

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

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

ISSUE: December 10, 2009

“The parts of the Christian story that had drawn me into the Church were not the believing parts but the beholding parts. “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy...” ... While I understood both why and how the early church had decided to wrap those mysteries in protective layers of orthodox belief, the beliefs never seized my heart the way the mysteries did.”

-- Barbara Brown Taylor in *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*, pages 109-110.

* * * * *

IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will gather and light the third Advent under the theme **EXTREME MAKEOVER: WORLD EDITION**. Pastor Mike will be offering a prompting entitled **“And Now for the WOW factor!”** The Cross Creek Choir will be singing an anthem entitled “Waiting.” And during 11:00 a.m. worship service we will celebrate the baptism of **Madelaine Jane Denise Booker**, whose proud parents are **Carrie Booker and Adam Barron**, and the proud grandmother is **Naomi Booker**.

* * * * *

HIGHLIGHTS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

December 19 at 5:30 PM

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

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!

**Cookie reception after the service.

December 20 at 9:30 & 11:00:

Prompting: **Rabbi Bernard Barsky**, Beth Abraham Synagogue

*Alliance of Baptists Bridges of Hope Mission Offering

*Drama Team to perform

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE at 5:30 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Communion, Carol, Choir & Candlelighting

* * * * *



ANGEL TREE - FINAL WEEK

Angel Tree gifts with tags #32-60 should be wrapped and brought to Cross Creek by Sunday, Dec. 20. Charlie Williams and Dan Carl distributed gifts from the first 31 tags this week. Many children and parents are grateful for the generosity of our Cross Creek family. Blessings to all!

POINSETTIA ORDERS – LAST WEEKEND TO ORDER

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.

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."

YEAR END GIVING TO CROSS CREEK

Often people contribute gifts to Cross Creek Community Church at the end of the calendar year. For credit to the 2009 fiscal year, contributions for 2009 (or prepayments for 2010) must be dated on or before December 31, 2009, and **must be received no later than 12:00 noon on January 4, 2010**. If you want your gift to be counted in 2009 please note on the memo line of your check that your gift is for 2009.

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 STARTED

Announcing a new opportunity to pray with others. A Prayer Group has been started that will meet 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.

FEEDING FRIENDS - 2009

Feeding Friends is close to ending our full first year of assisting our community with our food pantry. Feeding Friends has fed over 1,500 people and disturbed over 30,000 lbs of food. In November we were able to hand out \$1,400 worth of Kroger cards to 50 families. Further updates will soon be found on the bulletin board.

Feeding Friends would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions in 2009:

- Dorothy Lane Market
- LexisNexis Cares
- Cross Creek Community Church – Justice and Witness
- Diamonds Cabaret
- Voss Auto Network
- Cross Creek Community Church members with 800 hours of volunteer hours in 2009

2010 looks to be an exciting year. Feeding Friends will be able to offer more support to our clients. If you are interested in assisting the team, please contact Brian Worley, Brian Terry or Chuck Longo.

Thanks again for your support – Feeding Friends.

"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!

2010 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2010 Flower Calendar is now on the door beside the Special Events Table in the hallway. Please sign up to provide altar flowers in honor, memory or celebration of special people and events.

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.



CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH – UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
667 Miamisburg-Centerville Road • Dayton, OH 45459 • 937.434.4580 • www.crosscreekchurch.org