

Cross Currents



An Excellent Day - Living Our Faith

This past Sunday we celebrated All-Saints Day here at Church of the Cross. It was a Sunday that had a number of the pieces that make this congregation special.

In worship, we gathered and remembered our members who have passed away since the last All-Saints Celebration a year ago. These names included Charter members; parts of multi-generation families, and single individuals who have been a part of this congregational. We recognized gifts that were given to the church in honor or memory of others. We heard Scripture and sermon and were reminded of the centrality of resurrection to our beliefs - and the truth that 'the best is yet to come.' In the two services we heard the musical offerings of: The Carillon Choir; the Sunbeams; the Carol Choir; and the Alleluia singers. We celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion. During the time with the Younger Church, Nadia had 36 at one service and 4 at the other.

In between the services there were classes for all ages including four different classes for adults. There were baked goods on sale by the Junior High Fellowship (many baked at a lock-in they had Friday night). The Senior Highs were inviting us all to a lunch next Sunday (the 14th) to hear about their Mission Trip this past summer and Triennium (a national youth event). The Building and Grounds folks were thanking us for the 40 volunteers who cleaned the grounds on Saturday. The Christian Education Committee was encouraging sign-up for the Advent Worship on November 21st. Deacons were encouraging sign-ups for the Advent Dinner (December 5th).

It was the first anniversary of Nadia's arrival in our midst, and Regina Maas was visiting and celebrating the 10th anniversary of her ordination.

This is a single day snapshot of a portion of what we do here...! These are the programs and events that add meaning and purpose to our lives. Our stewardship campaign: '*Living Our Faith*' supports everything we do... Ninety percent of the financial backing for our staff, mission, and programming comes from pledges of members. And in times when some are faced with severe economic challenges - we need others who are able to step up and grow to fill any void.

We have so much to offer as a congregation. Thank you for your continued faithfulness.

Kirk

Christian Education

IN APPRECIATION TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped with our Cornerstone program during the 1st semester. This wonderful program couldn't exist without the support of all of our dedicated volunteers! Just look at the number of people who have helped on Wednesday evenings since we started on September 8th!!

Kitchen Workers (many of these people help every week!)

Jean Brady
 Terri Young
 Catherine Brady
 Nichole Brady
 Mark Brady
 Joan Gayle Chapin
 Eileen Wright
 Sharon Sievers
 Tanya Mitzel
 Janneane Gerot
 Rock Sumner
 Anna Sumner
 Marv Treu
 Cassie Treu
 Kristi Treu
 Mia Treu
 Lyssa Treu
 Zach Metzger
 Karen Metzger
 Don Metzger
 MaryLynn Bennett
 John Bennett
 Stacy Voss
 Linda Rathman
 Doug Rathman
 Larry Flarity
 Gail Hille
 Stan Hille
 Paula Allen
 Keith Allen
 Karen Morey
 Linda Miller
 Rob Koch
 Jean Waters
 Patti Ritchie
 Rana Johnson
 Jennifer Bennett
 Mirela Mlynska
 Karen Smith
 Kristen Hinz

Teachers & Leaders

Patty Wahlgren
 Steve Sloan
 Mary Lynn Bennett
 Sue Thomas
 Kirk Ryckman
 Rich Morhardt
 Nadia Mullin
 Nancy Nicas
 Jayne Frederickson
 Kristi Treu
 Linda Hulsey
 Mirela Mlynska
 Bev Koch
 Susie Stoddard
 Susan Jones



The 2nd semester of Cornerstone begins on Wednesday, January 5th. I hope YOUR family will join us on Wednesday nights for fellowship, fun, learning and music for all ages.

Sheri Sessions

Advent Workshop is Coming Soon! Fellowship Hall Prepare for Advent! Come and Join Us!

This year's Advent Workshop is planned for **Sunday, November 21st, 2010**. We have many exciting crafts planned for all ages! This year our family project is called the **"Christmas Card Tree"**. This project will require **LOTS OF CARDS!** We are asking that you look through your supply and see if you have any that you would like to donate to help us with this project. We will have a basket set up at the Information Desk for you to drop them off. Some of the other craft projects we will be working on are Pine Cone Carolers, Snowman Ornament and The Country Star Ornament. You need to sign up in advance in order for us to have enough supplies on hand for everyone. The sign-up sheet and samples of our selected projects have been showing up at the Information Center.



We are also having an **Adult Craft Table** to help with making more **Chrismons**. These are the ornaments that have been decorating our Sanctuary trees for many years. We need to make more to help replace some that have broken over the years and also to decorate some additional Christmas trees we will have this year. There is a place on the sign-up sheet if you are interested in helping with this craft project.



As many of you already know, our Senior High Youth Group plays a very important role in the success of this event. Because they did such a wonderful job last year, we have asked them to prepare our lunch again. Lunch will be served following the 11:10 service. We will be asking for a free will offering that will help support their annual mission trip. The Christian Education Committee is very excited to help support their fundraising efforts for what many have described as life changing experiences on their mission trips. These mission trips have allowed our youth to touch the lives of camp goers and people who have lost their homes, as well as to explore the depth and strength of their own faith.

There will be lots of fellowship, great food and wonderful handmade treasures to make! This event is fun for the whole family! Grandmas and Grandpas are welcome! Ask a friend to join you at this church-wide event! Come and join us for Advent Workshop!

Fellowship on Sunday Mornings

Do you enjoy some time on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall? Look forward to having a hot drink or some lemonade and a cookie or two while visiting with friends and getting to know a few folks better? Terrific! If you haven't recently participated in that fellowship opportunity, we hope you will give it a try; we think you'll like it.

We also invite you to consider co-hosting it sometime. We're calling it "Sunday Morning Fellowship." This year three persons host each Sunday, including at least one who is already familiar with making coffee, etc. so that the "learning curve" isn't a burden for first-timers. We're looking for additional hosts for the second Sunday of each month and also on the occasional "fifth Sunday."

There is a hosting sign-up sheet at the information center in the Narthex and also hand-outs describing what's involved. Questions can be directed to John Fettig (402-339-2121 or johnfettig@cox.net), this year's Sunday Morning Fellowship Chair, or to any member of the Congregational Life Committee.

Thanks!

Congregational Life Committee

Pam Otto (Moderator)

Sue Jenkins

Jean Carey

Susan McDowell

Judy Arms

Karen Metzger

Dawn Buchanan

Kathy Nickel

Nancy Drews

Nancy Nicas

John Fettig

Mary Ann Pederson



Advent Dinner

Sunday - December 5, 2010 – 5:00 pm

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”

As the cool crisp days of fall evaporate into the cold days of winter, our thoughts turn to the holiday season and all of the special characteristics that come along with it. We have a wonderful tradition here at Church of the Cross to help us get into the spirit of the season. It is the Advent Dinner. This year marks the 21st year for this event. This is a special occasion for all of us to gather together and enjoy a wonderful meal, fellowship, entertainment, and enjoy singing Christmas carols with family and friends.

Our theme this year is “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”. Of course those words can bring out many thoughts and personal feelings of what Christmas means to each of us. To some, it’s the first snowfall. To others, it could be the displays in the stores of all the Christmas decorations and the ads that tell us to get out and find that special gift for someone. To most of us, it is the preparation to celebrate the birth of our Lord.



Our entertainment will be provided by the OPS Mini-Singers who will perform in the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be directly afterwards.

We have an Italian Menu planned for this year’s dinner. We will have salad, green beans, a choice of lasagna, spaghetti with marinara sauce, or chicken tetrazzini. For dessert, we will have a choice of cheesecake or ice cream and cookies. There will be caroling and burning of the Yule log out on the back patio after dinner.

There is no charge to attend this wonderful event, but a free-will donation will be welcomed.

Make sure to stop by the Information Center to sign up to attend this wonderful traditional dinner we have here at Church of the Cross.

Cross Your Hearts Moms

Some mothers of our PCOC youth who are in college meet a few times per year to put together care packages for our children. We enjoy the mom's fellowship, plus getting updates on our college students. We all bring items and pay the postage (around \$11) and take turns hosting. If you would like to participate in our "Cross Your Heart Moms" group, please contact Jean Waters at waters.jean@gmail.com or 991-3278.

Discovery Preschool News

Frozen Braid Bread and Christmas Cactuses are being sold as a fundraiser for our picnic pony expenses. Place orders by November 30 to receive orders by December 11th at the Santa Breakfast. Forms are available at the Information Center or call Barb for order forms, 333-8742.

49ers' Christmas Party

HO, HO, HO! It's time to make reservations for the 49ers' Christmas Party which will be held Tuesday, December 7th, 1:30 a.m., at Les and Helen Stanley's home, 10328 Polk Street. Call Ron and Donna Mau, 894-1593, by December 4, for reservations and food assignments.

Cross Currents

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

Gifts and Memorials

One of the many ways in which our church is unique is that memorial funds or gifts can be designated for specific items, portions of items, or projects from the "Gift and Memorial Items" list. The items or projects selected are then recognized in worship, the bulletin, Cross Currents, and the Memorial Book, where records have been kept since 1957. Your choice of a memorial or gift is special and welcomed. Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

An Anonymous donor gifted funds for the round side table located between the chairs in the lobby. The table completes this space and is functional as well.

An anonymous donor gifted 2 new Alaskan Fir Deluxe Christmas trees for the sanctuary. These 10 foot trees closely replicate our present trees, which are old, worn, and difficult to assemble.

Joan and Neelo Boomgaarden, in memory of Joan's brother, Kenneth Helmich, provided the funds for blinds in Room 13. The blinds will be useful in creating a more comfortable learning and meeting space.

Gwen Elsasser chose to use the memorial funds given in memory of her husband, Carl, to purchase items for the Great Room. These funds provided a DVD/VCR combo player, 6 bean bag chairs, and a large rug for use by the entrance to the Great Room.

In memory of her husband, Rich, Jean Englemann, donated funds to complete the purchase of the round table now placed in the lobby with the new chairs.

In memory of Ed and Dorothy Carlson, Larry and Judy Keating provided the funds for the parking lot repairs and complete resurfacing of the south parking lot. The repairs included extending the south sidewalk to the west and adding a handicap accessible ramp. The south parking lot resurfacing included striping and painting parking spaces.

Ruth and Charles Madison used the memorial funds given in memory of Ruth's mother, Frances Hoffman, to purchase a foosball table for the Great Room. This foosball table will provide hours of fun for our young people.

Virginia Malone gifted funds in memory of her mother, Wilma Wagner Hughes, to purchase blinds for the west window of Room 15. These blinds will allow Room 15 to be more comfortable and useful at all times of the day.

An Anonymous donor donated funds to complete the purchase of the blinds on the west window of Room 15.

In memory of her husband, Robert, Jean Thorson chose to use the memorial funds to purchase the 2 new Martha Washington chairs now placed in the lobby. Our members have commented that they are comfortable as well as attractive.

In memory of their son, Rob, Al and Dixie Williams have purchased and donated a variety of new children's books that will be added to our church library.



MISSION MINDED WOMEN AT CHURCH OF THE CROSS

The Presbyterian Women at Church of the Cross made 175 Christmas Stockings for the Prison Ministries. We donated \$200.00 to the Prison Ministries through the Pres-



byterian Outreach. The Congregation at Church of the Cross donated 400 Snickers bars to the Prison Ministries for the Christmas stocking program. These stockings are often the first Christmas gifts many of the convicts have ever received. They keep the stockings up all year in their cells.

The Missouri River Valley Presbyterian Women donated baby items to the Stork's Nest in Clarinda IA. The Stork's



Nest is a group which helps new mothers. They offer pre-natal classes as well as parenting classes for young families. The Church of the Cross PW donated a baby buggy, baby carriers, baby clothes and \$200.00 for the Stork's Nest to purchase infant safety restraint seats for cars. We would like to thank all of the women who donated items for the Stork's Nest in Clarinda.

Study as Spiritual Discipline

This week our Wednesday evening class discussed the discipline of study. We reminisced about our school days, the classes and teachers we enjoyed, and the ones we didn't enjoy. We traced the evolution of our study habits as we progressed through elementary school, to high school, and on to college and beyond. We all had different methods of studying, some that worked well and others that merely helped us get by. But in one way or another, we have all faced the need to study.

So what makes studying a spiritual discipline? Well, if you attend a weekly Bible *study* or a Sunday School class you are engaging in the spiritual discipline of study. As Presbyterians we have a rich history and tradition of study dating back to our founders. When Presbyterian missionaries would go out to reach the unreached, they would build schools for the people they were ministering to. Presbyterians are known for a love of learning, for a willingness to think and ask hard questions, and for a dedication to serious study of the Bible. A love of study is written into the very fabric of our tradition as Presbyterians!

Richard Foster writes that study is a "learned" discipline. We don't just wake up one day and magically become Bible scholars. As with all of the disciplines, study takes practice. The Bible is a big book and there are thousands of years of history, language, and culture reflected on its pages. In the same way that our words can hardly be taken out of our own context, the stories of Scripture must be read and understood within their own context of the ancient world. We regard the Bible as a holy and sacred writing; we believe it is inspired and has authority in how we live our lives. If we believe scripture is important, then we need to do everything we can to understand it. It is hard for Scripture to have authority in our lives if we don't fully comprehend what we're reading. Study can help us do just that.

Theology (the study of God) and biblical study are not reserved only for scholars or clergy. It is a practice for all of us to enjoy. Maybe you don't see yourself as much of a student. Maybe the idea of surrounding yourself with commentaries and history books makes you more nervous than it does excited. That's okay! Don't stress out about trying to learn Greek or Hebrew overnight. Sign up for a class at church and begin there. Borrow or purchase a study Bible and allow the added information to guide you as you read God's word. The point of study isn't to become an expert. The point is that as we study we are invited to learn more about the triune God we worship and follow and the word he left for us in Scripture. It is an invitation to grow in knowledge and relationship. For next time: Simplicity.

Blessings, Nadia

Dates to Remember

November 17—Last Cornerstone for Fall—Cornerstone begins again on January 5, 2011

November 21—New Member Class

November 21—12:00 Advent Workshop

November 24—7:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 25 & 26—Office Closed

November 28—Communion

November 28—Cross Currents Deadline

November 28—Cut-off date to order Christmas Poinsettias

THANKS

The annual Fall Clean-Up Day, Saturday, November 6th, was a great success with a record number of volunteers!

A huge thanks goes to all those folks who pitched in to help: Bob Knightly, our organizer, Jim and Joan Gayle Chapin, Reece Conner, Becky Dole, Bill Ferrand, Anne Flairty, Dave Gazzetta, Tim Goodman, Doug and Joan Hartman, Fred Henry, the Phil, Rana, Sean and Mary Johnson, Laura and Susan Jones, Reva Knightly, Bev, Rob, Taylor, Morgan and Duncan Koch, Frank McMullen, Don and Zach Metzger, Mike and Nadia Mullin, Ken Nisley, Dave Pederson, Doug and Matt Reid, Patty Ritchie, Amen Sekle, Don and Sharon Sievers, Aaron and Micah Stoddard, Ed Ticknor and Stanton Weyand. Bob says these 40 hard workers put forth outstanding effort! You can thank them in person when you next see them.

Thanks also to Frank McMullen for providing the snacks for all who participated. It was a grand day! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

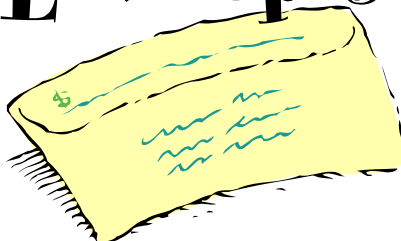


DEACONS' THANKS-GIVING CARE & SHARE

One of the special offerings the congregation supports for the work of the Deacons is the CARE & SHARE funded by the Thanksgiving Offering. Your gifts to this Offering are collected during November and December and then used after the first of the year to help folks in need in the wider Omaha area. Each Deacon spends \$150 on groceries for a family unit that has been identified by the Visiting Nurses Association as needing this assistance.

Since not every family has requested an envelope box for their contributions, at this time of the year we highlight this fund with extra envelopes in the pews and enclosing one in Cross Currents. Of course, you can simply note 'Care & Share' in the memo portion of your check.

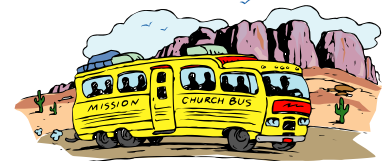
Offering Envelopes



SR. HIGH MISSION TRIP & TRIENNium PRESENTATION

Mark your calendars now for this Sunday, November 14th, 12:00 – 1:30 P.M.

The Senior High youth are pleased to present a slide show and report on their mission trip as well as their exciting experience at Triennium.



Mission Trip

Last June, 26 youth and adults flew to Glacier Park Presbyterian Camp and spent 8 days preparing the camp for their summer programs. During lunch, you will hear the thrilling adventures of reroofing the cabins, painting the craft cabin, and building a 12 foot shelter for the archery range. Thirteen of our youth attended Triennium at Purdue University last July. They will also have a slideshow and report to share.

We appreciated your support for both events and now would like to share our experiences with you. We hope you will plan to attend this Sunday!

Presbyterian Church of the Cross
1517 South 114th Street
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Worship 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.
Church School 10:00 a.m.
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Www.organvesper.com

Staff

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dr. Kirk A. Ryckman | Pastor |
| Rev. Nadia Mullin | Associate Pastor |
| Dana Sloan M.M. | Minister of Music |
| June Fettig | Business Administrator |
| Sheri Sessions | Christian Education Director |
| Barbara Elliott | Director, Discovery Preschool |
| Robin R. High | Associate Organist |
| Julie Hansen | Secretary/Receptionist |
| Linda Hulsey | Director, Youth Choir |
| Jayne Frederickson, Kristi Treu, | Directors, Childrens' Choirs |



STAN AND CAROL HALE ARE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD RECIPIENTS

On Tuesday, October 23, 2010 Stan and Carol Hale of



Presbyterian Church of the Cross were recognized by the Church Women United of Omaha with the Human Rights Award. Stan and Carol make several trips each month driving Nebraska children and their parents or guardians to receive medical treatment at the Shrine Hospital in Minneapolis MN. Each year people

across the nation and throughout the world are recognized by the Church Women United for their support of Human Rights. The theme of this year's award was "Living the Challenge, Uniquely Called" and we thought Stan and Carol and what the Shrine does to help children with orthopedic medical needs was worthy of this award. After all, the Shrine does so much to help children who are living the challenge of their abilities yet who are so uniquely called children of God. We want to thank Stan and Carol Hale and the entire Shrine on their mission to improve the lives of children with orthopedic medical needs.

CROSS CURRENTS

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1517 South 114th Street
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**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
November 28, 2010
Mailing Date is December 1, 2010**