

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

THE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER OF CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE: November 19, 2009

"It is forbidden to taste the pleasures of this world without a blessing."

-The Talmud

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IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will wrap up our Pentecost series **AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD: A GEOGRAPHY OF FAITH**, based on the book by Barbara Brown Taylor. **Pastor Mike** will be offering a prompting entitled *"The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings: Benediction,"* which follows Chapter 12 of Barbara Brown Taylor's book. As one of the many ordained and/or seminary trained individuals at Cross Creek, **John Bengson** will be offering a testimony about his experience of *"grace upon grace"* as an active part of our community of faith. The **Cinda Tyler** is the soloist and the **Drama Team** will be performing. We'll also welcome five new covenant members: **Philip Elam, Dale Brown, Valerie Wright, and Mike & Nikki Hammes.**

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Dear Cross Creeker:

This is a friendly reminder that our goal is to collect all 2010 Pledge Cards by this Sunday, November 22. You can turn them in during the offering in worship this weekend, or submit your pledge online at http://www.crosscreekchurch.org/p_pledge_form.php.

Your generous contributions will enable our church to engage its mission and witness in 2010.

If you are giving for the first time, THANK YOU!

If you have been a long time giver and have the ability, please consider increasing your pledge compared to last year, even if only slightly.

To illustrate, with a 5-10% increase in contributions, we will be able to do the following:

- restore our two Weekend Intensives
- return the Spiritual Formation director position to full time hours
- support our pastor with a salary raise for the first time in 4 years
- increase our support for the Feeding Friends Food Pantry
- provide a new confirmation class for our youth
- and much more...

What is your dream for our church?
Your generous contributions can help those dreams come to fruition.

Thank you all for all you do.
Mike Lockwood, Moderator-Elect

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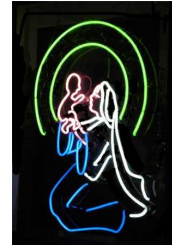
NEXT WEEKEND IS WORK-SHIP

Having celebrated our bounty just a few days earlier on Thanksgiving, we will gather at tables next weekend during our services. As part of worship, we will bring supplies to our tables, assemble the grooming kits for ARC Ohio, and dedicate them as part of our offering. It is especially meaningful to do work-ship the weekend following Thanksgiving. As we focus on our own blessings, we give to others in return. Thanks to all who provided supplies or donations to make this outreach possible.

READY FOR THE 2009 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT?!

This year we are presenting "Matt and Lucy's Version Births," a play written by the writers of the "Living the Questions Series." It explores the differing stories of Jesus' birth told in the books of Matthew and Luke. Which one is right? Join us and find out!

We're looking for children and youth of all ages! The rehearsal schedule is 5-6 PM on Sunday, November 22 & 29 and December 13th, and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 19th from 11:30-1pm. The pageant will be held at 5:30 on Saturday, December 19th. A sign-up sheet is in the hallway and if you have any questions please contact Kim Lockwood@ 829-3272 or kimberly.lockwood@notes.udayton.edu.



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE SPARKLES

This weekend the delicate art of spun glass comes to life at Cross Creek with our dazzling Angel Tree Christmas ornaments! Appearing as if they were spun of ice, these decorations shimmer and shine with holiday cheer. The spun glass decoration is your keepsake for providing gifts for a child this holiday season. A note card is attached to each ornament with the following information: the child's age, gender, favorite color, and gift wishes. We ask that you choose three gifts, if possible, per child. As a thank you for your generosity, the keepsake ornament will be a reminder of how you have brought joy to someone this Christmas.



*Pick up an Angel Tree ornament *this weekend* to take advantage of the post-Thanksgiving Day sales.

**Special thank you to the Kohl's store on Wilmington Pike for adopting one of our families.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!

We are going to do things a little differently this year. Instead of a catered banquet we will gather for a pot-luck dinner on **Sunday, December 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**. Dinner will be served promptly at 5:00 so be sure to have your dish ready to go! Following dinner there will be a delightful program of music and drama and fun. Plan on singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols as well! Please sign-up in the church hallway by indicating what type of dish you plan to bring and how many people will be coming with you.

PRAYER GROUP STARTING

Announcing a new opportunity to pray with others. **Starting on Tuesday, Dec 1, 2009**, a Prayer Group will be meeting every first Tuesday of the month from 6:15 PM to 7 PM at the home of Alison Perkins in Washington Township. This will be a drop-in group, so come when you can. Sign up in the hallway or just drop in. Sorry no childcare is available, adults only, please. Directions to her home will be sent prior to the first meeting or call the church to get them. Bring a friend.

IN THE COMMUNITY

DAYTON LGBT COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER -- Saturday, Nov 21

Come for a Thanksgiving dinner featuring turkey, ham and all the fixin's! Bring a salad, dessert or side dish to share to St. Paul United Methodist Church, 101 Huffman Ave in East Dayton. The evening begins at 5:30 PM with a social hour followed by dinner at 6:30. Then the Dayton Gay Men's Chorus will preview their 2010 Winter Concert to be held on Dec 5th.

WORLD AIDS DAY PRAYER SERVICE

St. John United Church of Christ (520 Fairfield Avenue, Bellevue, KY) invites you to the annual **World AIDS Day Prayer Service** on **Tuesday, December 1st at 7:30 PM**. This year's service follows the recent pattern of presenting liturgies from around the world that call us to prayer and action. The Church will be filled with candlelight and prayers will be offered to remember that every 15 seconds someone in the world dies of AIDS-related illnesses. Clergy from the area and others will lead in prayer and scripture readings, and a combined choir from St. John United Church of Christ (Bellevue, KY), Calvary Episcopal Church (Clifton) and First United Church of Christ (College Hill) will sing and lead in chants and hymns. The order of service was published by the Diakonia Council of Churches in South Africa and adapted for this service. **The Reverend Dr. Michael Castle, pastor of Cross Creek Community Church in Dayton, OH will preach.** A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Anonymous HIV Testing will be offered by the Northern Kentucky Health Department at the Church in room 201 from **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Please use the Ward Avenue entrance.

The Church is located 1/2 mile east of Newport on the Levee and 1/4 mile east of the 471 Interstate at the Bellevue/Newport/Route 8 exit. For more information go to www.StJohnChurch.net or call 859.261.2066.

FRUITCAKE: DAYTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Dayton Gay Men's Chorus will present their 2009 holiday concert **FRUITCAKE: A Delicious Slice of Holiday Song** on **Saturday, Dec 5 at 6:00 PM** at St John's United Church of Christ. Tickets are \$10

EQUALITY OHIO CELEBRATES 5 YEARS OF SUCCESS

On **December 5th** from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, friends of Equality Ohio will gather at the Columbus Athletic Club in Columbus, Ohio to celebrate the progress made for LGBT equality across Ohio since 2004. The event will honor the service of Lynne Bowman, Equality Ohio's outgoing founding Executive Director and commemorate the 5th "Banniversary" of the 2004 anti-gay marriage amendment to our state's constitution. Admission for this fundraiser is \$50. There will be appetizers and cash bar with brief program at 6:00 PM. Please register for the event or donate at www.equalityohio.org

GOOD GRIEF WORK GROUP

The Good Grief Work Group at Miami Valley Hospital seeks to create an environment where surviving family, friends and significant others can receive support, give compassion and learn coping skills while going through the grief of bereavement. The group meets on Wednesdays, 3:30 - 5 PM on **Dec 2, 9, & 16, 2009 and January 6, 13, & 20, 2010**. There is no charge to participate but you must register and commit to attend all six sessions. Call (937) 208-2499 to register.

LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

November 28-29

First Sunday of Advent

EXTREME MAKEOVER: WORLD EDITION

Out of Plumb and Not Up to Code

Guest Speaker: Andrew Hyde

Prompting: Rev. Beth Holten, Greater Dayton Christian Connections

WORK-SHIP: AIDS Resource Center/Ohio **World Aids Day (December 1) Theme*

December 5-6

Second Sunday of Advent

EXTREME MAKEOVER: WORLD EDITION

Get Ready for Radical Remodel

Prompting: Ruth Hopkins

**Communion served at all three services.*

December 12-13

Third Sunday of Advent

EXTREME MAKEOVER: WORLD EDITION

And Now for the "Wow Factor"

Prompting: Rev. Dr. Michael D. Castle

**Cross Creek Choir will be singing.*

*** Baptism of Madelaine Booker*



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