

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

SPECIAL ASH WEDNESDAY EDITION
CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
February 16, 2010



If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins. If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places - firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of

past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again. (Isaiah 58: 9b- 12)

COME LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER

ASH WEDNESDAY -- 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Mike will offer a prompting entitled *Like a Watered Garden*. The sculpture *Filled with Spirit*, created by local artist/sculptor Tess Little, will be unveiled in our worship space and will serve as a focal point throughout the season of Lent. We will offer the imposition of ashes (optional) as well as share in communion together. Childcare provided for infants and preschool children. All other children and youth are encouraged to participate in the service.



Lent 2010

LIKE A WATERED GARDEN: LIVING INTO THE PROMISE OF LENT



During Lent, we will be reflecting on God as the Gardener of our Lives and on the garden as a symbol of the original unity of creation from which came (Genesis 2:4b-14) and of the lush and verdant garden-like place in the New Jerusalem described in the Revelation to John ((22:1-2). In both these gardens the Tree of Life grows. We will also be focusing on the reality of our lives lived between these gardens that represent the fullness of life intended by God.

The prophet Isaiah offers us a promise as we wander in the wilderness between these gardens that the desert will bloom (Isaiah 39:1-2a). Isaiah also gives an image of what it



means to live faithfully in the present, calling us to do justice and be joyful, to meet the needs of the poor, the hungry, the homeless, to rebuild the ruins of the past and to restore hope for the future. To do so is to be like a “watered garden,” an oasis in the desert for all who yearn for God.



As we move through Lent, we invite you to

be gardeners of hope, joy, justice, peace and love. To do so, we ask that you write your prayers of hopefulness, your own yearnings for peace, your commitments to acts of justice, your moments of joy on a slip of paper and “plant” it in one of the empty pots in the sculpture **Filled by Spirit**. At the end of the Lenten season, these prayers will be planted on Good Friday as an offering of our commitments to God.

As we move through Lent, watch as the worship space begins to green and grow and fill with color. We hope that this will encourage the “greening” of your own soul as we prepare for Easter and the Festival of Resurrection and Renewal.



THANK OFFERING FOR TESS LITTLE

As we move through the season of Lent we will be collecting a free-will love offering for Tess Little as a way of thanking her for sharing her art with us this season. She has not



asked us for anything and she is thrilled to be able to share her art with us. However, we want to respond in gratitude and deep appreciation. She and her husband, Jim, spent about 5 hours installing this sculpture this past Monday, even while the snow was coming down, let alone all of the time,

expense and expertise it took to create such a grand work of art. You can give by marking your giving envelop “Tess Little Offering” or place your offerings in the container located on the Usher Table. All gifts are tax deductible.



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