

North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

January 26, 2009

...coming up in Worship...

Life can be puzzling

Have you ever found yourself confused or tormented by the unfolding or direction of your life? Perhaps you've had trouble making sense of what you should be doing or which path to take at a fork in the road of your life? This week Rick is planning a message for Sunday's services which he's entitled, *Solving Life's Puzzle*.

"Sometimes we are puzzled by what comes at us in life or where to direct our energies or what priorities we should follow," commented Rick as he worked on this week's message. "What is important is for us to have a way of making sense of our lives or a *lens* through which we are able to process life itself. I invite you to be with us in worship Sunday as we look at this issue through the eyes of faith."

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: "A Shunammite Woman Helps"

Teri Jan Overton

Good News: Room 206

Lesson: "No Other god"

Judi O'Donnell

Friendship: Room 202

Lesson: "A Shunammite Woman Helps"

Alana Pierce

Inquirer's: Fellowship Hall

Lesson: "A Passion for Christ: Paul" Ron Watson

FaithWorks: Room 207

Lesson: "A Shunammite Woman Helps"

Deborah Mason

Pathfinders: Room 200

Lesson: "The 13 Apostles-Andrew, A Brother"

Faye Moore

Contemporary Conversations: Lounge

Lesson: "Meeting with Inquirer's"

Trustees elect officers for 2009

Each year the Trustees of the church elect their officers for the year at their first meeting. North Cross is registered with the state of Missouri as a "not-for-profit corporation" and as a result, the church's trustees are also the named board of directors of the corporation.

This year the following persons will serve as officers who are charged with the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the real property of the church, as well as the policies which guide the use of the church building and grounds:

President – *Larry Wickham*

Vice-President – *Dick Ranes*

Secretary – *Jerry Judson*

Representative to Finance Committee – *Joe Nunn*

Reports provide a look back at 2008

Each year the church is required to provide a detailed statistical summary of numerous items which are reported to the Annual Conference. These reports have been compiled and filed as required, and we summarize a portion of these reports below.

Total Members at the end of the year.... 855

(Total members at end of 2007: 863)

Removed by death..... 8

Average Weekly Attendance..... 372

(11 more than recorded in 2007)

Average Attendance in Sunday School... 240

(40 more than reported in 2007)

Principal and interest paid on indebtedness.. \$56,269.00
(Sanctuary building debt was retired)

Paid on buildings and improvements..... \$43,243.00

In addition to the above information, the church paid in full its District Apportionments of \$8,936.00, as well as Conference apportionments of \$57,030.76.

In addition to these missional items noted above, significant support was provided to Northland Assistance, The Christmas Store, Crestview Elementary and a number of other mission projects.

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

December Financial Summary

December Receipts\$81,387.70
December Expenses.....\$76,120.36
Balance in Operating Fund....\$ 8,095.53

Be a Crestview Sweetheart

Remember how much fun it was to exchange valentines at school? Today's students still enjoy doing the same thing. But it isn't as much fun for the student who doesn't have any valentines to share.



Please consider donating a package of valentines for Crestview students who will not have valentine cards to share with their classmates. You may bring them to the office by February 8th so they can be delivered to Crestview before Valentine's Day. Thank you for sharing.

New bench now in place

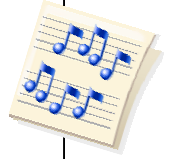
A new bench near the Memorial Garden and doorway to the church is now in place. This was an Eagle Scout project recently completed by Caleb Crossley. If you have not noticed this improvement, we encourage you to take a look.

Women of Faith Conference Scheduled

The Women of Faith Conference will be held at the Sprint Center the evening of Friday March 13, and all day Saturday, March 14th. Tickets are \$99 for both sessions, Cost includes a box-lunch on Saturday.

This is an awesome women-type, faith filled experience. You will be renewed, revived, and ready to face the world with a smile on your face, knowing God's love, support and grace are always with you. If you're interested in attending this event, please contact Deborah Mason immediately at 816.453.7062. Don't delay....call today!

Come hear "*The Three D's*"
in concert—*Dan, Dave, and Del*
Friday, February 13th
6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.



A free-will offering will be taken and will be applied to the cost of lighting improvements in the narthex.

Watch for announcement of Lenten Studies

A variety of spiritual enrichment opportunities will soon be announced for the season of Lent, which begins with *Ash Wednesday*, February 25th.

It appears there will be an early morning offering, perhaps one available over the internet, as well as daytime and evening offerings. Lent is a traditional time for deepening our relationship with God through study, meditation and reflection. The classes, studies and small groups are intended to help those who participate to continue their spiritual and faith journey.

Witness to Faith

moments are encouraged

The personal sharing of stories of how people have experienced the presence of God in their lives or the ministry of the church are stories we should tell one another. Whenever these stories are shared in worship, they can be some of the most powerful and important moments we experience within the community of faith. If you would be willing to share (3-5 minutes) in one of our worship services how you have felt the touch of God's Spirit, come to a greater awareness of God in your life, or how the church has made a difference in your personal faith journey, we ask for you to contact one of the pastors.

Read the Missouri United Methodist news online. The *Review* newspaper features news from Missouri's United Methodist churches, as well as national and world stories of the United Methodist Church.

www.moumethodist.org/Review

Coming This Week...

Thursday, January 29

6:00 a.m. Tai Chi
 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
 4:30 p.m. 4 One Band
 7:30 p.m. Men's Cursillo Retreat

Friday, January 30

Men's Cursillo Retreat

Saturday, January 31

Men's Cursillo Retreat

Sunday, February 1

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
 Men's Cursillo Retreat
 12:00 p.m. Landscape Team
 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
 3:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
 5:00 p.m. Inquirer's Super Bowl Party

Monday, February 2

9:30 a.m. Parkinson Exercise
 11:00 a.m. Tai Chi
 1:00 p.m. UMW Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Sign Language Class
 6:30 p.m. Outreach Team
 6:30 p.m. Church Family Life Team
 7:00 p.m. Cub & Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 3

9:00 a.m. TOPS
 10:00 a.m. Paint for Fun
 12:30 p.m. Priscilla Wms. Circle
 6:00 p.m. CPR Training
 6:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge
 7:00 p.m. Wood Carvers

Wednesday, February 4

9:30 a.m. Symphony Guild
 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 5

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
 7:30 p.m. Women's Cursillo Retreat

SAVE THE DATE

On February 15, 2009 North Cross UMC
 will hold a Presidential Party
 to celebrate America's Leaders of the Past

Don't forget your sweetheart this year

Tickets to treat your sweetheart to a night of dancing, music, fun and celebration are still available for purchase in the church's entryway before and after each service.

The cost is \$15 per couple and \$8 per single. You can purchase tickets at the door on the night of the dance for \$20 per couple and \$10 per single.

The *Adult Sweetheart Dance* will be held from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m., Saturday, February 14th. Proceeds from this youth-hosted event will benefit the youth's summer mission trip to Sikeston, Missouri.

You could give flowers

Throughout the year there are those who share a special event in their lives (wedding, birthday, anniversary) by placing a floral arrangement on the table in the sanctuary to enhance the morning worship services.

If you would be interested in doing so, your name could be added to any "unclaimed" Sundays on the flower calendar which hangs in the church office. For more information call the office at 452.2939, and someone will answer your questions about costs, etc.



On Sundays when no flowers are designated, the church's altar guild seeks to bring appropriate symbolism to enhance the church's worship theme for the day.

February dates of interest

- Friday, Feb. 13th—3 D's Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 14th—Adult Sweetheart Dance, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 16th—President's Day—office closed
- Tuesday, Feb. 17th—XYZ Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 22nd—Cici's Pizza Day
- Wednesday, Feb. 25th—Morning Service—TBA;
 Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 28th—Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday morning Bible study offered

Ron Berry will lead a study of "Revelation" beginning Wednesday, Feb. 18th through April 22nd. Cost for the 10-week study will be \$35. Study booklets have been ordered from the Interpretation Bible Study series, and will be used in conjunction with your personal Bible.

Please contact Ron at 781.0455 as soon as possible if you're interested in joining this study.

Rick's Ruminations:

We are now in the process of organizing the church's committee structure to advance the ministry of the church in the coming year. Trustees and Finance committees have met, and this week your Administrative Council and Worship committees are meeting for their first time. Outreach and Staff-Parish will be gathering soon, and other groups will follow.

LaDonna Ebright, our new Administrative Council Chair, is looking to the future and leading us to set goals and objectives which include the transition to a new senior pastor who will bring his or her leadership in late June.

As your current pastor, I want to provide leadership that encourages the laity to move forward, but to do so with an understanding that a new pastor will need to "get to know" this congregation and have a period of "settling in." Strong lay leadership is important for this next pastor and I am hopeful that Dennis will be able to be reassigned as the church's associate. His working with the new pastor could be exceedingly helpful to whoever it is that will follow my tenure.

At the end of this month I will have completed six years as the pastor here at North Cross. They have been years filled with joyful ministry. I have no reason to believe that the next five months will be any different.

It is important, in this time of transition, for the members of this congregation to continue to support the church's ministry through your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

This is a healthy congregation. It is important for you to understand this reality. My subsequent decision to retire should not be allowed to keep this congregation from its work to advance the spiritual growth and vital ministry this church has in this community.

I'm looking forward to our work together in my remaining months as your pastor.

...rmh

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- **Hospitalized:** Robert Taylor, VA Hospital
- Menu for February 4th: *Leftover Surprise*
- We welcome Betsy Fletcher Strub to the congregation of North Cross. Betsy joined North Cross on Sunday, January 11, 2009.
- Our sympathy is offered to Veleria Burton in the death of her sister, LaVerne, on January 19th in Kansas City; Charles and Sharon Weems in the death of his sister, Christine Northern, on January 20th in Kansas City, Kansas; and Patsy Ranes, Dick and Joyce Ranes in the death of Patsy's brother, Don Watson, (Dick's uncle) on January 18th, 2009.
- Women's Tuesday Bible study, "*Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*", will begin on February 24th at 9:30 a.m.. More information to follow.

Publication Deadline: Wednesday at noon
Spirit Editor: Mary Alice Morrissey

Church Office: 816-452-2939

Fax Number: 816-453-4353

Send email to mamorrissey@northcrossumc.org

Visit our new website at www.northcrossumc.org

North Cross United Methodist Church
1321 N.E. Vivion Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64118

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