

# Cross Currents



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## Remembering Don

As I was in the midst of a trip to Key West, to marry Brianne Miller, the daughter of my good friend and former choir director in Pennsylvania, I received a call that Don Klohr had passed away.

Don had been a life-long pastor in the United Congregational Church serving in Strasburg, Ohio; Burlington, Iowa; and Council Bluffs. Thanks to a tip from George Reid, who had served with Don on the YMCA board in Council Bluffs, I talked Don into working here part-time soon after his retirement. That was the summer of 1991 and he was here until the end of 1992, when Ronnie Osborn began.

Don arrived here as the church was transitioning from a tumultuous time. In the early 1980's the congregation had tried to have co-pastors. The problem emerged because they were theological opposites. This worked about as poorly as you might imagine. That time was followed by an interim pastor and associate pastor, then a naïve 37 year old... me. My first attempt to have an Associate Pastor was also a bad fit for the needs of the congregation and the relationship was dissolved with that Associate after 27 months in June of 1990. Some folks honestly wondered if Church of the Cross could ever have a staff that worked well together....

In came Don, with his congenial, unflappable, straight-forward style, and from that moment on the pastors of this congregation have worked well together. When I think of Don, two things come immediately to mind. The first was that Don had gone from a larger multiple-staff church in Burlington, Iowa to a mid-sized church in Council Bluffs. Since the usual route for capable pastors was onward and upward to bigger churches and better paying situations, I asked Don about this. He shared his feeling that his gifts and style and sense of productivity seemed best suited for a situation like Council Bluffs. It was a good lesson to learn. After about 10 years here, I had to consider the prospect of moving onward and upward myself. Don's reflections were helpful as I considered the staff I had, the people of this congregation, and the size church I felt best working in. I opted to remain and continue into some of the most productive years of ministry here at Church of the Cross.

A second memory comes from our renovation – when we moved the offices to the central location on the main concourse. In the process the main church office and Associate's office moved to Fellowship Hall. Don said, with his desk just sitting out there on the edge of the carpet in the front of Fellowship Hall, he had an identity crisis. He was not sure that he wasn't a loan officer in a bank – rather than an Associate Pastor in a church. That was Don's humor.

Many years after Don's time here, his daughter Ann Pearson joined the congregation and is a vital part of our congregation.

He was a good man, a good pastor, a good friend, and not a bad loan officer either. He is missed.

*Kirk*



## **An Invitation**

One of the greatest privileges I have as one of your pastors are the opportunities to be present and available to you during those times of life when you need it most. Whether that means sitting with you in the hospital, stopping to chat on a Sunday morning, or sitting down to talk in my office, I want you to know that I am here.

I have heard a couple of people say recently that they wanted to stop by and talk to a pastor about something, but figured we were probably too busy. I think it's fair to say that we are all busy people, and I know that my schedule has the ability to fill up pretty quickly if I don't have the foresight to make time for rest and the unscheduled needs and responsibilities that crop up. I have learned in my own life that when I'm not careful, I quickly find that I have said "yes" to far too many obligations, and end up rushed, resentful, and exhausted.

As I think about the example of Jesus, I am reminded that he never walked by someone in need, no matter what he had on his schedule for the day. Even though he had important work to do every day—places to go, people to see—he always had time to help, no matter who the person was or what the need was. I think there is something in that example for all of us. The temptation is very great to walk by when people need help because we just don't have time right now or assume there is nothing we can do. And so often we schedule ourselves so tightly that we don't leave room to allow ourselves opportunities to be present and available to people in need. But what if we made space in our lives to be able to say "yes" at those times of greatest need?

In light of all of this, I wanted to issue an invitation to you. I want you to know that even in the midst of the busyness of life, my door is open to you—whether it's an emergency or something less urgent. If you just want to talk to someone about something, you are always welcome to contact Kirk or myself. We genuinely want to know what is going on in your lives. If we don't know, it becomes very difficult to support you, and we want to be able to be there for you—as a church staff, and on a larger level when the situation merits it, to be able to pool the compassion and resources of the congregation to walk with you, too.

As an added reminder, our Board of Deacons stands ready to serve and assist all members of the congregation. Whether it means helping you run some errands after surgery, providing a home-cooked meal during a difficult time of life, or taking the time to listen and pray with you, they are eager and excited to reach out in love and service to you. If you have a need, please don't hesitate to contact me or the moderator of the Deacons, Matt Will, for assistance.

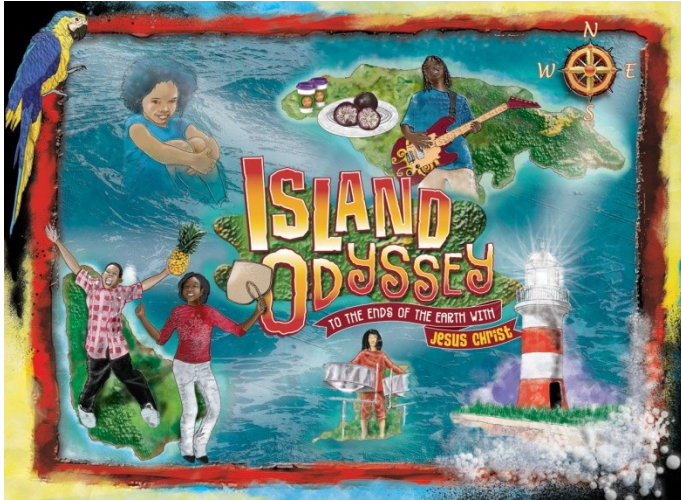
One of the great joys of being part of a community of faith is that we are just that: a community. And as Jesus has charged us to extend ourselves in service to all men and women in need, we have the task of caring for our brothers and sisters in Christ here at Church of the Cross. I continue to be blessed and encouraged by the love and care that I see congregation members showing to one another, the ways in which you reach out in service, and the warm and welcoming atmosphere that you create for any who might walk through our doors. Our job is never done. It takes each and every one of us to do this important work. Thank you for all you do!

Blessings, Nadia

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# Christian Education

## Vacation Bible School



Get ready for an exciting island adventure at this summer's VBS! **June 13-17 from 9am-Noon** we'll be journeying with Paul through the islands of Cyprus, Crete, and Malta to learn about hearing God's voice, following His way, and being true to God's plan for us. From there we'll meet up with John at the Isle of Patmos before we voyage even further to the Isles of Fiji to celebrate the joy of spreading the good news wherever we go! We hope you can join us on this grand adventure filled with fun, friendship, crafts, and music. **We are now taking registrations** for those 3 years old by May 31st to those entering 5th grade in the fall; just stop by the Information desk or download or form from the church website. The cost is just \$10 with a cap of \$25 per family. This year we'd like to encourage everyone to bring a friend to VBS—they don't need to be a member of our church to register! If you register with a friend who hasn't attended our VBS before you and your friend get to visit the Treasure Chest on the first day to pick out a prize. This year our mission theme will be a fundraiser for the Narnia Center in Russia so that our kids can join in our church's commitment to Christian mission in Russia. We hope to see you all there!

## MOPS NEWS

Our last MOPS meeting for the year will take place on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. We will watch the Momology DVD series on "Grandscape" and discuss the last section of the book.

Child care is always provided.

On Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> we will hold our MOPS Family Picnic from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the church. Families are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. Meat, paper products and beverage will be provided.

We will have special activities for all the kids.

MOMSnex is a **NEW** program for Moms of elementary age children (grades 1-6) and will be starting up next fall.

This group will also meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday nights of the month from 6:30 – 8:00. Early registration for MOMSnex and MOPS is available now. If you register before June 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a discounted membership fee of \$21.95. Registration forms can be found at the Information Desk. For more information, please contact Sheri at the church office.

## Pictorial Directory

If you've had your picture taken, requested a binder or did not have your picture taken, but requested a pictorial directory with binder, your copy is now in the Office. Please stop by and pick up at your earliest convenience. Thank You.

## DON & MILLIE'S CARING & SHARING DAY



We had another successful day last month with \$31.26 going towards the Discovery Preschool deficit. Thank

you to everyone who participated! Our next Caring & Sharing Day is SUNDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>! If you're looking for a place to take your Mom out for lunch, keep Don & Millie's in mind! Remember, 20% of every dollar spent on food or drink will come back to the church!

## Thank You

From Ann Pearson and Family:  
Thank you so very much for the outpouring of love, prayers and support during the recent death of my father, Don Klohr. Your warmth and support has meant a lot during this difficult time. One of Dad's greatest gifts to me was to encourage me to become part of this wonderful church family. Love and thanks to all of you.

## Discovery Preschool News

Discovery Preschool continues to collect used books. Come to the Book Fair in Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, May 18th 6-8 p.m. and Sunday, May 22nd 10-11 a.m. and in between on our honor.

**Family Picnic**, 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, May 18th. Join us for hot dogs and a Pot Luck! Fire truck and pony ring expected.

Do you have a plan for Mother's Day? Don and Millie's discount for Discovery, Sunday, May 8th 11-3.

## June 49ers Meeting

We will celebrate the red, white and blue with a program all about our American Flag by Suzanne Jarman.

Come to Lakeside Village 174th and Francis for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on June 7th. For your menu choice call Dorothy Thompson, 402-391-1758 or Mary Kuhn, 402-333-1710. Reservations \$9.00 payable in advance by June 2nd.



Help celebrate America's Flag Day which is on June 14, 2011.



Spirit of Mission

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSION

Presbyterian Men and the Mission Committee invite you choose from 2 mission opportunities this year.

1. Bag lunches for the athletes, coaches and volunteers participating in the 2011 Special Olympics of Nebraska State Summer Games on Saturday, May 21st, from 6:30 – 9:00 am at Creighton University. We eat breakfast in Becker Hall and then bag several hundred lunches.
2. Escort athletes after they finish their track and field event to the award stand and then ensure they unite with their coach at Benson High School on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 5:15 – 9:00 pm.

These are great opportunities for families to serve in mission together to benefit others. Prayfully consider serving in mission outreach in these ways. Please sign up at the Information Desk. Contact Jon Boomgaarden with questions at 402-334-1946 or 402-981-7164.

### Cross Currents

The *Cross Currents* is published bi-monthly by the Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 South 114th Street, Omaha NE 68144-1799



# May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Education 11:10 Worship/ Confirmation 4-6 Jr. High 6:00 Sr. High Par- ents Meeting 6-8 Sr. High Cross Currents Deadline	2 10:00 Staff 5:30 Congregational Life	3 11:30 49ers 1:00 Tuesday Study bunch	4 6:30 PieceMakers 6:30 Chamber Sing- ers 7:30 Alleluia Singers	5 10:45 Discovery Mother's Day Tea	6 10:45 Discovery Mother's Day Tea	7
8 9:00 & 11:10 Wor- ship 10:00 Education Don & Millie's Discount Sunday	9 10:00 Staff 5:30 Worship & Music Sub- Committee 6:30 Bldg & Grds 7:00 CE	10 1:00 Tuesday Study Bunch 5:30 Membership & Evangelism 6:30-8:30 MOPS 7:00 Mission	11 6:30 PieceMakers 6:30 Chamber Sing- ers 7:30 Alleluia Singers	12	13 Jr. High Retreat 6:30 Friday Night Gourmets	14
15 9:00 & 11:10 Wor- ship/Pantry Sunday 10:00 Education 10:00 Senior Brunch 12:00 New Member Class 4-6 Jr. High 12-3 Sr. High Picnic Cross Currents	16 10:00 Staff 7:00 Deacons	17 1:00 Tuesday Study Bunch 5:30 Finance	18 5:15 PCOC Book Group 6-8 Discovery Picnic 6:30 PieceMakers 6:30 Chamber Sing- ers 7:30 Alleluia Singers	19 4:30-6 PW Coordi- nating Team	20	21
22 9:00 & 11:10 Wor- ship/CE Recognition 10:00 Education	23 10:00 Staff 7:00 Deacons	24 6:30-8:30 MOPS	25 6:30 PieceMakers 6:30 Chamber Sing- ers 7:30 Alleluia Singers	26 9:30 Ruth Circle 7:00 Lydia Circle	27	28 9:30 Hiking and Birding Club
29 10:00 Worship	30 Office Closed Memorial Day	31				

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Worship 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.  
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Barbara Elliott	Director, Discovery Preschool
Robin R. High	Associate Organist
Julie Hansen	Secretary/Receptionist
Linda Hulsey	Director, Credo Choir
Jayne Frederickson, Kristi Treu,	Directors, Childrens' Choirs

## Hiking and Birding Club

Join the Hiking and Birding Club for a Spring walk at Walnut Creek Lake. We will meet in the north parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on May 28th. All are welcome. Call Tom Stalnaker at 390-9913 for more information.

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**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:  
May 15, 2011  
Mailing Date is: May 18, 2011**