

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

March 26, 2009

YEARNING TO LOVE

"Plato taught that happiness is rooted in an examined life and the Psalmist wrote 'Know Before Whom You Stand'. In other words, happiness comes from learning to appreciate living in the gap between what we desire and what we have, who we are and who we want to be, how we act and how we ought to act. In the end, maybe a happy life is one in which we regularly reflect on what makes for a happy life."

-- Rabbi Irwin Kula, YEARNING: EMBRACING THE SACRED MESSINESS OF LIFE, p.249

Dear Cross Creeker:

One of the things I look forward to every year at Cross Creek is the children's **EASTER EGGS-STRAVAGANZA**. There is nothing like watching the excitement and energy of the children as they search for hidden eggs, discover special treats, and enjoy a special program designed just for them!

For me, the **EASTER EGGS-STRAVAGANZA** ranks right up there with singing "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today" when we gather for worship on Easter Sunday. Now I know that may sound like sacrilege to some of you. Right up there with other secular distractions, like Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny! But I don't see it that way. When our kids gather and I look at their beautiful smiles, hear their unrestrained laughter and participate in their raucous fun, I am reminded of the hope and joy of resurrection...even in the final hours of Lent.



Like the daffodils that trumpet new life and the onset of spring, the joy of the children who gather the Saturday before Easter is a sign that resurrection life is not only coming soon, but already is. The simple beauty of the daffodils and the unfettered strains of children's laughter are the kinds of things that make me bubble with happiness even as I stand in the Lenten gap between what is and what is yet to be. With smiles and tears, I keep my eyes on the daffodils and tune my ears toward the laughter of the children to guide me home to the wonder and amazement and ordinariness of Easter joy!

This year, **EASTER EGGS-STRAVAGANZA** will be held on Saturday morning, April 11 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The event is geared for younger children (infants through second grade) and their families. Tickets are \$3.00 per child and are available at the church. Friends, neighbors, grandchildren, nieces/nephews – they are all welcome! This is a great opportunity to introduce new people to the Cross Creek family. So please, invite others to come and join in some Easter fun!

EASTER EGGS-STRAVAGANZA begins *promptly* at 10:00 a.m. with the Egg Hunt. So be sure your kids are there on time! Following the egg hunt, the kids will gather in the big room for some rip roaring musical entertainment by the kid friendly rock band, **DORIE AND THE DADDIOS**.

A special thanks to **Liz Roaden**, our Children's Ministry Coordinator, **Sue Voisard**, our Spiritual Formation Director and **Pam Powers** and all the **Spiritual Formation Ministry Team** who make **EASTER EGGS-STRAVAGANZA** happen and who lead and organize to teach and to love and to care for our children all through the year!

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

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IN WORSHIP *THIS WEEKEND*

This weekend we will continue our Lenten series YEARNINGS: EMBRACING THE SACRED MESSINESS OF LIFE. Pastor Mike will be offering a prompting entitled "*The Sense of Enough (Yearning for Happiness)*". We'll be reading from the Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Psalm 51:1-12. 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 FOR HAPPINESS**. **David McKibben** will be singing.

And if you haven't had the chance to make a mission offering to **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**, we'll be collecting that special offering for one more weekend. Along with nine other mainline denominations, United Church of Christ congregations join together to collect money for **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** which channels resources for programs in health, education, agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and disaster preparedness in America and all around the world!

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LAST FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN MEAL & MOVIE SERIES

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

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PLAN NOW TO MAKE THE JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK!!

April 4-5, 2009 – Sixth Sunday of Lent – **PALM SUNDAY** at 5:30 Saturday & 9:30 and 11:00 on Sunday

**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** at 5:30 Saturday & 9:30 and 11:00 on Sunday

**Communion served at all weekend services. Cross Creek Choir Singing!*

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FIRST WORK-SHIP OF 2009

During worship the weekend of **April 18/19**, our congregation will again gather at tables to prepare kits that meet a need in our community. The kits this time will go to families that visit our own Cross Creek Feeding Friends Food Pantry. We will fill grocery bags* with household items not available through the regular pantry supply source. *A big thank you goes to the Washington Square Dorothy Lane Market for providing the grocery bags and support. Please check out the display in the church hallway and take home the flyer that gives you the details of what to buy when you shop.

APRIL CPR – TUESDAY APRIL 28 FROM 6:30 TO 9:00 P.M.

Do you know CPR? Do you need to renew your skills? NOW is the time. This American Heart Association class will cover adult, child and infant CPR along with the skills necessary for the relief of choking. This is a certification course and your card will be good for 2 years. The class will be lead by Jey Ellis who has been an instructor through American Heart for 13 years. He currently serves as a volunteer for AHA as Regional Faculty and teaches hundreds of students each year. The cost of the course is \$45 which includes the textbook and certification card. Net proceeds from this class go directly to Cross Creek Community Church. Space is limited, so don't delay! The event is also open to the wider community!

LOBBY DAY FOR EQUALITY 2009! WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 -- REGISTER NOW!

For the past three years HUNDREDS of Ohioans have visited their elected officials to talk with them about equal rights for ALL Ohioans regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Mothers, fathers, families, clergy members, students -- they took a day off from school or work to go to Columbus to participate in EQUALITY OHIO's LOBBY DAY. Lobby Day is making a difference, so come join in the action! If you have questions see Mike Castle, Patty Thompson or Jenny Caden. To register go to: <http://eqfed.org/equalityohio/events/lobby09/details.tcl> . A car pool sign up is available in the church hallway if you are interested in sharing a ride to Columbus.

SPECIAL NOTE: An Equality Ohio Lobby Day Training event will conveniently be held next Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to noon right here at Cross Creek Community Church!.

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