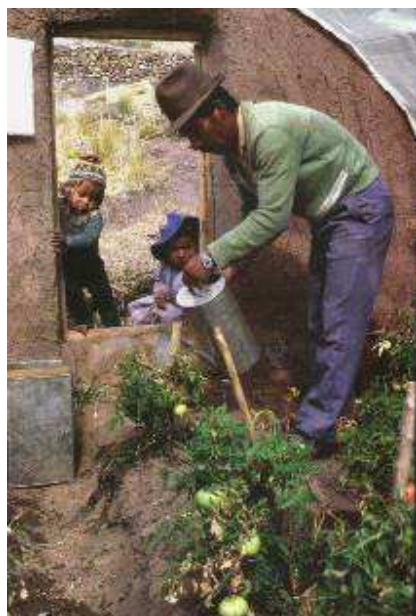


THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

THE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER
CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
February 18, 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

Bolivian Family

Photographer Carolyn Watson captures a moment in the life of this family as they nurture this small tomato plant. Look into the landscape; what makes it possible for these plants to thrive in this spot? Imagine the network of support that upholds this plant, day by day. What nurtures your growth?

IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND



During Lent, the sculpture *Filled with Spirit*, created by local artist/sculptor **Tess Little**, will serve as a focal point throughout the season of Lent. We will be reflecting on God as the Gardner of our Lives and on the garden as a symbol of the original unity of creation from which we came (Genesis 2:4b-9) 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 Lenten theme will be **LIKE A WATERED GARDEN: LIVING INTO THE PROMISE OF LENT**. For this first weekend of Lent the prompting, entitled “**Gardening East of Eden**,” will be offered by **Pastor Mike Castle**. **Amy Robb** will be the soloist.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Prayers for Gary Dasner on the passing of his 82 year old mother, MaryLou Dasner. Cards and notes can be sent to Gary at 2853 Grace Ave, Dayton, Ohio 45420.

Prayers for Corinne Rogers in the tragic death by suicide of her 15 year old son, Sean, in Michigan. Cards and notes can be sent to Corinne at 1664-D Longbow Lane, West Carrollton, Ohio 45449.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOW ABOUT DINNER AND A CONCERT.....

CARRIE NEWCOMER CONCERT - Saturday, February 27

Get your tickets now! Carrie Newcomer will back at Cross Creek for a ticketed concert on Saturday, February 27th at **7:30 PM**. Tickets are \$20 and available at the hallway table. She will also be the guest musician in our three weekend worship services on February 26-27. Be sure to let your friends and family know too!



“BOWLS OF HOPE” -- Saturday, February 27 at 6:00 PM

The Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8690 Yankee St., Centerville, will host “Bowls of Hope” -- a soup dinner benefit for the Dayton International Peace Museum and the Dayton FoodBank.

Co-sponsored by the Fellowship and the Dayton International Peace Museum, attendees will pick out a beautiful handmade pottery bowl made by a local artisan and select from a variety of soups, including vegetarian, donated by some of Dayton’s best restaurants: Cafe Monet, C’est Tout Bistro, Coco’s Bistro, Flavors Restaurant, The Meadowlark Restaurant, One Lincoln Center, Savona Ristorante, Thai 9. Specialty breads will be donated by Boosalis Baking Company and Rahn’s Artisan Breads. Desserts will be provided by Reeve’s Catering and Sisters’ Catering.

Tickets are \$20.00 and must be purchased in advance; children under 10, \$10 w/o bowl. For tickets or more information, 227-3223 at the Museum or info@daytonpeacemuseum.org or 436-3628 at the UU Fellowship or admin@mvuuf.org.

OR AN ADVENTURE IN INTERNATIONAL MISSION....

SUMMER TRIP TO KENYA OPENS TO ALL SONKA ADULTS

This summer’s trip to the Rubate Teachers College and Health Centre in Kenya, the annual sojourn sponsored by SONKA’s Global Partnership Team, is now open to all adults in the association. The trip, scheduled for June 21 through July 9, had previously been planned for persons in the medical and educational fields, but is now open to everyone of age. Trip Leader Lollie Kasulones reports that the next Rubate trip for adults will not come around again until 2013. There are a number of openings for this year’s trip, and she hopes to have participants signed on by the first Travelers Group meeting on Mar 21.

The change in the theme for the trip was brought about by the news that the clinic would not be able to get the necessary equipment on site for planned eye and dental exams. “The good news is the trip has opened up to include many more adults with a much wider range of gifts and talents to share, not just medical,” Lollie comments. “This is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the Kenya spirit, share your faith with families in Rubate, visit schools, meet the college students, interact with church organizations, participate in prayer and Bible study groups, and see the clinic in action.” Those interested in joining the traveling team should call Lollie at 513/931-2205 (church) or 513/583-1809 (home) or Karen Specter at 513/232-0652.

THERE'S NO WHERE TO GO BUT "UP!" on MAY 1, 2010!! What's "UP!?" you ask. "UP!" is the theme for our **2010 Service Auction**. "UP!" will raise funds for our budget AND our Balloon Payment. "UP!" will be LOTS OF FUN! Mark the date!! Donate a service!! Details available at the Activity Table and at our website <http://www.crosscreekchurch.org>. Plan to be there -- the snow is bound to be gone by then!

QUESTIONS ABOUT CROSS CREEK CHURCH?

Those interested in investigating covenant membership at Cross Creek Community Church, as well as those interested in learning more about the church's statement of faith; its vision, mission and distinctive values; its decision making processes and its varied ministries, as well as its affiliation with the United Church of Christ and the Alliance of Baptists are invited to attend the **Exploring Covenant Membership Class on Saturday, March 13 from 9 AM to 2 PM** You can sign up in the church hallway or contact Pastor Mike Castle. Childcare is available upon request with advance notice.

Lent: 2010

LIKE A WATERED GARDEN: LIVING INTO THE PROMISE OF LENT

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.

February 27-28 Second Sunday in Lent: *Before and After* Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Guest Musician: **Carrie Newcomer** at all three weekend services
****Carrie Newcomer Concert – February 27 at 8:00 p.m.**

March 6-7 Third Sunday in Lent: *Put Manure on It!* Luke 13:1-9
****Communion served at all weekend services.**

March 13-14 Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Feasting from the Garden* Joshua 5:9-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Artist Testimony: **Tess Little, FILLED BY SPIRIT**
****One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Offering.**

March 20-21 Fifth Sunday in Lent: *Carrying the Seed* Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8
Guest Pianist: **Zach Ruppel** ****Cross Creek Choir Sings.**

March 27-28 Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday): *Out of the Garden and Into the Streets*
Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Lk 19:28-40

April 1 Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM *Agony in the Garden*
***Childcare provided for Children who are pre-Kindergarten.**

April 2 Good Friday – 7:00 PM *A Garden of Horrors*
***Childcare provided for Children who are pre-Kindergarten.**

April 3-4 EASTER: *Now the Green Blade Rises*
***Cross Creek Choir Sings.**
**** Communion Served at all weekend worship services.**

Liturgy Planning Team for Lent: Barbara Battin, Kathy Swenson, Tom Harry



CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Michael D. Castle, Pastor
Sue Voisard, Spiritual Formation Director
Kenny Roaden, Co-Worship Director
Cinda Tyler, Co-Worship Director
Mary Sharp, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Jan Harry, Communications Assistant
Liz Roaden, Children's Coordinator
Ruth Terry, Custodian

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