



# Cross Section

## Senior Pastor's Message



Dear Friends in Christ,

Well, the joyous strains of "He is Risen!" and the joyful sounds of Christmas are behind us now, right? Time to move forward in the Church year and celebrate new things such as Mother's Day and Memorial Day and best of all, Summer. The cycles of life in the Church just keep rolling along year after year. These cycles are so predictable that every church family plans for the down times during the summer. Reductions in worship attendance and financial contributions are an accepted fact of life. The churches reduce programs, forego meetings, and simply accept the fact that we are all cash strapped and busy during the summer. I must admit that it has always been a source of wonder to me that people have less time and less money during the summer. Perhaps it is one more result of the dangerous nature of warmer climates. Perhaps summer is a time to be feared. However, in spite of all the negative predictions, I love summer!

Summer allows families to play and enjoy one another. Summer allows us the opportunity to acquaint or reacquaint ourselves with neighbors and friends. Summer is a time of laughter, love, and hope. I would like to suggest that we use the time and opportunities of summer to deepen our relationships. The greater openness of people allows us to engage in meaningful conversations. Please consider an activity that doesn't require a trip to church or the giving of an offering, an activity of substance. Let's all consciously have those conversations we have thought about and rehearsed in our minds a thousand times. Let's all consciously share the deep feelings of our hearts with those we know and love. Let's all consciously have those sometimes painful conversations that lead to reconciliation and healing. Let's ask the questions that every human needs to answer before it is too late. Let's consciously decide to stop pretending that things will improve without any effort on our part. Let's consciously decide we are not the center of the universe, not a victim, not an accident of creation, not hopeless, not incapable of influencing others toward Heaven. Let's focus on who we are in Christ! WE are the children of God! We are the last, best, and only hope for the world.

Well, in closing, may I remind you that Jesus will be as fully present with you this summer as He is every day of the year. He never changes the quality or amount of His grace. He has made it abundantly clear that He would like to be included in your summer celebrations....after all, isn't that what Jesus is all about? Have a wonderful summer, dear friends. Remember, Jesus loves you and so do I. May God keep you growing in His grace.

Love in Jesus,  
Pastor Jon

MAY 2007

### NEW SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Saturday services  
at 5:30 p.m.  
resume June 2nd.**

**Sunday worship  
will be at 8:30  
a.m. and 10:15  
a.m. beginning  
June 17th.**

### **Inside this issue:**

International Friends  
Update

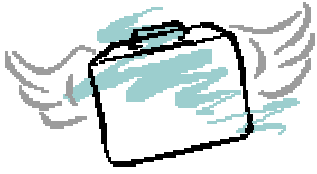
Can the Bible be Taught in  
Public Schools?

Mission Information

Stroke Awareness

Thank You Letters

Important Dates and Info



## MISSION NEWS AND NOTES

### May, 2007 Plate Offering Recipients

In May the plate offerings have been designated for the support of STAND. By church council resolution, 50% of the 2006-2007 fiscal year plate offerings will be designated for missions. The other 50% assists members, who send their children to area Lutheran schools.

### Mission Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Mission Committee will be held on Monday, May 7, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. The main item on the agenda is the selection of mission projects for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. For more information contact Verna Besancon at 248/253-0289 or at [servantvb@gmail.com](mailto:servantvb@gmail.com).

### Mission Trip to Camp Biloxi, Mississippi (May 19-27, 2007)

The members who have committed to going on this trip are:

Ron Bereznicki, Barbara Berkemeier, Don Berkemeier, Cathy Boggs, James Brown, Carmen Jones, Doug LaFontaine, Ruth LaFontaine, Walter Loebel, Vic Moigis, Cecile Skrzpczak, Frank Stoup, Mary Lou Temple

Your prayer support for the group is requested. May they be blessed with good health and safety throughout the trip. May they be faithful servants and witnesses to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Donations are being accepted to help defray the costs of the trip. Checks are payable to Cross of Christ and "Biloxi Trip" should be noted on the memo line and/or envelope.

For information contact:

Ruth & Doug LaFontaine

[lafontainedoug@aol.com](mailto:lafontainedoug@aol.com)

Home phone: (248) 539-8405

Cell phone: (248) 935-7231

### Other Mission Trip Options for 2007

There is an opportunity to participate in a VBS mission trip to Alaska with St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester, MI. Juli Garretson is the Cross of Christ contact person for this endeavor.

In November, 2007, UEMI is planning to go to India. Those interested in going will be able to assist with conferences and workshops for various groups (women, youth, businessmen, etc.) and will visit churches, orphanages, and some well-known tourist attractions. This is a 10-day trip. Contact Pastor Jim for more information.

If you wish to receive the  
Haiti Lutheran  
Mission Society  
(HLMS)  
newsletter,  
Please contact  
the address  
below:

Haiti Lutheran  
Mission Society  
P.O. Box  
22544  
Lincoln, NE  
68542

## Haiti Mission News

Try to imagine a 2-3 hour Sunday Church Service. The church is FULL. The temperature is over 100 degrees. There is NO air-conditioning. Occasionally the FANS go on but the electricity is very sporadic. When the fans go on the noisy generators make it very hard to hear. You are attending the First Evangelical Lutheran Church at Delmas 89 in Haiti.

The praise and worship this and every Sunday is amazing. The service and sermon are all in French, maybe Creole and I don't understand a word. Some music sounds familiar but unless I remember the words I just hum along. I am energized by it all. The service is electrifying. Time has no meaning today.

The Haiti Service at COC on April 22<sup>nd</sup> was our attempt to give you a little taste of what it is like to be in Haiti. If you were there, I hope it was informative and interesting. If we missed you and you are interested in knowing more about Haiti, please contact one of us. We would be happy to show you pictures and tell of the previous Haiti trips. (*Linda & Dennis Toth 248-338-3606, Diane & Ed Stanke 248-334-9737, or Dianne Ruprich 248-202-5974.*)

***Jesus said to them again ... "As the Father has sent me I also send you ..."***  
***John 20:21***

***"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." Matt. 28:19***

Please continue to pray for the Team 2007 members.

Leaders: Linda & Dennis Toth, Diane & Ed Stanke, Dianne Ruprich

Team members: Kathy Dowbenko, Paul and Nick Wilkie, Julie Day, John Kalusniak, Jonathan Toth, Laura Pechta, Cindy Zirbel, Allie Grafe, Crystal Stoup, Kip Ewing, Gary & Derek Seelbinder, Jennifer & Byron Sweet, Amy Alexander, Brent LeSage, Patrick LaFontaine

Pray that the Lord would prepare our hearts and minds for all that we would encounter in Haiti. Pray that we maintain a servant attitude. Pray for the people of Haiti—for peace and safety.

***"When a poor person dies of hunger, it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed."*** Mother Teresa

Mike and I have been living in Chicagoland for a year now and miss COC as much as ever. We enjoy our visits back to MI and are always warmly welcomed by our cherished and missed friends at COC. I am honored to remain involved with missions and particularly the Haiti Mission Team. As I read the COC Newsletter monthly I am excited to see how missions has grown at COC in the past year. Thank you all for your participation and generous donations and prayers.

Thanks and Blessings to you!!

In Christ,  
*Dianne Ruprich*

### **Haiti Monthly Donation Focus**

**May—  
Medical Supplies:  
Pain Relievers  
(Tylenol, Advil,  
Aleve, etc.)  
Vitamins (infant,  
children and  
prenatal)  
Anti-Fungal  
Cremes**



**June—  
Shampoo, Soap,  
Hand Towels,  
Lotion**



**You may still  
donate  
toothbrushes,  
toothpaste, pens,  
pencils, and spiral  
notebook and  
cash donations  
are always  
welcome.**



### **Managing Our Finances God's Way**

**You will hear from five renowned experts on the following topics in this 7-week study**

- 1. The Big Picture—Rick Warren**
- 2. Dedicate it All to God—Chip Ingram**
- 3. Plan Your Spending—Ron Blue**
- 4. Giving as an Act of Worship—Chip Ingram**
- 5. Saving and Investing—Ron Blue**
- 6. God's Solution to Debt—Howard Dayton**
- 7. Enjoy What God has Given You—Church Bentley**

**When:**  
**Wednesday 6:00 p.m. beginning May 2nd**

**Where: Cof C**

**Book fee: \$17.00 (optional)**

**Child Care provided—bring the entire family for dinner**

**Call the Church Office to register**

## **Keeping up with the Joneses**

It used to be called “keeping up with the Joneses”—That desire to impress the neighbors or the people at work with the newest car or the biggest house or the finest clothes. Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church once said he had tried to keep up with the Joneses so long that he couldn't wait for them to move. You and I have both experienced that desire to “do better” than others—or at least, to have what they possess.

What a testimony to our sinful nature! It goes right back to the fall of Adam and Eve when Satan tempted them to want what God alone possessed—so they would be like God, knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:5).

Ever since, men and women have struggled with discontentment—and it's caused so many problems for so many people. In today's world the desire to “have it all” is encouraged by the sheer abundance of “stuff” and the marketing messages that make it all so attractive to willing consumers! You and me.

**Discontentment** This is one of the chief causes of financial slavery—and, I believe, one of the reasons that the Lord has allowed Crown Financial Ministries so much growth in recent years. Many people come to us weighed down by mountains of debt brought on by uncontrolled spending. But, it is the root causes of that spending that need to be dealt with. That's why continuing to teach God's financial principles here at Cross of Christ is so important. Here are a few principles that can be learned.

Psalm 24:1 tells us, “The earth is the Lord's and everything in it”. Our desire as Christians to be more and more like Jesus should NOT include a desire to own everything there is to own! The newest car, the latest iPod, the fastest computer, the trendiest clothes—All these represent wants rather than needs.

As stewards of what God has entrusted to us, we should be concerned that we use His resources wisely and well—in other words, that we are making the best use of money both for our families' needs and for His Kingdom's needs. The Bible tells us how to earn, spend, give, save, invest, get out of debt and teach our children how to handle money. So, having a plan for earning, giving, saving and spending is the heart of all we teach.

**Consumption** You and I live in the biggest consumer society in all of history. Every day we are inundated by messages aimed at separating us from our money. The effect of those messages is to create not only desire for new things, but to create dissatisfaction with the things we have. This is one of the leading causes of financial slavery. We are even willing to go into debt to satisfy our desires! Learning to control spending that leads to debt means learning to be content with what God has permitted us to have.

Jesus said, “A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). Likewise, the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians, chapter 4:12, that he had “learned the secret of being content in every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want”. Real contentment enables us to live within our means.

**Gathering vs Gambling** Wise stewardship demands that we save for large expenditures rather than go into debt to acquire them. But, “gathering” doesn't simply mean to squirrel away money....Instead, as good stewards, we should learn to invest funds wisely in order to make money work for us. You probably already understand the power of good investments and compounding interest. Albert Einstein observed, “Compounding is the greatest mathematical discovery of all time, not E=mc2.”

When people learn and apply these principles, they are set free from the slavery of materialism, from covetousness, from dissatisfaction with what God has provided. Best of all, they learn the joy of true financial freedom—being able to participate fully in what God is doing in our world to advance His Kingdom.

Mail your comments to Merl Terry—terrycrown@comcast.net

## C OF C MEMBER PLANS MISSION TO UGANDA

Hello, and greetings from Hope College! I am amazed to think of all the great opportunities that I have had participated in and the friends that I have made while I have been here.

One of the greatest things about Hope for me has been its impact on my spiritual life. My prayer is that I can live a life according to Psalm 119:32, and run in the path of the Lord. Doesn't the word *run* conjure up such a beautiful image of living the life our Savior has set forth for us, and diving into that life with anticipation and delight? That is how I feel right now, and this time I am headed straight to Uganda, Africa!

As you probably know I have always had a heart for missions, and earlier this year God presented an opportunity for me to go to Uganda. Back in September I was sitting in a pre-med meeting when one of the doctors affiliated with Hope talked about the possibility of going to Africa this summer on a medical mission trip with pre-med students. I remember turning to my friend behind me and whispering, "I am going on that trip!" Ever since then the dream of Africa has been in my heart.

The decision to take American college students to Africa is not an easy one, and after numerous obstacles, a path to Uganda opened. Therefore, from May 15 until June 4, I will be traveling to Kampala, Uganda with eight other Hope students, one doctor, and one of Hope's chaplain staff. While God's plans for our time in Uganda are greater than our own, we do have some initial plans for our time there. One of my constant prayers, however, is to keep my heart open to listen to the plans God has for my time in Uganda.

Because all of the students in the group are pre-med, the primary focus of our trip is a medical mission, nonetheless, no one is going to be handing me a scalpel just yet. We are going to focus on preventative medicine through education. We will be meeting with students in 1st–7th grades and presenting topics such as how to wash your hands, how to prevent parasites, and how to avoid TB, the measles, and worms. We will also be interacting with high school and college students and hopefully hearing about their life experiences and sharing the gospel with them.

Additionally, we have the privilege of helping in the clinic. Our basic medical skills will be utilized in the OB and children's areas. Our main goal is to show the kids, approximately one-third of which are AIDS orphans, that they are loved, not only by us, but more importantly by Him who first loved us.

While I am very excited to embark on this journey, I do have a request for you because you are someone important in my life. My request is that you would pray for me and my Uganda mission team. I ask that you pray for my safety, and the opportunity for me to be a beacon of life and truth to those I meet. Also, I ask that you pray for me before I leave, that the Lord would prepare me for Africa and all that it entails, and keep me humble and focused on His plans while I am there. Above all else I ask you to pray that the name of Jesus will be proclaimed!

In addition to your prayer support, I also need help financially. The total amount needed for the trip is \$2500. This money will be used toward a plane ticket and lodging in Uganda, medical supplies for the clinics, health education supplies for the children, and general expenses for those who are providing for us while we are there. If you are interested in helping me financially you can make a check payable to Hope College and designate my name in the memo of the check. You can send the check to:

Hope College Chaplain's Office  
Attn: Mission Support  
P.O. Box 9000  
Holland, MI 49422-9000

If you have any questions about my Uganda trip or just want to hear more about it, please call me at 248-202-1141 or e-mail me at [Jennifer.ruprich@hope.edu](mailto:Jennifer.ruprich@hope.edu).

In Christ's Love,  
Jen Ruprich

*"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free".  
Psalm 119:32*

If any members wish to assist Jennifer through prayer and financial support, please respond to Jennifer and Hope College directly. We should all be proud of the Christian desires burning in Jennifer's heart.

-Pastor Jon



## Teaching the Bible in Public Schools

### BREAKPOINT COMMENTARY: Education

“Much to Admire” –by Chuck Colson, aired on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

At first glance, you might think the wrong magazine had landed on the rack in the grocery store check-out line next to *Newsweek* and *People* magazine. The cover features a picture of a black-and-yellow CliffsNotes version of the Bible. *What is this, you think—the annual Easter-season bashing of Christians?*

But then you read the title of this cover story: “Why We Should Teach the Bible in Public School.”

Even more amazing, this is *Time* magazine’s cover story. And the story reveals how popular Bible literacy classes have become—and why almost no one is complaining about them.

According to *Time*, the number of public schools offering classes on the Bible is rising rapidly. Two Bible curricula are now being studied in 460 school districts in thirty-seven states. Thousands of other districts have expressed interest in them.

Which leads to a question: How on earth are public schools getting away with teaching the Bible?

The answer is making sure, as the Supreme Court put it years ago, that if the Bible is taught, it must be “presented objectively as part of a secular program of education.” Meeting that criterion was the goal of the Bible Literacy Project, led by my friend Chuck Stetson, one of our Centurion graduates. About eighteen months ago, the project unveiled a new high school textbook called *The Bible and Its Influence*. It looks at the Bible as literature and helps kids understand its impact on literature, the arts, and history.

Great care has been taken to create a textbook that avoids favoring any canon or doctrine. It’s also been approved by constitutional scholars.

After observing Bible literacy classes in public schools, *Time*’s excellent religion writer David Van Biema writes, “I could find little to object to here and much to admire.” Best of all, teenagers enjoy classes based on these books. *Time* quoted Rachel Williams, an 18-year-old who took a Bible literacy class at her Texas high school. She says the class has “gotten a lot of positive feedback. It’s going to really rise in popularity.”

This is good news, and no one can claim to be truly educated without knowing the contents of the Bible. Students will become familiar with the Bible’s great themes and stories. They will read, with greater understanding, works by Herman Melville, John Locke, and Martin Luther King, whose writings are filled with biblical allusions. And having once dipped into the Bible, I believe, they will be more inspired to read on their own. They may even consider joining a Bible study to learn more—that is, if somebody invites them. And they just might remember the Bible’s stories and teachings when making decisions about whether to engage in casual sex or follow the crowd into crime.

Is your school district teaching Bible literacy classes? For more information about how to start one, visit our website, [www.breakpoint.org](http://www.breakpoint.org).

When even liberal magazines like *Time* think it is a good idea for kids to study the Bible, you and I have no excuse for not making sure local kids have every chance to do exactly that. They will learn the context of greatest book ever written—and they will encounter, perhaps for the first time, the greatest life ever lived.

Thanks, *Time*, for a great Easter gift.

**Is your school district teaching Bible literacy classes?**

**For more information about how to start one, visit [www.breakpoint.org](http://www.breakpoint.org).**

## ***International Friends Ministry Reaches Many***

International Friends is a quiet ministry, but it is actively reaching out to non-believers. Here's a breakdown of the numbers of people we are witnessing to:

### **Indian Ministry**

About 80 Indian people attended the Christmas dinner. This included a program where we told them about Jesus and Christmas.

### **Bible Discussion class**

Pastor Bill is the instructor for this group. Nine international students attend weekly. Lucy Grafe, Dorothy Wernecke and Katie Moigis assist with the discussions.

### **Friendship English Class**

There are 32 ladies signed up. They meet every Tuesday. The babysitters have 3 to 5 children each week. Six American volunteers (Katie Moigis, Dorothy Wernecke, Lucy Grafe, Linda Boegart, Gini Claudepierre from Redeemer, and Beiling Ni from Chinese Christian Church) help the ladies learn English as they build friendships and look for opportunities to evangelize.

### **Conversation Club**

Twice a month, Beth Hamada has 5 international ladies meet at her kitchen table for tea and conversation. It is casual and personal. It provides a friendly atmosphere where witnessing occurs naturally.

### **Walking Club**

Twice a week, Katie Moigis walks around Somerset Mall with 2 to 4 ladies. They talk as they walk.

Several of the ladies attend more than one class/club. That is good because it helps the friendships build faster. All together, we are witnessing to about 35 ladies on a weekly basis and then another 80 at the yearly Christmas dinner.

Thank you for supporting this ministry through finances and prayers and facilities. There are brochures in the narthex and welcome center that you can take and use at invitations to invite international ladies to join one of our classes. This is a simple and easy way to reach out to non-believers.

I gave one of our Bilingual Bibles to a Japanese lady who has been a faithful attendee of all our classes. She walked with me every Monday, came to almost every I.F. friendship class and every Bible Discussion class (because she had received a Bible (English language only) from someone in Ohio). I asked her at her last class if she would like to take one of the Japanese/English Bibles back to Japan with her. She said she would really like that because she wanted to continue to know more about the Bible and that she wanted me to continue sending her the summaries and outlines of each Bible Discussion class so she can continue studying along with us in Japan. PRAISE GOD!

-A testimonial from Katie Moigis

### **PALM SUNDAY**

It was Palm Sunday and, because of a sore throat, five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by."

"Wouldn't you know it," they boy fumed, "The one Sunday I don't go, He shows up!"



## Parish Nursing: Stroke Awareness

Dear Church Family Members,

May is Stroke Prevention month... Here are a few interesting facts about strokes...also called "brain attacks".

- About 3/4 million Americans have a stroke each year; it is the third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer.
- Americans will pay about 63 billion dollars in 2007 for stroke related medical and rehabilitation costs.
- Most strokes are caused by a blood clots that lodge in an artery of the brain; they can also occur when a blood vessel breaks. Brain cells can die from lack of oxygen, similar to a heart attack.

Symptoms of a stroke are:

- sudden weakness in the face, arm or leg, usually on one side of the body
- sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- sudden trouble walking, dizziness or loss of balance
- sudden, severe headache

Don't ignore these symptoms if they appear. Call 911 to get a hospital emergency room immediately. If you've had a stroke where a blood vessel is blocked, immediate medical attention can save your life and prevent long term disability. Don't wait to see if the symptoms go away!

Risk factors for stroke include: high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, history of mini-strokes, high cholesterol, physical inactivity, obesity and excessive alcohol intake. Many of these risk factors can be eliminated by wise lifestyle choices.

Take good care of the body God gave you!

Mary Lou Temple RN  
Parish Nurse

## *PASSOVER SEDER CELEBRATED AT CROSS OF CHRIST*

Over 80 Lutherans and other Christians gathered with Jewish believers to celebrate a Passover Seder on April 4<sup>th</sup> in the chapel at Cross of Christ. The group was led by Rabbi Loren Jacobs and his wife Martha, from Congregation Shema Yisrael, a Messianic Jewish congregation which for 2 years held worship services at Cross of Christ.

The Seder commemorates the Children of Israel's departure from Egypt during the time of Moses; Christians remember it as the last night Jesus spent with His disciples before His death. Many Christians forget that Jesus, as an observant Jew, celebrated all the Jewish holidays. This time it was different; when He drank the cup after supper (the cup of redemption), He instituted the Last Supper or Holy Communion. He was to be the Passover Lamb, the final and complete atonement for our sins.

Knowing the background and symbolism of the foods eaten at the Seder helped those who attended to understand the richness and heritage of their Christian faith. The charoset, a mixture of ground fruit, honey and wine, represented the mortar the slaves used to build the bricks. Dipping herbs (parsley) in salt water symbolized the tears the Children of Israel shed during their bondage. Horseradish represented the bitterness of their bondage and the matza (bread with no yeast) represented the bread that they ate in haste before leaving Egypt.

(continued)



## *PASSOVER SEDER (CONTINUED)*

A wonderful meal was enjoyed by all: chopped liver and matza, baked chicken, potato kugel, tzimmes (sweet potato and carrot casserole), and Passover cake. And of course, a little wine!

As a member of Cross of Christ for 30 years, I remember celebrating many Passover Seders led by Pastor Light; it gave me a great love and clearer understanding of the beliefs and culture of the Jewish people. (And we still have the same cook!...thank you, Frances!)

It's our prayer that Jewish people may come to know, love and put their trust in their Jewish Messiah, Jesus. Let's share our love for them and Jesus by our witness to them, as God presents the opportunities.

## **LIBRARY CORNER: MOTHER'S DAY & MEMORIAL DAY SELECTIONS**

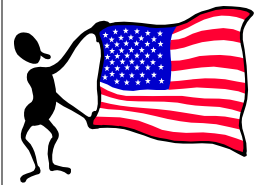
May brings not only May flowers but Mother's Day and the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The library has several donations appropriate for each occasion. *The Tie that Binds* by Nancy Boffo and Linda Tomblin is a book of short devotional readings celebrating the mother-daughter relationship within a spiritual context. *The Quiet Heart* by June Bacher is a book of daily devotional readings for all women, whatever their age and time of life. *Every Woman in the Bible* by Larry and Sue Richards draws "life application lessons from the experiences of Bible women," and offers "cultural insights from the world of the Bible including the laws, beliefs and customs concerning women" (back cover).

*Bringing up Boys* by Dr. James Dobson has been donated in the form of audiotapes. This is a valuable parenting book for parents who want to better understand their boy (s). *The New Birth Order Book* by Dr. Kevin Leman examines how birth order affects people's behaviors and preferences. *For One More Day* by Mitch Albom is a fantasy about second chances and how a mother's loving guidance freed her grown son from emotional pain. For the children there is *Jesus, Our Risen Savior*, a videotape of four animated Bible stories including Jesus' appearance to his disciples, ascension into Heaven and the first Pentecost. *Josh and the Big Wall* is an adaptation of the story of Jericho and an addition to the Veggie Tales videotapes.

In honor of Memorial Day a book by Lt. Carey Cash, chaplain with the U.S. Marines has been donated to the library. *A Table in the Presence* is filled with faith inspiring true stories about a U.S. Marine battalion during the early days of the War in Iraq. *Glory, Experiencing the Atmosphere of Heaven* by Ruth W. Heflin is a thought-provoking book which explains the progression from praising (God) to worshipping (God) to what she refers to as "standing in the glory" (of God). It includes extraordinary stories of the power of the Spirit to work through God's people and accomplish much for His Kingdom when they are willing to trust completely and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, even while not comprehending God's purpose.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the recent Christian book displays. I'm sorry that I needed to reschedule the 3rd sale date from April 1st to April 28th (during the Moms-to-Moms sale). However, it was wonderful that so many of you became aware of the displays and took the time to select something worthwhile to read for yourselves and for your families.

**Heather Sherk**



**Reminder: The deadline for the Cross Section is the 10th of the preceding month. Submit your information via email to [newsletter@bloomfieldcross.org](mailto:newsletter@bloomfieldcross.org)**

# Upcoming Events

## Bloomfield Antique Show Committee Meeting

Saturday, May 5  
10:00 a.m. in  
the  
Chapel Theater

Coffee &  
Muffins  
provided

**PLEASE JOIN US**  
to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
**Pastor Jim's**  
**Ordination into the Holy Ministry**

Sunday, May 20, 2007  
Service of Worship – 11:15 am  
Luncheon Following Service  
The Gordon H. Light Family Life Center

Tickets are required: \$5.00 per person, Age 13 and over  
Children 12 and under – free  
Available in the Church Narthex On Sundays and From the Church Office



## Calling all Secret Prayer Pals!!

Thursday, May 24th, 2007

We will be gathering together in the old sanctuary to reveal our Secret Prayer Pals. Current Secret Prayer Pals, please see your mailboxes for details. Come and enjoy a wonderful evening of food, fun and fellowship! RSVP to Mary Zimmerman at [nikegirl0403@aol.com](mailto:nikegirl0403@aol.com) or 586.979.2075 by April 12, 2007.

Forms for the coming year's Secret Prayer Pal Program will be at our gathering on May 24th, and also in Mary Zimmerman's mailbox, and are due on June 3, 2007. Please take part in this wonderful way to pray for a friend! Thank you to everyone who participates in this wonderful program and may God Bless you!

## Attention Senior Youth

### Join Youth Led by Christ—A Senior Youth Service Team

Friday, June 15th—Monday, June 18th  
Youth Led will be serving the small, rural community of Baldwin, Michigan  
Entering 2007—2008 high school students included  
Fee of \$40 to cover items spent on Grace Church activities.  
Lodging & food provided

**Friday:** Leave Cross of Christ via Church bus

**Saturday:** Meet up at Grace Church and split up into work teams

**Sunday:** Worship at Grace Lutheran Church with new friends,  
Work teams and organize details for Monday's "Youth Day"

**Monday:** Youth Day—lead one day of VBS for young children in the community

Call Ryan, Allison or Ardis Greene for more information: 248-645-6226

**Information Meeting on Sunday, May 6th at 4:00 p.m.  
at Cross of Christ. Parents welcome!**

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you're young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12*

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: PRAY, SEND CARDS

### NEW MEMBERS

Kelly Fink  
240 Cottage St.  
Pontiac, MI 48324  
248-333-1535

Jeane & Aubrey Lee  
5889 Carmen Ct., W.  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324  
248-683-3748

Chip and Marianne Wiswall  
39021 Woodward #809  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
248-723-1333

Ron and Cathy Rae  
3020 Betsy Ross Drive  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
248-642-1274

### TRANSFERRED OUT

Carol and Robert Powrie

### SHUT-INS

Richard Robb  
Farmington Health Care  
Center, 34225 Grand River,  
Farmington, MI 48335-3440

Edna Foss  
Waltonwood Retirement  
Living, 3450 West 13 Mile  
Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48073

Lillian Spellicy  
Sunrise Assisted Living of  
Bloomfield, 2080 South  
Telegraph Road, #320A  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Jan Hartman, Sunrise of West  
Bloomfield, 7005 Pontiac Trl,  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Glen Schultz  
Campbell Nursing Home,  
1900 Lakeville Rd, Leonard  
MI 48367

### MILITARY:

LCPL Gruits, M.W.T and Jena  
1919 Swamp Fox Trail  
Beaufort, SC 29906

Douglas Quitmeyer;  
rgrdoug@comcast.net

## MAY CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

### \*ONGOING EVENTS\*

#### SUNDAYS

8:15 Adult Bible Study  
9:30 am SonLight City  
9:30am Worship  
11:15am Worship

#### MONDAYS

10am Adult Bible Study

#### TUESDAYS

7am Men's Bible Breakfast  
10am Adult Bible Study  
11:45 Primetimers (5/1)  
12:30 International Friends  
5:45pm Prayer Time  
7pm Volleyball

#### WEDNESDAYS

10:00 Mom's Bible Study/  
nursery  
4:30 4C's Rehearsal

5:30 Church dinner  
6:30 Worship

#### THURSDAYS

9:30 Young Mom's Group  
12:30 International Friends  
7:00 Worship—National Day of  
Prayer Service (5/3)

#### FRIDAYS

6p Scrapbook Outreach (5/4)

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/2 Barbara Holt	5/9 Nicolas Viselli	5/21 Marjorie Sumney
5/2 Patricia Mott	5/11 Richard Davenport	5/22 Jason Bardallis
5/3 Michael Gruits	5/1 Lexie Peckens	5/22 Aditya Kodi
5/4 Leeza Barnes	5/12 Todd Duggins	5/22 Pam Richards
5/4 Jean Pahlow	5/13 Robert Schulte	5/24 Lee Fortney
5/4 Amanda Peacock	5/13 Corine Streng	5/24 Kris Myrold
5/5 Linda Ebert	5/15 Erika LeBarre	5/24 Diane Stanke
5/5 Catherine Hechtman	5/15 Claire Ollila	5/24 Kimberly Stein
5/5 Jim Holste	5/16 Scott Kos	5/26 Alexandra Ulmer
5/5 Nathan Reusch	5/16 Betsy Markel	5/28 Ann Bauer
5/7 Ron Milz	5/16 Robert Peckens	5/29 Shirley Kreft
5/7 Nellie Wooten	5/17 Lindsey Rem	5/31 Cameron Fish
5/8 Rhea Berry	5/19 Corei Elliott	5/31 Dirk Greene
5/8 Emily Levine	5/19 Mark Hoke	5/31 Dave Winchester
5/8 Kristi Michalski	5/19 Elsie Paeselt	
5/9 Kamryn Harding	5/20 Heather Ollila	

## CALENDAR ON THE WEB!

Go to  
[www.bloomfieldcross.org](http://www.bloomfieldcross.org) and  
click on the  
"Calendar" link to  
the right side of  
the home page.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ken & Paula Behr  
5/27/95

Dan & Stacy Bivens  
5/9/2003

Dick & Doris Bland  
5/18/2003

Tim & Beth Dameron  
5/5/2002

Todd & Desiree Duggins  
5/3/2003

Doug & Ruth LaFontaine  
5/12/1979

Robert & Jean Pahlow  
5/27/1950

Bill & Kathie Ridenour  
5/7/1994

Hugh & Tammy Simmonds  
5/16/1992

Dennis & Linda Toth  
5/18/1974

Donn & Sharon Ulmer  
5/22/1971



## Response to the Reverse Offering

Dear Pastor Reusch,

This is a "LOVE" letter. Its purpose is to spread good will. I am making a commitment to write a letter a week (one a day during Lent) to someone who I believe deserves a "L"etter "O"f "V"ivid "E"mpathy. This week, my Letter goes out to you!

I was very intrigued by your recent "event" to put \$3,000 into your church's collection plate and ask people to *take* instead of *give*. What a wonderful idea! I've been following the story in the Oakland Press and was happy to hear of the variety of ways church members are finding to make a difference in someone's life. This is a great way to encourage others to participate in "random acts of kindness" and to just reach out and connect with another human being in a positive way.

I have found when I truly give from the heart, without expecting anything in return, I am truly blessed by God. So, it works both ways—the receiver is blessed and the giver is blessed! It would be great if this becomes an annual event for your church and perhaps other churches will take a similar approach.

Some people accuse churches of being "money-hungry" for their own causes or "out-of-touch" with secular individuals. Your idea sure contradicts these fallacies!

Thank you so much for thinking "outside the box" and coming up with a fun and enriching way to walk in Jesus' footsteps. It is so refreshing!!

Now, would you consider spreading the good will of sending a LOVE Letter to someone you believe deserves some recognition or that might just need a cheerful note? You may want to remain anonymous and find a "pen name" as I have chosen to do.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if these type of letters spread around the globe!! You may have heard of "Random Acts of Kindness." These LOVE letters are one example. By spreading out and touching others, this might just become the beginning of a new movement of unity and love.

Have a wonderful day!

Sending you  
Christ's Love,  
*Sailoon*  
*Woodski*

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

**Bloomfield Antique Show** **NEWS**  
October 4 - 6, 2007

Traditional Events:	Exciting New Events:
Thousands of Antiques	Old Fashioned Lutheran Church Supper
Country Store	A Taste of Bloomfield
Silent Auction	Kick-off Meeting:
Country Cafe	May 5, 2007
DuMouchelle Appraisals	

**Gala Charity Preview Party**

Approaching \$400,000 in Charitable Contributions  
"Our 44 Year Tradition"



**Reaching Beyond  
Our Walls**

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