

# The Current

A Newsletter of Crossroads United Methodist Church  
February 2010

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## 24 Hours That Changed The World

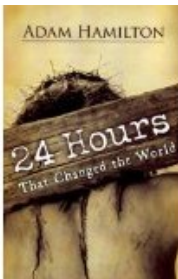
Submitted by Pastor Sharon

Join Pastor Sharon for a Lenten Study as we read Adam Hamilton's book *24 Hours That Changed The World*.

Class will meet from **7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays from February 16 – March 30.** Childcare is available if requested.

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this book, Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. We'll read one chapter a week, and **each chapter is only about 15 pages long.**

To sign up for the class, please call the church office.



## Junior high CONVO

Submitted by Bruce Koch

Lights! Camera! God!—this is the theme of the Jr. High CONVO for this year. **April 30-May 2**, the cost will be \$100.00 per youth. This is for all youth in grades 6-8. There will be music by Satellites & Sirens, with the main speaker being Bob Lenz. It will be held at the Chula Vista Resort. We hope to have a two hour period of time that we will have the water park, open to only CONVO youth and their leaders. If there are any questions please talk to me or call me. More info will be coming or call Bruce Koch at 846-7949.

Youth group meets every Sunday evening from 4-5:30 pm. for planning and fun activities. Please plan to join them.



**Soup-er Bowl is February 7**—Bring canned goods or a dollar per person donation for the Waunakee Food Pantry.



**Crossroads** United Methodist Church  
Where faith and friendship meet

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## Pastor's Page



Last month, our District Superintendent called for a day of fasting and prayer. I wanted very much to participate, but I thought it wasn't a great idea for a nursing mother to fast completely. So although I had dinner, I had only a simple breakfast and lunch. I also decided to fast by abstaining from an addictive little computer game that I enjoy. It was only one day, so this fast was pretty easy.

But now it's February, and we're looking Lent straight in the eye. Methodists are pretty varied in what they do to honor the season of Lent. Some will choose to fast, giving up one lunch a week. Others will give up chocolate or sweets. Rather than giving something up, others will take on various spiritual disciplines, like praying for 20 minutes a day, or reading the Bible or other devotional books. No matter what you choose, Lent is about fasting and feasting.

If you choose to give something up, that's fasting. And you can fast from TV or activities as easily as you can fast from food. If you choose to take something on, that's feasting. Praying, reading the Bible, spending more time with your family – those are all ways to feast on the Godly life. I would invite you to choose a Lenten feast or fast to help make this season more meaningful for your life.

If you're not sure what to do, I invite you to join in our 7-week Lenten study in which we will be discussing Jesus' last day on earth (see p.# 1).

Grace abounds,

Pastor Sharon

## Pennies for education

How do you raise \$550,000? One penny at a time.

The Wisconsin Conference has been in partnership with the East Angola Conference for just over a year. East Angola Bishop Jose Quipungo has asked for our assistance in the following areas:



- Support for pastors serving in villages and towns of East Angola.
- Scholarship Support
- Purchase of books (in Portuguese) for library
- Purchase of building materials for rehabilitation of a building to house the library
- Support for pulpit exchanges
- Salaries for teachers

In order to help meet these needs, the Wisconsin Conference is hoping to raise \$550,000 by Annual Conference 2013. One of the items requested for the Ingathering at Annual Conference this year is "Pennies for Schoolbooks." We will have a jar in the narthex to collect your pennies (or quarters, or \$20 bills...). In June, Pastor Sharon will take a check to Annual Conference. Let's see how many pennies we can gather!

## A big thanks



Thanks to Dick Christman for making us a new communion table. We appreciate this gift, and it is very useful.

Ash Wednesday is February 17—  
Worship at Crossroads at 7:00 pm.

## Forget Google – join the GoodSearch movement

With our economy in the state it's in, many of us are looking for ways to stretch our financial resources. If someone volunteered to match your pledge dollar-for-dollar, you'd jump at the chance. What if someone offered to donate money to Crossroads every time you did an internet search?

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine. To make it easier, you can download an application that puts a GoodSearch tool bar at the top of your web program. Over 67,000 organizations are signed up with GoodSearch. The ASPCA has earned over \$17,000 this way. In the last year, we raised just under \$25. But I know we can do better.

Don't forget, GoodSearch has a second part of its program: GoodShop. GoodShop.com donates a percentage of each purchase, much like our Scrip program. Hundreds of popular stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop. Even better, you can combine your Scrip with GoodShop, often doubling the percentage that Crossroads receives.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter 'Crossroads UMC' as the charity you want to support. Be sure to select the one in Waunakee, not the one in Phoenix. This is an easy way to increase your support of our ministries at Crossroads. Please join us!

## Cookie Cutter Quilters

Submitted by Lynne Adam



During the winter months the quilters will meet at 9:00 am on Saturdays instead of Mondays at night. All are welcome to come and sew, learn quilting techniques, as well as fellowship with us. Our next meeting is February 6.

## It's a great time to plan a Scrip vacation

Submitted by Patsy Manion



Get out and enjoy the winter weather skiing or escape the cold entirely and go somewhere warm and tropical.

For those pining for a tropical sun-soaked destination, Great Lakes Scrip Center has certificates for **Celebrity** and **Carnival Cruise Lines** – and **American Airlines** to get you to your port of departure.

Skiing and cruising are great fun, but not for everybody. If they don't interest you, use your **Marcus Resort** card for the **Timber Ridge Lodge** in Lake Geneva. It houses Moose Mountain Falls Water Park – a 50,000 square foot indoor oasis. Or make the **Mall of America** in Minnesota your escape destination. We have gift cards for 60 of its retailers, 10 hotels within a mile and **American Express** and **Visa** for all the rest.

No matter where you're headed, there's a **Marriot, Best Western, Hilton** or **Comfort Inn** located nearby.

Check out the possibilities at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) or the enclosed Scrip order form for all your vacation needs. We will be collecting orders on the first and third Sundays of each month. All profits from the purchased gift cards go directly toward the ministry programs here at Crossroads United Methodist Church.

## Devotion

*Who knows but that you have come to royal position  
for such a time as this?*

Esther 4:14b

~~~~~  
Esther stands as one of the greatest heroines of the Bible. Although facing possible death, she bravely brought her request before the king to free her people. "And if I perish, I perish," she heroically stated. For what purpose have you come to royal position? Let Esther's courage inspire you to live fully for such a time as this!

—Marian V. Liautaud

## Those in our prayers



**Prayers of Joy:** Best wishes on birthdays and anniversaries; Kathie Wagner and Jackie Mathis welcome a new grand and great-grandson Luke; Charlene Khazae is thrilled her brother and family are returning from China after a rewarding eight month stay; Deb Harman and her neighbors welcome a new long-awaited baby to the neighborhood; Jarod Halbersma and his grandfather are okay after a snowmobile rollover; all those contributing to Haiti.

**Prayers of Concern:** All those recovering from surgeries and long term illnesses; Heather Murray and her family for her dad Dick is recovering from surgery; Cindy Driscoll recovering from surgery; Nancy Koch's friend Becky out of remission from cancer; Frank Thompson's sister Nona recovering from a heart attack; those having surgeries; Alice Hamilton's aunt recovering from surgery; Patrick, ten year old friend of Sharon Eastman hospitalized for asthma; Grace Fonstad injured her back in a fall.

**Prayers of Comfort in Grief:** All those who have lost loved ones; Grace Fonstad who lost her brother Emil; UMCOR's Sam Dickson and Clint Rabb and all others killed in Haiti; the Caves family whose daughter-in-law is missing in Haiti and presumed dead; all the lost and grieving in Haiti; Chad Johnson and his family in the loss of his mom.

**Prayers for Peace, Justice and Safety:** All our military and their families all around the world; those in Haiti following the earthquake.

## Collect UPC codes!



We send in UPC's off of Campbell's products, and get points for free stuff for our Church. But not just Campbell's and not just the UPC's... so go to [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) and see all the great products you buy all the time anyway that you can cut UPC's off of or save the lids! Last year we were able to get a new DVD player. So, if you buy it just remember to cut us out the UPC code and bring it in. Thanks for your help.

## February Birthdays...



Best wishes to you all!

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Elyse Eastman    | 02/01 |
| Clare Manion     | 02/01 |
| Brooke Steiner   | 02/02 |
| Amy Grassl       | 02/06 |
| Ryan Radke       | 02/06 |
| Charlene Khazae  | 02/07 |
| Lisa Halbersma   | 02/09 |
| Dan Altenhofen   | 02/10 |
| Sheldon Hamilton | 02/11 |
| Heidi Harms      | 02/18 |
| Pat Baldwin      | 02/19 |
| Greg Werner      | 02/20 |
| Craig Luedtke    | 02/24 |
| Theresa Werner   | 02/27 |
| Emily Hron       | 02/28 |
| Katie Quickel    | 02/28 |

## Fellowship on Sundays!



The sign up sheet for providing fellowship for Sundays after worship is on the back of the doors that face the sanctuary. If you are interested in providing snacks for this, please sign up. You will see you have lots of open dates to choose from. Thanks for your help with this. For questions please call the office.

## Women's group



Women's group will meet at 3:00 pm, on January 21 in the church parking lot to car-pool to the movie of choice followed by dinner out! We have just started reading a new book by Patsy Clarimont called *Catching Fire Flies...* Great and fast read if you would like to join us. Call Heather at 849-4048 if you would like more information about the book, and just keep your eyes and ears out for the movie and dinner. All women and friends of Crossroads are invited.

## A heart felt letter from Haiti

Submitted by Grant Gardow

Hello Everyone. My name is Grant Gardow, the son of Bruce Gardow, pastor at the Durand United Methodist Church in Wisconsin. I am a Senior Airman attached to the 573<sup>rd</sup> Global Support Squadron of the United States Air Force. The primary focus of our squadron is to supply humanitarian aid anywhere in the world, at any time. I am currently part of the relief effort taking place in Haiti.

I thought you might be interested in an up close and personal account of what is actually taking place here. As most of you know, Haiti occupies the Western third of the Island of Hispaniola. The Eastern two-thirds of the island is occupied by the Dominican Republic. The devastation in Haiti is beyond description. It is far, far greater than what I experienced in Iraq or any place else I have been. The Haitian Capital of Port-au-Prince is completely destroyed, particularly the infrastructure. Its harbor and airport is badly damaged and for the most part unusable. This has forced my squadron to be headquartered in the Dominican Republic.

Every day we send huge truck convoys from the Dominican Republic across the treacherous roads that wind through the mountains that separate the two nations and on into Haiti. The days are very hot and our work hours are long. The mosquitoes are twice the size of those in northern Wisconsin. But we all know the Haitian people are in desperate need, so with God's help, we will do whatever it takes to get the job done.

If there is a silver lining to be found in all of this, it is the improved relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. For many years, these two countries have had serious differences. But those differences have been set aside for the greater good. I think there is a lesson in that for all of us. Continue to keep the people of Haiti and all of the rescue workers in your prayers and may God bless each one of you. Peace.

## Men's group



Men's group meets on the first Saturday of every month at 7 am. Contact Dave Duchnowski at 849-8836 for more information.

## Aid for Haiti

Submitted by Lurene Swenson



Lurene Swenson has volunteered to be the point person for collecting supplies for Health Kits for Haiti. They consist of (all new items): 1 hand towel, 1 wash cloth, 1 comb, 1 fingernail clipper, 1 bar of soap (3 oz or larger), 1 toothbrush, 6 plain Band-Aids and 1 dollar for a toothpaste (NO toothpaste please). Call Lurene at 849-7357 or the office for questions. We can only use the items listed in the quantities noted as they are very specific about what they can ship. Thank you for your help.

## Offering envelopes



If you have not already picked up your contribution envelopes please do so before February so we won't have to mail them. We will hold them in the office until then. We appreciate your help in this matter.

## Next COA's is March 1, 2010!



Our Crossroads older adults meet monthly for a luncheon prepared by our very own Chef Margo! The next one will be March 12, at 12:30 pm. Your contact for reservations will be Keith Nelson at 849-8728.

## Save the date!

Submitted by Patsy Manion



Calling all stampers...mark your calendars. A card stamping workshop will take place the morning of Saturday, March 27. Watch for more details in next month's church newsletter. Any questions, please call Patsy Manion at 469-1303.

## New fellowship Activities Team formed

The Crossroads Activities team is hard at work, planning fellowship events for our congregation. All Crossroads members and friends are invited to participate in the events that follow. If you have questions or want to volunteer to help plan any future events please contact; Irene Steinl (chair), Patsy Manion, Regina Fisher, Lurene Swenson or Pattie Hook.

The following activities are currently on the calendar:

- Sunday, January 31: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday potluck.
- Sunday, February 21: Church women's dinner and a movie sponsored by the women's group.
- Saturday, March 27: Stamping workshop hosted by Patsy Manion.
- March date to be determined: Bunco night at the Koch's.

The following ideas for future events include the following:

- Family night possible February 6:00-8:00 p.m. event. · Bowling
- Easter Egg Hunt and/or Easter brunch
- Mallards game and/or another basketball game
- Zoo trip
- Biking on the bike trails with a possible picnic
- Concert on the square
- Opera in the park in July

## Lay circuit mission activities

Submitted by Jim Walker

In January I attended a meeting of lay representatives from other churches in our Circuit (Circuit 46). According to Pastor Sharon, circuit clergy meet regularly, and to strengthen ties among churches, extended the meetings to lay members. The meeting last month was a wonderful experience to meet members from our circuit churches and to learn about their churches. I am pleased to report that our brainstorming session generated a number of interesting ideas. We spent most of our time thinking about mission activities that we may not be able to do as an individual congregation but we could do together. For example, we discussed reaching out to children with an incarcerated parent. Pastor Sharon later confirmed the Rising Sun Camp program that serves such children. Now, before we go farther we need YOUR input. What ideas do you have on outreach/mission activities we could do and would interest you (and possibly others)? I am open and would like to hear any and all ideas. The only way we will arrive at a good idea is to sort through many ideas. Catch me at church or send me your thoughts via email ([walker@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:walker@ssc.wisc.edu)) or phone (home 850-5374) or call the church office.

## Fair trade coffee and tea



Crossroads is still participating in the UMCOR Fair Trade coffee and tea project. For ordering or questions please contact Sue and Natalie Tietz at 849-4435 or [obbyonehundred@yahoo.com](mailto:obbyonehundred@yahoo.com).

## Waunakee's next Blood Drive

February 26, from 11:30-5:30 pm, the First Presbyterian church in Waunakee will host the next blood drive. For an appointment, please call 1-800-448-3543. Walk-ins are welcome.

## **Giving is an act of love**

submitted by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Dorothy lived in the same house she and her husband bought on the east side of Madison 40 years ago. She spent the early years of her marriage working for the telephone company and her last job was at a neighborhood grocery store. For the last 15-20 years her health concerns left her a “shut in.” Those who visited her from the Bashford UMC in Madison enjoyed her spicy, cheerful personality. She had a great sense of humor and always had a joke or a story for Pastor Ed White when he came to call on her.

Shortly after her death, Dorothy’s niece was very excited to deliver a gift to the church. Prior to her death, Dorothy named Bashford UMC as the beneficiary of a Certificate of Deposit. This meant the church received \$15,300 as an undesignated gift from Dorothy to be used for their mission and ministry.

Dorothy’s gift of this CD was a wonderful surprise and a reminder of her cheerful personality. Especially in such a difficult financial year when the church income was running behind the ministry needs. When her family notified the church of the gift, they shared how much her friends from Bashford church meant to Dorothy over the years.

In these days of low interest rates and uncertain economic realities, we invite you to consider naming your church as the beneficiary of all or a portion of the principal in a Certificate of Deposit, a secondary life insurance policy, or an IRA. For more information, please contact us at: Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation; 750 Windsor Street Ste 305, P.O. Box 620; Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620  
1-888-903-9863 or [wumf@wumf.org](mailto:wumf@wumf.org)

## **Mickey’s story**

Submitted by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

My mother’s foster cousin died recently and we attended her funeral at the Baptist Church in Wild Rose, Wisconsin. When we arrived for her funeral service on a cold January morning, we were amazed to see the parking lot **full** of cars. We knew we were the only ones arriving from our side of the family. Once inside we waited in line for over 30 minutes to connect with her son. Who were all these people? Later we learned that many were relatives on the other side of her family, and a good number were members of her church and the community.

While she only had one son, we learned that Mickey was known as “Mom,” “Ma,” “Grandma,” or “Grandma Mickey” by most everyone in town. The pastor told a wonderful story about taking the youth group Christmas caroling just a few weeks prior. When they arrived at her house, all of the teenagers jostled for position on the little porch of her trailer because they all wanted to ring the bell and get a Grandma Mickey hug! We also learned about the missionary student from China who called her his “summer mom,” because he lived with Mickey and her son during his summer breaks from college.

Mickey was described by the congregation gathered there as a compassionate, non-judgmental believer who always had a smile for everyone. Her life had been tough from the beginning. Yet instead of being bitter and angry, she chose to offer God a giving heart that was humble and loving. She lived as a steward of all the mysteries of God. She offered all of who she was, and all of what she had, in gratitude for the love she received.

Sometimes we think stewardship is just about money. Mickey reminded me once again that it’s not just about money. Stewardship is about how we live the Good News of the love of Jesus Christ every day.

# Our Community & the world!



## WNC Needs Some Yarn

submitted by Waunakee Neighborhood Connection

WNC has been the lucky recipient of many wonderful hand-made items from United Way’s partner organization RSVP Dane County, an organization dedicated to working with volunteers 55 years or older. Although we have received numerous items already, we would like to continue to partner with this organization so we are able to get enough to give to all our clients. To do this we would like help the organization by collecting donated skeins (or partial skeins) of yarn. Please consider donating new or used yarn for this project. Thank you for your help.

## UW-Madison fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity

Submitted by UW Wisconsin

The annual Souper Bowl fundraiser for the UW-Madison Chapter of Habitat for Humanity of Dane County will be held **Saturday, Feb. 6**, at Madison West High School, 30 Ash St., 3-8 p.m. The community meal event is the largest fundraiser for the student chapter. The cost is \$15 for a bowl (meal provided) and/or \$35 for a family of four (two bowls, four meals). Souper Bowl is an evening of food, art, and entertainment, bringing the Madison community together to support Habitat for Humanity. Souper Bowl is sponsored by UW Credit Union.

## Skating donations needed to help Milwaukee families

United Methodist Children's Services has several important partners in the Washington Park Neighborhood of Milwaukee, who work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of children and families. One of those partners is the Urban Ecology Center, located in Washington Park, which recently launched a new initiative to bring ice-skating back to the park at no cost to the participants. They received a generous grant from Harley-Davidson to care for the ice. What they need now are ice skates, warm socks, mittens, hats and hot chocolate. They will accept skates in any condition, although they would especially appreciate new or gently used skates. For more information or to donate, contact Joey Zocher at 414-344-5460 or [jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jzocher@urbanecologycenter.org).

### Monthly CUMC meetings:

|                                                      |                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Activities~ .....                                    | Irene Steinl, chair                                           |
| Church Council ~ 3rd Thursday .....                  | Sean Murray, chair                                            |
| Finance ~3th Thursday .....                          | Jim Walker, chair                                             |
| Trustees~2nd Monday .....                            | Julie Frentz, chair                                           |
| SPRC~2nd Thursday .....                              | Charlene Khazae, chair                                        |
| Men’s Group~1st Saturday .....                       | Dave Duchnowski                                               |
| Women’s Group~2nd Monday .....                       | Heather Murray                                                |
| Outreach~2nd Tuesday .....                           | Lurene Swenson, chair                                         |
| Adult Choir~ Every Wednesday .....                   | Bill Hofeldt, Music director (Memorial Day through Labor day) |
| W.E.B. Meeting~ 3rd. Tuesday .....                   | Terri Willihnganz, CUMC representative                        |
| Quilters ~ First Monday (winter first Saturday)..... | Lynne Adam                                                    |

*Please contact the group chair for information as the meetings are subject to change.*

**Crossroads United Methodist Church**  
**5901 Hogan Rd.**  
**Waunakee, WI 53597**

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### **Worship at Crossroads**

**9:30-10:30am**~ Sunday Worship

**10:30am**~ all of the following:  
Hospitality & Refreshment Time (all ages)  
Sunday School (Pre-school - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Youth check- in Time

**Come for any part of the morning,  
or stay for all of it!**

### **Crossroads church leadership roster**

Sharon Cook..... Pastor  
Pattie Hook..... Assistant to the Pastor & Newsletter Editor  
Bill Hofeldt .....Music Director  
April Kang .....Pianist  
Roselyn Warren .....Accompanist  
Keith Nelson.....Custodian  
Lynne Adam ..... Treasurer & Church Council, Vice Chair  
Linda Stouffer & Loree von Ruden Sunday School Coordinators  
Steve Harman..... Lay Leader  
Christine Erickson.....Web Page Coordinator  
Bruce & Jennifer Koch, Tressie Hook.....Youth Ministries  
Patsy Manion.....Scrip Chair  
Tressie Hook.....Childcare

The mission of the United Methodist Church is;  
“to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The mission of the Wisconsin Conference is:  
“Live, Give, Love...Beyond all expectation.”

The purpose of Crossroads UMC is:  
“to provide the greatest experience of God to the greatest number of people.”