



# The HOLY CROSS WORD

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

MAY 2013

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LVI, NO. 9

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

### Ask yourself: Do I really understand what it means to be a member?

I would like to believe that, deep down, someone who belongs to a church realizes that to be a church member is an entirely different type of "membership" than that of being at a country club or the local fitness center.

Still, when you have a membership as we do of more than 400 people, but your weekend worship attendance is roughly a third of that, logic tells you that, no, maybe most people don't realize that being a member of a church is different. It sure seems like a majority of our members see Holy Cross membership as being similar to a country club. They come and go as they please without showing the constant commitment that must be a part of church life. Church membership is a life commitment that must be honored on a regular basis when it comes to worship and Bible-class attendance. When your salvation is at stake, it requires constant attention, not an occasional glance.

I can feel free to insert country club membership into the discussion because I am a golfer who belongs to a club. So I know how to compare what being a church member is like to being at a golf club. I also work at Golf Digest, and in looking at some old issues recently I came across a "poem" my magazine predecessors ran in the mid-1960s. I couldn't believe how appropriate it was to run in my church column as a strong commentary on what it means to be a member. Even some of the

**"President," continues on Page 3**

## FROM P.E.W. TO PEW

### We honor the church's saints for the faith example they set

Just after Easter Amy and I took a mini-vacation down to Washington, D.C. We hadn't been to our nation's capital in about 25 years, and with Easter so early this year, we thought it a good time to go, hoping to catch the cherry blossoms in full bloom. But alas, it's been a very cool spring, and they were not out yet. But our weather was dry and comfortable, affording us the opportunity to take in many of the sights.

As I reflect back on the trip now, I am struck by how much of our time was occupied with, well, **death**. We went to see memorials – lots of memorials – which are by their very nature dedicated to dead people. We toured and lingered at memorials to Lincoln and Jefferson, Roosevelt and King; to the fallen soldiers of World Wars I and II, Korea, and Viet Nam. We took in the Holocaust Museum dedicated to the genocide of millions of victims, and we visited the Newseum, which has a special exhibit dedicated to 9/11. We spent an entire morning at Arlington National Cemetery – at the resting places of the Unknown Soldiers, JFK, and more than 400,000 others. And then we completed our visit by paying our respects at the graves of all four of Amy's grandparents.

That's rather a lot of death – especially for a vacation – wouldn't you agree? And yet, it was certainly a worthwhile use of vacation time. It is a pilgrimage every American citizen should make. It was moving, inspiring, and educational – which, frankly, made it (for lack of a better word) **enjoyable**. Is there a sense of duty to it? Do we owe a debt of gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of people – from privates to presidents – whose resting places are marked throughout the city and its environs? Do we have an obligation to honor them for their service to our nation? I certainly believe there is. And surely many others do, as well, as we consider, not only the masses that come to D.C. every year, but also the billions of dollars that are spent to erect and maintain all the monuments, statues, memorials, and museums.

All of which leads me to ask – why do we Lutherans have such a difficult time recognizing, honoring, and celebrating the Church's fallen, those which are called "saints?" Of course we don't worship them, or pray to them, or call on them for special favors. But in the Apology of the Augsburg Confession we do find this:

*Our confession approves honoring the saints in three ways. The first is thanksgiving. We should thank God because he has shown examples of mercy, because he wishes to save people, and because he has given teachers and other gifts to the Church. These gifts, since they are the greatest, should be amplified. The saints themselves, who have faithfully used these gifts, should be praised just as Christ praises faithful businessmen (Matthew 25:21, 23). The second service is the strengthening of our faith. When we see Peter's denial forgiven, we also are encouraged to believe all the more that grace truly superabounds over sin (Romans 5:20). The third honor is the imitation, first of faith, then of other virtues. Everyone should imitate the saints according to his calling.*

**"P.E.W.," continues on Page 3**

FROM  
**P.E.W.**  
TO  
**PEW**



### Sunday, May 5

1:30 p.m. – Greater Bridgeport CROP Walk (support a walker!)

### Sundays, May 5, May 12 and May 19

6:30 p.m. – “The Christian Faith” Class

### Tuesday, May 7

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

### Thursday, May 9 – The Ascension of Our Lord

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

### Sunday, May 12 – Mother’s Day

### Wednesday, May 15

6:00 p.m. – Book Club meets in the Conference Room

### Saturday, May 18

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

### Sunday, May 19 – The Day of Pentecost

12:30 p.m. – Fellowship Event: Bowling at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield

### Sunday, May 26 – Holy Trinity Sunday

9:00 a.m. – One-service worship schedule begins for the summer

### Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day

(NO WORSHIP SERVICE; OFFICE CLOSED; NO PRESCHOOL)

### Monday-Friday, August 12-16

9:00 a.m. – Vacation Bible School



## 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: [holocrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holocrss@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).

### CALLING ALL GRADUATES

Information from graduates

due June 16 in church office

If you are graduating from high school or college this spring, we encourage you to share the details about this exciting milestone with your church family.



We plan to recognize all of our graduates in the July/August newsletter. Please take a “Graduate Information” form, found on the narthex table, fill it out, and return it to the Church Office mailbox by June 16. Please let us know who you are – you are important to us!



### THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

By English novelist and essayist E.M. Forster

“I am sure that if the mothers of various nations could meet, there would be no more wars.”

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### NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross Word is the June edition. The deadline for all articles is Wednesday, May 15.

Please submit articles to the newsletter mailbox, or send them via e-mail to:

[holocrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holocrss@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.

**"P.E.W., " continued from Page 1**

I bring this up because May 1 is the Feast Day of Sts. Philip and James. Philip is especially dear to me as the congregation in which I was raised was named in his honor. If we honor those who gave of themselves for the sake of our country, why not honor those who gave of themselves for the sake of Christ's Church?

Just a thought to ponder. And I'll...

See You in Worship,

Pastor Emil Witschy

**WORSHIP REMINDER****Summer Worship schedule begins on May 26**

Our 9 a.m., one-service worship schedule for the summer begins Sunday, May 26, and will continue through Sept. 1, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

Please remember, especially during the summer months – if you are out of town for the weekend and can't make it to church on Sunday, you can worship on Monday evenings at 7:00 (with the exception of the Mondays on holiday weekends, Memorial Day and Labor Day).

**General Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Irving Van Wart  
Perry Hill School, Co-Workers  
of Kimberly Atkinson  
Rock of Agers*

**Share the Hope Fund**

*In memory of Irving Van Wart  
Lee and Regina Steeneck*

**"President," continued from Page 1**

specific words worked well for a church theme. So, since there appears to be many of our members who treat Holy Cross as like being a member of a club, I thought I'd re-run this as food for thought. It was entitled "Be a 'proper' member" and was credited to Bruce Beckman, who was newly elected as president of Park Ridge (Illinois) Country Club at the time:

*"Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?*

*Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?*

*Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?*

*Or do you stay at home and criticize  
and knock?*

*Do you take an active part to help the  
work along?*

*Or are you simply satisfied to be a  
'just belong'?*

*Do you work on committees to see there is no trick?*

*Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?*

*So come to the meetings often and help with hand and heart.*

*Don't be just a member—but take an active part.*

*Think this over, friends; you know right from wrong.*

*Are you an active member, or do you just belong?"*



That last sentence carries a heavy impact and a key message. Being a member of the church is not a wishy-washy commitment. You're either living your faith and coming to worship regularly and being a part of the church community, or you're not practicing what you know to be God's desire for you, that you be with Him in worship and Christian service.

To help you understand what it means to be a member, I invite you to look at the back of the newsletter on page 10 and see the list of guidelines that describes what it's like to be a member and how you can more fully understand putting your faith in action at Holy Cross.

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

P.S. To keep you informed about a key project we've been discussing at Holy Cross since we obtained our loan last year, by the time you get this newsletter, work on air-conditioning upgrades could very well be in progress, or nearly underway. As of April 15 we were nearing full agreement with workers to install AC in the Fellowship Hall and replace broken-down units in the sanctuary and offices. It is hoped the inconvenience will be minimal to our church and preschool operations. I thank Dan Senft, our property director, for staying on this project and getting the arrangements done for its completion.

P.S.S. And to bring conclusion to the \$5,000 financial challenge that was issued in January by an anonymous church member donor and had a deadline of Easter Day, we had no takers to meet that challenge.

**KEEP THIS IN MIND...****The joy of service**

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

---RABINDRANATH TAGORE, recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913

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## DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

### **Join us for a fellowship event, bowling on May 19**

I thought I would start this month's article with a joke: If April showers bring May flowers then what do May flowers bring? The answer... pilgrims! I am sure you have all heard that one before. But my reason for the joke is to get you thinking about this question: What does Discipleship need to do to bring you out to our fellowship events? The Easter Breakfast was well attended! But why do so many people attend that, but yet other events have smaller attendance? Granted the Easter breakfast has a great selection of egg casseroles, homemade breads and other sweet treats – who wouldn't want to attend?! The following weekend we hosted a Movie Night, showing the new DVD release, "Lincoln." Maybe the movie "Lincoln" wasn't your thing, but it was a fun and intimate evening with 12 people.

Our next event will be on Sunday, May 19: A family bowling afternoon, beginning at 12:30 p.m.,

at Nutmeg

Lanes in  
Fairfield. For  
only \$10 per  
person, you will

get to bowl two games, and that price includes shoe rental. Look for the sign-up sheet on the narthex table.

If there is a movie you want to see us feature at a future Movie Night, or an event you think would be fun to hold, please let me know. Our Book Club will meet this month, on Wednesday, May 15, at 6 p.m., to discuss "The Age of Miracles," hosted by Ashley Balaska. Join us in the Conference Room.

Your faithful servant,  
---DONNA BOGEN



## MISSION U: SCHOOL OF WITNESSING

### **Registration deadline for one-day seminar is May 9**

Ever been in a conversation that called for you to explain what you believe? Ever wanted to talk to close family members about church, but felt uneasy? Ever wanted to bring the peace and joy you have in Christ to a person who is in crisis, but didn't know what to say or how to say it?



To help us out when we find ourselves in these situations, the LCMS congregations of southwest Connecticut would like to help. They are sponsoring a one-day seminar at Immanuel in Danbury on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost of \$10 includes breakfast and lunch. The registration deadline is May 9. If you plan to attend, register by phone or e-mail: 203-748-3320 or [churchoffice@immanueledanbury.org](mailto:churchoffice@immanueledanbury.org).

---PASTOR WITSCHY

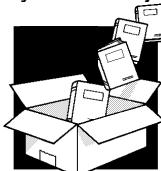
## KENYAN HYMNAL PROJECT

### **On Pentecost day, help pay for special mission**

Pentecost is Sunday, May 19 – Help spread the Word!

You can be a part of a special project this month, on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. The Kenyan Hymnal Project is a labor of love recently completed by Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) Fort Wayne, Indiana. This

hymnal was dedicated at the Lutheran Cathedral in Nairobi on February 17. Copies of the hymnal, *Ibada Takatifu* (Divine Service) were shipped to Kenya for distribution without the full costs of shipping and printing (\$7,000) being covered. To help defray the costs, Holy Cross will be participating, along with the other churches in the LCMS New England



District, in a special free-will offering on Pentecost Sunday (May 19). While a \$25 gift helps to defray the cost for one hymnal, any monetary gift will be greatly appreciated to help spread God's Word.

---DONNA DILALLA

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

### **May 6 luncheon to feature informative presentation**

A Neighbor to Neighbor luncheon will be held on Monday, May 6, at Salem Lutheran Church, 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Seniors, companions,



caregivers of seniors and volunteers

are welcome to attend this event. An interesting topic – "SCAMS: How to Identify, Avoid, and Report Them" – will be presented by Don McGran, security advisor for Fairfield County Bank and retired police officer. Please RSVP to me at 203-268-3547 and let me know if you need transportation to the luncheon.

---JIM FINCH



## HAVE A MUSICAL TALENT?

### **Musicians needed to share their gift prior to services**

Please share it with us and with our LORD! Sunday mornings, about 10 to 15 minutes before Worship, our members who have the gift of music (singing or playing an instrument) and want to offer it up to the Lord, are invited to do so. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the narthex. See, all offerings don't have to be monetary! Check the sign-up sheet to see who will be our first musician!

---PASTOR WITSCHY

## INQUIRING MINDS

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

Our Question of the Month—*If you could live in any home on a television series, whose would it be?*—prompted plenty of thought and analysis by our readers. And we are glad of that. Maybe this indicates we all would love to live somewhere else. Or maybe we're just into fantasy "what ifs" and enjoy the idea of escaping into someone else's world. Whatever the reason, we had great participation with 25 answers, which is a tie for the most answers generated by this personal-interest column. And this month we get to include answers from a few folks who are first-timers to responding to our questions, plus we had a fun response from a former Holy Cross member. The answers are listed in the order in which they were received.

**Jean Schubert:** "Robin's Nest—the estate on Oahu where Magnum P.I. lived. Great view. Luxurious. And Tom Selleck in his prime."

**Doris Dietman:** "I still am entertained watching 'The [Bill] Cosby Show' reruns and would loved to have been a member of that TV family's home. Daily living was approached with humor and common-sense parenting; a home where the parents taught by example, emphasizing the importance of honesty, integrity and respect for others."

**Nicole Benson:** "I would love to live with the Tanner Family in 'Full House.' I always wanted sisters!"

**Kimberly Atkinson:** "I would want to live in the Green Gables residence on Prince Edward Island."

**Jim Atkinson:** "1313 Mockingbird Lane, the Munsters' house."

**Lydia Struzik:** "That's easy—'Downton Abbey.' "

**Andrew Struzik:** "Southfork Ranch from 'Dallas.' "

**Tina Batoch:** "I would want to live in the Arnold household from 'The Wonder Years' series. There's always a good life lesson to be learned from that family. I also love the clothes and cat-eye glasses that were popular during the time period of the show (1960s to 1970s)."

**Mary Schrock:** "After giving this much thought, I'd want to live with the Taylor household in Mayberry, North Carolina. What could beat having Aunt Bee cooking all your meals and doing the cleaning? And I'd love sitting out on the big front porch playing guitar and singing with Sheriff Andy Taylor and being constantly amused with the antics of Deputy Barney Fife!"



**Audrey Paray:** "'Downton Abbey.' I chose it for the furnishings only—not the personalities of the people."

**Myrtle Anderson:** "If I could live in any home on television, it would be 'Golden Girls,' only because they are so funny."

**Bill and Edith Skoog:** "We both agree that the Reagan family in the series 'Blue Bloods' is our choice. It is a close-knit, four-generation, Irish Catholic family living in New York City. The members are heavily involved in law enforcement within the city so they have similar interests. They have their differences but they are able to give support to each other in times of stress and share the joys of each other's accomplishments. There is obvious intergenerational respect for each individual. They gather together for family Sunday dinner and pray before beginning the meal. You don't see that much on TV these days."

**Tim Morris:** "'The Addams Family' house."

**Marie Morris:** "Mary's first apartment on 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show.' "

**Joanne Bogen:** "The penthouse on the Disney show 'Jessie.' "

**Sarah Bogen:** "The Duncan's home from the Disney show 'Good Luck Charlie.' "

**Donna Bogen:** "I want to be a kid in the Huxtable house from 'The Cosby Show.' Claire and Cliff Huxtable were great parents. Always there to support their kids but also wise enough to let them make mistakes and let them learn a lesson."

**Joe Ciccia:** "I would live with the Cunninghams from 'Happy Days.' Mr. C was a wise, kind husband and father with a sense of humor...and who wouldn't want the Fonz as a friend."

**Nicole Ciccia:** "Definitely Meredith (Grey) and Derek Shepherd from 'Grey's Anatomy'!!"

**Paulo Gomes** (Ashley Balaska's fiancé): "The Simpsons'!"

**Ashley Balaska:** "'New Girl.' It seems like it would be a fun time."

**Cindy Ciccia:** "The Ingalls Family, from 'Little House on the Prairie.' A tough life, but such a simpler way to live."

**Manfred Schlaich:** "The Walton House outside Charlottesville, Virginia. Three generations under one farmhouse roof."

**Cliff Schrock:** "Of recent shows, I'd want to be in one of the cabins in 'Northern Exposure,' such as Maggie O'Connell's, but for a home and family life combo, I can't decide between the Stephens' house at 1164 Morning Glory Circle from 'Bewitched' and 148 Bonnie Meadow Lane, the New Rochelle home of the Petries from 'The Dick Van Dyke Show.' All that fun hocus-pocus in the Stephens' house would provide plenty of distractions from everyday life and

*"Inquiring," continues on Page 6*

***"Inquiring," continued from Page 5***

house duties, but so would the laughs at the Petries' home."

The summer season officially begins in June, and that means warmer days and nights, and brings back memories of the familiar ice cream truck meandering down the street. What a fun way to relax and cool off with a dish of ice cream! So our question this month—can you guess?!—is "*What is your favorite ice cream flavor/treat combination?*" Something like vanilla bean with mini M&M's®? Or simply a bowl of chocolate-flavored ice cream? If your favorite is a certain brand-name combination, share the specifics. And be sure to get answers from everyone in your household! We are already looking forward to receiving your mouth-watering responses

The deadline is Wednesday, May 15, and answers will appear in the June edition. You can submit your answer in one of two ways: Via e-mail to [holocrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holocrss@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

**SOCIAL MINISTRY****Food pantry we support  
has many urgent needs**

The Whist Card Game night on March 9 raised \$800 for the Summerfield Food Pantry. Thank you to David and Mary Ann Schiller for organizing and running the event and to everyone who attended.

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 will now take clean, gently-used, folded spring and summer clothes only for men, women and children. Please note that they have stopped taking winter clothing until further notice.

---MARIE MORRIS

**OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR****Do you remember the Easter handout? May is the deadline**

As you'll recall, our Holy Cross music director, Elina Christova, will be leaving us at the end of June to return to her native Bulgaria in July for an extended period of time. When she returns, likely in the second half of 2014, she will probably resettle in New York City. So we are now looking at applicants to replace Elina and go through the interview process.

There is also a farewell event being discussed and planned as I write, and details of that will be announced as soon as they are developed. However, one element of our good-bye was already announced, but I can't reveal the specifics since it's supposed to be something of a surprise. The details were described in a handout given to worship attendees on Easter. If you have that handout, this is a reminder that the deadline for the request is May 26. So please be sure to follow that deadline. If you did not get the handout, please see me at church and I will give you one.

--CLIFF SCHROCK  
Board President

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT HOLY CROSS**

**August 12-16, from 9 a.m. to Noon**

**Grades K-5 (*grade entering in Sept. 2013*)**

**Registration ongoing through June 15  
(forms on narthex table)**

**Join us for a week of crafts, Bible adventures,  
stories, music and outdoor fun!**

**Any questions, please leave a message for Kimberly Atkinson at the church office, 203-268-7555.**

## COVENANT TO CARE CORNER

### **Teddy bears needed for Comfort Packs project**

During the month of May we will be coordinating a collection of brand-new stuffed teddy bears that will be a part of the Comfort Packs given to our "adopted" DCF social worker, Mimose Ulysses Laurenard. Each teddy bear we collect will be wrapped with a hand-made lap blanket made by the ladies of our Dorcas Guild and Mission Quilters.

Besides working with the children and families on her current caseload, Mimose is frequently called upon to help children who are abruptly removed from their home due to neglect or abuse or because the child's parents are unable to provide adequate care.



When Mimose has this unfortunate task to remove a child from his or her home, she brings with her one of these Comfort Packs to help the child through the transition. It is our hope that these Comfort Packs will be a tangible gift to help these children work through this emotional and fearful period of time. This is the fifth year that Holy Cross has provided our DCF social worker with either Comfort Packs or Placement Packs, and the feedback we get from Mimose indicates that the blankets and teddy bears are a welcome form of comfort for not only the young children, but the tweens and teens.

Our Teddy Bear poster will be in the narthex beginning May 5. The teddy bears need to be brand new and approximately 10 to 18 inches. Our goal is to provide Mimose with 25 to 30 Comfort Packs. The due date is June 2.

Yours in Christ,  
---CINDY CICCIA and  
MARY SCHROCK  
Covenant to Care Co-Liaisons

## YOUR BOARD/YOUR TEAM

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

*This is No. 14 in a series of articles that highlights 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 Discipleship Co-Director George Bomann IV.*

This month's Board member is not an easy person to miss, and I mean that in a good sense. George often attends church wearing what I can best describe as "loud" pants, the type you might associate with a typical golfer. And being a golfer myself, I can chuckle at that analogy. You have to appreciate his boldness. Then there's the collection of Bomann children. George and his wife, Katy, will be married 15 years this August and they have five kids: George (11), Molly (9), Emma (5), Maggie (3) and Eliza (2). It is always impressive to see George and Katy have their entire family at church. It makes me wonder how much they went through to get organized to just get out of the house and into the car.

George joined the Board as Discipleship Co-Director last year, with the specific duties of overseeing the stewardship side of the position. This is George's first Board position at Holy Cross. A stewardship drive was held at Holy Cross for the first time in a long time last year, and this year George is hoping to help members feel more educated about the need to tithe, give sacrificially and understand the Biblical principles of being a cheerful giver and recognizing we give back to God because of what He has done for us with the sacrifice of His Son.

### **Highlighting our Board Members**



The Bomanns have lived in Trumbull for 11 years. George grew up in Riverside and attended Greenwich High School, where he played football, lacrosse and wrestled. George went to Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. He graduated with a Studio Art major and Economic minor; he lettered each year at Hamilton in football and lacrosse.

George spent a year after college building wood boats in Kennebunk, Maine. His busy work life for the past 11 years has been with BJ's Wholesale Club. He is currently the Vice President for Field Operations for New England. Incredibly, he oversees 44 of the 198 clubs in BJ's organization. And if family life and the business life don't keep George sufficiently occupied, he also enjoys participating in triathlons, golf, gardening and just plain staying active. All of which makes it amazing that we have him on the Board of Directors.

I have been urging our newest members to step up and be church leaders to keep Holy Cross moving toward the future, and George is an example of one of our more recent members not being content to just let others do the heavy lifting. Many of you have the potential to be effective participants in the leadership of our church. So I encourage you to follow George's example of not just being content to see Holy Cross as a place of worship. It's also a place of service.

As usual, I leave the last word to the subject of the month. Here is George's answer to the question, **What satisfaction do you get from serving your church?** "Getting to know the individuals of the church better," he said.

Thank you, George, for your service and devotion to Holy Cross.  
---CLIFF SCHROCK  
Board President

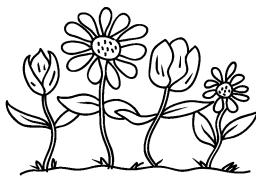
## SOCIAL MINISTRY

### **Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal**

"In case you don't hear it from anyone else, thank you. This was great," said one man as he approached the serving table after eating. His was one of 108 meals served at the April 2 Community Supper. Cooks Jim and Lorraine Finch were joined by Bessie Burton that Tuesday. Since we needed to leave early, Lorraine and Jim had graciously agreed to oversee and lead the cooking, slicing, pouring, serving portion of this important outreach program. Marissa and Alexis Rodriguez arrived extra early to assist in the ham slicing and broccoli prep. Shortly after, Anna Mae Berger and Mary Schrock arrived for other important preps. Servers that joined them later were: Jim Leslie, Kendra Norman, Saviden Semon (Grace Lutheran-Stratford), and Laurie Vaitkus and her son Joey.

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. The next community supper for which Holy Cross is responsible for cooking and serving is on Tuesday, May 7. If you can volunteer your time, please put your name on the sheet found on the narthex table.

--DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER



## **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 **David and Mary Ann Schiller** for preparing and hosting the reception following the March 23 Baroque to Modern on Main concert.

To **Edith and Bill Skoog, Mary Ann and David Schiller, and Amy Witschy** for their willingness to clean the altar area – including polishing the brass and silver, dusting and general clean up – in preparation for our Easter celebration.

To **Linda Suhr** for the volunteer work she does in the church office, with special thanks for her extra help during Holy Week.

To **Jim Atkinson and members of the Worship Commission** for making the sanctuary look festive for Easter, with the flower set-up and the decorations on the wall. Thanks also to Jim for changing the drapes on the large altar cross, black for Good Friday and white for Easter.

To **Lorraine and Jim Finch** for coordinating the annual Easter breakfast. They were assisted with set-up tasks (the morning before Easter) by **Donna Bogen** and her daughter **Joanne, Patsy Cerone, Cindy Ciccia, Dave and Mary Ann Schiller, and Mary and Cliff Schrock**. We thank **George and Joy Hermes** and **Joelle Schrock** who volunteered to help with kitchen tasks and/or serving. When it came time to help with clean-up, **so many folks** stepped forward to help, and for that we say thank you! Finally, thanks to **everyone who cooked** a breakfast casserole or baked good to share at this event. This festive breakfast would not be such a



success, and something our members look forward to every year, without everyone pitching in to help.

To **Katy Bomann** for putting together an Easter Egg hunt for the children on Easter morning, following the breakfast.

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

To the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the April 2 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Anna Mae Berger, Lorraine and Jim Finch, Jim Leslie, Kendra Norman, Marissa and Alexis Rodriguez, David and Mary Ann Schiller, Mary Schrock and Laurie Vaitkus** and her son **Joey**.

To **Donna Bogen** for coordinating the April 6 Adult Fellowship Movie Night. Thanks also to **Jon Halls** for lending his projector to the church for this event.

To **Jim and Lorraine Finch** and **Marie Morris** for taking the food and clothing donations to the Summerfield United Methodist food/clothing pantry.

## 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. Bulletins submitted this spring came from:

**Dieter and Ingrid Leibold**, who were on vacation in Florida and worshiped at Lakeside Lutheran in Venice.

**Anna Mae Berger**, who worshiped on Easter Sunday at Salem Hetzel's Lutheran Church/United Church of Christ in Pine Grove, Pa.

**John Rosen**, who worshiped on Easter Sunday at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan.

## HOLY CROSS ONLINE

### Social media help wanted to upgrade our presence

Holy Cross' first contact with its parishioners was through door-to-door contact done by founding pastor Rev. Froehlich in the 1950s. And that face-to-face approach continued for many years, with mailings, phone calls and advertising mixed in. But all of us, young and old, realize that the way people do their communicating today is through e-mails and social media. Holy



Cross has a presence online with its website, but we need

to be better and enhance our reach into social media. To achieve that, we need to upgrade our website and develop elements such as a Facebook page. While we examine the programs out there to assist us with that, we want to invite anyone from the membership who would like to be in on this to step forward and volunteer to help us expand our social-media presence. If you would like to do that, please contact me or our Evangelism co-directors Donna DiLalla and Christy LaSalle.

--CLIFF SCHROCK  
Board President

## GARDEN PROJECT

### As you plan your garden, keep in mind the Harvest Now project

This is the second year in which we will be providing support for the Harvest Now project. Harvest Now was started in 2010 to help alleviate hunger and improve health in Connecticut communities by providing fresh produce to those in need. In just four years Harvest Now has supplied more than 42,000 pounds of food and has established programs throughout Connecticut by connecting churches, synagogues, schools and prisons with local food pantries and food banks. If you have surplus vegetables from your garden, or if you

would like to plant a row or start a small garden for this purpose, you can bring the vegetables to a local food pantry or contact me to



have your vegetables picked up. All you need to do

is to keep track of the total approximate weight of your vegetables donated during the season. Almost any kind of vegetables, including tomato, bean, zucchini, cucumber, eggplant, squash, cantaloupe, etc., will be accepted by the food pantries. Last year Holy Cross donated 40 pounds of vegetables to local food pantries and our goal this year is to supply more than 100 pounds. Please call me (203-268-3547) if you would like to participate in this project or have any questions.

---JIM FINCH

## 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. 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 at [holycrss@mindspring.com](mailto:holycrss@mindspring.com). or 203-268-4555. Requests e-mailed to the office 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



**St. John's Episcopal Church is one of the original four sites to serve Community Supper meals. Now there are 46 sites of either kitchens or food pantries in the greater Bridgeport area.**

---A simple fact from our Social Ministry Commission

## FINANCIAL NOTES

### Offerings update for the month of March

I am guessing you are just as tired of being encouraged to increase your giving as I am of encouraging you. So this month, here's something different.

When your grandfather and uncle are ministers there really was never a question of where I would be on a Sunday morning. I recall many childhood Sunday mornings being awakened by the sound of Mahalia Jackson belting out gospel tunes from the stereo. Not very Lutheran, but there was no way we could sleep through her singing with the volume turned up.

We went to Sunday School, earning a star on the chart, in hopes of earning a perfect attendance pin at the end of the school year. Once confirmed, we "graduated" to Walther League, the youth group. Few of us attended

*"Finance," continues on Page 10*

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN MEMBER

### **Let these points be guidelines to your stewardship at Holy Cross**

- ✖ Worship every Sunday and at extra services to be in a special communication with God and fellow worshippers.
- ✖ Receive Holy Communion at least twice a month, which puts you in communion with Jesus and all the saints. When you worship and commune at church, you are being built up to go out into the world and be witnesses to God.
- ✖ Praise, confess, thank and make petitions to God on a daily basis through prayer.
- ✖ Read the Bible at home and join a Bible study at church. Doing so helps you feel strong in your faith and educated to face the challenges of this earthly world.
- ✖ Be a willing worker by using your God-given talents; help with commission work or volunteer to help in whatever aspect helps you feel fulfilled, thereby helping extend the Kingdom of God.
- ✖ Recognize that we are all sinful and need to accept being corrected or admonished when we have erred. Remember: church membership includes an attitude of submission (Eph. 5:21); we are “subject to one another out of reverence to Christ.”
- ✖ Church membership means sharing the burdens. We are instructed to carry each other’s burdens (Gal. 6:2). Just as a thriving family shares burdens, we are to share the load and help shoulder others’ burdens.
- ✖ Additionally, we are to be models of caring; this means to be devoted to others, honor them and be hospitable and do all that we can to encourage each other toward loving their fellow man and performing good deeds.
- ✖ Contribute financially—with a cheerful and grateful heart—to the church, recognizing how much God has prospered us. Doing so builds Christ’s kingdom and assists your church in remaining stable and functioning.
- ✖ Have the mindset that you want to let Jesus be within and a part of your entire self and the life you live. When you are a member of the church, it is symbolic of our citizenship in heaven. We are no longer aliens to God by our sin, but members of His house.

--CLIFF SCHROCK  
Board President

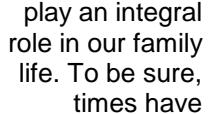
## CHURCH CHUCKLES



### **"Finance," continued from Page 9**

the same school yet we managed to come together twice each month; we had our own community. As a bachelor my church homes, regardless for how long, provided a common base that helped ease adjustments to new communities.

Still with me? Wondering about the point of this trip down Memory Lane? It is the importance of a “community of believers.” When marriage and family came along this community continued – and continues – to play an integral role in our family life. To be sure,



times have changed since I was a youth; however, the support and strength that we gain from fellowship with our church family remains as important as ever. Whether it is Whist Night, community suppers at St. John’s, the annual picnic, or simply coffee hour between services, the “community of believers” is there for all of us.

The strengthening from a “community of believers” is there during worship services, too. There is but one requirement – you must be in attendance. Try it regularly; I heartily recommend it.

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

### **March 2013 Offerings**

Week of:	
March 03	\$4,062.09
March 10	\$7,115.19
March 17	\$2,937.09
March 24	\$6,360.46
March 31	\$2,736.09

### **March Average**

Weekly Offering - \$4,642.18

### **February Average**

Weekly Offering - \$3,529.58

### **January Average**

Weekly Offering - \$4,407.08

--KERRY GEFFERT  
Financial Secretary