

Cross Currents



A Midsummer Building Talk

About four years ago we embarked upon a Capital Campaign for construction. About three years ago we began to build. About two years ago we moved into the building. About one year ago we had a second Campaign to retire much of the remaining debt.

When we began to discuss the building and campaign: some said we shouldn't build anything since times were tough; some said we should build everything we think we might need for the future. In the wisdom of the congregation and its leadership we chose a middle route, building the key piece to our future programming with the new wing, and addressing key upgrades to the existing facility. By the time it was done we had new office space, classrooms, choir rehearsal room, a great room for youth, and secure child care. We also reroofed the sanctuary, replaced our old a/c and air handling units, upgraded the preschool area, and repaired and replaced the south parking lot. The cost for all these endeavors was about \$3.2 million dollars.

Our first campaign raised \$2.2 million and by the time the 3 year receiving of money was complete, members paid 104% of their pledges. As we opened the building people were wildly enthusiastic about its appearance and usefulness. One year ago we determined to shrink the debt with a second Capital Campaign. The congregation responded with more than \$820,000 in pledges for the next three years. These have been coming in steadily - we have received about \$400,000 through the end of June. The great thing about payments that come in earlier is that there is less interest to pay each month.

When this 2nd Capital Campaign has collected all of its pledges in August, 2013 - the total amount owed for all of the improvements should be approximately \$200,000. Not bad for a difficult economic period.

The faithfulness of the congregation in these commitments has allowed us to have not only an excellent staff (perhaps the best I have ever worked with), and a great congregation, but also a building that is modern, efficient, and helpful to our continued mission and ministry both today, and for the next generation.

I thought you might like this update...

Kirk

Christian Education

RECEPTION FOR SENIOR HIGH ADVISORS



You are cordially invited to attend a reception in

honor of the four retiring Senior High Youth Advisors on Sunday, July 24th, after the 10:00 worship service. Angela Holdren, Quinn McQuire, Mike Morey, and Mike Mullin have faithfully served as youth advisors, giving countless hours of their time, talent and energy to the youth of PCOC. We want to show our appreciation by honoring them at this reception. We will have cake and punch in Fellowship Hall, and a few other surprises for them. The Senior Highs will also be sharing pictures and talking about their mission trip to Stronghold, Illinois last month. We hope you will be able to join us for this memorable event.

The Christian Education Committee

Thanks

My heartfelt thanks to Kirk, Nadia and my PCOC friends for their visits, concern and prayers during and after my recent emergency hospitalization.

*Your friend in Christ,
Gerry Reid*

Walk, Run, or Bike – Summer Fellowship

Join us for some exercise on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. at Lake Zorinsky. Bring your walking/running shoes or bike and join us for prayer followed by an hour of exercise.

We meet in the southernmost parking lot off of 168th St. (will be on your left when driving south). From there, we will split up and go either west (around the 3.1 mile trail) or east (around the 4.3 mile trail) or if you're feeling adventurous, around the whole thing (7.4 miles). The trail is flat, well-marked, and paved. How far and how fast you go is up to you, and when you're finished with your activity you are free to head home.

There is water and a restroom at our meeting location, but if you would like a snack or your own beverage, bring that as well.



In the event of inclement weather: we will cancel for heavy rain or thunder and lightning (with or without rain).

Questions? Contact the church office. Thanks!

Hiking and Birding Club



The Hiking and Birding Club will meet in the north parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on July 23 and then travel to Boys Town for a walk around the lake. Please join us. Everyone is welcome. You can contact Tom Stalanker at 402-390-9913 for more information.

49ers August 2nd Meeting

Susan Fletcher, RYT (Registered Yoga Teacher) at Pacific Springs Retirement Village will be our presenter for the August meeting. She has a 200 hour certificate in Yoga with a specialty in Senior Yoga. She will visit with us about some benefits of yoga and will lead us in some yoga poses to demonstrate that yoga is for every 'body' at any age. Bring any concerns or questions you may have about yoga because there is a lot of misinformation that she will help us clarify.

We will meet in the north parking lot at the church at 11:00 and leave by 11:15 for Pacific Springs Village, 805 South 173rd Court. We are asked to car pool since parking will be limited that day.

The menu will be Honey Tarragon Chicken salad served with fruit, a croissant and dessert. Cost is \$11.00 paid in advance no later than July 26th. For reservations call Joan Thorson, 402-289-2990 or Virginia Wilson, 402-504-3173.



SPIRIT of MISSION

Adult Mission

The Mission Committee is sponsoring an adult mission opportunity at Camp Calvin Crest from July 17-23. Several projects have been identified that have varying skill levels. You may choose one or more projects over a time period that matches your availability. You may choose to work one or more days, stay overnight or not, eat certain meals or not, etc. This is a really flexible trip to plan, and it allows everyone to serve in mission as they are able that week. Persons 18 and over and all skill levels are welcome. The only cost is for food. Breakfast is \$6, Lunch is \$7 and Dinner is \$8.25. Lodging is provided free at the Proett Center.

The projects are:

- Install support beam spacers for Proett Center
- Small & light maintenance tasks around the camp
- Painting – Interior
- Painting – Exterior
- Fix Tent Canvasses & Sew Canvas Curtains (sample provided at the Information Desk)
- Build Railroad Tie Wall behind Proett Center
- Repair textured ceiling with drywall

Four (4) Mission Committee members will be the "on-site point persons" for the week: John Bennett, Keith Allen, Janelle Davis and Jon Boomgaarden.

Please sign up at the Information Desk. More details are provided there and take a copy home to plan this mission trip for yourself or with your family. Enjoy the "Spirit of Mission" !

Contact Jon Boomgaarden at 402-981-7164 or jonboomgaarden@cox.net with questions and payment. The deadline is July 17th.

Cross Currents

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

Volunteer Teachers Needed!

The Omaha Street School is starting a new program to help older at-risk teenagers transition more successfully to adulthood. The new program, called Future Focus, will offer GED academic services, vocational skills training, and life skills training in an individualized, supportive mentoring environment at the Street School. The program will run weekdays, Monday-Thursday between 5pm and 8pm.

The Omaha Street School is hoping that Presbyterian Church of the Cross will bring a team of 5 or so volunteer teacher/tutors to the Street School 1-2 times a month to do the academic, vocational, and life skills teaching/tutoring. There will be paid staff on-site at the Street School who will take the volunteers through a specific volunteer training program before the year starts in September and then the staff will be on-site each evening to guide volunteers.

There will be an informational meeting about this opportunity after worship on Sunday, July 17, at 11:00 am to learn more about this exciting new volunteer opportunity. John Parson and Tami Saunders from the Street School will be in Room 15 to present more details about how the Future Focus program will operate and to answer your questions so you can decide if this teaching/tutoring opportunity might be just the sort of volunteer experience you have been looking for. Please let us know if you are interested attending the information session on July 17 by signing up at the information desk on Sunday or by contacting Keith Allen, kp.allen@cox.net.

Welcome New Members

Paul and Courtney Bryan



We would like for you to meet Paul and Courtney Bryan and their two children, Paul, Jr., age 3 and Heidi, age 9 months.

Paul was born in Texas. His father was in the military, but lived most of his life in Omaha, graduating from Westside High School. Courtney is from Georgia. They own a landscaping business out of their home. Their favorite leisure time activities are spent camping, white water rafting and rock climbing.

Courtney has completed two years in nursing school and Paul has a degree in Environmental Studies and Human Development. Courtney wants to be involved in the music programs.

They shopped a long time before they found our church and love our church because it is a community of people and has traditional services.

Date' Gbikpi



Date Gbikpi came to the United States about three years ago from his home in Lome, Togo, where he was a member of the Eglise Evangelist Presbyterian Church. Date is self employed in the business of exporting cars to his country. Since French is his native language, Date is taking ESL classes through the Omaha Public Schools, and enjoys being able to practice his English with our members. He is also very appreciative when he is able to have a conversation in French! Date's hobbies are tennis and fishing.

Date' says he was attracted to Church of the Cross because of his Presbyterian background and feels welcomed in our congregation.

Kelly Fader



Greetings to the Fader Family. Justin is an electrician at DNB Electrical; Kelly is Controlled Comfort's receptionist. Their daughters are Maddie, a 4th grader, and nine month old Lorelai.

Justin has used his skills working for Habitat for Humanity, and restoring old cars. Currently he's working on a 1985 Cutlass. Kelly is busy with her girls. She is on the PTO Board at Maddie's school. When she has time to relax, Kelly likes to read. Maddie enjoyed VBS and is in dance, sports and honor choir at school.

While working in childcare at Church of the Cross, Kelly made friends with the other caregivers and the parents. She found everyone friendly and welcoming. This made up part of the Fader's decision to join Church of the Cross.

(New Members Continued)**Jennifer and Ryan Koch**

Welcome to Ryan and Jenny Koch. And, a special welcome to their son, who made an unexpected early arrival. Crosby James was born on June 16th! Needless to say the Koch household is a busy one.

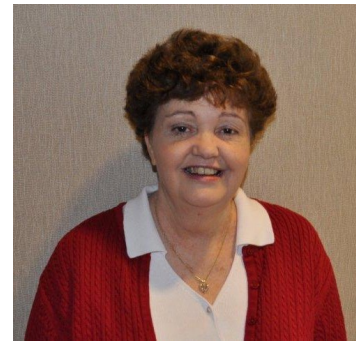
Our new members come from Columbus and Leigh, Nebraska, but both have been in Omaha for nearly a decade. Ryan teaches US and World history at Omaha North High School. In the summer he enjoys golf and working in the yard. This, no doubt, is why he expressed interest in the Spring and Fall Cleanup at PCOC. Jenny is a medical technologist at Creighton University. Scrapbooking is her hobby. The end of August the couple will celebrate their third anniversary.

The Koch's mentioned that they were drawn to the traditional worship at Church of the Cross, and the outgoing and friendly people.

Carole Sieck

Welcome Carole Sieck to our congregation. An Iowa native, born and raised in Council Bluffs, she now resides in Omaha. Recall how Kirk reminds us to invite friends to church, Carole learned of our church through Pam Otto and Ken and Jacquie Kluck. How wonderful to join a church and already have friends to greet you! Carole is busy. She works two days a week for a commercial paint company; and she enjoys playing tennis.

Take note PieceMakers, she is a talented quilter. Carole has also extended her talents to the Make A Wish Foundation. We are so glad Carole made the decision to make her church home with us. Please extend a warm "Hello" to Carole.

Martha Wallace

PCOC Members, if you haven't already, be sure you give a warm Welcome to Martha Wallace. She joined our church in May and has already gotten involved in Congregational Life.

Martha, a native of Boston, Ma moved from Dubuque, IA. to Omaha, some 20 years ago. She joins us after being a member of Miller Park Presbyterian – Omaha, where she was involved with Christian Education, Worship and Membership & Evangelism as well as serving on the Board of Deacons and Session. Being active in the community, Martha finds herself involved in many online community activities. One being WEGO health, a group for Health Activists both on and offline, as well as several faith based online activities, such as Hope Keepers and Rest Ministries.

Martha's hobbies and interests include a love of music, reading, surfing the web, taking walks or swimming. Martha enjoys a good board or card game, movies and sports, most especially Big Red football. She's loving that Big Red is in the Big 10 now!

Martha started coming to PCOC after we were recommended to her by a friend of a friend, who turned out to be our own Jolene Cranston! Martha was initially attracted by the excellent music and later met Paula Allen who gave her rides to Cornerstone and introduced her to many very nice people. She has often had trouble in other churches finding rides and has been impressed with how generous people have been with rides here at Church of the Cross.

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1517 South 114th Street
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Staff

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

PCOC Conducts First Ever “Bell Boot Camp.”

The Carillon Choir has been lucky enough to find an accomplished hand-bell clinician, Sue Garton, to come to PCOC on **August 26-28** to spend a week-end helping our handbell ringers to polish our skills, teach us new ones, and in general, have a great time ringing and dinging. We are also setting aside time for Sue to perform for us. (To see Sue in action as a solo ringer, go to Youtube.com and search for her)

The great part is that it's not just for the hard-core Ding Dongs! There will be a session on Saturday morning for the curious and the adventure-seekers. Anyone who would like to try ringing a bell or just hear a bit about where they came from is welcome to sit in and have a hands-on experience.

You do not have to know how to read music to participate. You just need a little elbow and shoulder action.

The event is open to anyone in the congregation, including newbies and oldies, and youngies and oldies. All ages are invited to participate. And attendance does not commit you to playing in the Carillon Choir.

We just want to invite you to experience the joy of handbell ringing at whatever level you are comfortable. More details and registration information will be forthcoming.

So mark your calendars and watch for more information this summer.

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**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
July 31, 2011
Mailing Date is August 3, 2011**