

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

August 20, 2009

“Sacred the body God has created, temple of Spirit that dwells deep inside. Cherish each person; nurture relation. Treat flesh as holy, that love may abide.”

--from Ruth Duck's Hymn "Sacred the Body"

Dear Cross Creeker:

One email got it started. **JERRY MALLICOAT** recently wrote our moderator, **SONYA HARRY** and me saying:

“Hi folks – I’ve been thinking a lot about safety at Cross Creek in the wake of the various shootings that have occurred over the last several months at churches, museums, etc. So I thought I’d send a message to a few of you to share my thoughts on this and encourage us all to do some planning...I don’t intend this email to be alarmist...I certainly don’t want to discourage any of our church’s activities in regard to the many justice and witness ministries or other efforts, but rather help protect the church as a haven and refuge of love, peace, faith and hope that it represents for all of us and others in the community.”

So in response to Jerry’s kind and loving nudge, our Coordinating Council has formed a **CHURCH SAFETY COMMITTEE**, which Jerry himself has agreed to chair! The Church Safety Committee is working to identify precautions to enhance safety for the congregation during worship and for staff and others using the church throughout the week. The committee was formed, in part, in response to recent tragic events that have occurred at churches and other venues throughout the country. The stated intent of the Church Safety Committee is to take a “better safe than sorry” approach to safety and security at church. We all want Cross Creek to remain a haven of peace, love and safety for all those who seek fellowship here.

As a first step, the Church Safety Committee would like to identify people who are willing to be safety monitors in the hallway and parking lot during our worship services. Safety monitors will be responsible for observing the parking lot, church entrance and hallway while worship is under way, and for alerting the necessary authorities if any serious real or potential risks arise. The person(s) monitoring will not be able to participate in the particular worship service they monitor, but will be able to attend one of the other worship weekend services. Training will be provided.

The Church Safety Committee would also like to identify people in our congregation who have safety or medical training/experience such as CPR, those who are doctors or nurses, and those who have crisis management/intervention training. The committee is seeking to identify and implement good emergency response procedures and to identify necessary equipment in this area.

If you are interested in serving as a safety monitor or have safety/medical/crisis training or would like to become involved in the Church Safety Committee, please contact Jerry Mallicoat at jmallicoat@cinci.rr.com. As its work progresses, the committee will keep the congregation engaged and informed of its activities.

In the meantime, thank Jerry for his care and concern of our church and his willingness to lead this effort!

I will be looking for you in worship this weekend. In the meantime, I hope you are *practicing* your faith!

Peace,
MIKE CASTLE, Pastor

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IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

This weekend Pastor Mike will continue the series of sermons he started last weekend, entitled **AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD: A GEOGRAPHY OF FAITH**, based on a book with that same title by Barbara Brown Taylor. The prompting is entitled “*The Practice of Wearing Skin: Incarnation*,” which follows Chapter 3 of Taylor’s book. **CINDA TYLER** will be singing.

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

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RIVER BAPTISM -- Sunday, August 23

Our annual River Baptism service will be held Sunday, Aug. 23 at the Jacoby Road Canoe Launch, located between Xenia and Yellow Springs. Participants, along with friends and family, will meet at 12:30 p.m. for a brown bag meal along the banks of the river. The service will begin at 2 p.m. If you are interested in being baptized, contact Pastor Mike Castle as soon as possible.

Shaun and Abigail Bengson In Concert - Saturday, September 5 @ 8:00 p.m.

Fresh back from South Africa, Shaun and Abigail will offer a special Saturday evening concert. No tickets required, but a free will offering will be taken. Shaun and Abigail will also be our guest musicians in worship on September 5-6, 2009 for our "Out of Africa" theme.

HOLY C.O.W. -- CELEBRATE OUR WELCOME WEEKEND - September 26-27, 2009

Cross Creek Community Church, United Church of Christ is pleased to announce that **JASON & deMARCO** will be in concert on Saturday, September 26 at 8:00 and **CANDACE CHELLEW-HODGE** will be conducting a workshop on her book *Bulletproof Faith: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians* on Saturday, September 26 from 10:00 - 1:00 (including lunch). Costs for the Concert is \$20 per ticket and cost for the workshop is \$20 (includes lunch) per person, or a special package discount that can be purchased for \$30.00 which includes both the concert and the workshop. In addition, JASON & deMARCO and CANDACE CHELLEW-HODGE will be special guests in all three weekend worship services on September 26-27 at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. All of this is part of Cross Creek Community Church's **HOLY C.O.W. (Celebrate Our Welcome) Weekend**. A brochure with complete details for the weekend, as well as a registration form to order tickets is available in the church lobby or online at www.crosscreekchurch.org.

BEYOND FOX & CNN -- MIDDLE EAST 101

The Centerville Washington Diversity Council invites you to a community forum on the historical and geographical elements of the Middle East turmoil and strife. How did we get here? What are the roots of the thinking and feeling of the different groups living in the Middle East? Come on Thursday, Sept 17 at 7 PM to get grounded in a better understanding of the news. It will be held at Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 8690 Yankee Street in Centerville.

WEEKEND GETAWAY AT CAMP AKITA -- OCTOBER 16-18

Leave the hustle and bustle behind, and commune with nature at Camp Akita, a breath of fresh air nestled in the scenic Hocking Hills in southeastern Ohio. This is not a church sponsored event, but an informal weekend getaway. You may choose to fish, canoe, bird watch or just sleep in. We will be staying in cabins with scenic views, each unique with its own flair and amenities: including full bathrooms in each cabin, and some cabins with full kitchens, fireplaces, decks and vaulted ceilings. There is availability for the first 34 guests who register. Pricing depends on which cabin you choose. See www.campakita.org for detailed information about each cabin and camp amenities. Please contact Dan Carl at dancarl@aol.com for additional details and to register.

LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP...

August 29-30

AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD: A Geography of Faith

The Practice of Walking on the Earth: Groundedness

**Back to School Recognition/Prayer with our Children (Sunday Only)*

September 5-6

"OUT OF AFRICA" WEEKEND

Jonathan McClelland & Megan Weber will share their summer experiences in Tanzania; Maggie Spring and Matt Chaney will share of their summer experiences in Kenya; Shaun and Abigail Bengson will share their summer experiences in South Africa.

**Communion will be served at all weekend services.*

September 12-13

AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD: A Geography of Faith

The Practice of Getting Lost: Wilderness

September 19-20

Guest Preacher: Rev. Roselin Runnels