The Current

A Newsletter of Crossroads United Methodist Church
October 2010

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Bible Basics Class

submitted by Pastor Sharon

Have you ever considered taking an adult class at church, but you didn't feel comfortable? Have you forgotten everything you were supposed to learn in Confirmation? Would you like an easy class that's an introduction to the Bible?

Then join the Bible Basics class. We'll meet for four weeks to discuss: The Old Testament, The New Testament, Studying the Bible Critically, and Studying the Bible Spiritually.

Class will meet 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays October 12, 19, 26 and November 2. There's no need to pre-register. There's no cost. You don't even have to come all four weeks. But we'd love to have you there!

Crop Walk

submitted by Rod Grant

The 2010 Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, October 17. Registration's at 12:45 p.m. and the walk will begin at 1:30 p.m. It will begin at the First Congregational UCC in Madison. If you are interested in walking and taking pledges, contact Rod Grant at 849-5672.

Halloween party and costume contest

submitted by Pastor Sharon

The Activities Team and the youth group are teaming up to sponsor a fantastic Halloween party!

The fun starts at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 30 when the youth group will judge everyone's costumes. Adults can participate too. While they deliberate, the rest of us will play board games. Bring your favorites to share.

After the games, prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Then we'll have pizza for dinner. A free-will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the pizza.

It's a great chance to spend time with your family, and kids love the opportunity to wear their costume one extra time. It's also just a fun time to share fellowship — you don't need to have kids to come! We hope to see you all there.

Crossroads United Methodist Church
Where faith and friendship meet
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Pastor's Page

I had a friend in seminary that had this birthday tradition: The birthday boy or girl has to sit silently while everyone around the table says what they appreciate about that person. We loved *talking* to the birthday girl. We struggled *being* the birthday girl.

But I think it's good to hear positive feedback. In our world of sarcasm, cynicism, and constant critique, we need to be reminded of these words from Jesus: "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

A friend of mine recently addressed this issue on her blog, Random Thoughts of a Lutheran Geek. And I'm just going to paste her blog here for you to read:

> *Have you ever declared your own brilliance? It is often considered to be overly boastful to say that we are brilliant at anything. And yet we are all unique and have our own gifts and skills that we are brilliant at.*
>
> *I was given this quote today and it cried out to be blogged: "Our worst fear is not that we are inadequate; our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our Light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, talented, beautiful, fabulous?'Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God, and your playing small does not serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It's not just in some of us, it is in everyone, and as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others. ~ Marianne Williamson*
>
> *So I ask you: what makes you brilliant? Name and claim just one thing for yourself today. I am brilliant at listening and engaging others in self-reflection. It is amazing how hard that sentence is to write but it can be helpful to acknowledge our strengths as well as our weaknesses. So what makes you brilliant? Will you share it with us?*

Sometimes we need someone to tell us what makes us brilliant. And sometimes we need to claim it aloud for ourselves. What if we did a little bit of both around Crossroads lately? If you are brilliant at something, if God has given you a gift, share it! If you see a gift in someone else, let them know!

Grace abounds,

Sharon L. S. Cook

Pastor Sharon

COA's luncheon

Crossroads Older Adults meet on the second Friday of each month for a meal and a speaker. It is at 12:30 p.m. and Roselyn Warren is your contact at 849-5451.

Blood drive

The next Waunakee Blood drive is Friday, October 29 from noon to 5:30 p.m. Call Hy Miller at 849-5299 to volunteer, sign up or to bring cookies. The blood drive is at the First Presbyterian church in Waunakee.

Christmas needs you!

submitted by Irene Stein

You've heard of the people and animals who visited the manger in Bethlehem. Help tell the story of those folks who *didn't* go, by joining the cast of Crossroads' production of "Away From the Manger." The performance date is December 12 during Sunday service, and practices will start October 17 during the Sunday school hour. Most cast roles require only two or three practices. All ages are welcome and encouraged, and the only requirement is that you like to have fun! Fill out an interest sheet in the narthex, come to the October 3 group sing following Sunday service, or see Irene Steinl or Bill Hofeldt to participate.

Diapers & Detergent drive

submitted by the Christian Education Team

In October, the Sunday school kids are challenging the rest of the congregation to join them in collecting diapers and laundry detergent for Waunakee Neighborhood Connection. As a fun way for our church to participate in this community-wide drive, the kids will be collecting as many diapers as they can. The rest of us will bring in laundry detergent. A little competition between the kids and the adults should keep us motivated to help those in the community who really struggle to afford these basics. And so we can see how we're doing, and to bless this gift to the community, we'll be placing the diapers and detergent at the front of the sanctuary. We have until the end of the month to collect as much as we can. Will you help?

Cookie, Candy and Craft Sale!

submitted by Lynne Adam

We would like to expand our craft table at the Cookie and Candy sale on December 11. If you knit, crochet, stamp, sew or make other crafts we welcome your contributions. Start your projects now and let us know you are participating so we can make room. This is a great fund raiser for our church and missions. Questions can be made to Lynne Adam at 849-7795

Quilters are stepping it up!

submitted by Lynne Adam

Your Crossroads quilter group is stepping it up by adding a night to sew in addition to our Saturday morning. Be it quilting or getting those craft projects and gifts done for the holidays and birthdays etc., we hope that one of the dates/days will be convenient for you to join. The meetings will be the 1st Saturday of each month at 9 a.m., and the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome. We also make baby quilts for baptisms. For information call Lynne Adam at 849-7795.

Women's Retreat …. a great success!

submitted by Women's group

The weather was wonderful for the retreat, and the camp was full of fall color and sounds. Pastor Sharon was our guest speaker and it was a treat to have her with us! We learned about prayer and walked the Labyrinth. We all took turns in cooking and preparing meals and just enjoyed each other's company! This was our first visit to Lake Lucerne, which is one of the United Methodist camp grounds.

Prayer Shawls for missions

submitted by Pattie Hook

What is a prayer shawl? It is a simple knitted or crocheted shawl given to anyone in need of comfort. It may be a long term illness, birth of a new baby, or loss of a family member. If you want to be a part of this ministry, all you have to do is make the shawls and bring them into the office. We will get them to those who need them. If you know of folks who need a shawl, please let us know.

Those in our prayers

Prayers of Joy: Best wishes on birthdays and anniversaries; a new great-granddaughter/granddaughter for Jackie Mathes and Kathie Wagner; joy of new members Joan and Robert Pekowsky on September 19.

Prayers of Concern: All those recovering from surgeries and long term illnesses and those with unspoken concerns; Tammy Hribar's dad; families and young adults beginning or returning to college; Grace recovering from a fall; Pattie Hook's aunt Kathy; Deb Harman and Karen Ripp's dad recovering.

Prayers of Comfort in Grief: All those who have lost loved ones;

Prayers for Peace, Justice and Safety: All our military and their families all around the world; those in Pakistan recovering from floods.

Birthdays for October

Michael Anhalt	10/02
Robin Johnson	10/02
Duffy Kopf	10/04
Connie Birrenkott	10/05
Katie Tebrinke	10/05
Alice Hamilton	10/06
Michael Hron	10/06
Lurene Swenson	10/07
Kelsy Hribar	10/08
Erin Meinholz	10/08
Pam Luedtke	10/11
Amy Frentz	10/12
Erin Eastman	10/15
Julie Frentz	10/18
Roy Yaroch	10/20
Marie Yaroch	10/20
Riley Fisher	10/21
Keith Nelson	10/23
Amy Thompson	10/24
Rose Yaroch	10/25
Veronica Hollman	10/30

Crossroad's choir to perform at Overture Center

submitted by Bill Hofeldt

The Crossroads Choir will join the Waunakee Ecumenical Choir in a Christmas Concert at the Overture Center in Madison on Friday evening, December 10. Anyone who is interested in singing with us for this exciting event is most welcome; please let Bill know so that he can have music for you. There will be three rehearsals for this performance, all held at Crossroads and all on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00: October 24, November 14, and December 5. There will be more details coming regarding the concert for those interested in attending.

Hire the youth to finish your fall chores with Rent-A-Youth

submitted by the Youth Team

If you have a tree in your yard or windows in your house, you have fall chores. Even if you don't, you still probably have fall chores. Wouldn't it be great to have help in finishing them up?

The youth are available to rent on **Saturday, November 6**. We'll divide the youth and their adult drivers into work crews who will spend the day going from house to house. All work will be completed in one day. This way, you don't have to worry about finding a time to schedule with these busy young people. There is no set fee, but your donation will be used to help the youth attend Youth2011, the United Methodist National Youth Gathering, happening in July.

If you're interested in hiring the youth, please contact Pastor Sharon. The youth will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, so sign up early! Work we are qualified to do includes (but is not limited to) raking, washing windows, cleaning gutters and cleaning garages. We will bring limited supplies with us but appreciate it if we can use your buckets, ladders, rakes etc.

Fellowship opportunities abound

submitted by the Activities Team

Don't miss these opportunities for fun and fellowship with your Crossroads friends over the next few months. Call the office or see the folks listed for more details or to help organize:

On the docket:
October 10: *Wicked* at the Overture Center: See Patsy Manion
October 30: Halloween Party at 4:00 pm
Ongoing:
Bunco/Euchre parties: Bi-monthly: See Sue Tietz
COA (Crossroads Older Adult) Luncheon: monthly: See Roselyn Warren

Potential future events:
We could use some help in organizing these or other events YOU suggest:

- Bike Ride & Picnic
- Hands Only CPR Training
- Music Sharing evening
- Campout on church property

Super Saints updates

submitted by the Youth Team

It turns out, Wednesday night isn't as good a night as we had thought to meet as a youth group. But we're flexible, so we're changing our meeting time.

Youth group will now meet Sundays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. All youth currently in grades 7-12 are invited to attend. There will still be special occasions when we move the time, but we'll try to keep it to a minimum. Look for a tentative year-long schedule to be mailed out by the end of this month.

Sunday, October 3 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Fellowship Night

It's time to play a game, watch a movie, or do something just for fun. We haven't picked it out yet, but if you have something you want to do, let us know!

Sunday, October 10 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Service Night

Remember the room youth group used to meet in? Before it can really be re-used for something else, it needs to be cleaned up. Help move furniture out, paint the walls, and get rid of stuff we don't need. Bring your iPods or CDs and we'll listen to music while we work.

Sunday, October 17 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Bible Study

If I tell you too much, it'll ruin the surprise. But we will be playing with candles and fire...

Sunday, October 24 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Fellowship Night

Another night to have fun hanging out together. We'll also be planning what we want to do for care packages for Crossroads' college students.

Saturday, October 30 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Halloween game night/pizza party

Go read the article on page 1. At that Halloween party, we get to judge the costumes! While everyone is playing games, we'll think up creative awards to hand out: scariest, funniest, tallest, most creative, etc. You should wear costumes too! Plus, then you get to enjoy pizza for dinner!

Saturday, November 6 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Rent-A-Youth fundraiser

We'll be helping people with their fall chores as a way to raise money for our trip to Youth2011. We'd love your help all day, but you can also sign up for either morning or afternoon only. Lunch is provided.

Your help is needed

We need everyone's participation in the Scrip fundraising program. Scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift cards to our church at a discount. Crossroad families like yours buy the gift cards at full face value, redeem the cards for full face value, and then Crossroads keeps the difference as a revenue. We typically can earn 3 to 4 percent on each card value. If everyone starts participating in this program, we can make a big difference in helping support our budget needs.

Start planning now to use Scrip for your holiday needs and gift shopping. See the enclosed order form for the most updated list of retailers. We collect orders the first and third Sundays of the month. If you have any further questions on this fundraising program, please contact Patsy Manion at patsymanion@gmail.com or by calling her at 469-1303. She will be glad to answer any of your questions.

A hidden need in Dane County ….

submitted by Jim Walker, Lay circuit representative

Joey is one of over 1600 children in Dane County who has a parent in prison. Joey is 10 years old. His mother has been incarcerated since he was 6. His father is unable to care for Joey due to his instability and history of incarceration. Consequently, Joey lives with his paternal grandmother who is also raising several other grandchildren. Though Joey is bright, he is struggling in school. He worries about his mother in prison, his father on the streets, and his loving, but elderly grandmother. Joey needs somebody to spend time with. Grandma is there for him, but he needs more. A mentor would make a significant difference in Joey's life.

Madison area Urban Ministries is an interfaith social justice organization that has spurred social change in and about Dane county for over 35 years. Madison area Urban Ministries offers a solution for Joey. Their *Mentoring Connection* is a program that matches children of need with volunteer mentors. Through volunteer application, interview, and training programs, they offer training and oversight for mentors who wish to make a difference in a child with an incarcerated parent.

Eligibility for children:

- Live in Dane or Columbia County
- Age between 4 and 17
- Have a parent presently incarcerated in a federal or state prison
- Desire weekly contact with a mentor for at least one year
- Have written consent from their parent/guardian

Eligibility for volunteer mentor

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be screened and trained to be a mentor
- Make a one year commitment to spend an hour per week with the child/youth
- Go to *Mentoring Connection* activities with the child/youth (baseball games, carnivals, picnics)
- Be non-judgmental about eligible children/youth and their families
- Have a sincere desire to be a friend to a child/youth

Interested in knowing more? Contact Jim Walker at 850-5374.

Top ten reasons to buy Fair Trade products

submitted by Natalie and Sue Tietz

10- Buying at church is so convenient.
9 -The products are delicious.
8 –Crossroads uses the profits to help others.
7 -The products can't be found cheaper anywhere!
6 -If you do find them cheaper, buy some for me!
5- Your purchase supports sustainable farming methods.
4- Helps create a more just food system.
3 -You'll make a difference in the world.
2 -It's an environmentally and socially responsible choice.
1- Your purchase helps small farmers build better lives and have hope for the future.

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) updates

New Woes as Flood Waters Recede in Pakistan: As floodwaters recede in Pakistan, challenges presented by disease, economic loss, and the return to devastated homes, farms, and livelihoods emerge on an unprecedented scale. While aid trickles in, observers say that "the worst is yet to come." In Pakistan, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is supporting the relief efforts of partners Church World Service, GlobalMedic, Muslim Aid, and, through the ACT Alliance, Norwegian Church Aid and the Church of Pakistan. Give to the Pakistan Emergency by writing a check to the Wisconsin Conference UMC and write Fund #5966 on the memo line.

Cleaning Buckets Needed: Spring and summer storms in the U.S. South and Midwest have nearly depleted the UMCOR Relief Supply Network of cleaning buckets. The buckets contain items such as bleach, disinfectant soap, and latex gloves that help those affected by floods or hurricanes tackle the overwhelming task of cleanup. The UMCOR Relief Supply Network includes depots in six locations. Cleaning buckets and other relief supplies may be shipped to any depot in the UMCOR Relief Supply Network. To support UMCOR's relief supply ministry, write a check to the Wisconsin Conference UMC, and write, UMCOR Advance #901440 on the memo line.

UMCOR to Oversee Schools' Construction in Haiti: UMCOR staff, Rev. Gesner Paul of Église Méthodiste d'Haiti (Methodist Church of Haiti), and delegates from the Methodist Church in Ireland visited the site at Corail, Haiti, where nine UMCOR-supported transitional school buildings will be built in time for the 2010 - 2011 school year. UMCOR has proactively partnered with the United Nations Office for Project Services to directly implement this component of the project by designing and constructing the schools at Corail, while UMCOR will monitor over-all project implementation. EMH's Rev. Paul blessed the site with a prayer for the future schools, the labor of those involved in the construction, and the success of UMCOR in its work in Haiti. To support UMCOR's relief and recovery work in Haiti, write a check to the Wisconsin Conference UMC and write Fund # 6010 on the memo line.

Invitations for Advent

submitted by the Outreach Team

During Advent, the Outreach Team is going to be sponsoring an Invitation Month. What is an Invitation Month? As a church, we schedule lots of different kinds of activities – fellowship events, service opportunities, etc. And then we make a special effort to invite friends and neighbors to these events. In general, the events have a common theme running throughout.

Our theme? Having a meaningful Advent. We have several activities on the calendar, and we'll let you know the schedule as it gets closer. We'll also give you tips on how to approach people to invite them.

But did you know that most people, according to a recent poll, have a favorable impression of The United Methodist Church? And sometimes it feels easier to invite people to a non-worship event at church. It's a good way to introduce someone to church life without asking them to go too far out of their comfort zones.

Look for more information in the November newsletter!

A stewardship message for your church: giving is recognizing God's priorities

submitted by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Learning how to handle money responsibly was a value my wife and I wanted to pass on to our three children. Yet, where does one go for appropriate "curriculum" for such teaching? We decided to develop our own system. Among the values related to money management that we wanted to teach were:

1. Learning to give to God and others.
2. Learning to save.
3. Learning to spend responsibly.

As a fundamental learning experience, we provided each of our children with three banks, as soon as they were old enough to receive money of their own. One was the "spending" bank. One was the "saving" bank. One bank was for "giving." The kids were urged to divide whatever money they receive among the banks. And this they did without complaint.

The plan worked beautifully for a number of years, until one day my oldest son came home from Sunday school.

Facing me, Chris declared, "Dad, you've been lying to me!" I couldn't imagine what he was talking about!

"You've always told me I should give away one third of my money. Today in Sunday school, they told us to give only 10 percent!"

by Wayne Barrett
The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry, Vol. 2
by Donald W. Joiner and Norma Wimberly
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Monthly meetings for Crossroads:

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

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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 - 8th Grade)

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
……Pianist
Roselyn Warren ……...Accompanist
Keith Nelson…. ……Custodian
Irene Steinl.. …….. .Treasurer & Church Council, Vice Chair
Linda Stouffer & Loree von Ruden Sunday School Coordinators
Julie Frentz..…… ..Lay Leader
Sue and Natalie Tietz……Fair Trade Coffee/Tea 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."