

North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

June 15, 2009

...coming up in Worship...

Rick shares some lessons

On this last Sunday as pastor of North Cross, Rick's message is entitled, *Lessons Learned Along the Way*.

This week's 8:30 & 11:00 o'clock services will be essentially identical with a great deal of celebrative music as we bid farewell to Rick, Karen and Xavian.

As he looked ahead to this week's service, Rick shared the following, "I have been told not to plan any of the service for this Sunday, 'Just your sermon.' So I look forward to enjoying a great day of music and celebration as we praise God."

"My message will be a simple recounting of some of the lessons I have learned about ministry, the church and faith along my 40 years of service to God and the churches I have served."

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: "*Pharaoh Ignores God's Call*"
Deborah Mason

Good News: Room 206

Lesson: "*Who's Your Daddy?*" Jim Funk

Friendship: Room 202

Lesson: "*Pharaoh Ignores God's Call*"
Charles Weems

Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall

Lesson: "*How Elders Will Save the World*"
Part 2 Brian Hall

FaithWorks: Room 207

Lesson: "*Pharaoh Ignores God's Call*"
Becky Batchelor

Pathfinders: Room 200

Lesson: "*In Defense of Job's Wife*"
Randy Young

Contemporary Conversations: Lounge

Lesson: "*Travels with Harry*" Charles Myers

North Cross prepares to receive Neal Lassinger as senior pastor July 5th

It is now official: with the adjournment of the Missouri Annual Conference last week in Springfield, MO, and the *fixing* of appointments by Bishop Robert Schnase, Neal Lassinger has been appointed the senior pastor of North Cross, effective July 1. His first Sunday will be July 5th in the midst of the holiday week-end.

Dennis Stone was reappointed as the associate pastor for the church, beginning his 7th year in that position.

Neal and his wife, Lori, are moving to the area where they are purchasing a home and will begin adjusting to a new community as Neal begins his ministry with us. The last three years he has served as the pastor of the Macon, MO, United Methodist Church and prior to that served as the associate pastor at Missouri Methodist Church in Columbia for nine years.

Wear your name tag as you welcome Neal

Neal has requested that we ask the members of this congregation to wear their name tags each and every time you're in worship or attending meetings or activities.

Putting names and faces together takes time and the subtle, yet visible, reminder of your name tag will help as he and his wife, Lori, come to share their lives here at North Cross.

Please remember, you only have to learn two new names; they have many names to learn and your willingness to wear your name tag in the weeks ahead is an expression of warmth and welcoming hospitality.

If you don't have a name badge or can't find yours, then sign your name on the order sheet on the table by the office door. Check on the form whether you want a name badge with a cord or a clip or magnet. Magnetic name badges cost \$5. There is no charge for name tags with a cord or clip.



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

May Financial Summary

May Receipts \$61,671.15
May Expenses \$62,253.10
Balance in Operating Fund ... \$ 5,427.05

Words of Thanks from Rick & Karen

What a wonderful afternoon so many of you shared with us last Sunday at our retirement celebration. You stood in line; you brought cards, as well as personal greetings, and enabled us to feel many expressions of love and affection. Our gratitude and memories of this experience will be long remembered.

Many of you made possible the various items in the "Hammett Fun Fund" basket, and we are still overwhelmed by this accumulation of generosity, which we will be enjoying for months to come.

We enjoyed the warmth, as well as the humor, in the remarks shared by Susan Young and Dennis Stone. The music of the professional singer and actress Nancy Nail, a personal friend for many years, was an extra special treat for us. By your response, you enjoyed her musical numbers as well.

We may never know all who had a part in the day's preparation. We do know we will never be able to adequately express our thanks to each of you who shared with us on that special afternoon or who have sent cards and notes at other times. Please know that we are grateful for your many and varied expressions, and we are humbled, as well as honored, by your response and support of our ministry in the years we've been at North Cross.

Rick & Karen Hammett (Xavian, too!)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

Each year VBS selects a mission project. This year the recipient for this project will be the Clay County Clothes Closet. The Clothes Closet's motto is, "We clothe our kids with love." Established in 1959 by Church Women United of the Northland, the 'Closet' clothes men, women and children, with an emphasis on school children. Clients are referred to the Closet by churches, family services, and various other agencies. Appointments are made through these agencies; the Closet does no screenings and makes no judgments. The Closet is staffed by volunteers only.

So, start watching for sales on children's underwear! Articles to be collected are: boys' and girls' T-shirts, both plain and patterned; socks and underwear; children's sizes 3T to 12. For every 4 t-shirts, 5 pairs of socks and 5 pieces of underwear, you will help clothe a child.

Hooray for fathers

A Houston newspaper asked readers to send in thoughts about their fathers. Letters flooded in, and what people wrote about their fathers is most inspiring. A few comments:

- Dad was always there for me. He sacrificed to make sure that we had what we needed.
- When disappointment came my way, Dad said, "Son, real life ain't about getting what you want, but more about doing something with what you get."
- My dad was disabled, but he worked hard to make sure we children had a good education and lived moral lives. He would say, "I want you to succeed more than I did."
- My dad wanted us to be Christians and took us regularly to church.

What would you write about your father?



Coming This Week...

Thursday, June 18

6:00 a.m. Tai Chi
8:30 a.m. Camp Shakespeare
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

Friday, June 19

8:30 a.m. Camp Shakespeare
5:00 p.m. Party

Saturday, June 20

11:00 a.m. Court of Honor
7:00 p.m. Over 55 Dance

Sunday, June 21 **Happy Father's Day**

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, June 22

11:00 a.m. Tai Chi
6:00 p.m. Meditation
7:00 p.m. Republican Women
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, June 23

9:00 a.m. TOPS
10:00 a.m. Paint for Fun
6:00 p.m. Finance
6:30 p.m. Financial Peace Class
6:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge

Wednesday, June 24

8:00 a.m. Golf: Excelsior Springs
11:00 a.m. Grandparent Support
4:00 p.m. Party

Thursday, June 25

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

Prayer Team for Camp EDGE - VBS

How do you start a ministry? With prayer! Marj Strong is our VBS Prayer Team Leader. The Prayer Chapel will be open each day throughout VBS starting at 5:40 with inspirational words and prayer for all VBS staff. During VBS hours the Prayer Chapel will be open for all, especially parents. We will have several prayer boxes, one "For God's Eyes Only," one "For Clergy Response" and one for a "Community Prayer List."

If you are unable to be present physically during VBS, would you like to be on the Prayer Team from home? Give Marj Strong a call at 452-5574 if you are interested.

Committee report on the pew problem

A potentially dangerous situation has developed in the church sanctuary. The pews have begun to dry out. This loss of moisture and the subsequent loss of weight has led to the distinct possibility that they might float free.

This presents the possibility that during worship a free-floating pew could physically damage someone. Further, it is believed that even if a member or a guest were able successfully to dodge an oncoming free-floating pew, the evasive action would certainly disrupt the spiritual tranquility of the worshiping dodger.

We appointed a pew committee to study the problem and make a recommendation. The committee first considered using steel cables to anchor the pews to bedrock, which is 247 feet beneath the church.

After receiving the cost estimate of \$13,912.77 and after extensive consultation with engineers, this idea was deemed impractical.

After further deliberation, the committee decided that adding weight to the pews would be a better solution to the problem. The committee considered using brass scrap or lead ingots, but they proved to be too expensive.

Pig iron was found to be cheaper, but it, like brass and lead, had a certain lifeless quality. The committee searched for a medium density object which was both sparkling and vibrant.

After sifting through all the possibilities, the committee has opted to use warm bodies to weigh down the pews, and the committee is asking members to provide the necessary weight. This can be done by coming to church and, if possible, by bringing a medium density object in the form of a friend or neighbor with you.

- Author unknown
via the *Dearborn Disciple*
Dearborn Christian Church
Dearborn Heights, MI

***Camp EDGE* Vacation Bible School July 12 to July 16, from 5:55 pm to 8:15 pm**

Have you registered for VBS online at northcrossumc.org? Early registration would be very helpful, so that we can order supplies and food. Invite a friend and be prepared for a God-filled week!

Rick's Ruminations:

The Bible tells us that Jesus spent only three years with those he led. After his departure, the disciples created the early church with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I've been doing a little thinking about the six years and five months I've been your pastor here at North Cross. Ministry is more than mathematical calculations, but I find these numbers interesting. Maybe you will as well.

By my calculations I have written more than 330 of these columns in the years I have been your minister. In addition, I calculate that more than 300 Sunday messages and *Healing & Wholeness* meditations have been shared.

I have no idea how many weddings, funerals, committee meetings and hospital calls have been made in that same span of time.

To have shared in the joys and trials of so many leaves me humbled. Your gracious support of my ministry and love for our family has been deeply appreciated.

And now, as I prepare to transition into a new chapter of my life, **my pastoral role in your lives comes to an end.** You will have a new pastor to greet, who will make his place in your lives. You also have a returning pastor, who has capably demonstrated his pastoral skills for six years in your midst.

I trust you will be gracious and welcoming as Neal and Lori share their ministry with you. I trust that you will not ask me to return (because I won't).

Significant relationships of long-standing are not soon forgotten, but the best way to honor my ministry is to support and let Neal become your pastor. I hope and pray that you will continue to reach into the lives of others in this church and community with the love of Jesus.

...rmh

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Hospitalized: Merta Powers, Art Hammen, NKC

- Congratulations to Rick and Karen Hammet on the birth of their granddaughter, Tatum Renée West, born on June 5, 2009, in Arizona. Tatum Renée is the daughter of Scott and Chanel Hammett West.
- July/August Upper Room devotional books are \$1 and now available by the Office door.
- We offer our sympathy to Lorraine Walmann and family in the death of her husband, Irv Walmann, who died Friday, June 12th.
- We extend sympathy to Kay Goodson, whose brother in California died recently.

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