



# The HOLY CROSS WORD

Words of news, information, humor and inspiration from Holy Cross

MARCH 2013

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LVI, NO. 7

## MIDWEEK AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES



**March 6, 13, 20:**

Midweek Lenten Vespers  
at 7:30 p.m.



**March 24: Palm Sunday**

Worship at 8 and 10:30 a.m.



**March 28: Maundy Thursday**

7:30 p.m. - Service  
with Holy Communion  
and Stripping of the Altar



**March 29: Good Friday**

Noon - Midday Service

7:30 p.m. - Tenebrae Service



**March 31:  
Easter Sunday**

Celebrate the  
Resurrection  
of our Lord!



7:00 a.m. \* - Easter Vigil

10:30 a.m. - Easter Festival  
Eucharist

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

\* Please note early time

### FROM P.E.W. TO PEW

#### What has happened since December 14, 2012

After the awful events of December 14, 2012, much has occurred. In light of the publicity our church body has received in the last month, I thought it best to lay before you what has happened since that tragic day at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and where we stand today.

The night of the slaughter, Pastor Morris of Christ the King–Newtown, arranged a prayer service to be held at his church. Because Pastor Morris was with the family of one of the victims, the Service was led by one of the vice-presidents of the New England District–LCMS, The Rev. Robert Beinke of Norwalk. Pastor Morris then held another Prayer Service at Christ the King the following evening.

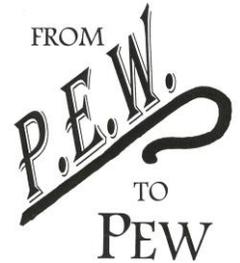
In the meantime, the ministerial association of Newtown quickly put together a prayer vigil for the community, and scheduled it for Sunday evening, December 16. It was put together in such a way that religious groups of all kinds in the community could be represented. But two things were done, at the request of Pastor Morris, to make it clear that this was NOT an interfaith worship service:

- 1) The president of the association made an announcement at the beginning that made it clear that the appearance of the various religious representatives was in no way an endorsement of each other's beliefs. Their appearance together was a sign of community solidarity and an attempt to offer solace and hope to a community in unspeakable pain, grief, and shock.
- 2) The vigil was planned in such a way that between each speaker there would be a period of silence. This was done to emphasize that this was not an effort for everyone to pray together.

With these two items in place, Pastor Morris felt he could participate as an act of community chaplaincy.

Once President Obama made it clear he would attend and speak, and the various television networks announced they would carry the event, a few folks within the Missouri Synod (a very small but vocal minority) registered their dismay for Pastor Morris's participation – both with Pastor Morris and on a couple of their websites.

I was present at the conference call on Sunday afternoon that discussed Pastor Morris's participation in the upcoming prayer vigil that evening. The conversation involved Synod President Harrison, District President Yeadon and Pastor Morris. I am not at liberty to reveal what was discussed during that call – it was, and is, a private matter. What can be said is that Pastor Morris did not act without deliberate prayer and study, and did not act without first discussing his intent with his ecclesiastical supervisors.



"P.E.W. to PEW" continues on Page 3



### Tuesday, March 5

5:00 p.m. – Holy Cross serves Community Supper at St. John's Epis.-Bridgeport

### Wednesdays, March 6, 13 and 20

6:15 p.m. – Lenten Soup Suppers

7:30 p.m. – Midweek Lenten Vespers with the theme, "Restore the ROAR!"

### Saturday, March 9

10:00 a.m. – Memorial service for Irving Van Wart

7:00 p.m. – "Whist" Card Game Night

*Proceeds to benefit Summerfield United Methodist Food Pantry*

### Sunday, March 10 – Daylight Saving Time begins

### Thursday, March 14

7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

### Tuesday, March 19

6:30 p.m. – Book Club (meets in the Fellowship Hall)

### Saturday, March 23

3:00 p.m. – Baroque to Modern on Main Concert

### Sunday, March 24 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

### Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. – Worship service with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

### Friday, March 29 – Good Friday

Noon – Midday service

7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae service

### Sunday, March 31 – The Resurrection of Our Lord: EASTER

7:00 a.m. – Easter Vigil

8:15/8:30 a.m. – Easter Breakfast (*immediately following the early service*)

10:30 a.m. – Easter Festival Eucharist



## **HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Office Phone: 203-268-4555; Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555

Pastor's E-mail: [pewhclc@mindspring.com](mailto:pewhclc@mindspring.com)

Church Office E-mail: [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com) FAX: 203-268-5499

Website: [www.holycrosstrumbull.org](http://www.holycrosstrumbull.org)

Christian Preschool Phone: 203-268-6471 E-mail: [mglennonhccp@mindspring.com](mailto:mglennonhccp@mindspring.com)

Parsonage: 6025 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611 Phone: 203-268-1722

Worship Services – Sunday: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.; Monday: 7:00 p.m.

**PASTOR:** Emil A. Witschy

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Dr. Elina Christova

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT:** Cliff Schrock

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VICE-PRESIDENT:** Vacant

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SECRETARY:** Michele Van Wart

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' TREASURER:** Greg Dowling

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Pastor Emil A. Witschy

**NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR:** Cliff Schrock

**NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:** Mary Schrock



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Holy Cross congregation is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20). We will share the love and forgiveness of Our Lord Jesus Christ with one another, our community and the whole world so that we can take part in the joyous privilege of "making disciples of all nations" through the power of the preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering His Sacraments, and joining together in service fellowship according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church (Article III).

## **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

### **Please make these changes to phone/address directory**

This is an update to the most recent Holy Cross membership directory (gold cover) released in August 2011:

#### **LaSalle Family**

(new phone numbers; omit land line)

Christy: 860-575-4394

Wayne: 860-575-3952



#### **Christine Matthews**

(new phone number; omit land line)

203-260-8468



## **THOUGHT OF THE MONTH**

**By Blaise Pascal, French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and Christian philosopher**

"The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing."

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## **NEWSLETTER NOTES**

### **Our next deadline is...**

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the April edition. The deadline for all articles is Friday, March 15. Please submit articles to the newsletter mailbox, or send them via e-mail to:

[holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com).



Unless you have a lengthy article, we encourage you to use the "Information Form," located in a box on the narthex table. You may use this form to submit details for upcoming events, the "We Are Family" and "Thank You" columns, and other short items.



# Whist Night

- ♠ *A deck of cards*
- ♣ *The fellowship of Holy Cross friends*
- ♦ *A game played 200 years ago*
- ♥ *Adds up to an evening of fun*
- ♠ *You don't have to come with a partner*
- ♣ *No experience is needed*
- ♦ *\$10 per person suggested entrance donation*
- ♥ *To benefit Hunger Outreach: Summerfield United Methodist Food Pantry*
- ♠ *Saturday, March 9—begins promptly at 7 p.m.*
- ♣ *Snacks and soda will be provided...the evening will end with "Coffee-And"*
- ♦ *Please sign up in the narthex so we know how many people to prepare for*
- ♥ *If you can provide a card table, please let us know*

--- DAVID and  
MARY ANN SCHILLER

## *"P.E.W. to PEW" continued from Page 1*

I do not know all that took place between that Sunday and February 2, 2013. I do know, however, that Pastor Morris, President Harrison, and President Yeadon were in regular contact. Then, on February 2, the following were released:

- 1) An apology from Pastor Morris
- 2) A letter from President Harrison acknowledging and accepting the apology of Pastor Morris

These letters ended up getting wide circulation, and, it appears, satisfied no one. Opponents of Pastor Morris' action didn't believe the apology went far enough; supporters were appalled that he gave an apology at all.

At this point, let it be said that Pastor Morris had the full support, not only of his congregation, but of President Yeadon, the Board of Directors of the New England District, its Circuit Counselors, and its pastors. And I, for one, along with many of my colleagues, was embarrassed and saddened that Pastor Morris had to endure any of this. He is a loving and faithful pastor doing a phenomenal job of pastoral ministry in unbelievable circumstances (and continues to do so).

Then, on February 9, three statements were released:

- 1) A statement of unity signed by Harrison, Yeadon, and Morris
- 2) A Pastoral Letter and Apology from President Harrison
- 3) A Pastoral Letter from District President Tim Yeadon

These can be read on President Harrison's blog by going to:

<http://wmltblog.org/>

The next day, President Harrison released a video on the above blog, admitting that he had handled the situation poorly. To his great credit, he humbly asked for forgiveness. With these actions, the issue is settled. It is time to move on. I am afraid, however, that it will not be settled for everyone. We do well to heed the words of Luther in his explanation to the Eighth Commandment in the Small Catechism: *We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.*

I pray that this answers many of the questions you may have had concerning what you have read in the press. For those who do not have internet access, I will make the pertinent documents and video available for viewing. It is also my prayer that this brings to a conclusion a very difficult chapter in the life of our synod.

Finally, many of you may have become aware of all this from the Connecticut Post. A letter signed by local LCMS Pastors Beinke (St. Peter–Norwalk), Boerger (Zion–Orange), Loos (Zion–Bridgeport and First–Greenwich), and me, addressing the situation and declaring our support for Pastor Morris was sent to the paper and appeared on Wednesday, February 13.

In Christian Service,

Pastor Emil Witschy

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

### **Going around the horn on a multitude of topics**

A columnist's bailout when he can't come up with one single topic to write about is to put together a column of notes. That is the direction I took this month. And please stay with my collection of topics to the end for a comment about the situation in Newtown.

**The Annual Meeting:** To wrap-up what I didn't cover in last month's newsletter about the Jan. 27 gathering, let me add some specifics. There were nearly 60 people in attendance; I thank them for coming but feel disappointment more members didn't see the value in attending the meeting. We have to do better next January. In addition to the officers I'd already mentioned last month, I am pleased to announce that Gary Messerschmitt has stepped up and will be our third Shepherd, joining Year 3 William Malmstedt and Year 2 Pat Deloge. A church budget of \$340,404.42 was approved, against an expected income of \$340,404.42. The expense figure would be considerably less if we weren't allocating for air-conditioning work. The Preschool budget, which is now back to the same schedule as the church's, was approved for an income of \$241,464.29 and expenses of \$239,129.57, a surplus of \$2,334.72. And I had also announced our 2012 Audit Team of Jim Finch and Andrew Struzik; a third person would be welcome, so speak with me if interested.

**Skill-Sharing Seminars:** If you are interested in sharing your skills and knowledge in a certain area with your fellow members, please speak with me to get scheduled.

**Disruptions:** In the time since our Annual Meeting, we certainly haven't had a winter of contentment weather-wise. My impression the last several years is that we fall into an every-seven-days weather pattern where we get hit with wintery conditions. And when the seventh day falls on the weekend,

it affects our worship services and any social events. The safety of our members is a top concern and always will be. When conditions don't allow us to travel, our gatherings take a backseat. But just as you're asked to not take a vacation from your church during the summer, I would urge our membership to remain faithful during weather miseries and come to worship at an alternate time, primarily using the Monday night service. And I would also ask that you remain current in your stewardship and be mindful that you do not skip on your contributions. When weather plays havoc with our attendance and giving, we must be just as diligent and faithful in not letting disruptions halt our Christian duty.



**Irving P. Van Wart:** Our friend and fellow member passed away on Jan. 27, the day of our Annual Meeting, at age 83. Did it mean anything that he left us on such a day? Perhaps, because with his passing went part of our church's history. Irv was a charter member who greatly loved Holy Cross and made it the focus of his life and of his family's. It was such a nice situation when, after he had spent several years as a retiree in Florida from the Ir-Van's & Sons cabinet-making business he had, he came back to Shelton and was once again a part of the Holy Cross family. I thought a lot about Irv even when he wasn't around. He told me once that he was the one who made the handrails that we use to walk up the steps to the communion rails, and that he also made the table in the narthex. So when I saw those items I often thought of him, and will continue to do so. Holy Cross will have a memorial service for Irv on March 9 at 10 a.m.

**Leadership:** On Feb. 3 during the Education Hour, I had led a Bible class that I had advertised as a chance for any member interested in becoming a church leader and/or running for office to learn about leadership examples from the Bible, and then afterward to ask questions about the time commitment and such to running for office. While I enjoyed the hour with those who did attend, I didn't get interest from new potential future church leaders. So, in case anyone is interested in church office but wants to do stealth research on being a leader, I have put the class papers out on the narthex table and will have them there for the month of March. There are two sets of papers on research I adapted from others' studies. **As I have said many times since the start of 2012,** future officers of our church must step up to take the leadership role necessary for Holy Cross to continue well into the future. Don't be timid or fearful about putting extra time into your church life. Hundreds have done so at Holy Cross since 1957 and have come through it unscathed. You can too.

**Baroque to Modern on Main:** This concert series, started by our Music Director Elina Christova and held at our church, continues to befuddle me. I've expressed opinion before about it, and you may say, "just drop it." But I continue to be perplexed by the lack of support our own members give these concerts. At the last concert on Jan. 26, two outstanding musicians performed in front of 32 people, about half of them Holy Cross members. So roughly 16 of our 400 and some members came to this event, in which incredibly talented performers played and the cost was just \$15 a person, less for seniors or young children. I know this music isn't for everyone, but there has been something for everyone and there is something to be said for supporting your church's events even if you're not 100 percent in. The next concert is at 3 p.m., on March 23;

*"President," continues on Page 5*

**"President," continued from Page 4**

performing will be flutist Ali Ryerson and guitarist Joe Carter, both of whom excel in jazz. Elina describes Ms. Ryerson as "one of the most exciting and versatile flutists on the scene today who has released more than a dozen jazz albums." You can read more about them on the baroquetomodern.com website. After reading their resumes and accomplishments, I challenge you to make a case for why you shouldn't come out to support this event if able.

**Rev. Morris:** I urge all members to read Pastor Witschy's column this month for his comments on the reaction and then apology from our synod president regarding Christ the King's pastor in Newtown. For my part as Holy Cross president, I would simply ask any of our members who are so deeply concerned about this that it causes you to reflect on your Lutheran membership to please keep it separate from what you experience at Holy Cross. Everyone is entitled to their opinion on what happened, of course, but I would hope anyone who questions our synod or the Lutheran church to separate what took place from what you see happening at Holy Cross. I believe as Pastor Witschy does that no church group is perfect but that our synod gets it right about as well as any church denomination. When apologies are made, isn't it our duty as Christians to respond with acceptance?

See you at church,

*Legacy, Future, Growth in Christ:  
Turning Challenges to Triumphs*  
Rom. 12:11: "Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord."

---CLIFF SCHROCK

Holy Cross President

**FINANCIAL NOTES****Offerings update for the month of January**

Like I wrote last year – now the work begins. Our Annual Meeting was productive; our budget was approved. Now it is our responsibility to implement it – and support it. This year's budget, save a few projects left over from last year, is focused more on the continued work of Holy Cross. While it does not have the "excitement" of the loan and major improvements of 2012, it is equally important. And it needs your active support.

Organizations dependent on charitable contributions continue to face struggles. Holy Cross is no different. We can thank God that our congregation has a membership that does remain committed to the concept of joyful giving.



But just as I told those in attendance at our Annual Meeting, the members who attended the meeting were, by and large, not the members who needed to hear the message about the importance of financial support for our church. It was the members not in attendance, who attend services periodically and typically do not become involved in church support and activities.

Members tend to contribute when they attend a church service. Not attending? Probably not contributing to the financial needs of the church. There are, of course, those who cannot attend yet support our congregation. From my Financial Secretary perspective, I can identify three primary segments within our membership:

- Those who attend regularly and joyfully give of their firstfruits in a planned fashion;
- Those who cannot attend regularly, yet joyfully give of their firstfruits in a planned fashion, and
- Those who cannot/do not attend regularly and contribute when in attendance.

So, what is your behavior? More importantly, what does God want your behavior to be?

**Average Weekly Need in 2013 – \$4,755.77**

**January 2013 Offerings**

Week of:

January 06 - \$5,341.69

January 13 - \$3,465.09

January 20 - \$3,448.46

January 27 - \$5,373.09

**January Average**

Weekly Offering - \$4,407.08

---KERRY GEFFERT

Financial Secretary

**SOCIAL MINISTRY****Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal**

The February Community Supper Tuesday found 16 individuals performing 34 volunteer hours for the 104 meals served. It was a chilly, overcast day. There was a dusting of snow as people left just after 6 p.m. But inside, the climate was upbeat and efficient. Lorraine and Jim Finch, Val and Rich Huydic, Nancy Sabol and Bessie Burton accomplished the cooking tasks. Later, Fred Perry, Diane Hintz Schyhor, Saviden and Brendan Semon, Jim Leslie, Cole Dowling, Sheryl John and Pastor Witschy were servers.



Preparing and serving the meal on the first Tuesday of the month at St. John's Episcopal is a mission that falls under Holy Cross' Social Ministry Commission. Money collected at our collection on the first Sunday of every month is supplemented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. If you are making out a check, make it payable to Holy Cross Lutheran with "community supper" in the memo section and put it in the red/white wood box in the back of the sanctuary. Our next supper is on Tuesday, March 5. If you can volunteer your time, please put your name on the sheet found on the narthex table.

---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER

## INQUIRING MINDS

### **We inquire, you respond; we'd love your input**

Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo! It turns out that many of you are kids at heart as we had a record number of Inquiring Minds answers to our February question, "Who is your favorite Disney character?" Thank you to the 25 people who gave us their answer – some of the answers came from family dinner-time discussions and some were from first-time responders to this monthly "getting-to-know-you" column. The answers this month are listed in the order in which the characters were created by Walt Disney and/or his corporation (i.e. if the character was first created by an author in a book, the answer is listed by when the character was incorporated into the Disney "family.") So let's get started, first with a quote by Mr. Walt Disney himself, which will give you a clue to our first listing: "If you can dream it, you can do it. Always remember that this whole thing was started with a dream and a mouse."

**Alex Riccio:** As told to us by his grandfather, John Deloge, "I asked my grandson, Alex, 'What is your favorite Disney character?' and he said, 'Mickey,' but he also likes Goofy."

**Mary Schrock:** "No question for me, it's Mickey Mouse. To me, Mickey represents innocence, childhood, positivity and comfort. He makes me smile and he's magical, and whenever I go to Disney World, standing in line to have my picture taken with Mickey is a must."

**Audrey Paray:** "My favorite Disney character is Minnie Mouse. I think she is cute and I like her voice. I also liked the way her house was decorated when I visited Disney Land."

**Emily Struzik:** "Pluto."

**Bill Skoog:** "Goofy. He looks like and reminds me of some of my very distant relatives."

**James Atkinson:** "Donald Duck."

**Edith Skoog:** "Donald Duck. He often seems to get into trouble, but always makes the best of it."

**Donna Bogen:** "I am a fan of Cinderella. I am inspired by her because she always had a smile no matter what she was asked to do. She also reminds us that dreams can come true."

**Joelle Schrock:** "Alice, from 'Alice in Wonderland.' I pick Alice because she is curious about the world and exploring it to the fullest extent, even if it meant breaking some rules. When I think of her I am reminded that anything is possible and you can do anything if you put your mind to it."

**Cliff Schrock:** "Bert the chimney sweep is a fave, but I'll go with Peter Pan, who wasn't created by Mr. Disney but was immortalized by him in a movie and more. I had dreams as a boy of being able to fly, so because Peter has that ability, plus he is forever young, he's kind of a fantasy idol of mine. I know: I need to grow up!"

**Joanne Bogen:** "Tinker Bell, because I love the adventures Tink gets to go on."

**Joe Ciccia:** "Tramp from 'Lady and the Tramp' because he knows how to treat a lady."

**Kathryn Struzik:** Kathryn's answer comes via her mom, Lydia, "Well, if you know Kathryn, you know that Pooh is the best Disney character."

**Paulo Gomes** (Ashley Balaska's fiancé): "I pick Eeyore because he's happy with nothing."

**Pastor Witschy:** "My family likes to tease me about being a lot like Eeyore, the old gray donkey who is a friend of Winnie-the-Pooh. So I guess he's my favorite. It often gets me a bit of sympathy!"

*"Inquiring," continues on Page 7*

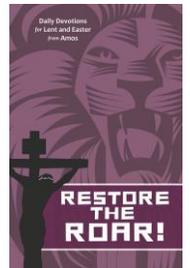
## Soup Suppers and Midweek Lenten Services

Enjoy some great soup  
in the Fellowship Hall,  
and close out the  
evening in the  
Sanctuary, meditating  
on God's Word.



Wednesdays,  
March 6, 13 and 20  
Suppers at 6:15 p.m.  
Lenten Vespers  
at 7:30 p.m.

Our theme  
this year is  
"Restore  
the  
ROAR!"



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please take a turn at  
providing a pot of soup or a  
plate of finger desserts.  
Look for a sign-up sheet  
for each week  
on the narthex table.

For information, contact  
Donna Bogen

*A free-will offering  
will be collected.*

**"Inquiring," continued from Page 6**

**Cindy Ciccia:** "I choose Mary Poppins because she cares about others and not herself. She has an endless bag of tricks and she can fly."

**Dominic Gomes** (Paulo's son): "Tigger, because he's always hyper!"

**Tina Batoh:** "My favorite Disney character is most certainly Ariel from 'The Little Mermaid.' I love her sense of adventure. Plus, she is always trailed closely by loyal friends (Sebastian and Flounder) who help her win over the prince...a much happier ending than the original fairy tale where she turns into a pile of bubbling sea foam and the prince marries a human!"

**Nicole Ciccia:** "Flounder, because he was such a good friend to Ariel."

**Kimberly Atkinson:** "Belle." (from "Beauty and the Beast")

**Ashley Balaska:** "Mulan. She didn't change for anyone, stood her ground and sacrificed herself for her family."

**Lydia Struzik:** "Mine is tough...I really love them all, but I am gonna have to go with Captain Jack Sparrow."

**Andrew Struzik:** "Edna Mode from 'The Incredibles.'"

**Gary Messerschmitt:** "I have to pick a non-big-screen Disney character: Doctor Heinz Doofenshmirtz. He is an antagonist from the TV show 'Phineas and Ferb.' He constantly makes my kids and I laugh with all of the 'evil' things he tries to do, but often gets foiled by Secret Agent Perry the Platypus."

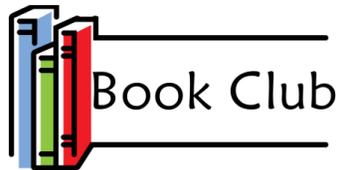
**Sarah Bogen:** "Doc McStuffins, because she helps and fixes broken toys." (from the Disney Channel TV series, "Doc McStuffins")

Our next Question of the Month is in honor of two great inventors, born in the month of April, Samuel Morse in 1791 and Wilbur Wright in 1867: "What do you think is the greatest invention of all time?" Put on your thinking caps, and let's see

a wide variety of answers. And like last month, parents, make this a dinner-time discussion and involve your kids to get their perspectives.

All answers will appear in the April edition. The deadline is Friday, March 15. You can submit your answer in one of two ways: Via e-mail to [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com) or by writing your answer on a 3-by-5-inch card and putting it in the "Newsletter" mailbox (bottom row, far left). Make sure to include your name. We look forward to hearing a lot of different answers as we get to know each other through this special-interest column.

---CLIFF SCHROCK  
Newsletter Managing Editor



### AVID READERS

#### **After a short period in limbo, the Book Club is back!**

Come join us for a night of relaxation and conversation as we discuss our first book, Ben Behind His Voices by Randy Kaye. Please come with questions, comments and thoughts. A copy of the book is available in the library if you need one. We will meet Tuesday, March 19, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

---ASHLEY BALASKA

### COVENANT TO CARE CORNER

#### **Easter baskets due March 17; social worker sends her thanks**

At the end of February we began the annual Easter Basket project for the Covenant to Care for Children program. Thank you to all those who took a bunny or egg name tag and agreed to put together a basket for that child. Our "adopted" DCF social worker, Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard, currently has 23 children in her active case-

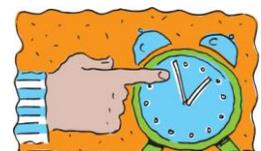
load. Baskets are due, covered in a cellophane bag, by March 17. That gives Mimose two weeks prior to Easter to personally deliver the baskets to the children.

Mimose sent us a letter of thanks in late January, and we want to share a portion of this letter with you. A copy of the letter is posted on the Social Ministry bulletin board in the hallway across from the member photo boards. Mimose says, "Written words on this paper are insufficient to express gratitude toward you, members of the Holy Cross Church, for helping a child to receive a special and wanted gift for this past Christmas. The children were extremely happy for their gifts, and of course, some children showed their happiness and others appeared very shy...Special thanks to every single church member who donated a gift to a child and especially to the Pastor of the Holy Cross Community who allows this even to occur."

As you can gather from Mimose's words, what we do for the children in her caseload throughout the year does make a difference. It brings the children joy, makes them feel special, and is a wonderful way to share God's love.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
---CINDY CICCIA and  
MARY SCHROCK  
Covenant-to-Care Liaisons

**Remember to...**



SET YOUR CLOCKS

**Ahead!**

**Daylight Saving Time  
begins on March 10.**

## WE ARE FAMILY

This column is devoted to family news about Holy Cross members and friends. Please turn in items to the newsletter box.

God's blessings to two families who brought their children to the waters of Holy Baptism in February. Congratulations to **Christopher** and **Erica Carola** upon the Baptism on the 17th of their one-year-old son **Alexander Edward**. Alexander's sponsors are his two aunts, Pamela Carola and Rachel Lucas. We also congratulate **Guy** and **Shannon Fernous** upon the Baptism



on the 24th of their seven-month-old daughter **Penelope Winifred**. Penelope's sponsors are Nicholas Ingeri and Nicole Fernous. We welcome Alexander Edward and Penelope Winifred into the Family of God, through the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism, and look forward to the new relationship we will have with them.

## OUR FLOCK

### **Christian caring and praying at Holy Cross**

This is the Shepherds' Commission's "FYI" column letting our members know for whom we have prayed during our recent worship services. Please continue to remember these people in your prayers.

We remember our members: **Bob Burns**, diagnosed with thyroid cancer and recovering from surgery; **Paul Carlson**, diagnosed with a blood cancer; **Ursula Levsen**; **Linda Ligouri**, undergoing cancer treatment; **JoAnne Meyer**; **Anita Schoch**, with chronic back pain; and for our homebound members – **Emma Fengler**, **George Jacobs**, **Harvey Pomerenk** and **Dorothy Schweitzer**.

We prayed for our family and friends: **Myles Abraku**, 7-year-old son of a co-worker of Pat Deloge, recovering from surgeries/skin graft

on his leg, which was crushed in an accident; **Gail Agria**, battling breast cancer; **Carmella Andersen**, friend of Diane Dietman, going through treatment for breast cancer; **Doc DeVed**; **Judie Froehlich**; **Harold Geffert**, Kerry's father, under treatment for colon cancer; **Kay Geffert**, Kerry's mother, suffering from essential tremors; **Amber Jones**, friend of the Gefferts, struggling with personal issues; **Betty Kessler**; **Jim Keurulainen**, following open-heart surgery; **Claire Leslie**, Jim's mother; and **Anthony Masi**, 15-year-old neighbor of the Struziks, recovering from a broken neck.

We prayed, too, for: **Gerett Mendez**, friend of the Mones family, who is recovering from a massive stroke that occurred in November 2005; **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, rehabbing following knee-replacement surgery; **Kylie Middlemass**, Anita Beer's granddaughter, responding well to



various therapies as she works through the difficulties of autism; **James Moore**, uncle of Greg Dowling, who will have upcoming surgeries for circulatory issues; **Nancy Nurenberg**, friend of the Dietmans, recovering from a cardiac procedure; **Chris O'Brien**, friend of Mary and Otto Atkinson, paralyzed as a result of an accident; **Regan Rasmussen**, infant great-granddaughter of Kay Dubin, awaiting brain surgery at the end of March, and **Linda Resnick**, friend of the Bogen family, undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer

We prayed also for: **Suzanne Rocca**, a close friend of Donna Senft, for comfort and healing with her new health issues; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **Mike Stachura**, friend of the Schrocks, who gives thanks for no new cancer growth and prayers that his spirits remain strong; **Campbell Taft**, 3-year-old son of

a friend of the Schrocks, battling brain cancer and the effects of treatment on his growth; **Lorraine Tamas**, neighbor of the Leslies, who suffered a stroke; **Mike Tavares**, friend of John and Pat Deloge, battling side effects of Valley Fever; **Andy Turnbull**, Scott's brother, in remission from leukemia; **David Van Wart**, Kimberly Atkinson's dad and Rick Van Wart's brother, in rehab following a fall; **Viola Way**, friend of the Bogens, who recently suffered a stroke; and those who have asked for prayer but wish to remain anonymous.

We prayed for the friends and family of **Rebecca Audette**, **Mark Carbonetta**, **Kathleen Mancini** and **Irving Van Wart**, all of whom recently passed away.

We prayed for the safety and well being of our military personnel, and gave thanks for the safe return of **Raymond Phillips**, after serving in the Army overseas.

If your friend or family member is on this list, be sure to keep us updated on his or her progress. When you have prayer requests, deliver them to Pastor Witschy for prayers during our worship services, and the Shepherds' Commission will include the requests in this monthly report.

**NOTE:** If you would like to be included in our e-mail Prayer Circle, please provide your name and e-mail address to the church office.

---WILLIAM MALMSTEDT  
Shepherds' Commission

## A SWEET TIDBIT...

### **...about Easter candy**

Easter is the second most important candy-eating occasion of the year for Americans, who consumed seven billion pounds of candy in 2011, according to the National Confectioner's Association. Only Halloween has more candy sales. Adults prefer milk chocolate (65%) to dark chocolate (27%).



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# Easter Breakfast



You are invited to the

## E A S T E R B R E A K F A S T

Sunday, March 31

at 8:30 a.m.

in the

Froehlich

Fellowship Hall

Please join your Holy Cross family and friends for this annual fellowship tradition.

Worship with us at the 7:00 service and stay for breakfast

or

Come for breakfast at 8:30 and worship with us at the 10:30 service

If you plan to attend, please sign up in the narthex.

Breakfast casseroles, muffins, bagels and baked goods are needed.

If you can provide one of these items, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet.

## YOUR BOARD/YOUR TEAM

### **This person shows how you can find the time to give**

*This is No. 12 in a series of articles that will highlight the people serving on your Board of Directors. Through their volunteer work performed in an already hectic personal schedule, they demonstrate to all our members that you can indeed find time to give back and serve your church no matter how busy. This month's Board member is **Evangelism Co-Director Donna DiLalla**.*

Well, a new Board of Directors has been assembled following the January Annual Meeting but my highlighting of Board members will continue awhile longer thanks to some new faces for 2013. I've got a handful of Board members to spotlight, including George Bomann from last year, but this month I focus on someone who has been a member here for the longest of all my remaining subjects, Donna DiLalla. Donna was born a Stromp, daughter of George and Millie, two charter members who were greatly involved in Holy Cross' early years with their extra service in church affairs. Millie was also the second church office secretary. Donna was confirmed at Holy Cross and married here, so her heart and devotion have long belonged to the place where she grew up in the faith.

**Highlighting  
our  
Board  
Members**



In her business life, Donna and husband, Gary, ran Allegra Printing in Shelton for many years before selling the business. She remains very busy, though, as a leader in an area celiac-disease group. At Holy Cross she has devoted herself to work with the Cradle Roll, a Reader, Deacon, Sunday School, Share the Hope liaison, and a VBS teachers' aide as a teen. But as they say on TV, "But wait, there's more." Donna has also been director of Social Ministry and served as a Shepherd.

I have been urging our newest members to step up and be church leaders to keep Holy Cross moving toward the future, but Donna is an example of a "veteran member" who sees the value in being part of church life beyond the Worship service. Many of you have the potential to be effective participants in the leadership of our church. So I invite you to follow Donna's example of not just being content to see Holy Cross as a place of worship. It's also a place of service. You'll be amazed how simple that concept can be once you get started.

So I leave the last word to Donna. Here is her answer to the question, **What satisfaction do you get from serving your church?** "My association with Holy Cross is very grassroots as my parents were charter members and I was preschool age at the first service in Center School," she said. "I am humbly grateful to be able to serve the Lord, the church and my Holy Cross 'family.' I look forward to working with Evangelism Co-Director Christy LaSalle, along with the other Board members to help shape a secure future for our congregation."

Thank you, Donna, for your service and devotion to Holy Cross.

---CLIFF SCHROCK  
Board President

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

### **Food pantry we support has many urgent needs**

Summerfield still has great need for everything, including cooking oil, flour, sugar, tuna, oatmeal, instant hot cereals such as Cream of Wheat® and oatmeal, cold cereals, canned soups and instant-soup mixes, corned beef hash, canned pastas, baked beans, pasta, sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned spinach, as well as all other canned vegetables, boxed corn bread and muffin mixes, shelf-stable low-fat milk, condiments (including pickles), canned fruit and rice. There is a great need for diapers, baby food, baby clothes, bar soap, tissues, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Summerfield is also still taking clean, gently-used, folded winter clothes (only) for men, women and children.

---MARIE MORRIS



**DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION  
Suppers and a breakfast give you chances for fellowship**

Our Lenten soup suppers continue on Wednesdays, March 6, 13 and 20. Please join us for fellowship and a hearty bowl of soup at 6:15. A Lenten Vespers service follows the suppers. Look for sign-up sheets on the narthex table and indicate at which supper you will be able to provide a pot of soup.

Easter Sunday is early this year, on March 31, and preparations are already underway for Holy Cross' Annual

Easter Breakfast. Look for a sign-up



sheet later this month. If you plan to attend you need to sign up, as well as indicate what food you will bring to share – a breakfast casserole, baked goods or bagels.

We will be sending out Easter care packages to our college students and homebound members.

Want to get involved? What a better way than to serve on our Discipleship Commission. We have a lot of fun, and remember, "many hands make light work."

See you at the soup suppers!  
---DONNA BOGEN

**Neighbor to Neighbor:  
Volunteers attend a four-hour training session developed by Lutheran Social Services of New England and are covered by LSS insurance.**

---A simple fact from our Social Ministry Commission

**COMFORT DOGS**

**Comfort Dog "Addie" at Sandy Hook Elementary**

"Teachers, parents and therapists all visit the room to pet and hug Addie. I often think that they are getting as much comfort from the dogs as the kids are. And they love to share their stories of how their kids love the dogs," said Jen Marr, handler for Comfort Dog Addie (pictured at right).



Jen requests prayers for the Sandy Hook Elementary administration, that God would give them wisdom as they make the difficult decisions for the future. Also, please pray for the teachers at Sandy Hook as they serve the children and help them to heal while they themselves are hurting. Jen, along with handlers Tom and Nancy Schulz from Immanuel Lutheran-Danbury, have been providing daily coverage with Addie at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Lutheran Church Charities' (LCC) K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry arrived in Newtown on December 15, the day after the shooting, and has been asked to remain for Sandy Hook Elementary and the community. It has been more than 60 days, and they will remain as long as needed. It is LCC's policy to never seek donations from those they serve, but to rely on donations from others to help defray the costs of transportation, lodging and food, thus any support for expenses is appreciated.

**So the comforting continues in Connecticut.** In early February a



boy came to visit Comfort Dog Addie clutching his stuffed Comfort Dog. He just wanted to come in and lay with Addie.

Handler Jen relates, "As he was laying with Addie and petting her, he started talking about how he got to sing in the Super Bowl and relived the weekend for Addie and I. He left the room a different kid."

LCC staff members Rich and Dona Martin, along with K-9 Comfort Dogs and their handlers, delivered commemorative Comfort Dogs on Friday, Feb. 1, to the Sandy Hook Elementary class-rooms to provide comfort to students when they can't be physically with the K-9 Comfort Dogs. Donations are still needed to fund this project.

To make a donation to the LCC K9 Newtown Fund or to donate \$6 and give a commemorative stuffed Comfort Dog to a student go to: [LCC@lutheranchurchcharities.org](mailto:LCC@lutheranchurchcharities.org) and click on the links.

**FINANCIAL DONATION**

**Special challenge issued to Holy Cross Members:**

A member at Holy Cross, who will be known in this explanation as Anonymous Donor, has issued a challenge to fellow members. They previously made a generous donation and with 2013 underway, they are planning a \$5,000 donation.

**In addition, Anonymous Donor has sent out the following "challenge grant":** They will double their \$5,000 donation and give \$10,000 if four other donors come forward and each give \$10,000 for a total of \$40,000, to go toward loan/debt reduction. Anonymous Donor explains that this extra giving has nothing to do with regular Sunday/weekly contributions; it's in addition to regular giving.

**The deadline for the challenge is Sunday, March 31, which is Easter Sunday.** If you want to meet this challenge, please speak with our Financial Secretary, Kerry Geffert.

## THANKS A BUNCH!

This column recognizes the gifts of time and talent our church members provide to do God's work in our church and community.

To **Myrtle Anderson** and **Edith** and **Bill Skoog** for collating the February newsletter, and to Bill and Edith for taking the mailing to the post office.

To the Holy Cross members and friends who helped with either cooking or serving at the Feb. 5 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport: **Cole Dowling**, **Lorraine** and **Jim Finch**, **Val** and **Rich Huydic**, **Sheryl John**, **Jim Leslie**, **Nancy Sabol**, and **Pastor Witschy**.

### A NOTE OF



To **Linda Suhr** for the volunteer work she does in the church office on a weekly basis.

To **Bill Skoog** for locating a special bracket needed to fix the bathroom stall door in the men's room. Thank you also to our custodian, **Roger Burke**, for going above the call of duty to install this bracket to repair the door.

To **Marie Morris** for making two deliveries of donated food and clothing to Summerfield United Methodist in February.

To **Edith Skoog** for displaying the "Tie Mystery" quilt that she made in the narthex display case.

To **Jim Atkinson** for putting the purple cloth on the large altar cross for the season of Lent. Thanks also to Jim for putting the small cross with purple drape in the front of the sanctuary.

## A THOUGHT FOR EASTER

### By Martin Luther

"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

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### General Memorial Fund

*In memory of Edgar Fengler*  
Emma Fengler

### General Memorial Fund

*In memory of Irving Van Wart*

Otto and Mary Atkinson  
Joe and Cindy Ciccio  
Ronald and Judie Froehlich  
The McNameey Family  
Cliff and Mary Schrock  
Dan and Donna Senft  
Ron and Mira Vichiola

### Share the Hope Fund

*In memory of Irving Van Wart*  
Dave and Donna Bogen  
Audrey Paray



FOR AS IN  
ADAM ALL DIE,  
SO IN CHRIST  
ALL WILL BE  
MADE ALIVE.

1 Corinthians 15:22, NIV

## PRAYER CIRCLE

### Are you or someone you know in need of prayer?

Our Prayer Circle offers an opportunity to unite in prayer with our Holy Cross family beyond our regular worship services. Anyone may initiate a prayer request for supplication or thanksgiving. To request a prayer you may make one of the following contacts:



- Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays, e-mail or phone the church office: [holycross@mindspring.com](mailto:holycross@mindspring.com) or 203-268-4555. Requests received after 2 p.m. (Monday-Friday) will be circulated on the next business day.
- When the office is closed, you may contact Don Meyer by phone, 203-268-2080, or by e-mail [delsmeyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:delsmeyer@sbcglobal.net).

Whether you phone or e-mail, your prayer request will be circulated to all the faithful prayer partners on our e-mail Prayer Circle.

You are also sincerely invited to be part of the Prayer Circle. To have your name and e-dress added to the Circle, please contact the church office or Don Meyer.

---SHEPHERDS' COMMISSION

## CHURCH CHUCKLES

