

North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

January 5, 2009

...coming up in Worship...

A New Year brings new hope!

In this early part of the New Year 2009, your minister will be asking a question that begins with the words, *What if...?* They are very personal words of a question that all of us ought to consider and contemplate as we live our lives in this coming year.

"It would be tragic for us not to understand the impact we have upon others," noted Rick as he worked on Sunday's message. "What is the legacy you are leaving with the life you are living? What difference does it make that you are alive?"

Come to worship Sunday for what could be one of the most thought-provoking messages you have ever heard.

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: " <i>Rahab Helps Israel</i> "	Jan Braker
Good News: Room 206	
Lesson: " <i>Simon Peter</i> "	Jim Funk
Friendship: Room 202	
Lesson: " <i>Rahab Helps Israel</i> "	Glenn Whiston
Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall	
Lesson: " <i>Breakfast by Men</i> "	
FaithWorks: Room 207	
Lesson: " <i>Rahab Helps Israel</i> "	Helen Foster
Pathfinders: Room 200	
Lesson: " <i>Rich in Easter Faith</i> "	Larry Sandridge
Contemporary Conversations: Lounge	
Lesson: " <i>South American Trip</i> "	Dave & Rita Gaebler

Staff Changes take place in New Year

Recognizing the need to expand the church's ministry with and to younger generations, several changes take effect with the beginning of the New Year.

Vickie Linch, Youth Director, moves from $\frac{3}{4}$ time to full time. **Glenda Callicott**, Children's Ministry Director, who had been $\frac{1}{2}$ time moves to full time as well. It was believed by last year's Staff-Parish Committee, that these changes were needed and will enable a more focused ministry to younger families within the congregation, and target new ministry initiatives to reach more folk in our community.

Megan Robertson, who is one of the church's own young adults, has demonstrated numerous creative talents. She has been hired on a very limited basis to become the church's *Web Master*. Her responsibility is to bring a new format and increase the user friendliness of the church's website. This avenue of communication is increasingly the way younger generations secure information, but is equally important to all within the church, as it becomes a resource for promotion and invitation to the church's many areas of ministry. As her work progresses we will alert you to the changes at the church's website.

Finally, **Lynn Wollard** has been hired and begins her duties as the new full-time director of the church's Pre-School program which operates during the school year. Watch for more information about Lynn in a future issue.

We have been fortunate to have the leadership of **April Venable** in an interim capacity in this position for the last few months. April will continue to be a part of the Pre-School staff for the next several weeks, as we move through this time of transition.



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

Taking the Challenge!

In 2009, Children's Moment at 11 a.m. worship will come from the "Angel Bag." Each week I will have a different item in the bag. The challenge to the congregation is to give very creative items (which will be returned) and to challenge me to come up with the Bible connection. Hopefully, the children will look forward to church to see what's next. Thanks for taking the "Angel Bag" Challenge.

At "Happy Birthday, Jesus", one minute before the time to open gifts for Baby Jesus, Allison Stehle, 4 years old, said, with big, innocent eyes, "Jesus isn't here yet."

Glenda Callicott
Children's Ministries

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.

United Methodist Men plan next breakfast meeting

The United Methodist Men will meet for breakfast at Denney's Diner on E. Armour Road on Saturday, January 10th, at 10 a.m. All men of the church are invited to attend. \$580 was collected for the Salvation Army when the UMM rang bells at K-Mart on December 13th. Thank you to all the North Cross members who stopped by and made donations!

Congratulations to Disciple 1 Grads!

The final Disciple 1 Class met on Thursday, Dec. 18th. Those who have completed the course (17 weeks, Old & New Testaments) are: *Ron and Pam Petitt, John Summers, John Wheeler, and Mary Yunger.*

We Welcome New Leadership in 2009

As we begin the year 2009 we welcome new persons to leadership positions within our church.

The new chair of the church's Administrative Council is LaDonna Ebright. Terri Jackson will serve as the secretary of this body.

Three new persons will represent the church at this year's Missouri Annual Conference in Springfield, Mo. This meeting is conducted in June and Emily Brown, Marianne Horned and Jacey Stehle will represent the church, along with your pastors.

New chairpersons who begin their first year in service include Susan Young as Staff-Parish chair; Bob Diehl as Finance Chair, and the new Trustee chair will be elected at their first meeting later this month.

Numerous others have been elected to serve in the organizational structure of the congregation and will begin their service as well. Still others will continue to serve in their existing positions of leadership.

All of these were affirmed at the church's annual meeting in November. If you would like a complete listing of all the church's designated leadership you may pick up a copy on the table in the entry area near the church offices.

Year End Reports being prepared

Your office staff is working to complete the required reports due to the larger church by the middle of this month. Important statistical information is required and final numbers must be reported to the IRS, as well as year-end statements for those who contributed to the church's ministry last year.

The next several weeks require a great deal of work to prepare accurate reports which impact the church's share of connectional ministries in the next year, 2010. We ask your patience and understanding during these busy weeks, and we will report some of the more relevant information in future editions of this newsletter.

If you haven't received your 2009 offering envelopes by the end of the week, please call the church office.

Coming This Week...

Thursday, January 8

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

Friday, January 9

9:30 a.m. Adventures in Learning
7:15 p.m. Cursillo Gathering

Saturday, January 10

8:00 a.m. UMMen at Denny's NKC
1:00 p.m. Pinewood Derby
1:00 p.m. DAR
6:00 p.m. Game Night

Sunday, January 11

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
12:00 p.m. Landscape Committee

Monday, January 12

9:30 a.m. Parkinson Exercise
11:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. UMW Bible Study
6:00 p.m. ECP Board
6:30 p.m. Church Family Life Mtg.
6:30 p.m. Sign Language Class
7:00 p.m. Cub & Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 13

9:00 a.m. TOPS
10:00 a.m. Paint for Fun
12:30 p.m. PEO
6:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge
7:00 p.m. DAR
7:00 p.m. Wood Carvers

Wednesday, January 14

11:00 a.m. Grandparent's Support
5:30 p.m. Supper
6:30 p.m. Youth
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Leadership
8:00 p.m. Handbell Practice

Thursday, January 15

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
4:30 p.m. 4 One Band Practice

Please call the church office at 452.2939 if you are interested in purchasing a magnetic name tag, imprinted with the Methodist Church symbol. Cost is \$5.

Opportunity to help youth when you dine out

The youth are excited to offer a unique and tasty way in which you may support North Cross Youth. *Noodles and Company*, located at 8536 NW Prairie View Road in Zona Rosa, will be donating 25% of its Sunday, January 11th, sales to the North Cross Youth Group.

Proceeds will help benefit the youth's 2009 mission trip to Sikeston, Missouri. *Noodles and Company* is a quick-casual restaurant that serves a balanced menu of freshly sautéed Asian, Mediterranean, and American cuisine, such as Japanese Pan Noodles, Penne Rosa, and Wisconsin Mac and Cheese. In addition, they have a variety of healthy soups and salads on their menu. You can visit www.noodles.com to see the complete menu.

Noodles and Company is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, January 11th, for dine-in or carry-out. The youth encourage the North Cross congregation to spread the word to friends, family, and co-workers. Simply mention North Cross Youth when you order and Noodles will do the rest!

Thank You.....

Dear North Cross Staff and Church Family,

Our 21st Christmas Store was another success to help 955 families have a Christmas.

Thank you all for sharing your church and your people so generously.

To the staff—for all the phone calls and taking care of all our needs and being so helpful to clients, and especially those of us who were there during November and December, thank you. *Ikey Harris*

Northland Christmas Store

Thanks to all you *North Cross Angels* who adopted Crestview families this year. All twenty-one families were adopted immediately. By you having the true giving spirit of the season, you have helped these families have a much better Christmas. Bless you all. Thanks also to those who helped prepare the gifts for delivery to Crestview. *Outreach Committee*

Cathy and I want to thank you for your kind expressions and well wishes during the Christmas season. We appreciate each and every one in our North Cross family. *Dennis Stone*

Rick's Ruminations:

A New Year ought to be a time for re-assessment. Some people will make resolutions hoping for a change. Maybe it is hope for a new start. A more intentional life or better relationships may be the goal for others. For some, it is a time of intentional transition. During this coming year, many of us will go through changes and transitions for which we have not prepared, and in this moment cannot even be conceived.

I once heard it said, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him (or her) your plans." And while I believe in planning, I also believe in surprises, and have experienced my share of them in my life and years in ministry. One of those surprises was being told by the SPR committee of the church, just before Christmas, they didn't want me to continue as senior pastor after June of this year. As a result, transition is required.

To that point, Karen and I have been surprised and challenged by the responsibility and opportunity to be more involved in our grandchildren's lives. When our own children were growing up, I was frequently gone and unavailable because of church responsibilities. Karen taught school full-time for twenty-nine years. I am in my fortieth year of church ministry.

We now have the "surprise" and responsibility of rearing one of our grandchildren and becoming de facto parents again. I want to help Karen, and in a sense I have another chance to "be there," perhaps in ways I never was for my own children.

As a result, last Sunday morning I announced my intention to retire from the active ministry of the church at the end of this conference year in June.

In the next six months, as the ministry of North Cross continues, we will also be working in an intentional manner to bring about a transition for new pastoral leadership of this congregation.

This is our plan. It may be that God is laughing. My love for the people in the church has not diminished. My willingness to allocate so much of my life to the work of the church has, however, diminished.

So this year will be a time of change and transition for this congregation, as well as for our family. It would have been, regardless, given the realities of living. The only difference is that both you and I know the reality of some of the work that will be needed in this time of transition for this congregation.

...rmh

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- **Hospitalized:** Marie Giar, NKC
- **Wednesday Night Dinners** will resume on January 14th. The menu for that evening is: *Baked Barbecue Chicken, Corn, Baked Beans, and Biscuits*
- Our sympathy is offered to Betty and Jeff Pierson in the death of Mildred Maulsby, their sister/aunt, on December 27th; and to Patsy Ranes, and Dick and Joyce Ranes in the death of their sister/aunt, Nadine Carr on December 24th.
- The Wesleyan Women's Group will *not* meet for the months of January and February, 2009.
- January/February Upper Room devotional booklets are now available. Cost is \$1 per copy - available on the table by the office.
- The next Game Night at North Cross will be held on Saturday, January 10th, at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack and your favorite game and join in the fun. All are welcome!

Publication Deadline: Wednesday at noon
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