CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – One service on April 3rd at the 11:10. Plan to join us after the service for a reception in the Fellowship Hall to honor our four Confirmands! **THERE WILL BE NO 9:00 A.M. SERVICE.**

DONKEY TALES April 10th at 4 p.m. Youth Musical—details on page 13.

‘HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS: Spiritual, Physical and Psychological Health’
This is a Presbytery wide event that will be held at our church on **Saturday, April 16th**, from 8:30 to 3:15. Workshops are held throughout the day, and the complete schedule is available at the Information Desk.

There are workshops available for everyone from Sunday School teachers, Deacons, Cross Care members, B&G Committee members, youth advisors and Elders. The registration fee is $15.00 which includes lunch (served by our Sr. High Youth) and child care. Questions? Contact Sheri Sessions at the church office.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT – April 16th, 5:00 – 9:00 PM. Watch for the sign up to come out in early April. This is a Jr. High Mission fund raiser.

CELEBRATE THE WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE!
The Senior High Youth are assembling a nice variety of beautiful baskets which will be on display in the lobby beginning Sunday, April 17th. You may bid on one or more baskets during the silent auction through Sunday, May 1st. On May 1st, the bidding will close after the 11:10 service and winners will be notified that afternoon. The baskets can be picked up in the church office during office hours. Proceeds from the sale of the baskets will go toward the Senior High Mission trip to Clearwater Presbyterian Camp in Deerwood, Minnesota in June. As always, we appreciate your continued support for our youth!

YOUTH SUNDAY – May 1st
**Save the Date** and plan to attend either the 9:00 or 11:10 worship services that will be completely led by the youth! This is the time when the seniors give their “Faith Journey” talks and are recognized during the service. The youth serve as ushers and greeters and also have the Time with the Young Disciples. It’s a very meaningful service and the youth always make us so proud. This is just one more way to support the youth of our church!
From the Conductor: Parting Thoughts about Palm Sunday

If you play an instrument, or know someone who does, you are aware of the immense amount of hours of preparation that take place before a performance. Every measure of music is analyzed, dissected, practiced countless times, re-worked, and rehearsed again and again. Even after the performance, there are things that you realize you could have done differently, better, faster, slower, louder, softer. This is the nature of music—it is a living, breathing art that is never the same twice.

Choral musicians have the added responsibility of adding words to the notes. We fret over pronunciation, diction, vowel sounds, syllable emphasis, beginning consonants and clear cut-offs. We worry about tonality, blend, balance, and tuning. Getting one singer to achieve all of these goals is a huge undertaking. Getting a group of 60 singers to achieve these goals together is monumental.

But in a setting like Palm Sunday, our task becomes even bigger. Yes, we have to attend to the long checklist of items we’ve gone over in rehearsal, but that is just the beginning. There are the people who come to listen for various reasons. Some just want to hear great music. Some have invited guests and they want them to enjoy the music as much as they do. Some have small children and they want to expose them to the sounds of combined choir and orchestra, and watch them wave Palms as they parade around the sanctuary. Others are drawn to Holy Week and the spiritual journey that is about to take place.

In this moment, the musicians become the messengers of what God wants those listening to hear. The music begins, and, as in John Rutter’s Requiem, we are crying out to God: Have mercy on us, O Lord! In the midst of life, we are in death. Of whom may I seek for succour? All seems lost. There is no hope. And then, “I am the resurrection and the life,” saith the Lord. “He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” These words are suddenly brought to life through the music. I can speak for every singer involved in the Palm Sunday service, that they were moved by these words, and not just on Sunday but throughout our many weeks of preparation.

How about you? What was your reason for sitting in the pew on Palm Sunday? How did the words and music transform you in those few short moments? Whatever your answer, it is the reason the singers and instrumentalists at PCOC joyfully spend all of those hours preparing. And we look forward to doing it again and again.
A letter from your Pastor

“No Other Plans”  
by Marshall Zieman, Pastor and Head of Staff

The following is a little story from the Scottish author and pastor George MacLeod (1895-1991) entitled, “No Other Plans.”

“There is a very old legend, and all legends that persist speak truth, concerning the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to heaven after His Ascension.

   ‘Lord, this is a great salvation that Thou hast wrought,’ said the angel.
   ‘But the Lord Jesus only said, ‘Yes.’
   ‘What plans hast Thou made for carrying on the work? How are all men to know what Thou hast done?’ asked Gabriel.
   ‘I left Peter and James and John and Martha and Mary to tell their friends, and their friends to tell their friends, till all the world should know.’
   ‘But, Lord Jesus,’ said Gabriel, ‘suppose Peter is too busy with his nets, or Martha with her housework, or the friends they tell are too occupied, and forget to tell their friends – what then?’
   The Lord Jesus did not answer at once; then He said in His quiet, wonderful voice: ‘I have not made any other plans. I am counting on them.’”

Friends, as we bask in the glow of the Empty Tomb and the Resurrection, we are also struck with the fact that the work of the Church is ever before us, and Christ is counting on us to tell others what he has done.

   “And whatever you do, in word or deed,
    do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
    giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
    (Colossians 3:17)

Go tell your world about the Risen Savior.

Your pastor and friend,

Marshall Zieman
YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL AT PCOC IN JUNE
Kristi is looking for singers from incoming 9th graders to graduated 12th graders from across Omaha for the first annual youth choir festival June 20th – 26th. The theme is “Celebrate!” and music will include A Little Jazz Mass by David Chilcott, “Celebrate!” by Thomas Hampson, a Kenyan folk song, as well as other pieces in various styles. Details are still being worked out, but a sample schedule looks like this:

Monday – Friday rehearsals 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday morning 10:00 a.m. rehearsal with jazz combo
Sunday morning sing in worship service at PCOC and possible concert off-site in the afternoon

There will be a small cost involved to purchase music and a t-shirt. Be on the lookout for more details and registration forms posted throughout the church, in the bulletin, on Facebook and on the website.

DON’T MISS DONKEY TALES!
The children’s choirs will present DONKEY TALES on Sunday, April 10th, at 4:00 in the sanctuary. This musical brings to life three biblical stories in which a donkey plays a major role – and the audience is sure to be “hee-haw-ing” with big smiles and happy hearts. Come support our young musicians and actors who have worked hard to pull this all together.

OUR MUSICIANS HAVE BEEN BUSY! On Saturday, Feb. 20th, the Alleluia Singers had the pleasure of combining with the choir from New Hope Presbyterian to sing for the Presbytery meeting held at our church. Then on Sunday, Feb. 21st, the choirs joined about 100 other church choir members from across Omaha for the Nebraska Choral Directors Association church music festival, also hosted by our church. They rehearsed all afternoon (the Worship & Music Committee served dinner to all of the very hungry singers!), and gave a benefit concert for Open Door Mission that raised $1,212. On Saturday, Feb. 27th, five of our Carillon Choir members participated at a bell festival at St. Thomas Lutheran Church. A guest conductor rehearsed with about fifty ringers from Omaha churches, and the afternoon concluded with a concert and a worship service.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA FOR YOUTH SUNDAY, MAY 1ST
Instrumentalists in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the Youth Orchestra on Sunday, May 1st. Please let Kristi know if you are interested.

WORSHIP MUSIC IN APRIL
April 3rd
ONE SERVICE at 11:10 Chamber Singers

April 10th
9:00 Alleluia Singers
11:10 Credo Choir

April 17th
9:00 Carillon Choir
11:10 Alleluia Singers

April 24th
9:00 Alyssa Griggs, flute; Bill Ritchie, bass; Dana Sloan, harpsichord
11:10 Alleluia Singers
Cross Care

Contact
Rock Sumner

Cross Care is a care giving ministry of the Deacons of Presbyterian Church of the Cross and is made up of a group of trained caregivers who are ready to provide visitation, friendship, prayer, fellowship, support, and assistance to members of Church of the Cross who are:

- Home bound due to illness or mobility issues
- Hospitalized
- Recently home from the hospital and in need of a little extra help
- Dealing with a long term illness
- Dealing with the loss of a loved one
- Going through a difficult life transition (loss of job, divorce, new baby, etc.)
- In need of occasional transportation to appointments or in running errands
- Just need someone to talk to

If you or someone you know is in need of Cross Care, you can file a request using one of the white Care Cards located in the sanctuary pews. All requests will be kept confidential. If you would prefer to speak with a pastor directly, please contact the church office at 402-333-7466.

SPRIT SPEAKS

The Omaha World Herald is one of the last major daily papers to end an era with their final evening edition. It is hard to believe that the OWH has continued to publish two editions long after the Lincoln Journal & Star, the Minneapolis Star & Tribune, and many others ended their evening publications years ago. With few exceptions, most papers across the country now only publish one issue a day.

For many newspaper readers, watching them consolidate and reorganize makes us feel sad. While we love our digital news feeds and the speed of information streaming to us, there is still something special about holding a newspaper in your hand and drinking that first cup of coffee in the morning. As the Folger’s coffee ad said “it’s the best part of your day” even if the newsprint gets all over your hands.

This week while drinking my cup of coffee and reading the Omaha World Herald my day immediately got better! It was the article titled “School’s singing janitor a class act” written by Courtney Brummer-Clark, a World Herald staff reporter, about Burke High School’s janitor Roy Smith. Mr. Roy, as the students affectionately call him, is 62 years old and has a gift of singing -- and he is good! He can be heard singing in the hallways during the day. He likes the music of old school singers like Bill Withers or Elvis Presley.

But, best of all, Mr. Roy “creates a more positive atmosphere around Burke.” Students who are having a bad day will ask him for a song when they see him in the hallway. Roy said, “you can’t talk religion in the schools, so I try to do whatever I can to get them across the problem they are going through. I tell them if you have five minutes to get the problem off your mind, you can see your way clear.” My guess is those five minutes are filled with Mr. Roy’s voice and music. You could easily say that Roy has a ministry right in the middle of an Omaha high school! He certainly made my day better. I couldn’t stop thinking about him, and about the joy he brings into the everyday world around him.

How are we bringing joy into the world around us? At home, at work, in our leisure activities, at our child’s soccer game or baseball practice. We have 24 hours each and every day to spread the joy we find in Christ, even when we cannot mention Christ’s name. How are we doing at it? I’d like to think we are doing as well as Mr. Roy!

Psalm 65: 13c “they shout and sing together for joy.”

blessings--lkd
The View from My Office


These are three words I discovered one day in a devotional. They didn’t jump out at me immediately, but later I was drawn back to find them. Collectively, they remind me of spring. I look forward to our lawn greening up, the leaves budding on the trees, the flowers beginning to bloom, and planting in the garden! I hope each of you finds a reason to rejoice, celebrate, and praise God with the coming of our spring rains.

At a staff meeting recently, Sheri said, “No two days are alike around here.” I have to agree with her. There is an abundance of activity in staff offices each day as we work to serve God and this wonderful congregation.

ONLINE GIVING is now a reality. The office is working to convert to our updated software system for membership and financials. On our church website, www.churchofthecrossomaha.org we have positioned a GIVING option on the front page. If you are interested in making contributions or other gifts to the church this way, you will need to register first. There are options for making one contribution as well as setting up a payment plan for reoccurring contributions, and a variety of funds for you to select from: your 2016 Pledge, Deacon Envelope, Per-capita, SHF Mission, JHF Mission, and special offerings.

In addition, Finance Committee has reviewed the many envelopes we place in the pews throughout the year. We’ve decided on using one blue pew envelope with selection options for your convenience. Please take a moment next time you’re in church to familiarize yourself with the new envelope.

Finally, our Finance and B&G Committees have been busy planning for spring. Two highlights include:

The West Side Lighting Project sub-committee will be completing their work soon. Our main concerns for safety and security, as well as the aesthetic value have been addressed. In addition to lighting the west walk and drive areas of our facility, we hope to add lighting features to the cupola area, the building, and the flag. This will be a topic of discussion at April’s Session Retreat.

The facility phone system will be updated and installed in April. Staff have many more options for voice mail, keeping the greeting current, and remote access than we had with the old system.

I hope you are ready to rejoice, celebrate, and praise as we welcome spring! The Annual Spring Clean-Up is Saturday, April 30, 9 AM. Garden spots are ready for adoption, love, and growth this summer. A new dumpster enclosure in the north lot should become a reality soon. There is the possibility of replacing large areas of concrete in the north entrance; and tons of other maintenance projects underway for the spring and summer.

Rock Sumner - Business Administrator
Summer Mission Trip to Russia
Is this the year for you to meet (or revisit) our sister church and friends in Russia?
PCOC’s 8-year partnership with Grace Church in Gnozdovo, Russia, will continue to grow with a team visit to Russia July 21-30, 2016. Pastor Leonid has arranged with the director of the Forest School orphanage for a combined team from our two churches to help with some maintenance and repair projects at the orphanage while the students are away. In addition to the work, as always, we will focus just as much on building relationships with our partners in Christ.

The work will not require specific skills and is open to all ages 16 and above. Maximum group size is seven, so if you are interested in being part of this team, contact Karen Morey kmorey816@gmail.com right away and plan to attend:

Information Meeting for
Summer Mission Trip to Russia - July 21-30, 2016
Sunday, April 10, 2016
After Second Service (12:15-12:45)
Room 13

May “Mission Saturday” Opportunity
The Membership Committee is partnering with other committees throughout the year to sponsor “Mission Saturdays” which are events at which PCOC members and their families can be actively involved in outreach activities. In May, the Mission Saturday will focus on outreach to our members who are unable to attend on a regular basis and coordinate with Cross Care.

When: May 7, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and back patio
What: Decorate flower pots, plant flowers in the pots, and create cards for our members who can’t participate in our PCOC community on a regular basis. Deliver cards, pots, and treats to the members.
Who: Anyone and everyone is welcome from the youngest artist to the most seasoned of gardeners.
How: Sign up in the Narthex and indicate how you would be willing to participate. There are opportunities for decorating and planting, delivering the planted pots and items that weekend, or baking items to drop off at the church that morning.
Adult/Youth Mission Trip to Boulder, Colorado planned for July 10-16

Purpose: The PCOC Mission Committee is planning another Mission Trip to work on various projects necessitated by the rain and floods that happened in September, 2013. Projects will be organized and supervised by the Boulder County Long Term Flood Recovery Group. They will provide all tools and materials.

These projects will serve individuals and families from the Boulder and surrounding area who don’t have enough resources (through insurance, personal savings, FEMA and other organizations) to recover on their own. Many are still unable to live in their homes for a variety of reasons. Many survivors have fascinating stories of their flood experiences and may need/want to share them with us.

Work: We will be working on various clean-up and construction activities including debris removal, landscaping, framing and finish carpentry, drywall hanging and finishing, plumbing, electrical and roofing. Skilled and unskilled volunteer workers are needed. We never know until we get to the site what we will be doing, but they always have work that they match to our abilities.

Lodging: We will be staying at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Boulder. They will provide cots; we will bring bedding or sleeping bags and pillows. We will shower at a local YMCA, prepare our meals in the church kitchen and pack our lunches each day.

Free Time: Last year in Loveland, CO, we went to a local brewery for dinner one night and spent part of a day in Rocky Mountain National Park. We anticipate doing some similar activities this year.

Transportation: The Mission Committee will rent a van and/or pay for gas for transportation.

Costs: St. Andrew charges us $20 per day that we expect each participant to pay, a total of $120 each for the trip. Scholarships are available. Do not let the cost get in the way of your participation. St Andrew limits the age of participation to 14 and older.

To sign up: Either sign up at the Information Desk or e-mail to Clarence Waters (cwaters2@UNL.edu). If you have questions or want additional information, contact Clarence.
2015 Coats, Clothing & Shoes Project a Big Success

Each November, PCOC Mission volunteers assess the winter needs of our Mission elementary school partners. They are Sherman, King, Walnut Hill and Bancroft - (supported for several years) and a 5th school, Laura Dodge Elementary School, added last this year. During these cold winter months, many students do not have the clothing needed to keep warm on their way to and from school or while playing on the playground. Under these conditions, kids do not learn well. The PCOC Mission Committee's annual Coats, Clothing & Shoes Mission serves these students and aligns to the committee’s mission of helping 'youth-at-risk'.

Julie Buehler is the coordinator of this mission project and is supported by her daughter Kristin Johnson, son-in-law Rob, and her granddaughters, MacKenzie and Corah. Their efforts began with contacting each school for a wish list of needed items. The team then researched store bargains to meet each school’s needs. Julie and her family then delivered the items to the schools.

This year, your annual pledges provided funding for the Mission Committee to purchase the following items for $3,500:

- 40 pair of boys underwear
- 100 pair of girls underwear
- 12 pair of girls leggings
- 81 pair of sweat pants
- 68 winter coats
- 31 pair of winter gloves
- 4 pair of tennis shoes
- 20 pair of shoes

All the items were delivered before Christmas break to ensure that children were prepared for any harsh weather they may encounter over the break from school.

School Thank You Notes:
The school administrators, teachers, parents, and kids greatly appreciated our church's support of winter clothing: Thank you doesn’t seem enough to express our appreciation and gratitude for your wonderful donation to our children. God bless you all as you have blessed us with your generosity. (Laura Dodge Elementary School staff)

Kids without coats have a hard time. They’re often picked on, kept home because of the cold, or sent to school in layer after layer of clothing. It can make it difficult for them to focus on their education. And we want these kids to succeed. Your efforts go so far in helping us achieve that goal. (King Elementary School staff)

Words cannot express how much your donations help our children. Our school has many children who move to Nebraska unprepared for our harsh winter weather. They arrive to school on cold days without socks, in shoes that don’t fit and without a coat or hat. Your donations allow us to provide basic necessities for these children. This giving allows their parents to focus on buying groceries, affording housing and paying for utilities. (Debbie Bentley, project liaison at Walnut Hill Elementary School)

Many thanks to our congregation for the generous support of this cause. Our members truly have the ‘Spirit of Mission’. Thank you to Julie’s wonderful family for taking much of their time to help those less fortunate!

For more information or to get involved in this mission opportunity, please contact Julie Buehler at JBU@cox.net.
Our Church Family

Lillian Olivia Vlcek, daughter of Ron and Kristine Vlcek, born on September 29, 2015.

Mary Kate Broderick, born on March 17, 2016, daughter of John and Beth Broderick.

Karter Evelyn Polzin, born on March 18, 2016, daughter of Lani and Kevin Polzin

Flower Dedications

April 3
Laurie Stiles in loving memory of George and Twila Peck

April 10
Jim and Joan Gayle Chapin in memory of our parents: Wilbur and Leatha Chapin, R. Wayne and Jean Wilson

April 17
Matt and Tammie Will in honor of our 9th wedding anniversary

April 24
Kirk and Debbie Ryckman in honor of Lu Ryckman’s 95th birthday on April 24

Labels for Education Program

In the past few years, participation in “Labels for Education®” has declined. As a result, Campbell has decided to wind down this program. PCOC will not be collecting any more Campbell soup and other product labels anymore. Those collection cartons have been removed from the Information Desk. Walnut Hill Elementary School and the Mission Committee thank you for your contributions to this program. Do not confuse this program with the “BoxTops for Education Program” which remains very active. Contact Jon Boomgaardan with questions at (402) 981-7164.

POP TABS PLEASE!!

There is a 5 gallon pail located behind the Information Center that is begging to be filled to overflowing. Please save your pop tabs from soup cans, pop cans and any other lids that have those little tabs to open them. Ronald McDonald House uses the money from pop tabs collected to pay their utilities for the year. This is our way of assisting in this endeavor without costing us any extra money. If you all will fill the bucket, A.J. and Judy Sundberg will get it to Ronald McDonald House.

Let's be good neighbors and help out.

Thanks
A.J. and Judy Sundberg

Gifts Memorials

- Additional handbells with cases @$2500.00 each
- Cookie Ministry
- West Side Lighting Design Contract $8,000.
- Educational Material Endowments
- Garden Ministry Maintenance Fund
- Mission Funds
- Musicians for Special Services
- Printed Music for Choirs
- Youth Program Funds
- Facility Fund
- 40 Bread Baskets for Kitchen $250.00
- 5 Adult Choir Robes $750.00

Reminder:

Call the church office when you or a family member is hospitalized.
402-333-7466

Prayer Chain
Contact Judy Arms
402-333-9501
Gerry Reid
402-498-0507 or use the Care Card in the pews.
Birthdays

2 Ardith Clary, Betsy Conway, Will Morris, Michael Pirnie, Scott Stalnaker
3 Janelle Davis, Colleen McGrath
4 Tim Goodman, Doug Hartman
6 Daniel Bennett, Ron Bowers, Kristine Vlcek
7 Sue Allen, Jim Chapin, Nicholas McGrath, Jeff Schiessler, Nancy Utman
8 Mimi Labah
9 Frank McMullen
10 Marilyn Fitch, Penny Morgan, Rita Seiler
11 James Miller, Craig Moore
12 Liesel Ritter
14 Greg Ritter
15 Logan Voss
16 Erika Cornett, Jacque Kluck
17 Erin Erickson, Karon Frenk, Diane Hammang, Jackson Morris
18 Noel Johnson, Sue Kiel
19 Dick Cotton
20 Kerri Davelaar, Zachary Metzger, Alycia Olson, Jackie Upah
22 Lily Haas, Margaret Lim
23 Michael Kussman, Marsha Marron, Darrell Stuedemann, Judy Sundberg
24 Crystal Kwaw, Lu Ryckman, Brynn Stalnaker
25 Michael Frederickson, Evan Graumann, Evy Olsen
27 Paul Holubeck, A.J. Sundberg
28 Bob Binhammer, Drew Dinsdale, Pauline Lundgren, Jennifer Paisley, Laurie Stiles
29 Paul Thomas
30 Kelly Erickson, Timothy Harrison, Daniel Hinz, Garrett Moore

Tables for Eight – SPRING/SUMMER SESSION

The deadline for registration for the Spring/Summer session (May, June, July and August) is April 10. New participants (couples or singles) are always welcome to join this fellowship opportunity as “regulars” or “substitutes”. This is a way to share a meal and become better acquainted with the congregation. Specific details on how “Tables for Eight” works are on the registration form, and the form is available at the Information Desk or on the Website (www.churchofthecrossomaha.org).

Return registration forms to the Information Desk before April 10.

If you are currently in a group, you will remain as a regular and be assigned to a new group. If you currently a substitute, you will remain as such. However, if you want to change from regular to substitute or vice versa or if you don’t want to participate next session, please notify Pam Otto at 402 593-8570 or potomt@cox.net before April 10.
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** – Save the date!
July 11-15th, Monday through Friday
9:00 am – 12:00 noon
All children ages 3 years old through 4th grade are welcome to attend.
Bring your friends to VBS this summer!
Theme: *Cave Quest – Following Jesus, the Light of the World*
Program fee: $10.00 includes a VBS t-shirt
Registration will be available soon!

Please save your empty 2 liter pop bottles and large (appliance size) cardboard boxes.

**WEDDING LIAISON**
PCOC worship and music is looking to hire a Wedding Liaison. This person would represent the PCOC during some of the planning, the rehearsal and the wedding itself. Pay is a fee per wedding to be covered by the wedding couple. We are looking for a current member who is familiar with the layout of the church. You would be responsible for unlocking and relocking the church, attending the rehearsal and wedding and helping the bridal party navigate PCOC by representing the church. Please contact Kristi Treu at 402-333-7466 if you are interested.

**Spring Cleaning? Yarn Needed**

As many of you know, I knit scarves for the disadvantaged children our church supports through the schools and other agencies. My goal is 400-500 scarves each year. While this is financially sponsored by our Mission Committee, I have discovered that many of you find stashes of yarn in your cleaning--some new and some odds and ends. All can be used for scarves, although washable is best.

Any donation can assist this mission and allows money in the Mission Committee budget to be used in other serving ways. This past year I received donations which allowed us to purchased more clothing such as coats, shoes, etc.

If you find any yarn you can spare please drop it off with Julie In the office with my name on it--Julie Buehler--or contact me for a pick-up. Julie Buehler--402-334-2862.

Thank you in advance for your caring spirit.
More than Spring in the Air?
If you’ve witnessed some of our young music makers dancing in the halls or noticed the wonderful sounds of laughter coming from the choir room or heard animal noises (particularly donkey sounds) echoing in the parking lot it’s not necessarily because of spring break time or warmer weather. The youth choirs have been working on a musical event that is sure to be lots of fun for audiences and participants alike. The story is actually 3 Bible stories that feature a donkey and the songs and dances that tell the “tales” promise to be something that will live long in the minds and hearts of those who witness the event! “Donkey Tales” will be presented on Sunday, April 10 at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. The youth present this as a fund raiser for the Junior High Mission trip this summer, so we hope to lighten your hearts with joy and lighten the load in your wallet as the music moves you to do. The kids have had a lot of fun preparing this musical and are anxious to share it with our church family. Come join the fun, you won’t be sorry!

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Because the last one was so successful, the Disciple Bible Study is hosting another blood drive on Sunday, May 15th from 9am-2pm in the Gathering Space. Information and the opportunity to sign up will be coming soon. Donors can give a whole blood donation every 56 days. What a great gift you can give with only about an hour of your time! For every donation, up to three lives might be saved. Please consider being a part of the team. We need you!

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and sympathy in the loss of my sister and Carol’s sister-in-law. We very much appreciate the words of comfort from all of you.

God’s Blessings,
Chet and Carol Mason

OOPS!!!
It has been brought to our attention that the phone number for Holly Baddley is incorrect in the new membership directory. It should be 402-739-7113. Our apologizes for the inconvenience.

Please Note:
Have you gotten a new membership directory? If not copies of the directory are available in the church office.
Presbyterian Women

The MRV Presbyterian Women will hold a Gathering on April 23 at 8:30 at Church of the Master. All Presbyterian women are welcome. Church Women United will meet at Kountz Memorial Church on April 26 at 9:30.

Presbyterian Women will be meeting on April 28. We will be studying Lesson 7: Streams of Mercy. Ruth Circle will meet at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Bernice Hall and Lu Rykman will be hosting. Lydia Circle will meet at 7:00 in the home of Joan Boomgarden. Karin Hjerpstedt will have the lesson.

Presbyterian Women's April Mission Project:
HYGIENE KITS for PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For the four Sundays in April items for the Hygiene Kits can be donated. The kits contain the emergency relief items so critically needed after a disaster such as a hurricane, tsunami, earthquake or fire has occurred. These include a hand towel, washcloth, wide-tooth comb, nail clipper, bar of soap, toothbrush and band aids. The items are placed in individual plastic bags. Because of the need for uniformity there are exact requirements for several of the items. A detailed description of each item is found below.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance partners with Church World Service and ACT International in the distribution of not only the Hygiene Kits but also Baby Kits, School Kits and Cleanup Buckets.

A collection box, a display board with all the items and a descriptive list of items needed are located in the lobby of Fellowship Hall. One can donate any part of the kits. The kits will be assembled in June. If you prefer, cash or a check made out to Presbyterian Women and can be given to Treasurer Ardys Hansum, 906 S 199th Plaza, Omaha, NE 68154.

1 – hand towel (approximately 16” x 28”, no fingertip or bath towels)
1 – washcloth

1 – wide-tooth comb (remove from wrapper) Looks like this, no pointy handles:

1 – nail clipper (remove from wrapper)
1 – bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
1 – toothbrush (in original packaging)
(no toothpaste please)

6 – Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips (please avoid the antibiotic bandage strips)

1 - One-gallon plastic bag with a slider closure to contain the items
GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Name: Naomi Ruth (Koehler) Rueb, 83

Place of birth: Nicollet, Minnesota

Immediate family member’s names and what they do: Dr. Daryl Rueb, died in 1972; son, Bradley, Senior Benefit Analyst and Group Analyst, Silverstone Group, Omaha; son Brent, Engineer, Spirit Aircraft, Wichita, KS; granddaughters, Kristen Rueb Sharp, Omaha; Kathleen Rueb Sorrick, Omaha; great grandson Liam Sharp; great granddaughter, Braylee Sorrick.

Education: B.S. from Kearney State; RN, Graduate of Abbott Hospital Nursing School, Minneapolis, MN

Occupation: Staff RN; Stewardess, before jet airplanes; Faculty School of Nursing Grand Island, NE; Assistant Christian Education Director, First Presbyterian, Grand Island, NE; Director Interfaith Disaster Relief, post-1980 tornadoes; Grand Island Church World Service Disaster Consultant; Disaster Health Service Nurse, Red Cross for 20 years.

Civic or other nonprofit: Mentor, Westside Junior High; PEO

Which service do you attend? 11:10

Involvement in PCOC, or other churches: Elder, First Presbyterian, Grand Island, NE; Deacon, Peacekeepers, Ruth Circle, Vice Moderator Presbyterian Women at Church of the Cross.

Hobbies: Travel, reading, movies, knitting, concerts

A bad habit I have is: procrastinating

My pet peeve is: Drivers who slow up, start to turn, then signal their turn.

What person do you feel had the biggest impact on your life and why? My paternal grandfather. He was the pastor of our Lutheran Church and grade school.

What is your fondest childhood memory? Playing games, winter sledding and skating with my siblings

What would you say is one interesting fact about you that people don’t know? I grew up on a farm in Minnesota. I drove teams of horses then tractors for haying and harvesting. I also herded cattle on horseback!

Most significant or interesting job: Red Cross Disaster Nurse

Is there anything in your lifetime that you passed up on doing and wish you had not? I would have liked to pilot an airplane!
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Spring Clean-Up!

Saturday, April 30
9 am - Noon

Bring your work gloves, your rakes, or your trash can to help haul the debris.

Bring your smile, your enthusiasm and your non-stop energy!

Help spruce up our church’s lawn and landscaping by lending a hand.

*Juice, coffee and snacks will be available.*

All church event sponsored by your B&G Committee

Rain date set for Saturday, May 7.
The Omaha Chapter of The American Guild of Organists

invites you to attend

2016 Hymn Festival
Featuring the "King of Instruments"

Raise your voice in song as the audience joins a festival choir to sing both old and new hymns of the church year, led by organists from Omaha, Lincoln and Seward.

Sunday, April 17th 2016 at 3:30 pm
First United Methodist Church
70th & Cass Streets Omaha NE

A free-will offering will be taken which will go towards a matching gift to provide educational opportunities for Omaha area organists.
SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.

What you need:
- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

What you do:
1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squir the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.

Puzzle

A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.

Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.

The [ ] is [ ] and [ ]

[5] [1] [18] [20] [8] [20] [8] [5] [12] [15] [18] [4] [19]

[5] [22] [5] [18] [25] [20] [8] [9] [14] [7] [9] [14] [9] [20]

[23] [15] [18] [12] [4] [1] [12] [12] [23] [8] [15] [12] [9] [22] [5]

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24:1, NIV

24:1, NIV

Who live in [R] and [l] and everything in [l] and all the world, and all [l] and [e] and [v] and [l].

Answer: The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it the world, and all
Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
Third Friday of April
April 15, 2016