will leave at 8 a.m.

Please call the church office at 452.2939 or Barbara Shortess at 454.7867 by Thursday, July 16th, and let us know you're planning to come and help. Harvesters needs to know how many people to expect so that they may plan the work day.

"Many hands make light work."
John Heywood

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

June Financial Summary

June Receipts	\$43,536.72
June Expenses.....	\$54,242.02
Balance in Operating Fund.....	\$ 5,978.63
Borrowed from General Reserve Fund	\$12,939.20

Game night is this weekend

Are you tired of going to the movies on the weekend? You might consider marking your calendar and attending “Game Night” at North Cross.

The next Game Night is this coming Saturday, July 11th, and it starts at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

You may either bring your favorite game to share or just plan on playing games that others have brought. Bring a snack to share with your friends, and join this friendly group for a fun night out.



Crestview Christmas in July

It won't be long until students will be thinking about those new school clothes, backpacks, shoes and school supplies for the first day of school. Only many of the students will not have those new items, as their parents do not have the money to supply them. We at North Cross have generously given Crestview Elementary students these needed items in the past through our Mission Partnership with Crestview.

When you enter North Cross, you'll see a Christmas tree decorated with ornaments showing backpacks, socks and shoes. School supplies will be provided by another group. Please select one of the ornaments and return the item to church no later than July 26th. If you select a shoe ornament, you may buy a gift certificate from Payless Shoe Store or donate money. Donated money may be used for other needs at Crestview during the school year, as well as shoes. Please put monetary donations in the offering plate and designate Crestview on your checks. Thanks to your continued generosity, Crestview students will be proud of their new items on the first day of school!

Outreach Committee

From Den's Pen:

Well, with Neal hardly getting his bags unpacked. . .it was a lean week for newsletter articles. So. . .here are some of my thoughts.

I couldn't work this into my sermon last week as we thought about sharing our faith in the current culture: the good news, if it is truly good news, begs to be shared! For instance, last night (July 1st) I watched the St. Louis Cardinals/San Francisco Giants baseball game on ESPN. The game went 10 innings. . .a real “pitcher's duel.” The Cardinals won the game in the bottom of the 10th on a home run by a rookie, Colby Rasmus. The score was 2 to 1.

Now, I had watched the game from the fourth inning on. I knew who won. To me, a long-time Cardinals fan, it was “good news.” But I watched the news on ESPN to hear their comments on the game. I watched “Cardinals Live,” a St. Louis-based program that gives commentary and highlights of the game. I looked at the “box score” in the Kansas City Star. What I noticed was “I couldn't get enough of the good news.”

And I wondered why I am not as apt to share my faith story with others. The good news of Jesus Christ is that we are reconnected to God. We have someone to partner with in life who promises never to leave us. We have a purpose in life to live as God's “ambassadors” in the world. It made me reexamine my life to look for ways to share my faith with others. How about you?

Thank you for your many expressions of support as I begin my 7th year at North Cross. I really think we are poised not only to grow in our personal faith as disciples of Jesus Christ, but also to reach out and *make* disciples for Christ. The cards, notes, and words of affirmation are greatly appreciated. Let's work together with our new Lead Pastor, Neal . . .and make it a good year!

P.S. 810 Sports radio (WHB AM) was doing a “remote” broadcast from the Hy-Vee at Englewood and North Oak Trafficway on Thursday. I stopped by to have some of the special 81-cent pizza-by-the-slice and say hello to the host of the show, Soren Petro. I was talking with the support staff, a guy named Ozone (that was his name!), and told him I like the idea of them doing the remotes. . .getting out where the people are. As a matter of fact, I told him that the one credited with founding the Methodist movement, an Anglican priest named John Wesley, actually took the gospel to the people.

*May we do more “remotes”
as we take the gospel to those around us.*

Coming This Week...

Thursday, July 9

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

Friday, July 10

6:00 p.m..... Birthday Party
6:30 p.m..... Blue Grass Band Benefit

Saturday, July 11

9:00 to Noon..... VBS Set-Up Day
6:30 p.m..... Game Night

Sunday, July 12

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:55 p.m. VBS begins with Supper

Monday, July 13

11:00 a.m..... Tai Chi
5:55 p.m..... VBS begins with Supper

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 a.m..... TOPS
10:00 a.m..... Paint for Fun
5:55 p.m..... VBS begins with Supper
6:30 p.m..... Financial Peace Class
7:00 p.m..... Wood Carvers

Wednesday, July 15

8:00 a.m..... Golf: Shoal Creek
5:55 p.m..... VBS begins with supper

Thursday, July 16

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
5:55 p.m..... VBS begins with Supper

Seeker's Proudly Announces COFFEE by the BEAN for coffee purists!

You can now buy a package of whole beans at the *Coffee Cart* in Fellowship Hall. Have fun grinding your own beans. Still available are Regular, Decaf, Hazelnut Crème, and French Vanilla.



Notes from Annual Conference

from *Emily Brown*, June, 2009

I was one of three North Cross lay members who attended Annual Conference this year. It was a very rewarding experience; you are able to meet so many new people and learn so much.

It was kind of scary at first, not knowing what to expect: how to dress, where to go and when, who would be there, where to find parking space. But once you are there, all of the fears vanish, and you wind up being in the moment.

There are many things that happen at annual Conference. You learn about the clergy appointments and the changes being made (including Rev. Neal Lassinger, appointed to North Cross). Also, there is a service honoring the retirees (which included our former pastor, Rev. Rick Hammett). You learn more about apportionments - what ministries they fund and what work has been accomplished.

There are a lot of meetings to attend, but there are plenty of fellowship opportunities as well. One night we attended the Springfield Cardinals baseball game, along with many United Methodists from Annual Conference. One night, at the "Mozambique Mingle," we tasted food from that country and heard speakers tell about the mission work there. On Saturday morning, the United Methodist Women had a walk for missions.

I had a wonderful experience. Thank you for allowing me to represent you.

Life Screening tests available in July

Life Line Screening will be offered at North Cross on Wednesday, July 22nd, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Call 1.800.324.1851. The Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package (4 tests) will cost \$139. Add an osteoporosis screening for \$10. All 5 tests may be taken for \$149 (a \$66 savings.)

Have you read *The Shack*?

Several people have suggested a one-time meeting to discuss *The Shack* by William P. Young. In the novel you meet God in person. If you would like to be a part, please call the office (452.2939) and let Patsy know if you want a morning or evening time. She will then set a day and time (in August) for this discussion.

The Pastor's Corner

What a Sunday! The day was filled with overwhelming, yet comforting, feelings. It was overwhelming with new names and faces. Yet comforting by the way you shared the love of Christ with us. I found myself countless times saying, "This feels so right!" What a joy! I look forward to getting to know you better during the months and years to come. Please keep wearing those nametags.

My reflections this morning find me still hearing the wonderful music in my mind. Thanks to the choir and the praise band. I found myself counting my blessings for all the people that dedicate their musical talent to make worship great. I know there are many other people with many other talents too. As we begin this new chapter of life together, I look forward with anticipation. It was a joy and a privilege, as one of my first acts as your pastor, to serve you communion on Sunday.

God is truly with us in and through Jesus Christ.

Where will God lead us in our journey together?

What does God have in store for us at North Cross?

I challenge you to take a quiet minute or two right now as you read this to reflect on these questions and imagine the possibilities. Then take a minute to pray for me, the people of our church and our future together. Thank you.

In Christ,

Pastor Neal

P.S. Next Sunday I'll share my favorite real-life story and mix it together with selected verses from the Old Testament Poetry found in Song of Solomon. The message is titled: [The Royal Fool?](#)

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Hospitalized: Rosemary Wheeler, NKC

- Congratulations to Corinna West, who had an article ("Powerful Choices: Peer Support and Individualized Medication Self-Determination") published in last month's [Schizophrenia Bulletin](#), an academic research journal.
- Don't forget to wear your nametags to help Neal learn your name. If you want to order a magnetic nametag (\$5), a nametag with a clip or cord (no charge), sign up on the clipboard on the table by the office.

Publication Deadline: Wednesday at noon
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