

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

March 19, 2009

YEARNING TO LOVE

"Our yearning to give generously and receive gracefully is at the heart of our quest for intimacy. Intimacy in turn demands that we hold the tension of opposites: the yearning to love unconditionally and the craving to be loved for just being; the lust for control and the desire for surrender; the dread of entrapment and the longing for engulfment; the vitality of creative partnership and the deadness of status quo routine. George Orwell wrote, "The essence of being human is that we are in the end prepared to be broken up by life – which is the inevitable process of fastening our love upon other human beings." The yearning to love asks us to live with the fear that we may burn up in our giving and receiving – but it's worth it."

-- Rabbi Irwin Kula, YEARNING: EMBRACING THE SACRED MESSINESS OF LIFE, pp 156-157

Dear Cross Creeker:

We're going on a treasure hunt! We won't be digging holes around the church searching for buried gold, though. Instead, we're searching for treasure that speaks of the Divine.

Our sacred scripture gives us many images for the treasure of which I speak. ...a treasure map if you will. In Deuteronomy 14:1-2 we read that for God, we are treasure: "You are children of the Lord your God. ... It is you the Lord has chosen ... to be his people, his treasured possession." Galatians 3:26 assures us that we are all included and named as God's beloved: "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight" goes the children's song, voicing the truth that God treasures all people, throughout the world.

One of the gifts of being God's children is that sometimes we are called to be "treasure tenders" for God. We tend God's treasure here in our congregation with the love and care we show each other through special meals, sending cards, visiting the sick, teaching and listening to our children and one another, and sharing each other's prayers. We are also invited to tend God's treasures beyond our congregation. One of the small but significant ways we can do this is by participating in [ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING](#).

Life can be tough at times. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Through [ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING](#), we join with our sister churches in the United Church of Christ and nine other protestant denominations in gently, persistently, and strongly caring for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure—our money—decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives. We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure.

And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises. Working with others, we realize that God's love and care reaches out to all of us and beyond us.

First Timothy 6:18-19a exhorts us "to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up ... the treasure of a good foundation for the future." As people who seek to follow in the way of Jesus, we treasure being a part of God's dream and participating in God's realm here on earth. We treasure giving and receiving love. Because we have tasted of God's amazing love, we can't help but want to love all God's treasured people.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). I hope that when you come to worship this weekend, you will find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to [ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING](#). And if for some reason you can't be

a church this weekend, you can send in your offering designated for **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** to the church office, or bring your offering with you next weekend, as we will collect the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** offering both this weekend and next!

I'll be looking for you this weekend as we gather to worship on the Fourth Sunday in Lent!
Peace, Pastor Mike

PS: For a complete listing of events, please go to www.crosscreekchurch.org.

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IN WORSHIP *THIS WEEKEND*

This weekend we will continue our Lenten series YEARNINGS: EMBRACING THE SACRED MESSINESS OF LIFE. I will be offering the prompting entitled "*Yearning for Love.*" We'll be reading from the Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 and the Gospel According to John 3:14-21. If you are following along with Rabbi Irwin Kula's book **YEARNINGS: EMBRACING THE SACRED MESSINESS OF LIFE** we'll be considering the section **YEARNING TO LOVE.** Cinda Tyler will be singing a Kate Campbell song called *Perfect World.* And Jey Ellis and Darren McGarvey have written another original drama called *cheapflights.com*, which they, as well as Katy Cecil and Charlie Williams, will perform.

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FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN MEAL & MOVIE SERIES

This is a great opportunity for fellowship and deepening relationships among Cross Creek people. It is also another means to enter in the spiritual discipline of Lent through film. Each movie has been selected to correspond with the theme of worship for that weekend.

Friday, March 20: **TRANS AMERICA** (Meal: Manicotti meal with vegetables, salad, bread and dessert)

Friday, March 27: **LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL** (Meal: Spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, and dessert)

Friday, April 3: **PAY IT FORWARD** (Meal: Sloppy Joes, Potato Salad, Veggie Tray and Dessert)

April 4-5, 2009 – Sixth Sunday of Lent – **PALM SUNDAY**

YEARNINGS: Yearning for Transcendence

**Communion served at all weekend services.*



HOLY WEEK

April 9, 2009 – **MAUNDY THURSDAY** at 7:00 p.m.

Communion and Footwashing ending with the beginning of a Tenebrae Service or "Service of Darkness":

An medieval tradition of readings and extinguishing candles.

Childcare available for children age 5 and younger.

April 10, 2009 – **GOOD FRIDAY** at 7:00 p.m.

Completion of the Tenebrae Service and worship in the Style of Taize.

Childcare available for children age 5 and younger.

April 11-12, 2009 **EASTER CELEBRATIONS**

**Communion served at all weekend services.*

EASTER EGGS-STRAVAGANZA 2009: SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Cross Creek's annual Eggs-stravaganza, for infants through second grade children and their families will take place Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$3.00 and friends are welcome. There will be an Easter egg hunt and musical entertainment by Dorie and the Daddios. Tickets on sale now at the events table. Get yours today!

ONLY NINE WEEKS UNTIL CROSS CREEK'S TAG SALE: MAY 21, 22, 23

What a great way to usher in the spring season by cleaning out your closet, basement or garage and donating unwanted items to Cross Creek for the Tag Sale (the biggest yard sale this side of Centerville). Please bring your unwanted goods to Cross Creek May 17-20. All donations are tax deductible: Furniture, Home Décor, Appliances, Electronics, Sporting Goods, Clothing, Christmas, Toys, etc. Please contact Dan Carl, 885-3268 or Brian Terry, 301-5500 to volunteer or donate.