

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

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

ISSUE: November 26, 2009

“Since there is no cure for AIDS, we find ourselves in a season of Advent. Still waiting. Still hoping. Still working. Still caring. And this World AIDS Day, we’ll still be praying: ‘Come, Lord Jesus, come.’”

-- Rev. Dr. Michael D. Castle from an article written for United Church News in November of 2000

* * * * *

IN WORSHIP *THIS WEEKEND*

This weekend we will begin the season of Advent under the theme ***EXTREME MAKEOVER: WORLD EDITION***. Rev. Beth Holten, Interim Executive Director of Greater Dayton Christian Connections will be offering a prompting entitled ***“Out of Plumb and Not Up to Code.”*** The soloist is Amy Robb.

We’ll also be participating in a “work-ship” for AIDS Resource Center Ohio to recognize **World AIDS Day** (December 1). Andrew Hyde, a regular attendee at Cross Creek, and the mPowerment Coordinator for ARC Ohio, will offer a testimony about his faith at work as well as the work of ARC Ohio. As part of worship, we will assemble 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.

* * * * *

Dear Cross Creeker:

I pray that all of you have a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

I have so much in my life for which I am grateful. I treasure the grace and goodness that surrounds me in abundance. It is always a joy for me to acknowledge such bounty and give praise to God.

One of the things that always give me cause to offer heartfelt words of thanksgiving is our church. I remain abundantly thankful for our life-giving friendships and spirited community. For your presence, for your service, for your giving, for *you*...I GIVE THANKS!

This past weekend I shared a Thanksgiving poem, written by our own Rev. Barbara Battin. She is a psalmist and a poet in our midst! Many of you expressed your delight in her words, so I am going to share them again here...to extend the blessing she has so beautifully and creatively offered:

**November bounty
brings food to our tables.
November beauty
nourishes our spirits.
November blessing:
our gratitude for the
goodness, the gifts, the graces of Life.
Gracefully, gratefully
may we share the bounty
so those who are hungry may eat;
may we share the beauty**

so that famished souls may revive;
may we share the blessing
so that all may find the Sacred
sitting on the doorstep of their hearts,
speaking through our laughter and love,
shining through mysteries, marvels
and the most mundane of moments.
May we share the blessing
so that we all may join
in a song of thanks-giving.

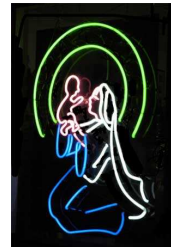
Happy Thanksgiving,
Pastor Mike

* * * * *

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

Once again, Cross Creek's Angel Tree will be a blessing to a number of families in our community. Many of the keepsake ornaments were selected from the Angel Tree last week, but several ornaments remain. 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 brought joy to someone this Christmas.



**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.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Once again, Christmas poinsettias will beautify the church this Advent and Christmas Season. You may order your poinsettias using the order form in your bulletin. You are welcome to take your plants(s) home after the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service.

KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

Just a friendly reminder to use those Kroger Rewards Cards over the holidays. Every time you load money on to the card you purchase at church, Kroger gives the church 4% of the sale. Once money is placed on the card, the card can be used to purchase groceries, gas and all sorts of gift cards to other stores and restaurants. So if you are planning to give gift cards for Christmas presents, buy them at Kroger and the church will receive 4% of the sale. Gift cards are available at the Special Events Table.

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.

20' LADDER NEEDED

The Building and Grounds Committee is need of a 20' ladder that can be stored in the garage. If you have one you'd like to give or you'd be willing to purchase a new one, please see Duane Tabb (itabb@woh.rr.com) or call 350-7181)

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

Cross Creek traditionally presents its staff with monetary gifts at Christmas time, thanking them for the hard work and in many cases, countless hours of overtime they provide for our church. Donations for the staff are now being taken. Make checks payable to CCCC and mark "Staff Christmas" on your offering envelope.

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

