

North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

January 12, 2009

...coming up in Worship...

We all have a story to tell

Jesus was a master storyteller. We call his stories parables. The Bible is filled with the stories of people and places that shaped the understanding of God's work in the world.

Have you ever thought about the story of your own life and the differing experiences that have led you to be where you are and how you understand your life?

In this week's "episodic" message, Rick will be looking at the power of "story" to shape our living. The scriptural basis for the message will be found in the reciting of the listing of men and women of faith, found in Chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament.

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: "Joshua Leads Israel" Ginnie Collins

Good News: Room 206

Lesson: "Conspiracies of Grace" Jim Funk

Friendship: Room 202

Lesson: "Joshua Leads Israel" Glenn Whiston

Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall

Lesson: "Ministering to Our Minister" Tom Gee

FaithWorks: Room 207

Lesson: "Joshua Leads Israel" David Batchelor

Pathfinders: Room 200

Lesson: "Andrew, a Brother" Faye Moore

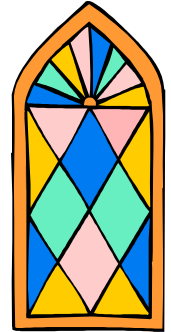
Contemporary Conversations: Lounge

Lesson: "Will the Bailout Work?" Jane Brown

New Memorial Window now in place

Thanks to Steven McCormick's gift, the church now has a new stained glass window, given in memory of his wife, Beverly McCormick. Beverly was an active member of this congregation, as well as the Wesleyan Class.

The window has been installed above the stairway near Fellowship Hall just beyond the top of the ramp leading to this area of the church. It can be seen, with light streaming through it, as one leaves the sanctuary.



This window is an original work of art designed by our own Jeanne Lawing, and the stained glass work was done by our own Lenora Remmert. Framing was done by Lenora's father and brother, who assisted with installation, along with Henry Linch and Steve Jackson.

Learn more about this new window and the meaning of the symbolism in an article on page 2 of this newsletter.

Gift given to expand Worship Arts ministry

With the words, "This is our church and we want to help it grow," a couple within the life of the congregation has designated a gift of \$10,000 to support and expand the *Worship Arts* ministry within the church.

A couple of years ago, Ken Remmert was added to the church staff to direct, coordinate and encourage a more dynamic worship life for this congregation. Under his direction, children's choirs have been instituted, the 4-One Praise Band has grown and periodic drama presentations have been orchestrated, involving many individuals and groups within the congregation, including the Chancel Choir under the direction of Gerald Valet.

Ken has dreams for the future which include an ever-expanding array of additional ways in which worship can be enhanced. Ken will now be able to draw upon these designated funds to provide additional equipment, resources and copyrighted resources for the worship life of the entire congregation.

We express a gracious thanksgiving to the couple, who wish to remain anonymous, for this special designated gift.

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

A word from the artist about our new window.....

Imagine the excitement and thrill of an opportunity to create art so important as to be a stained glass window for North Cross! My experience with paint is comfortable, so it took Lenora's expertise and patience to guide me through the limitations and possibilities of a new medium.

Each person, having had varied life experiences and insights, brings his or her own individual viewing to visual art. It is with this in mind that I hesitate to explain too exactly my ideas and motivation for creating the "Resurrection Window" in memory of Beverly McCormick.

Life may be reflected in the familiarity of a landscape with its ins-and-outs and ups-and-downs. I chose reality of landscapes and spirituality of the cross to express a life path for everyone.

I hope you will find your own inspiration in the changing daylight and changing light of your heart that make differences. *Jeanne Lawing*

Main kitchen 95% complete

Our Super Sale '08 funds have enabled us to purchase new countertop and flooring. The old, dirty linoleum was removed, and the original concrete beneath it was stained and polished instead of installing new linoleum.

This process will make it easier to keep the floor clean. The linoleum in the pantry was also removed, but because there wasn't concrete under it, we are looking for a good type of flooring for that area. Stop by and take a look at the improvements.

XYZs plan January gathering

The next meeting of the XYZs will be held on Tuesday, January 20th, in Fellowship Hall. Meat for the meal will be furnished. Please bring a side dish to share. We'll meet at 11:30 a.m. and eat at 12 noon. Entertainment will be furnished by the Wexford Place band.

Can you help at 11 a.m. worship?

Ushers are needed to assist at the 11 a.m. worship service. Ushers are our first line of "welcoming." If you would like to be a part of a team, serving a month at a time, three or four times a year, please call Patsy in the church office. Thank you for considering serving your church in this very important position.

New website is up and running now

You may now log on to the church's new website at <http://northcrossumc.org>. When you view this, you will find some new features and some new addresses for your staff.

For a period of time, the old website will continue to be operational, as well as the previous e-mail addresses; however, it is worth noting that there will come a time when these will become obsolete and nonfunctioning.

2009 United Methodist Women Resources

Happy New Year from your new UMW Program Resources Secretary, Ann Ousley. I am pleased to tell you about some of the new books that have been added to our book cart. Keep watching your newsletter for additional listings.

From Nurturing for Community area we have added Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy. This is an interesting bonus book about the response from the Amish community to the horrific shooting of 10 school girls at Nickel Mines, PA. This book tells the incredible story of this community's reaction to this senseless shooting and explores its profoundly counter-cultural practice of forgiveness informed by deep faith.

We have added two books from the Social Action area. The first book is Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues. The author explores some of the most controversial and divisive issues of our time by showing the reader how to look at them from a biblical perspective, in order to arrive at faithful Christian responses. This book is in larger-than-average print.

Also from the Social Action area is William Wilberforce: A Biography - a Bonus Book. This book transports you back to a dramatic age of conflict and upheaval and William Wilberforce's journey through the slave trade and his battle to outlaw the slave trade.

Save the date - for the 4th annual *Adult Prom*

The North Cross youth will be hosting a "Sweetheart Dance" on Saturday, February 14th. A youth DJ will be playing music from the 1940s to the 1980s for your dancing and listening enjoyment. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. A light buffet, childcare, and "sweetheart" photos will be included in the evening. Youth will be pre-selling tickets in the entryway on Sunday, January 18th. The cost is \$15 for two persons or \$8 per single. Tickets at the door will be \$20 for two and \$10 for a single. Please contact Vickie Linch at 452.2939 with any questions.



Coming This Week...

Thursday, January 15

9:00 a.m. UMW Sewing/Quilting
9:00 a.m. Preschool Donuts W/Dad
10:00 a.m. Mommy & Me
11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
4:30 p.m. 4 One Band Practice
6:30 p.m. Money Workshop

Friday, January 16

9:00 a.m. Preschool Donuts W/Dad
4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
6:30 p.m. Brownies
6:30 p.m. Concerned Care
7:00 p.m. Blue Grass Bands

Saturday, January 17

3:00 p.m. Party/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 18

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Children's Music
9:45 a.m. Sunday School - all ages
11:00 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Eagle Court of Honor

Monday, January 19

9:30 a.m. Parkinson Exercise
11:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. UMW Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Sign Language Class
7:00 p.m. Seekers Women's Group
7:00 p.m. Cub & Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 20

9:00 a.m. TOPS
10:00 a.m. Paint for Fun
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 21

1:00 p.m. Northland Assistance Cntr.
5:30 p.m. Supper
6:00 p.m. Clay County Justice Board
6:30 p.m. Youth
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
8:00 p.m. Handbell Practice

Thursday, January 22

6:00 a.m. Tai Chi
11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
4:30 p.m. 4 One Band Practice

Movie Night - Saturday, January 24th 6:30 p.m. The Great Debaters PG-13

Inspired by a true story, "The Great Debaters" is a film that tells the story of a debate team at Wiley College, a small black college in Marshall, Texas. Professor Tolson, played by Denzel Washington, inspires his small, underdog team to believe in themselves, their cause and truth. He instilled in his debate team the belief that they could use the debates for more than personal glory; they could also be tools of change and enlightenment. Wiley College was founded by a Methodist Episcopal Bishop. Part of our annual apportionments go toward supporting the college in this movie.

All are welcome to attend this free screening. The movie is rated PG-13 due to some sexually suggestive scenes. It may not be appropriate for young children.

What is Cursillo? Cursillo is...

- ◆ An INCREDIBLE experience in Christian community for United Methodist people.
- ◆ An ATMOSPHERE in which growth is both possible and attainable in a fellowship of trust.
- ◆ A WAY of renewal in the United Methodist Church through a new look at Methodist traditions, teachings, sacraments and responsibility and mission beyond the normal Sunday Service, focusing on living a life of grace.
- ◆ THE UNDERSTANDING that we are not finished products, but fellow sojourners who continue to learn and have God's assurance of the "Power to Become."

Where is the next Cursillo? When is it?

The next Cursillo will be held here at North Cross. The men's weekend begins Thursday evening, Jan. 29th, and ends Sunday afternoon, Feb. 1st. The Women's weekend begins Thursday evening, Feb. 5th, and ends Sunday afternoon, Feb. 8th. Time flies on these weekends and when it ends, you will not be ready to leave. Talk with Patsy or anyone you know who has been through one of these weekends for more information. You may pick up an application in the church office. Cost is \$60 - not bad for eight meals and plenty of snacks!

Seeker's Circle to hear book review

A book review of "The Shack" will be presented to the Seeker's Women's Circle. Glenda Callicott, Children's Minister, will present the review on Monday, January 19th, at 7 p.m. in the church lounge. Plan to attend and hear Glenda's discussion of this new, popular book.

Rick's Ruminations:

Some words about *This 'n That*:

The beautiful new window in the stairway outside Fellowship Hall is absolutely stunning. One sees it from the back of the sanctuary all the way up the ramp to Fellowship Hall. It will be viewed and appreciated by many over the years. Thanks to Steve McCormick for designating this memorial in his wife's memory. In a few weeks we will share in a formal dedication. Watch for that announcement.

A number of you have written notes or stopped by to comment upon the announcement of my planned retirement in June. There is simply no way to keep up with the many expressions of love and caring that you have shared with Karen and me. So please know how much your words (either spoken or written) have meant to us. With a humble and grateful heart, we give thanks for all who are a part of this congregation.

There's work to be done in the next few months as we prepare, together, for a new senior pastor who will come to serve this congregation

Your Administrative Council and the Staff-Parish Committee will be seeking to work with our District Superintendent, the Bishop and Cabinet to discern God's Will for who might best bring leadership in the coming years. Please understand that in this time of transition I remain your senior minister, and by *Discipline* (the law book of the church) I am the "pastor in charge." My work in the coming months will be to help this congregation have the smoothest transition possible to new leadership. That will become a priority in my preaching and meeting with the leadership.

I have led churches through transition before. I will do some things in this mode that will be a little different, but the ministry of the church will continue. Dennis and I will both be very engaged during this time as we have been throughout the previous six years.

...rmh

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- **Hospitalized:** No known at time of publication.
- Menu for January 21st: *Ham, Green Beans, Hash brown Casserole, Rolls*
- January/February Upper Room devotional booklets are now available. Cost is \$1 per copy - available on the table by the office.
- On Monday, January 19th, the church office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; however, the building will be open for activities.
- Giving statements for the 4th quarter were mailed to your homes this past week. After reviewing your statement, if you have questions, please call the church office at 452.2939.
- A huge "Thank you" to the Chastains for the Steamatic cleaning all of the church carpeting.

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

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Visit our new website at www.northcrossumc.org

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