

THIS WEEK AT THE CREEK

THE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER
CROSS CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
JULY 9, 2010



The Good Samaritan by Vincent Van Gogh, 1890

Intense love does not measure; it just gives.

---Mother Teresa

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

Ruth Hopkins will offer a prompting: "The Good Samaritan." Special music by Brice Thomas

Scripture readings will be Amos 7:7-17 and Luke 10: 25-37...the story of the Good Samaritan

WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE PLAN -- July 3 – August 9

Pastor Mike will be on vacation and leave from July 3 through August 9. Ruth Hopkins will be preaching and leading worship. If you have pastoral concerns or pastoral care is needed, please contact Ruth at 937-748-0537 or email at ruhop@mac.com. If you have other church concerns, please contact Mike Lockwood at 434-4789 or ulockmx@yahoo.com.

WORSHIP THEME: "Driven to Distraction" (D2D)

„Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing..." Luke 10: 41

July 17/18	"D2D: Gathering Flies"	Mary, Martha, and a Bowl of Fruit
July 24/25	"D2D: Praying in Public"	The Lord's Prayer
Jul 31/Aug 1	"D2D: Possession"	The Rich Young Man
Aug 7/8	"D2D: The Junk Drawer"	The Wedding Banquet

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK.....

TRIP TO HISTORIC LONGTOWN – Sign-up Now!

On **Sunday, September 26th**, Cross Creek folks will **join our College Hill partners** for the annual trip to Longtown, OH, a predominantly African American community in Darke County founded in 1822. We'll travel to Longtown together via bus, leaving from College Hill. We can organize carpools to College Hill. The trip will include a worship service, lunch and a guided tour of the rich history of the Longtown area. The cost, which includes transportation and lunch, is \$15.00 per person. **The deadline to sign up is Sunday, August 1st.** Sign-up sheet is on the Events table. To learn more about Longtown, visit www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=3175.

SPECIAL FEATURE ABOUT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

News of the Fantastic Youth Service Trip to St. Louis -- June, 2010

Cross Creek Youth Ministry partnered with Urban Mission Experience in St. Louis, MO to create a June 13-19 service trip that brought meaning to all that were involved. Urban Mission Experience is a mission outreach of Epiphany UCC, an open and affirming church like Cross Creek, led by Pastor Mary Albert.



Twelve of Cross Creek's youth (**Spencer and Callie Heiligenberg, Sheridan and McKenna Sackman, Katie and Sarah Neiderman, Danny McCallum, Keenan Ashby, Logan Sowers, Richard Carly, Erica Ranard, and Mattea Alexander**) along with four leader/chaperones (**Lisa Gagel, Leader; Steve Sackman, Linda Warren, Cathy Swensen**) traveled to St. Louis where they worked at Kinder Cottage (a low income day care). They played with the kids and removed lots glass, metal and other debris that was unsafe to the people of the neighborhood.

The angel, Mrs. Crisp, that has run **Kinder Cottage** for 40 years is also very active in **community clean up**. So the second day they again went and played with the kids before leaving to clean up an old fire station. Abandoned some years ago for a newer station, it has been left unattended and has begun to show the wear and tear of the times. Boarded up and used to house old documents, computers and confiscated vehicles, it was a mess. The roof has some damage and so there was at least ½" of water in most areas. Our youth helped clean it up so Ms. Crisp could store the tools that she and her group use to clean up the community on the weekends. She goes out every Saturday with local groups and does whatever it takes to make the community a better place to live, work and be. She has even gotten the mayor to come out about 3 of the 4 weekends in a month.



Our team had **breakfast at Epiphany UCC with clients of the Joint Neighborhood Ministry Food Pantry**. The food pantry has been around for roughly 20 years but the breakfast has just been incorporated into their Wednesday morning ritual. Our youth were given "interview" sheets to sit down and chat with the people to learn about their

neighborhood. Although the kids were a bit timid at first, most eventually came out of their comfort zone and chatted with at least one client. The clients sign in and then sit down and eat breakfast. It began because in the winter it is very cold and in the summer time it is very hot. This way the client's could come out of the elements and not lose their place in line for the pantry.

Once our young people were done cleaning up the breakfast, they were invited by Ashley and Joan to **tour their food pantry**. They couldn't help put together the packages for the clients because the pantry is so small but what they did was save the pantry workers 6-10 hours of time consuming tasks. Because most of the clients walk to the pantry, they **double bag plastic grocery bags** so Cross Creek's team did a couple of days worth of bags. They also **packaged diapers** into 12 diaper packs. The pantry offers what it can to their clients. Our team then restocked their shelves when the day was over.

Their **last day was spent at the St Louis Food Bank** where they unpacked cartons of food from Wal-Mart and repackaged it in the manner needed for distribution. The food had either broken packaging, was badly labeled or had an expired shelf life. One thing they learned was even though the shelf life might have passed, the product has not gone bad. Most products can last up to a year past the shelf life.

How did they get to St. Louis?? Lisa Gagel met Sue Kupfer (program coordinator) at the National Youth Event in 2008 and became motivated to organize a youth mission trip. Lisa was looking for a totally new place and work which would give our young people an eye-opening experience. After finding that it fit for **our youth**, they did some long range planning. They **raised the funds** required via several activities including the coffee service, a car wash, a night out at City BBQ (25% back for the trip) and a letter writing campaign. **Thanks to all of you** who helped this service trip become a really!!!

CALLING ALL SOON-TO-BE SIXTH GRADERS!!

Our Cross Creek youth group is ready to welcome all incoming sixth graders in the fall and invites these young people and their parents to attend an **information session during youth group (at 11:00 AM) on Sunday, July 11th**. Come and find out about the exciting summer project that will allow for growth and new experiences as the young ones prepare to join in the Cross Creek youth program!! If you are unable to attend this session, please contact Sue Voisard, Director of Spiritual Formation, at SVoisard@aol.com or Lisa Gagel, youth group director.

SEE HOW OUR CROSS CREEK YOUNG ONES ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!!!

Our Summer awareness program entitled "Summer of Service / Summer of Smiles" has only just begun but here are a few of the things that our Cross Creek kids or youth have been doing: volunteering at a summer arts camp, watering a neighbor's lawn, volunteering at an animal shelter, giving up their seats in order that older people may have them, rescuing baby birds and visiting the shut-ins from our congregation!! Wow! Thanks for being aware and taking action to make a difference in your community!!

REMINDER – If you haven't turned in your reservations for VBS: A COSMIC ADVENTURE!, please contact Liz Roeden at sunniedaze07@yahoo.com.



On the evenings of July 12-15 VBS (kids 4 years - 5th grade) our young cadets will take a **GALACTIC BLAST** into outer space learning about God. They'll gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home and experience God in a new way!! It will close **on Saturday, July 17th at Space Day at the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum** (10AM-3PM with graduation and carry-in lunch at 11:45AM)! At the museum we'll commemorate the anniversaries of the Apollo 11 and

Apollo 15 moon landings while learning about rocketry and space flight through aerospace demonstration stations.

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT CROSS CREEK

PHILIP GULLEY RETURNS TO CROSS CREEK – SEPTEMBER 11-12

WITH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS IN JULY - AUGUST

Philip Gulley returns to Cross Creek Community Church Sep 11-12 to offer perspectives and sermons on his most recent book **"If The Church Were Christian - Rediscovering the Values of Jesus"**. There will be a spaghetti dinner with a presentation to follow the evening of Sat, Sep 11 (no church service). Dinner is at 6:00 PM and Philip will speak 6:45-8:00 PM. If you are a regular attender/contributor to Cross Creek, tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for those under 18. The public prices for tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children/youth under 18. Sunday, Phillip will offer sermons at the 9:30 and 11:00 AM services.

Additionally, **book discussion groups** will be meeting on **Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 and 7:00-8:30 and Thursdays 6:30-8:00 starting the week of July 18**. All groups will meet for 5 weeks in the church Parlor. E-mail the church at crosscreekchurch.org or sign up on the hallway bulletin board for a book discussion group. Tickets for the spaghetti dinner must be purchased in advance and will go on sale in August. Please make checks to: Cross Creek Community Church.

DARIA SCHAFFNIT TO BE ORDAINED

All are invited to attend the ordination of Daria Schaffnit on **Sunday, July 18** at 4:30 p.m. A Service of Word and Sacrament and Order for Ordination to Ministry will be held at Dover Congregational United Church of Christ, 2239 Dover Center Road, Westlake, Ohio. A reception will follow. Daria has been called as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation and Family Life at David's United Church of Christ in Kettering, Ohio.

Daria was a seminary intern at Cross Creek during 2005-2006. She and her partner, Jeannene, were also covenant members of Cross Creek before they relocated to the Cleveland area because of Jeannene's job. The Cross Creek community was instrumental in her discerning of her call to ordained ministry rather than academia.

CROSS CREEK NEEDS A CLEAR ACHIEVABLE STRATEGIC PLAN –

And you are needed to make it happen!

“Those who fail to plan, plan to fail.” How many times have we been threatened with that adage? Too many to count, I imagine. **Cross Creek is about to embark on a planning process that will culminate in a new, reasonable, clear and achievable strategic plan.** The Coordinating Council has charged a small group with providing direction and guidance to this planning process with the intent to bring a draft plan to the congregation for approval in the next few months. This group will be called the Guiding Group.

To begin this process we need YOU – the congregation at Cross Creek. We want your input, your opinions and your sense of priorities to complete the process with a successful plan. YOU are ALL invited to attend an initial gathering on **Saturday, August 21 from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM (including lunch at \$5) at Cross Creek** to review our vision and mission and provide the Guiding Group with the information they need to move ahead with the development of a plan.

Jacqui Sensky will provide the leadership for the August 21 event. She is a skilled facilitator recommended by the Centerville Washington Diversity Council. Jacqui’s expertise ranges from leading a cabinet level department for the State of Ohio to working with small, non-profit groups like us. You will find the time with Jacqui to be focused and well-spent.

Information on reserving your spot will be available on the web site and through ***This Week at the Creek*** and in upcoming bulletins. If you want to know more, please call Roselin Runnels (937-320-0820) or email roselin648@sbcglobal.net.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2010

RIVER BAPTISM -- Sunday, August 22 at 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Our annual River Baptism service will be held at the Jacoby Road Canoe Launch, located between Xenia and Yellow Springs. Participants, along with friends and family, will meet at 1:30 PM for a brown bag meal along the banks of the river. The service will begin at 2:30 PM. If you are interested in being baptized, contact Pastor Mike Castle as soon as possible.



KATRINA KITTLE TO PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP – October 16-17

Local author **Katrina Kittle** will return to Cross Creek during our weekend Worship services (5:30 PM Saturday, 9:30 and 11:00 AM Sunday) to read from her new book, ***The Blessings of the Animals***, a novel about marriage. Save the date!



CHRIS GLASER TO PREACH AT CROSS CREEK – October 23-24

The **Rev. Chris Glaser**, author of ***As My Own Soul: The Blessing of Same-Gender Marriage*** and interim pastor of Atlanta, GA’s Virginia Highland Church (which, like Cross Creek, is affiliated with both the UCC and the Alliance of Baptists), will preach during this weekend’s worship services (5:30 PM on Saturday, 9:30 and 11:00 AM on Sunday).

Chris will also lead and facilitate a workshop on Saturday morning. Save the date, and watch for more information, including the cost and how to register for the workshop.



FALL RETREAT 2010 – November 12-14 at Camp Akita

Save the dates! Cross Creek’s fall retreat will be held in 2010 a little later than usual, in November, and, as usual, it will be loads of fun! This year’s retreat will again be held at beautiful **Camp Akita** in Logan County, OH. Watch for registration information.