“A Strategic Summer”  
by Marshall Zieman, Pastor and Head of Staff

In this season of school graduations, Pomp and Circumstance, and senior parties, we turn the calendar page and see that summer is just around the corner. Have you made any plans yet for how you will spend your summer?

I’d like you to put four dates on your calendar, four Saturdays in which you are invited to share your thoughts, dreams, and aspirations for our church. Similar to what was done in 2004, this summer PCOC will engage in a Strategic Planning Process, taking time to evaluate our current state and look to the future. A Task Force recently offered a church-wide survey about our facilities, and those results will be discussed, as well.

More than just a discussion concerning bricks and mortar however, this summer’s planning process will encourage all of us to come together to speak and listen to each other as we assess who we are as a church, remind ourselves of our mission, review what our main goals are, and seek God’s will together. To this end, PCOC member Karen Morey will moderate this effort, a leadership team is being formed, and the details are currently being worked out. More information and announcements are sure to follow, but for now, please put these four Saturday mornings on your calendar and plan to attend as many of them as your summer schedule allows. The tentative Saturday dates are:

- Saturday morning, July 15
- Saturday morning, July 29
- Saturday morning, August 12
- Saturday morning, August 26

At PCOC, there are many, many things for which we should give thanks - our programs are strong, worship attendance is healthy, we are attracting new members, our youth are active, our finances are in order, we reach out in mission through our time and dollars, and in July our entire building debt will be paid off. In this season of strength and stability, it is a good time to “come and reason together,” seeking the Lord’s leading while using the brains God gave us to dream and plan.

Please make every effort to participate in these upcoming opportunities. As more specifics emerge, plug in to these events, and see this summer as a strategic time for our church. Be praying for our church as we look to the future with confidence and joy. Ask God to reveal to us how we can best follow God’s will, serve others, and build each other up.

Together, let’s make this summer a strategic one!

Your pastor and friend,

Marshall Zieman
Mothers of Preschool Children
Registration forms are available at the Information Center.

MOPS membership includes MomSense Magazine, Weekly Mom-email, a MOPS Reusable Shopping Bag, MOPS Bookmark and Magnet and Exclusive Access to MYMOPS Online.
Childcare is provided for meetings.

If interested in joining MOPS contact Sheri Sessions, 402-333-7466 or sessions@pcoc.us or Amanda Stalnaker 402-214-9663 or astalnaker@mpsomaha.org

FROM THE DESK OF ……… Sheri Sessions

May Baskets!
The SHF Fundraiser was a great success – thanks to the PCOC members! They made $880.00 on the baskets which will go towards their mission trip to Highland Presbyterian Camp in Colorado. On behalf of the youth, THANK YOU for your continued support throughout the year! These mission trips wouldn’t be possible without your prayers and monetary support.

JUNIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP
This year our 3-day mission trip will include 17 youth and 7 adults from PCOC plus 10 youth and 2 adults from the First Congregational Church of Fremont and Arlington Community Church. We’re calling it a Tri-Church Mission Trip! All 36 of us will be heading to Des Moines, Iowa on Friday, June 2nd for service, fellowship, and fun. We will be volunteering at four different agencies, all working with the homeless population in the Des Moines area. After two days of service opportunities, we will be worshipping with the congregation at Highland Park Presbyterian Church, where we will be staying. After worship, the group will head to Adventureland for a day at the water park! Watch for pictures and a full report in Cross Currents next month!

SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP
On Sunday June 11th, 17 youth and 6 adults will depart for a weeklong trip to Al lenspark, Colorado, destination...Highlands Presbyterian Camp. We will be 14,000 feet above sea level, nestled at the foot on Mt. Meeker, just a few miles from Rocky Mountain National Park! This will be a mission trip like none other, where we could experience altitude sickness and witness the beauty of God’s creations, all at the same time! We’ve been warned not to bring food into our cabins unless we want bears to add to the excitement! Our work projects will include building a circle swing bench (just like the one we built last summer in Minnesota). We will also be painting one of the cabins – the one the guys are staying in! Our visit to Colorado wouldn’t be complete without a hike in Rocky Mountain National Park and an evening of dinner & shopping in Estes Park. The youth will have a slideshow and report for you later in the summer! Watch for it!

THANK YOU, DON METZGER!
Please note the date change!!
On Sunday, July 9th, after the 10:00 a.m. service, the Christian Education Committee will be hosting a “Don Metzger Appreciation Day”. You are all invited to a cake and punch reception in the Fellowship Hall. Don has been working with our senior high youth for the past 20 years and is retiring after years of faithful service as a youth advisor. This is your opportunity to thank Don for his dedication to the youth of our church. We know he has made a huge impact in the lives of numerous youth and families.

Director, Sunbeams
Cassie Moore, Amelia Treu

Director, Credo Choir
Kristi Treu

Director, Carol Choir
Holly Baddley

Carillon Choir
Kristi Treu

Chamber and Alleluia Singers, Trinity Brass, CrossChords
Kristi Treu

www.vesperconcerts.org
(Christian Education Continued from Page 2)

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**
Registration is well underway for our VBS program July 11-14th. Children age 3 through 5th grade are encouraged to come and bring a friend! VBS is held Monday through Friday from 9:00 – 12:00 noon with a closing program for parents and grandparents on Friday evening, July 14th at 6:30 PM. **Maker Fun Factory** is the theme for this year’s VBS program, where kid’s will discover they are lovingly crafted by God. During the week, the kids will become hands-on inventors and experience God in a new and creative way! We hope your children (or grandchildren) will join us for an exciting week of Vacation Bible School!

**THE 4TH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE will be held on SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM.**

This is the major fundraiser for the Senior High Youth Group and their mission trip in 2018. There are several ways you can help!

- Make donations! We want all your gently used items, from clothing for all ages, furniture, toys, sports equipment, household goods and more! This is a great time of year to clean out your closets. Box them up and bring them to the church during our summer office hours (9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.). You can bring them to the church anytime between now and August 6th. Please take them to room 3 in the lower level.

- Donate hangers, plastic or paper bags

- Volunteer to help – pick a day and time to help with sorting and pricing. If you have a passion for garage sales, we sure could use your help! We will be sorting and organizing the week of August 7-11 and August 14-18. Volunteers will be working from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. every day prior to the Garage Sale on Saturday, August 19th.

- Come to the Garage Sale on Saturday, August 19th. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m.!
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
- 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.

### Spirit Speak -- June 2017

What are you most looking forward to this summer? This is a question that has given me pause for a moment, as I think about what summer might look like this year.

At Presbyterian Church of the Cross, we are looking forward to having the whole church family gathered for worship as we begin our summer worship schedule. This is the time of year when our pews are truly shared! Yes, someone else might be in “your” pew! Actually, it is probably his or her pew at the other service during the year! Yet each summer, we graciously share our space with one another, often even meeting a new face sitting next to us!

Fifty-three members of our church family are looking forward to being in the mission field; from junior high, to college graduates and adults. We will be spread out from Iowa, to Colorado, to Russia -- sharing our love of God with a variety of people in a variety of places.

Our age 3 to fifth grade children are looking forward to Vacation Bible School, filling the church with laughter, singing, and skits starring Marshall as “Ian the Inventor,” a bumbling scientist! What fun -- with an ice cream social and program to wind up the week!

We are looking forward to the Pancake Man, the Summer Sunday Church Potluck, and the Fellowship Fair! And we thought summer was a slow time at PCOC! It seems that our church family keeps us humming all year long!

In between all the happenings at church, we are all looking forward to our own summer events. Family gatherings, time with grandchildren, gardening, travel, and favorite sports activities! Summer allows us a bit more freedom to vary our schedules and jettison the routine, giving us more time for relaxation, and opportunities to refuel our souls.

When the boys were growing up, we escaped the Texas heat each year for family time at a lake in Northern Minnesota. It was early each morning, while everyone slept, that I would find my way down to the lake where I would meet mother duck and her babies, swimming beneath the dock. Those mornings, with the sun rising across the lake and the water lapping at the shore, I would read my morning devotions, and in silence feel the Lord refreshing my soul and refueling my life.

These days our retreat is in the mountains of Utah. As the family sleeps in the quiet of the early morning, I look at the Wasatch Mountains soaring into the sky. With the sun rising behind me I can see the shadows of the night disappear from the hills and valleys. Along with my morning devotions, I enjoy the beauty of God’s majesty, and in silence the Lord fills my soul. Once again God begins to refuel my life.

What are you most looking forward to this summer? Among your many activities, I pray that you will find a time and place to refuel your soul.

-blessings, lkd

1 Kings 19:11-13 “…but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it…”
The View from My Office – June 2017

I don’t necessarily know about you but I know I’m ready for SUMMER! At a recent staff meeting someone commented that summer would mean a slower pace for each of us in the office. And then, we began listing off summer activities such as multiple mission trips, the youth choir festival, shuffling of staff vacations, the Pancake Man Sunday, Potluck Sunday, Fellowship Fair Sunday, the garage sale, a visiting youth group staying at our church, and training some new A/V team members. I don’t believe it will slow down but it will be a different and exciting pace for the next few months. I encourage you to become a part of summer at Church of the Cross.

June 2017 will also be noted as the month Church of the Cross became DEBT FREE! Our last payment on the new addition has been made from our regular budget. Congratulations. I understand our Congregational Life Committee is planning a “Burning of the Mortgage” potluck in July!

Our B&G Committee has been busy planning and preparing for summer projects. There will be concrete pad replacement in our north parking lot, refurbishment to our slate wall on the west end of the outdoor sanctuary wall, and rescaling of the south and circle drive blacktop areas. We’ve been looking at drainage issues for our facility. Recently, the City of Omaha, local engineers, and volunteers have been having conversations to solve a few of these. We’ve pumped out a plugged drain and discovered a buried culvert. Safety continues to be our focus for our guests and members.

Recently, we replaced many light bulbs in our church sanctuary. A lift and professional were brought in to make it possible. The newly designed fire pit is also on our patio (ready for burning the mortgage)!

Rock Sumner
Business Administrator
JUNE EVENSONG SERVICE
Join us on Sunday, June 4, at 5:30 p.m. for the next Evensong Worship Service. This is an intimate evening service of candlelight, prayers, scripture and song. The service provides a quiet, peaceful contrast to our activity-filled lifestyles. Please park and enter the church at the south entrance. (No childcare).

2ND ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL JUNE 19-25
A week of singing for youth who have finished grades 8-12. A week for making new friends. A week for reaching out to the Omaha community—specifically, the opportunity to sing at Open Door Mission on Saturday the 24th. All this for only $40, with a cool t-shirt and lots of food thrown in! Registration forms can be found at www.churchofthecrossomaha.org.

SUMMER CHOIR IS FOR EVERYONE!
Summer is when our regular rehearsals have ended, and everyone enjoys a break. Summer Choir is a chance for families, summer guests, and anyone who enjoys singing to come together. We meet in the choir room at 9:00 to rehearse music for the 10:00 service. Please join us on the following dates:
June 18
July 16
August 13* (note date change from the May Cross Currents)

ORDER THE NEW HYMNAL
It is time to place your order for the new Presbyterian Hymnal, Glory to God. Orders will be taken through July 30. The new hymnals will be in the pews in time for our return to our two-worship service format on September 10, and will be dedicated in worship that morning. Please see the attached order form in this month’s Cross Currents. Thank you for your help in this exciting new venture!

HANDBELL WORKSHOP—SAVE THE DATE!
On Saturday, August 26, there will be a bell workshop for anyone interested in learning how to play handbells, from youth grades 5-12, to adults – this includes experienced ringers and those who have never picked up a bell. Jason Horner from St. Thomas Lutheran will be our guest clinician for the day. Be on the lookout for more details as the event draws closer.

(Music Continued on page 7)
(Music Continued)

**YOUTH BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED**
We are currently without a director for the youth bell choir for the 2017-2018 program year. This group is for grades 5–12 and meets on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 for thirty minutes. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Kristi Treu.

**JUNE MUSIC SCHEDULE**
- June 4  Women’s Chorus & Jazz Trio present “A Little Jazz Mass” by Bob Chilcott
- June 11  TBA
- June 18  Summer Choir
- June 25  Summer Youth Choir Festival Chorus

**DEACON NEWS**
Your Board of Deacons this last month hosted the Senior Recognition Brunch for the seven seniors graduating from High school. We had approximately 40 people in attendance! These seniors are Thomas Gerot, Erika Cornett, Morgan Koch, William Morris, Justin Summers, Caitlyn Ticknor, and Lindsey Woods. We would like to say Congratulations and good luck one more time!

We continue to deliver meals to those who have been hospitalized, new babies in the home and other who might need a prepared meal. We rely on YOU the congregation to let us know of these needs. The deacons and ministers need your assistance in letting the church office know of hospitalization, change in housing or assisted nursing homes, and when a member goes to a rehabilitation facility. It is very difficult to obtain any information from care facilities.

We also want to continue our thanks for our prayer shawl makers for such beautiful shawls. If you have a friend or relative in need please let us know, please contact Judy Arms or Sandi Stuckey.

**NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO OUR CONGREGATION!**
Yes, we have had many, many new members join our congregation in recent months. In fact, the numbers likely will be a surprise.

Using Marshall Zieman’s January 2015 starting date as the beginning of our new member count, we have had 97 adults attend the new member classes and join our congregation. In addition, we include the 34 youth who completed confirmation and became members. Our grand total is 131!

We have two winners in the Membership Committee contest to guess the new member count. Ed Ticknor was closest to the number of adult new members – he guessed 91. And, AJ Sundberg was closest to the total number of new members – he guessed 106. Each will be treated to lunch with Marshall. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest.
PCOC Supports Omaha Street School's Lunch Program

As a non-profit high school, Omaha Street School is supported heavily by donations including financial support from our church Mission budget. (The main focus of the Mission Committee is 'youth at risk'.) The school operates on a small budget, in an old building that does not have a full kitchen. Because meals cannot be prepared onsite, various volunteer organizations, churches, and businesses have picked up the slack by providing hot lunches on a daily basis.

Our faithful PCOC volunteers prepare and share lunch for the students on the second Thursday of each month. 2017 marks the 8th year that PCOC has served lunches at the school.

Thank you to our OSS lunch crew for another successful year!

(Left to right) Lou and Faythe Harrison, Bill Ritchie, Tina Morgan, Charlene Meyer, Paula Hazelrigg, Mary Beth Gust, and Art Morse.

Linda and Jim Miller and Dawn Buchanan also volunteer and help by fixing food. Jean Waters is always willing to contribute taco meat if needed.

Tina Morgan is the luncheon coordinator/crew chief who pulls everything together for a hearty lunch each month. Her menu consists of:

...taco meat, tortillas, chips, shredded cheese, shredded lettuce, cherry tomatoes, jalapenos (the students love the hot stuff and go through at least one jar every time), sour cream, grapes, brownies, lemonade, and their favorite...: greasy Nacho Cheese Sauce!

At least 12 pounds of meat is served to about 20-24 students plus staff and any volunteers who might be there that day. Tina and the crew are pleased that the students enjoy the menu. Their goal is to ensure that the students get all the food they want since this might be their best and/or only meal of the day.

New volunteers are always welcome to assist with one or more of the monthly meals. The time commitment is small and it’s a joy to see how much the kids enjoy and appreciate a great lunch. Meals are served the second Thursday of each month from September through May. Tina divides up the food requirement and asks each volunteer to bring 2-3 items. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to save their receipts and turn them in to the church office for reimbursement. (The Mission Committee has a budget for OSS lunches). The crew arrives at the Street School at 11:45 to set up and serves lunch at 12:15. Students are assigned to help clean up after lunch; PCOC volunteers are usually finished by about 1:00pm.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tina Morgan tmorgan@mccneb.edu or any of the church staff.
Omaha Street School Continues Its Educational Excellence

Omaha Street School (OSS) is a faith-based, non-profit alternative high school. OSS targets high-risk youth who have been unsuccessful in traditional high schools. Students come to the school with a history of problems including truancy, drug and alcohol abuse, emotional and physical abuse, teen pregnancy, and criminal and gang involvement. The non-profit high school resides in an old building and relies heavily on donations to survive.

The Omaha Street School opened its doors in January 1999 with four students. Today enrollment ranges from 25 to 35 with an average classroom size of 8 to 10 students. OSS is affiliated with the Street School Network (SSN), www.streetschoolnetwork.org, which has over 40 schools in its network of inner-city Christian based schools. Like the more than 40 Street Schools around the country, students at the Omaha Street School feel that they are valued as individuals, that they matter, and that they are part of a nurturing family. Among the caring and compassionate instructors, staff, and volunteers, students find hope and gain self-esteem while increasing valuable self-sufficiency skills along with their education.

As a key mission partner, OSS annually receives financial donations from PCOC to help fund the school's programs. Church of the Cross provides a $12,500 annual donation and PCOC volunteers participate onsite in various capacities. Karen Morey and Keith Allen serve on the school's Board of Directors. Sheryl Shannon serves as a classroom mentor (pictured).

Two OSS students recently celebrated graduation. Pictured are Jerrica (left) and Becca (right). Benson Baptist Church hosted the graduation ceremony and OSS director of education Shelly Pool conferred diplomas to the happy graduates. The OSS staff, family, and friends helped the graduates celebrate this terrific achievement!

*For more information or to get involved, contact Karen Morey kmorey816@gmail.com.
ALLPLAY Miracle Baseball League – Volunteers are needed on Saturday, June 10th for the new outreach supported by the PCOC Mission Committee. AllPlay is a non-competitive baseball league for children with special needs with over 400 players on over 24 teams. The AllPlay Complex is at Seymour Smith Park, 68th & Harrison, and utilizes barrier free designs that allow people who have mobility impairments and other disabilities to fully enjoy sports and recreation. We encourage everyone to strongly consider volunteering in one of two ways:

BUDDY – assists a player one-on-one and accompanies them around the diamond.
GAME DAY volunteer – helps as a greeter, concession stand worker, set up, announcer, umpire, mascot, maintenance, etc.

Sign-up time-frames on their web site: www.allplay.org are for 1 ½ and 2 ¼ hours, it’s really easy! We would also appreciate you signing up at the Information Desk so we know who participated. Let’s make June 10th a Church of the Cross day for ALLPLAY!

Everyone needs a mission, so plan to serve in the “Spirit of Mission” in this way and provide a benefit to another. Make this game day special for a player and their family. Enjoy this new fantastic mission opportunity with a friend or get your family involved. Contact Sandi Stuckey at sandi_stuckey@yahoo.com or 402-880-1977.

RUSSIA MISSION TRIP SUPPLIES NEEDED

Russia team 2017 is asking for craft supplies you can help! Supplies - beads, stickers, markers, paint, bright paper socks, too! Items collected on May 28th and June 4th. Also accepting cash donations.

Check the Information Center for a flyer or contact Haley Allen, at her email haley.allen212@cox.net

THANK YOU!

Russia Mission Trip June 11-19
Marshall Zieman, Haley Allen, Ethan Bennett, Laura Jones, Fiona Smith, and Anna Flairty
Our Church Family

Marriages

Baptisms
Kaitlynn Lea Evers, born on January 24, 2107, daughter of Spencer and Julia Evers, baptized on May 7, 2017.

Deaths
Jean Campbell died on April 9, 2017. Private graveside services held.
Elaine Krumme died on May 1, 2017. Services were held at Presbyterian Church of the Cross on May 5, 2017.

Flower Dedications
June 4
Joan and Neelo Boomgaarden in honor of their 36th wedding anniversary on June 6th.
Carol Bolton in memory of Theron (Tuck) Bolton’s 89th Birthday on June 6th.

June 11
Brad, Dawn & Daley Gibson and Dava and Bruce Hendrickson in memory of Dale Fuerst on what would have been his 100th birthday.

June 18
Curt Field and Launie Lambert in honor of their 12th wedding anniversary.

June 25
Mike Howland and Linda Matson in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary.
The family of John and Bernice Hall in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary on June 25th.

Gifts
Memorials
• Additional handbells with cases @$2500.00 each
• Seven light poles along the west side of our facility $52,150.00
• 360 Glory to God Hymnals and 10 large print text only editions $4,750.00
• Cookie Ministry
• Educational Material
• 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

Reminder:
Call the church office when you or a family member is hospitalized.
402-333-7466
Prayer Chain
Contact Cheryl Summers
402-933-0850 or chsummers92@gmail.com or use the Care Card in the pews.
Judy Arms
402-333-9501 or armsh@aol.com
49ERS --- TUESDAY, June 6, 2017
Please join us for our Tuesday, June 6, 2017, 49er meeting at Gorats, 4917 Center Street. Kim Shirk will tell her story of recovery from severe burns by a 13000 volt electric line while working for a TV station in Des Moines. She is the daughter of Judy and the late Henry Arms. Her book will be available for sale that day. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Contact Donna Turner 402 397-3643 for reservations or questions. (Judy Sundberg will be out-of-town) We also have a reservation sign up sheet at the Information Desk.

The Pancake Man is Coming
Come one, come all on Sunday, June 4, 2017 following 10:00 AM worship to Fellowship Hall for the Pancake Man. Invite your friends and family for fun and great food in a place that wants you and cares about you. All profits go to support the Russia mission trip with supplies. The suggested price is $5.00 per person or $20.00 maximum per family. Join us.

Travel Fellowship Group Update
The inaugural meeting of the Travel Fellowship Group was held on Saturday, April 29th. A group of 45 people gathered in Fellowship Hall for a wonderful presentation by Frank McMullen on his 15-day safari to Kenya and Tanzania. The presentation included stunning photography, vivid narrative and Frank dressed in full safari attire! A big THANK YOU to Frank for sharing his safari experience and to his wife, Debbie, for sharing the beautiful photo books she created that document their past adventures.

Following Frank’s presentation, those in attendance answered a brief questionnaire including a request to list the top 3-5 international and domestic destinations they have already visited and the top 3-5 international and domestic destinations they wish to visit in the future. Answers to these questions will help to determine future topics and presenters. The group will meet every other month, alternating international and domestic topics.

The next meeting will feature a “tag team” presentation by Karen and John Morey and Amy and Dennis Boesen about things to do and see in New York City, both on and off the beaten path. Details on the date, time and location of the next meeting will be published in the weekly bulletin and a sign-up sheet will be available at the Information Desk beginning on June 10th.

We hope you will join us to share your travel adventures and aspirations!
Neelo and I appreciate the prayers, phone calls, emails, cards from PCOC church members after Neelo’s fall outside Red Robin Restaurant on April 14th.

He is improving from a broken collar bone. Especially want to thank members of Lydia Circle for making food and delivering it and appreciate Stan Weyand staying with him while I attended Lydia Circle in April & Jon Boomgaarden staying with him while I did errands.

Also for Lynda Dinsdale coming out to see us on April 18th and delivering food and frozen meals and having prayer together.

Joan Boomgaarden
GALS @ the Gardens

Our second annual GALS (Growing And Loving Servants) evening at Lauritzen Gardens event will be Tuesday, June 20th at 6:00pm for Tempo of Twilight. The concert features Matt Gagne & the Blues Experience, a local Omaha modern blues/rock band. The concert is free for garden members, or included with the cost of a paid garden admission of $10 per person. If you decide to purchase a membership to the Gardens that evening, your admission will be applied to your membership.

Dinner specials are available for $7 per person (with a bottled drink). The featured special that night is a BBQ pork sandwich with baked beans. Additionally chicken salad sandwiches, fruit cups, salad cups, cookies, chips, S’Mores bars and Rice Krispie bars are available for purchase. Outside food and beverages (including wine) are allowed in the gardens on concert nights only. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Tempo of Twilight has become popular so it is suggested that concert goers carpool and get there early. To experience this fun concert and an exciting opportunity for the GALS of Church of the Cross, please sign up at the Information Desk by June 6th. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Voss at StephanieRVoss@gmail.com.

Fellowship for Families – Summer Potluck BBQ! All PCOC families (kids age birth-18) are invited to join us for a summer BBQ on the church patio outside Fellowship Hall following the church service on Sunday, July 16th at 11:00am. Whether you are currently participating in Fellowship for Families or you are interested in joining and meeting other PCOC families, come and join us for food, fellowship, and outdoor fun! Hamburgers, hotdogs and lemonade will be provided. Watch your emails for a signup genius coming soon! Dress is casual for this Sunday event so don your shorts and summer dresses and join us!! Please contact Amy Miller at (402) 290-6526 or miller_family0524@yahoo.com with any questions.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marie Anders

Marie Anders is new to Omaha. Her two children live in Texas with her 2 grandchildren. She enjoys quilting, crafts, reading, exercise, and music. Marie has already joined the Alleluia Singers! She holds a Master of Div. Pastoral Care and is currently is child care provider.

Ron and Charlotte Fehr

Charlotte and Ron Fehr have been in Omaha for 50 year. Charlotte is a retired teacher and is currently a Guest Teacher at Westside public schools. Ron is a former Industrial Art teacher and was owner of Omaha Machine and Supply. The couple was brought to PCOC because of the traditional service, the ministry, and the people. They are looking forward to being a part of a church family.

Jessica and James Downes

Jessica and James Downes attended several services at PCOC and made the decision to join because they enjoyed the service and felt comfortable. The couple is originally from the Kansas City area. Currently Jimmy is an accounting professor and Jessica is a pharmacist. They enjoy running, travel, sports and the outdoors.

Michelle Francis-Stine

Michelle Francis-Stine was attracted to PCOC because of the friendly congregation, fabulous music and the close proximity to her home! She is currently an Information Technology Project Manager. She enjoys her grandchildren, her dog (and her children), quilting, music, the outdoors, and travel.

Julia and Spencer Evers

Julia and Spencer Evers are the proud parents of Brooklynn Jo (6) and Katelynn Lea (4 months). They have been in Omaha for 3 years. Julia is a Juvenile Probation Supervisor and Spencer is the General Manager at Complete Wedding and Events. They enjoy sand volleyball, music and spending time with their family. Brooklynn is involved in Taekwondo and swimming. Katelynn enjoys sleeping and eating.

Lizabeth Huliska

Lizabeth Huliska is the "Chief home executive" of the Huliska household. She enjoys golf, reading, cooking, music, baseball, bowling and family time. Lizabeth is married to Greg Huliska and mother to Ann (Freshman at UNO) and Joey (Freshman at Skutt Catholic).
Casey Knight

Casey Knight, husband of Margaret Knight, is a 6th grade teacher in Ralston Public Schools. He enjoys coaching baseball and also plays in a softball league. Casey and Margaret just had their first child. The couple enjoys traveling and soon-to-be family activities!

Melissa Marvin

Melissa Marvin is the Senior Vice President, Donor Engagement for the United Way. She enjoys travel, tennis, skiing, and movies. She is involved in the arts and is currently involved in education and breaking the cycle of poverty. She has already participated in the Lenten Study and is looking forward learning more ways to become involved in PCOC!

Sharon Marvin Griffin

Sharon Marvin Griffith is a native of Omaha. She is an active member of the Omaha community and enjoys being a part of Joslyn Art Museum, United Way Foundation, Salvation Army Trustee and Millard Foundation. Welcome Sharon to PCOC!

Meghan and Noah McClain

Meghan and Noah McClain are the proud parents of 4 month old Samuel. Noah is employed at Mutual of Omaha as a Marketing Supervisor. Meghan is a Customer Care Manager at Union Pacific. She is active in the Junior League of Omaha. Noah is a chair of Young Professionals of Omaha. They enjoy being active in the community and are excited to get involved at PCOC!

Carol Ann and Claude Smith

Carol Ann and Claude Smith enjoy the friendly congregation, beautiful music, and the sermons at PCOC. The couple has raised four boys. Carol Ann enjoys gardening and cooking. Claude is a hairdresser of 60 years and continues to work 3 days a week at their salon. Claude is President of the Nebraska Bonsai Society and Past president of River City Cactus and Succulent Society, Omaha Violet Society, and Omaha Cage Bird Society.
Getting to know you! ....Amy Miller

Name: Amy Miller – Age 38

Place of birth: Emmetsburg, Iowa

Immediate family member’s names and what they do:  Husband: Ben – Tax Partner at Seim Johnson, LLP; Sophia – Age 7 (1st Grade); Brooklyn – Age 5 (Pre-K); Dogs: Austin (13 years) and Major (12 years)

Education: Bachelor’s in Psychology from UNO; Bachelor’s in Education (K-9) from Peru State College; Master’s in Curriculum & Instruction from Peru State College

Occupation: Currently a stay-at-home mom; formerly an English teacher

Civic or other nonprofit: Teammates Mentor; Girl Scout Leader; YMCA Basketball Coach

Which service do you attend?  9:00

Involvement in PCOC, or other churches: Christian Education Committee; Membership Committee; Deacon; Sunday School teacher; VBS – Preschool Director; GALS

Hobbies:  Running, reading, spending time with family, baking

I have a knack for: worrying, but I try to keep it in check! New Year’s Resolution!

A bad habit I have is: leaving drawers and cupboards open.

My pet peeve is: People who are constantly negative.

What person do you feel had the biggest impact on your life and why?  My husband, Ben. He is so patient and thoughtful and he truly tries to do the right thing in all that he does. He makes me laugh, loves me for who I am and his love for our girls and family is inspiring. Not only is he handsome :) but he’s honestly one of the best people I know. Every day I consider myself lucky to have him in my life.

What is your fondest childhood memory?  Sledding with my dad and brothers and making snow forts.

What would you say is one interesting fact about you that people don’t know? I played basketball in Europe for a few weeks the summer right after graduating from high school.

Most exciting or dangerous thing I’ve ever done: I’d have to say that the most exciting thing I’ve ever done is start a family. I feel truly blessed to be a wife and mom and each week seems to bring something new or exciting to offer. And thankfully not too much danger!

Is there anything in your lifetime that you passed up on doing and wish you had not? Well, I have a feeling that I might someday regret it if I don’t at least attempt to run a full marathon. May have to add that to my bucket list.
For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.

Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

"For the Beauty of the Earth" will offer ideas we can try in our daily lives to care for our planet. See if any fit your lifestyle and frame of mind! The 12 topics this year will include: Reduce; Reuse; Recycle; Refuse; Rot; Your Food; Conserve Energy; Conserve Water; Out in Nature; Home and Finances; Garden; and Your Work. These ideas are taken from "Global Stewards" a practical and thought provoking website.

Your Food
Switching to an animal-free vegan diet: is a powerful way to help protect our environment, help ensure everyone has enough to eat and get healthy. The United Nations report Livestock's Long Shadow–Environmental Issues and Options, which concludes that the livestock sector (primarily cows, chickens, and pigs) emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to our most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global. It is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases - responsible for 18% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO2 equivalents. By comparison, all transportation emits 13.5% of the CO2. It also generates 64% of the ammonia, which contributes to acid rain and acidification of ecosystems. In addition, the enormous amounts of grain required to feed livestock reduces the amount of food available for the world's hungry.

Local: Buy food (and drink - ideally tap - water) from local companies whenever possible. find local farmer's markets, community supported agriculture, restaurants that cook with regional cuisine, and food cooperatives through Local Harvest.

(continued on page 14)
Vegetarian/Vegan Diet: Consider becoming a vegetarian or vegan (no animal products). Informational sites:  
Why Vegan  
Vegan Action

Meat-Free Diet Resources: Support for switching to a meat-free diet:  
Vegetarian Starter Kit from Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine  
Responsible Food Shopping: Whenever possible, shop at farmers markets, food co-ops, local health food stores, and socially and environmentally responsible chain stores (research tools: Food Scores and Better World Shopper).

Healthy School Lunches: Support efforts to increase healthy food choices in school lunches (US)  
Green Calculator: Learn about the effect your diet is having on the environment with the Eating Green Calculator.  
Non-GMO: There are many organizations that are working to protect our food supply from genetically engineered products. Your pocketbook is your most effective voice.  
Unprocessed Food: Eat unprocessed/unpackaged food whenever possible.  
Smart Seafood: If you purchase seafood, consult a seafood choices chart to select environmentally smart seafood. Also, learn more about avoiding mercury in your seafood at NRDC.  
Shade-Grown Coffee: Buy shade-grown coffee to protect desperately needed migratory bird habitats. Many "fair trade certified" coffees are shade-grown. Here's a list of bird-friendly coffee companies.  
Free-Range: If you eat meat, buy "free-range" raised animals.

Something to "chew on": Switching to an animal-free vegan diet is a powerful way to help protect our environment, help ensure everyone has enough to eat and get healthy. The United Nations report Livestock's Long Shadow–Environmental Issues and Options, which concludes that the livestock sector (primarily cows, chickens, and pigs) emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to our most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global. It is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases - responsible for 18% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO2 equivalents. By comparison, all transportation emits 13.5% of the CO2.

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<td>4</td>
<td>5:30 Evensong 11:00 Pancake Man</td>
<td>5:30 Evensong</td>
<td>9:15 M&amp;M Exercise 10:00 Tai Chi &amp; Music 11:00 M&amp;M Exercise 5:30 Congregational Life 6:00 Communication 6:30 Bldg. &amp; Grds. 6:30 CE 7:00 Worship &amp; Music</td>
<td>9:15 Staff 11:30 49ers</td>
<td>9:00 PW Mission Day 9:15 M&amp;M Exercise 10:00 Tai Chi &amp; Music 11:00 M&amp;M Exercise</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>10:00 Worship 4:30 Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House Sr. High Mission Trip 6/11-6/17</td>
<td>9:15 M&amp;M Exercise 10:00 Tai Chi &amp; Music 11:00 M&amp;M Exercise Russia Trip 6/12-6/19</td>
<td>9:45 Staff 5:30 Membership 6:30 Mission</td>
<td>9:15 M&amp;M Exercise 10:00 Tai Chi &amp; Music 11:00 M&amp;M Exercise</td>
<td>Cross Currents Deadline</td>
<td>Parents Night Out</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>10:00 Worship/Communion</td>
<td>9:15 M&amp;M Exercise 10:00 Tai Chi &amp; Music 11:00 M&amp;M Exercise 6:30-9 Youth Choir Festival 6:30-9 Chess Camp 7:00 Deacons</td>
<td>9:15 Staff 5:30 Finance 6:00 GALS 6:30-9 Youth Choir Festival 6:30-9 Chess Camp</td>
<td>9:15 M&amp;M Exercise 10:00 Tai Chi &amp; Music 11:00 M&amp;M Exercise</td>
<td>8-3 Omaha Seminary Foundation 6:30-9 Youth Choir Festival 6:30-9 Chess Camp</td>
<td>10:00 Rehearsal Youth Choir Festival</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>10:00 Worship Youth Festival Choir 11:00 John and Bernice Hall 60th Wedding Anniversary</td>
<td>9:15 M&amp;M Exercise 10:00 Tai Chi &amp; Music 11:00 M&amp;M Exercise 6:00 Parents Advisory Board 7:00 Session</td>
<td>9:15 Staff</td>
<td>9:00 Staff Planning Meeting Office Closed in AM</td>
<td>9:15 M&amp;M Exercise 10:00 Tai Chi &amp; Music 11:00 M&amp;M Exercise</td>
<td>12-1 M&amp;M Luncheon</td>
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NEW PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL

Glory to God

If you wish to purchase a new hymnal to be used and dedicated in worship beginning Sunday, September 10, 2017, please note the following:

ALL gifts to this campaign are welcome. If you would like to dedicate a hymnal, then follow the instructions below.

Fill out a form for EACH memorial/honorarium.
Write a check for the total amount, and make it payable to PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS. The suggested designation for each hymnal is $20.
Place form(s) and check in the offering plate or leave in the church office. If mailing, please address to Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 S. 114th St., Omaha, NE 68144.

Deadline for placing an order is Sunday, July 30. A listing of all donors and dedications will be included in the September 10 bulletin.

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NEW HYMNAL ORDER FORM

Please fill out ONE order for EACH memorial/honorarium hymnal designated.
Please PRINT
Make check payable to Presbyterian Church of the Cross
Suggested Designation: $20 each

Given to the Glory of God and in honor of

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

Given to the Glory of God and in memory of

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

Given by___________________________________________________________
Next Cross Currents Deadline is:  
Third Friday of June  
June 16, 2017