

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

September 10, 2009

Dear Cross Creeker:

On Common Ground, Cross Creek's adult education program, kicks off the fall session with a host of offerings! **On Common Ground** provides the opportunity to come together in one place to learn and grow in faith. The core class, **Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time**, led by **Pastor Mike Castle**, will be offered twice and focuses on Jesus and seeks to make sense of his life, teachings and stories as well as his relationship to God. **Uppity Women of the Bible**, led by **Sue Voisard**, will include an engaging video segment featuring the Rev. Dr. Lisa Wolfe as well as lively discussion and faith sharing. **Spiritual Tools for the Journey**, led by **Ruth Hopkins**, will focus on discovering your personal "tool belt" for life's journey, and **Move Into Life**, led by **Joyce Cameron**, will explore nine essential qualities of movement and offer tools and techniques to engage the body, the mind, and the spirit. More detailed class descriptions are available in the church hallway and on the website.

Participation in the **On Common Ground** sessions not only provides opportunities to expand our knowledge about our faith, but also to connect with other Cross Creek folks in relaxed atmosphere of sharing and learning.

Classes begin the week of September 27th and childcare will be provided during the Wednesday evening sessions for children 3 and under for a nominal fee paid by parents. Registration forms are available in the church hallway or by going to the church website and clicking on the **On Common Ground** tab on the left side of the screen. Books can also be ordered through the Cross Creek homepage by clicking on the Amazon link at the bottom.

Questions can be directed to Marianne Rinaldo (433-6498 or mcr11101@sbcglobal.net) or Sue Voisard (434-4580 or SVoisard@aol.com).

We are looking forward to another great session of learning and fun—hope to see you!

Thanks,

Marianne Rinaldo, Coordinator
On Common Ground

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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 Getting Lost: Wilderness**," which follows Chapter 5 of Taylor's book. The scripture reading will be from Genesis 12:1-9 and John 3:1-10. **Mindi Maynard** will be singing two fabulous songs: "**Blessed**" (as performed by Rachel Lampa) and "**Held**" (as performed by Natalie Grant).

Look, the trees
are turning
their own bodies
into pillars

of light,
are giving off the rich
fragrance of cinnamon
and fulfillment,

the long tapers
of cattails
are bursting and floating away over
the blue shoulders

of the ponds,
and every pond,
no matter what its
name is, is

nameless now.
Every year
everything
I have ever learned

in my lifetime
leads back to this: the fires
and the black river of loss
whose other side

is salvation,
whose meaning
none of us will ever know.
To live in this world

you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it

against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go
to let it go.

— Mary Oliver, *In Blackwater Pond*

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.

NOTE: Childcare is available for WORKSHOP ONLY from 10:00 - 1:00 with advance reservation. To arrange childcare, please sign up at the Special Events table.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CROSS CREEK CHURCH?

Come to the Exploring Membership Class!

Those interested in investigating covenant membership at Cross Creek Community Church, as well as those interested in learning more about the church's statement of faith; its vision, mission and distinctive values; its decision making processes and its varied ministries, as well as its affiliation with the United Church of Christ and the Alliance of Baptists are invited to attend the Exploring Covenant Membership Class on **Saturday, October 10 from 9 AM to 2 PM**. You can sign up in the church hallway or contact Pastor Mike Castle to register. Childcare is available upon request with advance notice.

CROSS CREEK FALL PARTY -- CHANGE OF DATE!!

Now it is Saturday, October 17 @ 4:00 PM

Mark and Patty Thompson are hosting our Cross Creeks Fall Party again at their home. Activities include pot luck dinner, hayrides, square dancing, games, bonfire, singing, night hike, kids activities and much more. There will be pony rides for kids from 4 to 5:30 PM. Sign up at the information table, bring a friend, your favorite dish to share and table service. Drinks will be provided. We will eat at 5:30 PM. There will be no Saturday night service at Cross Creek that evening.

United Church of Christ's 100,000 for Health Care

Our faith teaches us that health care is both a human need and a human right. Offering comfort to the broken, sick and injured was foundational to Jesus' ministry and is central to our serving the least among us. Our nation deserves a health care system that is inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable. Just consider:

Over 47 million people (one in six) and over 9 million children are without health coverage and 25 million more are under-insured.

Every year, 18,000 people in the United States die from a lack of health insurance—that's two people every hour.

More than 60 percent of all bankruptcies are linked to medical expenses. About 1.5 million families lose their homes to foreclosure every year due to unaffordable medical costs.

Be a part of our massive 10-day effort to bring together 100,000 UCC members and supporters to insist that health care for all is the mark of a just, compassionate and faithful society. Before Sept. 18—in just 10 days—our hope is to send **100,000 messages** to Congress and deliver a huge book of **100,000 names** to the Democratic and Republican leadership in Congress, starting with the in-district office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi during Rev. Geoffrey Black's upcoming trip to visit churches in the San Francisco area. Together, speaking as people of faith, we have the power to change the conversation and envision a society where each person is afforded health, wholeness and human dignity.

To be one of the United Church of Christ's 100,000 for Health Care, sign on at

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/health/100k-for-health-care/>

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

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