

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

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

ISSUE: December 3, 2009

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord...'"

--Luke3:4

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IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will gather for the second Sunday in Advent under the theme **EXTREME MAKEOVER: WORLD EDITION**. Ruth Hopkins will be offering a prompting entitled **"Get Ready for a Radical Remodel."** Kenny Roaden will be singing "People Get Ready." We will also gather around the table for communion.

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CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS SUNDAY EVENING!

December 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

POTLUCK: Please bring a dish to share.

**Church will provide drinks and table service.*

**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.**

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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!

Our children and youth will present this pageant at 5:30 PM on Saturday, December 19th. Come support our young people and enjoy a delightful evening worship experience. There will be a cookie reception after the service.

ANGEL TREE - WRAP UP



Angel Tree gifts with tags #1 through #31 should be wrapped and brought to Cross Creek no later than this Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Cross Creek Christmas Dinner. Please check the date on the back of your Angel Tree tag for delivery date. If your gift tag is #32 - #60 you have up to Dec. 20 to bring your gifts to Cross Creek.

Thank you for your generosity!! Special thank you to the Cross Creek Card Ministry for hand-stamping over 300 gift tags to be added to the Angel Tree presents.

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.

CROSS CREEK "BOOK CLUB"

The first meeting of a newly forming Book Club will be held on Wednesday, December 9 at 6:15-7:30 PM at the church. We would like to extend an invitation to the congregation to join us! We'll be reading and discussing John Shelby Spong's "**Why Christianity Must Change or Die**". Questions? Contact Brad Jones at brad.s.jones@gmail.com or 214-728-6390.

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 (jtabb@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.

ALLIANCE OF BAPTIST SPECIAL OFFERING

Cross Creek is both a United Church of Christ congregation and an Alliance of Baptists congregation. Our fourth mission offering each year goes to the Alliance of Baptists program. Want to know more about the 29 organizations supported by this offering? You can find a booklet in the hallway. The Alliance of Baptists offering will be collected at Cross Creek the weekend of December 19-20-14. The bulletin will include a booklet with an envelope inside for your gift, but you can give at any time using our regular envelope and marking it "Alliance of Baptists."

OUR WHOLE LIVES

To offer sexuality education in a congregation is to acknowledge that human sexuality is simply too important, too beautiful and too potentially dangerous to be ignored in a religious community."

Cross Creek will again be offering Our Whole Lives programming beginning in January for our children in grades K-1 and grades 4-5. Our Whole Lives is a series of faith-based sexuality education programs for six age groups. The resources were written by professional sexuality educators in conjunction with the United Church of Christ and provide accurate information to be used in the affirming and supportive setting of our churches.

If interested in this program, please sign-up (in the church hallway) for the **mandatory** parent/child orientation to be held on Sunday, January 10th from 12:30-2:30 pm. **Bring your brown bag or carry-in lunch.** Drinks and dessert will be provided. This meeting will give you vital information and answer all of your questions and at the conclusion you will be invited to register your child for the program. You must be present at the meeting or speak to Sue Voisard, program coordinator, prior to the meeting to register your child. *The elementary classes for Our Whole Lives will not be offered again until 2012.*

The 8-week session for children in grades K-1 and grades 4-5 will be held on Thursday evenings at the church from 6:00-7:00 PM from January 28th through March 25th (there will be no session on Thursday,

February 18th). Each class will be led by Cross Creek members (one male and one female) who have been specially trained as facilitators for this program. For more information or to review the curriculum prior to the orientation, please contact Sue Voisard, Director of Spiritual Formation.

“CHANGE FOR CHANGE” GIVING

If you want credit for this year's taxes, please turn in "Change for Change" balloon containers by Sunday, December 13. Thanks!

IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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*

December 19-20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19 at 5:30

Children's Christmas Pageant *Matt and Lucy's Version Births*

December 20 at 9:30 & 11:00:

EXTREME MAKEOVER: WORLD EDITION

When Less is More

Prompting: Rabbi Bernard Barsky, Beth Abraham Synagogue

**Alliance of Baptists Bridges of Hope Mission Offering Collected.*

***Drama Team to perform*

December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE at 5:30 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

EXTREME MAKEOVER: WORLD EDITION

Catching the Architect's Vision

Prompting: Rev. Dr. Michael D. Castle

***Communion, Carol, Cross Creek Choir and Candlelighting*

December 27

First Sunday after Christmas

Prompting: Ruth Hopkins

**No Saturday Service.*

***9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services only.*