

North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

February 9, 2009

...coming up in Worship...

Love is the weekend's theme

This weekend we observe Valentine's Day - a traditional time for expressing one's love to a "sweetheart."

Movies, poetry, literature, the internet dating/matching services and even the Bible would have us celebrate the importance of love and relationships. And yet, we know that 50% of all marriages end in divorce. Why do some loves last and others end? Is there some special "glue" or secret to making love last?

In keeping with this theme, Rick will be sharing a message in Sunday's services entitled, *Making Your Love Last Forever*.

Join adults in Sunday study: 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to share in study and fellowship with these classes this Sunday:

Wesleyan Class: Room 215

Lesson: "*Esther Risks Her Life*" Ginnie Collins

Good News: Room 206

Lesson: "*Presidents' Day*" Jim Funk

Friendship: Room 202

Lesson: "*Esther Risks Her Life*" Jackie Tucker

Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall

Lesson: "*Restoring Relationships*" Susie Watson

FaithWorks: Room 207

Lesson: "*Esther Risks Her Life*" Helen Foster

Pathfinders: Room 200

Lesson: "*James, Unfulfilled Leader*" Rita McCall

Contemporary Conversations: Lounge

Lesson: "*Spoken Word for the Peer Provided Transformation*" Corrina West

Weekend reminders at North Cross

1. Friday night – *The Three D's in Concert*. Dan Sturdevant, Del Sutton, and Don Lipovak will share their music for their 5th annual concert given for the congregation. The music begins at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. There is no charge for attendance; however, a free-will offering will be taken to help with the cost of improving the lighting in the narthex. Come and bring a friend!

2. Saturday night – The North Cross Youth are sponsoring an *Adult Sweetheart Dance*, beginning at 7 p.m. Music, fun and celebration will be enjoyed by those who share in this evening together. A live jazz band will be performing during part of the evening. Attire can be as formal or informal as you prefer. Tickets may be purchased (in advance) for \$15 per couple/\$8 per single, or at the door for \$20 per couple/\$10 per single.

3. Sunday Noon -1:30 p.m. – A *Presidents' Day Potluck* will be held in Fellowship Hall. There will be cake walks, golf, Presidential quizzes, pin the cherry on the tree, and lots of good fellowship. Drinks and cherry dessert will be provided.



Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday

The church season of Lent begins February 25th with *Ash Wednesday*. There will be a "Come & Go" communion served in the sanctuary from **6-8:30 a.m. as people begin their day**. This time provides an opportunity for personal reflection and prayer. There is also an evening service of worship at **7 p.m.** The Chancel Choir will be singing at this service. Both the morning and evening settings will include the "imposition of ashes", which signals our acknowledgement of the need to confess our failings and engage in a closer walk with Jesus in our lives.

A light continental breakfast will be available and provided to all who come to begin their day during the time from 6-8:30 a.m.

Look inside for information about the Lenten season and special opportunities for study and enrichment.

Transformed by Christ's love to make disciples and serve others.

Pre-School enrollments starts soon!

We will begin enrolling students for the 2009/2010 school year on Wednesday, February 25th, at 9 a.m. We offer classes for children 2 1/2 years old through Pre-Kindergarten. Enrollment begins with those students currently participating in our Early Childhood Program or who are North Cross members. Enrollment will be open to the general public the first week of March. Some of the benefits of our program are:

- ◆ Great student/teacher ratio
- ◆ Teacher aids in every classroom
- ◆ Music and Movement classes every week
- ◆ Computer in classroom
- ◆ Parent/Teacher conference
- ◆ Field trips
- ◆ Fenced and age-appropriate playground equipment

Call Pre-school Director Lynn Wollard at 816.459.8826 with any questions.

New website well received



If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to take a look at our new and improved website, northcrossumc.org. Many have told us how much they appreciate the new look and easily accessed information.

If you have items you think may be worthy for our website, they must be submitted to the office (any staff person), and they will be considered and forwarded to our webmaster if approved and meet the necessary criteria.

Seekers Circle

The Seekers Circle will meet on Monday, February 16th, at 7 p.m. in the church lounge.

John Wesley preached three simple rules. They were: "Do No Harm," "Do Good," and "Stay in Love with God." Come and hear Reuben P. Job, author of "Three Simple Rules - A Wesleyan Way of Living," talk about the rule, "Stay in Love with God."

Volunteers are needed for a devotional and for refreshments. Please contact Patsy or Meredith if you can help.

Lenten focus begins soon

The church season of Lent is a forty-day period between *Ash Wednesday* and *Easter Sunday* (excluding Sundays) marked as a period of preparation and penitence. In the early days of the church, it was a time to prepare for baptism, which took place on Easter Eve. It is now used as a time for study, personal and congregational worship, and spiritual renewal. To that end, your church is offering the following opportunities for study and enrichment:

- *Revelation Bible Study* – (class already full)
- *Women's Bible Study: Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* – 9 a.m. Tuesdays (February 24-May 12) This class deals with the daily demands of a busy world. Cost of materials: \$13. Patsy Schmutz, class facilitator.
- *Kidzone: Peter's Walk* - Wednesdays, (March 4–April 8.)
- *Adults on Wednesday nights* – small groups featuring a DVD series to stimulate the discussion of life issues. Time is 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. (March 4 – April 8). Each week is different, and you may participate in as many of the nights as you wish.
- The Chancel Choir is preparing a cantata for the services on Palm Sunday, April 5th, and there will be three identical services on Easter, April 12th.
- Confirmation classes for youth are already underway, and there will be a special service for these young people on Sunday morning, March 29th at 9:45 a.m. (See the front page for more information on the *Ash Wednesday* services, February 25th.)

Seeker's Circle has valentine suggestions

Valentine Idea! Give someone you love a pound of coffee (available in several flavors), some cocoa, or tea (also in several flavors) from Equal Exchange. These items are sold in Fellowship Hall every Sunday.

The UMCOR Coffee Project is an innovative way to reach out to small-scale farmers in the developing world, while enjoying fellowship and an excellent cup of coffee.

As Christians, we can address a consumer dilemma by buying coffee that is fairly traded. United Methodist congregations that participate are helping small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia earn a fairer share of income, obtain access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair-trade organization called Equal Exchange.

Coming This Week...

Thursday, February 12

6:00 a.m. Tai Chi
11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
4:30 p.m. 4 One Band Practice
6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Unit Meeting

Friday, February 13

9:30 a.m. Adventures In Learning
6:00 p.m. Friendship Book Group
6:30 p.m. Dan, Del and Don Music
Special

Saturday, February 14

8:00 a.m. Men eat @ Denneys
9:30 a.m. Altar Society
1:00 p.m. DAR
7:00 p.m. Adult Dance

Sunday, February 15

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Children's Music
9:45 a.m. Sunday School - all ages
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Presidents' Day Potluck
4:00 p.m. Shower

Monday, February 16

Office Closed

11:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. UMW Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Sign Language Class
7:00 p.m. Seekers Wms. Circle
7:00 p.m. Cub & Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 17

9:00 a.m. TOPS
10:00 a.m. Paint for Fun
11:00 a.m. Home Schoolers
11:30 a.m. XYZ Potluck
6:00 p.m. Safe Sanctuary Training
6:30 p.m. Trustees
6:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge
7:00 p.m. DAR
7:00 p.m. Wood Carvers

Wednesday, February 18

9:00 a.m. Revelation Study
5:30 p.m. Supper
6:30 p.m. Youth
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
8:00 p.m. Handbell Practice

Thursday, February 19

6:00 a.m. Tai Chi
9:00 a.m. UMW Sewing/Quilting
10:00 a.m. Mommy & Me
11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
4:30 p.m. 4 One Band Practice
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Safe Sanctuary Training: Feb. 17th, 6 to 8 p.m.; March 30, 6 to 8 p.m.; April 23rd, 6 to 8 p.m., April 26th, 1 to 3 p.m. E-mail Glenda Callicott at gcalli-cott@northcrossumc.com, or sign up on the bulletin board between the Children's Ministry office and the PDO office.

Bible study offered

Women's Bible Study: The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet...but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Well, let's take our break from the daily demands and study, "Having a **Mary** Heart in a **Martha** World." Class begins at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24th, and the cost of the book is \$13. Patsy Schmutz will lead the class. Pick up your book in the church office.

Outreach Opportunity

North Cross will be volunteering for the Lazarus Table at Grand Avenue Temple on Saturday, February 28th. What is the Lazarus Table? Grand Avenue has ministered to the homeless and hungry people within walking distance since the mid-1990s. Starting in the winter of 1996, hot lunches have been served on Saturdays and Sundays, and this program is called the Lazarus Table.

Volunteers help set up the tables (setting out salt/pepper shakers, filling water pitchers, wrapping silverware, placing desserts on plates, etc.) prior to serving lunch (dishing out the various food choices on plates as our guests go through the line). Then there is light cleanup (no dishwashing.)

We will meet on the west side of the parking lot toward the back at 9:30 a.m. and return about 1:45 p.m. Please bring cookies or fruit to leave at Grand Avenue. You may call the church office at 452.2939 to volunteer. For more information, please talk to Patsy.

XYZs plan February gathering

On Tuesday, February 17th, the XYZs will meet in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Please bring a dish to share with the group. Dessert will be furnished. Plan to share some of your valentine memories with the group.

The United Methodist Men will meet for breakfast at Denny's Diner on East Armour in North Kansas City on Saturday, February 14th, at 8 a.m. All men of the church are invited to join the group.

Rick's Ruminations:

Winter's mask is still in place.

Often cloudy cold and dreary we long for some hint of warmth and sun to break the grip of dismal days.

Life's unfolding does the same as it seeks some hope or promise of renewal that will end the grip of life's pain

and disappointment.

Drudgery and clouds too often mask the warmth and energy of life.

So may the Son whose life came from the tomb of death become the warmth hope and promise which can lift the mask from life that you might live anew in life's unfolding.

...rmh

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- **Hospitalized:** Jan Braker, Liberty; Don Shortess, NKC
- Menu for February 18th: *Parmesan Chicken, Green Beans, Applesauce, Garlic Bread*
- We wish to thank all our friends at North Cross for their prayers, calls and cards. Charles' ankle seems to be improving and Donna is now taking both chemo and radiation. Your continued prayers are needed. A bright spot in our lives—a new great-grandson, Sawyer Griffin Bailey, was born Jan. 31st in Lincoln, NE. He is our 8th great-grandchild. *Charles and Donna Maysent*
- We would like to thank all who offered kind words, prayers and/or cards at the time of my sister's death. *Charles and Sharon Weems*
- Congratulations to Leonard and Irma Cochran on the birth of their great-grandson, Evan Montgomery, born on Jan. 26th in KCMO, parents are Greg and Christa Montgomery; and to Louise Gamel on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Stella Rae Merrill, born on Feb. 3rd.
- We are in need of a volunteer to replace baseboard in the main kitchen. Please contact Patsy in the church office.

Publication Deadline: Wednesday at noon
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Send email to mamorrissey@northcrossumc.org
Visit our new website at www.northcrossumc.org

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