



The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

FEBRUARY 2014

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LVII, NO. 6

FROM P.E.W. TO PEW

Our feelings are important, but they can't match the great truth of God's grace

In a sermon on the Wedding at Cana, Martin Luther comments on the response Jesus gave to his Mother when she told him that the wine had run out: "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." Luther said,

Now observe how his mother acts and here becomes our teacher. However harsh his words sound, however unkind he appears, she does not in her heart interpret this as anger, or as the opposite of kindness, but adheres firmly to the conviction that he is kind, refusing to give up this opinion because of the thrust she received, and unwilling to dishonor him in her heart by thinking him to be otherwise than kind and gracious...

What do you think of the hellish blow, when a man in his distress, especially in the highest distress of conscience, receives the rebuff, that he feels God declaring to him: "What have I to do with thee?" ... He must needs faint and despair, unless he knows and understands the nature of such acts of God, and is experienced in faith. For he will act just as he feels, and will not think of God in a different way and mean the words. Feeling nothing but wrath and hearing nothing but indignation, he will consider God only as his enemy and angry judge. But just as he thinks God to be so will he find him. Thus he will expect nothing good from him. That is to renounce God with all his goodness. The result is that he flees and hates him, and will not have God to be God...

FROM
P.E.W.
TO
PEW

Hence the highest thought in this Gospel lesson, and it must ever be kept in mind, is, that we honor God as being good and gracious, even if he acts and speaks otherwise, and all our understanding, and feeling be otherwise. For in this way feeling is killed, and the old man perishes, so that nothing but faith in God's goodness remains, and no feeling. For here you see how his mother retains a free faith and holds it forth as an example to us. She is certain that he will be gracious, although she does not feel it. She is certain also that she feels otherwise than she believes. Therefore she freely leaves and commends all to his goodness, and fixes for him neither time nor place, neither manner nor measure, neither person nor name. He is to act when it pleases him.

Feelings versus Faith – it's a healthy distinction. Not that feelings aren't important – they are. They are much of what make us human. But they cannot be relied on fully. Life throws a lot at us that causes us to question the love of God. And we may not always feel it. But feelings cannot match the reality of the greatest truth of all: that God is indeed kind and gracious toward us; He sent His Son Jesus to give his life for us. That trumps all, in spite of every feeling.

Therefore we move forward into the future in that confidence. We let God be God, knowing that He indeed has our best interests in mind. And I'll...

See You in Worship

Pastor Emil Witschy



Saturday, February 1

5:30 p.m. – Chili Cook-Off (*Inclement-weather date is Feb. 8*)

Tuesday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 13

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

Friday, February 14 – Valentine's Day

Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday

7:30 p.m. – Worship service with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

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Church Office E-mail: holycrss@mindspring.com FAX: 203-268-5499

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

PASTOR: Emil A. Witschy

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Michael J. Gilbertson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT: Kerry Geffert

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VICE-PRESIDENT: Michele Van Wart

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SECRETARY: Jeannie Mones

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).



Like us on Facebook!

Are you on Facebook? Did you know your church, Holy Cross Lutheran, has a Facebook page? After you "Like" us, you'll see postings of upcoming events, pictures from events, and other notifications.



AN ELEMENT OF LOVE

Words from Robert Heinlein, American science fiction author

"Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the March edition. The deadline for all articles is Saturday, February 15. You can submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter mailbox, located outside the church office, or send them via e-mail to:

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. After filling it out (please sign your name), put it in the newsletter mailbox.

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Jesus' constant presence guides us all into what the future holds

Most of us have one or more Bible passages that have special meaning. One of mine goes back to a Christian retreat that I had the honor of leading during college. The theme, "I Am With You Always," came from Matthew 28:20 – "...And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

As I begin as President of Holy Cross during an important transitional period of our history, this passage from Matthew comes flooding back. The path ahead of us is daunting, but neither I as President nor us as a congregation walks alone. Jesus walks with us. Whether or not we take His hand during this walk is our decision. Your decision.

Decide wisely. As I pray that you (you, the person reading this newsletter) do, please pray that I do, too.

We will not walk alone.

---KERRY GEFFERT
Holy Cross President



*And lo,
I am with you
ALWAYS...*
—Matthew 28:20

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

Attendees hear Pastor Witschy announce that the end to his Holy Cross ministry will be mid-2014

If all the speakers and presenters at the 2014 Holy Cross Annual Voters' Meeting—held on Sunday, January 19—had compared notes to come up with a theme for the meeting, they surely would have decided upon "change" as the overarching common thread.

The biggest representative of change occurred toward the end of the agenda when Pastor Witschy announced his retirement effective June 30 of 2014. Citing frustration and discouragement over recent declines in congregational involvement, and being ineffective in countering the trend, he stated that it was time for a change—both for him and for Holy Cross. Pastor's service to Holy Cross will be just shy of 17 years. He is Holy Cross' second pastor, succeeding founding pastor The Rev. Ronald Froehlich, who retired on June 8, 1997.

While Pastor Witschy's announcement undoubtedly caught many of the approximately 50 members at the meeting off guard, he assured those in attendance that his decision was made after much prayer and months of discussions with New England District President Timothy Yeadon. It was not made hastily or thoughtlessly. Though Pastor will be retiring to his home in Maine, he said he is not leaving the Ministry; he will remain an ordained pastor of the LC-MS. And though pursuing secular employment, he will continue discussions with President Yeadon on how he can continue to serve within the New England District. He concluded by noting that his announcement was being followed up by a mailing that would go to all congregational members. A letter from President Yeadon was included in the mailing.

After Pastor Witschy's remarks, newly-elected Church President Kerry Geffert, previously the longtime Financial Secretary, addressed the attendees and pledged that Pastor Witschy would be given the full support of Holy Cross' people to the end of his time at the church, and said Pastor Witschy and the people of Holy Cross will always be linked together. Mr. Geffert encouraged members to pray for Pastor and wife, Amy, on this decision and for the next stage of their lives.

The announcement turned what was a rather normal annual meeting into one of historical nature for the church. The meeting, which began at 11:50 a.m. in the Froehlich Fellowship Hall and was adjourned at 2:11 p.m., consisted of the usual agenda items, here listed in order:

Opening prayer by President Cliff Schrock;

Opening hymns "We All Are One in Mission" and "Be Thou My Vision" were sung, accompanied by Mary Ann Schiller on piano;

Welcome and opening remarks by President Schrock, followed by meeting directions from John Rosen, parliamentarian; Board Secretary Jeannie Mones presided as recorder of the meeting minutes;

Approval of the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes;

Approval of the proposed Constitutional Amendment of the LC-MS: Resolution 7-02A, "To Return to Use of Title 'Circuit Visitor,'" which amended Article XII by changing "circuit counselors" to "circuit visitors" in two paragraphs;

"Annual Meeting recap" continues on Page 4

“Annual Meeting recap” continued from Page 3

Commission reports were given in three separate segments by Evangelism Directors Donna DiLalla and Christy LaSalle, Lead Shepherd William Malmstedt, Worship Director Jim Atkinson, Social Ministry Director Cindy Ciccio, Education Director Tina Batoh, Discipleship Director Donna Bogen (for co-director George Bomann III), and Property Director Dan Senft;

Financial reports were given by Treasurer Greg Dowling and Financial Secretary Kerry Geffert. There was income of \$336,568.25 in 2013 against expenses of \$342,758.73 for the church; the preschool had income of \$190,345.52 versus expenses of \$220,165.55;

Officer elections were announced by Vice President Michele Van Wart, and since there were no contested positions, the following slate was elected by voice vote: President, Kerry Geffert; Vice President, Michele Van Wart; Financial Secretary, Andrew Struzik; Education Director, Tina Batoh; Discipleship Director, Donna Bogen; Shepherds, John Anantharaj, and Worship Director, Lydia Struzik. Recognized for their service were: outgoing Lead Shepherd William Malmstedt (Pat Deloge now assumes Lead Shepherd, with Gary Messerschmitt in his second year); commission directors who had completed their terms, Jim Atkinson of Worship and George Bomann III of Discipleship; Financial Secretary Kerry Geffert, who ran for President; and outgoing President Cliff Schrock, who elected not to run for a second term;



The 2014 **church and preschool budgets** were presented by Treasurer Dowling and approved. The church has proposed income of \$310,300 and expected expenses of \$310,246, while the preschool has proposed income of \$226,262 and expected expenses of \$226,049;

During a **congregational remarks** segment, Don Meyer urged Thrivent members to use their Choice Dollars first of all, and to strongly consider they have the dollars benefit Holy Cross;

President Cliff Schrock delivered “state of the church” remarks, noting that the annual meeting is always a transitional day at Holy Cross, and this meeting was no exception. While he said he felt he could have continued as President, he believes it is good to have someone new who has new ideas and strengths. He noted that major events occurred in his two-year term with a large loan taken to fund parking lot/driveway, parsonage and air-conditioning improvements, plus there was the hiring of a new Music Director, Michael Gilbertson. Believing that 2013 was a year the church rested on its laurels a little too much after 2012, he still went over numerous examples of how Holy Cross excelled in 2013, from worship experiences to social events to the church’s expansion into social media with a Facebook page. He asked the membership to not be lax in supporting the church financially, noting that we can’t afford slip-ups in our monetary health. Citing his desire that we all improve our spiritual health, he urged members to be more attentive to attending Adult Ed classes and for parents to bring their children to Sunday School. And he completed his remarks by commenting on how fortunate we are to have Mr. Geffert take over as President, noting, “Kerry has a great feel for the functions of the church and how things work in a church...and of its traditions. We can all feel good about how he will help us navigate through whatever we will face in the near future.”

Following a **closing meditation** by Pastor Witschy, President Schrock announced that as of that moment a partial audit committee was in place, consisting of Jim Finch. The meeting was then adjourned. (The Board of Directors provided meeting refreshments, assisted by Bill and Edith Skoog.)

---CLIFF SCHROCK
Holy Cross Word Staff Writer

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A married couple’s getting-to-know-you story

Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor, “It is essential that husbands and wives know each other’s likes and dislikes.”

He addressed the man, “Can you name your wife’s favorite flower?”

Tom leaned over, touched his wife’s arm gently, and whispered, “It’s Pillsbury, isn’t it?”



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FINANCIAL NOTES

Offerings update for the month of December

About the only persons looking back at December are those working on their taxes and those questioning their Christmas spending. But December should be noted for the outpouring of financial generosity from our Holy Cross family and visitors. Look at the figure below for December 29 – almost 9 percent of the year's offerings came in during the last three days of the year. The extra funds played a very important role in approaching budget targets for the year. To those who made this possible, we send a large “thank you” and praise God for your faith in the work of Holy Cross.

Did you know that there was a giving challenge last month in this column? It was an easy challenge, but only four member-families participated. Yes, four. Out of 100-plus. On the upside, their participation resulted in a \$60 contribution to Holy Cross. Thank you to those who take the time to read these articles.

Finally, by the time you are reading this, giving statements should have been distributed to those families with envelopes. Many were sent by email; others were placed in mailboxes in the narthex. If you have not received yours, please let me know. As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, we strive for accuracy, but don't guarantee it. Please contact me should you have a question regarding your statement.

And so I write you for the final time as Financial Secretary. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity. Thank you to our team of counters for their dedication and service. To our giving members – what you do makes a difference. And now, welcome Andrew!

2013 Average Weekly Need – \$4,755.77

December 2013 Offerings

December 01 - \$3,872.00
 December 08 - \$6,359.78
 December 15 - \$3,247.09
 December 22 - \$3,409.46
 December 29 - \$20,510.09



December Average Weekly Offering - \$7,479.68
 November Average Weekly Offering - \$4,263.08
 October Average Weekly Offering - \$4,020.08
 September Average Weekly Offering - \$4,637.47
 August Average Weekly Offering - \$3,866.36
 July Average Weekly Offering - \$3,761.83
 June Average Weekly Offering - \$4,209.87
 May Average Weekly Offering - \$3,923.36
 April Average Weekly Offering - \$4,587.06
 March Average Weekly Offering - \$4,642.18
 February Average Weekly Offering - \$3,529.58
 January Average Weekly Offering - \$4,407.08

---KERRY GEFFERT
 Outgoing Financial Secretary

DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

Join a busy, fun group!

Happy Valentine's Day to all! This month we will be sending out care packages to our college students and the homebound members.



*Valentine's Day
Greetings!*

Please consider joining the Discipleship Commission. We have lots of fun and we get to host all the events that involve food, fellowship and FUN!

Look for the upcoming “Coffee House Night” flyer.

---DONNA BOGEN

*Word of
thanks to:*

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. If you have an item to include in this monthly “thank you” column, please jot it down and put it in the “newsletter” mailbox.

To **Carol Burns** for coordinating and placing the poinsettia order in December.

To **Edith and Bill Skoog, Mary Ann and Dave Schiller and Amy Witschy**, who met at church on Saturday, December 21, to polish communion silver and clean the candles and chancel area in preparation for the Christmas celebrations.

To **Donna DiLalla and Christy LaSalle** for giving the narthex display case a Christmas theme. And thanks also to **Mary Ann Schiller** for arranging the nice Baptism theme for the month of January.

To the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the January 7 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Lorraine and Jim Finch, Jim Leslie, Marissa and Alexis Rodriguez, Nancy Sabol, David and Mary Ann Schiller, Mary Schrock, and Michele and Rick Van Wart.**

To **Linda Suhr** who is faithful in her volunteer service to help out with church-office tasks.

To **Pat Deloge** for serving as the Preschool's interim nurse consultant.

To **all those** who helped take down the Christmas tree and decorations on January 12.

INQUIRING MINDS

We inquire, you respond, we'd love your input; read this to discover some great places for pizza

Bring up the subject of who has the best pizza around and people get passionate about their answers. This month's Question of the Month generated a huge case in point with the fervent answers we received. To the question, *"In your opinion, what restaurant in our area has the best pizza?"*, 19 people gave us the name of the eating establishment that they felt has the best pizza, and most even shared why the pizza was so good and/or which type of pizza was their favorite. We had many different answers and a couple places got more than one vote. I think I have a couple new places that Mary and I may have to try for pizza! I found it very interesting that none of the ballyhooed pizza places in New Haven were mentioned; perhaps we all feel they're overrated? Thanks to all who responded and it was fun to see that a couple of our families asked their family members. The answers are listed in the order in which they were received.

Effie Solaz: "I have to say Captains, which I consider nearby in Bridgeport on Main Street. Bob and I love their pizza because of it being so thin. We always get the small one so we can finish it. He has his half with cheese and I get mine, which they call garbage (everything on it), or the works. It's the greatest."

Nicole Benson: "The best pizza is George's Special at Oakdale Pizza in Wallingford (near my job). It's a white pizza with bacon and spinach. Yum!"

Doris Dietman: "If you're a fan of thin-crust pizza with burnt edges, real stringy cheese and a splash of 'evoo,' then Roseland Apizza in Derby is the pizza place for you and me. Established during the middle 1930s in a small home in a residential section of the city, it is still owned and operated by the same family, and by far my favorite pizza. It is always crowded with many loyal customers and still maintains the charm of the original building and neighborhood."

Audrey Paray: "My favorite pizza restaurants are: Old Towne Restaurant, 60 Quality St., Trumbull; Franco Gianni's, 8 Broadway, Trumbull; Paradise Pizza, 3610 Main St., Stratford. I don't think you can go wrong by ordering any pizza from these three places. However, I recall an outstanding vegetable pizza at Old Towne. It had an abundance of vegetables on it."

Ryan Van Wart: "Apollo Pizza in Derby."

Rick Van Wart: "Famous Pizza in Bridgeport."

Michele Van Wart: "I'm really dating myself here, but Paul's Pizza on East Main in Bridgeport was a childhood favorite, and I've never had a better pizza. Unfortunately, Paul's closed a long time ago. So I'm going with Carmine's in Shelton."

Mary Schrock: "My regular go-to place is Vazzy's in Stratford. This place has had a special spot in my heart since back in late 2002 when Cliff was recovering from his bone-marrow transplant. I won't tell the story here, but ask me about it sometime. And they have a special spot with my taste buds for a bacon, spinach and mushroom pizza. But during August, and only for about a three-week period, the best pizza around is the fresh plum-tomato pie at Salerno's on Barnum Avenue in Stratford. If you want take-out of that seasonal pizza be patient with a super long wait, but it is most definitely worth it!"

Anita Schoch: "The best pizza is at Roseland in Derby. My favorite is mushrooms and sausage—it is so delicious. I also like the plum tomato pizza from Salerno's when available."

Billie and Edith Skoog: "We do not usually go out for pizza or even order take-out but one of our grandsons says that Madison Pizza is the best in Trumbull. Our usual favorite tops with almost everything especially sausage, peppers, onions and lots of mozzarella cheese."

Sarah Bogen: "Goodfellas."

Joanne Bogen: "Franco Gianni's and Gioves."

Donna Bogen: "The BEST pizza is from Hope Street Pizza in Stamford. They make an awesome eggplant, mushroom and onion pie."

Linda Suhr: "The margherita pizza at Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull is my favorite."

Cliff Schrock: "Since I get to view what was written by everyone, I will echo the scenario Mary described. We favor Vazzy's and Salerno's in Stratford. The plum-tomato pizza in August is the one I'd pick if I had to enter a contest to see how much I could eat of a pizza at one sitting. It's that good. From my Illinois days I loved Monical's Pizza (first place I'd ever seen pizza cut in squares); if I had to go to a chain pizza place, I'd go with Bertucci's first and Uno second."



“Inquiring Minds,” continued from page 6

Pastor Witschy: “As you might well imagine, there is no pizza like *Chicago Deep Dish* - it is simply the best. But since one can't get it around here (sorry, the chain Uno's is just that, a chain – it's not anywhere near as good as the original). So...though we don't get there very often, I would probably choose Two Boots in Bridgeport. If you can't get real Chicago Deep Dish, then go for something completely different, and the Cajun Twist at Two Boots is pretty tasty.”

Manfred Schlaich and his son Derek: “Derek and I both like Bella Napoli in Stratford. He likes pepperoni and I like the Hot Oil with no sauce. My favorite seasonal pizza is the ‘Plum Pie’ from Salerno's, which is only sold in July and August.”

The 2014 Oscar nominations were revealed the morning of Jan. 16, with the annual award ceremony airing on Sunday, March 2, so this month we'll have a movie-related question. Our Question of the Month is: “*What is the most recent movie (or movies) you have seen?*” Your answer can be a recent movie in the theater or a movie you watched in the comfort of your own home. And as the late, great movie critics Siskel and Ebert were famous for doing, give us your review, a thumbs up or a thumbs down! We'd love to hear from all members of the family. Answers will appear in the March edition. Answers can be e-mailed to holycrss@mindspring.com or written on paper and put in the “Newsletter” mailbox (bottom row, far left) no later than Saturday, February 15.

---CLIFF SCHROCK
Holy Cross Word Staff Writer

PAST PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL**Changing a few light bulbs**

As I write this—on the newsletter deadline day of January 15—I am aware of a lot of change coming Holy Cross' direction. And because our membership received a mailing about the Annual Meeting agenda on the 19th, our members are aware of change, too, but only some of what's changing.

By the time this column is out in cyberspace and other reading forums of public consumption, a lot more change will have been made known. Depending on your intestinal fortitude and the amount of challenge you like in your life, the changes Holy Cross is and will be going through may be upsetting, ranging from mild to off the charts.

Because I believe it's the best way to move forward and remain strong, I tend to lean slightly toward the “change is good” way of thinking. Or let me say more clearly, “good change is good.” We've all seen plenty of bad change and know how lousy it can be, such as a change to higher food costs.

While some of the immediate change we are experiencing—the changeover in church president and other officers—is routine stuff, the announcement made by Pastor Witschy at the Annual Meeting of his departure is sterner stuff and will clearly require a significant rallying of the troops to keep us all moving forward together as we search for a new Shepherd.

Since there will be much more to discuss about replacing Pastor Witschy, and done so by our new President, I'd like to focus the rest of this “farewell column” on something I'm a part of, and that is, being replaced by a new President, Kerry Geffert. We also have a new Financial Secretary, Andrew Struzik, and a new Worship Director, Lydia Struzik. That's a lot of change in some key positions.

I, of course, am fine with being replaced as Church President. I could have “re-upped,” but I'd been preaching about the need for new faces to step forward, and while Kerry has been on the Board for many years and technically not a new face, being President is new to him and a change.

With what is facing him, Kerry might not think change is a good thing at the moment. But as those of us who have served on the board know, Kerry is the right person for the right moment, just as I now look back and feel I was the right person for the last two years when we had to navigate some pressing issues.

There are, of course, a plethora of fun phrases to help us cope mentally with change:

- “If you change nothing, nothing will change.”
- “Don't be afraid to change. You may lose something good but you may gain something better.”
- “Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.”
- How about this accountant's point-of-view? “Change is good...dollars are better.”
- Or a challenge to change? “Change is good...you go first.”

I see there is even a website on the change mantra: changeisgood.org, out of Clearwater, Fla.

“Farewell,” continues on page 8

“Farewell,” continued from page 7

But what all these pet phrases have in common is that we should not be fearful when change takes place, and we should be hopeful, because the time after change can be quite good.

The simpleton that I can be at times was even impressed by a basic thought about change. It came to me as I heard of how our custodian, Roger Burke, once again amazed us with what he does with common occurrence and without fanfare. He took it upon himself to put an extension ladder up in the church sanctuary so he could reach some of the high bulbs that had burned out. It was Roger, changing some light bulbs, a few weeks prior to when our membership would be voting in a few new people—some new light bulbs, if you will—to replace bulbs that were being removed.

So think of our newly-elected officers as a case of coming in and changing a few bulbs. They may be replacements, but they do so to make sure the light continues to function and shine. They serve the important duty of helping us see where we’re going, so that by with God’s help, change is nothing to be feared but something to embrace as a challenge and to be a helpful stimulant to us to assist our leaders for a great future at Holy Cross.

As the saying goes, most of you will never do great things, but you can do small things in a great way.

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

In Christ’s service,
---CLIFF SCHROCK
Outgoing Holy Cross President

**COMMUNITY SUPPER****Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal at St. John’s Episcopal**

“Hey Mr. Six-Seven Man! Hey Mr. Six-Seven Man!” declared a female community supper client on January 7. Then she addressed fellow clients saying, “Don’t give *him* any trouble.” It gave us a chuckle and reminded us that we’re grateful for Jim Leslie’s presence at the monthly event. Earlier Lorraine and Jim Finch, Nancy Sabol, Diane Hintz Schyhor and her friend, Irene Campbell, had cooked. When it was time to put the macaroni and cheese in the oven, it was discovered that the right-hand oven’s pilot light was out. No one was around to help us so we crowded everything into the left oven. Later



Mary Schrock and Marissa and Alexis Rodriguez arrived to help cut the hams. Soon the rest of the servers arrived: Fred Perry, Saviden and Brendan Semon, Jim Leslie, Michele and Rick Van Wart brought the food out to the serving table and then organized themselves to be servers. Clients mostly arrived in warm coats (appropriate for single-digit weather) for the 90 meals served.

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 special 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 community supper is on Tuesday, February 4. If you can volunteer your time, please put your name on the sheet found on the narthex table.

---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE**Doing what’s right is right for both sides of justice**

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city and attached the following message to his windshield: “I have circled this block 10 times. I have an appointment to keep. *Forgive us our trespasses.*”

When he returned to his car he found this reply attached to his own note along with a ticket: “I’ve circled this block for 10 years. If I don’t give you a ticket, I lose my job. *Lead us not into temptation.*”

---Reprinted from *Bits & Pieces, Vol M/No.3*





General Memorial Fund

In memory of Doc DeVed

Bruce and Janice Rockel

In memory of Shirley Schrock

Bruce and Janice Rockel

In memory of Irving Van Wart

Bruce and Janice Rockel

In memory of George Jacobs

Myrtle Anderson

Anita Beer

Edward and Alice Berezna

Joe and Cindy Ciccio

Ray Dawkins

Elizabeth Deiterick

John and Pat Deloge

Gary and Donna DiLalla

Kay Dubin

Kerry and Karen Geffert

Dan Jacobs

Matilda Jacobs

Lois Jacobs Komnath

Jackie Polckles

Irene Pritchard and Family

John Rosen

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Sabol

Barbara Sabol

John E. Sabol

Ralph and Gretchen Sather

Margaret J. Schens

Anita Schlaich-Schoch

Cliff and Mary Schrock

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tkatch

Barbara White

In memory of Joyce Roman

Angelo and Sharon Amato

Myrtle Anderson

Eric and Kathleen Appellof

Phyllis L. Babasick

Brad and Christina Batoh

George and Janice Boss

Joe and Cindy Ciccio

In memory of Joyce Roman

Winnie Clark

John and Pat Deloge

Matt and Sharon Dever

Gary and Donna DiLalla

The DiMartino Family

The Dorcas Guild

Florence Fiehler

Kerry and Karen Geffert

The Gruemken Family

Rich and Lynda Hampson & Family

Lisa Knicos

Dieter and Ingrid Leibold

Gertrude G. Moran

Anthony and Jean Paoello

Audrey Paray

Donna and Kelly Perez

Frances Pettinella

Bruce and Janice Rockel

Stanley and Cheryl Roman

John Rosen

Anita Schlaich-Schoch

Cliff and Mary Schrock

Dan and Donna Senft

Marie M. Shamiss

Theresa Tampellini

Richard and Michele Van Wart

Dorothy Weise

Barbara White

In memory of Dorothy Schweitzer

Gail Agria

Myrtle Anderson

Joe and Cindy Ciccio

John and Pat Deloge

Gary and Donna DiLalla

Millicent Dobelstein

Ray and Cynthia Dobelstein

The Robert Dobelstein Family

Ronald and Claudia Dobelstein

The Dorcas Guild

Kerry and Karen Geffert

George and Rosemarie Gollenberg

John and Kyung Googins

Gladys Hossan

Dieter and Ingrid Leibold

Richard and Carol Matlus

In memory of Dorothy Schweitzer

Bruce and Janice Rockel

John Rosen

Ralph and Gretchen Sather

Anita Schlaich-Schoch

Cliff and Mary Schrock

Gertrude Seperack

Shelton Community Center—

Swimming Pool Group

Linda Suhr

Dan and Janet Swan

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Triplett

Richard and Michele Van Wart

Anthony and Linda Varone

Henry and Grace Voigts

Barbara White

Malcolm and Susan Youngquist

Community Supper Fund

In memory of Joyce Roman

Jim and Deb Leslie

Share the Hope Fund

In memory of George Jacobs

Dan and Donna Senft

In memory of Joyce Roman

Andreas and Susan Andromalos

Diane Dietman and Bill Nishti

Ron and Doris Dietman

Frank and Lori Thompson

In memory of Dorothy Schweitzer

Susan Andromalos

Diane Dietman and Bill Nishti

Ron and Doris Dietman

Dan and Donna Senft

Lori Thompson

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: **Gary Jackson; JoAnne Meyer; George Morris; Anita Schoch**, with chronic back pain; and for our homebound members – **Ray Dawkins, Emma Fengler and Harvey Pomerenk**.

We prayed for our family and friends: **Bob Agate**, father-in-law of Lydia Struzik's friend Sandy, recovering from brain surgery; **Sandy Agate**, friend of Lydia Struzik, recovering from back surgery; **Gail Agria**, recovering from cancer surgery; **Hayley Annino**, friend of Kathryn Struzik, at home following a stem-cell transplant; **Ruth Boivie**, Rick's mom, recovering from hip surgery; **Susanne Dowling**, Greg's mother, for a speedy recovery of an infection in her shoulder; **Ruth Downing**, mother of a dear friend of Michele Van Wart, suffering from a number of serious ailments; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed following a fall; **Judie Froehlich; Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister, recovering from cancer surgery; **Harold Geffert**, Kerry's father, under treatment for colon cancer; **Kay Geffert**, Kerry's mother, suffering from essential tremors; and **Amber Jones**, friend of the Gefferts, struggling with personal issues.



We prayed, too, for: **Kathleen Kassouf**, mother of a friend of Kathryn Struzik, who has been diagnosed with lupus; **Betty Kessler; Mary Koch**, niece of Ron Froehlich; **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, in rehab following knee-replacement surgery; **Kylie Middlemass**, Anita Beer's granddaughter, responding well to various therapies as she works through the difficulties of autism; **Chris O'Brien**, friend of Mary and Otto Atkinson, paralyzed as a result of an accident; **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, who recently had a lung transplant; **Nancy Saad**, friend of the DiLallas, recovering from breast cancer surgery and awaiting further treatment; **Lois Sanders**, daughter of Ron and Judie Froehlich, recovering from breast surgery; and **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

We prayed also for: **Mary Shacoski**, grandmother of Natalie Benson, who is battling cancer; **Terry Sissick**, friend of Barbara White, recovering from eye surgery; **Campbell Taft**, 5-year-old son of a friend of the Schrocks, dealing with the effects of brain cancer as he continues growth hormone therapy; **Lorraine Tamas**, neighbor of the Leslies, who suffered a stroke; **Mike Tavares**, friend of John and Pat Deloge, battling side effects of Valley Fever; **Shirley Thomas**, Jen Deloge's mother, prayers for strength and healing; **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; **Ron Vichiola**, Michele Van Wart's father, receiving chemotherapy for esophageal cancer; **Craig Wilson**, son of a friend of John and Pat Deloge, recovering from tongue cancer surgery; and all those who have asked for prayer but wish to remain anonymous.

Lastly, we prayed for the family and friends of **Bernie Munz**, who recently passed away.

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

PRESCHOOL

2014-2015 school year registration is ongoing

Preschool registration for the 2014-2015 school year began in mid-January and as of the 20th we have filled 14 spots in the three classes we offer (Pre-K, 4-year-old and 3-year-old). We continue to offer both part-day and full-day programs that run during the school year, as well as in the summer. If you or a family member or friend is looking for a preschool and needs more information (or would like to schedule a visit) phone or e-mail me at 203-268-6471, mglennonhccp@mindspring.com. Please remember that Holy Cross church members receive a 10-percent discount on monthly tuition.

---MICHELE GLENNON
Preschool Director





Covenant to Care

Our "adopted" Social Worker Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard not only works 44-46 hours per week overseeing an average of 30 children in the DCF system, but also is a wife and mother of two daughters in elementary school.

---A simple fact from our
Social Ministry Commission

PRAYER CIRCLE

In need of prayer? Make one of the following contacts to begin the e-mail prayer circle

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

- Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays, phone or e-mail the church office: 203-268-4555 or holycrss@mindspring.com. 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.

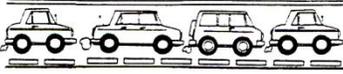
---SHEPHERDS' COMMISSION



CELEBRATING FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



FEB. 1:	KATE GENTRY PATRICIA PETERSON	FEB. 16:	JANE FERRO
FEB. 2:	JOE CICCIA	FEB. 17:	CHRISTY LASALLE
FEB. 3:	EDWARD BIKE DAVID SKOOG	FEB. 18:	MERCEDES CROCKER
FEB. 5:	GEORGE BOMANN, V JENNIFER DELOGE	FEB. 20:	HEATHER LOKE
FEB. 8:	ERIC RUTTER	FEB. 21:	MEGAN ELLIS
FEB. 9:	ALEXANDER CAROLA	FEB. 22:	ANN BRUEGGEMANN CALLI SEDERQUEST CASEY SEDERQUEST
FEB. 10:	DAVID LIVEN	FEB. 24:	SUE SELK
FEB. 11:	PETER ANTONIOU KEVIN HALLS	FEB. 25:	DUSTIN MONES
FEB. 13:	ALYSSA CERONE MARY ANN SCHILLER	FEB. 26:	KAY DUBIN
FEB. 14:	JULIANNE NYITRAI	FEB. 27:	JACK MESSERSCHMITT
FEB. 15:	THOMAS FERIK DEBI LIVEN	FEB. 28:	JOSEPH BAILLIE ELLEN DENNERLEIN EMILY RENTZ
		(FEB. 29):	JESSE KRAVECS MOLLY MAZABRAS



BULLETINS FROM ABROAD

If you are away from your Holy Cross family and worship at another church, be sure to drop off the service bulletin in the newsletter box. All four of the bulletins submitted in January were from members who worshiped on Christmas Eve at another church:

The Geffert Family, from Concordia Lutheran in Hagerstown, Md.

John Rosen, from St. Bartholomew’s Church in Manhattan.

Linda Suhr, from Trinity Lutheran in Vernon, Conn.

Michele Van Wart, from St. Joseph Parish in Shelton.

WINTER-WEATHER NOTICE

The winter season is here, and we remind you that occasionally worship services are canceled due to snowy and/or icy conditions.

THERE WILL **ALWAYS** BE A 10:30 a.m. SUNDAY SERVICE.

Before you venture out, look/listen for a possible cancellation via:

- If you signed up for the “e-mail blast” system, check your e-mail;
- If you are on Facebook, look for a posting;
- Phone the church at 203-268-7555;
- WICC radio (AM 600);
- www.wicc600.com (navigate to Cancellations in the left column, go to “Public Org”); or
- WTNH-TV (Channel 8);



26 WORDS TO THINK ABOUT

These are the ABCs of love

Use this alphabetical list of love-in-action verbs as a reminder of the many ways to reflect Christ’s love.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| A ccepts | N otices |
| B ehaves | O verlooks |
| C omforts | P rovides |
| D efends | Q uiets |
| E mpowers | R ejoices |
| F orgives | S upports |
| G rows | T ries |
| H elps | U nderstands |
| I nvests | V olunteers |
| J oins | W elcomes |
| K neels | eX pects |
| L istens | Y ields |
| M entors | adds Z est to life |

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CHURCH CHUCKLES

