

Cross Currents



Cross Care

I am very excited to tell you about a new program at Church of the Cross. For the past year or so, a group of church members have been meeting to discuss the need for a structured pastoral care giving program within our congregation. After many meetings, surveys, focus groups, and a lot of prayer Cross Care was born.

Cross Care is a “Stephen Ministry” style program that trains individuals in skills such as active listening, walking with people through death and grief, making hospital and home visits, as well as the theological and spiritual reasons for providing this kind of care. Our hope is that Cross Care team members will be available to provide help for all members who are going through an experience where it would be helpful to have someone to talk to, someone to provide a ride to an appointment, or are interested in building a relationship with someone new in the congregation.

Our current care giving ministries fall to the pastors and deacons. Both of which will continue to be heavily involved in all areas of congregational care giving (hospital visitation, flower deliveries, home communion visits, and more). The need for Cross Care arose out of a situation facing our board of deacons where we found there to be more people in need of care than there were deacons. Cross Care is designed to fall under the umbrella of the work of the deacons and many current and former deacons are participating as care givers.

Cross Care care givers are required to go through a 10 week training program that is led by the pastors as well as members of the Cross Care Taskforce: Mary Cramer, Julie Buehler, and Linda Miller. Cross Care caregivers are already hard at work building relationships, making visits, and reaching out to members of the congregation! Here are some of the ways they are already active:

- Making hospital visits
- Making home visits to those who are unable to be at worship on Sunday mornings
- Providing rides to individuals in need of transportation
- Building relationships over meals and other visits
- Reaching out to those who have experienced a recent loss of a loved one

If you think that you, or someone you know, would benefit from Cross Care you can call the church office and speak to Nadia or Kirk, or you can fill out one of the Care Cards in the pews and turn it in to the office. All of Cross Care’s work is held in the strictest confidentiality.

We plan to commission the first Cross Care class on Caregiver Sunday, November 13th, during both worship services. We hope that you as the members of Church of the Cross will join us in affirming the work of these dedicated individuals who are working hard to fulfill Christ’s command to “love the Lord” and “love our neighbors as ourselves” by reaching out and taking advantage of the ministry Cross Care has to offer.

Blessings in Christ,
Nadia



Christian Education

Advent Workshop



Advent Workshop is planned for **Sunday, November 20, 2011**. We have many wonderful crafts planned for you and your family. Here are some of the items we will be making this year. We will be working on Paper Angels, Candy Canes, A Clothespin Tree, Nativity Set,

Paper Drop (Paper ornaments) and Puzzle magnets. We also have our family project which will be a **Button Star** made with Styrofoam, paper, buttons and ribbons. This year's snack craft is called mmm-Moose - These are Moose shaped treats for everyone to enjoy.

This year we are also having an **Adult Craft Table** to help make "**Sweet**" **Ribbon craft's** for our **home bound members**. The Deacons will deliver these ribbons when they visit our home-bound members during the holiday season. Please take time to stop by this table and help to make someone's Christmas a special treat.

The sign-up sheet and samples of our selected projects will be displayed at the Information Center so come by and take a look at what you might be interested in making as your special projects.

In an effort to raise funds for their annual mission trip, our Senior High Youth Group will once again be preparing a delicious meal to share with us following the 11:10 a.m. service. A Free Will Offering will be accepted to support their efforts for the 2012 Mission trip. They plan on helping the families in Joplin, MO who were affected by the 2011 tornadoes that devastated their homes and town. This is a great way to help them along their way and enjoy a wonderful meal together. The Christian Education Committee is very excited to help support their fundraising efforts again this year!

Please sign up at the Information Desk to participate in all the fun. Feel free to invite your friends and family (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins) to this wonderful event. It is a great way to start the Holiday Season.

Christian Education Committee



Poinsettia Sale

We are adding a new option to the annual Poinsettia Sale this year! You may order a poinsettia that will be available to be picked up from the church office on Sunday, December 11th or Monday, December 12th and used in your home during the holidays. This would also make a lovely hostess gift.

There will still be the traditional option of ordering a poinsettia "in memory of" or "in honor of..." which will be used to decorate the sanctuary during the Advent season. These poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Day service on Sunday, December 25th.

You will find the poinsettia order form included in this issue of Cross Currents. Order forms will also be available at the Information Desk. As in the past, this is a fundraiser for our Discovery Preschool program, so we encourage you to purchase one or more poinsettias this year!

The Christian Education
Committee



Needed for Our Library



We could use a portable electric typewriter for our library! If you have one that is in good working condition, please contact Carol Bolton @ 402-397-7793 or Sheri Sessions at the church office. Thank you!!

Discovery Preschool News

A fun evening of music, movement, dancing and ice cream with sweet treats was enjoyed by parents, grandparents, students and siblings. We even had a 60th birthday!

The fire safety weeks were culminated by Lisa Connor's visit dressing Carolyn Ashton in her gear! Her son attended Discovery for two years but she came as a fire safety speaker 15 years ago for several years due to one of her family's friends attending Discovery!

Anyone interested in the photo opportunities Tues. Nov. 15 or Wed. Nov. 16 with Martin Photography could call Barb Elliott (333-8742) at the preschool for information. Flyers are at the Parent Information Board in Room 3.

Individual "Puffins" not "Braid Bread" will be available for ordering in Nov. with samples the first week of Nov.

In Case You Missed It

On Sunday, October 23rd, we celebrated the 2nd birthday of our only set of triplets in the congregation! Darby, Harley and Sutton Sladovnik turned TWO years old and brought cupcakes for everyone to enjoy between services. Many thanks to Kevin & Kirsten Sladovnik for providing the wonderful birthday treats and including their church family in the special occasion! We look forward to watching the triplets grow and become involved in the church activities!



ADVENT DINNER

Sunday – December 4, 2011– 5:00 pm

“Traditions of Christmas”

Yes, this is the theme for this year's Advent Dinner! I am sure this brings up all kinds of memories of what traditions your family practiced during the Christmas season. At Church of the Cross we have made the Advent Dinner part of our tradition. We have made our own special memories of enjoying a wonderful meal, fellowship, entertainment, and singing Christmas carols with all of our family and friends. We will have a meal of pot roast as our main course. For our side dishes we will have two vegetables and a salad. For dessert, we will have a choice of anything you would like to bring. This would be a great opportunity to bring something that your family likes to make every year as a tradition. It should be a great selection of goodies.

Our entertainment will be a small Christmas pageant that will be performed by our children here at Church of the Cross. There will also be an explanation of some of our most common Christmas traditions. Why do we have candy canes, poinsettias and Christmas trees? There will be caroling along with the burning of the Yule log out on the back patio after dinner. This special activity has become one of our enjoyable traditions at Church of the Cross, especially if we get a little snow with it!

There is no charge to attend this wonderful event, but a free-will donation will be welcomed. Make sure to stop by the Information Desk to sign up to attend this wonderful traditional dinner we have here at Church of the Cross.



Christmas Traditions



Spirit of Mission

Mission Opportunity

Last summer, several adults worked at Camp Calvin Crest painting cabins and sewing canvas cot covers. It rained so we could not work on the retaining wall. We told them we would be back and continue our support !

So, here is a mission opportunity for you on **November 5th** (NU vs. Northwestern) to sew more cot covers and build the railroad tie retaining wall behind Proett Center. If you can't sew, you can still help by cutting, pinning and feeding canvas to the sewers. We will provide church sewing machines and we have leftover heavy-duty needles. For the retaining wall, bring gloves, sledgehammers, crowbars, pry bars, angle grinder, and chain saws.



We will probably work from 8 to 4:30 pm but you don't have to stay the whole time. We will eat breakfast and lunch there, so just note your choices when you sign up at the Information Desk. Thanks in advance and enjoy the "Spirit of Mission" !

ALL CHURCH OUT-DOOR CLEAN-UP!

Come one – come all to the annual fall All-Church Clean-Up set for November 12th from 9 a.m. until noon. Join in the fellowship of service to the church while enhancing the beauty of our place of worship. Bring rakes, brooms, gloves, wheel-barrows or trash cans. The rain date is Saturday, November 19th from 9 a.m. until noon. There WILL be goodies for snacking!



Friday Night Gourmet

Friday Nite Gourmets will be meeting at Malara's Ristorante at 6:30PM on November 11, 2011. Malara's is located at 2119 Pierce St. A sign-up sheet and map is on the Information counter in the Narthex.

Any questions call Gene & Verta Pugh (498-9004) or Bob & Margaret Dickmeyer (333-6111).

Thank You

Many thanks for all the calls, cards, meals and kind words of encouragement with my unexpected fall. Also thanks to Kirk for your visit at the hospital. It means more than I can say.

Kathy Nickel

Hiking and Birding Club

The Hiking and Birding Club will meet in the north parking lot on November 19 at 9:30 a.m. We will travel to Walnut Creek Lake for a Fall walk. All are welcome. Please contact Tom Stalnaker, 402-390-9913, for more information.



Cross Currents

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



NOVEMBER 10 GATHERING OF THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

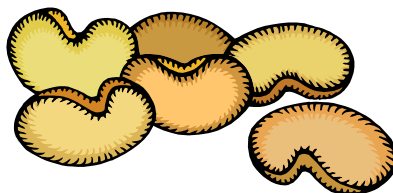


The Presbyterian Women at Church of the Cross will hold their November Gathering in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, November 10 at 11:30 a.m. A lunch will be served for \$7.00. The program will be **Kathleen Keefer** of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Clarinda IA who was the Missouri River Valley PW representative to participate in a Mini Mission Exchange in South Dakota. She traveled to meet with Presbyterian sisters living on reservations in Sisseton, Flandreau, Chamberlain, and Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Kathleen will tell us about her mission trip and what she learned from our Presbyterian Sisters in the Dakotas. **Please bring hats, scarves or gloves with you to the meeting for the children at Castelar Kids! The hats scarves and gloves will be given to the children as Christmas gifts.** All women at Church of the Cross are invited to attend the Gathering. We will also install new officers. Call or email Diane Kratz dhkratz@hotmail.com 402.334.1604 with your lunch reservation.



THE CHURCH LADIES HAVE GONE NUTS!

It is that time of year again to order Church Women United Nuts! Please find your nut order form in this edition of the Cross Currents and place your order. This is a fundraiser the Church Women United does for Uta Halee Girls Village. The orders are due by November 10 and should be sent to Diane Kratz at 16323 Spring Circle Omaha NE 68130 or dhkratz@hotmail.com (402)334-1604. Please consider giving nuts as hostess gifts this year. Please consider giving nuts to your friends and clients. We have nuts of all kinds for your holiday baking and for a healthy snack. Everybody is NUTS about NUTS!



November Birthdays

- 1 Carol Dworak, Chad Justice, Earlene Uhrig
- 4 Kelly Brooks, Anna Flairty, Kris Halbersleben
- 5 Katherine Gazzetta, Joshua Hemminger, Jennifer Swenson
- 7 Ruth Madison
- 8 Ruth Haycraft, Pam Swenson
- 9 Carla Fritz, Philip Gilmore, McKenzie Johnson
- 10 Ethan Lindsey
- 11 Paula Allen, Bridgette Bunjer, Jackie Danielson, Dorothy McIntyre, Karen Smith
- 12 Nichole Brady, Fred Henry, Margaret Nixon, Ashley Sherlock
- 13 Tina Clancy, Mary Kuhn, Sandi Stuckey
- 14 Rana Johnson, Beth McGrath, Garrett Voss
- 15 Miles Ritchie, Ayeson Tchona, Ruth Ticknor
- 16 Betty Mack, Nanette Rickert
- 17 Doug Buchanan, Will Clanton, Rob Koch, Bob Mooney, Nancy Quine
- 18 Linda Madison, Evan McFadden
- 19 Kate Bauer, Dan Innes
- 20 Angie Holdren
- 21 Randy Ewing, Sarah Grady, Michael Mazgaj
- 22 Mimi Bauer, Kay Tomek, Kevin Willis
- 23 J. C. Boesen, Rachel Coburn, Jeanie Wiesner
- 24 Rod Adams, Susan Knight
- 25 Jane Bowers, Tammy Coburn, Julie Jenkins, Adaline Lippstreu
- 26 Darrell Golden
- 27 Jean Hanson
- 28 Pat Caldwell, Brianna Clancy, Janis Phelps
- 29 Ginny Redden, Tommy Swedlund, Brian Thorson
- 30 Jayne Frederickson, Bill Nelson, Stacey Wells

Have a great Day

Hear the Stories from Gnozdo, Russia – Lunch on November 13!

The PCOC team who visited our partner church in Gnozdo in August 2011 invites you to a free lunch on Sunday, November 13, 2011, after the second service.

We are excited to share with you the stories and pictures of our amazing experience with old friends and new as we worked together, played together, and enjoyed many meals together. Our partnership continues to grow and deepen, and YOU have helped make it happen!

Please join us to:

- hear us describe the moments that moved and inspired us,
- see the faces of our friends and partners, and the children we reached
- learn how your involvement, whether in Omaha or in Gnozdo is making a difference in people's lives,
- and hear the plans for our continued support of the mission of our partners in Russia.

No need to sign up – just show up for lunch: Sunday, November 13th, after second service.

Marina Shishova's Sermon Now Available

Many members have requested copies of the sermon preached by our Russian guest Marina Shishova on Sunday, September 25th. The text of her sermon is now available. You can pick up a copy at the Information Table or request a digital version by emailing Julie in the church office at churchofthecross@pcoc.us.

Welcome New Members

Bruce Hendrickson



Bruce Hendrickson comes to PCOC via letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne, WY. Bruce is a retired banker and is moving back to his native Omaha after marrying his high school sweetheart in February this year. Bruce and Dava Fox were married at Church of the Cross on February 10, 2011. Pastor Nadia conducted the ceremony.

Bruce is looking forward to attending PCOC regularly as he was an active member of his church in Cheyenne and served as an elder among other activities.

(New Members continued)

Brad Gibson



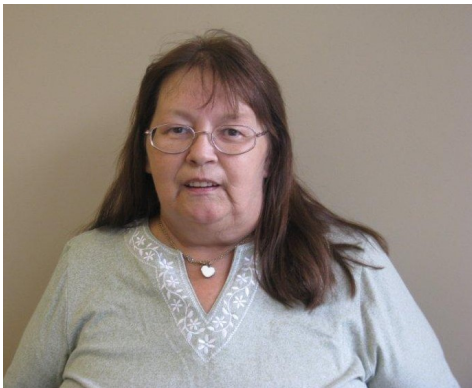
PCOC Members, if you haven't already, be sure you give a warm Welcome to Brad Gibson. He joined our church this October.

Brad, a native of Elkhorn, has lived the Omaha area for 16 years. Brad is Married to Dawn Fox, daughter of Dava Fox-Hendrickson and grand-daughter of Viva Fuerst. Brad and Dawn have a daughter Daley. Brad and Dawn are graduates of the University of Kansas, where they met but actually dated some years later. They were married on the 60th anniversary of Dawn's grandparents, Viva and the late Dale Fuerst.

Brad is currently a Speech Pathologist at Ackerman Elementary. He has worked as a counselor for Camp CoHoLo for three years. This is a camp for children with cancer or blood diseases.

Some of Brad's hobbies are sports, reading a good book, puzzles and models.

(New Members continued)
Pat Justice



Pat Justice moved to Omaha from Fort Worth, Texas ten years ago and lives part time with her son Chad and Emily Justice, who recently joined our church. She spends the winters in Oklahoma, her native state.

She has been active in church as a Sunday School teacher, served on committees and was involved in the school PTA. Pat was employed as a Customer Service Rep and also the insurance business. Her hobbies are reading, photography and an on-line ministry.

She was attracted to Church of the Cross by her son, Chad and wife, Emily and grandson, Max. Kirk and Nadia's sermons and the music were written just for her. Our ministers have compassion and so much caring and are always willing to help with any situation.

Finally, the church members are all so nice and friendly.

Peg Wunderlich



Greetings to the Wunderlich Family, Peg and her three children. Mark is a student at UNO. Carrie is a junior at Millard North and involved in the band. Kimberly is in 9th grade. Peg works in accounts payable at Sirius Computers, and in her free time enjoys scrapbooking and going to the movies. You'll also see her playing hand bells in the Carillon Choir.

Peg say they were attracted to Church of the Cross because they enjoyed the traditional service, friendly people and the pipe organ – that she could listen to all day long! She also said Anne Flairty, her friend since middle school, might have had some drawing power.



Advent Candle Lighters Needed!

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27! We will need volunteers (families, couples, individuals, etc) to light the candles



over the four Sundays of Advent during both the 9:00 and 11:10 a.m. worship services.

If you are interested in participating in the Advent Candle lighting portion of worship, please sign up at the Information desk for the date and service time that works best for you. Nadia will provide you with the words for the candle lighting a week in advance of the date you signed up.

Thanks for helping us to celebrate Advent!

Dates to remember

**November 20
 12:15**

Advent Workshop

**November 23
 7:30**

Thanksgiving Eve Service

**December 4
 5:00 p.m.**

Advent Dinner



Presents Brass in Blue

Sunday, November 6, 3:00 p.m. ADMISSION FREE

Brass in Blue is the large brass ensemble of the U. S. Air Force's Heartland of America Band. They have performed 3 times in their 3 year history on the Series and have become a great favorite! Bring your family and invite a neighbor, too.

The concert will held at the Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 South 114 Street in Omaha.



Coming Events in 2012

February 12, 2012

Kenneth Bè, lute

Baroque Music for Lute

March 18, 2012

Indände

Mucis for Winds and Piano

April 22, 2012

American Chamber Players

Music for Large Chamber Ensemble

All programs admission free and at 3:00 p.m.



November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1 11:30 49ers 1:00 Tuesday Study Bunch 6:30 Crosse Posse 6:30 Cross Care</p>	<p>2 4:45 Cornerstone 6:30 PieceMakers 6:30 Chamber Singers 7:30 Alleluia Singers</p>	<p>3 6:45 Carillon Choir</p>	4	5
<p>6 9:00 & 11:10 Worship/Communion 10:00 Education 3:00 Vesper Concerts 4-6 Jr. High 6-8 Sr. High</p>	<p>7 10:00 Staff 5:30 Congregational Life 6:30 Bldg. & Grds. 7:00 CE</p>	<p>8 1:00 Tuesday Study Bunch 5:30 Membership & Evangelism 6:00 MOPS 6:30 Crosse Posse</p>	<p>9 4:45 Cornerstone 6:30 PieceMakers 6:30 Chamber Singers 7:30 Alleluia Singers</p>	<p>10 9:30 Ruth Circle 11:30 PW Gathering 6:45 Carillon Choir</p>	<p>11 6:30 Friday Night Gourmets</p>	<p>12 9-12 B & G Clean Up Day</p>
<p>13 9:00 & 11:10 Worship 10:00 Education 4-6:30 Jr. High 6-8 Sr. High Cross Currents Deadline</p>	<p>14 10:00 Staff 7:00 Worship & Music</p>	<p>15 5:30 Finance 6:30 Crosse Posse 6:30 Cross Care</p>	<p>16 4:45 Cornerstone 5:15 PCOC Book Group 6:30 PieceMakers 6:30 Chamber Singers 6:30 Alleluia Singers</p>	<p>17 6:45 Carillon Choir</p>	18	<p>19 9:00 Hiking and Birding Club Rain date for Clean up</p>
<p>20 9:00 & 11:10 Worship 10:00 Education 12:00 Advent Workshop New Member Class 4-6 Jr. High</p>	<p>21 10:00 Staff 10:45 Grandfriends Discovery Preschool 7:00 Deacons 4:00 Recital Ann Nagosky</p>	<p>22 10:45 Discovery Grandfriends Day 6:00 MOPS</p>	<p>23 7:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>	<p>24 Office Closed </p>	<p>25 </p>	26
<p>27 9:00 & 11:10 Worship/Communion 10:00 Education Cross Currents Deadline </p>	<p>28 10:00 Staff 7:00 Session</p>	<p>29 1:00 Tuesday Study Bunch</p>	<p>30 6:30 PieceMakers 6:30 Chamber Singers 7:30 Alleluia Singers</p>			

Presbyterian Church of the Cross
1517 South 114th Street
Omaha NE 68144

Worship 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.
Church School 10:00 a.m.
Phone: 402-333-7466 Fax: 402-697-9084

E-mail addresses:

churchofthecross@pcoc.us
Kirk- karyckman@pcoc.us
Nadia-nadia@pcoc.us
Dana - dana.sloan@pcoc.us
Sheri—sessions@pcoc.us
June—junef@pcoc.us

Web site: www.churchofthecrossomaha.org
Www.vesperconcerts.org

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, Credo Choir
Jayne Frederickson, Kristi Treu,	Directors, Childrens' Choirs

CROSS CURRENTS

Presbyterian Church of the Cross
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Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
November 13, 2011
Mailing Date is: November 16, 2011